DX Spotter

Live DX cluster spots, at a glance

A compact desk display that watches the DX cluster over Wi-Fi and shows each new spot (callsign, frequency, spotter and comment) on a bright yellow OLED. No PC, no phone, no software to install: set it up once from a web browser and it runs on its own. The compact companion to DX Spotter Pro.



The production DX Spotter, showing a live 2 m spot with an HF + 2 m band filter.

Always-on spotting

New spots scroll in as they arrive; the latest 1 to 15 kept in rotation

Set up from a browser

Its own Wi-Fi setup page: networks, cluster, callsign and filter

Shack or portable

USB powered, low draw, runs from a power bank; free OTA updates

AT A GLANCE

The simplest way into DX spotting

Most operators follow the DX cluster on a PC or a phone, which means a screen that has to be switched on, a program left running and notifications competing for your attention. DX Spotter is a small dedicated display that does just one job: it stays connected to the cluster and shows the spots, so a glance at the desk says which bands are open and who is on.

DX Spotter is the compact member of the TopBytes spotter family. If you want a full station display with propagation and alerts, DX Spotter Pro is the step up: a 7-inch touchscreen reading the same clusters.

What you see

- Spots on the desk without leaving a PC or phone running
- Readable from across the shack on a high-contrast OLED
- Callsign, frequency, local time, spotter and comment
- A title showing the band you're watching

Easy to own

- Set up once from any browser; no app or PC software
- Rejoins Wi-Fi and the cluster on its own after a drop
- Small and USB powered, so it travels to field days
- Free over-the-air firmware updates

Make it yours

- Five cluster presets, plus your own
- Band filters, including one-tap *OTA activations
- Hold time from 5 to 60 seconds per spot
- Rotate 180° to mount with the cable at the top

256x64	5	5+5	1–15
yellow OLED display	Wi-Fi networks remembered	cluster presets + custom	spots kept in rotation

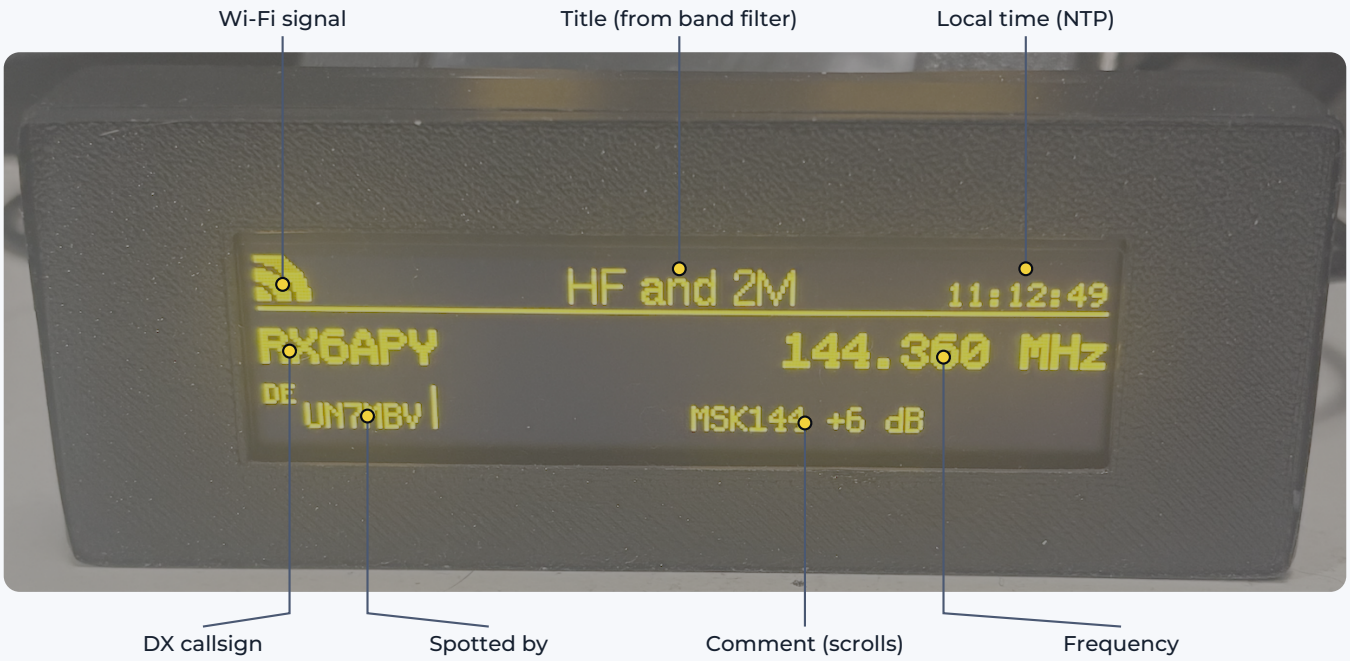
ALWAYS IMPROVING

- Current firmware 1.2.x, with a full online user manual and over-the-air updates delivered free over Wi-Fi.
- Recent additions: spot time shown in local time, a cleaner spot layout, the xOTA cluster and a one-tap *OTA filter for POTA, SOTA, BOTA and WWFF activations.
- Default cluster is HamServe (G1FEF), a data-centre-hosted cluster; four more presets and up to five custom clusters are built in.

WHAT IT DOES

Every spot, readable from across the room

Each spot gets the full width of the display: the DX station in large type with its frequency, the time it was spotted in local time, and who spotted it with their comment. Spots hold for a set time (10 seconds by default) and then scroll smoothly up to the next.



On the display

- High-contrast yellow OLED, self-lit with no backlight, readable at 1 to 3 m
- Spot history of 1 to 15 spots in rotation; new spots join after the one on screen
- Hold time per spot adjustable from 5 to 60 seconds
- Title auto-set from the band filter (e.g. 20M) or any custom text
- Rotate 180° in software for mounting with the cable at the top

Behind the scenes

- Any standard cluster over Telnet: CC Cluster, DXSpider, AR-Cluster
- Band filters: presets, up to five custom filters, or any cluster filter command
- Auto-recovery: rejoins Wi-Fi and the cluster on its own after a drop, keeping history
- Clock from NTP, with 20 selectable time zones and automatic summer time
- Free OTA updates: checks for new firmware and updates over Wi-Fi

BUILT-IN CLUSTERS AND FILTERS

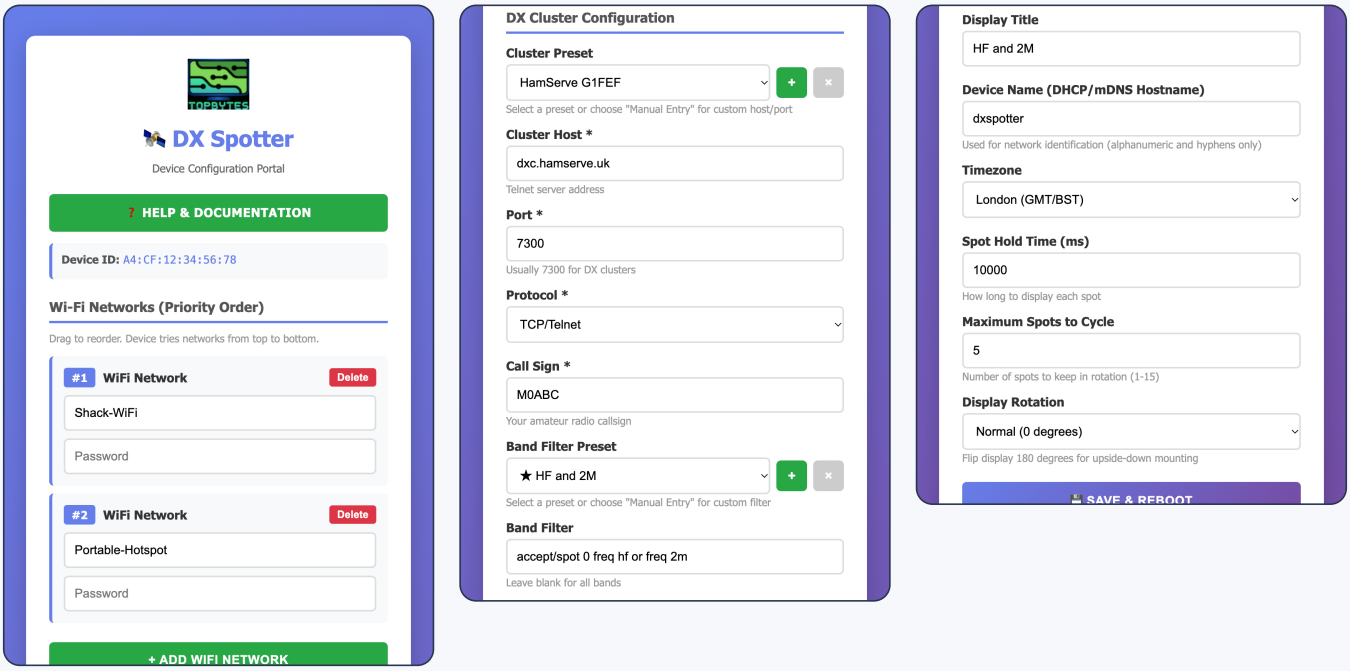
Cluster preset	Host	Filter preset	Shows
HamServe G1FEF (default)	dxc.hamserve.uk : 7300	All Bands	no filter
G3LRS UK	dxc.g3lrs.org.uk : 7300	*OTA	POTA, SOTA, BOTA, WWFF
M0KGX	dx.m0kgx.com : 7300	+ 5 custom filters	e.g. HF and 2M, 20m only
NC7J	dxc.nc7j.com : 7373		
xOTA	xota.iz2lsc.eu : 7373		

SETUP

From the box to spots in minutes

There is no app and no PC software. On first power-up the DX Spotter creates its own Wi-Fi network and serves a setup page to any phone, tablet or computer. The same page is available afterwards on the home network for changes.

1. **Power it up**
   Plug into any 5 V USB supply, computer port or power bank.
2. **Join “DXCluster AP”**
   The display shows the network name and the address to open.
3. **Fill in the page**
   Home Wi-Fi, callsign, cluster preset and band filter. Save & Reboot.
4. **Spots arrive**
   It joins Wi-Fi and the cluster; spots typically appear in 10 to 40 seconds.



The device's own configuration page (shown in three parts, with example settings): up to five Wi-Fi networks in priority order, cluster and callsign, band filter, title, time zone, hold time and rotation. A Help button links to the online manual.

GOOD TO KNOW

- Roams between networks: remembers five Wi-Fi networks (home, club, phone hotspot) and joins the best one available.
- One callsign per cluster login: a second unit uses a suffix such as M0ABC-2, which the manual explains.
- 2.4 GHz Wi-Fi is needed (as for every ESP32 product); the manual covers this and other common questions.

WHICH SPOTTER IS FOR YOU?

Two spotters, one family

DX Spotter and DX Spotter Pro read the same clusters but suit different stations. DX Spotter is the compact, glanceable display; the Pro is the full 7-inch station display with propagation and alerts.



DX Spotter: compact OLED, one spot at a time.



DX Spotter Pro: 7-inch touchscreen with propagation panel.

	DX Spotter	DX Spotter Pro
Display	256 × 64 yellow OLED, one spot at a time	7-inch capacitive touchscreen, spot list
Propagation	No	Live HamQSL panel: SFI, sunspots, A and K, per-band conditions
Alerts	No	Callsign and prefix alerts that pop up on a match
Setup	Browser setup page over its own Wi-Fi	On-screen setup, with QR codes to set up from a phone
Size and power	About 113 × 46 × 22 mm; low-power USB	7-inch desk unit; USB-C
Best for	A first spotter, a second screen, portable use	The main station display

New and returning operators

A low-cost way to see band activity and learn when bands open, without a PC in the shack.

Contest and DX chasers

One unit per band, each with its own filter and title, as a glanceable multi-band board.

Portable and field day

Small, USB powered and power-bank friendly; switches to a phone hotspot on its own.

Pro owners and gift buyers

A second screen for another room or operating position, and an easy present for a radio amateur.

SPECIFICATION

Product details

Display	256 × 64 yellow OLED, 16 grey levels, self-lit (no backlight)
Processor	ESP32 dual-core, 240 MHz, 4 MB flash
Wi-Fi	2.4 GHz 802.11 b/g/n, WPA/WPA2; up to 5 networks in priority order; mDNS name
DX cluster	Telnet to any standard cluster (CC Cluster, DXSpider, AR-Cluster); 5 presets + 5 custom
Filtering	Cluster filter commands; All Bands and *OTA presets + 5 custom filters
Spot display	Callsign, frequency, local spot time, spotter and scrolling comment; 1–15 spot history
Clock	NTP, 20 time zones with automatic summer time
Setup	Built-in Wi-Fi access point and web configuration page; serial console for support
Updates	Free over-the-air firmware updates over Wi-Fi
Power	5 V USB (Micro-USB), about 1–2 W; runs from a USB power bank
Size and weight	About 113 × 46 × 22 mm, 50–80 g; indoor use, 0–40 °C

IN THE BOX

- DX Spotter unit, firmware installed and ready to set up
- Power from any 5 V USB supply, computer port or power bank

HELP AND SUPPORT

- User manual, release notes and recovery tools at dxspotter.topbytes.net
- Email support@topbytes.net

Pricing and availability: Martin Lynch & Sons (ML&S)

TopBytes products are sold exclusively through Martin Lynch & Sons Ltd. For current prices and stock, visit hamradio.co.uk/topbytes.

Unit photo is of the production DX Spotter showing a live spot. The configuration page is the device's own page shown with example settings.