

(A list of links appears at the end of this PDF file.
Translation to PDF dropped the link so, in the text, I left it underlined and bold.)

Useful Tools for SSTV:

Of course you need a **SSTV program** and hardware. If you are reading this, you probably have those. But here are other tools of use or interest to us also:

1. Art program to work on pictures.
2. Picture album manager.
3. Does your PC always KEY your PTT?
4. Sound card configuration saver.
5. Voice Keyer.
6. Sound Card Tester.
7. 3D anaglyph programs.

1. Art program to work on pictures.

Many Slow Scanners like to use an Art program.

Once you have pictures in your PC you will need to manipulate them. This takes special software. You will need to have several functions right away. Things like convert format, resize, crop, and adding text. MM-SSTV performs some of these functions like sizing and limited text functions.

There is a good instructional **web page** just for MM-SSTV. It was written by Joe Hutchens, WJ5MH. I think you will soon need additional software though.

The high end program right now is Photoshop from Adobe. It is way too expensive for most of us. It is THE program for professionals.

It is my opinion that anyone who needs professional image manipulation software, but can not afford Photoshop, has only one choice. You must get **Paint Shop Pro 8**. Don't wait, don't think about it. Just do it. Paint Shop Pro from **JASC** is fantastic. You will not believe what you can do with this software. If you don't believe me, just download the trial version and use it a couple of times a week for 4 weeks. When the trial version time runs out (30 days), you will agree and you will purchase the full version (Download \$99 US, Boxed \$109 US). Oh, and there is a Paint Shop Pro **Users Group** (PSPUG). They can be real good at helping you with such powerful software.

2. Picture album manager.

What happens after you have collected a bunch of pictures?. Well, they become hard to sort out. It take a lot of effort to take care of them all. As an example, I have about 16,000 pictures in my archive, and that does not include the pictures from the web site that others have sent!

The following is plagiarized right out of the JASC web site:

" Paint Shop Photo Album is everything you need to enhance, organize, and share digital photos. Whether you're e-mailing photos, creating a photo keepsake, or burning a Video CD, Photo Album is your complete digital photography center. "

You can get it for yourself from [**this link**](#).

Personally I do not use it. I use my own method of filling using DOS directories (folders). Please do not consider this article as an endorsement of the JASC product. I simply offer it as an alternative. It was easy for me to put on this web page.

3. Does your PC always KEY your PTT?

If you are using M.S. Windows ME (Millennium Edition), your PC interface will cause your radio to transmit continuously until you send a picture (Inverted logic). This is because microsoft decided to re-invent the wheel. The Com port (RS-232) architecture is a standard that should not have been messed with.

To fix this operating system deficiency you can use a correction program. See the information on Jim Barber's site ([**Silicon Pixels**](#)) or at West Mountain Radio ([**Rigblaster**](#)).

Download the FREE file, follow the instructions and it should work fine.

4. Sound card configuration saver.

Sound cards are mysterious things. Just when you have everything adjusted right, along comes the kids, your XYL or an errant program; now nothing works. I had no problems for years, then after a re-install of windows all heck broke lose.

This FREE utility worked for me. It stores your adjustments in a file. I set up several configurations for my sound card in a number of files. To bring your sound settings back to a known condition, just double click (or envoke) the file.

Learn more about this powerful small applet from [**QuickMix**](#) .

5. Voice Keyer.

OK, this really isn't for SSTV. I just think it is a real nice addition to what you already have. And it is also FREE!

It uses your sound card and SSTV interface to play wave files (sound) through your transmitter. Useful for contesting or canned announcements. The authors, Gabriele and Christian, are very nice folks plus they are testers themselves (OE8YDQ & OE8CIQ).

Look for GCVoiceKeyer V1.01 under 'Software' at [their site](#).

6. Sound Card Tester.

I found a utility a few months ago to check sound cards. I wasn't having a big problem at the time, but I tried it. It worked pretty slick but, did not find a problem for me. While writing this, I discovered that Jonathan (K1RFD) has removed the program from his web site. I leave it up to you to contact him or look for something else.

SoundCardTest.exe is from K1RFD and is a Sound Card Tester for Windows 9x/NT/Me/2000/XP (freeware). Look at this [Original Link](#), or [here](#).

7. 3D anaglyph programs.

One of the unique facets of SSTV is 3 dimensional photos. They offer the third dimension of depth. Many SSTV'ers dabble very well in this hobby. WA3TMS Vaughn, is a notable master. See his stuff at [WA3TMS: An SSTV Home Page](#) .

I have played some with 3D in the past. It almost requires special software. I use some OLD DOS programs called Double Vision & Pop 3D. They are no longer available, not that I can find. Here is a web site that may help you. Try [3D](#).

Addendum (February, 2006)

Please note that JASC was bought out by Corel which I will not support. Nor do I have any ideas who to send you to for a replacement. Maybe try:

<http://www.ironspider.ca/freetools/grfxeditors.htm>

Other Links:

Link "**SSTV program**" = <http://www.fmsstv/rv/index.html#cp>

Link "**web page**" = <http://mmhamsoft.ham-radio.ch/mmsstv/quick-start/quick.htm>

Link "**Paint Shop Pro 8**" = <http://www.jasc.com/products/paintshoppro/>

Link "**JASC**" = <http://www.jasc.com/>

Link "**Users Group**" = <http://www.pspug.org/>

Link "**this link**" = <http://www.jasc.com/products/photoalbum/>

Link "**Silicon Pixels**" = <http://www.barberdsp.com/tech/tcorner.htm>

Link "**Rigblaster**" = <http://www.westmountainradio.com/supportstd.htm>

Link "**QuickMix**" = <http://www.msaxon.com/quickmix/>

Link "**their site**" = <http://www.oe8ciq.com/>

Link "**Original Link**" = <http://www.synergenics.com/K1RFD/>

Link "**here**" = <http://www.k1rfd.com/>

Link "**WA3TMS: An SSTV Home Page**" = <http://www.wpa.net/%7Evaughn/index.html>

Link "**3D**" = <http://www.stereoscopy.com/downloads/>

73 de ABØDP

Copyright © 2004 by Guy Clark All rights reserved.