Ham Imaging

What Is Ham Imaging

Ham Imaging turns your phone into an amateur-radio picture station. Hold the phone near any radio's speaker and watch SSTV pictures paint in as they arrive — then flip it around, pick a photo, add your callsign and grid, and let the phone play the image back out as sound into the rig. It works fully offline: no extra hardware, no internet and no backend.

You must be licensed to transmit

Receiving pictures generally needs no licence. Transmitting puts a real signal on the air, so you must hold a valid amateur radio licence and operate within your privileges. Ham Imaging is the tool, not a licence.

Getting Around

The app has three tabs along the bottom: Imaging, Settings and About. Everything you operate lives on the Imaging tab, which itself has four sections you switch between at the top: Receive, Transmit, Gallery and ISS.

The clock and identity

The header shows the current UTC time — handy for logging. Your callsign and grid, entered once in Settings, are reused to overlay transmitted pictures and to tag what you save.

Receiving SSTV

On the Receive section the app listens through your device microphone to the SSTV audio from your radio's speaker and decodes it into a picture. Hold the phone near the speaker (or feed in a wired audio cable where available) and tap Receive; the picture fills in on screen as the audio arrives and is re-decoded. Tap Stop when the picture is complete.

Automatic mode detect

Leave the mode on Auto (VIS) — the default — and the decoder reads the VIS header at the start of a transmission to choose the correct mode for you. If you already know the mode, pick it from the list to lock it in; the app remembers your last-used mode and restores it the next time you open Ham Imaging.

Tuning meter and confidence

While receiving, a level meter shows how strong the incoming audio is — aim for a healthy deflection without pinning it into the red. After a decode the app shows the detected mode, a confidence figure and, when it tracked the sync, the measured slant.

Slant correction

Small clock differences between your device and the sender can make a picture lean. Ham Imaging recovers the true line timing from the signal's sync pulses and corrects the slant so the image comes out square.

Saving and sharing

When you are happy with a decode, Save keeps it in the Gallery with its mode and details, and Share sends a watermarked copy through the system share sheet.

Transmitting SSTV

On the Transmit section you send a picture over the air. Pick an image from your gallery or camera, choose an SSTV mode, and the app scales it to that mode and shows a preview. Transmit plays the picture out as sound so your radio can send it.

Callsign and grid overlay

Turn the overlay on to print your callsign, grid and an optional extra line onto the picture before you send it. The preview updates as you type so you can check it before keying up.

Sending

Tap Transmit, hold the phone's loudspeaker to your rig's microphone and key the radio. A progress bar tracks the picture line by line; Cancel stops it immediately. Save keeps a copy of the picture you sent in the Gallery.

Keying the radio is your action

Putting a signal on the air is the licensed operator's own action and responsibility. The app makes the tones; you hold the phone to the microphone and key the rig within your privileges and on frequencies your licence permits.

ISS Event Mode

The ISS section is a preset for ARISS SSTV events, when the International Space Station transmits pictures on a scheduled pass. Pick the event profile and the receiver is locked to that event's mode so you don't wait on a VIS header.

Profiles and Doppler

Recent events have used 70 cm (437.550 MHz, Robot 36); the older 2 m profile (145.800 MHz, PD 120) may return. Each profile carries a Doppler tuning coach explaining how to step the frequency across the pass so the picture stays clean. Frequency and mode are per-event — pick the one the ARISS announcement gives. Check the pass times in Ham Satting.

Award submissions

ARISS asks for a clean image — no callsign overlay, at most 800 by 800 pixels. From the Gallery, Clean export prepares exactly that. Save the UTC, your grid and the frequency with each picture, and submit before the award window closes (usually about 72 hours after the event).

Modes

Ham Imaging supports the common SSTV modes used on the bands, with automatic detection on receive so you rarely need to pick one by hand.

Supported modes

This release encodes and decodes 20 SSTV modes: Scottie 1, Scottie 2, Scottie 3, Scottie 4 and Scottie DX; Martin 1, Martin 2 and Martin 3; Robot 12, Robot 24, Robot 36 and Robot 72; PD 50, PD 90, PD 120, PD 160, PD 180, PD 240 and PD 290; and Wraase SC2-180. Robot 36 sends a colour picture in about 36 seconds; Scottie 1 and Martin 1 take nearer two minutes but carry more detail; the PD family (PD 120 and PD 180 in particular) carries the ISS / ARISS events. Every mode can be transmitted as well as received, and received pictures auto-detect their mode from the VIS header. WEFAX weather charts and an ATV / DATV reference are planned for later releases.

Gallery

Pictures you receive and images you transmit are kept together in an on-device gallery so you can look back at them, share them or hand them to your log.

What each picture keeps

Every image is saved with its mode, the UTC time it was received or sent, its size, and — where known — the frequency and your callsign. Received pictures also keep the decode confidence and slant.

Share, clean export and ADIF

Open a picture to Share a watermarked copy, Clean export a plain copy sized for ARISS award submissions, or Copy ADIF to paste an SSTV contact straight into Ham Logging. Delete removes one picture; Clear all empties the gallery. Nothing is ever uploaded to us.

Settings

Your details

Enter your callsign, grid and email. They are stored only on your device and are used to overlay your identity on transmitted images and to pre-fill the support message.

Appearance

Switch between light and dark themes, adjust the font size, and turn the weekly tips on or off, matching the other Unixeer apps.

Support and privacy

The About page links to this manual, a support form that opens your mail app with the app version pre-filled, and the version history. Your data stays on your device: there is no Unixeer server, no account, no analytics and no ads.