

KI4FZP, I agree with the FISTS RM-10811. I am a new ham (Tech June 2004/ General AUG 2004{5WPM}) and the majority of my contacts are CW. CW is a Skill we should not let die. I am also a VE and don't mind the testing requirement. CW will keep the "CB type" crowd out off amateur radio. You have to put in effort to learn CW. I studied for over a month, and will continue to improve my speed until I can do at least 12 WPM before I upgrade to extra whether the requirement is there or not. CW is a very capable mode and when you can't get through otherwise CW will. You don't need fancy equipment, just a key, radio, and knowledge.