

QSO MEMORY BOOK

Amateur Radio Memories

USER MANUAL

Version 1.00

“A logger records the QSO. QSO Memory Book remembers it.”



Simple Tools. Real Solutions.

1. Welcome to QSO Memory Book

QSO Memory Book (QMB) is a Windows desktop application for preserving memorable amateur-radio contacts and the stories behind them. It is deliberately different from a conventional logger: the emphasis is not merely on recording that a contact happened, but on remembering why it mattered.

QMB combines a physical two-page book presentation with live radio information, callsign lookup, QSO details, personal memory notes, photographs/QSL imagery, and a browsable collection of saved memories.

The QMB idea

During a contact, QMB gathers the practical details. After the QSO ends, the book changes focus from LIVE QSO to THE MEMORY so you can write the story while it is still fresh.

What QMB uses

- Omni-Rig to read the configured radio's live frequency and operating mode.
- HamQTH to look up available callsign/operator information.
- A local QMB database to preserve bookmarked QSO memories.
- A two-page book interface with permanent side tabs for navigation.

2. The Modernized Book Interface

The current QMB interface uses the PCD Software Works book style. Navigation controls are permanent tabs outside the paper pages, leaving the pages themselves clean and readable.

Closed book

When QMB is closed, the leather QSO Memory Book cover is displayed. The side rail provides OPEN BOOK, HELP, ABOUT and EXIT.

Open book — Browse mode

Opening the book displays a saved memory across two pages. THE CONTACT is on the left and THE MEMORY is on the right.

- CLOSE BOOK — returns to the book cover.
- NEW MEMORY — starts a new QSO memory.
- HELP — opens QMB Help.
- ABOUT — displays QMB / PCD Software Works information.
- EXIT — closes QMB.
- PREVIOUS / NEXT — move through saved memories.
- Search for — searches the saved-memory collection.

Navigation hints are displayed inside the QMB window rather than as Windows balloon tooltips, so help text remains visually contained within the book.

3. Radio Connection and Live Information

QMB reads the configured Omni-Rig Rig1 connection. While the book is active, the radio display is refreshed automatically.

- Radio connection status
- Main VFO frequency

- Amateur band
- Operating mode

The book presents radio modes in operator-friendly form, including SSB, CW and RTTY where supported by the configured Omni-Rig/radio combination.

If radio information is unavailable, QMB can indicate that condition rather than inventing operating data.

4. Starting a New QSO Memory

The normal workflow is: NEW MEMORY → Callsign → HamQTH → LIVE QSO.

1. Open the book and select NEW MEMORY.
2. Enter the other station's callsign in the New QSO Memory window.
3. Choose LOOKUP.
4. QMB performs the HamQTH lookup and prepares a fresh active memory.
5. The book enters LIVE QSO mode.

At the start of the memory, QMB captures the callsign plus local and UTC start times. It also synchronizes the active memory with the radio's current frequency, band and mode.

5. The LIVE QSO Page

During an active contact, the left page is THE CONTACT and the right page is LIVE QSO. The book is designed so you can concentrate on the conversation rather than writing the story too early.

Live QSO entries

- RST
- Radio
- Antenna
- Power

As information is entered, the clean contact page reflects the live details. Radio and antenna choices can be loaded from QMB's stored pick lists.

ON THE AIR

The contact page shows ON THE AIR while QMB is gathering the live contact information. Frequency, band and mode continue to follow the radio through Omni-Rig.

Bookmark is intentionally unavailable

BOOKMARK THIS QSO is hidden during the live contact. A memory is not ready to be bookmarked until END QSO has been used and the post-QSO memory fields are available.

6. Ending the QSO — Creating the Memory

When the contact is finished, select END QSO. QMB changes the right-hand page from LIVE QSO to THE MEMORY.

Why I Remember This QSO

Use this area for the story of the contact: what made it unusual, enjoyable, important or memorable.

Things to Remember About This Operator

Use this separate area for personal details that may be useful the next time you work the station—for example an antenna project, a net they frequent, a homebrew project, retirement, travel, or another detail mentioned during the conversation.

These fields appear after the QSO ends so the operator can focus on the live conversation first.

7. Bookmarking the QSO

After END QSO, BOOKMARK THIS QSO becomes available. This is the final action that commits the completed QSO memory to the book's saved-memory collection.

Before bookmarking, review the contact details and add the memory story/operator notes you want to preserve.

8. Browsing Saved Memories

Open-book Browse mode lets you revisit saved QSOs as memories rather than as rows in a conventional logger.

- PREVIOUS moves to the preceding saved memory.
- NEXT moves to the following saved memory.
- The memory counter identifies your position in the collection.
- The left page presents contact and station information.
- The right page presents the saved memory story and operator notes.
- A QSL card/photo area provides visual identification where available.

9. Searching the Book

Use the Search for field at the bottom of Browse mode to locate memories. Enter the search text and select Search.

The small ? control beside Search opens the related help guidance. Search controls and their help remain inside the QMB book window in the modernized interface.

10. Help and About

HELP opens the QSO Memory Book help presentation. ABOUT identifies QSO Memory Book and its PCD Software Works branding.

The modernized Help/About windows are designed to remain in front of and visually associated with their owning QMB window, avoiding hidden-dialog situations.

PCD Software Works

QSO Memory Book is presented as a PCD Software Works application using the current brand line: “Simple Tools. Real Solutions.”

11. Typical QSO Workflow — Quick Reference

Action	What happens
OPEN BOOK	Open the saved-memory book.
NEW MEMORY	Open the callsign entry window.

LOOKUP	Retrieve available operator information through HamQTH.
LIVE QSO	Capture RST, radio, antenna, power and live radio data.
END QSO	Finish the live contact and open THE MEMORY page.
Write the memory	Enter why the QSO mattered and operator notes.
BOOKMARK THIS QSO	Save the completed memory.
PREVIOUS / NEXT	Browse the saved memory collection.
CLOSE BOOK	Return to the QMB cover.

12. Good QMB Habits

- Start NEW MEMORY near the beginning of the contact so the time and live radio information are captured naturally.
- Enter useful station details during the QSO, but leave the story-writing until after END QSO.
- Write enough in Why I Remember This QSO to bring the contact back to life months or years later.
- Use operator notes for details that may make a future contact more personal.
- Review the completed memory before bookmarking it.

13. Troubleshooting

Radio information is unavailable

Verify that Omni-Rig is installed/configured and that Rig1 can communicate with the radio.

Callsign lookup fails

Check the Internet connection and try the HamQTH lookup again. QMB reports lookup/login errors when the service cannot return the requested information.

A Help/About window appears

Close the Help/About window normally to return to the book. The current UI keeps these windows associated with QMB.

A side-tab hint is not visible

Move the pointer off the tab and hover it again. QMB uses contained in-form hints rather than external Windows balloon tooltips.

14. About This Manual

This updated manual reflects the completed QSO Memory Book side-tab modernization and PCD Software Works presentation. It replaces the older pre-modernization manual layout.

Product: QSO Memory Book (QMB)

Manual: User Manual v1.00 — Updated UI Edition

Brand: PCD Software Works — Simple Tools. Real Solutions.