

Starting Out ~ PREFIX ~ rev: 15th October 2023

The starting point for all of the grid awards is the **Basic Requirement**. You earn this by working digital mode stations in different prefixes around the world, and can claim the total number of grid squares confirmed.

The Grid and Prefix Awards Group [GAP Awards]

1) The Grid and Prefix Awards Group [**GAP Awards**] is proud to recognize the achievements of Amateur Radio Operators worldwide, for confirming two way communications by offering its new **Digital Prefix Awards Program**.

2) *To apply for your Basic Requirement certificate*, all applicants must submit a copy of their prefix list in **alpha-numeric** order, in the **mode they are claiming**. This therefore is the total of all different prefixes found in that Mode taken from all Bands. The prefixes count only once for the Basic Requirement.

3) You can also earn this award in the **Mixed** category. Mixed includes all of the digital modes listed in #4 below, including any combination thereof. (Note that CW is not included in Mixed, either.) If you want to include digital modes not listed above, please make a request as listed above.

4) This award is available in various modes as specific in **table #1** below. (Regardless of method of generation, CW is not considered a valid mode for this award.) Please note that all the sub modes of these various modes are included in the parent mode, ie.PSK includes BPSK, QPSK, PSK63, PSK10 etc., and JTx includes all JT, FT and variants. Each mode has its own particular number of required prefixes/grid for the **Basic Requirement**, as noted in the table#1. You only need to qualify for one Basic Requirement which allows you to collect any awards in the Prefix GAPA awards. If you feel that you qualify for a non-listed digital mode, please request that we review your information.

- **Special Note:** Previous rules for the TARA Prefix Awards [now GAP Awards] required earning the Basic Requirement (then called the Basic Certificate) prior to claiming a Mixed award. We have eliminated that rule and simplified the requirements.

All QSO's must be **confirmed either by QSL card, eQSL, QRZ Logbook or LoTW** and will produce them to the GAPA-PX Award manager upon request. Do NOT send QSL cards unless requested to do so.

If your application includes columns that show confirmation in one of the above confirmation methods, that will be taken as a signed certification of QSO confirmation. If your application does not include those columns please copy the certification statement shown at the end of this text and include it at the bottom of your email application.

Don't forget to include your **full name, address, call sign and snail mail address** with any and all applications.

There is no start date so dig deep into your log and claim those past digital contacts.

This is an Amateur achievement award, not a location award, so your contacts count from where ever **YOU** made them.

The table below shows a short list of digital modes with the required number of confirmed and different prefixes needed to claim your **Basic Requirement**.

The **Endorsement** increment for each is also shown.

The fee schedule for these awards can be viewed at [awards pricing](#) The PayPal minimum fee of \$5.50 set up by TARA on the 20th November 2015 will be continued here.

Please checkout the example of [excel](#) file and see how you can file your claims easily. ie Prefix, Band, Continent.

Save it to your desktop then attach it to an email to me with your claim explained in the email text as to what you are requiring and your "Confirmation Statement" see [email claim](#) My files are kept in Excel. I will check it make changes where necessary. A copy of your 'master' files will be emailed to you on request.

Each time you apply for an endorsement to increase the number of Prefixes claimed, simply submit a new copy of your *excel sheet*. In the case of **Band** and **Mode** basic certificates, please send these each to their own excel page/sheet and on making further endorsements simply submit your *updated* Band or Mode list. These should be emailed to the **GAPA-PX Award Manager** at :WM2U

Mode	Basic Requirement	Endorsement Increments
Mixed	400	50
Rtty	300	50
SSTV	50	50
PSK	300	50
MT63	50	50
Throb	50	50
MFSK	200	50
JTx	300	50
Hell...	100	50
Olivia	50	50

All successful applicants will have their respective *Prefix achievements*, permanently displayed on the **GAPA OnLine Award Record**. [OLAR](#)

Regardless of the method of generation, CW is not considered a valid mode for this award.

The certificate(s) will be mailed out unfolded in a 9x12 envelope.

Any licensed Amateur world wide can claim this award. You do not need to be a member of a club to apply.

Check out the certificate available. [click here](#)

Applications for Basic Requirement

- Send a *copy* of your *prefix list*. Please checkout the table above. The requirements are different for each mode. Read the requirements as outlined above.
- The **MIXED MODE** rule has changed. Consider it has a catch-all of any mode thus producing a grand total of ALL your prefixes from whatever mode or band. In fact if you collect only one mode such as PSK you can also make a Mixed Award out of just your PSK. This allows you to add any previous confirmed QSO's or future QSO's that you might make.
- Please see this example of [excel](#) file. The Dark Blue Tabs are the Prefix entries the others are Grid Award.
- You can include any number of **Prefix**, **Band** and/or **Continent** endorsements in a single application/claim package. Make sure that you send your latest, updated **Prefix**, **Band** and/or **Continent** list when claiming endorsements. This way it cuts down the amount of paperwork in the files and/or computer memory. :)
- Operating Modes include: **RTTY**, **PSK**, **JT65**, **RTTY**, **THROB**, **MFSK**, **HELL**, and more... Please note that all the sub modes of these various modes are included in the parent mode. ie. in PSK, BPSK, QPSK, PSK63, PSK10 etc. JT65 (JT9 subs etc.)

Application for Endorsements:

- For each **Prefix** endorsement upgrade please submit an updated copy of your prefix list. (increments of 50)
- To claim **Band** and **Continent** endorsements for the Basic Requirement Mode that you hold, a separate, updated list showing your claimed prefixes. ie List of all your 20 meter prefixes, and/or a list of all European prefixes etc. Submit any number of different endorsement applications/claims in one package.

Note: the Band and Continent Endorsements are a **one time** endorsement. You can claim these for the specified number of confirmed contacts as shown below.

Note: in answer to a participants question; If you work the same Call on different Bands that call counts on each Band claim.

- Enter the **complete call letters in alphabetical order**, and make sure that any portable prefix listed on the application as a prefix, ie G3/WM2U even if local laws require its use as a suffix, such as VE3ABC/W3. G3/WM2U would count as G3. If you work J66ABC and then J6/WM2U you are allowed to count these as two separate prefixes. J6 and J66.

Proper authorized prefixes only. Maritime and interim license class prefixes do not count. ie /AG, /AE etc.

- Any portable prefixes without numbers must be designated zero (0). AIR counts as AI0.
- In the case of separate countries which have the same prefix but are identified by the first letter of their suffix such as VP2EBR (Turks & Caicos) and VP2MDY (Montserrat), their prefixes, in this case would then be VP2E and VP2M respectively.
- Band endorsements are available. [see table below]. To claim any Band Endorsement you must hold that Bands Basic Requirement.
- Continent endorsements are available. [see table below] To claim any Continent Endorsement you must hold that Continents Basic Requirement.
- It is highly recommended that the stickers, BARS and endorsements be mounted on the relevant sheet using **Stamp Hinges**. Many thanks to Sid Grimes, KK8X for finding this OnLine outlet for those hinges. Take a look at The Hobby Lobby then click on "Hobbies", then search for "Stamp Hinges"

I did buy them at OfficeMax a few years ago. Staples could also handle them.

Continent Requirements		
Asia	AS	75
Africa	AF	90
Europe	EU	160
N. America	NA	160
S. America	SA	95
Oceania	OC	60

Band	Mix	RTTY	SSTV	PSK	MT63	Throb	MFSK	Hell	JTx	Olivia
160m	45	38	8	38	8	8	30	15	38	8
80m	180	150	30	150	30	30	120	60	150	30
60m	45	38	8	38	8	8	30	15	38	8
40m	240	200	40	200	40	40	160	80	200	40
30m	45	38	8	38	8	8	30	15	38	8
20m	300	250	50	250	50	50	200	100	250	50
17m	45	38	8	38	8	8	30	15	38	8
15m	300	250	50	250	50	50	200	100	250	50
12m	45	38	8	38	8	8	30	15	38	8
10m	300	250	50	250	50	50	200	100	250	50
6m	90	75	15	75	15	15	60	30	75	15

Additional Endorsements

1. In addition to the QSO endorsements noted above, there are further endorsements that can be earned after you have completed the **Basic Requirement**. A Sticker extension sheet is available.
2. You can earn band endorsements as shown in the table above, based on QSOs with the specified number of unique prefixes on a single band. Note that the required number of grids varies with operating mode (similar to the **Basic Requirement**). If you earn all bands, 160m, 80m, 40m, 30m, 20m, 17m, 15m, 12m, 10m and 6m in a given mode, you can claim the **WAB** sticker. The **WAB-60** endorsement for the **WAB** sticker is available if you earn the 60m stamp and all the other bands. You can claim the 60m stamp before completing all the other bands but you can only claim the **WAB-60** after all the other bands are claimed.

Note that band endorsements are a *one time* endorsement per mode.

Your application must include a certification that you have worked the grids listed, and have appropriate confirmation of those QSOs. You must include a *QSO confirmed statement* as per the one below to the end of ALL your claim emails. Failing to do so will mean the return of your claim for addition of this statement hence wasting your time.

I certify that I have worked and have the QSL cards, LoTW, QRZ logbook, HRD log, Club Log or eQSL proof of contacts confirming the Callsign, Data, Band and Mode for each of my claimed contacts, and will produce them to the GAPA Award manager upon request. I understand that this application may be rejected if I fail to submit the required information upon request, or if any doubt about authenticity. I also agree to abide by the decisions of the GAPA Officers.