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YOUR FIRST SATELLITE CONTACT

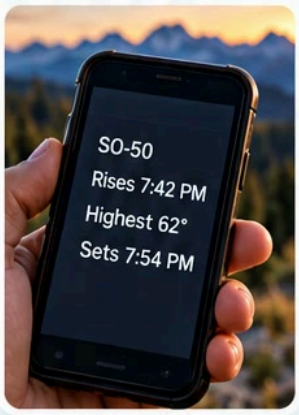
Talk through space with a handheld

FM satellites are repeaters in orbit. When one passes overhead, a handheld radio and a small handheld antenna can reach hams hundreds of miles away.



1 Find a pass

Look up when a satellite rises and sets where you are. A pass lasts about 10 minutes, and higher passes are easier.



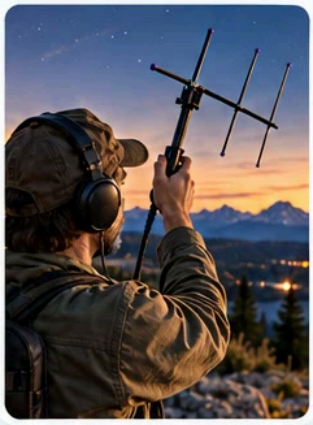
2 Program your radio

For SO-50, transmit on 145.850 MHz with a 67.0 Hz tone, and listen on 436.795 MHz.



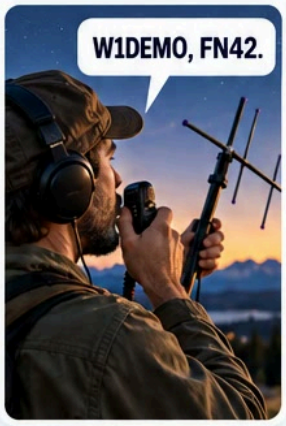
3 Point and listen

Aim the antenna at the satellite and follow it across the sky. Listen before you talk.



4 Make a quick contact

Give your call sign and grid square, then let others have a turn.



Key terms

- **Pass:** the few minutes a satellite is above your horizon.
- **Uplink:** the frequency you transmit on.
- **Downlink:** the frequency you listen on.
- **Doppler shift:** the downlink drifts as the satellite moves, so you tune from about 436.805 down to 436.785 MHz during a pass.

Good to know

- Technicians can use every FM satellite.
- SO-50 switches on with a 2-second 74.4 Hz tone, then stays on for 10 minutes.
- One short contact per pass is polite. Everyone shares the same satellite.
- Check AMSAT's status page first. Satellites come and go.

IN SHORT

Find a pass, program the uplink and downlink, point the antenna, and keep your contact short.

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W1DEMO is a made-up call sign. FN42 is an example grid square.