

Converting RATS Codeplugs with NOGSG Contact Manager

Quick Reference Guide

Prerequisites:

- > NOGSG Contact Manager software and compatible operating system - <http://n0gsg.com/contact-manager/>
- > DMR radio, programming cable, and manufacturer's Customer Programming Software (CPS)
- > RATS DMRVA/HEARS Master Codeplug – from <https://rats.net/codeplugs>

Terminology:

- > **Source codeplug** – the file you downloaded from RATS
- > **Target codeplug** – the file you create specifically for your radio

Notes:

The details of how to use NOGSG and your radio's CPS are well outside the scope of this document. Please refer to the NOGSG web site, CPS or radio user guide, and other documentation. RATS members may contact codeplug-request@rats.net for assistance with codeplug conversions.

Part 1: Create a target codeplug

To create a **target codeplug**, use your CPS to read your radio's current programming (even if new or empty). This is important to ensure the codeplug contains certain settings necessary to the proper operation of your radio. Save this file on your computer someplace where you can find it easily.

Part 2: Wipe the target codeplug

Before importing new data, we first need to remove old channels, zones, scan lists, and receive groups from the target codeplug. Open the file in NOGSG, and then:

- > On the **Zones** tab, use the left and right arrow buttons on the screen to scroll through the list of zones. **Delete** each zone except for any custom zones you wish to retain. You need to have at least 1 channel, 1 zone, and 1 contact in each codeplug. If you need to delete all zones, you'll first need to click **[+] New Zone** and create a new zone called **temporary**.
- > On the **Scan Lists** tab, use the left and right arrow buttons on the screen to scroll through the receive lists. **Delete** each except for any custom scan lists you wish to retain. You may need to click **[+] New Scan List** and create a **temporary** list.
- > On the **Rx Groups** tab, use the left and right arrow buttons on the screen to scroll through the groups. **Delete** each except for any custom receive groups you wish to retain. You may need to make a **temporary** one.
- > On the **Channels** tab, Shift+Click and/or Ctrl+Click to select a range of channels, then right-click and **delete** all channels, except for custom channels you wish to retain. You will probably be required to keep one channel in the codeplug.
- > On the **Contacts** tab, Shift+Click and/or Ctrl+Click to select a range of contacts, then right-click and **delete** all contacts, except for custom contacts you wish to retain. You will probably need to keep one contact in the list.

Part 3: Import the source codeplug and clean up

Still in NOGSG, on the **Structural Import** tab, leave the default selections checked and click the **Import selected structures** button. When the file dialog opens, find the **source codeplug** you downloaded from RATS and open it. NOGSG will provide a summary of the number of contacts, channels, zones, etc. that have been updated.

If you created a **temporary Zone, Scan List, or RX Group**, return to the appropriate tab(s) and delete the temporary item.

You can use NOGSG's built-in editor to make minor revisions to the channels, change the sort order of contacts and channels, and re-order zones. If you want to do any cleanup on the file, it may be easier to do it in NOGSG while you're here, vs. in the CPS.

Save the file when you're done making edits and exit NOGSG Contact Manager.

Part 4: Sanity-check the codeplug and load to your radio

Relaunch your radio's CPS and load the **target codeplug**. Set your radio ID (from radioid.net) and other preferences. Spot-check a few digital channels in detail to ensure all channel settings carried over. Look for things like APRS/GPS beaconing that might have been toggled on, incorrect time slots, and mismatching contacts. The NOGSG Contact Manager software works extremely well, but occasionally the CPS will have trouble with imported data. When you are satisfied with your codeplug's accuracy, use your CPS to load it to your radio.