

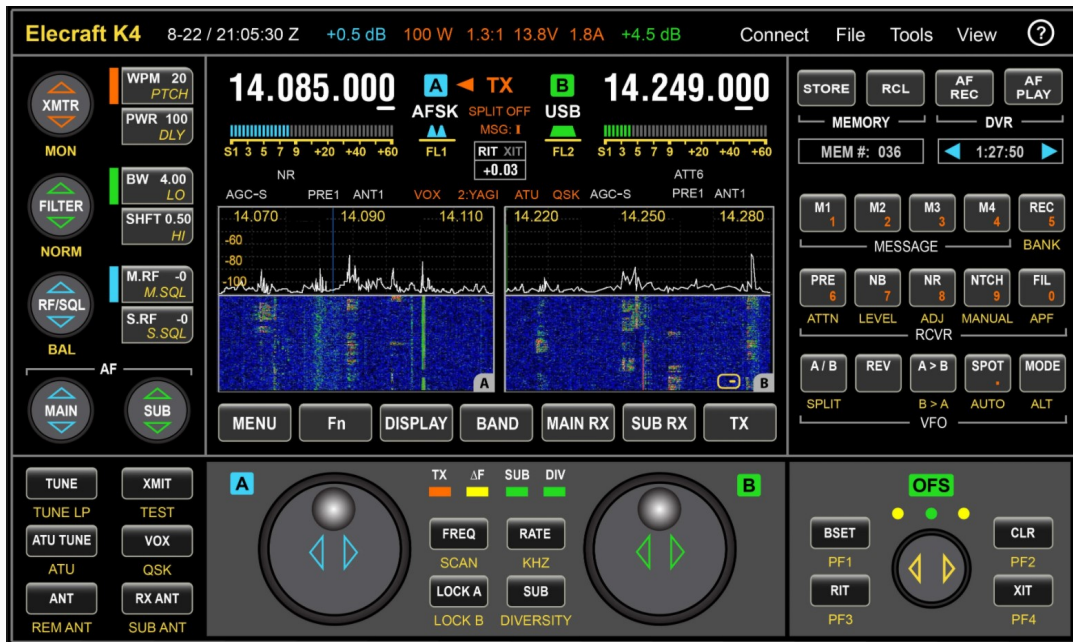


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The Virtual K4

by Wayne Burdick, N6KR



Remote control is an important feature of the K4, allowing operators to access the rig conveniently from any location that has an internet connection. Facilitating this are the the K4's high-speed digital I/O and extensive remote-control command set.

One aspect of our remote control effort is a 100% emulation of the K4 front panel called "Virtual K4" (or "VK4" for short). This will be offered in addition to direct K4-to-K4 control.

The VK4 application will run on multiple platforms, including Windows pads and laptops. It will support touch screens as well as mouse controls. For example, you'll be able to use the mouse wheel for adjusting simulated rotary controls.

(Third-party developers are free to create their own interfaces, and we'll provide assistance where needed.)

A Quick VK4 Tour

This app provides an emulation of all K4 front panel controls, arranged for ease of use. In general, the controls are in the same or similar locations to their K4 counterparts, so going between the two will be a breeze.

--The middle section is virtually identical to the K4's LCD layout. Capitalizing on this, we placed the VFO knobs directly below their respective panadapters, S-meters, and numeric displays in a columnar format.

--Three multi-function controls, to the left of the panadapter, each have a pair of associated function buttons, as on the rig itself. Also located in this column are the transmit and antenna controls.

--To the right of the panadapters you'll find the K4's suite of VFO/mode, receiver, and message controls. These double as a numeric keypad for direct frequency entry. Above these are the frequency memory and DVR RX record/play controls. Here we went a bit beyond the K4 front panel functions, adding a memory # display and a time stamp/forward/reverse bar for AF playback. Finally, at bottom right--as on the radio--there's the OFS knob (RIT/XIT offset) and related controls.

In addition to its user interface, Virtual K4 will provide pathways to I/O. We're planning support for our K-Pod control unit (with precision optical encoder), keyer paddle, and audio devices. The display will show spectrum and waterfall, just like the K4. Linkages to other applications running on the host device will be able to exchange control and data streams with VK4 as well.

Meeting Operator Requirements Now and in the Future

As with all of our products, the VK4 software package will evolve over time with input from the Elecraft community. It's a work in progress, and we welcome your suggestions.

To that end, here's a direct link to the UI drawing shown above; feel free to share it with other interested parties.

https://ftp.elecraft.com/K4/virtual_K4_app.jpg

You can also get to the image on our K4 page, in the K4 Updates section.

See you at QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo! March 13 & 14

QSO Today host Eric Guth, 4Z1UG, announced that the next QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will commence on March 13-14, 2021, over a period of 48 hours. The first QSO Today Expo was a great success with over 16,000 attendees and the March 2021 event is anticipated to be even larger. The QSO Today team has been working hard to make this upcoming Expo even better with new speakers, panel discussions, kit building workshops, and much more. Anyone can attend from their home or office. Early Bird Tickets are just \$10 (to help cover the cost of this event, \$12.50 at the "door") and include entry for the Live 2 day period as well as the 30-day on-demand period). Registration can be found at www.qsotodayhamexpo.com.

Eric and his team have put together a world-class line-up of 60+ speakers to address this conference from the virtual Expo's auditorium. ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio® in the United States, is a QSO Today Expo Partner.

At the Expo, amateur radio operators will be able to:

- Learn from a packed line-up of renowned ham radio speakers such as Bob Allphin, K4UEE, on "My Favorite DXpeditions to DXCC Top 10 Most Wanted"; Michael Foerster, W0IH, on "Using the Arduino In Your Shack"; and Ron Jones, K7RJ, on "3D Printer Basics".
- Take part in Live virtual kit building workshops. Kits will be available for purchase and delivered to you in time for the Expo so you can participate and build from the convenience of your home.
- Walk through the virtual exhibit hall filled with popular amateur radio suppliers. Watch live product demos of the latest equipment. New video technology will be used to provide a better experience for attendees to engage with exhibitors.
- Prior to the Expo, take advantage of our new speaker calendar technology to download speaker times in your local time zones to your Google or Outlook calendar. You'll then have a complete schedule of the sessions you want to join.
- Return over the next 30 days to listen to speakers you missed during the Live period, explore, and re-engage exhibitor offerings.

"While attendance is expected from traditional in-person convention "goers" not traveling due to Covid, the virtual Expo is a great opportunity for those that don't typically attend in-person events - the vast majority of amateur radio operators. At our last Expo, we found that 60% of attendees don't go to in-person national conferences and 40% don't attend state or local events - mostly because of distance or because of the thousands of dollars typically spent on travel and lodging." said Eric, 4Z1UG.

"The QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo has all of the familiar hallmarks of an in-person hamfest, including opportunities to connect and learn. Expect to bump into friends and well known experts and personalities from throughout our worldwide ham radio community!" said Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, ARRL Product Development Manager

Join us at the Elecraft booth where you'll get to watch product demonstrations and speak to any of our product specialists.



News & Updates

Price Increases Coming in March

We will be increasing prices for some of our products in March 2021. Price increases are due to a significant increase in materials such as sheet metal and circuit boards.

2021 Hamfests & Conventions

- **February 13-14, HamCation 2021 (Virtual).** Eric Swartz (WA6HHQ) will be presenting on Saturday at 1:00 pm, EST.
- **March 13-14, QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo 2021**

K4 Update

High-Performance Direct Sampling SDR



New K4 Demo with Latest Features on YouTube

Check out our latest K4 demo and Q&A with Eric Swartz.



K4 Documentation Now Available

If you're interested in the capabilities of the K4 transceiver, you might want to take a look at two user documents that are now available for download.

- [Introduction to the Elecraft K4](#)
- [K4 Operating Manual](#)

Additional documentation will be released soon, including the K4 Owner's Manual and the K4 Programmer's Reference.

How You Will Be Notified When Your K4 is Ready to Ship

A member of Elecraft Sales Team will contact you by email when your K4 is ready to ship. They will verify your shipping address and provide you with any additional information regarding your order.

If your email address has changed, please complete the [New Email Address Form here](#).

Listen for us on the air - We'll likely be on a K4!
Learn more about the K4 and pre-order [here](#).