**HARC CW Course Questionnaire**

This course relies on use of the CWCOM application published by MRX Software. The following profile will help determine how best to interface your input device to your computer, in order to generate CW in the application. Please answer the following questions so that a profile can be created that will best match the hardware you intend to use with this application.

1. Key type:

□ Mouse □ Straight Key □ Iambic Paddle □ Other

If, Other please specify additional details:

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1. Computer Operating System:

□ Windows 10 □ Windows 7 □ Windows 8.x □ Mac OSX □ Linux □ Other

If ‘Other’, please specify:

1. Computer Style:

□ Laptop □ Desktop □ NetBook □ Other

1. Serial port:

‘Real’ serial ports are typically 9 pin and look like this: 

Most ‘modern’ laptops and many desktops no longer have these ports or if your computer (typically desktop) has one or more, they may be in use for rig control, keyers, or other peripherals. Does your computer have a ‘real’ serial port available?

□ Yes □ No

1. If no ‘real’ serial port is available, often a ‘USB to Serial adapter’ can be used to create a ‘virtual serial port’. Do you have an unused ‘USB to serial adapter’ cable?



□ Yes □ No

Note: Not all USB to Serial cables will work with Windows 7, 8.x or 10. There are many cables that were manufactured with ‘fake’ controller chips that are not supported by the available Windows drivers.

1. Key Interface

Most keys are interfaced to the radio using a ¼” male ‘phono adapter’ 

The one shown is a ‘stereo’ plug used for a paddle. A mono plug would most likely be used for a straight key. In order to connect the key with ¼” phono plug to the USB adapter, an additional custom adapter cable is required.

The adapter needs to be configured as shown below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Pin 4 – Sleeve  Pin 6 – Tip  Pin 8 – Ring\* |  |
|  |  |  |

\*Straight keys do not use the Pin 8/Ring, so can use a mono ¼” female

Do you require one of these adapter cables?

□ Yes □ No

Can you build or source this adapter cable on your own?

□ Yes □ No

If a cable could be sourced locally, would you be willing to pay for a custom made cable, estimated to cost between $25 and $30?

□ Yes □ No

Note: The ‘USB to serial adapter’ (~$40), female DB9 (~$5) and female ¼” phono plug (~$4) are available at Jentronics in Burnside. Other offshore suppliers (e.g. monoprice.com) have these items at much lower prices but shipping can take between four and eight weeks.

1. Questions?