

Ham Radio Contact Mapper

Step-by-Step Guide for Creating Your Contact Map

blueherondata.com

This guide will walk you through uploading your ADIF log file and creating a beautiful, shareable map of your ham radio contacts. No technical experience required. Just follow the steps below in order.

Before You Begin: What You Will Need

- Your ADIF log file exported from your logging software (file ends in .adif or .adi)
- Your operator callsign (e.g., W1AW)
- Your Maidenhead grid square for the activation location (e.g., EN81). This is required if you want the curved contact lines feature.

Tip: Not sure of your grid square? Search for "Maidenhead grid square lookup" online and enter your activation location coordinates to find it.

Part 1: Uploading Your Log File

1	Visit the website. Navigate to the Ham Radio Contact Mapper page on the Blue Heron Data website.
2	Select your ADIF file. Click the "ADIF Log File" box and browse to your log file on your computer. Select the .adif or .adi file from your logging software.
3	Enter your callsign. Type your callsign into the "Operator Callsign" field (for example, W1AW). This is optional but recommended.
4	Enter your grid square. Type your Maidenhead grid square into the "Operator Grid Square" field (for example, EN81). This places your activator pin on the map and is required for the animated contact lines feature.
5	Click "Upload & Map Contacts". Press the blue button at the bottom. The page will show a progress bar while your log is processed. This may take up to a minute for larger logs.
!	<i>Do not close or refresh the page while the progress bar is running.</i>

Part 2: Navigating the Map

6	Review your map. Once processing is complete, your map will appear with colored pins for each contact. Your activator location is shown with a radio antenna icon.
7	Filter by band. Use the colored band pills above the map (40M, 20M, etc.) to show or hide contacts by band. Click a pill to toggle it on or off.
8	Go Fullscreen. Click the "Fullscreen" button for the best view. The map will expand to fill your entire screen. Press Escape or click "Exit Fullscreen" at any time to return to normal.
9	Zoom and pan. Use your scroll wheel or trackpad to zoom in and out. Click and drag to move the map. Frame your map so all your pins are visible with a little space around the edges.

Part 3: Animated Contact Lines (Optional)

The contact lines feature draws curved arcs from your activator location to each contact in the order the QSOs were made. This is a great visual for sharing your activation story.

10	Choose your animation speed. Use the speed selector next to the Show Lines button to choose Slow, Medium, or Fast before starting the animation.
11	Click "Show Lines". Press the "Show Lines" button. Arcs will begin drawing one by one from your activator pin to each contact, color-coded by band, in chronological order.
12	Watch the animation. Each arc represents one QSO in the order it was made. The button will change to "Stop Animation" while lines are building.
13	Stop or wait. You can click "Stop Animation" at any time to freeze the lines in place, or simply wait for the animation to complete on its own.
!	<i>Contact lines require an Operator Grid Square to be entered in Step 4. If you skipped it, click "New Upload" and start again with your grid square filled in.</i>

Part 4: Exporting Your Map

14	Frame your final view. While still in Fullscreen, use your scroll wheel and drag to position the map exactly as you want it in the exported image. The export captures exactly what you see on screen.
15	Click "Export PNG". Press the "Export PNG" button in the toolbar. Your browser will automatically download a PNG image file of your map to your Downloads folder.
16	Exit Fullscreen. Click "Exit Fullscreen" or press the Escape key to return to the

normal page view.

17

Find your image. Your exported map image will be in your Downloads folder, named something like "ham_radio_map_W1AW.png". You can share this image on social media, email it to friends, or print it.

Helpful Tips

Tip: The Map Summary section below the map shows your activation statistics including start time, end time, and QSOs per hour. All are calculated automatically from your log.

Tip: Click any pin on the map to see a popup with that station's callsign, band, mode, frequency, and grid square.

Tip: Use "Export KML" if you want to open your contact map in Google Earth for a 3D view.

Tip: If you want to map a different activation, click "New Upload" to start fresh without reloading the page.

Tip: Your log data is never stored on the server. It is processed in memory only and discarded as soon as your map is generated.