

Listening to shortwave radio can be very exciting. Newscasts from a country where important events are taking place give you a sense of immediacy that local newscasts seldom deliver.

Although shortwave listening requires no special knowledge, you might enjoy it more if you read some of the numerous books available on this subject. There are also several periodicals that give listening hints and seasonal program schedules.

INTERNATIONAL RADIO FREQUENCIES

International commercial broadcasts are found in the following bands. Programming (often in English) usually contains news, commentaries, music, and special features reflecting the culture of the broadcasting country. You might find it easiest to hear these broadcasts between 6:00 PM and midnight (your time).

NOTE: European stations often list a frequency by giving its wavelength. For example, the 19-meter band refers to the range of frequencies whose waves are about 19 meters long.

BAND	FREQUENCY RANGE
120 meter *	2300 - 2495 kHz
90 meter *	3200 - 3400 kHz
75 meter *	3900 - 4000 kHz
60 meter *	4750 - 5060 kHz
49 meter	5950 - 6200 kHz
41 meter **	7100 - 7300 kHz
31 meter	9500 - 9900 kHz
25 meter	11650 - 12050 kHz
21 meter	13600 - 13800 kHz
19 meter	15100 - 15600 kHz
16 meter	17550 - 17900 kHz
13 meter	21450 - 21850 kHz

* These bands are reserved for stations in tropical areas.

** The 41 meter band is shared by ham operators in the United States and international stations. Interference is heavy in this band.

FREQUENCY CONVERSION

The tuning location of a station can be expressed in frequency (kHz or MHz) or in wavelength (meters). The following information can help you make the necessary conversions.

To convert from kHz to MHz, divide by 1,000.

For example:
$$\frac{15500 \text{ kHz}}{1000} = 15.5 \text{ MHz}$$

To convert from MHz to meters, divide 300 by the same number of MHz.

For example:
$$\frac{300}{12 \text{ MHz}} = 25 \text{ meters}$$

TIME STANDARD FREQUENCIES

The following frequencies announce the exact time of day at specified intervals. These signals have many uses in science and technology such as giving the accurate time, verifying frequency calibration, and gaining information on radio propagation conditions.

Station	Country	Frequency
WWV -and- WWVH	Fort Collins, Colorado -and- Kauai, Hawaii	2,500 kHz 5,000 kHz 10,000 kHz 15,000 kHz 20,000 kHz
CHU	Ontario, Canada	3,330 kHz 7,335 kHz 14,670 kHz
VNG	Sydney, Australia	5,000 kHz 10,000 kHz 15,000 kHz
JJY	Tokyo, Japan	2,500 kHz 5,000 kHz 8,000 kHz 10,000 kHz 15,000 kHz

NOTE: Other countries also have time signal stations transmitting over the same frequencies as WWV or WWVH.

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