

# **OL-SDR Project History**

- On-going Community Project
- To develop a HAM radio RTX based on SDR technology
- Kicked-off in 2019
- Impacted by component shortage during Covid
- HW, firmware and software has been extensively redesigned since then

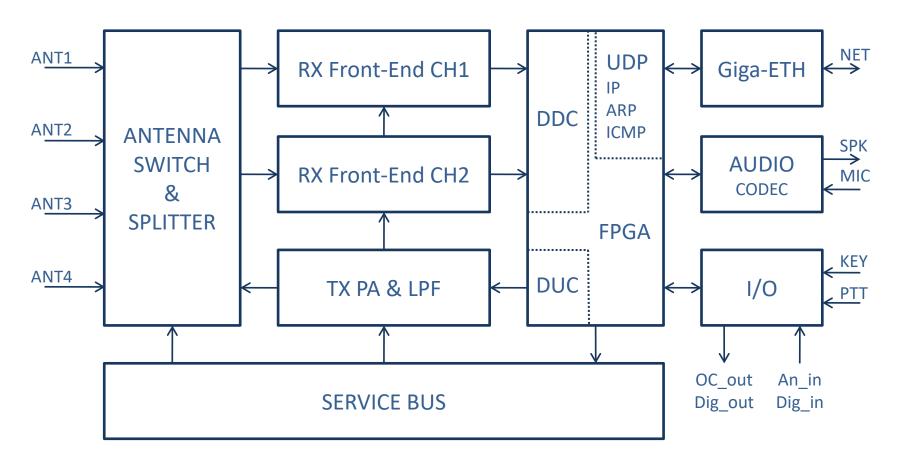
# **OL-SDR Project Overview**

- Direct sampling SDR with 15Wrms or 300Wrms output power from 160m to 6m
- 2 direct sampling rx channels
- 16 bit RX ADC
- 16 bit TX DAC
- 4 fully indipendent SW RX, each one with sub-rx
- Visible RX spectrum up to 1.5MHz
- Wideband full-spectrum overview window
- Ultra-low noise master oscillator (122.88MHz)
- Very stable reference oscillator (10MHz)
- GigaEthernet to allow hw installation away from PC
- Adaptive MOSFET protection base on SWR and temperature
- Complete set of functionalities to reduce needs of external boxes
- Easy-to-use ergonomic user interface
- Support for OTRSP protocol (SO2R) and MTTQ protocol
- Look Ahead VOX, to preserve first syllable
- Look Ahead ALC, to avoid PA overdriving
- Clean TX spectrum using Pre-Distorsion (PureSignal) technology
- Build using WDSP library by Dott. Warren Pratt NROV

# **OL-SDR Target Specification**

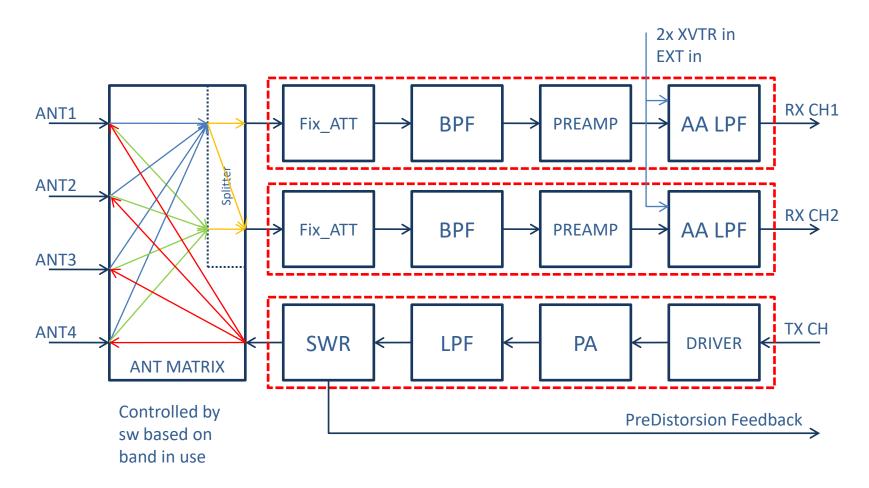
- 100KHz 55MHz continuous coverage
- Noise Floor: -130 dBm (0.07 uV @2.4 KHz di banda)
- Noise Figure: 12 dB
- RMDR (Reciprocal Mixing Noise): 107 dB (@2.4KHz di banda)
- Ultra-low noise LVPECL differential Master Clock:
  - @10KHz: -155 dBc/Hz
  - Ultimate: -162 dBc/Hz
- Reference TCXO: <50 ppb over 0°-70°C temperature range (<0.7Hz@14MHz)</li>
- 10MHz input for GPS reference clock
- TX output power: 15Wrms (10W on 6m) or 300Wrms (275W on 10m and 6m)
- HiFi audio amplifier: 7+7Wrms
- Availability of digital and analog input and output
  - 8 Open Collector Output to directly control external devices (i.e. relays)
  - 8 Digital LVCMOS Output (3.3V or 5V settable)
  - 8 Analog Input (max 3.3V)
  - 8 Digital Input/Output (3.3V or 5V settable)

#### **HW Architecture**



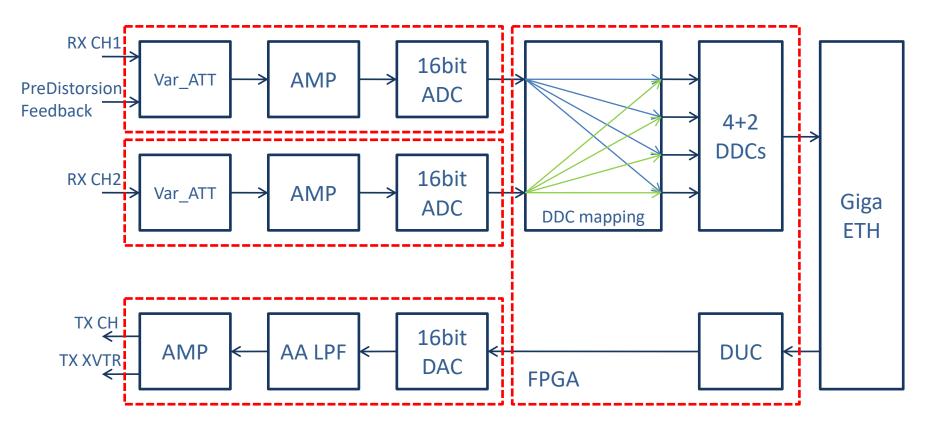
DDC = Digital Down Converter DUC = Digital Up Converter

#### **RX and TX Filter Boards**



AA LPF = Anti Aliasing Low Pass Filter

#### **SDR Board**



AA LPF = Anti Aliasing Low Pass Filter DDC = Digital Down Converter DUC = Digital Up Converter Each DDC sends a stream to peer RX in OL-Master sw

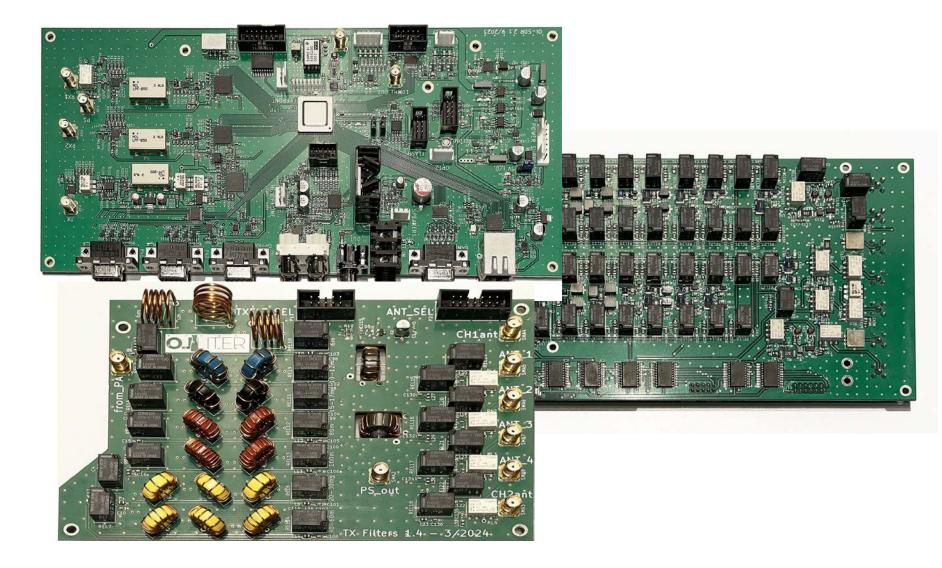
#### **Front Panel**



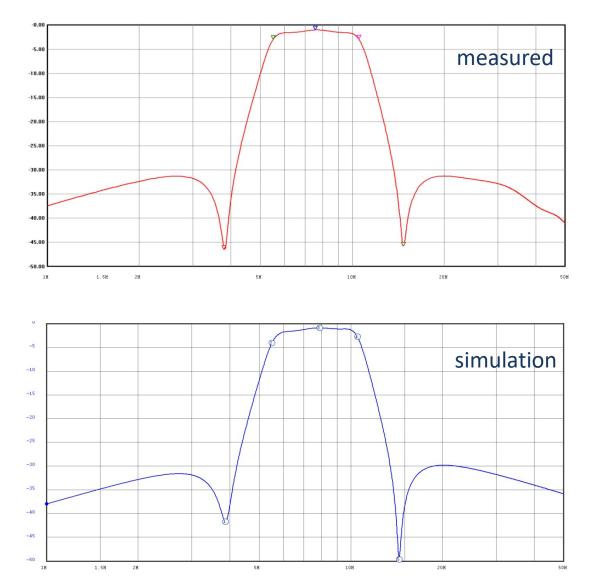
#### **Rear Panel**



#### Boards

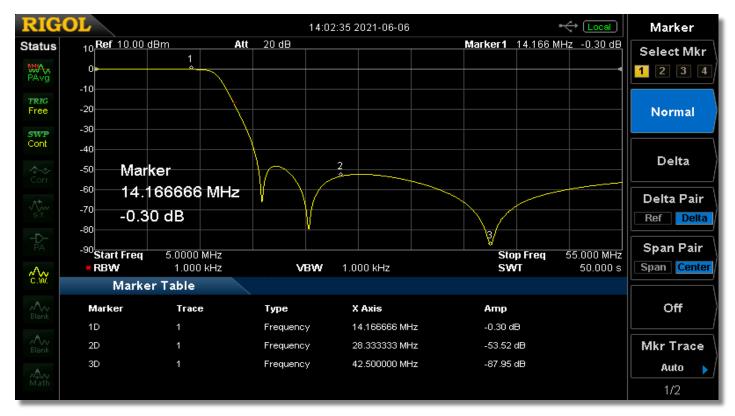


#### **RX BandPass Filter Example**



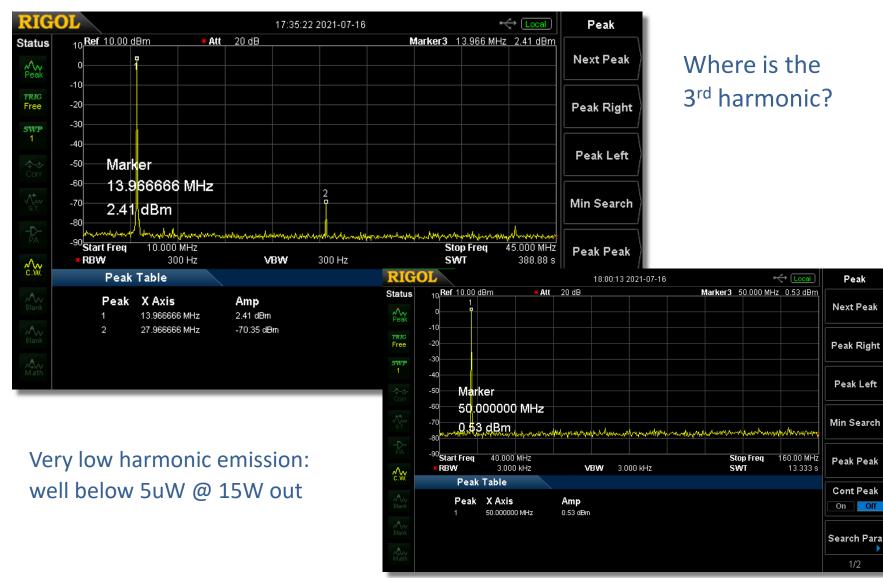
- insertion loss <1.5dB (including relay's)
- stop-band attenuation >30dB
- "zero's" inserted on adiacent contest bands to increase IMD tolerance
- monotonic slope after zero's
- high Q smd inductor
- careful design
- filter bypass available for special needs/situations

### **TX LowPass Filter Example**



- Insertion loss <0.5dB (SDR20A) or <0.2dB (SDR300A) including RTX relay's, antenna matrix and SWR bridge</p>
- Stop-band attenuation >50dB
- "zero" inserted around 3<sup>rd</sup> harmonic to improve response on classic bands
- Very low harmonic emission

#### **TX Spectrum**

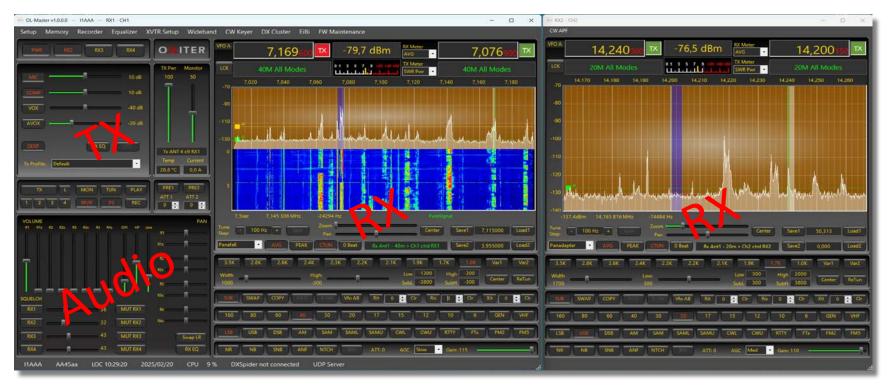


#### **OL-Master**



- 4 full-featured indipendent Receivers with one sub-Receiver each
- Wideband Panadapter
- And a lot more....

#### **OL-Master**



- 4 full-featured indipendent Receivers with one sub-Receiver each
- Each Receiver can be connected to HW Channel 1 or HW Channel 2
- Each RX or sub-RX VFO can be selected as TX VFO
- "One Function, One Click" approach for fast action and easy operation
- Primary functions directly available in each window, based on frequency of use

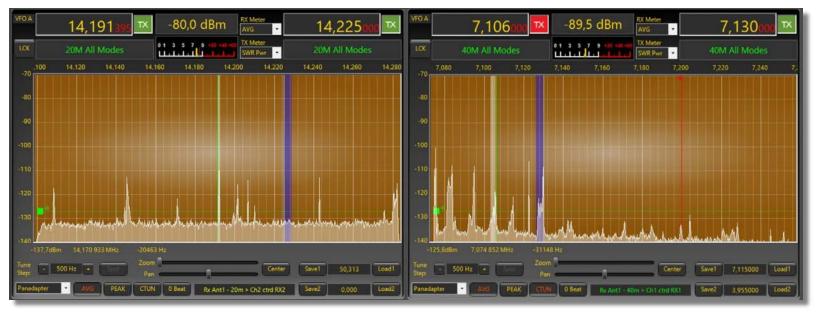
### **OL-Master Key Points**

- 10 pre-defined band-pass filters, based on mode in use
- 2 custom band-pass filters plus manual setting (slider or drag)
- Additional low frequency narrow BPF for digital tones and cw
- 8 channels audio mixer, with individual panning, mute and squelch
- Indipendent volume control for Speakers, Headphone and Output Line
- Full control of antennas, digital outputs and Open Collector outputs
- Noise Reduction, Noise Blanker, Spectral Noise Blanker, Automatic Notch Filter
- Unlimited number of multiple persistent Notch Filters
- Country Band Plan info box (implemented with CSV customizable files)
- 4 + 1 Virtual Audio Cable to distribute audio & I/Q to other applications
- 4 CAT connections to external app (i.e. N1MM, WSJT, CW Skimmer, Fldigi, HRD, ....)

### **OL-Master Key Points**

- OTRSP (Open Two Radio Switching Protocol) native protocol support (SO2R)
- MTTQ (Message Queuing Telemetry Transport) protocol
- UDP server to transmit streams
- External accessories support (Keyboards and Rotary controls)
- 10 bands RX and TX Equaliser
- Classic and CFC TX Compressor
- CW generation at firmware level
  - No latency on local monitor
  - Optimally shaped transition for glitch free transmission
- "Look Ahead" ALC & VOX
- Multiple tuning styles
- Customizable interface colors and skins to match user's taste
- Automatic backup of last 10 Configuration DB and Memory DB
- Easy-to-Use, Ergonomic user interface

# **Multiple Tuning Style**



- Keep tuned station at panadapter center, drag panadapter to tune (or Double-Click)
- Keep panadapter fixed, "Click2Tune" at mouse position (Ctrl+Click to SubRX)
- Drag tune cursor on fixed panadapter (Ctrl+Drag on SubRX)
  - if at panadapter limit, optionally scroll panadapter
- Mouse wheel to tune, while on panadapter (Ctrl+Wheel to SubRX) or frequency display
- Selectable mouse wheel tune step
- Optionally "snap to step" on mouse click
- Direct frequency input on display (Esc, digits, Enter)
- Filters and vertical scale can be moved and adjusted with mouse drag

### **External Controls**



- Native support of selected external USB control devices
- Customizable functions
- Tuning knob, Fine tuning, Volume
- Band, mode and filters switching, RX/TX, ......





### CH/RX and Antenna Mapping

11 Ant:	RX1	RX3			CH2 Ant:	RX2	KX4			TX Anten	na				CH->RX	Mapping	6
NT->	1	2	3	4	ANT->	1	2	3	4	ANT->	1	2	3	4		CH1	CH2
60m	۲	C	$^{\circ}$	0	160m	۲	C	C	0	160m	0	0	0	•	RX1	C	0
30m	C	·	C	0	80m	C	•	0	0	80m	0	$^{\circ}$	0	۰	RX2	0	•
50m	ſ	C	0	0	60m	·	0	C	0	60m	0	0	0	•	RX3	•	0
40m	C	۲		0	40m	C	·	C	0	40m	0		C	•	RX4	С	œ
30m	•	0	0	0	30m	۲	0	0	0	30m	0	0	0	•			
20m	0	•		0	20m	0			0	20m	0	0	0	•			
17m	•	0	0	0	17m	•	0	0	0	17m	0	C.	0	•			
15m	0	0	•	0	15m	0	0	•	0	15m	0		0	•			
12m	0	0	•	0	12m	0	0	•	0	12m	0	0	0	•	Anten	na Contro	l Lock
10m	0	0	•	0	10m	0	0	•	0	10m	0		0				
бm	· e	0	0	0	6m		C	C	0	6m	U.	С	0	ſ			
Сору	CH1	Ant t	to CH	2	Сору	CH2	Ant t	to CH	1						Anten	na Splitte	er OFF
Chang	je <mark>A</mark> n	tenna	a Hal	fway b	etween bar	nds							Forc	e CH1	RX Antenn	a also for	CH2

Full control on antenna mapping by band and by RX/TX

### **Open Collector Mapping**

cificial	Audio	DSP	Tra	ansmit	PureSigna	I Di	isplay	y A	ppear	ance	Ke	yboai	rd	COM	Т	ests						
Irdw C	onfig	Option	s Ant	& CH N	Mapping (	o o	ut	Digita	al Out	CI	N Key	/Key	er	DXSp	ider	EiBi		RX C	alibr	ation		
	Pin M	lanaged	Ву			Pins On Receive Pins								ins On Transmit								
Pin	RX1	RX2	RX3	RX4	Band	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1	•	0	0	0	160m								$\bigcirc$									
2	•	C	0	0	80m																	
3	•	C	0	0	60m													0	$\Box$			
4	C	•	0	0	40m																	
5	C	•	0	0	30m																	
6	C	0	•	C	20m								$\Box$									
7	С	C	e	C	17m							$\Box$										
8	0	0	0	œ	15m																	
					12m		$\Box$						$\Box$									
					10m												$\Box$					
					бm								$\Box$					$\Box$				
E F	HF Rese	et			GEN							$\Box$							$\Box$			
-		-			VHF0								$\mathbf{\sim}$									
V	HF Res	et	Enable		VHF1														$\Box$			
				_	VHF2							$\Box$										
					VHF3																	
					VHF4		$\Box$						$\Box$							$\Box$		
					VUES		0			0	0				0	0	0	0	0	0		

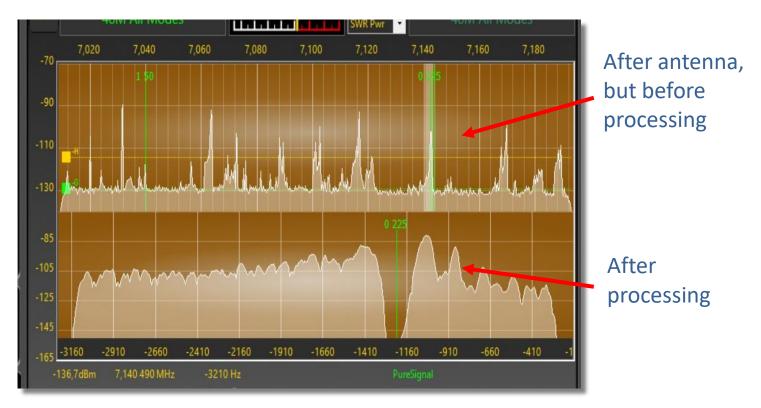
- Full control on external devices by band and by RX/TX
- Alternatively OC can be driven by OTRSP commands (SO2R)
- Same setup on Digital Output

### Virtual Audio Cable Configuration

Audio & Co	mmon VAC VAC	RX1 VAC RX2 VA	C PV2 VAC PVA			
	inc.	NT VAC MAZ VA				
VAC Audio	Setup		Buffer Size	Common VAC Gai	n Offset (dB)	
Driver:	MME	~	2048 ~	RX		0
				TX		0
Input:	Microsoft Sound	Mapper - Inpi 🗸	Sample Rate	Buffer Latency (ms		
Output:	Microsoft Sound	Mapper - Out 🗸	48000 ~	RingBuffers	0	
				Manual	Mar	nual
Options				In: 80 🌲	Out:	50 🔹
🕑 Enable	PC Speaker	C Local Speake	r Disable	PortAudio		
RX Onl	у	C Local Microp	hone Disable	Manual	Mar	nual
Force 1	1:1 Ratio	Combine TX	Input Channels	In: 20 🗼	Out:	20
VAC Moni	tor					
IN:	Overflows	0	ou	Overnows	52	
(from VA	C) Underflows	25	(to	VAC) Underflows	0	
	Var Ratio	1,00704		Var Ratio	0,99280	
	RingBuffer	3611 of	8640	RingBuffer	5035 of	8640

- I Common VAC for mixed audio
  - For SDR installed away from PC (i.e. attic, antenna proximity, ...)
- 4 indipendent VACs, Dedicated to each RX, to interface external applications
- I/Q samples direct output on Dedicated VAC

# **Multiple Notch Filter**



- Mouse Right Click to create/enable/disable
- Mouse Double Right Click to delete
- Mouse Wheel to control notch bandwidth
- Can be defined/managed in both panadapter and spectrum windows
- Persistent, if out of received spectrum or after power-off

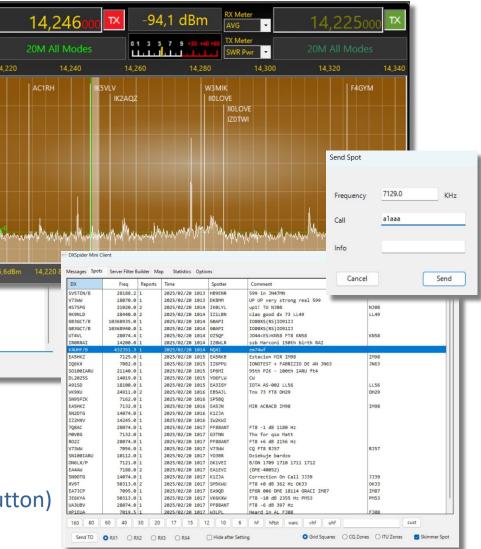
# **DXSpider Mini Client**

Status

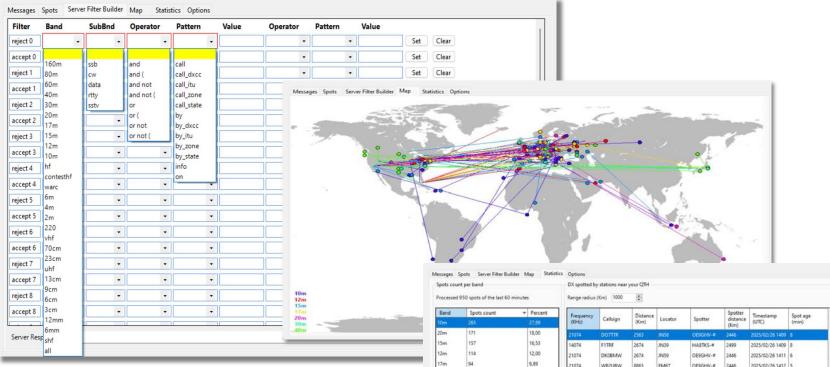
essages Spots	Server Filter Bu	uilder Map	Statistics Options				
erver				Call			Pwd
k4icz.dyndns.o	rg:8000:IK4	ICZ: DXSpid	er v	125	uh		
Start Time	: 21-Feb-2	325 13117					
Type of User		OZS ISIIC					
ant RBN Beacon							
Want RBN Ch							
Want RBN FT4/8							
Want RBN PSK	1 No						
Want RBN RTTY							
Want RBN spots							
K4ICZ-6>							
to filters defi	ned for I2	SUH					
K4ICZ-6>							
X de SP2JMR:	18142.0	HF95PZK	95th PZK - 100th IARU ssb		1311Z	3093	
X de R7AT:	21021.0	XR2AID	TNX. CQing	FF46	1311Z	KN95	
IX de VA3CME:	28474.0	RA3GBV	USB FN25ej -> K092	K092	13122	FN25	
X de VY2PC:	28517.0	SA7JFN	FN76TR<>3066UF		1312Z		
X de KUST:	7062.5			EM79	1313Z	EN71	
X de K9US:			up 1.5		1313Z	EM68	
	28428.0			KM71	1313Z		
X de N2BOC:	28500.0		huge signal in NY		1313Z		
DX de VY2PC:		PD3DMN		3021	1313Z		
X de ON5JK:		OK1DSX/P	Bota B/OK-1339	5.5.5	1313Z		
X de VO1KVT:	18130.0				1314Z		
X de IZ0PDE:		IIOLOVE	ft8 Terni city of love 25				
X de N6ZN:		V73WW	cq UP1 599>N. Ca		1314Z 1314Z		
X de PD13N: X de KF9LI:	28400.0	W2RE SN100IARU	TNX Ray 73	1104	13142		
X de IZOTWI:		IIOLOVE	ssb Terni city of love 25	11/6.7			
X de VK6KXW:	50313.0				13142		
X de SP3RNZ:		EGSCGC			13142		
X de EA6NB:		V73W			13142		
DX de OKIVEI:		OK1DSX/P	B/OK-1339	Haal.	13142	SUITE D	



- Fully customizable
- Quick client-side filtering on Band
- Double Click on list to tune (or Send button)
- Selection of RX to tune on spot



### **DXSpider Mini Client**



- Server-side filtering: Accept/Reject
- Filter Builder with pull-down editor
- Map and Statistics available
- Filtering based on spotter distance

27,89	Frequency (KHz)	Callsign	Distance (Km)	Locator	Spotter	Spotter distance (Km)	Timestamp (UTC)	Spot age (min)
18,00	21074	DO7TTR		JN58	OE9GHV-#	2446	2025/02/26 1409	
16,53	14074	FITRF	2674	JIN39	HASTKS-#	2499	2025/02/26 1409	8
12,00	21074	DKOBMW	2674	JN59	OE9GHV-#	2446	2025/02/26 1411	6
9,89	21074	WB2UBW	8863	EM67	OE9GHV-#	2446	2025/02/26 1412	5
8,95	28074	<b>YB1UUN</b>	11139	O(33	\$50U-#	2362	2025/02/26 1412	5
6,11	14080	EA1EE	2588	IN53	\$50U-#	2362	2025/02/26 1412	5
0,63	18100	KBYC	8447	EM95	OE9GHV-#	2446	2025/02/26 1412	5
	14074	VK2LAW	16227	QF56	\$\$0U-#	2362	2025/02/26 1412	5
	18100	R2ST	4065	K094	OE9GHV-#	2446	2025/02/26 1412	5
	21140	9A3GDR	2395	JN76	\$50U-#	2362	2025/02/26 1412	5
	28074	552D	2395	JN76	OE9GHV-#	2446	2025/02/26 1412	5
	18100	M6YJB	3224	1093	HASTKS-#	2499	2025/02/26 1412	5
	18100	4X5PB	2649	KM72	OE9GHV-#	2446	2025/02/26 1412	5
	14074	SP9UPH	2910	JO90	DL1AMQ-#	2785	2025/02/26 1413	4
	24896,8	LZ3QE	2510	KN32	ON6ZQ-#	2801	2025/02/26 1413	4
	18104	OK1DOL	2691	JN69	\$50U-#	2362	2025/02/26 1413	4
	Lusza	C.40.5	3044		orocume	auc		

### EiBi Client

DATABASE FI juency ck filters	ILTERS Days Time now	Name		ntry Languag	je Targ	et	TX Ctry	FILT	ER GOTO	CLEAR						
Now Transmit	tting Target: Europe	- Ta	rget: Africa	Target: Asia	Target: Ocean	a) (	Target: America									
Freq	Days	On	Off	Name	Country	Language		Target	TX Country	ldx						
	Mo, Tu, We, Th, Fr, Sa, Su	0000	2400	Rádio Brasil Central	Brasil	Portugues	e	Brasil	Bracil	7056						
	Mo, Tu, We, Th, Fr	1430	1450	NHK Radio Japan	Japan .	Burmese	VFO A	3423			- 11-2	- IN-	RX Meter			
	Sa, Su	1430	1459	NHK Radio Japan	Japan	Burmese		11	,81500	TX	-41,3	dBm	AVG -		7,1500	D00
	Mo, Tu, We, Th, Fr, Sa, Su	1400	1700	Voice of Turkey	Turkey	Turkish							TX Meter	-		
1.	Mo, Tu, We, Th, Fr, Sa, Su	1200	1700	China Radio Int.	China (People's Re		LCK	25m	Broadcast		01 3 5 7	A 100 A 1	SWR Pwr -	401	All Mode	
	Mo, Tu, We, Th, Fr, Sa, Su	1400	1500	CNR1 Jammer/Firedr	China (People's Re						100.00	a second and				
	Mo, Tu, We, Th, Fr, Sa, Su	1400	1500	Voice of America	USA	Tibetan /	-70	11,740	11,760	11,780	) 11,800	11,820	11,840	11,860	11,880	11,90
	Mo, Tu, We, Th, Fr, Sa, Su	1430	1630	Voice of America	USA	Burmese						NHKF	adio Japan			
	Mo, Tu, We, Th, Fr, Sa, Su	1400	1500		China (People's Re							Rádio	Brasil Central			
	Irregular	1300	1500	TDF DIGITAL	France	French	-80					Voice	of Turkey			
	Mo, Tu, We, Th, Fr, Sa, Su Mo, Tu, We, Th, Fr, Sa, Su	1000	1805	China National Radio 1 China National Radio 1												
						-	-90							CNR1 Jamm Voice of Am		
Set RX1	Set RX2 Set RX3	Set R	14			Close aft	-110									

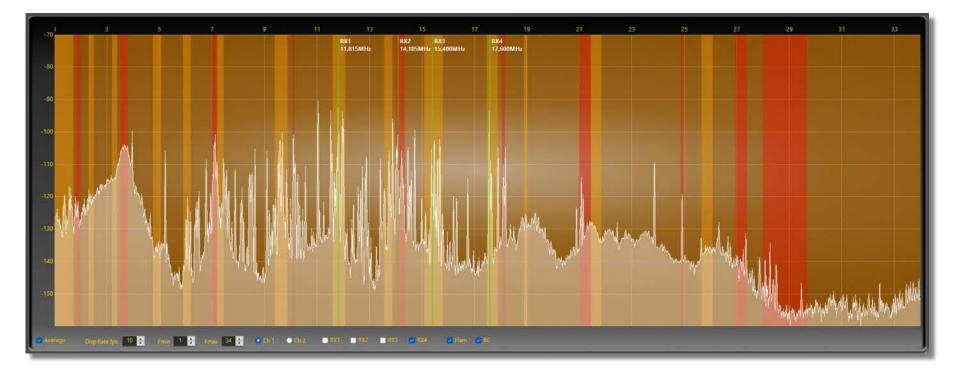
- Easy full filtering
- Single Click quick filters
- Automatic update from EiBi server (@ OL-Master start)
- On-the-fly display (Alt+Mouse Move)
- Immediate tuning from Panadapter
- Immediate tuning from List (Double Left Click or Set Btn)

#### **CW Keyer**



- Automatic switch to CW on opening
- Easy to use
- 24 macros available
- QSO counter that increments at # in text (i.e. at qso end)
- Insert DX call at #C in text, DX OM name at #N in macro, RST at #R
- CW parameters directly on Main Panel

### Wideband Panadapter



- Quick perception of propagation (and band noise.....)
- Selectable Fmin and Fmax
- Ham Band and Broadcast Band (based on selected Country Band Plan)
- Double Click to tune the selected RXs

# **Memory Organization**

ME	MORY FO	RM																— C		×
	Filter an	nd Group Management	Add	Delete		ort Name d			Asc Des F	X Freq			Asc Des	Sort	Searc	h		Search		
Id	Group	Name	RX Freq	RX Sub Freq	Mod	Group Name XX Freq XX SubFr	eq	X rer gh	TuneStep	AGC	AGC Lvl	Power	RPTR Mode	RPTR Offset	Tone	Tone_Freq		Note		1
1	Aero	RAF Volmet	5,450000	7,100000	USB	Mode			500 Hz	MED	100	50								
4	Time	RWM Moscow	9,996000	9,996000	AM	5.0K			1 Hz	MED	110	0								-
2	Aero Aero	Shannon Volmet Shannon Volmet	5,505000	7,100000	USB	2.7K 3.5K			500 Hz 500 Hz	MED	100	50 0		ME	MORY ED	IT FORM	-	- 0	×	ł.
5	Time																1			
														Group		VHF_FM	~	·]	11	
														Name		R1			U	
														Frequency (MHz)					U	
														SubFrequency (MHz)					U	
												1	Mode			~		U		
													Filter			~		U		
															Tune Step			~		U
					_	_	_	_			_	_			AGC Mod	e	MED	~		1
	RES	STORE TO O RX1 O R	X2 🔍 R	X3 🔿 R	va f	ADD	From		se after	1[=	Edit	Dup	Add		AGC Level	111				
	The state		A2 0 N		∧		TIOM	Re	store		Lon	Dab			Power %	100				
_										_					Filter Low	(Hz)				r
		Fast and easy	ADD	/RES <sup>®</sup>	TOF	RE fr	rom/	'to s	elect	able	e ac	tive	RXs		Filter High	n (Hz)				L
														1	Repeter M	lode	High	~		L
		Context sensi	tive E		orn	n								1	Rptr TX Of	ffset (KHz)	600			L
		Common rep	osito	ry for	. all	RXs	5								Tone		On	~	•	
															Tone Freq	uency (Hz)	88,5	~		E
		User defined	Giuu	hz											Note					
		Sort on two k	eys a	nd fr	ee s	sear	rch								Cano	el	Г	SAVE	T	L
	<ul> <li>Unlimited size</li> </ul>											_	_							

#### Recorder



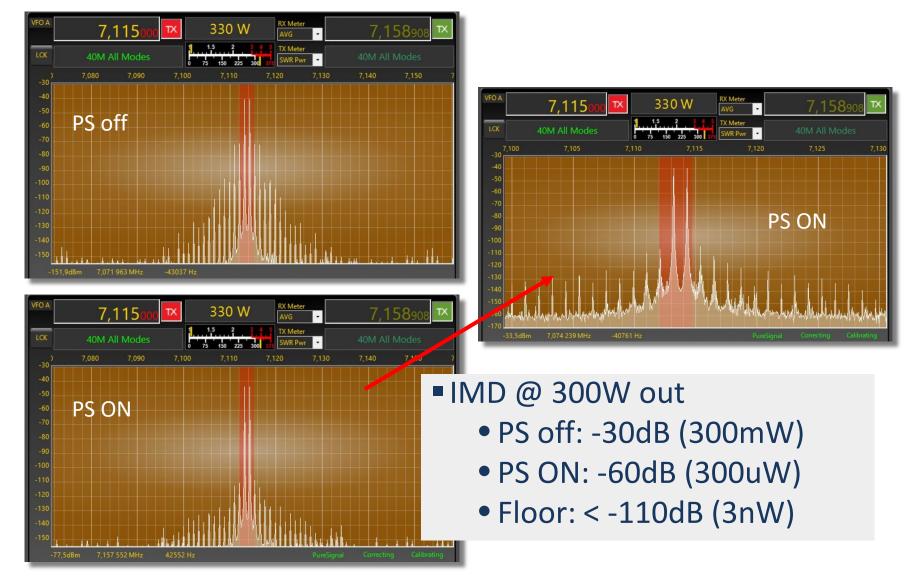
- Record/Play Audio or RAW IQ data, extended WAV format
- Simultaneous recording from selected RXs
- Unlimited recording time (670MByte/h audio recording, 11GB/h IQ recording @ 768KHz)
- During RAW IQ playback, possibility to tune (CTUN) different frequency/mode/filter
- 4 TX message per each RX windows
- Quick Recorder/Player for RX1 (accesible also from Main Window)

### **Pre-Distorsion - PureSignal**

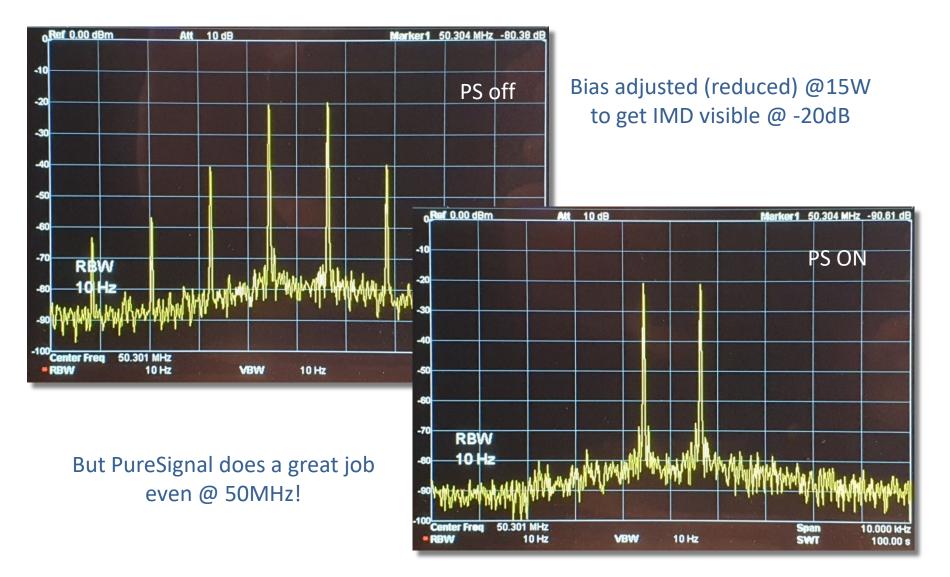
OLMaster Setup	- 🗆 X	×
General Audio       DSP       Transmit       PureSignal       Display       Appearance       Keyboard       COM         MOX Wait (sec)       0.1       Image: Construct and the second		AmpView1.0 
Export DB Import DB Reset DB Saving Cancel	Save Save+Close	Input Magnitude Show Gain Phase Zoom

- Improve amplifier linearity through signal pre-distorsion
- IMD can be improved by more than 20dB
- Clean TX spectrum
- Avoid disturbing nearby stations
- Designed by Dott. Warren Pratt, NROV

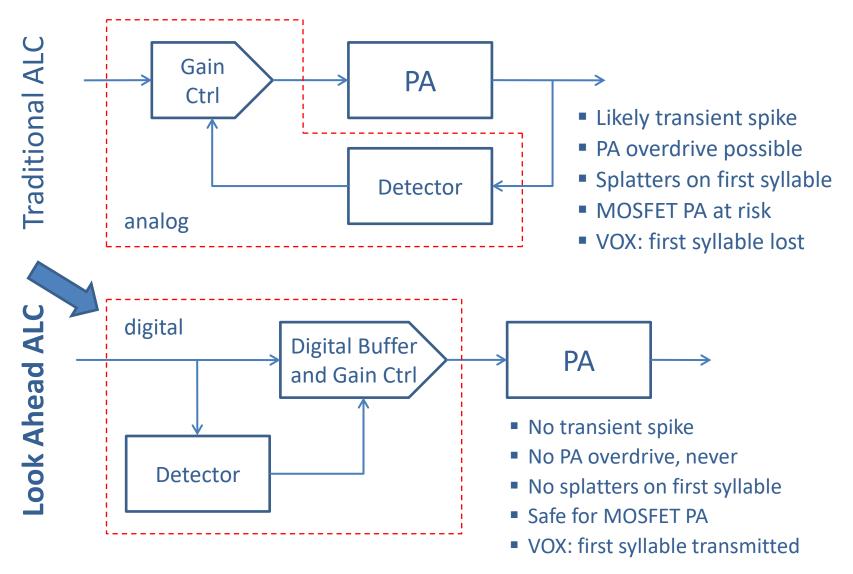
#### **PureSignal Measurements**



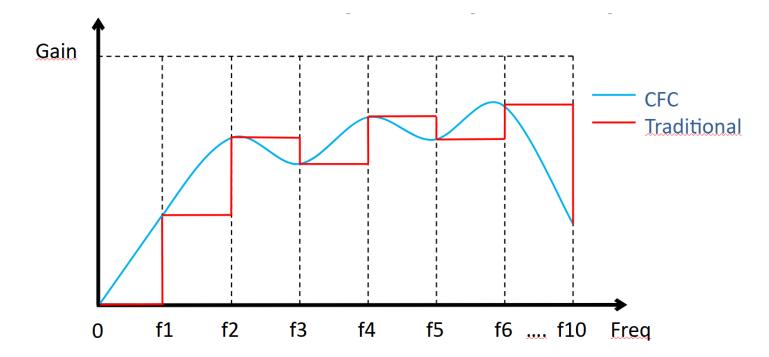
#### **PureSignal Measurements**



### ALC and VOX Look Ahead



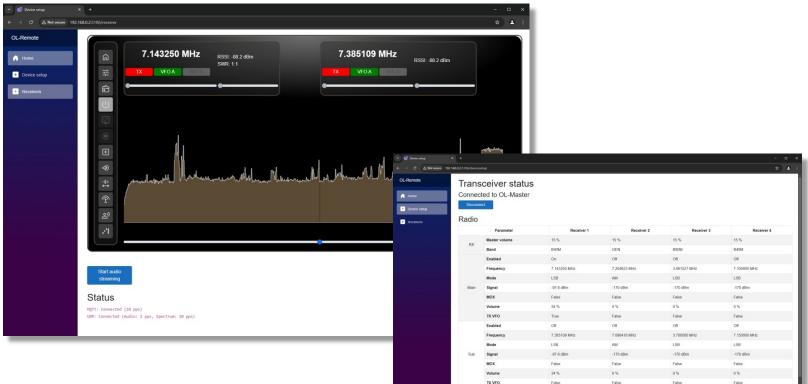
#### **Continuous Frequency Compressor**



No step change of gain -> Optimal compression with no artifacts

- Total control on band frequencies and compression level
- Compression level interpolated between bands
- Efficient increase of average power and intelligibility without artifacts
- Designed by Dott. Warren Pratt NROV

#### What Next



Power

TX

0 %

1:1

0 %

1:1

0%

1:1

0%

1:1

- Remote Client(s)
- 1000+ Wrms water cooled PA
- SWL RX only version?

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# Thank you for your time

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