

QST

DIGITAL EDITION



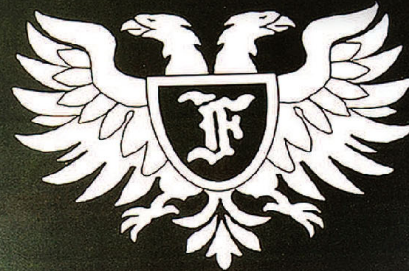
ARRL The national association for AMATEUR RADIO®

October 2019 www.arrl.org

DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO AMATEUR RADIO

Flip the Switch

On Fall Projects



Frank-n-Key



QST Reviews

Monitor Sensors TVTR2
2200-Meter Transverter

Argent Data Systems
Tracker4 APRS Tracker/
TNC/Gateway

Dr. Duino Arduino Uno
Starter Kit

MFJ-849 HF/VHF/UHF
SWR/Wattmeter

Diamond X50A Dual-Band
Base Station Antenna

Weller D650 and 9400

DIGITAL FEATURE



58 | Watch our Video Review of the **MFJ-849** HF/VHF/UHF SWR/Wattmeter.

Columns

Amateur Radio World	85
At the Foundation	98
Classic Radio.....	88
Close Up.....	67
Contest Corral	90
Correspondence.....	24
The Doctor is In.....	59
Eclectic Technology	61
Happenings	82
Hints & Hacks.....	62
How's DX?.....	93
Member Spotlight	13
Microwavelengths.....	65
Public Service.....	86
Social Media Snapshot.....	28
Up Front.....	20
The World Above 50 MHz.....	95
100, 50, and 25 Years Ago.....	102

Digital and Mobile Editions

ARRL members can access the digital edition via a link at www.arrl.org/qst, download our iOS app from the iTunes Store, and download our Android app from the Google Play Store.

Departments

ARRL Member Benefits.....	14
ARRL Section Managers.....	16
Certificate of Code Proficiency Recipients	99
Convention and Hamfest Calendar.....	100
Field Organization Reports.....	102
Ham Ads.....	141
Index of Advertisers.....	142, 143
New Products	32, 58
Officers, Division Directors, and Staff	15
QuickStats	130
Silent Keys.....	103
Special Event Stations.....	97
Strays.....	94
This Month in QEX.....	36
W1AW Qualifying Runs	99
W1AW Schedule.....	92

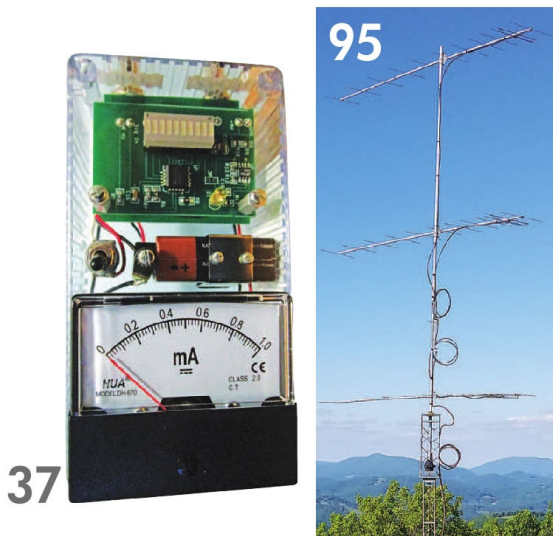
Write for QST

www.arrl.org/qst-author-guide
email: qst@arrl.org



Our Cover

This issue features the winners of the QST Key Competition, and while the Frank-n-Key by John Portune, W6NBC, wasn't an official winner, it scared up so much admiration among the judges, we decided to showcase it on the cover. John's Frankenstein-themed straight key is designed to look like a knife switch of the type that might be seen in a mad scientist's laboratory. The bolts in the creature's neck actually hold the electrical contacts for the key, and the lightning bolt lights up when the key is pressed. When not in use, the key can be laid to rest in its coffin-shaped storage box. Congratulations to John on this monstrously good build, and to the winners of the QST Key Competition, who can be seen on page 74.



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QST Congratulates its Key Competition Winners!

The judges gathered in late July to evaluate more than two dozen entries in the 2019 QST Key Competition. Each was a mechanical work of art, but there could only be one winner in each of the four key categories:

- ◆ Straight
- ◆ Semiautomatic/Bug
- ◆ Paddle
- ◆ Sideswiper

Winners were chosen based on ingenuity of design, ergonomics of operation, and overall craftsmanship.

And the Winners Are...

Straight Key

Ron Spooner, W6FIF

Semiautomatic/Bug

Gary Johnson, NA6O

Paddle

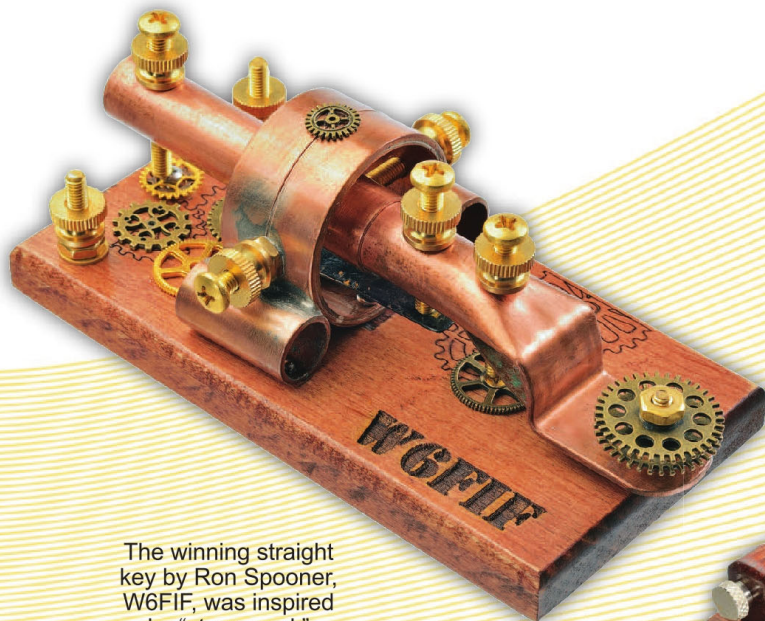
Juergen Malner, NV1Q

Sideswiper

Stan Levandowski, WB2LQF

And although it didn't win the top spot in the straight key category, the Frank-n-Key by John Portune, W6NBC, caught the eye of the QST staff, which is why we chose to showcase it on the cover of this issue. If you'd like to learn more about the Frank-n-Key, go to www.arrl.org/qst-in-depth and scroll down to the "October" row. There you can download a zip file packed with text, illustrations, and photos.

We thank the members of the ARRL Headquarters staff that participated in they key judging, as well as ARRL Laboratory staff members Bob Allison, WB1GCM; Paul Cianciolo, W1VLF, and Pete Turbide, W1PT, who set up our judging area.



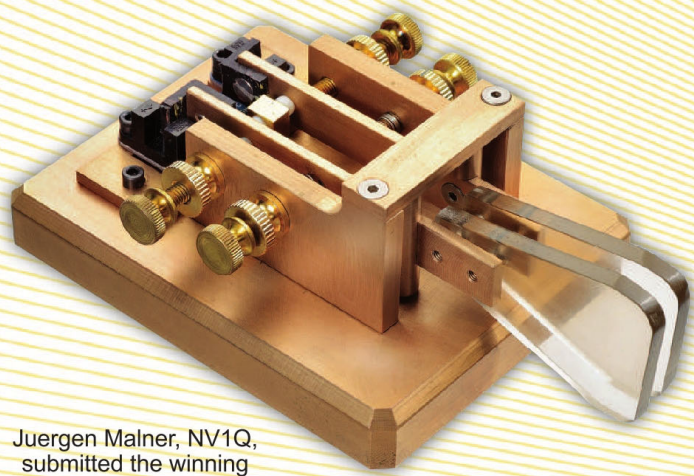
The winning straight key by Ron Spooner, W6FIF, was inspired by "steampunk" aesthetics.



Gary Johnson, NA6O, won the semiautomatic category with this superbly designed key.



Members of the ARRL Headquarters staff evaluate the entries. [Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY, photo]



Juergen Malner, NV1Q, submitted the winning entry in the Paddle category with his "Opto-Keyer."



This winning sideswiper key by Stan Levandowski, WB2LQF, is light and easy to use.