

List of Abbreviations found in ARRL Publications

A

a—atto (prefix for 10^{-18})
A—ampere (unit of electrical current)
ac—alternating current
ACC—Affiliated Club Coordinator
ACSSB—amplitude-compandored single sideband
A/D—analog-to-digital
ADC—analog-to-digital converter
AF—audio frequency
AFC—automatic frequency control
AFSK—audio frequency-shift keying
AGC—automatic gain control
Ah—ampere hour
ALC—automatic level control
AM—amplitude modulation
AMRAD—Amateur Radio Research and Development Corporation
AMSAT—Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation
AMTOR—Amateur Teleprinting Over Radio
ANT—antenna
ARA—Amateur Radio Association
ARC—Amateur Radio Club
ARES—Amateur Radio Emergency Service
ARQ—Automatic repeat request
ARRL—American Radio Relay League
ARS—Amateur Radio Society (station)
ASCII—American National Standard Code for Information Interchange
ATV—amateur television
AVC—automatic volume control
AWG—American wire gauge
az-el—azimuth-elevation

B

B—bel; blower; susceptance; flux density, (inductors)
balun—balanced to unbalanced (transformer)
BC—broadcast
BCD—binary coded decimal
BCI—broadcast interference
Bd—baud (bits in single-channel binary data transmission)
BER—bit error rate
BFO—beat-frequency oscillator
bit—binary digit
bit/s—bits per second
BM—Bulletin Manager
BPF—band-pass filter
BPL—Brass Pounders League
BT—battery
BW—bandwidth

C

c—centi (prefix for 10^{-2})
C—coulomb (quantity of electric charge); capacitor
CAC—Contest Advisory Committee
CATVI—cable television interference
CB—Citizens Band (radio)
CBBS—computer bulletin-board service
CBMS—computer-based message system
CCITT—International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee
CCTV—closed-circuit television
CCW—coherent CW
ccw—counterclockwise
CD—civil defense
cm—centimeter
CMOS—complementary-symmetry metal-oxide semiconductor
coax—coaxial cable
COR—carrier-operated relay
CP—code proficiency (award)
CPU—central processing unit
CRT—cathode ray tube
CT—center tap
CTCSS—continuous tone-coded squelch system
cw—clockwise
CW—continuous wave

D

d—deci (prefix for 10^{-1})
D—diode
da—deca (prefix for 10)
D/A—digital-to-analog
DAC—digital-to-analog converter
dB—decibel (0.1 bel)
dBi—decibels above (or below) isotropic antenna
dBm—decibels above (or below) 1 milliwatt
DBM—double balanced mixer
dBV—decibels above/below 1 V (in video, relative to 1 V P-P)
dBW—decibels above/below 1 W
dc—direct current
D-C—direct conversion
DDS—direct digital synthesis
DEC—District Emergency Coordinator
deg—degree
DET—detector
DF—direction finding; direction finder
DIP—dual in-line package
DMM—digital multimeter
DPDT—double-pole double-throw (switch)
DPSK—differential phase-shift keying
DPST—double-pole single-throw (switch)
DS—direct sequence (spread spectrum); display
DSB—double sideband
DSP—digital signal processing
DTMF—dual-tone multifrequency
DVM—digital voltmeter

DX—long distance; duplex
DXAC—DX Advisory Committee
DXCC—DX Century Club

E

e—base of natural logarithms (2.71828)
E—voltage
EA—ARRL Educational Advisor
EC—Emergency Coordinator
ECL—emitter-coupled logic
EHF—extremely high frequency (30-300 GHz)
EIA—Electronic Industries Alliance
EIRP—effective isotropic radiated power
ELF—extremely low frequency
ELT—emergency locator transmitter
EMC—electromagnetic compatibility
EME—earth-moon-earth (moonbounce)
EMF—electromotive force
EMI—electromagnetic interference
EMP—electromagnetic pulse
EOC—emergency operations center
EPROM—erasable programmable read only memory

F

f—femto (prefix for 10^{-5}); frequency
F—farad (capacitance unit); fuse
fax—facsimile
FCC—Federal Communications Commission
FD—Field Day
FEMA—Federal Emergency Management Agency
FET—field-effect transistor
FFT—fast Fourier transform
FL—filter
FM—frequency modulation
FMTV—frequency-modulated television
FSK—frequency-shift keying
FSTV—fast-scan (real-time) television
ft—foot (unit of length)

G

g—gram (unit of mass)
G—giga (prefix for 10^9); conductance
GaAs—gallium arsenide
GB—gigabytes
GDO—grid- or gate-dip oscillator
GHz—gigahertz (10^9 Hz)
GND—ground

H

h—hecto (prefix for 10^2)
H—henry (unit of inductance)
HF—high frequency (3-30 MHz)

HFO—high-frequency oscillator; heterodyne frequency oscillator
HPF—highest probable frequency; high-pass filter
Hz—hertz (unit of frequency, 1 cycle/s)

I

I—current, indicating lamp
IARU—International Amateur Radio Union
IC—integrated circuit
ID—identification; inside diameter
IEEE—Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
IF—intermediate frequency
IMD—intermodulation distortion
in.—inch (unit of length)
in./s—inch per second (unit of velocity)
I/O—input/output
IRC—international reply coupon
ISB—independent sideband
ITF—Interference Task Force
ITU—International Telecommunication Union
ITU-T—ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

J-K

j—operator for complex notation, as for reactive component of an impedance (+*j* inductive; −*j* capacitive)
J—joule (kg m²/s²) (energy or work unit); jack
JFET—junction field-effect transistor
k—kilo (prefix for 10³); Boltzmann's constant (1.38x10⁻²³ J/K)
K—kelvin (used without degree symbol) absolute temperature scale; relay
kB--kilobytes
kBd—1000 bauds
kbit—1024 bits
kbit/s—1024 bits per second
kbyte—1024 bytes
kg—kilogram
kHz—kilohertz
km—kilometer
kV—kilovolt
kW—kilowatt
kΩ—kilohm

L

l—liter (liquid volume)
L—lambert; inductor
lb—pound (force unit)
LC—inductance-capacitance
LCD—liquid crystal display
LED—light-emitting diode
LF—low frequency (30-300 kHz)
LHC—left-hand circular (polarization)
LO—local oscillator; Leadership Official
LP—log periodic
LS—loudspeaker

lsb—least significant bit
LSB—lower sideband
LSI—large-scale integration
LUF—lowest usable frequency

M

m—meter (length); milli (prefix for 10^{-3})
M—mega (prefix for 10^6); meter (instrument)
mA—milliampere
mAh—milliampere hour
MB—megabytes
MCP—multimode communications processor
MDS—Multipoint Distribution Service; minimum discernible (or detectable) signal
MF—medium frequency (300-3000 kHz)
mH—millihenry
MHz—megahertz
mi—mile, statute (unit of length)
mi/h—mile per hour
mi/s—mile per second
mic—microphone
min—minute (time)
MIX—mixer
mm—millimeter
MOD—modulator
modem—modulator/demodulator
MOS—metal-oxide semiconductor
MOSFET—metal-oxide semiconductor field-effect transistor
MS—meteor scatter
ms—millisecond
m/s—meters per second
msb—most-significant bit
MSI—medium-scale integration
MSK—minimum-shift keying
MSO—message storage operation
MUF—maximum usable frequency
mV—millivolt
mW—milliwatt
M Ω —megohm

N

n—nano (prefix for 10^{-9}); number of turns (inductors)
NBFM—narrow-band frequency modulation
NC—no connection; normally closed
NCS—net-control station; National Communications System
nF—nanofarad
NF—noise figure
nH—nanohenry
NiCd—nickel cadmium
NM—Net Manager
NMOS—N-channel metal-oxide silicon
NO—normally open
NPN—negative-positive-negative (transistor)

NPRM—Notice of Proposed Rule Making (FCC)
ns—nanosecond
NTIA—National Telecommunications and Information Administration
NTS—National Traffic System

O

OBS—Official Bulletin Station
OD—outside diameter
OES—Official Emergency Station
OO—Official Observer
op amp—operational amplifier
ORS—Official Relay Station
OSC—oscillator
OSCAR—Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio
OTC—Old Timer's Club
oz—ounce (1/16 pound)

P

p—pico (prefix for 10^{-12})
P—power; plug
PA—power amplifier
PACTOR—digital mode combining aspects of packet and AMTOR
PAM—pulse-amplitude modulation
PBS—packet bulletin-board system
PC—printed circuit
 P_D —power dissipation
PEP—peak envelope power
PEV—peak envelope voltage
pF—picofarad
pH—picohenry
PIC—Public Information Coordinator
PIN—positive-intrinsic-negative (semiconductor)
PIO—Public Information Officer
PIV—peak inverse voltage
PLL—phase-locked loop
PM—phase modulation
PMOS—P-channel (metal-oxide semiconductor)
PNP—positive negative positive (transistor)
pot—potentiometer
P-P—peak to peak
ppd—postpaid
PROM—programmable read-only memory
PSAC—Public Service Advisory Committee
PSHR—Public Service Honor Roll
PTO—permeability-tuned oscillator
PTT—push to talk

Q-R

Q—figure of merit (tuned circuit); transistor
QRP—low power (less than 5-W output)
R—resistor
RACES—Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

RAM—random-access memory
RC—resistance-capacitance
R/C—radio control
RCC—Rag Chewer's Club
RDF—radio direction finding
RF—radio frequency
RFC—radio-frequency choke
RFI—radio-frequency interference
RHC—right-hand circular (polarization)
RIT—receiver incremental tuning
RLC—resistance-inductance-capacitance
RM—rule making (number assigned to petition)
r/min—revolutions per minute
RMS—root mean square
ROM—read-only memory
r/s—revolutions per second
RS—Radio Sputnik (Russian ham satellite)
RST—readability-strength-tone (CW signal report)
RTTY—radioteletype
RX—receiver, receiving

S

s—second (time)
S—siemens (unit of conductance); switch
SASE—self-addressed stamped envelope
SCF—switched capacitor filter
SCR—silicon controlled rectifier
SEC—Section Emergency Coordinator
SET—Simulated Emergency Test
SGL—State Government Liaison
SHF—super-high frequency (3-30 GHz)
SM—Section Manager; silver mica (capacitor)
S/N—signal-to-noise ratio
SPDT—single-pole double-throw (switch)
SPST—single-pole single-throw (switch)
SS—ARRL Sweepstakes; spread spectrum
SSB—single sideband
SSC—Special Service Club
SSI—small-scale integration
SSTV—slow-scan television
STM—Section Traffic Manager
SX—simplex
sync—synchronous, synchronizing
SWL—shortwave listener
SWR—standing-wave ratio

T

T—tera (prefix for 10^{12}); transformer
TA—ARRL Technical Advisor
TC—Technical Coordinator
TCC—Transcontinental Corps (NTS)
TCP/IP—Transmission Control Protocol/ Internet Protocol

tfc—traffic
TNC—terminal node controller (packet radio)
TR—transmit/receive
TS—Technical Specialist
TTL—transistor-transistor logic
TTY—teletypewriter
TU—terminal unit
TV—television
TVI—television interference
TX—transmitter, transmitting

U

U—integrated circuit
UHF—ultra-high frequency (300 MHz to 3 GHz)
USB—upper sideband
UTC—Coordinated Universal Time (also abbreviated Z)
UV—ultraviolet

V

V—volt; vacuum tube
VCO—voltage-controlled oscillator
VCR—video cassette recorder
VDT—video-display terminal
VE—Volunteer Examiner
VEC—Volunteer Examiner Coordinator
VFO—variable-frequency oscillator
VHF—very-high frequency (30-300 MHz)
VLF—very-low frequency (3-30 kHz)
VLSI—very-large-scale integration
VMOS—V-topology metal-oxide semiconductor
VOM—volt-ohmmeter
VOX—voice-operated switch
VR—voltage regulator
VSWR—voltage standing-wave ratio
VTVM—vacuum-tube voltmeter
VUCC—VHF/UHF Century Club
VXO—variable-frequency crystal oscillator

W

W—watt ($\text{kg m}^2\text{s}^{-3}$), unit of power
WAC—Worked All Continents
WAS—Worked All States
WBFM—wide-band frequency modulation
WEFAX—weather facsimile
Wh—watthour
WPM—words per minute
WRC—World Radiocommunication Conference
WVDC—working voltage, direct current

X

X—reactance
XCVR—transceiver

XFMR—transformer
XIT—transmitter incremental tuning
XO—crystal oscillator
XTAL—crystal
XVTR—transverter

Y-Z

Y—crystal; admittance
YIG—yttrium iron garnet
Z—impedance; also see UTC

Numbers/Symbols

5BDXCC—Five-Band DXCC
5BWAC—Five-Band WAC
5BWAS—Five-Band WAS
6BWAC—Six-Band WAC
°—degree (plane angle)
°C—degree Celsius (temperature)
°F—degree Fahrenheit (temperature)
 α —(alpha) angles; coefficients, attenuation constant, absorption factor, area, common-base forward current-transfer ratio of a bipolar transistor
 β —(beta) angles; coefficients, phase constant current gain of common-emitter transistor amplifiers
 γ —(gamma) specific gravity, angles, electrical conductivity, propagation constant
 Γ —(gamma) complex propagation constant
 δ —(delta) increment or decrement; density; angles
 Δ —(delta) increment or decrement determinant, permittivity
 ϵ —(epsilon) dielectric constant; permittivity; electric intensity
 ζ —(zeta) coordinates; coefficients
 η —(eta) intrinsic impedance; efficiency; surface charge density; hysteresis; coordinate
 θ —(theta) angular phase displacement; time constant; reluctance; angles
 ι —(iota) unit vector
 K —(kappa) susceptibility; coupling coefficient
 λ —(lambda) wavelength; attenuation constant
 Λ —(lambda) permeance
 μ —(mu) permeability; amplification factor; micro (prefix for 10^{-6})
 μF —microfarad
 μH —microhenry
 μP —microprocessor
 ξ —(xi) coordinates
 π —(pi) ≈ 3.14159
 ρ —(rho) resistivity; volume charge density; coordinates; reflection coefficient
 σ —(sigma) surface charge density; complex propagation constant; electrical conductivity; leakage coefficient; deviation
 Σ —(sigma) summation
 τ —(tau) time constant; volume resistivity; time-phase displacement; transmission factor; density
 ϕ —(phi) magnetic flux angles
 Φ —(phi) summation
 χ —(chi) electric susceptibility; angles
 Ψ —(psi) dielectric flux; phase difference; coordinates; angles
 ω —(omega) angular velocity $2\pi f$
 Ω —(omega) resistance in ohms; solid angle