

log2ps

User's Manual

Ottar Kvindesland, LA9IHA

This is the ham-radio operators QSL card machine. When you have logged your QSO on your PC-log, *log2ps* will generate complete QSL cards on white paper. No sticky labels, no printing expences and no tedious after work.

log2ps is configured through command line switches. You may want to use it to generate QSL cards for special events, DXpeditions, contests etc. Easy set-up routines are provided for K1EA CT and Log-Eqf. The program maintain configuration settings in a config file. It reads your log-program output file and produces output to a PostScript file.

The latest version of this program is always available at

<http://home.c2i.net/clank/ham/qs1.html>

This manual looks best when printed on A4 sheets.

To Radio : **OK1AWC**

LA9IHA.logps

LA9IHA

NORWAY

I have the pleasure of confirming our QSO:

YEAR	MONTH	DAY	UTC	MHz	MODE	RST
1998	Jul	29	12:21	7.021	CW	599

WALA-C,WANCA-C17,WANLO-JO59HQ,Zone:ITU-18,CQ-14

OPR Ottar Kvindesland
QTH Short Way 40, N-1440 Antenna Farm, Norway
RIG Howes TX2000, DC2000
MAIL <http://home.c2i.net/clank/ham/qs1.html>
P/QTH Portable from the garden

PSE QSL, 73

SAMPLE

Purpose

The program will read your log file and generate a PostScript code for individual QSL cards, one for each QSO. The PostScript file forwarded to a compatible printer will produce ready-made QSL cards!

If your log-program can produce an ASCII output with one QSO per line, each of up to 160 characters per line you may generate your own QSL cards by *log2ps*.

The PostScript output is directed to file. You forward this file to either a PostScript printer or print it out to your laser, ink-jet or dot-matrix printer via GhostScript. For GhostScript, the reader is referred to <http://www.ghostscript.com/>.

You should print your cards to blank sheets and get your complete QSL card out. Paperweight of 160 grammes per m2 is recommended.

The image above demonstrates a completed QSL card based on a QSO recorded in my LOG-EQF log.

Demo-run

- Copy `log2ps.exe` to your PC

If you HAVE a PostScript printer

- Connect your PostScript printer to `lpt1` say
- Run *log2ps* from DOS or a DOS box
- Type '`copy log.ps lpt1`'

If you DO NOT have a PostScript printer

- Install GhostScript
- Run *log2ps* from DOS or a DOS box
- Follow the instructions from the chapter 'Notes on Using GhostScript'

When the first cards are on paper you can suit them to your own taste by running

```
log2ps -?
```

System Requirement

- IBM compatible PC
- CPU 8086 or better
- DOS 3.1 or better
- 256 kB RAM or more
- Floppydisk, or 200 kB or more free hard disk space

How to Use the Program

The program runs in DOS or a DOS box in Windows, NT or OS/2. You may invoke the program at command line with the syntax:

```
log2ps <switch1>..<switchN>
```

Switches are not case sensitive. They have the syntax:

```
-<command>[=<parameter>]
```

Please note that a switch cannot have any spaces. Where spaces are required as parameter, they should be replaced with underscores `_`. No switches should be longer than 80 characters. All switches will be stored in the configuration file unless otherwise instructed in the description below. The program will be aborted on detecting illegal switches. Do remember to include the preceding '-' in the switch. Users may manipulate the configuration file at their own risk. No precautions are taken to validate the data of this file.

Examples of running *log2ps* with switches:

<code>log2ps -blanks=1</code>	Creates a sheet with blank QSL cards
<code>log2ps -logfile=log.txt</code>	Sets <i>log2ps</i> to read log from the file log.txt
<code>log2ps -mysig=LA9IHA</code>	Defines local signature to LA9IHA
<code>log2ps -myaddr=Belsjoevn_5,_N-1440_Droebak</code>	Sets local address to Belsjoevn 5, N-1440 Droebak
<code>log2ps -qs1s=2 -qs1pos=c -century=20</code>	Sets program to output 2 cards per sheet, centered and years will be printed in the range 2000..2099

How to Create QSL Cards Based on Log from K1EA CT 9.10

- Establish a operation log with name eg. MYTEST
- When the operation is complete you write in the log-screen: WRITELOG

You have now the source file for *log2ps* in the file `mytest.all`. This is the input file to your QSL card machine. Set the correct switches to read this file, and print the PostScript to your preferred file. Some important switches to get it going, and suggested parameters:

```
log2ps -logfile=mytest.all  
log2ps -slog=K1EA
```

Or you could of course write

```
log2ps -logfile=mytest.all -slog=K1EA
```

Now all the parameters are set. To generate your PostScript file you simply type:

```
log2ps
```

Further you are recommended to use GhostScript to save trees when testprinting. To create a PostScript file for testcards you type:

```
log2ps -blanks=1
```

If you have your PostScript printer connected to COM1 say, you type

```
copy log.ps lpt1
```

and magic, your cards come out.

How to Create QSL Cards Based on Log from LOG-EQF 8.56

LogEqf is available at <http://www.itis.net/eqf/>

First set a few parameters by selecting from Log-EQF Main Menu :
SETUP program configuration

- Setup, Press F1 until 'Date format to 'dd-mm-yy'
- Setup, Press F2 until 'Printer type to DISK FILE'
- Perform other settings you wish
- EXIT to save settings

When you are ready to print your QSL cards you follow this procedure:

- In Log-EQF Main Menu: PRINT logbook record to DISK FILE
- Enter disk file name, eg. log.txt
- Print in DETAILED format: 'N'
- Logbook print: Select QSO's to output, eg Print any QSOs marked 'P' in QSL STATUS
- Enter text to print at top of pages: Not necessary
- In Main Menu: EXIT

You have now the source file for *log2ps* in the file log.txt. This is the input file to your QSL card machine. Set the correct switches to read this file, and print the PostScript to your preferred file. Some important switches to get it going, and suggested parameters:

```
log2ps -logfile=log.txt  
log2ps -slog=LOG-EQF
```

Or you could of course write

```
log2ps -logfile=log.txt -slog=LOG-EQF
```

Now all the parameters are set. To generate your PostScript file you simply type:

```
log2ps
```

Further you are recommended to use GhostScript to save trees when test printing. To create a PostScript file for testcards you type:

```
log2ps -blanks=1
```

If you have your PostScript printer connected to COM1 say, you type

```
copy log.ps lpt1
```

and magic, your cards come out.

Legal Switches

When you want to change configuration parameters you have to run *log2ps* twice. First to change the configuration settings, and secondly to produce cards.

The following switches are valid:

Switch	Parameter	Action
-?		This help information This switch is not stored in the configuratuion file
-bandfrq	<text string>	Sets label of Frequency/Band box. Suggested usage is MHz or Band. Set automatic to MHz for switch -slog=EQF, BAND for switch -slog=K1EA.
-banner	<text string>	Place the string as a vertical banner on the right side of the card
-banner	'0'	No banner
-blanks	<integer>	Will produce a number of blank cards. Not stored as a configuration. Max 32768 cards
-century	<integer>	Century number, usually 19 or 20
-corners	'0'	QSL cards will have no edge corners
-corners	'1'	QSL cards will have edge corners
-country	<text string>	Country of operation
-dest	<text string>	PostScript output file from this program
-edge	'0'	No space between cards
-edge	'1'	Space between each QSL card
-fixmod	<text string>	Sets a fixed mode for all QSO's disregarding log. Will not appear on blank cards.
-fixmod	'0'	Uses mode given in log.

-fixrpt	<text string>	Sets a fixed RST for all QSO's disregarding log. Used for eg K1EA where RST is not present in log. Will not appear on blank cards.
-fixrpt	'0'	Uses report given in log.
-frame	'0'	QSL cards will have no edge frame
-frame	'1'	QSL cards will have edge frame
-greeting	<text string>	Last greeting on card, eg. PSE QSL, 73 de Ottar
-help		This help information. Not stored as a configuration
-icons	'0'	No icons will be placed on card
-icons	'1'	Icons defined active in icon file log2ps.icn will be printed on card. This switch is not yet active. Warning: This command has not been completely implemented
-logfile	<text string>	Name of input file to this program This is the file produced by your log program
-logo	'ARRL'	Place an ARRL logo on the QSL card. Parameter is case sensitive.
-logo	'DARC'	Place an DRAC logo on the QSL card. Parameter is case sensitive.
-logo	'NRRL'	Place an NRRL logo on the QSL card. Parameter is case sensitive.
-logo	'RSGB'	Place an RSGB logo on the QSL card. Parameter is case sensitive.
-logo	'0'	No logo onto the card
-lshade	<decimal value>	Shade of logo. 0.0 max, 1.0 min
-margin	<integer value>	Left margin on card. Units in 1/72 inch. Default 18
-modlbl	<text string>	Mode label, eg MODE or 2-WAY
-myaddr	<text string>	Your postal address
-mybbs	<text string>	Your AX.25 packet BBS address. Internet mail address will be reset automatically
-mybbs	'0'	No packet BBS address
-myloc	<text string>	Your QTH locator
-mymail	<text string>	Your internet mail address. AX.25 packet address will be reset automatically
-mymail	'0'	No internet mail address

-myname	<text string>	Your name
-myrig	<text string>	Your rig, antennae etc
-mysig	<text string>	Your signature
-oscall	<text string>	Operating system command to be executed prior to closedown. E.g. 'copy log.ps lpt1', or 'gs log.ps'.
-pqth	<text string>	Name of the portable QTH from where you have worked.
-pqth	'0'	No portable QTH
-qp...	<text string>	See <i>Defining log2ps Input</i>
-ptitle	'0'	Disable particulars titles like OPR, QTH etc
-ptitle	'1'	Enable particulars titles like OPR, QTH etc
-setdef		Set default configuration file. Not stored as a configuration
-shcfg		Show data on the configuration file. Not stored as a configuration
-slog	'LOG-EQF'	Will read from a LOG-EQF 8.56 created log
-slog	'CT'	Will read from a CT 6.26 created log (freeware)
-slog	'K1EA'	Will read from a K1EA CT v. 9.10 created log
-title	<text string>	Title of QSL card. Written above info boxes, e.g I have the pleasure of confirming the QSO:
-qsls	<integer value>	Number of cards on a sheet. Max 4.
-x	'0'	Not expert, full help info given in help
-x	'1'	Expert, only switches described
-xchar	'0'	Ordinary english alphabet used
-xchar	'1'	Extended alphabet, including Norwegian characters
-xoffset	<integer value>	Adjust the horisontal offset of the cards on the sheet. The integer value represents number of 1/72 inch and may be positive as well as negative
-xoffset	'el'	Cards are printed to the left of the sheet
-xoffset	'er'	Cards are printed to the right of the sheet
-xoffset	'c'	Cards are printed at the center of the sheet
-yoffset	<integer value>	Adjust the vertical offset of the cards on the sheet. The integer value represents number of 1/72 inch and may be positive as well as negative

Notes on using GhostScript

Users who has no access to a postscript printer may well use the Ghost Script utility program to emulate PostScript on your PC. You should look up

<http://www.ghostscript.com>

This site should lead you to the download as well as the excellent Ghostscript 5 user manual by Thomas Merz.

Under Obtaining Aladdin Ghostscript 5.10 from Aladdin Ghostscript you should download the files for the minimum configuration:

- `gs510ini.zip`
 - `gs510fn1.zip`
- and either for DOS:
- `gs510dos.zip`
- or Windows3.11 or Win95/NT
- `gs510w32.zip`
 - `gsview.zip`

You should also download the manual of Thomas Mertz.

Installation Procedure, DOS

The installation procedure is for the simplest possible installation of GhostScript for DOS to help you using *log2ps*.

- Create the directories `c:\gs` and `c:\gs\fonts`
- Copy `gs510ini.zip` to `c:\gs`
- Unzip `gs510ini.zip`
- Copy `gs510dos.zip` to `c:\gs`
- Unzip `gs510dos.zip`
- Copy `gs510fn1.zip` to `c:\gs\fonts`
- Unzip `gs510fn1.zip`

It is necessary that the files produced by the Unzip function is situated in the directories they were unzipped. I.e if you unzip to `c:\gs` the resulting files must not be in `c:\gs\gs510`. If this happens, the files must be moved.

Test 1

- While in `c:\gs` type `gs386 tiger.ps`
- The tiger should appear on your monitor. When completely drawn, a text should be presented on the top.
- Hit Enter to continue.
- Type `(golfer.ps) run`
- The golf lady should come up.
- Hit Enter to continue.
- Type `quit` to exit

If you are unfamiliar with DOS you should consult a friend or some other person who can perform the simple setting described below:

- At c:\ open AUTOEXEC.BAT
- Add to the line commencing with `set path=` this string: `;c:\gs;c:\gs\fonts`
- Above the line above, insert a line: `set GS_LIB = c:\gs;c:\gs\fonts`
- Save AUTOEXEC.BAT and exit.
- Restart the computer by CTRL-ALT-DEL

Test 2

- Proceed to the directory where you have installed *log2ps*
- Create a sheet with blanks, eg like this `log2ps -dest=log.ps -blanks=1`
- View the output file with the command: `gs386 log.ps`
- One or more QSL cards should appear on the monitor, when completely drawn, some lines should be printed on top starting with `Loading Nimbus...`
- Hit Enter to continue
- Type `quit` to exit

Feel better? Now read the GhostScript manual.

Hint for you who have read it. It has nothing to do with printing QSL cards. If you want to produce Acrobat Reader PDF files, you should find the file `ps2pdf.bat`.

Change the line

```
set PS2PDFGS=gs
```

to

```
set PS2PDFGS=gs386
```

To view your QSL card on the monitor, you follow the procedure below. This example assumes you have the QSL card postscript in the file `log.ps`. You simply type the command:

```
gs386 log.ps
```

To print it on a printer you type a command like below.

```
gs386 -q -dNOPAUSE -sDEVICE=bcj600 log.ps -c quit
```

The example is for a Cannon BJC-4000 printer. If you have a different printer you should find the correct driver in chapter 4 in the GhostScript manual.

When you have got the command that does the trick, you could use it as a parameter to the `-oscall` switch.

Installation Procedure, Win95/WinNT

There are two versions you may consider specified below. You simply install them and run the installed software from icons. The procedure for printing is

- Enter GSView
- Open desired PostScript file

- Select Print
- Select device, for the Cannon BJC-4000 you select `bcj600`.
- Select resolution, eg 300
- See that PostScript printer and Print to file are both blank
- Select Queue
- Click OK

Again, the reader is encouraged to display the postscript in the viewer before a hard copy is generated.

GhostScript v. 5.10

This release is distributed on a number of files that fits into diskettes. You need these files:

- GSVIEW
- gs510ini.zip
- gs510w32.zip
- gs510fn1.zip

It is all available at <http://www.cs.wisc.edu/~ghost/aladdin/get510.html>
You install it all by running

GhostScript v. 5.50

You have to download the file `gsv26550.exe`. It is a large file available at <http://www.cs.wisc.edu/~ghost/aladdin/get550.html>

Defining *log2ps* Input

Input to *log2ps* is read from the file produced by your log program. It must present one QSO per line, each of no more than 160 characters. The file may look like the example below collected from my LOG-EQF output:

```

-----LA9IHA QSL BACKLOG-----
DATE      TIME  STATION  FREQ  MODE SENT RCVD      QTH      NAME  QSL
26-10-97  10:40 OH6AW    21.0  SSB  59   59 15 Finland      P
15-04-98  19:59 IK4OLU    7.013. CW  559  579 Rimini        Antonio P
15-04-98  20:18 PA0HMT    7.013. CW  599  599 Nr Monnickendam Neth Henk P
16-04-98  20:09 DJ9GB     7.016. CW  589  599                      P
19-04-98  19:45 HB9PO     7.012. CW  599  599 Versoix Switzerland Yvan P
19-04-98  20:15 DJ4CE     7.012. CW  599  599 Bessen         P
25-05-91  16:00 LC1NAT    144.30 USB  55   59 Asker          Ole P
26-04-98  20:15 EW2EG     7.011. CW  559  599 Kaliningrad    Sluck P
27-04-98  19:48 EA7CHO     7.010. CW  549  599 Jaenne         Jose P
27-04-98  20:14 UX7IC     7.010. CW  549  579 Cresnoarmes Ukraine Sergej P
30-04-98  20:10 F5VEZ     7.008. CW  599  579 Wim           Nr Hesdi P

```

Each element of your QSO information has its positions on the line. You may define where you want to collect date, time, station worked etc. This is implemented by the commands `-QPOS...`. They take the parameter format `CIICII` where C is a character and I is an integer. I describes where and C describes how you fetch the substring. Alternative options are:

- A : Absolute. The parameter `II` gives the column number.
- G: Group. The parameter `II` gives the group number.

- E: End off current group `II` must have the value `99`.

The first column is number `00`. To define month in the example above you write

```
log2ps -qpmon=A03A04
```

When setting these parameters you can check the log by typing

```
log2ps -qptest
```

It is well advised practice to iterate between checking and writing positioning data.

You can automatically set this positioning data to some well known logs by giving parameter to the switch `-slog`:

- LOG-EQF
- K1EA
- CT

Switches for defining substrings are:

Switch	Parameter	Action
-qpday	<text string>	Setting positions of substring from log. Day, must be integer 1..31. See Defining <i>log2ps</i> Input.
-qpfrq	<text string>	Setting positions of substring from log. Station
-qphdr	<text string>	Setting positions of substring from log. Hour
-qpmin	<text string>	Setting positions of substring from log. Minutes
-qpmod	<text string>	Setting positions of substring from log.
-qpmon	<text string>	Setting positions of substring from log. Month.
-qprpt	<text string>	Setting positions of substring from log. Station
-qptest		Run a test of log with all QPOS... data presented. Not stored as a configuration
-qpwrk	<text string>	Setting positions of substring from log. Station worked.
-qpyr	<text string>	Setting positions of substring from log. Year, 2 last digits. Century is handled by <code>-century</code> .

Common problems

Running `log2ps` and no cards are generated

- Check with switch `-shcfg` that your logfile is consistent with what *log2ps* expects
- Check that you actually have this file

- Check that you have set *log2ps* to read the correct substrings with switch *-qptest*

Guarantee

I cannot resist bringing up this subject. It appears frequently on software written in USA. Even on freeware the disclaimer has appeared! As I have not asked you to use it nor charged you for the usage, any legal complaints will be looked well after and brought forward on joyful events.

Current bugs and future developments

When creating software for the amateur radio community, the emphasis is on designing and writing code. Testing is left with bare necessity. There may therefore be several functions which does not work as intended. Please let me know if you have interest in having these parts looked into, and I will fix it. The idea is that if it is used it will live.

I am aware of problems with the *-icons* switch. You are currently advised not to use it, as it will probably cause troubles with the PostScript code. Again, if you need it, send me a mail.

The most likely candidates for further development is the user interface and the PostScript code itself. The new Java technology lends itself to the configuration environment. It has all the windows facilities you may wish, and is platform independent. The PostScript code is a programming environment in its own right. Hence it is a great potential for tailormaking each card to the QSO. You may eg. just list up the equipment you have available for the band the QSO was made. Further you could have a french greeting to all amateurs with a callsign starting with F, and a Chinese for the ones starting with B. If you have more ideas, please let me know.

Distribution

You may distribute the program *log2ps.exe* and this file *log2ps.wri* freely for non-commercial purposes. Any other file generated by this program must not be distributed. They are your own data.

Commercial distribution, ie where money is involved is only permitted on my written approval.

The source code is also freely available, and you may perform any change you wish. Any program compiled from modified source must however not be distributed if my original work or approved work is compiled with your modifications. This means that if you want to distribute a modified version, you must first notify me, and I will if possible approve it for re-distribution with *log2ps*.

You may however not within the source code or the PostScript output remove the phrase LA9IHA *log2ps*'.

Comments and suggestions are welcome to me at

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