

R-390 Reflector July '02 Edited

From courir26@yahoo.com Mon Jul 1 00:51:58 2002
Subject: [R-390] Nice Enigma Simulator

Steve, Me and my 12 year old codebreaker ran it through our bomb and read the message OK.

From ba.williams@charter.net Mon Jul 1 01:23:12 2002
Subject: [R-390] OT: virus check time

I'll offer an opinion to that of Les since I've been messing with operating systems for about 25 years now. I've seen a lot of them come and go. Some were quite good and some are still quite pitiful. Currently, I'm running Mac OS 8 and OS 9 on my Mac. I'm also running Windows 98 on it. We also have a Pentium III running Windows 98.

I think that the Mac OS X is the best operating system out there right now. It is a true Linux OS from the ground up. No patches, no shells like Windows, and no jumpers or interrupts to mess with. No DOS running underneath everything. Just Linux and the Mac Finder for the GUI. I say this because it is a very refined OS after 17 years of work and improvements. I'm not running it at this moment but I will install it soon. I have only recently gotten used to OS 9 and I'm going to spend a bit more time with it before making the big jump to X.

Some of the best comments on OS X have come from the PC magazines and reviewers. I would have to recommend X if it came on a crappy Amiga, or a crappy Atari ST, or a Coleco, or a Pong console. It is just a class act from the very beginning with no compromises.

What Les said about virus' is true. But, to give credit where credit is due, the DOS file allocation table design is one of the best. The directory is pretty good, it makes sense, and is somewhat easily repaired. The FAT has always been a good idea. Atari TOS copied it, as well as the format for disk layout except for a 6 byte deviation. Atari did this 6 byte thing to detect disk swapping, and it wasn't a very good idea in the long run. That's because harddrives became affordable and IBM used that 6 byte code to determine floppies, harddrives, CDRoms, etc. the other other Barry

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Mon Jul 1 01:49:26 2002
Subject: [R-390] How to finish a front panel

I tried the popular "spray 10 VERY light coats method" and it did not work to my liking. It filled too much of the lettering, even with waiting 5 to 10 minutes between coats. The mineral spirits in the paint does not flash fast enough and the paint tended to "self level", filling in the lettering. Plus the surface had "orange peel" I did it twice this way and stripped it both times. I did not like the texture of the finish or how much was in the lettering.

Try this and I guarantee your panel will be smooth as glass and look like it was done in a factory.

- 1) First strip and sand lightly with 220 till surface is clean. Use BRASS brush to get old paint out of lettering.**
- 2) Spray with self etching primer or other aluminum primer. Spray several light coats until just covered.**
- 3) When dry, sand with 400 paper till perfectly smooth. If you go through the primer, just touch up those spots.**

- 4) Get Benjamin Moore Impervo enamel (or equal) from a local paint dealer. Pick a color, or have them use the computer to match the old color perfectly. (do this before you strip!!). I used a flat paint. Semi-gloss is not original and I personally think that a gloss, even a semi, will look cheesy (Just my humble opinion)
- 5) Thin 25-30% with mineral spirits and load into spray gun. Spray lightly, I mean MIST the panel until primer is invisible.
- 6) Let paint harden for a day then sand with water and 600 paper until smooth as a baby's ass. Rinse off thoroughly and make sure sanding slurry is out of lettering.
- 7) You will sand through into the primer in several spots but don't worry. Spray again just MISTING the panel until it is covered.
- 8) You can repeat the sand and mist routine one more time if necessary, but I did not need to. Make sure when you sand you only sand just enough to smooth the surface. This is the hardest part- knowing when to stop. So take it easy and sand lightly. The smoother you make the sub-surface, the better the panel is going to look.
- 9) Let the panel dry for a day. Bake for 250 for 2-3 hours. I put mine in my barbaque grill with the burner set at the lowest setting. I had to prop the lid open about 4" to keep the temp inside down to 250.
- 10) That's it. Panel is done. A very important aspect of spraying enamel is making sure the room is dust-free. My garage is certainly not, but I tip toed in and sprayed then tip toed out. All turned out well. Now on to the letters....
- 11) I found a very easy way of filling the letters. So much so, that I had them all perfectly filled in half hour.
Here it is:
- 12) Get a bottle of acrylic craft paint in a color of your choice. Squirt a little bit on an area to be filled. use a small hard rubber squeege to press the paint into the letters and scrape the top clean.
- 13) After waiting a few minutes for the paint to set up a little, dampen a tissue and gently wipe off the residue left behind by the paint. The panel comes perfectly clean and the paint is left in the lettering. Just don't push too hard when wiping. Very easy to do. The enamel is rock hard after baking and it cleans up perfectly.
- 14) That's it. I predict I should be able to do my next panel from start to finish in about 2-1/2 hours total time. Not bad. I can't wait for another one!! Bring on the non-a!! I hope I did not miss anything here, but I may have.
- 15) I used Eastwoods "chassis epoxy" for the knobs and I really like the way they look. Plus the epoxy is about the most durable paint you will find in a spray can.

There are a few pictures of the panel and the filling of the lettering on my webpage. Go to:
http://home.earthlink.net/~polaraligned/_wsn/page2.html It is worth the trip (I hope). Let me know what you think of this method. Scott

From jbrannig@optonline.net Mon Jul 1 02:09:30 2002
Subject: [R-390] How to finish a front panel

Very nice and good tips. I never thought about using the BBQ for paint setting..... To clean the garage I use a leaf blower...open the door and blast away (wear a dust mask), let it settle and do it again....not dust free, but not bad.... Jim

From RDavis24@carolina.rr.com Mon Jul 1 02:19:46 2002
Subject: [R-390] How to bake without a oven or grill?

Hello

Scotts good advice has me thinking. I was thinking about building a box and lining it with tin fold and inserting some heat lamps to bake the parts after washing and baking the paint on the panels after painting. I do not have a oven that I can use hi or do I have a grill so I have to make something. Does anyone have any ideas for a poor beginner? I was thinking of using a timer on the lamps but dont know if it will work or get hot enough? Let me know if you can help. Thanks Ronnie KE4VPN

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Mon Jul 1 02:55:01 2002
Subject: [R-390] How to bake without a oven or grill?

Hi Ronnie & Gang:

I've used a old stainless steel box I found with a home brew aluminum top and a 75 w heat lamp with good results. I dunno, but 250 degrees sounds kind of high to me. I thought 150-175 surface temp was more like it. I'd also recommend using a nylon detail brush, not the brass, along with some caustic stripper or solvent to clean out the lettering. I found that the brass brush scratched the panel and tended to rounded the edges of the stampings, which you want to keep as crisp as possible. (Wear goggles -- the stuff flies around with the brush.) Also, use Scotch-Brite or sandpaper -- don't use steel wool on aluminum at any stage. Tiny fragments dig into the aluminum and mess up the paint job, no matter how hard you try to clean it off.

You can make an oven out of an old small refrigerator, two-drawer file cabinet, etc. Line with heavy aluminum foil or spray the inside silver. Then attach the flood lamp(s) to some kind of lid. You can tell if it's working if the panel becomes hot to the touch. It should be at the bottom of the "oven" on some pieces of wood or something as far away from the lamps as practical to prevent hot-spotting. You should be able to use those inexpensive clamp-on lamps with the reflectors. However, arrange the top so the sockets and line cords are not inside. (Oversized holes for the bases of the lamp fixtures.) Barry

From pha@pdq.com Mon Jul 1 03:36:57 2002
Subject: [R-390] looking around for r390-a

wrote: wrote: >>> But the main point is, after 40 years, they're mostly facing the same >> problems - leaky audio filter caps, under AF deck electrolytic cap, maybe >> not so not mechanical filters (recall recent thread about the goo in >> them).

>

> The mechanical filters with "goo" problems are only a > particular series of Japanese Kokusai brand filters - > I haven't seen anyone report problems with decomposing > foam in Collins filters although there may be problems > with some of the early Collins filters in rectangular > cases that used standard rubber O-rings for support. > None of this applies to the F455N series of filters > used in the R-390A's.

Buzz wrote a thread awhile back about repairing failed collins filters - the pictures are his web site:

<<http://www.lanset.com/buzz/misc/filter/390Afilter.html>>

That is what I was referring to as I have never opened one up myself. I'm tempted, as I've got a failed one (probably failed for other reasons, though). Paul

From billsmith@ispwest.com Mon Jul 1 03:38:34 2002
Subject: [R-390] Probably not politically correct.

It probably isn't politically correct, but Amos 'N Andy programs from 1931 are on 7415 kHz for fifteen minutes each weekday evening at 9:00pm PDT. They are good recreations by Ed Bolton.

The worthless junk just before the program is definately "out there" and not recommended even as a curiosity. 73 de Bill, AB6MT billsmith@ispwest.com

From Jim Shorney" <jshorney@inebraska.com Mon Jul 1 04:34:16 2002
Subject: [R-390] How to bake without a oven or grill?

wrote: >Scotts good advice has me thinking. I was thinking about building a box and lining it with tin fold and inserting some heat lamps to bake the parts after washing and baking the paint on the panels after painting.

Had the oportunity to work in the paint shop my place of employment one day. The 'oven' for baking paint is a wall lined with heat lamps on each side, probably 15 feet long, with a conveyor running through it. Your concept is sound.

From ody@radicus.net Mon Jul 1 05:27:43 2002
Subject: [R-390] Probably not politically correct.

You must be talking about Radio New York Internationals 4 hour program. It is pretty obnoxious. I do like Amos N Andy. Saturday night also has a nice show called Marion's Attic. It is hosted by a nice old woman that plays 78's. Also on 7415. Scott

From vibroplex@mindspring.com Mon Jul 1 05:37:53 2002
Subject: [R-390] FRR-59/WRR-2

Does anyone on this list have an FRR-59/WRR-2?

I have an opportunity to buy one and would like opinions about the radio. Also, if there is anything I should watch out for when inspecting the radio prior to purchasing it. Thanks in advance for any thoughts! Derek Cohn

From twleiper@juno.com Mon Jul 1 06:11:21 2002
Subject: [R-390] How to bake without a oven or grill?

writes: ... > I've used a old stainless steel box

Just wait until it is tack-free and set it out in the back yard on a sunny day. Twit

"NO!!! That would not be complicated enough! Besides, the UV exposure would cause the panel to fade by 167 deg color temperature over a fifteen year period instead of the Mil Spec 143 deg.fade. Also, any eagle-eyed airliner pilot who happens to be a Ham might get distracted." Rufus Excaliber ffolkes

You must be one of those fellows who does the Times crossword puzzle in ten minutes.

"I have NEVER taken TEN minutes..."

From twleiper@juno.com Mon Jul 1 06:12:51 2002
Subject: [R-390] Probably not politically correct.

writes: ... > The worthless junk just before the program is definately "out there" and not recommended even as a curiosity.

Thank you, I will be sure to tune it in.... Twit

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Mon Jul 1 12:40:42 2002
Subject: [R-390] How to finish a front panel (more)

What I did not mention in this first post is how I dressed the panel edges. This may be getting a bit carried away for some but it sure makes them look better!! The panels were sheared from aluminum plate in the factory and the edges were never dressed. The shearing leaves the edges rough from the blade cutting through the plate and compressing the metal on the edges. I used a disk sander to straighten the edge then I ran the panel through a router table with a 3/8" radius rounding bit. It is a nice soft radius for the edge. I needed to then sand starting at 120 grit up to 220 to remove a few chatter marks and give the panel a perfect edge. Take a look at the pictures of the edge that I added: http://home.earthlink.net/~polaraligned/_wsn/page2.html

Let me know what you think. Am I nuts? Well...let's not go there Scott

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Jul 1 14:02:06 2002
Subject: [R-390] How to finish a front panel (more)

Hmmm, I have a panel that has a rather noticeable scrape on the lower-left edge. It's just enough to where I don't want to just paint over it. I had considered rounding/beveling the entire panel, but pretty much decided against it. I have plans to take it to a shop and have a small bead of heliarc done to the edge and then filing it back down square. I don't JBWeld would hold here as it is on an outside edge and might not hold very well.

Your panel sure looks nice, though. It makes rounding/beveling a bit more attractive to me. I agree that the sheared edges aren't very nice and a bit of smoothing with a file is in order, but one thing to consider is the panels are already a bit undersize (slightly less than 19 X 10.5). I'm skiddish about doing anything to make it smaller. It should be a bit undersize to fit properly in a rack/cabinet, but I would be afraid to keep making it smaller. Just a thought.

Barry(III) - N4BUQ (...wishing I had a compressor/paint gun instead of relying on paint cans...sigh...)

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Jul 1 14:04:36 2002
Subject: [R-390] looking around for r390-a

Hmmm, as I recall, the slug racks in my Motorola RF deck have rollers that do roll. Maybe someone replced them with non-^/\ racks? Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From ba.williams@charter.net Mon Jul 1 16:06:44 2002

Subject: [R-390] Probably not politically correct.

That must be WBCQ. I saw something about them a few weeks ago and copied these freqs- 7415, 9335, and 17.495. I see I need to start tuning in.

Radio NY Intl, you say? I'll have to check that out too. They had a legal program running for a few months back in 1996 I think around the same frequency. Alan Weiner produced the show. It was on Sunday nights. I also have a tape of the Radio NY Intl pirate broadcast in NY when they were busted. You can hear the Feds knocking on the door and coming in the studio. The announcer was Johnny Lightning and it was a real bust. J. Lightning did the legal shows in 1996 with A. Weiner. Barry

From nryan@intrex.net Mon Jul 1 16:42:03 2002

Subject: [R-390] How to finish a front panel (more)

Hi, Scott,

The panel looks superb! I like the softly rounded edges. Lettering looks perfect. Some questions: Did you run the panel over a regular woodworking router table at the router's usual high rpm? (Fed slooow and eeeasy, I expect.)

What kind of bit-- carbide tip? HSS?

Besides feeding slowly, did you take off a little at a time? Would you skip the disk sanding step? Whatcha think?

Martha Stewart would be sooo proud of us-- this attention to detail is right up her alley! She could do this for us in the prison metal shop, provided she has made her daily license plate quota. :-) 73 de Norman KG4SWM

From DAVEINBHAM@aol.com Mon Jul 1 17:31:30 2002

Subject: [R-390] update

writes: << Have you ever noticed that beer doesn't have that stuff stamped on it? >>

Barry,

Good beer, even Budweiser, does have the date stamped on it. What do you guys in Lower Alabama drink ? Old Swampwater ? Did you read yesterday's Birmingham News ? Seems Alabama has highest beer tax in USA. Regards, Dave

From cbsscott@ingr.com Mon Jul 1 17:35:27 2002

Subject: [R-390] update

If I read it today, will it still be news? Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Mon Jul 1 17:53:32 2002

Subject: [R-390] Re: How to bake without a oven or grill?

Ronnie,

Try the attic on a hot summer day. Inside the car works too (but stinks of paint). I've baked paint with a 75- or 100-watt light bulb (not heat lamp) in an old trunk or even under a cardboard box (done in an area where it wouldn't matter if it had caught fire). These methods also work for drying out modules which have been cleaned with water. Drew

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Mon Jul 1 18:20:12 2002

Subject: [R-390] Re: Looking around for r390-a

Scott:

I got my first R-390a ('67 EAC) from Fair Radio 20 years ago and my experience was a good one. The "used-reparable" unit worked fine on all bands. After a short time of use I developed "R-390a wrist" and so tore down, cleaned, and lubricated the RF geartrain.

My experiences with Fair in the last few years have been good also.

I just obtained a '61 Teledyne at the right price very locally. I found it at the town dump (obviously free). It's all there, cosmetically fair. It had been used for years as a mouse condo/toilet and I am in process of cleaning and restoring (with due respect for Hanta Claus). Drew

From Mon Jul 1 19:01:00 2002

Subject: [R-390] FRR-59/WRR-2

wrote: >Does anyone on this list have an FRR-59/WRR-2? > >I have an opportunity to buy one and would like opinions about the radio.

Derek,

I don't have one but others in the past have mentioned the beast. I have seen one a couple of times, but never had a chance to buy one. Here are some points I remember that others have mentioned.

- the biggest heaviest receiver almost anyone can have.
- has one bazillion tubes, with at least one fan to keep them all cool
- very noisy to be near (see above)
- mechanically and electrically very complicated.
- rather astounding frequency stability, accuracy and re-settability.
- NOT for band cruising
- made by National
- has independent sideband operation. This is a truly odd experience to listen to as you tune around and as propagation causes unequal fades and other anomalies on AM signals. The capability has little use for SWL or amateur people.
- moderately uncommon, thus normally quite expensive

From: <http://www.io.com/~nielw/nat50/nat50_11.htm>: "National's drift-cancelled AN/WRR-2 is the U.S. Navy standard shipboard SSB receiver. The most stable military communications receiver in use,

WRR-2 stability is equal to one-tenth of one cycle at 10Mc! Designed primarily for SSB use, the WRR-2 can simultaneously receive two different types of intelligence on independent upper and lower sideband channels. "

See one installed on the USS Sullivans at: <<http://www.geocities.com/dd537/radio.html>>

And one apparently recently acquired by BB-62 at: <<http://www.qsl.net/wa2tvs/xmtroom/radio2.htm>>
The 4-strand block and tackle and the chain winch hoist shown moving the thing are not overkill.

Happy listening. Roy

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Jul 1 19:03:25 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: Looking around for r390-a

Drew! You must have found my radio!!! Thanks, old buddy. I wondered where it went. When can I get it back? Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From Lester.Veenstra@lmco.com Mon Jul 1 19:11:29 2002
Subject: [R-390] FRR-59/WRR-2

Got one and have manuals Les (K1YCM)

From w5kp@swbell.net Mon Jul 1 21:14:47 2002
Subject: [R-390] FRR-59/WRR-2

Roy has it right. OTOH, they seemed pretty reliable. We ran a pair of them for 4 years without a single failure on my first ship, right alongside a bank of four 390A's/CV-591A's (390A's worked reliably, too, but we hardly ever used the SSB converters). They were all replaced eventually with R-1051B's in 1965, as I recall. Thank God for that, because after looking at the AN/WRR-2's and flipping through the tech manual, I didn't want to have to work on one other than for routine performance checks. Pretty big units, at first glance they more resemble a 1 KW transmitter than a receiver! You would need some help to move one around, for sure. 73, Jerry W5KP

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Jul 1 21:41:43 2002
Subject: [R-390] FRR-59/WRR-2

URR Universal Radio Receiver. WRR Weighty Radio Receiver?? Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From hankarn@pacbell.net Mon Jul 1 21:44:40 2002
Subject: [R-390] FRR-59/WRR-2

I have a WRR-2 and it is heavy. When in a rack make sure the rack is secure prior to opening and extending a unit as it WILL TIP OVER PERIOD. We used a forklift to put mine in a rack down low. I have all of the manuals, cables and extender cards. A real bear to work on. I had 3 FRR-59's but sold them back to Randy in Portland. Did not have the time to repair and tweak them. Hank KN6DI

My Russian R-155-U is the heavy weight at 690 pounds with 7 modules in a 5 foot rack. It is all mode with 10 autotune channels plus manual selection.

The R&S EK-07's come in at 156 pounds for a manpack radio!! Hi.

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Mon Jul 1 22:21:37 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390 digest, Vol 1 #271 - 15 msgs

Barry(III), I'm holding the mouse-soiled R390-a that you so callously tossed in our local landfill for a ransom of that FRR-59/WRR-2 and half a BC-348 (-Q or -R accepted).:) You can pay freight if you want to. Drew

From w9wis@charter.net Tue Jul 2 00:01:47 2002
Subject: [R-390] Replacement Carrier Level Pot.

I have aquired a replacement Claristat carrier level pot (10 turn) to replace my drifting carrier level pot. Can someone send me the wiring directions if you have used a precision pot to replace the stock one ? Looks pretty straight forward but ... Thanks, Mike

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Mon Jul 1 23:59:27 2002
Subject: [R-390] How to bake without a oven or grill?

I have had no problems with the brass scratching the aluminum. Not even the slightest scratches or rounding. And 250 is probably the upper end of what you want to heat it. Others recommend 200 to 250 also. Let me tell you, that paint is ROCK HARD after 2 hours in the grill. Don't cut yourself short. Scott

From n4xy@earthlink.net Tue Jul 2 00:25:12 2002
Subject: [R-390] How to bake without a oven or grill?

I just wait 'til the XYL is definitely NOT going to be around for 3-4 hours, and put it in the oven on LOW (sometimes called something like "Keep Warm"). This seems to be above 125 degrees F, and does an awesome job of wrinkling black-wrinkle paint (for example.) I also turn ON the house A/C fan, and the downstairs bathroom's exhaust fan. Generally works out fine.

I have a solid brass 75A-4 knob I'm going to do with 1st a coat or 2 of primer, and then some black epoxy enamel. Same basic methods.

Here in the South, with dark paint colors, on very non-windy days (so there's no dust or pollen), you CAN just place the item to be painted outside in the sun. Not quite as good as the oven, but no smells either. You've surely tested the power of this heat once or twice with the under side of your arm... on your automobile's window edge!!! 73 <n4xy@earthlink.net>

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Tue Jul 2 00:33:08 2002
Subject: [R-390] How to finish a front panel (more)

> Barry(III) - N4BUQ > (...wishing I had a compressor/paint gun instead of relying on paint cans...sigh...)

I would think Rustoleum Enamel would work pretty good. The stuff takes a few hours to dry and should self level. If they make a color you like, I would try it. Heating the can in hot water first surely will make the flowout better. Bet you have really good results. Bake at 250 for a few hours after the paint is dry to the touch. Scott

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Tue Jul 2 00:52:39 2002
Subject: [R-390] How to bake without a oven or grill?

wrote: > I just wait 'til the XYL is definitely NOT going to be around for 3-4 > hours, and put it in the oven on LOW (sometimes called something like "Keep > Warm"). This seems to be above 125 degrees F, and does an awesome job of > wrinkling black-wrinkle paint (for example.) I also turn ON the house A/C > fan, and the downstairs bathroom's exhaust fan. Generally works out fine.

But you have to be prepared, just in case the XYL forgot something, makes a U-turn and comes back early. Here are some emergency procedures:

1. Put the rack over the panel and have a couple of muffins ready. If you get surprised, put the muffins in the oven and say "Did YOU spill something in this oven! It stinks!"
2. Have a can of polyurethane varnish handy, with the lid partly loosened and a brush. If you're nabbed in the act, make like you decided to touch up the bannisters.
3. Put one of those frozen pizzas on the kitchen counter all ready to pop in the oven. When asked, just say you had a senior moment and got 'em mixed up. Be ready -- you'll be asked with a suspicious look as to why the oven is set on warm instead of 400. Just say you turned it down when it smelled like the pizza was burning. Oh -- place a white laquer stick next to the "countermeasures pizza" to complete the effect.
4. Keep a bottle of perfume in reach and a lipstick. If she approaches the door, dump the perfume on yourself and put some lipstick on your collar. This is a dangerous diversionary tactic, however, in the long run you might have complete liberty to bake panels and knobs anytime you want.

As you may have surmised, I've given these contingencies much thought. Barry

From ba.williams@charter.net Tue Jul 2 02:20:35 2002
Subject: [R-390] update

Dave, It does? I guess I'll have to be more careful when buying my suds. Don't want no pansy date stamps or Housekeeping Seals of Approval. What is going to be next? Martha Stewart Seals of Approval on beer? I can see it now- "Budweiser- It's a Good Thing." Sheesh, we already have Helena Rubenstein R-390As out there somewhere gathering mouse turds with deadly strains of a virus I won't mention.

I wonder why that beer tax money doesn't go towards Alabama proration if it's that high. I'm glad I get my hard stuff tax free at Ft. Benning. I made a run down there this morning for various tax free things.

Just saw where a 757 and a Tupelev collided over southern Germany about 90 minutes ago. I need to find my FAA freqs. This was a DHL Boeing with 2 pilots on board. Our old Pershing missile site was in

that same area. I recognized some of the towns mentioned in the news. Barry

From jonandvalerieoldenburg@worldnet.att.net Tue Jul 2 04:32:30 2002
Subject: [R-390] update

> > Barry, > > Good beer, even Budweiser, does have the date stamped on it. What do you guys > > in Lower Alabama drink ? Old Swampwater ? Maybe the cheap stuff only has the date stamps, I just opened a "Murphy's Irish Stout"- no date stamp and hey this stuff isn't no watery pillsner! Jon AB9AH

BTW- Are any members attending the South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club Swapfest (i.e.- "Beerfest") this Saturday- July 6?

From hankarn@pacbell.net Tue Jul 2 12:22:08 2002
Subject: [R-390] How to bake without a oven or grill?

Just do it and trade the XYL in for another R-39XX as they do not complain. They are not designed for cuddling either. Hi. Hank KN6DI

From cbscott@ingr.com Tue Jul 2 14:38:54 2002
Subject: [R-390] R390A cabinet

For you guys wanting a cabinet for your R390A, I just noticed the following:
<http://www.fairradio.com/0rack28.htm> Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From cbscott@ingr.com Tue Jul 2 14:44:27 2002
Subject: [R-390] R390A cabinet

After I posted this, I began to wonder if these will work for an R390A? Fair usually has some cabinets that they state isn't deep enough for an R390A, but the ad here seems to indicate it will hold one. If it is only 14-3/8 deep, I don't think that's deep enough, but not sure. Better ask before buying...

From hankarn@pacbell.net Tue Jul 2 14:57:04 2002
Subject: [R-390] R390A cabinet

R-390A is 14 1/2 plus room for connectors. Hank KN6DI

From cbscott@ingr.com Tue Jul 2 15:04:48 2002
Subject: [R-390] How to finish a front panel (more)

Lots of guys seem to like Rustoleum, but I'm not that fond of it. I have used some spray cans and got some very good results. I had Rustoleum yield some bad orangepeeling that I haven't gotten in other brands. The black worked okay on the knobs for my first R390A, but the gray didn't fare as well. Could be something I was doing wrong.

I think I'm going for a powder-coated front panel this time (if I can afford it!). Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From cbscott@ingr.com Tue Jul 2 15:08:36 2002
Subject: [R-390] Replacement Carrier Level Pot.

As I recall, it was pretty much plug-n-play. The only hitch is fitting the pot in place. It is "deeper" than the original one. Again, if memory serves, I took both pots out of the bracket, removed the screw under the other pot (enabling me to pull the bracket up just a tiny bit), put the Claristat in, replaced the screw, and then the other pot. Wiring was straight forward.

BTW, you're going to like it when you get it in place. You can "see" the windings as you adjust it, but it stays PUT once you get it where you want it! Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From cbscott@ingr.com Tue Jul 2 15:11:48 2002
Subject: [R-390] R390A cabinet

I measured mine a couple of weeks ago and I couldn't recall if it was 14.5 or 15.5 deep. If the cabinet is only 14.375, it doesn't appear to be workable. Don't know why the ad copy includes the R390A.
Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From cbscott@ingr.com Tue Jul 2 15:23:11 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390 digest, Vol 1 #271 - 15 msgs

Drew, We have kidnapped Barry(III) and are holding him hostage. We are demanding our toilet back as ransom! The Mice

From courir26@yahoo.com Tue Jul 2 16:15:51 2002
Subject: [R-390] Replacement Carrier Level Pot.

Gentlemen?

On most radios, the adjustment wants about 7-8 ohms for zero set. I usually fit a 10 ohm resistor in parallel with the pot to pass some of the current through a fixed part, making the pot less critical. 73 Tom

From pwokoun@hotmail.com Tue Jul 2 17:25:24 2002
Subject: [R-390] Replacement Carrier Level Pot.

Folks: A bunch years back I squirreled away a handful of 10 ohm ww pots just for this use. I've used a few and have a very limited quantity left (6) but I've decided to dump em and let them get used. They work perfectly as zeroing pots in the R390A. Once zeroed, my carrier meter stays zeroed. These are NOS Clarostat type CM27335 (somebody's part number 140-6109). 1-1/8 inch diameter x 9/16 inch high, screwdriver adjust shaft 5/16 inch beyond the std bushing. The wiper on these is soldered to the case by the mfg which doesn't matter since one end of the original 100 ohm pot is grounded. This ground looks like it can be lifted if it bothers you. But it's worked fine on 3 390As I put them into. Will sell to members here for \$10 each (includes shipping in US). pete KH6GRT

From n6py@QNET.COM Tue Jul 2 17:51:45 2002
Subject: [R-390] R390A cabinet

It isn't the same as the military R390/R390A military cabinet but would sure work nice for a R388 or 51J type receiver. Wonder how well it matches the A line paint if anyone has purchased one? Bill N6PY

From mmdues@hal-pc.org Tue Jul 2 18:18:24 2002
Subject: [R-390] R390A cabinet

Fair Radio's tall cabinet sure looks a lot like the cabinet that houses my Super Pro 210LX - the one with the separate power supply beneath the radio. My cabinet is the same styling and sheet metal design, and its measurements are 19 in. high x 21 in. wide x 18 in. deep. Those are the outside dimensions. The inside dimensions are 17.5 in. high x 19 in. wide x something less than 18 in. deep. This cabinet will certainly hold an R-390(A) and a sideband converter nicely. (Hammarlund ! !) Marshall Dues - WB5MYO Katy, Texas

From kurt.brandstetter@teleweb.at Tue Jul 2 18:38:12 2002
Subject: [R-390] R390A cabinet

Hello Barry ! Hello to everybody on this list !

It would be quite nice to get a cabinet for my R-390A/URR. But as postage is so high from USA to Europe, can as soon as its clear that this cabinet from Fair Radio fits, someone post it to the list or send me some information ? I don't want to buy one and pay 100 \$ for shipment if it does not fit ! TIA Kurt

From bill.riches@verizon.net Tue Jul 2 19:00:08 2002
Subject: [R-390] R390A cabinet

For you guys wanting a cabinet for your R390A, I just noticed the following:
<http://www.fairradio.com/0rack28.htm> Barry(III) - N4BUQ

Looks like it is sold out as of 1750Z Tuesday 7/3, Bill Riches, WA2DVU Cape May, NJ

From nryan@intrex.net Tue Jul 2 18:58:29 2002
Subject: [R-390] R390A cabinet

Hello, Kurt,

The best cabinet is the CY-979 (or CY-979A) because it has proper ventilation and easy access to all the connectors behind the radio. The Bud cabinet from Fair Radio is not deep enough to accommodate the connectors. A blank panel behind the cabinet is a pest because you have to pull the radio from the cabinet each time you change connections.

If you find a CY-979, you will soon forget its high cost! It is very rugged and practical. They are very nice looking with new paint. You may find one in Europe. Good luck! 7/3 de Norman KG4SWM

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Wed Jul 3 00:33:49 2002

Subject: [R-390] How to finish a front panel (more)

Hi Norman, To answer your questions, I ran the panel through a regular woodworking router table with a carbide bit. You need a ridged setup with featherboards to hold the panel securely and you have to feed steady, not necessarily slow. The alum cuts as easy as wood. I have a bit of alum machining experience as my other hobby is making telescopes. You have to be real careful routing it. The alum is prone to chatter marks, but cuts well. It cuts better than some wood. Would I skip the disk sanding?, well maybe not. The routing is just gently rounding the corners and not cutting the panel smaller so the ridges from the shearing of the panel are still there. Next time I might make a curved sanding block to dress the edges. Just drill a 3/4" diameter hole in a thick block of wood and split it in half with a bandsaw. It will make a perfect form for sandpaper. Don't be bashful. Start with 60 grit to get the basic shape and work your way up to 220 grit. If you want I will send you the other half of my block when I make it. Let me know. Scott

From n6py@QNET.COM Tue Jul 2 22:12:33 2002

Subject: [R-390] R390A cabinet

Hi Kurt and All,

We still have four or five of the CY-979 cabinets left with out shock mounts after Mac shipped the last of those that were ordered. However, I think one is already spoken for so their should be at least four available. We haven't announced it yet on this reflector because we wanted to make sure all originally ordered were shipped OK. As far as I know only one is still lost in shipping but Mac and the owner are trying to find it some where in the FEDEX Minneapolis system.

If you want a genuine gray CY-979 unused cabinet with out shock mounts let me know ASAP because we would like to clean out these last four since Mac is planning to move soon. These cabinets were ordered by the government for Desert Storm but never used.

They are priced at \$290 each which includes shipping in the lower 48. The shock mounts are only needed if you plan to use your R390 or R390A in a truck or aircraft. You can easily fit a set of rubber feet, like those used on a Collins A-line or 32V3, to the bottom of the cabinet to keep it from scratching a surface you will set the radio on. I have seen feet like that in the Mouser Catalog.

These are considerably more expensive than the Fair Radio ones but are the proper ones for the R390 or R390A. However Mac had to pay a big price for these from a surplus warehouse and the price just covers his expenses. These originally cost the government close to \$1000 a cabinet, almost as bad as the P3V toilet seats, but they really look nice. They do provide good ventilation since you have to remove the top and bottom covers from the R390 chassis to fit it inside the cabinet. Also the cut outs in the back fit my R390 connectors perfectly. Bill N6PY

From nryan@intrex.net Tue Jul 2 23:26:26 2002

Subject: [R-390] R390A cabinet

Hi, Bill, Yep, my CY-979A came from Mac and it is a beauty. It has shock mounts. Although the shock mounts aren't required in most amateur situations, they look really cool. I don't consider a CY-979 without its mounts to be the real thing. Just my humble opinion. I would lower the price. 73 de Norman KG4SWM

From Richard.McClung@Dielectric.spx.com Wed Jul 3 01:44:16 2002
Subject: [R-390] update

San Miguel or BamBi Bi is what I crave..... RICH @B> }

From jbrannig@optonline.net Tue Jul 2 20:36:38 2002
Subject: [R-390] R390A cabinet

That looks familiar.....

The one here holds a 2KW amp and antenna tuner. It would hold an R-390A and CV-591 with room to spare. Jim

From jlkolb@cts.com Wed Jul 3 02:47:51 2002
Subject: [R-390] FRR-59/WRR-2

wrote: wrote: > >Does anyone on this list have an FRR-59/WRR-2?

Around 300 lbs, as I recall. I once had a pair of them, which I could move around by myself by splitting it into 3 pieces, case, RF section and IF/audio section. My XYL was sure glad when I got rid of them :(

> - has one bazillioon tubes, with at least one fan to keep them all cool > - very noisy to be near (see above)

I sat in front of one 42 hours a week for a year while in the Navy - it does have a fan, but I don't remember it as being particularly noisy.

> - NOT for band cruising

Not bad -tunes in 100 kHz wide bands, only ten times worse than the 1 MHz bands of the R-390. Now the R-1051 is a radio NOT for band cruising. John

From ezeran@concentric.net Wed Jul 3 04:16:22 2002
Subject: [R-390] looking around for r390-a

Same with the BC-610' traded an R390A for one just over a year ago. It be coming along!
Congratulations Jerry! T-368 transmitters are out there, but may take some digging to find one.

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Wed Jul 3 16:59:56 2002
Subject: [R-390] More specific than R-390 digest, Vol 1 #273 - 16 msgs

Dear Mousies, You can keep Barry(III). Why don't you use one of his other R-390a's for all your excretory needs? Make him get a cabinet whose depth is 14-1/2 + connectors + cah-cah. Drew

From pwokoun@hotmail.com Wed Jul 3 17:00:51 2002

Subject: [R-390] Replacement Carrier Level Pot.

10 ohm pots are all spoken for...

From cbscott@ingr.com Wed Jul 3 19:25:03 2002

Subject: [R-390] More specific than R-390 digest, Vol 1 #273 - 16 msgs

Mr. Papanek,

We've reconsidered our position. Please keep the radio with our compliments. We will be releasing Mr. Scott immediately. It seems he won't shut up about "constant current through his 3TF7", "solid-state power supplies", "drifting endpoints", and the list goes on and on. Frankly, we just can't take anymore of his ramblings.

We have found a nice SP600 as a replacement "facility". Kindest regards, The Mice

From asolway@sympatico.ca Wed Jul 3 23:22:06 2002

Subject: [R-390] July 4th Independence Day

To All Americans,

Happy Independence Day 2002. Drive safely, be happy and enjoy. Hang in there and don't let the B.....s get you down. God bless you all. Al VE2TAS

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Thu Jul 4 00:17:54 2002

Subject: [R-390] July 4th Independence Day

Thanks Al. And let us not forget that we are at war on this 226th independence day. War that has come to our shores just as the redcoats did to fight us "colonial savages" 226 years ago. Our new enemy is an off the wall band of Islamic wackos without borders across the globe. We are also still in dangerous ideological battles with the remaining Communist nations and central planners of the world. So let's say a prayer for our soldiers and may victory be ours, as it was for our forefathers. God bless America!!! I have included a compilation of quotes that are so relevant this 4th of July. Enjoy. Scott

"Independence Forever." --John Adams, toast for the 50th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1826

++ "No King but King Jesus!" --Motto of the American Revolutionary War ++

"We have it in our power to begin the world over again." --Thomas Paine

++ "Our unalterable resolution would be to be free. They have attempted to subdue us by force, but God be praised! in vain. Their arts may be more dangerous than their arms. Let us then renounce all treaty with them upon any score but that of total separation, and under God trust our cause to our swords." --Samuel Adams

++ "If we wish to be free; if we mean to preserve inviolate those inestimable privileges for which we have been so long contending; if we mean not basely to abandon the noble struggle in which we have been so long engaged, and which we have pledged ourselves never to abandon until the glorious object

of our contest shall be obtained -- we must fight! I repeat it, sir, we must fight! An appeal to arms, and to the God of hosts, is all that is left us." --Patrick Henry

++ "...[T]he flames kindled on the 4 of July 1776, have spread over too much of the globe to be extinguished by the feeble engines of despotism; on the contrary, they will consume these engines and all who work them." --Thomas Jefferson

++ "The American war is over; but this far from being the case with the American revolution. On the contrary, nothing but the first act of the drama is closed. It remains yet to establish and perfect our new forms of government, and to prepare the principles, morals, and manners of our citizens for these forms of government after they are established and brought to perfection." --Benjamin Rush

++ "Is it not that the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer's mission upon earth? That it laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity?" --John Quincy Adams

++ "...[T]he Declaration of Independence is the ring-bolt to the chain of your nation's destiny.... The principles contained in that instrument are saving principles. Stand by those principles, be true to them on all occasions, in all places, against all foes, and at whatever cost." --Frederick Douglass

++ "...[W]e live in a great and free country only because our forefathers were willing to wage war rather than accept the peace that spells destruction." --Teddy Roosevelt

From cerakak@techunix.technion.ac.il Thu Jul 4 17:30:50 2002
Subject: [R-390] July 4th Independence Day

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY FROM ME TOO. GOD BLESS AMERICA. Alex K. Haifa Israel

From RDavis24@carolina.rr.com Fri Jul 5 06:03:45 2002
Subject: [R-390] WTB R-390A parts rig or parts

Hello, I am looking for a R-390A parts rig, working rig or non-working rig to help me restore one that I have. I am looking for any parts for the R-390A. I do not care what condition the radio is in, please email if you have something. I am not interested in restored radios. I am wanting to learn to restore my radios myself. I am new to this and need alot of parts. Any help will be greatly appreciated. Thanks
Ronnie KE4VPN

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Fri Jul 5 11:40:36 2002
Subject: [R-390] WTB R-390A parts rig or parts

Try Fair Radio. Just do a search for them. They seem to have most parts for a 390A. You shouldn't need too many parts to restore a rig. You looking for spares or is the unit a mess? Scott

From pwokoun@hotmail.com Fri Jul 5 17:06:49 2002
Subject: [R-390] 4 KHz mechanical filter

Looking for the 4 KHz mechanical filter for a R-390A. Fair is out at the moment. Anyone got an extra?

pete KH6GRT

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Fri Jul 5 17:21:55 2002
Subject: [R-390] More specific than R-390 digest, Vol 1 #273 - 16 msgs

Dear Radio Rodentia:

Well, I'm pleased to hear that you have decided to "Barry" the hatchet. Hopefully that SP-600 (hereafter phoneticized "S**T PEE six hundred") belongs to Barry(III). After you guys have defiled the fine Hammarlund sufficiently (making its power supply "soiled state"), maybe Barry(III)(tm) won't like the endpoints (if you catch my "drift") and give the receiver a new "endpoint" in our Hallowed Landfill. Then I can retrieve it and start the cycle all over again. Drew P.S: Hammarlund

From martin.benoit@sympatico.ca Sat Jul 6 00:50:52 2002
Subject: [R-390] Help parts C225

I am in trouble with my R390A Motorola. I need the antenna trim capacitor (C225) on the RF subchassis. Ready to pay. Martin VA2ZO Tnx and best 73!

From ba.williams@charter.net Sun Jul 7 01:02:03 2002
Subject: [R-390] To those on the list....

I had a bad crash with Outlook Express this morning while retrieving email. I think the crash corrupted my database file of email. I'm running a backup from late May, so I've lost about 7 weeks of messages. The db file is 111 megabytes, so it is unwieldy in some repair programs.

I know that I needed to respond to a few members on various topics. I'll try to patch or work around the corrupted file, but it is looking pretty difficult at the moment. If you wrote and are waiting on a reply, maybe you could resend the last message to me.

The Motorola PH-56 is running fine, despite Chuck's dour comments. (g) Barry Williams
HAMMARLUND

From theprof@texoma.net Sun Jul 7 05:09:24 2002
Subject: [R-390] Balun for balanced antenna connector

It seems to me that a balun on the balanced antenna connector would be a better way to feed the R-390 and still get the benefit of the extra stage in the RF deck. Being a frugal type (cheap) I decided to kludge something together.

I removed the 75 ohm to 300 ohm balun from one of the "transformers" that come with most VCRs (a 1" x 1/2" x 1/2" with an F-connector and two screws). I figure 300 ohm to 75 ohm should be close enough for government work. Rather nicely built.

I used an Amphenol 82-5589 twinax connector. I sawed the threads from the RG-58 UG-175/U reducer used for PL-259 connectors. I soldered this into the back side of the twinax connector. I was able to fit the balun into the connector and ran RG-58 to the antenna switch box.

I have not run any objectives tests on this, but it does seem to help reduce the hash picked up inside the shack. The signal generator in the shack with a whip on it seem to generate a stronger signal on 10.5 MHz then when I ran an unbalanced antenna into the balanced connector.

I'm not sure how well this tiny thing would do on the low end of things, but it seems to work pretty well.

Speaking of Hammarlunds, I saw an HQ-145X go for US\$560 on ebay a couple of weeks ago. It looked just like the one sitting on my shelf. Hmmmm, I wonder if I can figure out how to trade it for a Model 1911A, say a Colt or Kimber :) 73 de Richard, KB5WLH

From ik2czl@amsat.org Sun Jul 7 10:52:51 2002
Subject: [R-390] Balun for balanced antenna connector

Been there, done that... I used an Amidon toroid for building a 200 ohm balanced -> 50 ohm unbalanced transformer, and I found an easy way to encase it. I got a 35 mm film can, and drilled a 5/8" hole on the bottom of it. The twinax threaded part is inserted into the hole, and screwed into the connector, so that the film can is kept firm between the connector and the threaded part.

A RCA female connector is mounted on the cap of the can, and the transformer is housed into the can. I checked the device with my HP8640B and the guy has a very flat response 0.5-30 MHz. I will put a photo of the device someday on my web site, together with the modification I did to the input line filter of my R390a.... vy 73 Vittorio ik2czl

"Sometimes things just don't make sense, and that's just the way it is. Live with it. More tea?" - Richard Feynman

From twleiper@juno.com Sun Jul 7 14:22:16 2002
Subject: [R-390] Balun for balanced antenna connector

writes: ... > The signal generator ... seem to generate a stronger signal > on 10.5 MHz then when I ran an unbalanced antenna into > the balanced connector.

What happens when you run the unbalanced antenna into the unbalanced input?(What a shocking and avant-garde concept!) Also, there is a simple Navy mod (somebody else can elaborate) that involves putting a shorting connector into the balanced input to ground one side and simply swapping the min-bnc cables to put the other balanced side onto the unbalanced connector. I do this on all of mine and it works excellent with 75 ohm dipoles and feedline. I also have a radial array that uses four dipoles oriented in the four cardinal directions and, rather than using a remote switch, I simply ran a piece of CAT5 network cable and used the four twisted pairs contained therein. A simply DPQT rotary switch at the radio end feeds the unbalanced input on my Non-A directly with excellent results. These things really like twisted pair feedline and doublets...an easy field configuration. Twit Hammarlund

From billsmith@ispwest.com Sun Jul 7 18:54:57 2002
Subject: [R-390] Balun for balanced antenna connector

A question, and a goal at the station here. I use a Alpha Delta antenna switch, which shorts unused

switch positions to ground. Don't know if that is necessary, but the goal is to have all receivers fall absolutely silent when they are not connected to an antenna. One reason is to insure that the power line and local devices such as computers don't find themselves acting as signal sources.

The only way I have discovered is use of balanced feeds into the receiver. I run unbalanced (coax) line to the set, then ground the coax shield to the receiver chassis, and connect a balun primary to the shield and center of the coax. The balun secondary is connected to the balanced inputs of the receiver. Short leads are very important.

I use TV baluns (300-75 ohm) on some receivers where the AM band isn't very important. From measurements here, they don't work very well below 2.5 Mhz or so, and really dive below 1 Mhz. That can be an advantage, and usually the receiver gain can overcome performance on 1.8 Mhz, where 160 meter operation appears normal. A homespun balun is used on the R-390 that works over a wider range of frequencies, in fact I am still suffering overload on the AM broadcast band. The antenna is a multi-band, parallel dipole where 160, 80, 40, and 20 meter dipoles are all connected to a single RG-213 feedline.

The grounding system here should be ok, the radio room is only three feet or so above ground. I run 2-1/2" copper strap to two ground rods and to the house water pipe where it comes in from the street. The house is old, so there should be metal at least to the meter.

Receivers are dead on all bands except the AM broadcast band, where some stations can still make it weakly into a receiver (use Hallicrafters SX-62, HRO, BC-779, AR-88, R-390, TS-440)

The question is can you silence your receivers by switching away the antenna, and if so, what approach to you take? 73 de Bill, AB6MT

From terryo@wort-fm.terracom.net Sun Jul 7 19:19:59 2002
Subject: [R-390] Twinax feedline available

I have three pieces of twinax feedline with connectors. If anyone is interested I can measure them out and get back to you with a price. Best, Terry O'

From dallas@bayou.com Sun Jul 7 20:28:48 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A 10 dB S+N/N AM Sensitivity

There has been a lot of confusion about how to measure the AM sensitivity of an R-390A. Unfortunately the manuals have contributed to this confusion. The 1970 Navships 0967-063-2010 manual has a sensitivity measuring procedure on pages 4-2 and 4-3 which involves setting the signal generator (URM-25D) to minimum output. This is equivalent to the method of turning the signal generator on and off which is used at several web sites to find the 10 dB S+N/N ratio. However, the Navships manual does not mention a 10 dB S+N/N ratio, but rather a 10 dB rise, which it is. What the Navships and web sites measure is the 10 dB S+N1/N2 where N1 is the no-signal receiver noise, and N2 is the noise due to the signal and receiver. Also, the 50 ohm impedance of the signal generator is not matched to the 125 ohm nominal (100 - 300 ohms) antenna input impedance (through a UG-636A/U and UG-971/U) of the R-390A. Consequently, the signal generator reading is not the number of microvolts that appears across the R-390A antenna input. The Army manual TM 11-5820-358-35 gives a Sensitivity Test, not a procedure for measuring the 10 dB S+N/N ratio. The earlier Army manual TM 11-856A in paragraph 166 has what it calls an AM Sensitivity measurement procedure. However, there are at least two things

wrong with it: (1) a DA-121/U attenuator (8.9 dB) two way match (52.2 ohms to 128.8 ohms) is used between the URM-25D and R-390A, and (2) the 0.8 volt noise indication in step (f.) is not maximized with the antenna trimmer, nor is its value checked after the signal generator is adjusted for 2.5 volts, as it must be.

Here is a correct method for measuring the AM sensitivity of an R-390A.

I measured the real component of the R-390A antenna input impedance by connecting a 250 ohm 2 watt Clarostat composition pot in the signal path, and used a UG-971/U (twinax to C) and UG-636AU (C to BNC). The 10X scope probe was connected across the 636. The 25D was set to some convenient value that could be seen on the scope. The signal was peaked (as seen on the scope) using the 390A antenna trimmer. The pot was adjusted so that the scope read half the open circuit voltage (the voltage from the antenna input side of the pot when disconnected from the antenna input). The value of the pot was read using an accurate voltmeter, call this value R1. The R-390A antenna input resistance is $R_1 + 50$ at that frequency.

I may have gotten the high end numbers a little too high previously. My scope method is probably not all that accurate because there is quite a bit of uncertainty as to the half the open circuit voltage. A true RMS voltmeter might be better. Now I am getting 180 - 220 ohms for the high values. Previously I got up to 300 ohms. The low values still come in around 90 - 100 ohms. Low values were found at 1.001, 1.999, and 3.999 MHz. High values were found at 1.5, 4.5, and 5.5 MHz.

I used a TEK 2465B (cal traceable to NIST), and a rebuilt (by me) URM-25D (cal by me using my 2465B and a precision 50 ohm terminator).

I used 2 feet of RG-58A/U to connect the 25D to the 390A, and a BNC T connector adapter with a short stub coming out of one of the females of the BNC T for clipping the 10X probe to. I measured the voltage across the 390A antenna input (UG-971/U and UG-636A/U) to get a correction factor to multiply the 25D reading by. Then I measured the S+N/N ratio as if the impedances were matched (which they weren't).

My method for measuring sensitivity for a 10 dB S+N/N ratio involves turning the modulation ON and OFF (NOT turning the signal generator ON and OFF or tuning the R-390A away from and back to the signal generator). I could use a volt meter on the diode load, but it is more convenient and about as accurate to use the LINE LEVEL meter. I adjust the meter and signal generator repeatedly if necessary, peaking the ANT TRIM at each resetting of the signal generator output level, until the meter reads 0 VU with modulation on, and the meter reads -10 with modulation off.

At 4.5 MHz, with the antenna input resistance measured as 187 ohms, using the 4 kHz BW, and a correction factor of $cf = 1.57$ ($cf = 2R/(R + 50)$, where R is the measured antenna input resistance of the R-390A at the frequency where the measurement is being taken), with AGC off, and 30% modulation, I got a reading of 0.5 microvolts on the 25D for a 10 dB S+N/N ratio. Using the correction factor, the voltage across the UG-636A/U was deduced to be 0.785 microvolts. So the input power was $P = (0.785)^2 \times E^{-12}/187 \times 3.3 \times E^{-15}$ watts, or -114.8 dBm. The sensitivity looks a lot better when you convert it to dBm. If you had a 50 ohm receiver with a -114.8 dBm sensitivity for a 10 dB S+N/N ratio, that would be 0.41 microvolts. Not shabby. Note that this is also quite close to the uncorrected 0.5 microvolt measurement above. I also used a broadband matching transformer and got a slightly better sensitivity, namely -115.2 dBm. This suggests that matching with a broadband transformer does not change the results very much.

My R-390A was a bit weak at the top end of the 4 MHz band, coming in at -109 dBm at 3.9 MHz.

Maybe I need to go in there and up the 2 pF coupling capacitor in the double tuned circuit between the RF amp and MIXER? We'll see. See ADDEMDUM Post

From N4ue@aol.com Sun Jul 7 21:27:42 2002
Subject: [R-390] (no subject)

Dallas, this is excellent information on the R-390! I can't wait until my new home is done, so I can 'git back at it'.

One question for the group: I just acquired a nice HP 410C, but natch the RF probe was missing. Any good information on how to construct / purchase a replacement? All my handbooks (and radios) are in storage awaiting the move. Thanks ron N4UE

From dlwade@pacbell.net Mon Jul 8 03:24:13 2002
Subject: [R-390] (no subject)

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Mon Jul 8 10:30:25 2002
Subject: [R-390] Miltronix EAC

Greetings list folk --

As a rule, I never draw attention to anything up for bid you-know-where, but there is a Rick Mish EAC '68 which raises some questions I just have to ask. First, I always thought black lettering would look better than white, and it does. I doubt I'd paint the stainless steel handles black, though. The questions: It appears that this unit has a resistor in place of the ballast tube, but mounted on a board or something. Is there more to that, or just a neat way to mount the resistor? The power supply is modified -- there's a chassis mount type resistor over one of the 26Z5W sockets. The other 26Z5W (or it it?) is still there. What's that about? There is also a reference to a time delay relay. I suppose that's to delay B+ startup until the filaments have warmed up to compensate for the solid stated P/S, but why the one tube? I'm loathe to mention the item number (1365057920), at the risk of instigating a stampede, but someone might have to look at what I'm lookin' at so they can tell me, uh ... what I'm lookin' at. ;-) Barry

From jbrannig@optonline.net Mon Jul 8 12:26:34 2002
Subject: [R-390] (no subject)

The "C" is a transistorized version of the "B" Physically, they are completely different. The RF probe is a plug in, otherwise I believe the specs. are the same. I had two "B"'s, they and their probes died. I found a "C" at Fair Radio a few years ago. It is a "nice to have" piece. I use it to align transmitters. Jim

**From dallas@bayou.com Mon Jul 8 12:35:46 2002
Subject: [R-390] AM Sensitivity Addenda**

There is a typo in my previous posting. When referring to the signal generator (NOT modulation) OFF/ON I wrote S+N1/N2 but then identified N1 and N2 reversed. N1 should have been receiver noise plus noise due to the signal, and N2 should have been receiver noise alone.

Coincidentally, late last night I received an e-mail copy of John Wilson's May 2002 Short Wave Magazine article, "Simply The Best?" In the article John has a detailed discussion of why it is incorrect to turn the signal generator off and on, (or, equivalently, detune and retune the signal generator or receiver) when measuring the 10 dB S+N/N ratio. This would be a nice article to have on someone's web site if SWM would approve.

From mikobrien@yahoo.com Mon Jul 8 14:05:38 2002
Subject: [R-390] Mish r-390a ?

Hi All, Is it me or what I looks like the R -390a on ebay (1365057920) is missing its balanced antenna input and relay It does look it has been modified Mike

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Mon Jul 8 18:27:25 2002
Subject: [R-390] 4 KHz Mechanical Filter

Pete,
That filter may be repairable. This has been mentioned in previous conversations on this list. You might check the mail archives at r-390a.net or perhaps the "Pearls of Wisdom" section. Basically the procedure consists of melting the solder seal and opening the can to reconnect transducer leads. Also mentioned not long ago was the introduction of aftermarket filters specifically for the R-390a. Drew

From R390A@r390a.com Mon Jul 8 22:42:29 2002
Subject: [R-390] R390 Restoration

I restored my Collins R390 over the long weekend. I had it traded to me on a "it worked the last time I tried it" basis. Basically, that means it was broken and the "seller" pretty much knew it.

Very, very oblique problem. It would develop a 60 cycle hum as soon as a station was tuned in and superimpose that over the received audio. Tune away, it would "sound" fine. Although I have never operated one let alone repaired an R390, knowing the power supplies in those things are the source of 70% of the problems and basically cook themselves due to the heat generated by the 6082 regulator tubes, I went there first.

As soon as I got the power supply removed, I knew I was in the right neighborhood. There was plenty of nip and tuck work that had been done under the regulator module including some modifications. No cooked parts or wiring. The 47 ohm (?) resistors looked like new. Noted the hum balance pot so knew the supply had to be balanced out. Replaced some out of spec resistors but found the real problem to be a 100pf mica cap from one of the 6082's to ground that turned into about a 900K resistor. I will have to come up with some solution to the heat generated by that module though. A CPU fan over one of the holes in the side might go far to help.

My guess is that the leaking capacitor was pulling on the supply just hard enough that when a station was tuned in and the power supply subjected to further load, would add enough additional stress to overload the supply just enough to make not regulate and hum. That's my theory, anyway.

Its not a full restoration but was about 80% of what I imagine one would entail. Didn't pull the gear train and put it in carburetor cleaner as I normally would and looking back, it really should be done. I have heard of a green gear that if you pull or move, thats pretty much it. I didn't see it and decided to

leave that phase alone. Left the gears in the RF deck and scrubbed them down with a long bristle brush, a toothbrush and carburator cleaner. Got probably 70% of the old grease out, rinsed the carb cleaner out and followed that with a scrubbing with 50/50 Simple Green and water solution then a thorough rinse with hot water. Blew out the gear train with compressed air and let it sit in the 100 degree heat we had one day. Once dry, I re-lubricated everything, of course.

Pulled each slug rack out and dipped the bearing in the carb cleaner and gave them a twist. Cleaned everything but the actual slug with a toothbrush then submerged the bearing ends a final time and moved them. Gunk came out and the bearings on the racks move nicely now. Lubed the bearings and faces of the racks with 90W oil and placed them back in the radio. No wholesale replacement of capacitors in the IF deck but noted there are certainly plenty of them. I imagine they could give you a fit if one started leaking.

Anyone out there in List Land have information on which ones commonly fail in this radio? Other common problems that I ought to chase down before they become serious issues?

Found the 1st RF tube replaced with a 6AK5 v/s a 6AJ5 as are all the oscillator tubes. Also, there is a 6BH6 as the last IF amp. I wonder if these are helpful mods AKA: W3HM and the 75A-4 mods or did someone popped some tubes and just stuck those in 'cause they fit?

Repainted and re-lettered the front panel. Stripped and painted the knobs, cleaned all the sub-chassis, set the PTO length, balanced the upper and lower band end over-run and set up the mechanical alignment for the cams. Tied it all together by setting up the Cam Position/PTO length/electrical relationships, centered the Antenna Trimmer and then did a full IF and RF alignment.

To put it bluntly, the radios performance is impressive. I did not do a full sensitivity test but knew it was very hot. For some reason, I had it tuned to 15.400 and heard Radio Kuwait with no antenna connected other than the shielded BNC cable going to the HP-8640B generator. I did a spot check at the 3.8 mhz RF deck alignment point and was floored.

Ben Wallace and Mike Harris (just finished his) are currently tied for "most sensitive R390A's I have yet to restore." This one beats both by a hair but, keep in mind, its a different radio. Much higher build quality in the non "A" but I am not sure there are performance differences between the non "A" and the "A" that would justify what must have been the cost difference.

I'd like to find out the various problem caps and maybe pre-emptively replace them. Also, the filter caps seem to be either papers a-la the 32V-3 HV cap or are oil filled's. They could also probably stand to be replaced, again on a pre-emptive basis.

This does not make me an R390 expert and I have no plans at present to start restoring them. Having no real parts stock and little direct experience makes that idea one who's time has not yet come. However, its a start. -73- Chuck Rippel, WA4HHG

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Tue Jul 9 01:34:26 2002
Subject: [R-390] R390 Restoration

Hi Chuck & Gang:

You wrote ... > I restored my Collins R390 over the long weekend. I had it traded to me on a > "it worked the last time I tried it" basis. Basically, that means it was broken > and the "seller" pretty much knew it.

Not unfamiliar, but hey, I thought that wasn't supposed to happen to you ...

You've probably already been in touch with Dave Medley. BTW, the old links to his site are wrong .. it's at <http://www.davemed.info/>

I have several non-A's/'391's and they all work fairly well, though not all of them are tweaked up. My impression so far is there aren't the numbers of problem components you find on the A, however the MTBF's may just be longer. The worst trouble-spot is the power supply, as you found, and usually due to the heat. I came across an R-391 with a solid stated P/S and audio amp which runs cool. It was written up by Dr. Gerald Johnson in Issue #52 of HSN.

Some previous owner did the mod -- only one tube left on the audio deck. Al Solway has replicated it fairly closely and is busy tweaking it for closer regulation. While my '391 was not done reversably, his mod is a plug'n play.

<snipped> > phase alone.

Not exactly. The green gear is as Dave Medley calls it "a do-nothing gear". That's its purpose -- to make sure nothing happens. There are three possible places where it might be. 1. Up high attached to the front frame of the RF deck with a screw, meshing with nothing. 2. In it's non-operating operating position on a short shaft down low on the front of the deck slightly to the right. The gear is cupped so the teeth are offset from its center. Some decks don't have the tapped hole for storage on top, so the gear is stored flipped over on it's regular shaft such that the teeth don't engage the two gears it's supposed to freeze when in use. 3. It's missing altogether. You'll see the drilled/tapped shaft down low with nothing on it. And maybe a drilled and tapped hole up high and a couple inches to the left of center on the front of the deck.

When the non-A RF deck is lifted off the mainframe, the two "halves" of the geartrain are "unhinged" so to speak and can get out of synch. Before removing the deck, the procedure is to place the green gear in position on its shaft, green side facing out so that it engages and locks the two big gears together. As I recall, there's an elliptical hole in the center which mates to the shaft, but nonetheless important to make sure it's seated and screwed down tight.

However, all that said, there are other ways to secure the gears .. and if they do get out of whack, it's not the end of the world. I forgot to put it in place once when I had to "double back" and remove the RF deck a second time. On top of that, I did some absent-mindedly twirling. It wasn't that big a deal to fix it -- the manual has the procedure for mechanical alignment (or "alinement") from the ground up.

There's another oddity with the RF deck to be aware of. Dangling participles, uh, no, but there is a dangle factor. One of the main drive shafts goes through what is really a slot, not a round hole in the front plate of the RF deck. There is some vertical wiggle room. If someone sets the deck down hard and the bushing is not completely tight, the thing can shift. Too high and the counter will turn, but the rest of the business won't. Too low and the counter won't turn, and the RF deck might not seat 100%. Something to watch out for.

> Left the gears in the RF deck and scrubbed them down with a > long bristle brush, a toothbrush and carburetor cleaner. Got probably 70% of > the old grease out, rinsed the carb cleaner out and followed that with a > scrubbing with 50/50 Simple Green and water solution then a thorough rinse > with hot water. Blew out the gear train with compressed air and let it sit in > the 100 degree heat we had one day. Once dry, I re-lubricated everything, of > course.

I dunno if that ionizing type cleaner scare is the real deal. Simple Green, 409, etc are ionizing cleaners which can saturate phenolic and unglazed ceramic leaving salts behind which can result in arcing -- so we have been warned. Dave Medley writes about flushing with distilled water.

> Pulled each slug rack out and dipped the bearing in the carb cleaner and gave > them a twist. Cleaned everything but the actual slug with a toothbrush then > submerged the bearing ends a final time and moved them. Gunk came out > and the bearings on the racks move nicely now. Lubed the bearings and > faces of the racks with 90W oil and placed them back in the radio.

Somebody recently wrote that there are R-390A's (Motorola's I think) that have non-rotatable cam follower bearings. Is that true? Or were some just staked too hard.

> No wholesale replacement of capacitors in the IF deck but noted there are > certainly plenty of them. I imagine they could give you a fit if one started > leaking.

I suppose, but this is one case where the older technology may have been better. It's funny, but a lot of my older vintage gear -- WWII and prior -- seems to work with a replacement cap here and there. OK, some might qualify for the oil depletion allowance ;-)

>

> Anyone out there in List Land have information on which ones commonly fail > in this radio? Other common problems that I ought to chase down before > they become serious issues?

Dave Medley mentions some components, but mostly in the power supply. I'm not aware of any capacitor "hit list".

> Found the 1st RF tube replaced with a 6AK5 v/s a 6AJ5 as are all the > oscillator tubes. Also, there is a 6BH6 as the last IF amp. I wonder if these > are helpful mods AKA: W3HM and the 75A-4 mods or did someone popped > some tubes and just stuck those in 'cause they fit?

Sounds familiar. I've found some swapparoos too. Some I think are OK subs, however there is that thing about the PTO tube in the A's -- whereby too strong is not desirable. The 6AK5 and 6AJ5 are not listed as subs for each other, so maybe some mods were done under the hood.

> Repainted and re-lettered the front panel. Stripped and painted the knobs, > cleaned all the sub-chassis, set the PTO length, balanced the upper and > lower band end over-run and set up the mechanical alignment for the cams. > Tied it all together by setting up the Cam Position/PTO length/electrical > relationships, centered the Antenna Trimmer and then did a full IF and RF > alignment.

That should be same-ol' same-ol' for you. >

> To put it bluntly, the radios performance is impressive. I did not do a full > sensitivity test but knew it was very hot. For some reason, I had it tuned to > 15.400 and heard Radio Kuwait with no antenna connected other than the > shielded BNC cable going to the HP-8640B generator. I did a spot check at > the 3.8 mhz RF deck alignment point and was floored.

Well, we're going to need a full review on that cost reduction program fifty years after the fact. In the New World Order, everything is subject to investigation. ;-)

> Ben Wallace and Mike Harris (just finished his) are currently tied for "most > sensitive R390A's I have yet to restore." This one beats both by a hair but, > keep in mind, its a different radio. Much higher build quality in the non "A" > but I am not sure there are performance differences between the non "A" and > the "A" that would justify what must have been the cost difference.

Maybe not. While it was a cost reduction thing, there were some outright improvements. I would suspect mechanical filters were more expensive than LC circuits back then, but I guess refined selectivity was more important than smoothness in the audio. There is one weak spot in the gear train of the otherwise heftier non-A version. One big gear in the middle is attached to the front plate with a cover with 2 or 3 screws. I've noticed in all of my samples -- that gear wobbles or wiggles -- you see it when you change directions. I've been tempted to pull them apart and put a real bearing in there.

> I'd like to find out the various problem caps and maybe pre-emptively replace > them. Also, the filter caps seem to be either papers a-la the 32V-3 HV cap or > are oil filled's. They could also probably stand to be replaced, again on a pre- > emptive basis.

I dunno -- as I mentioned, I've got a lot of old gear with oil filled caps that still test good -- even ones that have started to seep because the rubber seals around the terminals have dried out. Might just need to be topped up and sealed with silicone. Reminds me, gotta go check the newspaper under my AR88LF. That's one heckuva oily radio. Maybe it's some kind of rust prevention system. Quite aromatic, what with the PCB's -- a bit pungent, like an old-time garage.

> This does not make me an R390 expert and I have no plans at present to > start restoring them. Having no real parts stock and little direct experience > makes that idea one who's time has not yet come. However, its a start.

If nothing else, it's great as a perspective on the origins of the R-390A. Basically the same, only very different. One derived from the other, yet just a few years apart and so much is not the same. I'd think that's very unusual in the annals of product development and manufacturing -- of anything. Front panel-wise/application-wise, they're nearly the same device. And then, there's the R-392. When tweaked, the performance is very close -- allowing for limits (b/w selection, etc.) I recently took the time to align one of those fully and was amazed at the performance, including the sound quality when it isn't put through an LS-166. Barry

From john_finigan@yahoo.com Tue Jul 9 04:35:38 2002
Subject: [R-390] R390 Restoration

Chuck, Admittantly I know almost nothing about the 390, but I happened to be reading the Collins engineering report tonight for grins and came across this table for the 1st RF tube:

Distortion at .7V input (30% mod.)
6AK5 16%
6AJ5 3%

In short, they found it possible to get remote-cutoff characteristics from the 6AJ5 by running it at high B+ but rated screen (I think??). I have one laying around and knew they were 6AK5's for 28V plate & screen, but never have heard an explanation before. John

From Tue Jul 9 17:59:08 2002
Subject: [R-390] R390 Restoration

wrote: >I restored my Collins R390 over the long weekend.

Chuck, Hooray. Glad to hear one more of them is back up running again. The below comments are based on modest experience with the "Non-A", and an R-389.

> It would develop a 60 cycle hum ... a 100pf mica cap from one of the > 6082's to ground 900K resistor. ...theory: the power supply subjected > to further load, would add enough additional stress to overload the > supply just enough to make it not regulate and hum.

A scope on the 180 volt test jack would reveal such garbage on the B+. Your theory sounds reasonable. That 100 pF cap keeps noise and garbage off the grids of the 6082 series regulator tubes. If it leaks it will upset the DC conditions in the regulator amplifier and the regulator might lose control of the output voltage and hum. Another cap, (C605, I think, 0.22uF) provides ac feedback to reduce B+ hum and if it leaks the system will not work right. I suggest replacing it if it is suspect. It's also possible that the 5651 voltage reference tubes are tired and not working well. The values of resistors in the voltage reference and dc feedback amplifier circuits should be checked. Replace any that have drifted. Work on these components is difficult due to cramped space.

> I will have to come up with some solution to the heat generated by that > module though. A CPU fan over one of the holes in the side might go far > to help.

Exactly. I strongly recommend a fan be run at all times on that audio/regulator deck. I have made up a plate that holds a muffin fan against the outside of the radio blowing in. The screws from the unused bottom plate and chassis frame hold it in place. Angle slots at each mounting hole allow the fan to be slid in place after the radio is put into a rack or cabinet.

A better arrangement would be to mount a fan or fans inside the radio, along with a line bucking transformer to lower modern high line voltages. Such an added system could include turn-on surge suppression, a power relay to save the microswitch, line voltage bucking, and fans. The Non-A has a cast frame that offers places to mount such parts with a no-holes approach.

>Found the 1st RF tube replaced with a 6AK5 v/s a 6AJ5 as are all the >oscillator tubes. Also, there is a 6BH6 as the last IF amp.

Possibly another case of mis-guided tube substitution.

>... the filter caps seem to be either papers a-la the 32V-3 HV cap or >are oil filled's.

The first and only filter cap in the B+ system is a round oil-paper unit mounted near the front panel on the audio deck side (C10, I think). It almost never fails. It is at the output of the rectifier stage prior to the regulator stage. The 180 volt output from the 6082 regulator tubes feeds the whole B+ of the radio. Other than bypass caps such as 0.1 and 0.01 uF, I don't see any other filter caps in the schematic.

NOTE:

The DC amplifier tube filament (V607 - 6BH6) is part of a series string. If that tube is not operating the B+ regulator output will rise to the full unregulated value. This is bad.

Be careful to NOT pull any of these tubes during operation:

V603 V604 V607 V509

6AK6 6AK6 6BH6 6BJ6

(Thanks to Norman Ryan for his list of the Non-A tubes and filament strings.)

I seem to remember that in the R-389 VLF receiver this dc amplifier tube is fed by the Ballast tube, but I don't have the details at hand, and could be mistaken.

A further note, on the Non-A IF alignment:

I remember doing a staggered alignment on the main IF strip in one of these radios. I cannot now find the reference to that procedure. It might have come from a preliminary R-389 manual, or from the manual for a radio used in direction finding applications. If anyone knows where that is located, I'd appreciate hearing about it. The goal is to do an alignment for best IF passband flatness to enhance AM listening fidelity.

Happy listening with the Non-A. Roy

From R390A@r390a.com Tue Jul 9 19:33:56 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: R390 Restoration

If there are any thoughts on this or, if you come up with anything, let me know please. Tnx.

From Richard.McClung@Dielectric.spx.com Tue Jul 9 20:07:03 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: R390 Restoration

I think the USASA Visual Alignment Procedures for the R-390/URR has the necessary alignment instructions for the IF deck. RICH @B> }

If there are any thoughts on this or, if you come up with anything, let me know please. Tnx.

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Wed Jul 10 00:06:27 2002
Subject: [R-390] Miltronix EAC

Well, the listing gives Rick's phone number if you have any questions. Call him. The listing would seem to be Ricks with him referring to himself in the 3rd person. ????? Scott

From courir26@yahoo.com Wed Jul 10 02:40:56 2002
Subject: [R-390] G-133F photo in EC-47

<http://www.ec47.com/an-ec47.htm> Enjoy, 51S-1 in sheep's clothing. Tom N5OFF

From terryo@wort-fm.terracom.net Wed Jul 10 03:07:20 2002
Subject: [R-390] G-133F photo in EC-47

The first radio that pops up is an LTV G-175K. A Watkins-Johnson in disguise. 1-4 GHz in two bands. I have one sitting right here. Makes the design and construction techniques of Collins look like steam locomotives compared to fighter planes. (There's a red herring if I ever wrote one.) Ducking, Terry O'

From ross@hypertools.com Wed Jul 10 03:15:56 2002
Subject: [R-390] G-133F photo in EC-47

Tom & the gang -

Nice pix, but what's an "AM BFO" used for??? I've got a rough idea, but I want to hear from the experts. Dave Ross N7EPI ross@hypertools.com

From r390a@enteract.com Wed Jul 10 15:41:42 2002
Subject: [R-390] FS Balanced Antenna Connectors (male)

Going through my storage, I found some of these I'd forgotten about: New in the bag, chrome plated, solder cup pins (no crimping tool needed) Amphenol 82-5589 equivalents. \$3 each plus US shipping (\$1 for one, \$1.75 for two, \$2.25 for three) email if interested. 73.../dave N9ZC

From r390a@enteract.com Wed Jul 10 22:02:20 2002
Subject: [R-390] Mc/Kc Knobs - Fair Radio

<https://www.fairradio.com/0390-kn.htm> I don't believe these were in the 2002 catalog.

From Wed Jul 10 22:18:00 2002
Subject: [R-390] Mc/Kc Knobs - Fair Radio

wrote: ><https://www.fairradio.com/0390-kn.htm> > >I don't believe these were in the 2002 catalog.

NOTE: The ad copy claims these are also for the R-389. This is not true.

For anyone with an R-389, the knob on that radio is a special version that is both bigger and incorporates a clutch mechanism to keep the unwary operator from damaging the motor driven drive mechanism or the totally irreplaceable PTO. Trust me. I matters. Roy

From ba.williams@charter.net Thu Jul 11 01:21:41 2002
Subject: [R-390] Mc/Kc Knobs - Fair Radio

> Trust me. I matters. > Roy

Trust you?

From Llgpt@aol.com Thu Jul 11 01:28:31 2002
Subject: [R-390] Mc/Kc Knobs - Fair Radio

writes: << Trust me. I matters. > > Roy

Trust you? >>

Uh Oh.....Where is the master at arms??

Maybe Roy wants you to send all of your radios and associated equipment to him??? And, he just

wants you to trust him.....<grin> But, EVERYONE knows the official radio disposal addresss is:

Radio Recycling, Inc.

1122 36th St.

Gulfport, MS. 39501 Les.....waiting for a deluge of Boat Anchors to arrive

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Thu Jul 11 01:43:39 2002

Subject: [R-390] Mc/Kc Knobs - Fair Radio

I do remember recently reading about a clutch in the handle. What is a 389 worth? I never see one of these for sale. My 390 is cleaning up nice Roy. I can't wait to have it finished so it can kick some 390A butt. :-) Fair Radio's knobs are nice, but don't look original because they have no casting marks. They are too perfect. Scott

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Thu Jul 11 03:44:01 2002

Subject: [R-390] Mc/Kc Knobs - Fair Radio

Scott wrote: > What is a 389 worth? I never see one of these > for sale.

As they say, if you have to ask, fuggeddabowdit.

> My 390 is cleaning up nice Roy. I can't wait to > have it finished so it can kick some 390A butt. :-)

That's the spirit! Never before (or since) were two related products so superior to each other.

> Fair Radio's knobs are nice, but don't look original > because they have no casting marks. They are too > perfect.

Not so -- there are original knobs out there that were ground smooth. I have some. I have one R-390 with one of each, and the smooth one didn't come from Fair -- not a repro.. Barry

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Thu Jul 11 10:56:43 2002

Subject: [R-390] Mc/Kc Knobs - Fair Radio

When I was painting my knobs Barry, I thought about grinding them smooth but decided not to. It just seems to add a little character to them. As it is, my panel is far better than new having dressed the edges and all. The new billet alum knobs are superior to the cast ones. I had 2 of the little "fingers" that clamp the shaft break off of one of my knobs. I will just machine a new center hub for it even though a pair of new knobs does look appealing for \$20 each. Scott

From pha@pdq.com Thu Jul 11 12:07:42 2002

Subject: [R-390] Mc/Kc Knobs - Fair Radio

wrote: > I do remember recently reading about a clutch in > the handle. > What is a 389 worth? I never see one of these > for sale.

Rick Mish showed me an as-new one he had worked on that he thought was easily worth more than

\$4000 (maybe \$5000, I don't remember). Of course, it was probably better than new in many ways.

> My 390 is cleaning up nice Roy. I can't wait to have it finished so it can kick some 390A butt. :-) Fair Radio's knobs are nice, but don't look original because they have no casting marks. They are too perfect.

There are some cast knobs that don't have significant casting marks. I don't know which contract made them. Paul

From cbscott@ingr.com Thu Jul 11 15:15:07 2002
Subject: [R-390] OT

Can someone give me some advice concerning some optoisolators? I built an interface to go between the computer to my Knwd TS440. It uses a MAX232 level converter and four NEC PS2501 optoisolators. The project did not work and, after finding a bad solder joint, the MAX232 seems to be doing what it should, but all the optoisolators seem to be blown.

I was careful handling them (assuming they are somewhat static sensitive), but all of them appear to be bad. The diode part checks okay with the Fluke DMM's diode-checker mode, but the EC junction doesn't seem to be working. I've ordered replacement isolators, but before I start playing with them I have a couple of questions.

Is it possible (or safe) to check the EC junction using the Fluke's diode-checking function? Unless the LED is forward biased, should I see anything across this junction with the Fluke?

How "rugged" are these devices? Given that I strap a ground wire around my wrist and have my feet on the concrete floor, should this be sufficient to keep from "blowing" them? Are they as rugged as, say, a 2N2222? Thanks, Barry(III) - N4BUQ SAND

From R390A@r390a.com Thu Jul 11 15:57:21 2002
Subject: [R-390] Filter Caps

Several had written me over the past few months asking if I would rebuild their filter caps. I had responded that I was out of the Mallory 350V elements and had to decline.

I found a small cache of caps at a supplier out west. I now have enough in hand to rebuild 12 sets of caps. I also have enough parts on hand to build 4 solid state 3TF7 replacement modules. If you are interested, let me know. Chuck Rippel, WA4HHG

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Thu Jul 11 17:47:04 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: Miltronix EAC

Barry (Hauser),

The single "tube" you refer to on the modified power supply unit is probably a thermal time delay relay. This would allow sufficient time for tube warm-up then would apply B+. An example of an R-390A power supply modified this way can be found at: members.aol.com/ac5zt/r390a.html

One opinion holds that application of B+ before cathode warm-up causes deterioration ("stripping") of

the emissive coating.

Another says that stripping is not an issue with indirectly-heated small receiving-type tubes but does need to be considered for large directly-heated filament power tubes.

However, it is noteworthy that tube-type Tektronix oscilloscopes (which use indirectly heated tubes) have a delayed B+ feature. Drew

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Thu Jul 11 23:15:49 2002
Subject: [R-390] Some interesting info.

I thought this was a really good post on cap longevity. It makes me wonder if my grandkids will be able to keep all my old radios running. Check it out below. Scott

From: "Barry L. Ornitz" <ornitz@tricon.net>
Subject: Re: Capacitor lifetime & a little info on new materials

asked: > I have always replaced the leaky waxed paper caps in vintage radios with polyester caps thinking that they will last forever. But is this true? Has any estimate been made of their lifetime?

answered: > Does anything last forever?

and continued with anecdotal evidence of the longevity of modern film capacitors. He then concluded:

> Beings the film is a relatively pure substance, free from internal degradation, I believe only extreme heat would lead to destruction. They would essentially have to melt and then short out as opposing plates come in contact with each other or the melted plastic shorted through from electrostatic stress and physical distortion. I think your leakage worries are over for the next millenium or two.

Having spent most of my career involved in manufacturing polyethylene terephthalate polyester (PET, Mylar® is DuPon'ts variety), polypropylene (PP) and polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE, Teflon® is the most common variety), and been involved in a few research projects on other newer materials occasionally used in capacitors such as polyphenylene sulfide (PPS), polyethylene naphthalate (PEN), and cyclohexane dimethanol modified polyester (PETG), I think I can address this issue. I also am familiar with polystyrene (PS) and polyphenylene oxide (PPO) materials.

Of these, the PS and PTFE capacitors tend to have specialized uses and are not often found. The PPS and PEN materials are relatively new and I expect to see more of them in high temperature applications. The PETG material was investigated for film capacitors at least 30 years ago and found to have some advantages over conventional PET, but Eastman management decisions prevented further development. It is being looked at again today.

So this leaves the conventional PET and PP materials for most of the film capacitors we can find today. Polypropylene is a good dielectric material with quite low losses at higher frequencies, but its low temperature rating limits its application in many circuits. The lifetime of polypropylene capacitors should be exceptional as long as they are not overheated.

Polyester capacitors have greater dielectric losses, especially at high frequencies, but having a higher dielectric constant than PP and a higher temperature rating they are probably the most popular film

capacitor material today. Their lifetime is probably somewhat less than polypropylene, but the term "forever" means different things to different people. Moisture will eventually react with the polyester structure to decrease its polymer chain length. It will also react with the heavy metal catalysts (typically antimony) to form ions which will increase the leakage in capacitor applications. The effect will be seen with wrapped foil capacitors long before it is seen with those whose electrodes are metallized onto the film (the aluminum metallization retards the diffusion of moisture into the polyester).

>From a practical viewpoint, even wrapped foil polyester capacitors will certainly outlive those reading this message - that is, if they are kept relatively dry and not overheated. Metallized polyester capacitors will last much longer. My guess is at least a few hundred years. Somehow I cannot be convinced to worry about what might happen to a Boatanchor a millennia from now!

Electrolytic capacitors are an entirely different story. They need moisture to function (normal room relative humidity is fine, but storage under exceptionally dry conditions will shorten their life). The so-called dry electrolytics are not really dry, they contain a paste that needs some moisture to remain electrolytically conductive.

Carbon composition resistors certainly do age, but the modern thin-film resistors have good lifetimes. Tubes do lose vacuum, especially the softer glass receiving tube varieties. But these generally do not need quite as hard a vacuum as transmitting tubes. Most large transmitting tubes use borosilicate glass which is better than the soda- lime glass found in small tubes.

Probably the fastest aging things in our old radios are the transformers with paper insulation, and the vinyl insulation on wires. **Keeping everything cool will help more to prolong the life of this old gear more than anything.** 73, Barry L. Ornitz WA4VZQ ornitz@tricon.net

From nryan@intrex.net Fri Jul 12 00:02:56 2002
Subject: [R-390] Some interesting info.

Hi, Scott, Thanks for passing this on. VERY enlightening. Barry Ornitz is one smart guy. This is good material for the R-390A FAQ pages. Al T., are you reading this? 73 de Norman KG4SWM

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Fri Jul 12 00:49:21 2002
Subject: [R-390] Some interesting info.

Hey Norm, I want to thank you for your 390 non-a tube list that you posted May 30. I printed it out this morning. I was going to compile the list myself but you saved me the work. :-) Thanks!! I am particularly interested in the subbing of 5814a's for 12au7's. I get the 5814a's for \$3.50 (NOS) from my dealer but the damn 12au7's are going for \$12.00 each. That is a LOT of money for an inferior tube!! Oh, there I go again. I am going to have my mailbox jammed 'cause I called a 12au7 inferior. I have not looked into it, but I would guess all 12au7's could be subbed with 5814a's if equalizing resistors were used to balance the current properly through each tube in the string. This would be a BIG \$\$\$\$ savings in tubes. What do you think?? Scott

From r390a@enteract.com Fri Jul 12 03:45:01 2002
Subject: [R-390] FS Balanced Antenna Connectors (male)

There seems to be a little uncertainty on the list regarding these connectors. They mate with the 2-pin

'Balanced Antenna' input on the R-389, R-390, R-390A and R-391. For a scan, click:

<http://www.enteract.com/~r390a/ForSale/TwinAx.jpg> (No Hammarlunds were abused in the making of this picture.) At this writing, there are still connectors available. 73.../dave N9ZC

From jamminpower@earthlink.net Fri Jul 12 04:00:31 2002
Subject: [R-390] OT: Anybody got Halli SP-44 schematics?

Sorry for the spam, but: Does anybody have a set of schematics and/or the maintenance manual for the Hallicrafters SP-44 Panoramic Adaptor? BAMA has the operator's manual, but it doesn't have any schematics. I sure would like a copy.

From cthulhu@fhtagn.org Fri Jul 12 04:18:51 2002
Subject: [R-390] G-133F photo in EC-47

: ><http://www.ec47.com/an-ec47.htm> > >Enjoy, 51S-1 in sheep's clothing. > >Tom N5OFF

Hi Tom and the group --

I wanted one of these receivers for years and years since they started showing up in the 80's and I finally got one in trade for restoring a 390A for a guy. This G-133F was in wonderful shape, looked like new, and was sort of easy to use and just neat to look at especially in a dark shack. Got a manual for it and tuned it to the specs given and it was still not a bad receiver, but sitting next to the 390A and the SP-600 even, it was just not good enough and despite the novelty of it I ended up getting rid of it on the evil auction place. It brought a princely sum too, I am not ashamed to admit. Used that money to get a Mackay MSR-8000 tranceiver which sits on my desk to this day (great radio)

All this trading around and I still don't have a non-A 390 Sigh... 73 Tom (another one)

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Fri Jul 12 04:34:08 2002
Subject: [R-390] G-133F photo in EC-47

Hello Tom, Okay you wet my lip and stirred my interest! Is there a picture of the G-133F to view on the net? Did you say you wanted to trade your Mackay 8000A for a non-A Collins R-390/URR Receiver? 73, Glen KA7BOJ

From ba.williams@charter.net Fri Jul 12 04:42:25 2002
Subject: [R-390] G-133F photo in EC-47

> All this trading around and I still don't have a non-A 390 > Sigh... > > 73 > > Tom (another one)

Tom (another one)

You said you already have a R-390A and a SP-600, right? You don't need no non-A. Same collection as yours here in my shack. Well, 2 A's and a SP here. the other other Barry

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Fri Jul 12 10:44:52 2002
Subject: [R-390] G-133F photo in EC-47

Tom -- You wrote: > > All this trading around and I still don't have a non-A 390 > > Sigh...

Barry (W) replied: > You said you already have a R-390A and a SP-600, right? You don't need no > non-A. Same collection as yours here in my shack. Well, 2 A's and a SP here. > > the other other Barry

When reading stuff from guys named "Barry" you have to read between the lines -- and between the words and sometimes in between the letters in the words. To wit*, the double negative, "You don't need no non-A", which, properly interpreted, means that the lack of a non-A is problematical, or perhaps outright undesirable.

* Could "twit" be a derivation or contraction of "To wit", as in the expression: "twit ... Hammarlund"? Maybe Tom L. knows. Barry

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Fri Jul 12 14:17:27 2002
Subject: [R-390] OT: Anybody got Halli SP-44 schematics?

Hi Andy - Just a thought since I didn't see the address listed in your email, perhaps someone on the Hallicrafters list might be able to help out? I've had good luck there in past years but somehow got unsubscribed and need to join again.

Trying to recall since I don't remember the model numbers, but it seems these units were actually made by another company called Panoramic Inc or such? I have one of these rigs somewhere in the pile and it looks identical to a Halli unit, just has a slightly different paint job. Good luck - de Todd/'Boomer' KA1KAQ

From anchor@ec.rr.com Fri Jul 12 14:50:34 2002
Subject: [R-390] OT: Anybody got Halli SP-44 schematics?

hI Andy, I've got it. Will see if it'll scan well, or send you a paper copy. I've got several different manuals for it. 73, Al, W8UT

From hankarn@pacbell.net Fri Jul 12 14:52:56 2002
Subject: [R-390] OT: Anybody got Halli SP-44 schematics?

Andy, I have a original installation and operating manual and a service bulletin with schematic and parts list.. I can FAX you a copy of the schematic or go to Kinko's and make you a copy. Hank KN6DI

From jamminpower@earthlink.net Sat Jul 13 06:12:16 2002
Subject: [R-390] OT: Anybody got Halli SP-44 schematics?

Thanks to everybody that answered! Boy, what a great bunch of folks! Everyone really went the extra mile. If I can ever do anything for anybody, let me know . . .

From root@al.tirevold.name Sun Jul 14 01:43:41 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-Release 2

The next release of the ongoing R-390A Y2K project is ready!

Lots of small errors have been corrected and clarifications added. A separate errata list documents the corrections and their reporters.

The key drawings are now available for printing as a separate document.

A (very) small amount of additional material has been added.

Those nasty black-and-white photographs have not been replaced (...yet). If someone has the means to produce clear color photographs to replace them, I would be happy to handle anoting and replacing the existing black-and-white ones.

The file sizes are larger than in those in the Release 1 manual, so the chapters are available for download individually, rather than as a whole manual.

The Y2K-R2 link: <http://www.r-390a.net/Y2K-R2> Enjoy!

I welcome any further corrections and suggestions for additional material. I'm planning to expand the manual to include additional material in new chapters, including some from the -35 document. There's lots of great knowledge out there - let's get it gathered, typeset and published!

If anyone has the capability to reproduce figure 6-36 so that it would be readable, I sure would like to hear from them! I have been unable to produce an acceptable replacement using Visio software, but that may be due to a lack of skill on my part.

I'm still looking for some R-390A reference material. If anyone has a copy of the following, I would appreciate getting a copy so I can place it on the R-390A FAQ web site for the benefit of everyone.

U. S. Navy NAVSHIPS 0967-063-2011, Radio Receiver R-390A/URR Manual Supplement, 1972-Feb-18

U. S. Navy NAVSHIPS 0967-063-2012, Radio Receiver R-390A/URR Manual Supplement, 1974-Aug-01

U. S. Navy NAVSHIPS 0967-063-2013, Radio Receiver R-390A/URR Manual Supplement, 1974-Aug-01

U.S. Navy NAVSHIPS 0967-063-2014, Radio Receiver R-390A/URR Manual Supplement, 1974-Nov-01

U. S. Navy NAVSHIPS 0967-063-2080, Radio Receiver R-390A/URR Changing Terminals to "AN" Type, 1964-Nov-30

Thanks, Al

From AviDov@aol.com Sat Jul 13 22:53:28 2002

Subject: [R-390] OT:KENWOOD TS-515

Is this transceiver of yesteryear a sensible investment for a budding Ham ? It's supposedly in operating condition, incl. A.C. P.S. but no manual. I'm trying to offer sage advice to a teenager and don't to see him get a raw deal. 73

From Jim Shorney" < Sun Jul 14 07:42:56 2002

Subject: [R-390] Balun for balanced antenna connector

wrote: >It seems to me that a balun on the balanced antenna connector would be a >better way to feed the R-390 and still get the benefit of the extra stage in >the RF deck. Being a frugal type (cheap) I decided to kludge something >together.

Found an Ortronics OR-601002444 Twinax-to-RJ-11 (or screw terminals) balun in one of my computer junkboxes. I'm going to give that a try. If it works reasonably well, it shouldn't be too hard to whack the plastic telephone nonsense off the end and put something more 'radio-like' there. Thick ethernet phaseouts can be our friend.

Now that scout camp is over with, maybe I can get started on this beast. After I sleep for a week....

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Sun Jul 14 11:45:09 2002

Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-Release 2

Thanks to you and everyone who helped in this great effort. I just wish I could find a readable schematic for my non-a! Scott

From r390a@enteract.com Sun Jul 14 12:42:06 2002

Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-Release 2

What's wrong with the ones in TM 11-5820-357-35 at http://www.logsa.army.mil/etms/find_etm.cfm ?

From wjneill@lcc.net Sun Jul 14 18:05:11 2002

Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-Release 2

I have originals of each of the Navy publications you are seeking plus the following you may not be seeking:

0967-LP-063-2040 R390A Technical Performan Standards

0967-LP-063-2060 Field Change to Technical Manual

0967-LP-063-2070 Line Output Terminals Modification

0967-LP-063-2110 R390A Internal Heat Reduction

0967-LP-063-2111 R390A TM Change

0967-LP-063-2112 R390A TM Change

0967-LP-063-2120 R390A Reduction of Internal Interference

0967-LP-063-2140 Installation of Diode Load Test Jack

I think I can find these publications relatively quickly as I have all of my R390A publications (DA,

USAF, and USN) in one binder. Bill Neill Conroe, Texas

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Sun Jul 14 18:06:32 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-Release 2

Thanks Dave but I have downloaded this PDF version and it is just not very clear. I printed the schematic pages in 11x17 with a photo quality inkjet and the diagrams are just unreadable. The drawing is way too small and text is unreadable. Acrobat does not allow you to zoom in and print. Any Ideas?
Scott

From ba.williams@charter.net Mon Jul 15 01:53:31 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-Release 2

> Thanks Dave but I have downloaded this PDF version and it is just not very clear. I printed the schematic pages in 11x17 with a photo quality inkjet and the diagrams are just unreadable. The drawing is way too small and text is unreadable. Acrobat does not allow you to zoom in and print. Any Ideas?

If somebody lets me know the exact problems and file formats I'll get right on the problem. Barry Williams

From whertel@onemain.com Mon Jul 15 02:10:40 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-Release 2

I just printed the first schematic page (Figure 5-11) and it came out excellent. Using Adobe Reader V5.0.5 and Lexmark Optra N240 printer set to Postscript, 11 x 17, fit to page. This is an HP 5SI clone (same laser engine). Wayne H.

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Mon Jul 15 02:36:40 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-Release 2

We were talking about the non-a schematic which is online. I am having problems getting a clear copy. The Y2K manual has excellent re-drawings. Sorry guys, it just got caught under this thread. Scott

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Mon Jul 15 02:46:49 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-Release 2

There's some confusion ...

I think Scott is referring to a PDF of the non-A manual. Most of that manual is pretty readable, though some of the OCR'ing on the Logsa site was not thoroughly proofed. You can read the schematics on screen with zoom, but I don't know of an easy way to print them zoomed up -- maybe you can export the page and print with some other software. I suppose one approach is to zoom up sections on screen, then to an alt-printscreens and paste to wordpad or something.

Not to be confused with the Y2K R-390A manual, Release 1 or 2. Pete Wokoun recreated most all of the line drawings and schematics and they're all crystal clear on screen and printed. I'm pretty sure Wayne is referring to that one. Barry

From ba.williams@charter.net Mon Jul 15 03:44:20 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-Release 2

> There's some confusion ... > > I think Scott is referring to a PDF of the non-A manual. > Barry

I got it straight now. Acrobat is the standard now, but once something goes in you can't get it out. That is the only thing I have against the format. I prefer to extract graphics most of the time if I'm going to print. Still, Acrobat is probably the only way to go with all of the Windows and Mac packages out there. I'm certainly not complaining about it. Barry Williams

From r390a@enteract.com Mon Jul 15 19:04:53 2002
Subject: [R-390] Printing TM 11-5820-357-35 (R-390) schematics

Scott,
I had no trouble printing on a HP 4MV printer on 11x17 paper using Acrobat Reader 4.0. The copy is sharp and clear and appears to be about the same size as the original printed manual.

When you print, do you have the 'Fit to page' box checked? Also, the printer properties must be set for landscape and 11x17 paper size. 73.../dave N9ZC

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Wed Jul 17 01:11:00 2002
Subject: [R-390] G-133F photo in EC-47

> All this trading around and I still don't have a non-A 390 > Sigh...

Sounds like life is incomplete.

> 73 > > Tom (another one)

From root@al.tirevold.name Wed Jul 17 01:26:35 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-R2 - in ONE BIG FILE!

You asked for it.... all 16.7MB of it!! It does include navigation from the table of contents pages. The files containing individual chapters do not have navigation, to reduce the filesize. The Y2K-R2 link: <http://www.r-390a.net/Y2K-R2/index.htm> Enjoy! Al

From jbrannig@optonline.net Wed Jul 17 02:06:03 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-R2 - in ONE BIG FILE!

Terrific!!!! Great job....huge file took almost 15 sec. to down load. Jim

From djmerz@3-cities.com Wed Jul 17 03:25:58 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-R2 - in ONE BIG FILE!

Jim, hi, ok I'll bite. I started looking at an hour to go and abandoned the download at my location. How do you get it down to 15 seconds - high speed connection? I think I'll save my download for when I visit my son-in-law who has a high speed connection. But then maybe there's a better way to download here - in my case the document came up in Acrobat and I started a "save as". Is this a slow technique? Dan

From buzz@softcom.net Wed Jul 17 03:59:53 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-R2 - in ONE BIG FILE!

Al, With direcway, (oneway satellite) it took a minute and 28 sec. Not bad at all. Thanks, Buzz

From nryan@intrex.net Wed Jul 17 04:39:16 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-R2 - in ONE BIG FILE!

Hello Al,

Thanks a million for releasing the latest edition of the R-390A Y2K manual. I'm downloading it as I type this e-mail. Someone asked if there is a faster way to download it. I don't know myself-- my connection is via a garden variety ISP and I expect it will take well over an hour.

What I'm doing is saving it to hard disk on my PC. It's late at night and I'll turn in pretty soon. Meanwhile, I have switched off my screensaver to keep the download from stalling and will shut off the monitor to save energy. Computer will run all night, but modem connection will terminate after a few minutes of inactivity which is when download will be complete. Next morning I should have the manual on hard disk if all goes well.

Thanks again to you and all who helped make this such a huge success! I hope a non-A manual is in the works! Vy 73 de Norman KG4SWM

From pwokoun@hotmail.com Wed Jul 17 06:44:50 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-R2 - in ONE BIG FILE!

My 'high-speed' connection took 10 minutes. So much for the beep-beep hype....15 seconds?? did Jim use an FTP transfer? pete

From greg_werstiuk@msn.com Wed Jul 17 06:45:44 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-R2 - in ONE BIG FILE!

Dan -

In my experience, doing a "Save As" directly from the web is far faster than opening it first as a .pdf document and doing a "Save As" from inside Acrobat.

However, a 16M file will take a fair bit of time for modem bound folks to download. - greg

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Wed Jul 17 11:04:49 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390 Manual

> I hope a non-A manual is in the works! > > Vy 73 de Norman KG4SWM

Paul Anderson has nearly the entire TM 11-5820-357-35 manual done up in a typesetting language, so it can be laid out in various ways, and the encapsulated postscript images can be included. I am trying to buy or borrow some original manuals so I can make high quality schematic scans and re-format and edit them to fit smaller, easily printable page sizes. The ultimate goal, (what a GREAT idea Paul), would be to re-enter the schematic in an ECAD system. Then be able to do analog simulations using spice, to see what the various test points of the radio should look like on a scope with some known setting and input signal. Problem may be that there are not too many non-a guru's out there and free time is hard for many to come by. Everyone wants to use and restore the simplified version of this receiver. What's the matter. Is it too complex for ya? There we are. That should get you all fired up!! Now do we have volunteers for the schematic and circuit simulation? Scott

From jbrannig@optonline.net Wed Jul 17 11:27:11 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-R2 - in ONE BIG FILE!

Dan etal,

A Hi-speed cable is a wonderful thing, but I was surprised at the speed of the download. I must have caught it at just the right time. I had too many problems launching .pdf files from within Explorer. The "open", "save-as" option is a bit faster and less subject to lock-up.

Dial-up will take a long time. Have your son-in-law down load it and burn it to a CD-ROM. Jim

From jtovet@attbi.com Wed Jul 17 11:30:46 2002
Subject: [R-390] pdf for the R390A

I'd sure love to see a pdf file for the R390 like that one for the "A". Does anyone know of one? Jim KA1EUI

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Wed Jul 17 11:37:48 2002
Subject: [R-390] pdf for the R390A

I'd sure love to see a pdf file for the R390 like that one for the "A".

None exists. It takes a LOT of work and effort of many. Look at the credits in the Y2K manual. Wanna help put one together? Scott

From cbscott@ingr.com Wed Jul 17 14:21:40 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-R2 - in ONE BIG FILE!

I hope your son-in-law has a CD burner. I don't know how much a 16Mb file will compress, but it will be a pain to get onto and off of diskettes. Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From jamminpower@earthlink.net Wed Jul 17 15:24:01 2002
Subject: [R-390] pdf for the R390A

wrote: > I'd sure love to see a pdf file for the R390 like that one for the "A".

There are two. One from logsa It is a copy of TM 11-5820-357-35 at

http://www.logsa.army.mil/etms/find_etm.cfm

This one has searchable text, but I find the schematics illegible.

There is another scan of the same manual floating around. I stuck it on my web site so you can download it if you like (big!). It is not linked up to the web site yet, but you can get at it directly:

www.jamminpower.com/jam/pdf/TM11-5820-357-35.pdf

This one is a more funky scan, but the schematics are excellent. MUCH better than the ones from logsa. The schematics are broken up into 8.5x11 pages.

There are two more I am uploading right now that were produced from that one:

www.jamminpower.com/jam/pdf/TM11-5820-357-35.schematics.pdf

www.jamminpower.com/jam/pdf/TM11-5820-357-35.schematics.11x17.pdf

Yes, the extracted schematics are as big as the original manual. I probably engaged in overkill on the resolution. I will see if I can reduce the data some more. Also, I will link them into my R-390 page.

The first one has just the two schematics pages - 45 inches across. The second one has them broken up into 3 11x17 sheets each. At Kinko's, set the printer to landscape mode and 11x17 paper. Enjoy! James A. (Andy) Moorer

From mackeyka@mac.com Wed Jul 17 15:39:23 2002

Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-R2 - in ONE BIG FILE!

Got it in about 1 minute with Road Runner. Kim Mackey KB9BZL

From hankarn@pacbell.net Wed Jul 17 15:55:14 2002

Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-R2 - in ONE BIG FILE!

Mine took just over a minute DSL and 1 1/2 hour to copy double sided on my HP-IIID. Hank

From cbscott@ingr.com Wed Jul 17 16:06:28 2002

Date: Wed, 17 Jul 2002 10:06:28 -0500

Kirk: "Scotty. You see that copy of the R390A Y2K-R2 on AI's desk?"

Scott: "Yes, Captain, I see it."

Kirk: "Beam it up immediately."

Scott: "Aye, Captain. Here she comes."

Much quicker this way. I hope Al doesn't miss his copy... Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From zelickr@biohazard.pdx.edu Wed Jul 17 16:09:30 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-R2 - in ONE BIG FILE!

Well I can't resist showing off - we now have gigabit ethernet strung to our offices and I clocked 4 seconds to download the file.... snicker, snicker. One of the few perks for working at a university.

Say... the quality of the work is exceptional, so I was surprised (and this in no way is meant at criticism) that someone had not made new digital photos of the chassis undersides and so forth for inclusion. The photos included are not up to the caliber of the rest of the document.

Is this harder than I think? Am I about to be asked to put my \$\$ where my mouth is??? Well just a thought for future improvements. Cheers, =Randy=

From hankarn@pacbell.net Wed Jul 17 16:11:34 2002
Subject: [R-390] REF: R-390 non A Green gear.

I am exploring the possibility of making the GREEN GEAR. I need a good feel for number that would be ordered which would determine the final pricing. Thanks and please reply direct. Hank KN6DI

From twleiper@juno.com Wed Jul 17 16:15:10 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-R2 - in ONE BIG FILE!

writes: > Kirk: "Scotty. You see that copy of the R390A Y2K-R2 on Al's desk?"

I thought the correct line was "OK Kahn, here it comes..." Tom

From ba.williams@charter.net Wed Jul 17 17:10:12 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-R2 - in ONE BIG FILE!

Dan,

I got it with about the same speed using cable. Downloads are fast if there are no bottlenecks in my routing to a site, and the site is able to send data that fast. You would be surprised at your Internet routing if you ran a utility to see how you get connected.

Another option to cable/DSL would be to use something like Speed Download for files that size on a dialup connection. Speed Download is for the Mac, but I'm sure there must be dozens of the same utility out there for Windows. You run Speed Download, tell it how many download ports to open, and then paste the download address in. If you tell it to open 10 ports, it will contact the download address 10 times to start 10 segment concurrent download. It pieces the 10 parts together when finished. It saved a lot of time before I got cable service. Barry

From ba.williams@charter.net Wed Jul 17 17:26:29 2002

Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-R2 - in ONE BIG FILE!

> I hope your son-in-law has a CD burner. I don't know how much a 16Mb file > will compress, but it will be a pain to get onto and off of diskettes. > > Barry(III) - N4BUQ

Zip drive maybe? Barry

From djmerz@3-cities.com Wed Jul 17 17:41:44 2002

Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-R2 - in ONE BIG FILE!

Barry W., I hadn't heard of Speed Download - very interesting - . I emailed my son-in-law, who is online most of the time with his business on a cable connection over in the Seattle area . It took him 2 minutes and he's mailing the cd over - couldn't ask for better service. I did try the "right click" "save as link" and that was indicating about an hour so I emailed my s-i-l and he accommodated me - not that the hour was too much but why not use his fast connection and he appreciates having the latest and fastest in the family. Now if he just had a fast printer..... Dan

From twleiper@juno.com Wed Jul 17 18:07:38 2002

Subject: [R-390] REF: R-390 non A Green gear.

writes: > I am exploring the possibility of making the GREEN GEAR.

"What's all this then, Amen?"

"There's another Green Gear missing from a Non-A, Vicar Sergeant"

Doesn't Radio Shack stock them anymore?

Paul Harvey always talks about how helpful the folks at Walmart are...maybe they can start stocking them for us. I was having trouble setting the endpoints on a VFO the other day, and my local Walmart stockboy came all the way out to my home in the middle of cyclonic thunderstorm to bring me a screwdriver and give me some pointers on the easiest way to get the linearity down to +/- 100 Hz. He even brought some JB Weld so I could seal the unit up permanently when we got done. Amazing. Twit Hammarlund

From hankarn@pacbell.net Wed Jul 17 18:18:00 2002

Subject: [R-390] REF: R-390 non A Green gear.

If you don't know then sorry have to beam you up and out. Hank TWIT R&S EK-07

From ivanho@c2i.net Wed Jul 17 19:00:25 2002

Subject: [R-390] AGC problems

Can somebody tell me what the problem could be on my R-390-A, that i just bought.Strong stations completely overrides my AGC, i have to back off on the RF-Gain to get a reasonably readable signal.I figure there must be a fault somewhere. I am allso not pleased with the adio, it seemes to distort if ever so slightly but still annoying. Could the two problems be related ? I have had a look at the "Problem

caps", but so far has not done the operation. With all the experience out there, I am sure somebody has had similar encounters. By the way thank you guys for all the first class info, my printer is running red hot. Regards Ivan Heimdal

From djmerz@3-cities.com Wed Jul 17 19:31:21 2002
Subject: [R-390] AGC problems

Ivan, I'm sure you'll get plenty of advice on this - I'm a relatively new guy to R-390a and the solution to this problem for me for ssb reception was: put in the two diodes that improves the agc response for ssb - discussed plenty in the R-390a archives improve the audio amp - first I used an external audio amp on the diode load connection out the back - this was excellent. second I built a modified internal audio amp using 6360 tubes ala Electric Radio article - this wasn't quite as good as the external amp but still very good and is what I use because I don't need any external equipment. Dan.

From twleiper@juno.com Wed Jul 17 20:09:07 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-R2 - in ONE BIG FILE!

writes: ... > snicker, > snicker. One of the few perks for working at a university.

"working at a university" Is that not a contradiction in terms? snicker snicker

By the way, my GoogleBit connection finished the download before the sound of my mouse click even reached my ears. Twit Hammarlund

From w9wis@charter.net Wed Jul 17 20:19:33 2002
Subject: [R-390] AGC problems

Your problem sounds very much like the one that plagued my R-390A. The cause of my problem was eventually found to be an intermittent short in the 4 Kc filter.

My 390A would start out with good audio and agc but when it warmed up the audio would distort until I turned down the rf gain... obviously no agc action was present. I also found the agc voltage to swing way low when this occurred. Sometimes after some minutes audio would improve and agc would return to normal. It was discovered that when the filter heated up as the radio was on it's internal components would expand/contract and short to the case of the filter grounding the agc voltage.

Since all the filteres are, I believe in this circuit, it could be any filter that is bad. The usual suspect seems to be the 4 Kc filter as I'm told it was generally the most fatigued due to use. Mike, W9WIS

From twleiper@juno.com Wed Jul 17 20:20:03 2002
Subject: [R-390] AGC problems

writes: > Can somebody tell me what the problem could be on my R-390-A, that I > just > bought. Strong stations completely overrides my AGC, I have to back > off on > the RF-Gain to get a reasonably readable signal. I figure there must > be a fault > somewhere.

You're right. You've got a leaky cap(s) somewhere on the AGC line. If you so much as show a picture of a ten meg resistor to that line it will bury it's head in the ground. You also may be missing the jumpers on the back panel or, least likely, your AGC amp is weak. Finally, there is always the chance that the radio simply doesn't like you, and would work perfectly for somebody else, like Barry the Beggar. Dr. Leo Marvin

From nryan@intrex.net Wed Jul 17 20:57:20 2002
Subject: [R-390] AGC problems

Hello, Ivan,

This sounds like a problem in the AGC line-- possibly a leaky cap, an off value resistor or bad mechanical filter. Do you experience this at all Bandwidth settings? The audio distortion may be related to the AGC problem. Before considering modifications, eliminate the problem first. You may find the audio to be OK.

1. Remove the IF deck.
2. Attach the knob to the Bandwidth switch shaft.
3. Do resistance measurements according to the manual. When you find a resistance value way off normal, turn Bandwidth knob to see if the value changes.

If it's a bad mechanical filter, resistance measurements at the connector will differ depending on whichever position the bandwidth switch is set. Ordinarily, the resistances should not vary significantly no matter where the Bandwidth is set. Chances are you can isolate the fault simply by measuring resistances and comparing them to the chart in the manual.

Good luck-- please let us know how it goes. 73 de Norman KG4SWM

From cbscott@ingr.com Wed Jul 17 21:05:39 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-R2 - in ONE BIG FILE!

I believe the word for which the distinguished ambassador is searching is "oxymoron". Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From twleiper@juno.com Wed Jul 17 22:00:19 2002
Subject: [R-390] Sniffing Oxy makes you a moron...

> writes: > I believe the word for which the distinguished ambassador is > searching is "oxymoron".

I was not "searching" for the word "oxymoron" because I wanted to use a phrase. And whether one chooses to use a phrase or a word to illustrate something depends upon whether the author wants to achieve parity, or simply an equality of outcome :-). Capt. B. J. Smythian

From Barry Hauser <barry@hausernet.com> Wed Jul 17 21:49:15 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-R2 - in ONE BIG FILE!

>"Am I about to be asked to put my \$\$ where my mouth is???"

AAAHWWOOOGHAA! AAAHHWWOOOGHAA! DING DING DING DING DING! DIVE! DIVE!

Whoa -- belay that dive order! That's the SVDS -- the Special Volunteer Detection System alarm. It's a little like a perimeter warning system, but tuned up for pilgrims wandering in, instead of enemy incursion.

So, howya doin' Randy, heh heh.. You noticed about the photos. Well, the plain ones are no problem, and not really critical. More important are the ones with parts ID pointers. They take a bit more time. First, you need a good specimen -- a photogenic module that's not shy (shadowy) and not too starry-eyed. (Bright aluminum reflects and makes it a bit tricky.) Then, when you have a shot where you can make out most of the components, it needs to get the annotations added with a graphics program. Pete Wokoun did this with the photos that were supplied to him (or he had) for the first version.

You also have to experiment with the resolution that works without overkill -- excessive file size

Soooo... got a camera? Some modules? (Was on the to-do list, but didn't make it into Rev 2.)

Or did you want to sign up for a tour of duty with the non-A task force that's forming up? Barry

From root@al.tirevold.name Thu Jul 18 00:49:37 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-R2 - in ONE BIG FILE!

We're working on the photo thing!!!! ...just be patient.....

From theprof@texoma.net Thu Jul 18 01:26:39 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-R2 - in ONE BIG FILE!

A primo effort. FB all around.

My slow DSL connection took 6 minutes, however, when I was on a dial-up I started Using Download Accelerator Pro (DAP).

It might take all night to download a big file, but these types of utilities (there are several) will allow you to queue for download, start downloads at a predetermined time, and turn off the PC when it is done. They also allow resume if the download bombs for some reason and they do speed up some downloads by running multiple connections to a site and downloading the file in parallel pieces. 73 de Richard, KB5WLH

From ba.williams@charter.net Thu Jul 18 02:10:08 2002
Subject: [R-390] AGC problems

>Finally, there is always the chance that the radio simply doesn't like you, and would work perfectly for somebody else, like Barry the Beggar. > > Dr. Leo Marvin

Yes, and the address is 400 Deer Run Rd., Auburn, Al. 36832. Send it on down. I'll even pay shipping.

By the way, I've been pretty much hating the luck of the dumpster divers on this list for a few years now.

(g) But, I was out looking for cardboard boxes tonight and ran across a very nice, heavy duty rack thrown out behind Books A Million. This is in very good condition and I think it is 7' high. It was loaded on the truck pretty quick and I forgot about getting boxes after that. I don't know what they used a rack for, but it's mine now. heh heh Barry

From djmerz@3-cities.com Thu Jul 18 02:18:04 2002
Subject: [R-390] AGC problems

Ivan, I guess my free advice is worth what you paid for it. I suppose I should remove the diodes and find out what the real problem is, hi. Anyway, in retrospect you didn't really say your problem was related to the reception of ssb signals so my advice may not be relevant. I could never get good reception with ssb strong signals without cranking back on the rf gain; my set agc always worked worked ok on am signals. I surmise from the responses that your problem also occurs on am signals though I didn't hear that from you, Dan.

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Thu Jul 18 02:22:28 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-R2 - in ONE BIG FILE!

Ah! THIS Barry is the O-fishul R-390Y2K-R2 recruiter!

Sign 'em up mister, he looks like a live one!! Joe

From twleiper@juno.com Thu Jul 18 03:32:17 2002
Subject: [R-390] CQ Bob Camp CQ

Bob, if you are still on this list could you ping me? I have some information that may be of interest to you.

Tom Just to keep things on topic, the "non-A" can download that big file faster than cable, DSL or the "A".

From vibroplex@mindspring.com Thu Jul 18 13:34:07 2002
Subject: [R-390] FRR-59A is on the air!

Dear All,

Thanks so much to everyone who gave me advice about the FRR-59A. I finally got it home and hooked it up this week. After replacing a bad 5751, the unit fired right up. I have some dirty switch contacts to contend with but, other than that, it seems to work!

Here are some photos in my garage:

<http://www.mindspring.com/~vibroplex/FRR-59A.JPG>
<http://www.mindspring.com/~vibroplex/FRR-59A1.JPG>

I'll keep you all posted on my progress with this and thanks again for all the kind words and thoughts.
73, Derek Cohn

From cbscott@ingr.com Thu Jul 18 14:20:26 2002
Subject: [R-390] Antenna question

Gang,

What is/was the recommended "standard" antenna and feedline for the R390A? Is there 150-ohm feedline (ladder line perhaps?)? I figure there were some standard antennas used with these things on board ship, etc., and I would like to build a similar antenna and feed it with the "proper" feedline.

I currently use a dipole and an impedance matching device that gets close to the right impedance, but I wonder if there is a "correct" way to do this. Thanks, Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From w5or@comcast.net Thu Jul 18 14:55:30 2002
Subject: [R-390] FRR-59A is on the air!

Good job, Derek. Thanks for sharing the photos with us. Definitely a real radio. I missed out on one of these from the Art Collins estate in Dallas a few years ago. So now you know the kind of company these receivers kept. Don Reaves W5OR

From twleiper@juno.com Thu Jul 18 17:39:17 2002
Subject: [R-390] Antenna question

writes: > What is/was the recommended "standard" antenna and feedline for the > R390A?

There is no recommended standard because the radio was used in so many applications. The only installation documentation I have ever seen showed unbalanced was for whip antennas and the balanced for a doublet (if you are under fifty read "dipole") fed with twisted pair. I use twisted pair and even CAT5 cable with multiple dipoles and get excellent results with good zeroing of the antenna tuner on all bands. The twisted pair also has the added (and primary) advantage of making the antenna system immune from noise not detected by the antenna elements, such as the PC computers in the shack that everybody is always complaining about, because twisted pairs cancel out induced currents...which is why the phone company can smash thousands of them together in a bundle, and why your CAT 5 cable works at 100 Mhz without any shielding...imagine that.

Running an unbalanced feedline invites local noise, and using a balun to then feed it into the balanced input accomplishes nothing more than adding more loss and yet another tuned artifact into the system. If you really want the extra stage gain on the unbalanced input, do the Navy mod, which grounds one side of the balanced input (making it unbalanced) and feeding the other side out the unbalanced bulkhead connector. That gives you an unbalanced 75 ohm system which not only allows you to use cheap TV coax like RG-59 or RG-11, but also just happens to be the impedance at the feedpoint of a resonant half wave dipole.

WOW...Isn't that exciting? Now, listen to this...magnified ninety two thousand times, the sound of the viscous Afgan panther lizard visiting the chemist... Twisted Twit Hammarlund

From cbscott@ingr.com Thu Jul 18 19:25:17 2002
Subject: [R-390] Antenna question

I'd like to try this. Curious about a few things, though.

1. Isn't the impedance of a plain-old dipole somewhere near 50 - 75 ohms instead of 150? I realize this isn't too bad for a receiver, but just wondering if there's a way to get a better match. I know a folded dipole makes for about 300-ohms at the feedpoint, but that's not much better.
2. Not familiar with CAT5. Is it possible to take some good, insulated wire (I have a large spool of 26-ish gauge, stranded, teflon coated wire -- good quality stuff) and twist my own twisted pair? Something along the lines of 2 to 4 twists per inch maybe?

Thanks for the suggestion. I would like to have a separate receiving antenna so I can run my xcvr without changing the antenna everytime. Barry(III)- N4BUQ

From jordana@nucleus.com Thu Jul 18 19:35:23 2002
Subject: [R-390] Antenna question

Hi have used Hy-Gain BN-86 baluns to feed the balanced input through the matching Amphenol Twin Ax connector with excellent results for years... aligning the balanced transformers using the same method as described in the R-390 non"A" manual is crucial. Aligning the input using a pair of 62 ohm resistors fed from the URM-25 . to each of the balanced input connectors. The center conductor goes to the junction of the resistors, and the ground lead goes to the chassis.... It works every time for me... 73 de Jordan...

From richardlo@devax.admin.athabasca.ca Thu Jul 18 19:44:39 2002
Subject: [R-390] Antenna question

wrote: > 2. Not familiar with CAT5. Is it possible to take some good, insulated > wire (I have a large spool of 26-ish gauge, stranded, teflon coated wire -- > good quality stuff) and twist my own twisted pair? Something along the l > ines of 2 to 4 twists per inch maybe?

Catagory 5 refers to a standard for multi-pair telephone cable: it is 26Ga solid wire using the telco's favourite colour code (things like white/blue paired with blue/white) and it twisted more like 20 twists per inch. Sounds like a lot of work to imitate to me...

> > fed with twisted pair. I use twisted pair and even CAT5 cable > > with multiple dipoles and get excellent results with good zeroing > > of the antenna tuner on all bands. The twisted pair also has the > > added (and primary) advantage of making the antenna system > > immune from noise not detected by the antenna elements, such

Sounds like a great plan. Just one question: will it handle full output from my T-368 or will I have to lower the output a bit? :) --- Richard Loken

From wa9msd@ggnet.net Thu Jul 18 21:17:55 2002
Subject: [R-390] Norfolk VA surplus haunts??

I'll be traveling to Norfolk VA this weekend. Can anyone help me with any good electronic/military surplus stores? Or?? Thanks in advance! Joe, WA9MSD

From nryan@intrex.net Thu Jul 18 21:50:32 2002
Subject: [R-390] Norfolk VA surplus haunts??

Hi, Joe,

There is a place in Virginia Beach called "Grand Junquetion" on Virginia Beach Blvd. You can't miss it from the road (south side) when you see the old railroad cars. Owner had been ill when last I saw the place a couple of years ago, so cannot guarantee he is still there.

Scroll down to "Virginia" at this link:
<<http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Hall/8701/mega/boatanch.htm>>

I've not seen the other places on that website. Let us know what you find, OK? 73 de Norman
KG4SEM

From jlkolb@cts.com Fri Jul 19 02:18:31 2002
Subject: [R-390] Antenna question

Yep, that's how we fed them on the Navy ships I was on - a right angle connector which plugged into the twinax connector, shorted one side to gnd and output the other to the center pin of a type C connector.

We mostly fed them with 35 foot vertical whips, through long runs of coax, but also had a couple of long wire available, also connected with long coax. John

From w5or@comcast.net Fri Jul 19 02:25:42 2002
Subject: [R-390] Antenna question

Barry,
I'll send you a short piece of CAT5 cable (< 100ft) should you not be able to find any locally. But it is ubiquitous (ahh, finally a chance to use that word!) and a visit to *any* network install crew should net you plenty of free short runs to experiment with. CAT5 cable will give you 4 pairs per cable. It won't last long out in the sun. The losses at these impedance mismatch levels are very small. Don Reaves
W5OR

From ba.williams@charter.net Fri Jul 19 02:32:45 2002
Subject: [R-390] Antenna question

Tom,

Let me get this straight. I'm not trying to be ornery. Are you saying that CAT-5 ethernet cable is better than coax? Ethernet cable isn't that expensive. I bought a 100' roll at Rat Shack to run a long line under the house for networking to the router. I did discover that coiling the extra 10' of cable at the computer slowed the data down to a crawl. I lopped off the extra cable, made a new connector, and Internet speeds jumped up to where they were supposed to be. I wonder why coiling CAT-5 will slow things down so much.

I would have to feed 2 dipoles. I guess the extra twisted pairs would be good for additional antennas this fall.

Okay, here is another problem. I read the RFI thread a few weeks ago and found it interesting. I had no

problems then. Very quiet with 2 computers within a few feet of the radios. Now, I seem to be having a new problem. The new TV in the den is causing light RFI every 15 kc up and down the bands. The TV is 3 rooms away!!! My coax runs outside about 20' away from the blasted thing, but it would seem to not be the source of the problem. Any ideas before I tell my kid the new TV is broken at night and to go use the one in his brother's room?

I don't transmit, so receiving is the only problem here. Barry

From ba.williams@charter.net Fri Jul 19 02:36:08 2002
Subject: [R-390] Antenna question

> Barry, > I'll send you a short piece of CAT5 cable (< 100ft) should you not be able > to find any locally. But it is ubiquitous (ahh, finally a chance to use > that > word!) and a visit to *any* network install crew should net you plenty of > free > short runs to experiment with. CAT5 cable will give you 4 pairs per cable. > It won't last long out in the sun. The losses at these impedance mismatch > levels are very small.
Don, You meant me, right? That must be why you can run hundreds of feet of the stuff for Ethernet with no problems. You want my address too? the other other Barry

From whertel@onemain.com Fri Jul 19 02:39:11 2002
Subject: [R-390] Antenna question

Where I was, being a dry land sailor, we had rhombics oriented every 30 degrees feeding walls of multicouplers (CU-168s) feeding racks of patch-panels, feeding lots of R-390As, and one lonely SP-600. Forgot where. Had a memory wipe when I left. Are those black helicopters I hear?
AAARRRGGGHHHHHH.....

From larry.asp@sympatico.ca Fri Jul 19 02:57:47 2002
Subject: [R-390] DEAD BANDS PROBLEM

Just brought home a nice R-390A. Its a hot radio on all but 3 bands which seem dead - theres noise, but no signals, and no calibrator beat. The bands are 5Mc and 22mc. 30mc seems weak, otherwise a hot radio. Any ideas on what to look for before "working" on the radio would be much appreciated.

From jetemp@insightbb.com Fri Jul 19 03:13:55 2002
Subject: [R-390] DEAD BANDS PROBLEM

Bands 5 and 22 share a common crystal. I would reseal and otherwise check the Y406 crystal position, under the cover on the crystal osc unit. Jim

From DCrespy@aol.com Fri Jul 19 03:23:09 2002
Subject: [R-390] Antenna question

Whenever we get into these discussions, I cringe.

We start sweating whether we have a 75 ohm or a 150 ohm antenna and feedline to match the balanced

or unbalanced antenna connection on the radio. Fact is for receiving with one antenna, we will be lucky at low frequencies to have a match for a few hundred kcs. At higher frequencies we might get 500 kcs. Everywhere else the match will vary from a few ohms to a few thousand. The coax impedance, does not correct for the antenna impedance. In fact the radio sees the antenna impedance (I think they call this "conjugate matching").

The radio is wired (antenna to RF amp) for link (inductive) coupling for the "balanced input" and capacitive coupling for the "unbalanced input". If I remember this right, theoretically, you should get better dynamic range with the "balanced" and better tolerance of mismatches through the "unbalanced". That is the only real difference. I'd just be sure to decide which you plan to use and use that connection for alignment. Otherwise it really shouldn't matter much. I think Chuck Ripple has some data that overall performance is better using link coupling.

Finally, pick the feedline for best isolation from noise, not for impedance. RG-6 is very good with a foil shield. The twisted pair discussion also seems a good solution.

Finally and unrelated, if enough of us are hams, would there be any interest in an R-390 net some time? Enough for tonight! 73 Harry KG5LO

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Fri Jul 19 03:36:08 2002
Subject: [R-390] DEAD BANDS PROBLEM

Hi John:

Could be Y406, the 12.5 MHz crystal which is used for both the 5 and 22 mc bands. 30 mc must be something else as that crystal (Y403, 11 Mhz) is shared by 3 other bands, 2 mc, 8 mc and 19mc. Did you check those bands also? The crystal scheme is shown in schematic form on page 3-12 of the Y2K manual (page 50 in acrobat sequence). I seem to remember a chart that showed the crystal usage, but forgot where that is.

Sometimes there's some corrosion on the xtal pins and all that's needed is some deoxit. I've also found some crystal decks with loose socket contacts. These can be tightened up with a small blade screwdriver by removing the xtal and pressing down on the flat contact stamping a bit. This applies to the simple contact type that's basically a dimple in the metal with hole in the middle and one or two slits.

I have also found some R-390A's with bad crystals. Another possibility -- the trimmers on the xtal deck have some corrosion. Hope this helps. Barry

From twleiper@juno.com Fri Jul 19 04:44:28 2002
Subject: [R-390] Antenna question

writes: > Sounds like a great plan. Just one question: will it handle full > output from my T-368 or will I have to lower the output a bit? :)

It will handle the full output...briefly. A little longer in "tune" :-) Wilford Robards

From twleiper@juno.com Fri Jul 19 04:38:34 2002
Subject: [R-390] Antenna question

writes: > 1. Isn't the impedance of a plain-old dipole somewhere near 50 - 75 Ohm in free space or a wavelength above ground, yes. 75 Ohm.

> 2. Not familiar with CAT5.

Cheap network cable. You can go to a scrap yard and get all you want for pennies. It has four twisted pairs and is just fine for receiving. As to UV exposure, you can replace it every year for ten years and it will be cheaper than using a good 50 ohm cable like RG-55 or RG-9. I use a run of CAT 5 to hook up to four dipoles that are oriented in two directions and on two bands. A simple 2P4T wafer switch is at the receiver end to select between the antennas.

> Is it possible to take some good, insulated wire...and twist > my own twisted pair?

I wouldn't waste that fine wire or your precious time on that. The 100 Mhz CAT 5 has twisted pairs that are actually bonded together and the twists are very consistent. You might find some nice old thermostat or doorbell wire that is twisted, and also of heavier gauge...about 16 to 18, just in case you want to transmit as well. If nothing else, ordinary "zip" type lampcord makes a dandy balanced line...and the neatest thing is that all you have to do is put a tie-wrap one quarter wavelength from one end and "unzip" it back...instant dipole with no connections in the weather. But like ladder line, you have to be more cautious about where you run the zip cord...best is straight out the window. It's great for portable outdoor operation, however.

> Thanks for the suggestion. I would like to have a separate > receiving antenna so I can run my xcvr without changing the antenna > everytime.

All the above will work for you. Professor Irwin Cory

From twleiper@juno.com Fri Jul 19 05:15:27 2002
Subject: [R-390] Antenna question

writes: > Tom, > > Are you saying that CAT-5 ethernet cable is better than coax?

It depends upon what you want. If you are only receiving or transmitting at QRP levels, using a receiver with a balanced input available, want to effortlessly null out any currents that are not induced in the antenna elements, want to use several antennas without having an antenna switch or relay outside and up high, don't want to care if lightning zorches your expensive feedline, and have boxes of the stuff laying around...yes, CAT 5 is better.

> I wonder why coiling CAT-5 will slow things down so much.

Because "coiling" can allow induced peaks and nulls to develop in the line. Remember, those signals have very high bandwidth so many resonances can develop along with imbalances. If you had instead simply stuffed the cable into a milk jug in a random fashion you would not have had a problem. I've run into this problem all the time with network installers who are too tidy and like to leave extra cable coiled up in the ceiling. I just undo the tie-wraps and scramble it into a nice ugly ball.

> I would have to feed 2 dipoles. I guess the extra twisted pairs > would be good for additional antennas this fall.

Yup. And you can just make a plexi disk with eight posts around and wire up your four dipoles in a radial or fan array.

> Okay, here is another problem. ...The new TV in the den is > causing light RFI every 15 kc up and down the bands. > The TV is 3 rooms away!!!

The question is how close it is to the antenna. Your receiver may be doing it's job and the TV is simply a piece of shit. I would first stick a wire in the unbalanced connector and see if I could get that TV marker generator directly, and, if so, work on cleaning up the TV. How do you do that (I hear you cry)? First make sure the HV anode connection (in the piece of shit) is good and there isn't a leak somewhere, next put an RFI filter on the power cord of the TV, and finally, trade it in for a couple of good books. The kids need to read more anyway. Otto Von Helseng

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Fri Jul 19 06:15:13 2002
Subject: [R-390] Antenna question

Say, Tom ...

I dunno how to break this to you, but some famous old (and dead) guys have hijacked your email identity and are posting the reflector with it. I could tell because they left out the codewords "twit" and "HAMMARLUND."

All seriousness aside, there is some variety in CAT 5 cable. Some is intended for runs in ceilings and walls from switches and hubs to outlets and is typically made up of four twisted pairs of solid core wire so it works in punch-down telco style connections. The stranded variety is usually intended for cordsets with the modular plugs on each end to hookup from outlet to PC.

It was mentioned that the CAT 5 cable won't hold up long with exposure to the sun's rays. However, the high-end plenum cable has a teflon jacket. I don't know if the cost has come down on that type -- it tended to be rather pricey. But, I'd think it might hold up better with long term outside exposure. Philo T. Farnsworth Hey?!

From Walter Wilson" <walter@r-390a.us Fri Jul 19 10:46:55 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390 net (was Antenna question)

<snip> > Finally and unrelated, if enough of us are hams, would there be any interest > in an R-390 net some time? <snip> > Harry KG5LO

I think an R-390/R-390A net would be a great idea. We should first take a poll of who is interested, your location, and preferred mode/frequency of operation. I'll start: Walter Wilson - KK4DF Augusta,

If we have just a few interested and we're scattered all over the place, we'll need to pick one of the higher frequencies during the daytime. If we get a lot of interest, we may have several options or multiple nets. Any other takers? Walter Wilson - KK4DF

From tomvojtek@cox.net Fri Jul 19 11:11:52 2002
Subject: [R-390] Norfolk VA surplus haunts??

Unfortunately, Grand Junquetion closed its doors late in the year 2000. It was an interesting place where once in a while you could find a bargain but they weren't making money. After new management

gave it a try for some months they sold off what stock they could and closed. This was the only true electronic and scientific surplus store in the area known to me. 73 Tom V.

From cbscott@ingr.com Fri Jul 19 17:43:17 2002
Subject: [R-390] Antenna question

Don, Thanks for the offer. I'm pretty sure I can find some locally. I work for a company that does its own networking, so I might even find some scraps around here. Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From mackeyka@mac.com Fri Jul 19 17:43:11 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390 net (was Antenna question)

I like the idea, I don't have a low band rig at the present time but would tune in with my R-390A and listen until such time as I purchase one (maybe this fall or winter). Perhaps some on the net are in my area and we could have a 2M or 440 net. Kim Mackey - KB9BZL

From W1CNY Bob Rinaldi" <w1cny@attbi.com Fri Jul 19 22:46:04 2002
Subject: [R-390] 3TF7

Hello Group: Has anyone experimented with using a resistor in place of the 3TF7? And what is the actual resistance of the 3TF7? Thanks! Bob W1CNY

From lal@metrocast.net Fri Jul 19 23:12:03 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-389

Hello All..

Wonder if anyone on the reflector can point me in the right direction as to where I can find information and a picture of the R389 unit. I have searched but was unable to find anything. Thanks Merle

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Fri Jul 19 23:18:55 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-389

Picture here: <http://www.dxing.com/r390/r389.htm>

Make sure you search for both "collins r389" and "collins r-389". I did a Google search and had a number of hits. I think the amount of tech info on these units is very little. Scott

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Jul 19 23:27:49 2002
Subject: [R-390] 3TF7

writes: << Hello Group: Has anyone experimented with using a resistor in place of the 3TF7? And what is the actual resistance of the 3TF7? Thanks! Bob W1CNY >>

Uh oh....does this mean the "beat the dead horse" subject is once again alive??

My 2 cents.....I have had 33 R-390A's and one (sob) R-390. I have used solid state devices for years.....some will say I'm a witch.....(I think the terminology is Warlock), but here goes.

They ALL work, resistors, diodes, solid state ballast replacement modules, tubes, 12BA6's, 12BH7's and others. I recommend Chuck Rippel's replacement module, as it works great and has a soft start feature.

Other opinions are welcome and will appear as if by magic shortly. The 3TF7 is available new for approximately \$40, but they are in short supply. Les Locklear

From hankarn@pacbell.net Fri Jul 19 23:35:34 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-389

Merle, I have a like new operating R-389 with original manual that is a 9.999 unit. I can shoot a digital of the front panel as it is in the rack between other units. Looks good, feels good and the tuning motor is flawless and above all it sounds great. Hank KN6DI

From Jim Shorney" < Sat Jul 20 00:00:30 2002
Subject: [R-390] 3TF7

wrote: >.some will say I'm a witch.....(I think the >terminology is Warlock), but here goes.

Actually, most male witches prefer to simply be called a 'witch'. From:
<http://www.choronzon.com/efsd/whichwitch.html>

<quote> According to the Arcade Dictionary of Word Origins, by John Ayto, Arcade Publishing, 1991: Etymologically, a *warlock* is a 'liar on oath', and hence a 'traitor' or 'deceiver'. Indeed, the word originally meant 'traitor' in English. It soon broadened out into a general term of abuse, and it was also used as an epithet for the 'Devil', but the modern sense 'evil sorcerer' did not emerge until the 14th century. It started life as a compound noun formed from woer 'faith, pledge' (a relative of English 'very' and German wahr 'true') and -loga 'liar' (a derivative of 'leogan', the ancestor of modern English 'lie').
</quote>

I promise never to ask about the 3TF7.

From Llgpt@aol.com Sat Jul 20 00:04:42 2002
Subject: [R-390] 3TF7

writes: wrote: >.some will say I'm a witch.....(I think the >terminology is Warlock), but here goes. I promise never to ask about the 3TF7.

Probably a good thing you won't, cause I have plenty of frog hairs and newt's eyes left. Les

From Jim Shorney" < Sat Jul 20 00:09:51 2002
Subject: [R-390] 3TF7

wrote: >Probably a good thing you won't, cause I have plenty of frog hairs and newt's >eyes

Hey, I was in the computer business for 12 years, I know _plenty about witchcraft... :-)

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Sat Jul 20 00:07:06 2002
Subject: [R-390] 3TF7

> The 3TF7 is available new for approximately \$40, but they are in short supply.

Some lucky guy just got 2 NOS one's on e-bay for \$31. Someone underestimated their value and put them on "buy it now" for that amount. Ya gotta watch. Scott

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Sat Jul 20 00:24:48 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-389

Hello Hank, What is the Serial Number & ORDER NR on your R-389? Do you know if there is an Historian who is archiving info on the receiver ONLY? Mine is ORDER NR. 14214-PH-51-93, SN: 152. 73, Glen Galati, KA7BOJ Tacoma, WA

From Llgpt@aol.com Sat Jul 20 00:32:10 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-389

writes: << What is the Serial Number & ORDER NR on your R-389?

Do you know if there is an Historian who is archiving info on the receiver ONLY?
Mine is ORDER NR. 14214-PH-51-93, SN: 152.

They ALL come from that order number, there were approximately 1,500 produced. Les Locklear

From hankarn@pacbell.net Sat Jul 20 01:41:57 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-389

My S/N is 576 Hank KN6DI

From courir26@yahoo.com Sat Jul 20 01:53:22 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-389

The highest number that I have noted is sn 734. 73 Tom N5OFF

From ba.williams@charter.net Sat Jul 20 02:14:35 2002
Subject: [R-390] Antenna question

>> Are you saying that CAT-5 ethernet cable is better than coax? > > It depends upon what you want. If you are only receiving or > transmitting at QRP levels, using a receiver with a balanced input > available, want to effortlessly null out any currents that are not

Yep, just receiving. I'm sort of antenna poor at the moment with 2 dipoles up. A temporary octaloop came down this spring and the permanent amplified loop somehow never got built before summer hit in

full force. I need that for the RBL-5. I tried both balanced and unbalanced in the past. I stick with balanced antennas.

>> I wonder why coiling CAT-5 will slow things down so much.

>

> Because "coiling" can allow induced peaks and nulls to develop > in the line.

I didn't think about it being twisted wire. I did know it was low impedance. I needed that extra bit for a connector later anyway.

>> I would have to feed 2 dipoles. I guess the extra twisted pairs would be good for additional antennas this fall.

>

> Yup. And you can just make a plexi disk with eight posts around and wire up your four dipoles in a radial or fan array.

>> Okay, here is another problem. ...The new TV in the den is >> causing light RFI every 15 kc up and down the bands. >> The TV is 3 rooms away!!!

>

> The question is how close it is to the antenna. Your receiver may > be doing it's job and the TV is simply a piece of shit. I would > first stick a wire in the unbalanced connector and see if I could > get that TV marker generator directly, and, if so, work on cleaning > up the TV. How do you do that (I hear you cry)? First make sure > the HV anode connection (in the piece of shit) is good and there isn't > a leak somewhere, next put an RFI filter on the power cord of the > TV, and finally, trade it in for a couple of good books. The kids need > to read more anyway. > > Otto Von Helsing

I agree about books being better than vegetating in front of the TV....unless it's news. I'm going to cover the TV some tonight with a large, heavy cookie sheet and see what top shielding does. My coax feed slopes away from the TV, but I went out and looked this morning I saw that both dipole centers were just about right over that cheap TV. Rotating the TV table didn't help any last night, so I'm thinking a heavy metal sheet on top may help. If not, I have some thin zinc sheets that I can bend until I find a good shield shape. Dropping the TV and saying, "oops" would sure be a lot easier and more satisfying. I'll do the wire in the unbalanced connector first. Thanks for the tips. Barry

From wjneill@lcc.net Sat Jul 20 02:48:34 2002

Subject: [R-390] R-389

I have S/N 363 Bill Neill Conroe, Texas

From W9RAN@oneradio.net Sat Jul 20 02:58:30 2002

Subject: [R-390] R-389

Sounds like I have the granddaddy of 'em all with s/n 54. It's in 9+ condition and works great, but wonder if there are any older ones out there?

73, Bob W9RAN

From DCrespy@aol.com Sat Jul 20 03:10:20 2002

Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390 net (was Antenna question)

I started this one. So far just 3 replies. I'd be game for a 20 meter Sunday morning deal, or 75 meters one evening during the week. From the other nets I check in to, it is going to take a lot more than 3 folks to make this work. we probably need something like 25 or so to start and be sustainable. Sooo.. Any more interest in an R-390/390A net?

By the way the 3TF7 resistor is ($E=I \cdot R$, $E=12.6$, $I=0.30$) around 42 ohms, at least 5 watts (10 would be better).

73 (and don't sweat your coax/antenna impedance or your 3TF7 fix) Harry KG5LO

From gwmoore@moorefelines.com Sat Jul 20 04:12:16 2002

Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390 net (was Antenna question)

Done, count me in, any time or freq you desire ;-) 73 de WA3IVX (Greg)

From bill@iaxs.net Sat Jul 20 04:23:44 2002

Subject: [R-390] Antenna question

Well, I tried to coax 5 cats into a pipe but they coiled up and went to sleep. Can't even get a static pop from the pipe. Ether would just make it worse. And I can't imagine how a net would help. Bill

From Jim Shorney" < Sat Jul 20 04:52:56 2002

Subject: [R-390] Antenna question

wrote: >Well, I tried to coax 5 cats into a pipe but they coiled up and went to sleep. Can't even get a static pop from the pipe. Ether would just make it worse. And I can't imagine how a net would help.

You need cats who's parents are brother and sister; this is the twisted pair. You must also use very small cats, so they won't try to kill each other in the confined space (requiring you to de-frag the cats). Try the 10-10 net, I understand they have plenty of cats. Open-source cats can be licenced free, of course, but I don't think they can learn CW.

From salmaniw@shaw.ca Sat Jul 20 05:15:21 2002

Subject: [R-390] R-389

wrote: >What is the Serial Number & ORDER NR on your R-389?

Glen, do you remember the look of fascination when you showed my then 12 year old son the motor drive on the 389? He (and I) was absolutely spellbound. A great rig! Walter (Volodya) Salmaniw, MD

From ka3oyj@netcarrier.com Sat Jul 20 05:42:17 2002

Subject: [R-390] R-389

Your right Bob, there are older ones out there. I have serial number 37 here along with a 300 something

or other number.(I can't get to it right now, as it is stashed under a pile of dirty little boatanchors that some people call radios, I think they are R-390A's ;)) Joe

From w5or@comcast.net Sat Jul 20 09:21:13 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-389

Ok guys, you're pushing my hot button now. I'm collecting pictures of R-389 rigs to post on the web along with mine. You can find what I have already collected at <http://www.r-389.com>. As for specifications, components, and historical perspective, I'm waiting on the US Army to see if they can recover the original build drawings for the R-389 under a FOIA request, like Tom did with the R-390A. As several months have elapsed with only two meager responses, it does not look promising from them, unless they are preoccupied with other matters, like war.. I have a few of the original drawings, for instance, the build specs for the tube pin straighteners and the shuttle window, and a few others. Lots of pictures accumulated for modules and parts but haven't organized them well or posted many of them yet. Any input appreciated. Hopefully the highest quality pictures will help those souls who are rebuilding R-389's. I know of a few around that have been rescued from the dumpsters, some of which suffer from missing PTO's and salt water corrosion.

Good to hear so many of you have one and have it running and great condition. Don Reaves W5OR

From W1CNY Bob Rinaldi" <w1cny@attbi.com Sat Jul 20 13:20:41 2002
Subject: [R-390] 3TF7

Thanks to all who helped with suggestions on replacing the 3TF7. I'm just getting my feet wet with a 390A. 73, Bob W1CNY

From Sun Jul 21 03:10:54 2002
Subject: [R-390] Antenna question

blw wrote: >Okay, here is another problem. I read the RFI thread a few weeks ago and found it interesting. I had no problems then. ...

You NEED a transmitter. A big one. Hook it up directly to the TV and transmit into the tv. Fry it good. They cannot be fixed, you know.

Tell the kids to go to someone else's house to watch tv. TV.... just say NO. Sorry.. off soap box.

There ARE genuine twinax coaxial cables available. I have two samples here, but you'll likely never find these particular product numbers. They came from computer local area network systems:

Henricks Technologies Inxc. #7362211 E67179 20AWG (UL) CL2 80C
Phalo/Belden 7362211 AWM Style 2498

Call or email Joel at RF Connections. He'll fix you right up www.therfc.com Roy

From Sun Jul 21 03:25:17 2002

Subject: [R-390] R-389

wrote: >The highest number that I have noted is sn 734. > > > My S/N is 576 > > Hank > > KN6DI

Mine is S/N 9. Roy

From tomvojtek@cox.net Sun Jul 21 05:06:25 2002

Subject: [R-390] R-389

Mine is s/n 438, order number 14214-ph-51-93. The condition is very good.

From Llgpt@aol.com Sun Jul 21 12:34:30 2002

Subject: [R-390] R-389

writes: << Mine is s/n 438, order number 14214-ph-51-93. The condition is very good.

Just for information, all of the R-389's were built on order no. 14214-PH-51-93. Les Locklear

From Walter Wilson" <walter@r-390a.us Sun Jul 21 13:50:24 2002

Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390 net (was Antenna question)

So far there are five who are interested in an R-390 net:

Harry,KG5LO Michigan

Walter,KK4DF Georgia

Bob,W1CNY Connecticut

Kim,KB9BZL Ohio

Greg,WA3IVX Pennsylvania

As Harry says, we will need far more than those listed for this to succeed. 20 meters on Sunday or 75 meters during the week would work great for me as well. If anyone else is interested, let us know.

Walter Wilson - KK4DF

From dlwade@pacbell.net Sun Jul 21 16:53:21 2002

Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390 net (was Antenna question)

I would be verrry interested in an R-390 net. HF from 80-10 will be available here very soon. I could do either a Sunday or weekday evening net (not to early though) with a slight preference to weekday evenings. Dennis

From kslu@prodigy.net Sun Jul 21 18:53:10 2002

Subject: [R-390] 6T4F

Hello. While cleaning the basement I found a cache of tubes, most of which are for my 1955 Collins R-390A. However, a bunch are Amperite 6T4F ballast tubes. Does anyone know what radio they are for? Thanks. George

From fritsche@email.msn.com Sun Jul 21 21:58:43 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390 net (was Antenna question)

I would be available for a net, anytime and any freq except 80M. Al W5ADF

From ba.williams@charter.net Mon Jul 22 02:08:38 2002
Subject: [R-390] Antenna question

>> Okay, here is another problem. I read the RFI thread a few weeks ago and found it interesting. I had no problems then. ... The new TV in the den is causing light RFI every 15 kc up and down the bands. I don't transmit, so receiving is the only problem here.

> You NEED a transmitter. A big one.

I keep telling you- bring one on down. (g)

> Hook it up directly to the TV and transmit into the tv. Fry it good. They > cannot be fixed, you know.
> > Tell the kids to go to someone else's house to watch tv. > > TV.... just say NO.

I agree. More channels and more wasteland. Actually, the TV wasn't on Friday night and I didn't get any RFI last night for some reason. It will start up again soon. Don't worry about the soapbox thing, today's kids get dumber and dumber if you ask me. Funny how analog teaching devices like chalkboards provided a much better education.

> There ARE genuine twinax coaxial cables available. > Henricks Technologies Inxc. #7362211
E67179 20AWG (UL) CL2 80C > Phalo/Belden 7362211 AWM Style 2498 > > Call or email Joel at
RF Connections. He'll fix you right up > www.therfc.com > > Roy

Are you trying to get me to believe that I'll get good service if I say Roy sent me? I'll try the website now. Thanks. Barry

From BRingwoo@csir.co.za Mon Jul 22 10:18:51 2002
Subject: [R-390] OT Wrinkle finish front panels

Hi all,

Sorry to be slightly OT - Has anyone any idea how to whiten the lettering on an engraved front panel finished in a wrinkle-finish ? Regards to all, Bryce

From chg111@hotmail.com Mon Jul 22 13:49:05 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-389

Gents -My R-389's s/n is 153, & the contract # is 14214-PH51-93. -Sandy Geiger.

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Jul 22 13:55:38 2002
Date: Mon, 22 Jul 2002 07:55:38 -0500

How did this work for you? Would Martha Stewart approve? What kind of cookies did you use? I figure chocolate-chip would be a good choice. The relative density of the chocolate soaks up RF energy better than, say a plain sugar cookie. Let us know the results. Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From hankarn@pacbell.net Mon Jul 22 14:16:57 2002
Subject: [R-390] OT Wrinkle finish front panels

Use a fine tipped artists brush and acrylic. Hank KN6DI

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Mon Jul 22 14:54:00 2002
Subject: [R-390] OT Wrinkle finish front panels

> Use a fine tipped artists brush and acrylic.

And keep some water and tissues handy to clean any "excess" off panel. Good thing about the acrylic is that if it is not coming out to your liking, just wash it off. Scott

From ba.williams@charter.net Mon Jul 22 16:03:00 2002
Subject: [R-390] Antenna question

> How did this work for you? Would Martha Stewart approve? What kind of cookies did you use? I figure chocolate-chip would be a good choice. The relative density of the chocolate soaks up RF energy better than, say a plain sugar cookie. Let us know the results. Barry(III) - N4BUQ

I used a dozen junk bonds, with some munis sprinkled on top, and sold short at 350 mHz. I found the receipe in "Cooking the Books with Martha."

The shielding didn't work last night. Didn't make a dent in the RFI. Barry

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Tue Jul 23 09:50:45 2002
Subject: [R-390] 6T4F

Hello George,

I did a FEDLOG Search of your MYSTERY 6T4F which should be identical electrically to the 6T4, NSN 5905-00-173-5998, which cost the tax payers \$2.33 when ? last procured by the U.S. NAVY. By the way this could be mistaken for the 6T4 Vacuum Tube 7-Pin miniature UHF Triode Oscillator. Your 6TF4 is a RESISTOR, CURRENT REGULATING, AC/DC, Current Range 0.58 to 0.64 Amperes, 4.3 Volt threshold, 7Pin miniature with T5-1/2 envelope and says the application was "VL", whatever that implies. It could stand for Voltage Limiter. Can you take an accurate DC Resistance measurement between pins 2 & 7 and let us know what the cold resistance is?

Here is some interesting info on the the 3TF7 Current Limiting Resistor as specified for the R-390 Series. The FEDLOG description specifically identifies this as Application R-390/URR, AC/DC, 0.040 to 0.260 Amperes, 10.2 Volts Threshold, 9-Pin Miniature with T-6-1/2 envelope. NSN 5905-00-259-1964, and was last procured \$118.27. Measured DC Resistance is approximately 12-12.75 Ohms.

Now, here is an interesting twist to the story. Amperite PN: TJ311M01, NSN 5905-00-681-4707; DC, Current Range 0.31 to 0.33 Amperes, 8.0 Volts Threshold, 9-Pin Miniature with T-6-1/2 envelope. The FEDLOG states "WHEN EXHAUSTED USE 5905-00-259-1964" which is a 3TF7. Hmmmmm! Makes you wonder-What we really need here is to do a close scrutiny of the TM/TO's for the R-389, R-390, R-390A. and R-391 Part List and see what part number and stock number was listed.

I use an outdated FEDLOG (OCT 98) since there is a lot of purging of older parts and stock numbers. I still have the old micro-fiche but only the MCRL-1 and MCR-II which does not have the descriptions. Also, I will trust the facts of the manuals for the particular equipment before I fully endorse the info as presented in the Federal Supply Systems. Errors have been made such as requisitioning 1000 bolts for tower rehab and receiving 1000 anti-tank mines with the SAME NIIN which used to be FIIN. I WAS THERE!

If some one has the parts manuals for the above equipment, perhaps they can shed additional light on the subject. STAY COOL! 73, Glen Galati, KA7BOJ, ex WB0AXK, DL4GG, HL9WA

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Tue Jul 23 12:26:57 2002
Subject: [R-390] 328 and 387 Lamps

Anyone have a source?

I am sure this question has been asked a hundred times and I did try to look in the archives but the biggest problem is that they are NOT online searchable. And I could find no reference to them in the Yahoo 390 group. My usual antique radio sources list none. Thanks, Scott

From martin.benoit@sympatico.ca Tue Jul 23 13:27:40 2002
Subject: [R-390] 4 kc filter

Hello in my Motorola R390A the 4 kc filter is defective (20 db attenuation) I am wondering where i can find a solution to fix it. Tnx Martin

From plmills@attglobal.net Tue Jul 23 13:34:57 2002
Subject: [R-390] 328 and 387 Lamps

Scott, Mouser electronics has them on page 126 of their latest catalog. Call 800-346-6873.

606-CM327 .50 for 1-9 .43 for 10-100
606-CM387 .47 for 1-9 .40 for 10-100
good luck, Phil

From kslu@prodigy.net Tue Jul 23 16:01:19 2002
Subject: [R-390] 6T4F

Glen: Thanks again for the info. The resistance between pins 2 and 7 is 3.3 ohms. George

From buzz@softcom.net Tue Jul 23 16:16:50 2002
Subject: [R-390] 4 kc filter

Martian, Take a look at my page at: <http://www.lanset.com/buzz/misc/filter/390Afilter.html> Buzz

From nryan@intrex.net Tue Jul 23 17:39:47 2002
Subject: [R-390] 328 and 387 Lamps

Hello, Scott,

I have some of both types at .90 for the first lamp and .40 for each additional lamp postpaid in the US. Overseas postage additional. 73 de Norman KG4SWM

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Tue Jul 23 17:37:56 2002
Subject: [R-390] 4 kc filter

Look here for info on new replacement filters: <http://www.r390a.com/html/Curry.html>

Fair Radio sells IF modules that they guarantee has good filters. Little expensive at \$125.00
<http://www.fairradio.com/hfrece.htm> Scott

From goode@tribeam.com Tue Jul 23 23:21:31 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-Release 2

I have finally had time to download the release 2 manual and would like to thank everyone who made it possible. In my new copy page 6-91 has in big red letters "need picture". The old copy had the RF gear train explosion. Have I made a mistake in the download or do I need to download an additional file?
Thanks again, Steve, K9NG

From Llgpt@aol.com Tue Jul 23 23:17:37 2002
Subject: [R-390] 4 kc filter

writes: << Look here for info on new replacement filters:

<http://www.r390a.com/html/Curry.html> Fair Radio sells IF modules that they guarantee has good filters. Little expensive at \$125.00 <http://www.fairradio.com/hfrece.htm> Scott >>

They might be good 'now', but the 4 kc filter is/was the most used filter on the R-390A. They will only vibrate a certain number of times before they go kaput! And, that time has approached judging from the failure rates being reported now. Les

From PDulaff@dpconline.com Tue Jul 23 23:51:26 2002
Subject: [R-390] Manufacturer of R390A

I just purchased a Fair Radio R390A and I need to know who manufactured it. As I discovered, the serial number plate was removed. I would like to get the correct manufacturer/contract number plate from Fair Radio such that my restoration will be correct. Can any of you good folks supply me with the clues as to how to determine this ? Paul

From root@al.tirevold.name Tue Jul 23 23:50:28 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-Release 2

Nope, Steve, you're not seeing things.

The picture in the Y2K-R1 manual was barely (un)useable, so I didn't try to reproduce it this time.

I now have a very fine detailed scan from Miguel Bravo that I am working on getting split to two or three pages that is a LOT easier to read. Things are hapening (when I'm home...)... Keep an eye out for further enhancements..... Al, WA0HQQ

From courir26@yahoo.com Wed Jul 24 00:26:15 2002
Subject: [R-390] Manufacturer of R390A

Paul,

The frame and modules could have all been made by different cos., or all the same one. The best way to check the frame is to:

a. look on the back and see if it is stamped there I'm so good at pointing out the obvious). EAC did this and so did Motorola. Some others did not, like Collins.

b. check the label on the counter. It will usually match the maker, unless it says COURTER PRODUCTS, in which case your frame may be Stewart-Warner, but no guarantees. If the frame has one fuse it is likely an early Collins (or Motorola if it says so, did Mot make some with one fuse, anybody??).

Each module will have its own info. They are all pretty easy to check except for the RF deck which is a bugger. You'd need to remove the modules to look, except for the power supply and xtal deck which you can see without removal. Good luck

From cbscott@ingr.com Wed Jul 24 00:35:18 2002
Subject: [R-390] Manufacturer of R390A

Yes, Motorola made one-fuse chassis(chassises, chasses, chassissesses???)...frames. Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From hankarn@pacbell.net Wed Jul 24 00:45:56 2002
Subject: [R-390] Manufacturer of R390A

Well Paul you are in for a bunch of info. Out of all of the R-390-A's out there I know of only one that has virgin modules and the correct tag, That was built by Bob Luce when he worked for Teledyne and he still owns it.

The rest of them are known as depot DAWGS, meaning when they came if for IRAN all modules were stripped and went on the way to the dept. that worked on that module, plus the tags all went in a box as the panels were stripped and refinished and when it was assembled the tag installer grabbed a tag and screwed it in place and away it went. The intent of the design was to make it all interchangeable. Few changes along the way, panels, caps, wiring but they are ALL DEPOT DAWGS.

I make tags for all of the contracts and sell some of them to Fair as they choose certain tags. I only stamp a S/N of your choice on a tag. I do have some original tags available also.

You can play musical tags and modules and when you get through looking for a pure Virgin Collins etc. you just won the R-390A lottery. 22 contracts? and so grab a name that turns you on. Cause all dem Radios is one and da same, look da same, play da same, sound da same and above all dey are da same.

Hank KN6DI OH yes there are a lot on S/N 1 radios floating around out amongst them.

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Wed Jul 24 01:04:14 2002
Subject: [R-390] Manufacturer of R390A

Ah yes, a newbie. I was one 8 weeks ago and asked the same first question. Well this is what I have learned from these fine gentleman on this list: There may be no one "correct manufacturer" of this unit. It may have had bad modules swapped at the service depot. It is possible that you have 6 different manufacturers in this set and the name tag of a 7th on the front!!!. The modules should all have the manufacturer's name stamped on them. The chassis may or may not. You need to check out your modules.

Don't fret though, it is pretty normal for these sets to be "mutts". You still have one of the finest performing sets ever made, mutt or not. I was able to determine that my 390A was a pretty pure Teledyne unit because all the modules were Teledyne and the front panel pots and meters had date codes of 1965. My tag was a 1955 Collins though. You may be able to tell the same way.

Here is contract info on 390a's The data in each row is manufacturer, year, contract #, highest serial number.

Collins 1954 14214-PH-51 984
Collins 1954 375-P-54 310
Motorola 1954 363-PH-54 3,427
Collins 1955 8719-P-55 4,914
Motorola 1956 0014-PH-56 4,909
Motorola 1958 14385-PC-58-A1-51 5,988
Stewart-Warner 1959 42428-PC-59 2,076
Stewart-Warner 1960 20139-PC-60-A1-51 4,511
Electronic Assistance Corp 1960 23137-PC-60 4,255
Capehart Corp. 1961 21582-PC-61 4,237
Amelco/Teledyne Systems Corp 1962 35064-PC-62 3,642
Capehart Corp.for Adler Electronics 1963 20878-PP-63 5
Imperial Electronics/Teledyne Sys 1963 37856-PC-63 3,976
Electronic Assistance Corp 1967 DAABO5-67-C-0155* 10,717
EAC Industries/Hammarlund 1968 consumer 142
Dittmore-Freimuth 1968 DAAB05-68-C-0040 215
Fowler Industries 1986 N 00024-84-C-2027

Let us know what you have!!! Scott (Working in my ham license.)

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Wed Jul 24 01:11:58 2002
Subject: [R-390] 4 kc filter

Can't argue with that!!! You would have to hope you get a low mileage filter, or buy a 390 non-a and forget about it!!!!!! Scott

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Wed Jul 24 01:14:35 2002
Subject: [R-390] Mail list

It's better than I thought. Can you take me to the next level please. Scott

From pwokoun@hotmail.com Wed Jul 24 05:20:25 2002
Subject: [R-390] Seattle area ham clubs?

Hi all:

I was talking to my son about the fun we had on the MIGHTY MO this past weekend for the Museum Ship's Weekend QSO Party. Even with the lousy propagation we made quite a few contacts. Well seems like I may have finally got him interested in hamming. Never was interested while he lived at home!

He lives in Renton, Washington, SE of Seattle. Is there an amateur club somewhere in the Seattle, South Seattle area that he could contact and see if they conduct any ham classes? Or does anyone in the area know who does have classes? Thanks for the bandwidth. pete KH6GRT

From nryan@intrex.net Wed Jul 24 05:30:30 2002
Subject: [R-390] 4 kc filter

Hello, Les and crew,

True enough. But I wonder why that is. Is it disintegrating plastic foam gumming up the works or causing the resonator to touch the shell?

While I'm here, anyone know the enameled wire size on the bobbins? How many feet of wire for 50 Ohms DC resistance? I've got a couple of duds I'd like to try and revive some time.

Other than resoldering a broken lead inside, has anyone successfully revived one of these either by rewinding the bobbin or replacing plastic foam? 73 de Norman KG4SWM

From BRingwoo@csir.co.za Wed Jul 24 07:24:02 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Y2K-Release 2

Many thanks to those involved. I know just how much time and effort it takes. - Bryce

From s-biddle@ti.com Wed Jul 24 18:32:14 2002
Subject: [R-390] 4 kc filter

I have seen these options:

Buy a spare deck and hope.

Get a new Longwave Products 5 kc replacement mechanical filter. These go for \$200/each for the Collins 75A4. (Chuck Ripple has details.) Then you can restart the 50 year wear-out clock :)

Use an R-390 IF deck in an R-390A.

Has anyone tried replacing a single mechanical filter with a readily available crystal filter, preferably one that does not cost an arm and a leg?

I wound up with two spare IF decks - one Collins and one Motorola. I had hoped to swap for a Dittmore-Freimuth 1968 DAAB05-68-C-0040 IF deck in good non-hacked condition. Then all I will need is a matching contract power supply and all the modules will match. I know it doesn't matter and I'm not too worried about it, but I think any radio I keep in an oak case deserves it. 73 de Richard, KB5WLH

From nryan@intrex.net Wed Jul 24 20:58:14 2002
Subject: [R-390] Mechanical Filter Repair

Hello, Heinz,

Thanks for pointing me to the Collins list for hints on mechanical filter repair:
<<http://www.collinsradio.org>>

I clicked on the archives and typed in the search window "mechanical filter repair" here:
<<http://mailman.listserve.com/archives/collins/>> and got several good hits including Kokusai's website translated into funky fractured English:
<<http://translation.lycos.co.jp/web/result.html?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ksky.ne.jp%2F%7Et-kato%2Fhamf%2Fmyexp%2Fmf-repair.html&u0=3>>

John "The Filter King" Kolb guesses the magnet wire size to be #36. I poked around with a Google search and found DC resistance to be .4148 Ohm per foot at this site:
<<http://www.mwswire.com/insdia2.htm>>
Any more hints, tips, experiences with mechanical filter repair from the group? 73 de Norman KG4SWM

From jlkolb@cts.com Wed Jul 24 20:43:53 2002
Subject: [R-390] 4 kc filter

wrote: >> While I'm here, anyone know the enameled wire size on the bobbins? How Very, very fine, much smaller than 30 ga. Probably varies with the filter, smaller with the newer, smaller filters.

> Other than resoldering a broken lead inside, has anyone successfully revived one of these either by rewinding the bobbin or replacing plastic foam?
>

I've restored a couple of Kokusai filters by replacing the foam with cotton - don't recall seeing any foam in Collins filters, only rubber fittings. Haven't been inside the type "N" filters used for the R-390A, so don't know how they are supported.

I haven't rewound a bobbin, but have transplanted a bobbin from a different filter for a repair. John KK6IL

From jordana@nucleus.com Wed Jul 24 22:16:08 2002
Subject: [R-390] 4 kc filter

I have had to rewire a bobbin in Kokusai filter as it had broken.. I simply unwound 3 turns, out of the hundred or so turns on the bobbin, clean the end , and solder it back on.. worked like a charm... The trick with some of the Collins filters is removing the filter assembly and the rubber fittings without causing more damage 73 de Jordan...

From billsmith@ipswest.com Wed Jul 24 22:29:51 2002
Subject: [R-390] Case Available

Case available, with shock mounts \$250 shipped! I haven't seen it, but should get it myself. :-(Contact Cliff Kurtz, N6ZU 209-477-1235 73 de Bill, AB6MT billsmith@ipswest.com

From hankarn@pacbell.net Wed Jul 24 13:04:49 2002
Subject: [R-390] REF: FS R-390 non A GREEN GEAR

I need confirmed commitments to place an order for making new Green gears for the R-390. The pricing is based on quantities, higher the number the lower the price. Price includes gear, and mailing by First class.

30 @ \$45.00

40 @ \$40.00

50 @ \$35.00

60 @ \$30.00

Start at \$40.00 per gear. if I get more orders I will refund the difference. All firm orders received (money in my hand) by August 6, 2002 will be based on the sliding scale. Any money received after 8-6-2002 will be a flat \$40.00. If orders for 30 gears are not received then all monies will be returned.

Payment by Pay Pal, USPS money order preferred, Personal check by previous customers other checks to clear prior to shipping. I have to pay for programming/tooling. Delivery should be two weeks after placing order for tooling, production and powder coating. I will be leaving for Ft. Tuthill @ 3:00 AM on 8-25 and return on 8-29.

Thanks Hank KN6DI

From dallas@bayou.com Wed Jul 24 23:40:00 2002
Subject: [R-390] 4 kc filter

<cut> > Has anyone tried replacing a single mechanical filter with a readily > available crystal filter, preferably one that does not cost an arm and a > leg? <cut>

Many crystal filters are 2000 ohms source and load, so you would have to impedance match, probably with two mini IF transformers like I did. Depending on the size of the crystal filter, there might not be enough space to do a nice job. Just for fun I put a NTK 3 kHz BW ceramic filter (no longer available) in one of my IF decks. I impedance matched with two Mouser 43IF303 20K:5K ohms, 6:1 turns. Mouser doesn't carry this part any more, but the 42IF103 or 42IF303 should work. I didn't expect them to do a good job of impedance matching, but it worked fine. For my first try I mounted a PC board with filter and IF transformers in the hole where the 16 kHz

mechanical filter had been. But filter leakage made the filter ineffective. With two PC boards soldered to a copper flange, and a rectangular hole cut in the flange which flush fit the filter, and the flange bolted to the R-390A IF chassis, like an N type filter, filter leakage was greatly reduced. If I did it again, I would use a 3.3 kHz BW torsion filter with a metal case (occasionally seen on Ebay) to eliminate residual leakage. For 4 kHz , I believe Sherwood Engineering still sells the 15 resonator Murata CFS-455J ceramic filter, typically 4.3 kHz @ -6 dB, 7.0 kHz @ -60 dB. I don't know of a 4 kHz BW crystal filter. Dallas

From PDulaff@dpconline.com Wed Jul 24 18:42:30 2002
Subject: [R-390] Touch Up Paint for R390(A) Front Panel

Thanks all for the info on how to determine manufacture of the R390(A). I will know more when I tear down the rig and inspect modules and the counter.

I have a second question. I need a source of touch up paint to match the front panel gray color. Anybody know if touch up paint is available for the front panel ? Many Thanks Paul - WB2NMI

From va3fsd@yahoo.com Thu Jul 25 01:49:28 2002
Subject: [R-390] List

Hi Can you remove my email address from your list. Thanks Frank

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Thu Jul 25 02:02:01 2002
Subject: [R-390] Touch Up Paint for R390(A) Front Panel

The color of the panel is as big a guess as the manufacturer. There were probably 100's of shades of gray used between the factory finishes and the re-painting at the depot. My suggestion would be go to a high quality paint dealer and they will have a computer that will read the existing color of your panel. They can then mix a quart that will be a near perfect match. Should cost about \$12 or so. I prefer Benjamin Moore paints for this. Have them mix SATIN Impervo unless the panel has a noticable sheen. You can always re-paint the panel and have a "like new" front. Feel free to e-mail me any questions. Scott

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Thu Jul 25 02:16:29 2002
Subject: [R-390] List

Hmmmm.....Not an easy list to get off of. Most lists you just need to put "unsubscribe" in the subject line. I don't think it works here. Try this: Send a message to: R-390-request@mailman.qth.net with the word 'help' in the subject or body (don't include the quotes), and you will get back a message with instructions. If you have any problems, let me know and I will get you in touch with the list administrator. Good luck in your collecting. Scott

From DCrespy@aol.com Thu Jul 25 03:26:41 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390 net Sunday

OK gang,

I just heard the tail end of the WWV propagation forecast, and they were talking about blackouts, so this is hoping they don't impact us.

First, special thanks to Walter Wilson (KK4DF) for working with me on this, and to Peter Lower (VE3KWM) for helping coordinate the CCA/Collins Net portion.

Here is what we'd like to try:

The first net will be to gauge interest and to try to understand what focus the users would like for the net. Between Walter (KK4DF) and I (KG5LO) we should be able to hear everyone, so we will each ask for checkins. Please respond with your name, QTH, rig, some info on your R-390/390A's, and with your area of interest (restorations, short wave, mil gear, AM, etc..). After checkins, we'll open it for roundtable discussion about future formats, times and places. Walter has made some interesting proposals for "theme weeks". We may also want to better coordinate with the CCA net.

Walter scouted out 14.283 (20 kHz above the CCA frequency) as likely to be available on Sunday. We will try to gather starting at 1915 UTC. Mode is USB.

If the frequency is occupied by other users, go to 14.263 (CCA frequency) at 1930 UTC. The Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA) meets there before CCA and is usually done by then (if they are not we will wait until they are finished). CCA has agreed that we could "hold down the frequency" for them until 1955 UTC, so we'd have up to 25 minutes to take checkins. If we get 14.283, we can stay longer, and cover the full "agenda".

So: start at 14.283 at 1915 UTC. If nothing is heard by 1930 UTC, go to 14.263. If the FMCA is done, the net will be there! If propagation really is "blacked out", we will try again next week!

Finally, if you cannot checkin, but can listen in, let me know afterwards by e-mail. I'll show "R-390/A SWL Checkins", in a post back to the list next week. 73 and see you Sunday Harry KG5LO

From jlkolb@cts.com Thu Jul 25 04:17:21 2002
Subject: [R-390] Mechanical Filter Repair

wrote: > John "The Filter King" Kolb guesses the magnet wire size to be #36. I > poked around with a Google search and found DC resistance to be .4148 > Ohm per foot at this site: >
<<http://www.mwswire.com/insdia2.htm>> > > Any more hints, tips, experiences with mechanical filter repair from the > group?

Just measured 2 open filters and a loose bobbin and got wire diameters about 0.0062 and 0.0070 ("V and Y case filters), which would be 34 or 35 gauge enameled wire. The King :)

From nryan@intrex.net Thu Jul 25 04:50:24 2002
Subject: [R-390] Mechanical Filter Repair

Hi, John, Thanks for the new info.

Do you know what the impedance should be? I get similar DC resistances from input and output, thus expect impedance is the same each way. 73 de Norman KG4SWM

From nryan@intrex.net Thu Jul 25 05:39:10 2002
Subject: [R-390] 6T4F

Hi, Glen,

Nice research!

I have an Amperite TJ311M01 that measures cold at 13.3 Ohms DC resistance on my Fluke DMM 8024B. I'm patiently waiting for it to exhaust so I can replace it with a 3TF7. :-)

All seriousness aside, the above ballast doesn't carry the designation "3TF7." Thus the FEDLOG may have assigned a different NSN when the 3TF7 appeared. (I'm assuming 3TF7 is a newer designation for Amperite's catalogue number TJ311M01.)

It came out of a spare IF deck. I'm too lazy to pull my working R-390A out of its case to do voltage checks and substitution with a 3TF7 to see if the regulated tubes are getting similar voltage, but expect it's close enough for government work.

The lettering is that notorious stuff that wipes off easily. I couldn't make out that any lettering is gone. What's there is there-- that is, no smudges. Hope this helps. 73 de Norman KG4SWM

From nryan@intrex.net Thu Jul 25 06:21:19 2002
Subject: [R-390] More Ballast Thoughts in re 6T4F and 3TF7

Hi, Glen and gang,

Just looked in an old (1969, 33rd edition) Radio-Electronic Master catalog and came away with the following.

Amperite numbering system in general (not consistent!):

First digit-- threshold current in tenths of an ampere.

Letters-- envelope type.

Last digit-- threshold voltage in volts.

Last letter-- not sure; version perhaps?

Thus 3TF7 .3 ampere threshold current, T6-1/2 bulb 9 pin miniature, 7 volts threshold voltage. 6T4F .6 ampere threshold current, T5-1/2 7 pin miniature, 4 volts threshold voltage.

List price for all these ballast tubes back then? One price: \$1.80.

From billsmith@ispwest.com Thu Jul 25 08:10:04 2002
Subject: [R-390] Utah 3956

Anyone know what a Utah 3956 ballast is, or where it is used? Somehow I recall looking it up once, and finding it nowhere near the spec. of a 3TF7. It is in a 7-pin miniature shell. 73 de Bill, AB6MT
billsmith@ispwest.com

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Thu Jul 25 09:51:27 2002

Subject: [R-390] 6T4F

I loked in my NAVSHIPS manual for the R-390A and it shows only the 3TF7 for RT-501. I tend to believe that the 3TF7 was the predecessor to the TJ311M01 which is contrary to the FEDLOG as explained below. We need some real AMPERITE experts to explain the 'THRESHOLD VOLTAGE' and WHY the 220ma spread vs the 20ma spread in operating currents. I have Date codes on the 3TF7 of 5/66 & 9/66 vs 7/69 up to 1/81 on the TJ ballast. DC Resistances vary on th TJballast from 10.8 to 14.5 ohms using a Fluke 87. Of course I would rather measure this using a 4-wire set up to get better accuracy. Does anyone out there have a AMPERITE CATALOG on these Current Regulating Resistors or Ballasts? 73, Glen Galati eldim@att.net

From jlkolb@cts.com Thu Jul 25 08:12:34 2002
Subject: [R-390] Mechanical Filter Repair

wrote: > Do you know what the impedance should be? I get similar DC resistances from input and output, thus expect impedance is the same each way.

What's the filter number? I have a number of data sheets, and might be able to look it up.

I just measured an R-390A filter which is 100K Z at 50 ohms in and out resistance. A F500Y-70, which is 1K input Z, 330 ohms output Z measured 40 ohms for both the input and output side - just a rough measurement on a 260, but clearly the resistance is not proportional to Z.

The R-390A filters, like most of the older filters designed for tube applications were spec'ed for 100K Z. Newer filters designed for solid state were most often 2K in and out. John

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Thu Jul 25 09:57:46 2002
Subject: [R-390] 6T4F

Hello Norman, You're not lazy-just have more important things to attend to. You are absolutely right-their markings leave a lot to be desired. They come off quite easily. I think all glass should be be "ACID ETCHED"! 73, Glen eldim@att.net

From dalmatians98@yahoo.com Thu Jul 25 12:13:09 2002
Subject: [R-390] Geomagnetic disturbances, coming up

A cut and paste from the AM Window Bulletin Board. The next week or so could be rather interesting. If nothing else, should be some spectacular aurora displays! Paul, K2ORC

=

Thanks to Tomas, NW7US for this info:

Minor to major storm levels of geomagnetic disturbances are expected as early as in the late afternoon on July 24 over North America, with increases in geomagnetic activity starting today (July 23). The next week may see extreme solar flare activity.

Region 10039 (Catania sunspot group #35), which produced the X3.3 flare of July 20, struck again on July 23, producing an X4.8 flare with the X-ray flux peaking at 0035Z. This solar flare is a proton-producing flare and the energetic protons are expected to reach the Earth and begin slowly enhancing the

radiation in the near-Earth space environment by the end of today (July 23).

Region 10039 has rotated fully into view at the southeast limb. This region has the potential to produce occasional X10+ flares. During the X4.8 flare, a large and fast full halo Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) was observed with a leading edge speed above 1700km/s. Although the fastest part of the CME headed eastwards, Earth should receive an impact on July 24, resulting in a severely disturbed geomagnetic field for 12 to 24 hours after the impact. This event is very similar to the eruption of July 20, probably at the origin of the geomagnetic disturbances of yesterday (July 22) around noon (Zulu). But this one will be stronger and more geoeffective. Minor to major storm levels of geomagnetic disturbances are thus expected as early as in the afternoon of July 25 (late afternoon on July 24 over North America).

Additional major X-class solar flares from this Region over the next two weeks might produce very active and geomagnetically stormy conditions, the likes of which we have not observed in over 10 years. If Region 10039 holds true to its potential, the spot complex will continue to produce very energetic solar activity about once every 2 to 3 days as it rotates across the face of the Sun. The Region is well-placed for producing large, geoeffective impacts on the earth, and it will remain visible for about another 12 to 13 days. The next week or two could see some considerable solar radiation storms, auroral storm activity, ionospheric storming, and significant geomagnetic storming. Similar historic periods have produced heavy Auroral events, radio blackouts, and so on. These Auroral event have been visible throughout the continental United States and Canada, even into parts of Mexico. New Zealand, Australia, Southern Africa, and South America have witnessed the "Southern Lights" during such events. This type of Aurora might happen as early as July 24. Storms of this magnitude ("superstorms") occur on average once every six years or so. It has now been about 12 years since the Earth was hit by a superstorm.

Shortwave (High Frequency) propagation will experience fadeouts, with possible R1 to R2 radio blackouts from July 23 through July 25. Long distance medium wave (AM) band propagation along east-west paths over high and upper middle latitudes is poor to very poor. If we get the Aurora, look for Auroral-mode propagation. Paul R. Goodman, K2ORC

From DCrespy@aol.com Fri Jul 26 11:50:38 2002

Subject: [R-390] R-390 net Sunday

Small change in plans gang:

Using the CCA net frequency as an alternate will likely make it very tight on the time we'll need for round one of this net. So instead as a back up, lets go +/- 5kHz from 14.283. We'd really like to find a spot where we can get some "quality time".

So the reminder:

-1915 UTC on Sunday at 14.283. Listen for KG5LO or for KK4DF, net controls. If nothing heard by 1930, listen up and down 5 kilocycles ;-).

-Please check-in with your name, QTH, rig, some info on your R-390/390A's, and with your area of interest (restorations, short wave, mil gear, AM, etc..). See you Sunday! 73 Harry KG5LO Saline MI

From vze2gmp4@verizon.net Fri Jul 26 15:29:23 2002

Subject: [R-390] carrier meter

Does anyone have the microvolt equivalent of the db scale on the 390a carrier meter? Regards, Helm.
WB2ADT

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Fri Jul 26 17:57:04 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390 mechanical filter repair

Norman, That was very interesting information on mechanical filter repair that you forwarded:

After viewing the translated Kokusai website, all I can say is "All your Philharmonic a Mechanism are belong to us"! Drew

From DJED1@aol.com Fri Jul 26 23:46:12 2002
Subject: [R-390] carrier meter

The meter is supposed to read in dB relative to 1 microvolt. The curve in the manual (TM-856A) shows 10 microvolts at 20 dB, increasing 20 dB for every 10X increase in voltage, up to 100,000 microvolts at 100 dB. I haven't found it to be very linear in dB, and you can vary the scale substantially by setting the IF gain at different levels. If set as intended, I usually assume "S9" is at the 40 dB mark.
Ed WB2LHI

From vze2gmp4@verizon.net Sat Jul 27 01:28:43 2002
Subject: [R-390] carrier meter

Thanks for the info. Very helpful. --Helm.

From w5or@comcast.net Sat Jul 27 19:04:27 2002
Subject: [R-390] List Admin H E L P

You can get on and off this list with ease, with a web browser. The link is at the bottom of every message posted to the list.

To change your subscription (set options like digest and delivery modes, get a reminder of your password, or unsubscribe from R-390), enter your subscription email address and choose Edit Options.

Edit Options is near the bottom of the page.

Frank is now unsubscribed. Thanks for everyone's help. I've been away from email for a week. Don Reaves W5OR

From Walter Wilson" <walter@r-390a.us Sun Jul 28 20:23:02 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390 net Sunday

It looks like there is some form of satellite net on 14.283 this afternoon. 14.279 seems clear at the moment, so we may start there, or somewhere below 14.283. Walter Wilson - KK4DF

From DCrespy@aol.com Sun Jul 28 22:56:21 2002

Subject: [R-390] Today's first ever R-390 net!

Well, it was a little rough today, but we are off to a start.

I will try to sort things out with Walter in the next few hours. Walter had most of the check-ins. Propagation here was terrible and regional thunderstorms gave me S-7/8 noise levels.

A few notes.. AMSAT has their weekly net at 14.282 at this time. I am sorry, I missed that in my research to coordinate the net. We wound up going to two frequencies 14.288 and 14.278/279. Walter was at 14.278 and we ended up with everyone there. In fact Walter had the best conditions, so he wound up doing all of the work.. Thank you Walter!!

If you listened and did not hear us, or if you tried to check in and did not get a reply, THANK YOU for the effort. Please be patient, we will try to improve our coordination and available net controls for the next try. Look for a full report by tomorrow evening. Again, thanks to everyone, whether you were successful checking in or not. 73 Harry KG5LO

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Mon Jul 29 01:32:13 2002
Subject: [R-390] Resistor Tolerances

I got my "A" IF deck recapped today. Probably half the resistors are more than 10% high but less than 20%. I did not replace any of these. Does anyone know if there are any resistors that I should hold to 10% or less? I would think that 15%, of which most were, would be OK. I tried tuning in to 14.283 and BARELY was able to hear mention of satellites. I then tuned down to 14.279 and was able to hear nothing. I tried this using a SX-71 and a DX-160. The DX-160 performed better BTW. So now I really want to get this "a" back together so I can eavesdrop on future Sunday afternoons. :-) Scott

From greg_werstiuk@msn.com Mon Jul 29 03:44:59 2002
Subject: [R-390] Resistor Tolerances

Scott -

I assume the resistors used in R-390x's are carbon composition. Moisture absorption alone will shift their tolerance up to about +-20%.

When they were more commonly used (20 years ago), I occasionally had to educate customer incoming inspection departments claiming to have received "out of tolerance" product with the proper method for measuring the resistance value of carbon composition resistors.

Among other requirements, before measuring resistance, they must be baked for a specific period of time at a specific temperature to eliminate absorbed moisture. - Greg

From G4GJL@aol.com Mon Jul 29 10:47:38 2002
Subject: [R-390] Sig Gen TS382D/U Meter Info

I have a Audio Sig Gen Type TS382D/U as specified in the various R390 manuals. It needs a new level meter as the present one has been whacked badly. Can anyone tell me the two things I need to know before I set about a repair:

1 The meter scale markings

2 The movement sensitivity / resistance.

I have a similar Marion sealed one that I could transfer the movement from if the sensitivities match.
Thanks Pete G4GJL

From G4GJL@aol.com Mon Jul 29 11:16:15 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390 net Sunday

I missed the net..Is this to be a regular weekly net? Pete G4GJL

From jbrannig@optonline.net Mon Jul 29 12:22:15 2002
Subject: [R-390] Resistor Tolerances

There was an article in QST several months ago that was a real "eye-opener" about stored resistors. Jim

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Mon Jul 29 12:45:03 2002
Subject: [R-390] Resistor Tolerances

Well I never buy NOS resistors and certainly not caps. Baking resistors before measuring tolerance is just not the real world, even though most boat anchors do just that. :-)

The real question I have is: If the tolerance needs to be held to original specs on any specific areas of this set. I am trying to rely on someone's experience to save me a lot of needless work now or in the future. Most of the TV and radio restoration work I have done, +15% is OK, even on a 10% spec resistor, and I have not had performance problems as a result.

Of course if a 5% is specifically called for, I will hold it to tighter tolerances. Most, if not all, of the resistors seem to be 10% in my modules and I am thinking that this was just a military requirement rather than a necessity. Thank You, Scott

From tetrode@worldnet.att.net Mon Jul 29 13:20:40 2002
Subject: [R-390] Resistor Tolerances

Scott,
no need to be precise on most of the resistor values, the ultimate answer will be found when you finish your work, align the radio and make some measurements.

How sensitive the circuit is to the resistor value depends on where the resistor is in the circuit. The resistor values used in B+ decoupling (2.2k), grid input, grid parasitic suppression, or audio plate are not critical at all.

The values used in the voltage dividers for the screens are a little more important, and the cathode resistors probably make the most impact as they set the bias level for the tubes. (Don't forget that tubes have fairly wide tolerances too and drift over operating age as well).

If you measured all the resistor values in your radio and you didn't find anything that was way out or broken then you already made great progress. In the past when I have done this I've found resistors that were 50% or more out, or even one that was 10 times out (somebody in depot repair didn't pay attention

to the last color band). 390nonA power supplies are another matter, there's always crispy critters in there! 73, John

From twleiper@juno.com Mon Jul 29 15:55:15 2002
Subject: [R-390] Resistor Tolerances

writes: ... > Most, if not all, of the resistors seem to be 10% in my modules and I am thinking that this was just a military requirement rather than an necessity.

I am "resisting" the "requirement" to respond, but my "tolerances" have been exceeded by over 10%.

Certainly any aspect of the original construction was a military requirement and not necessarily an operational requirement since many things can be changed that actually improve performance in some ways. But by trying to hold tolerances tight, they are trying to hold the performance to a predictable level so that when it is put into service they know what to expect, and not have one radio being "hot" and another a "dud".

Imagine if you went to by another Questar and the specification was plus or minus a half wave... Tom

From r390a@enteract.com Mon Jul 29 16:53:18 2002
Subject: [R-390] Resistor Tolerances

wrote: > writes: > ... But by > trying to hold tolerances tight, they are trying to hold > the performance to a predictable level so that when > it is put into service they know what to expect, and > not have one radio being "hot" and another a "dud".

While in college, I had a part time job as a tech in the TV engineering department of a now-defunct Chicago manufacturer. This was back in the days when all the BW sets were tube and the color sets were hybrid.

Part of my job was to do 'r-box engineering' on existing designs - remove a 10% resistor, substitute a resistor box and run the value +/- 20% from the schematic value to determine if a 20% part could be used. Saving a fraction of a cent here and there adds up when you're making thousands of units. Much different design objective than military gear where cost isn't the most important criteria. 72.../dave N9ZC

From twleiper@juno.com Mon Jul 29 17:18:25 2002
Subject: [R-390] Resistor Tolerances

writes: ... > Saving a fraction of a cent here and there adds up...

Yup. Just like the notorious GM 2.8L V6 engine that always threw out the bottom end. These things were made by the zillions for Citations, S-10's, etc., and they deliberately had very loose tolerances for the bearing clearances so that, even if they didn't last that long, at least they would ALWAYS fit together. In this case you ignore the "factory" spec and put it together with tighter clearances if you want it to last. It actually is a very nice little engine once you blueprint it, and it will last a very long time indeed. Hammarlund

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Jul 29 17:27:21 2002
Subject: [R-390] Resistor Tolerances

Just curious: How do you make a bearing clearance tighter once it's bored too big (or the race is ground too small)? Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From twleiper@juno.com Mon Jul 29 17:43:37 2002
Subject: [R-390] Resistor Tolerances

writes: > Just curious: How do you make a bearing clearance tighter once it's > bored too big (or the race is ground too small)?

We're talking about crank and rod bearings which consist of half-shell inserts. Bearing inserts are designed to deliver a certain clearance at a certain torque on the bearing cap bolts, in other words they "squeeze" down to the tolerance. You order undersized inserts (which are thicker) and then reduce their length so they don't crush as much when you torque down the bearing cap. If you are having your crank turned (I recommend this treatment every night), you can have the shop turn an "over"-undersize to tighten things up as well if the availability of custom bearing inserts is poor.

Or, you can pick what's behind Door#3 ...A New Car !! Hammarlund

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Jul 29 17:56:24 2002
Subject: [R-390] Resistor Tolerances

OK. I suppose gasoline engines are different.

My experience comes from the manufacturing process for high-speed, precision punch presses. There, you grind the shaft to a tolerance and bore the bushing to a tolerance for the necessary fit. I suppose a gasoline engine may run with even tighter tolerances for the crankshaft, but we held some pretty tight ones for our presses. Many of the bearing surfaces were hand scraped for fit as well as oil pockets. It required quite some skill to do that right. I ran the jig-borer before becoming an NC programmer. Sometimes I miss those days...

Oh well, off-topic enough from me for one day. Barry(III) - N4BUQ (EMERSON)

From twleiper@juno.com Mon Jul 29 18:05:03 2002
Subject: [R-390] Resistor Tolerances

writes: > OK. I suppose gasoline engines are different. ... > Oh well, off-topic enough from me for one day. > > Barry(III) - N4BUQ > > (EMERSON)

Agreed (NEUTRODYNE)

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Mon Jul 29 18:19:09 2002
Subject: [R-390] Resistor Tolerances

> How sensitive the circuit is to the resistor value depends on where the > resistor is in the circuit. > The

resistor values used in B+ decoupling (2.2k), grid input, grid > parasitic suppression, or audio plate are not critical at all.

Thank You John. That is the answer I wanted. I'll watch out for the screen dividers and the cathode resistors especially, and keep them within the recommended tolerance. The other resistors, I won't worry if they go a few percent over. Thanks. Scott

From mackeyka@mac.com Mon Jul 29 21:00:28 2002
Subject: [R-390] Today's first ever R-390 net!

I think I may have accidentally sent this to the wrong place. Never saw it on the reflector. I heard the AMSAT net telling Harry (KG5LO) about their net 1kHz down. I could not copy Harry.

Once the net started I was just somewhat successful hearing Walter (KK4DF) on 14.278/279. Some times I could understand him but not always. If it wasn't for the noise levels rising up and burying him I would have been able to copy him pretty good. I barely heard a couple others but could not make them out at all. I am working on putting up another antenna and should have it up next week. Hope to have better luck with it, over the random length antenna I have now. Keep up good work, hope to hear you next week. Kim Mackey KB9BZL

From hankarn@pacbell.net Mon Jul 29 21:02:03 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: [Collins] REF: FS R-390 non A GREEN GEAR

Well it looks like the green gear deal is going to go away as I only have firm orders for 10 plus 2 for myself. WALTER QUIET? WAS DOING THEM FOR \$46.50 PLUS POSTAGE BUT THAT FELL THROUGH DUE TO HIS HEALTH.

Please just send an FIRM email commitment until the 8-6-02, then if I get enough orders then send money pronto. That way I will not have to make a bunch of refunds and Paypal rebates. Hank Last reminder and then it is history.

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Mon Jul 29 22:08:16 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: [Collins] REF: FS R-390 non A GREEN GEAR

Just as well Walter didn't follow through, he still owes me \$500 for that 75A-4 I sent him two years ago! Hopefully I'll have business out there this fall and get to pay him a visit. Too bad if his health is bad, but he had no problem emailing me until it was time to pay up. I never heard anything more beyond what you've told me.

Hope the deal works out, Hank. I've loaned my green gear out a couple times to folks, so I know there has to be a need. At least people know they're dealing with a reputable person who's done this kind of thing before. Boomer

From k0kww@attbi.com Mon Jul 29 22:29:57 2002
Subject: [R-390] Details about the R390 net

Could someone pass along more info about the Sunday R-390 Net. If I had know about it I would have

tuned in. Please pass along freqs, times, etc. Thanks. Dave K0KWK

From RDavis24@carolina.rr.com Mon Jul 29 22:59:49 2002
Subject: [R-390] Anyone coming to Shelby Hamfest in NC on Labor Day Weekend

Hello

I am wondering if anyone is coming to the Great Shelby Hamfest this year. I am planning on being there and having a R-390A for sale, and some more boat anchor stuff. It is one great hamfest, and if possible it would be worth the trip. I ended up with an extra R-390A and I do not need it, also have a Hammarlund HQ-170A with speaker and some other stuff I do not need. I would like to do an eyeball QSO with some of the great R-390A folks and talk about the rigs. I have to wait till fall to do some work on my current R-390A's because of the heat wave hi, but have great plans for my rigs. Let me know if you need any information on the hamfest. Thanks Ronnie KE4VPN

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Mon Jul 29 23:37:33 2002
Subject: [R-390] Resistor Tolerances

Or you could just run on-site poured babbit bearings! Like they did in the old days. (Clark) Joe

From tbryan@nova.org Mon Jul 29 23:54:20 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-392 meter specs?

Hello All, Could someone give me the specs on the meter used in the R-392? Thanks, Tom Bryan
tbryan@nova.org

From anchor@ec.rr.com Tue Jul 30 02:22:36 2002
Subject: [R-390] Anyone coming to Shelby Hamfest in NC on Labor Day Weekend

Hi Ronnie,

I'll be there, probably hooked up with several other boatanchor guys who show up Wed. or Thurs. One brings a yellow "Boatanchor" banner to set up over the canopy, we're usually in teh 2nd or 3rd row from the north? fence, near the entrance end. You can see a bit of us at:
<http://www.thecompendium.net/radio/shelby.htm>

I didn't start taking pix until after the banner came down abt noon Sat. Most of us were gone by mid-afternoon Sat. I see now that some of the pic links are wrong, but you can get the idea.

There's always plenty of boatanchor talk going on. I sold an R-390A & R-388 last yr, and bought a "plain" R-390, and an SP-600. Not sure what I'll have this yr. Hope to meet you in person. 73, Al, W8UT

From w7itc@hotmail.com Tue Jul 30 03:00:08 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

<http://www.msnbc.com/news/784132.asp?pne=msn>

I have never trusted E-Bay or any online auction go to the above link and read this. Kenneth A. Crips

From Jim Shorney" < Tue Jul 30 03:38:39 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

wrote: >I have never trusted E-Bay or any online auction go to the above >link and read this.

Don't shoot the messenger. After reading this carefully, I can't really see that eBay is largely at fault. They are managing a behemoth, and doing a pretty good job. A person could just as easily get screwed at a good old 'farm auction' like I frequent here in the midwest. I've bought a fair amount of stuff through eBay in the past few years, and the only time I've gotten ripped off is from a 'Christian' web radio site seller (\$12 for an audio mixer - www.wriv.com if anyone cares).

To hold eBay culpable for the actions of a small percentage of sellers would set a dangerous precedent that would affect everything from Sotheby's to the local auctioneers who do farm sales and surplus auctions, to your radio club's consignment equipment auction, to perhaps even any usenet server carrying rec.radio.swap. EBay is a venue, just like the 'country auctioneer' ('all sales as-is, where-is'). It's up to the buyer to know the seller and the merchandise. Heck, I'll bet a few folks have even gotten ripped off at Dayton. Better not buy anything there...

From hankarn@pacbell.net Tue Jul 30 05:08:20 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

Nearly all live auctions have house shills that are there to get the ante up. The online sites vendors have friends or extra names to shill their auctions. Just look at some of slow moving big ticket items that repeat and some of the same bidders on the item. Also some of the low ball come on that all of a sudden have a sniper bid at the end and look at the newest listing. Same item listed before the auction has ended. Hank KN6DI

From greg_werstiuk@msn.com Tue Jul 30 06:16:24 2002
Subject: [R-390] Resistor Tolerances

I wouldn't expect you to bake them. While it's not "real world" in a test bench environment, I promise you it is "real world" during equipment manufacturer's incoming inspections and during military audits of component vendors.

I only wanted to be sure you knew the measured value could be significantly shifted by moisture absorption. This would have been understood and accounted for during the design. As a result, a 5% or 10% rated carbon composition resistor with a measured value in the +- 20% range shouldn't necessarily be considered a component requiring replacement. - greg

From billsmith@ispwest.com Tue Jul 30 07:40:59 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390 Power-on micro switch

Interesting venture tonight. Attempted to use the R-390 to tune into Amos 'N Andy (7415) tonight at 9:00pm PDT, but the receiver wouldn't turn on. Ha, the notorious micro switch had failed. It had been difficult to turn off the receiver in the recent past, but this was the first time I couldn't get it to turn on.

Leaped over to the SX-62, then embarked on the project to remove the R-390 front panel. That done,

and the switch unsoldered and in my hand, a cover was removed by the careful application of a pick to press out two friction-fit pins.

Once inside, overheating was evident. The plastic cover was melted to the extent it interfered with the operation of the micro switch contact assembly. But the switch contact, though intact and toggling correctly, wouldn't pass a continuity check with an ohm meter.

A file evened out the melted plastic, but in spite of burnishing the contacts, there was still resistance between switch points.

Careful measurement yielded the culprit. The (silver?) contact button on the business end of the middle leaf was swaged into the leaf, but was not making electrical contact. Apparently this small spot was generating the resistance that had generated enough heat to melt the plastic. The apparent solution was to apply a spot of solder between the of the wafer and the button. 'Twasn't easy, the metal had to be filed a little before it would adsorb solder.

Another ohm check with the Simpson 270 verified "0" ohms resistance when the switch is operated. The micro switch was reassembled and the receiver put back together. We'll see how long it works, but I wonder if a new switch is available?

Hopefully the R-390 will run with the repaired switch for a while. 73 de Bill, AB6MT

From DCrespy@aol.com Tue Jul 30 10:00:19 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390 net update

Gang,

Well it looks like we had a number of folks tried but could not hear either Walter or me. We did have six total checkins. Not a big list, but with that many more who tried but could not hear net control(s), we have a decent start. Following is Walter's list of checkins Sunday:

KK4DF Walter Augusta, GA, multiple R-390As and two R-390s
KG5LO Harry Saline, MI (near Ann Arbor), R-388, Air Force, 3 R-390As (Mot, Col, EAC)
KC8OPP Roger Lima OH, 1973, Air Force, Collins R-390 S/N 308 had for 25 yrs plus another R-390, both in a rack with separate antennas, Viking II xmtr
W1CNY Bob Simsbury, CT (weak copy in GA)
W4/M3AZL Peter Orlando, FL (on vacation), checked in, but could not stay

WA0HQQ Al Atlanta, GA, (not copyable on 2nd xmit)

I listened to the Collins group after our net. They had a lot of North East/ South East regional checkins that were handled by net control stations in Texas or California. Is there anyone would be available Sunday from that part of the country to work part of net control? I think this would make a huge difference! If so please let me know. I may not be able to answer until Thursday night, so please be patient.

In any case, lets try again Sunday at 1900, at 14.278!! 73 Harry KG5LO

From hankarn@pacbell.net Tue Jul 30 11:45:37 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390 Power-on micro switch

Bill, What a drill to go through.. I would say you are lucky to get it to work. I have NOS Micro switches, they are \$11.00 mailed First Class. or \$20.00 for 2. Hank KN6DI CBA is OK.

From Tue Jul 30 14:54:01 2002

Subject: [R-390] R-390 Power-on micro switch

wrote: >Interesting venture tonight. ... the notorious micro switch had failed. ... >Hopefully the R-390 will run with the repaired switch for a while.

Bill and others,

I believe that we can help our radios by some improvements:

- 1) Add inrush current limiting
- 2) Add a line voltage bucking transformer to reduce modern 122-125 volt line voltages down to the design target of 115
- 3) Add fans, ESPECIALLY in the R-390 non-A
- 4) Add a line relay that is operated by the microswitch and turns on the rest of the radio.

All these things could be combined into one modification and most likely done with no holes drilled. I'm looking for my round tuit to get started on this project. Roy

From cbscott@ingr.com Tue Jul 30 14:59:49 2002

Subject: [R-390] R-390 Power-on micro switch

- 5) Leave the switch in the "StandBy" position and use an external switch.

I constructed a back panel for my desktop rack with a rocker switch that controls power to the radio and the DC supply for the fans. The microswitch is good in this radio, but I think it doesn't hurt to leave it alone. Yes, I do have inrush limiting as well. I do need, however, to add a bucking xfmr.

Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From twleiper@juno.com Tue Jul 30 16:54:09 2002

Subject: [R-390] Microswitches? We don't need no stinking microswitches...

writes: ... > I believe that we can help our radios by some improvements:

>

- > 1) Add inrush current limiting
- > 2) Add a line voltage bucking transformer...
- > 3) Add fans, ESPECIALLY in the R-390 non-A
- > 4) Add a line relay that is operated by the microswitch...

Roy, all you really have to do is #2 because you leave your radios on 24 / 7 anyway...DON'T YOU? So, there is no (1) inrush or (3) excessive heat or (4) need for any kind of on/off switch. I buck the whole rack down 12 volts except for the SP-600's, which have the rather deluxe feature of multiple primary taps. You can also convert BA rigs that use a 5V rectifier tube to solid state and use the 5V filament

winding to buck the primary instead...that is a particularly elegant way to cool down your CV-591 by a few thousand degrees kelvin.

Adm. Charles P. Collingsworth, USN, ret. (deceased) Hammarlund

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Tue Jul 30 18:26:41 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390 Resistor Tolerances

Hello All,

An observation about the effect of resistor tolerances in the R-390 series: The value of many resistors in the IF deck could vary over a wide range with little practical effect. Screen and cathode resistor variation would have an effect on gain but remember that the potential IF gain is much higher than necessary or desirable.

When all is said and done, we simply adjust the IF Gain control far below maximum thereby obtaining best noise figure. Drew

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Tue Jul 30 17:17:20 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390 Power-on micro switch

I leave my FUNCTION switch on MGC and turn it on and off with the switch on the power panel that has a metered variac on the back,..... YES, I use a variac and I don't care who knows it!! Joe

From n4xy@earthlink.net Tue Jul 30 19:14:18 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

Ken, the article simply isn't so-at least, not within the electronics components, baseball card (#2 son), and ham radio sections. The number this 2nd "vigilante" quotes of "75% scams" is utterly UNTRUE. I have made HUNDREDS of purchases over the years through ebay, large and small, and have NEVER ONCE been cheated. This includes shipments from Hong Kong, Australia, and England. #2 son has made dozens with a similar success rate.

A "person of probable low character" did just show up as the seller of a \$30 card for a 'winning' \$15 recently. EBAY had, however, just canned the guy after too many violations. After some period of time, he can come back under another name-but I THINK that's like 6 months. That's ONE person over whatever the number of years ebay has been around. One.

Yes, I have had some "excellent condition"s arrive 1 level lower. But I've had some "very good"s arrive as "excellent"s also. Once again, the media is looking to report a story. The fact that I have done well, or all right, or whatever, is not news. Only that everybody is getting cheated left and right is "news". Only... if it isn't true... then is it "news" or an "outright lie" or just an "exaggeration"? Perhaps it's merely sloppy journalism?

I think the truth lies a great deal closer to the occasional cheat, than with "75%" of all deals being "scams". Part of may stem from the amounts involved, and part of may stem from not using USPS MOs (I'd least rather have the Postal Inspectors after me than anybody-including the RCMP!) And part stems from not using the guy's feedback rating to decide whether to risk the deal (BEFORE bidding-not afterwards.)

There are always going to be scam artists. I wouldn't hesitate to go after someone who cheated me. They have departments of Consumer Affairs and Attornies General in every state. The USPS Postal Inspectors really don't like "Mail Fraud" one bit. But for an MSNBC reporter to throw out numbers like this is "75% scams" irresponsible, and lazy journalism at best. To advocate what amounts to criminal fraud (in reverse) either is-or should be-illegal.

Who are these "Consumer Vigilanties" that they presume to make outrageous bids on auctions THEY decide are frauds? The act itself, willfully bidding in that manner, to prevent me from using the good sense God gave me, to decide for myself what looks suspicious-and what is simply a good 'deal' is FRAUD in itself. I have to wonder if some of them have either an ax to grind, or seek to manage an end-around, when auction(s) got to be more than THEY wanted to pay.

EBAY has been finally, begrudgingly accepted by most hams. I don't personally care whether anyone buys through it or not. I STILL like to see items of interest offered on the various reflectors available to us first-but with prices reaching a degree of parity, it doesn't matter nearly as much any more. And I really HATE to see inaccurate reporting-and whether or not the laptop / computer market has more than its share of fraud going on within EBAY, that's NOT what was represented here. EBAY as a whole has worked just fine for me.

P.S. And for the record... while I have "hundreds" of purchases over the years, I have never sold one single thing via EBAY. I think #2 son has-but don't really know that for a fact. 73
<n4xy@earthlink.net>

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Tue Jul 30 20:37:10 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

I agree with you Ed that E-bay is NOT a bad place to buy. Matter of fact it has been really good to me. I have certainly had purchases that I was less than happy with, but it was usually the result of me being overzealous with my bidding.

I think the article is pretty crappy as it really is not balanced. Then again, the media in this country never has been balanced. Where I disagree with you Ed is that the Postal inspectors and the state Attorney generals will do something about fraud. My experience is that they don't care. I got screwed out of \$900 by a guy in Florida. He got my e-mail address from e-bay and contacted me privately to sell tubes. He said his father died and had a large collection to sell. We agreed on a price and only after he called me and I talked to him on the phone I was reassured enough to send the money. Well, I never got the tubes. I contacted the sheriff for the town that I had sent the money order to, and he actually knew the guy. He said I was one of many that he had screwed. The Attorney general investigated and would NOT press criminal charges against this guy. Apparently he was a witness in a murder trial and the State needed him. My only recourse was to press civil charges which would cost me far more than I was ever likely to recover. I filed a complaint with the Postal Service (I had sent the dirtbag a Postal Money Order), and they sent a letter saying they were investigating. That was the end of that. The Postal Service could care less. Well, now that I just told everyone how stupid I am, at least I can say I learned a big lesson. I am a LOT more cautious and only buy off e-bay from good feedback sellers. I will certainly overlook a couple of negative feedbacks if the seller has a lots of positive feedback. There will always be a jerk out there that will be quick to hit the negative feedback button 'cause it is his time of the month. I think someone told me that e-bay has insurance for bogus sellers and you can file a claim with them if the seller takes your money and runs. They said you lose the first \$25 to file the claim. Can anyone confirm this? If you are a bit nervous about the seller, you can get their phone number and address with the click of a button. If they don't have a phone number or don't answer the phone, then

stay away. You can also use a reliable escrow company for larger purchases. And last, If it sounds too good to be true, stay away. Use common sense. Scott

From Tue Jul 30 21:56:36 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390 Resistor Tolerances

wrote: >Hello All, >>An observation about the effect of resistor tolerances in the R-390 series: >When all is said and done, we simply adjust the IF Gain control far below maximum thereby obtaining best noise figure.

BUT....

If you increase the IF gain to compensate for one low-gain RF stage, or one low-gain IF stage, you are disturbing the gain distribution of the radio as a whole and, under certain circumstances, the thing will perform less well than if you'd fixed that low-gain stage properly.

I agree with you that this condition will bring little practical effect though. Roy

From Jim Shorney" < Tue Jul 30 22:39:32 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

wrote: >Nearly all live auctions have house shills that are there to get the ante up. The online sites vendors have friends or extra names to shill their auctions.

Just look at some of slow moving big ticket items that repeat and some of the same bidders on the item. Also some of the low ball come on that all of a sudden have a sniper bid at the end and look at the newest listing. Same item listed before the auction has ended. Hank And your point is....?

From Jim Shorney" < Tue Jul 30 22:40:24 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

wrote: >I think someone told me that e-bay has insurance for bogus sellers and you can file a claim with them if the seller takes your money and runs. They said you lose the first \$25 to file the claim. Can anyone confirm this?

My understanding is that you can file a claim for amounts over \$25. And last, If it sounds too good to be true, stay away. Use common sense. The best advice of all.

From PDulaff@dpconline.com Wed Jul 31 00:14:44 2002
Subject: [R-390] Replacement Meters for the R390A

Hello All

What are the alternatives to using SSN replacement meters on the 390 ? I understand that the SSN meters are an OEM replacements, but they are pricey. Thanks for you input. This list is great ! Paul - WB2NMI

From Llgpt@aol.com Wed Jul 31 00:20:21 2002
Subject: [R-390] Replacement Meters for the R390A

writes: << Hello All What are the alternatives to using SSN replacement meters on the 390 ? I understand that the SSN meters are an OEM replacements, but they are pricey. Paul - WB2NMI

By SSN do you mean Surplus Sales of Nebraska? If so, their replacement meters are the late R-390A replacement meters. Exact matches. I believe that there was a thread that said they were out at one time, but not sure. I know someone who purchased a set, very nice NOS stuff. Les Locklear

From ba.williams@charter.net Wed Jul 31 01:11:33 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390 Power-on micro switch

> I leave my FUNCTION switch on MGC and turn it on and off with the switch on the power panel that has a metered variac on the back,..... YES, I use a variac and I don't care who knows it!! Joe

Same here until I take it out of the rack and drop the front panel. I've thought of using the stick method to tap the switch but using the variac is okay for now. I'm running it at 110 volts. Barry

From ba.williams@charter.net Wed Jul 31 01:22:39 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

> EBAY has been finally, begrudgingly accepted by most hams. I don't personally care whether anyone buys through it or not. I STILL like to see items of interest offered on the various reflectors available to us first-but with prices reaching a degree of parity, it doesn't matter nearly as much any more. And I really HATE to see inaccurate reporting-and whether or not the laptop / computer market has more than its share of fraud going on within EBAY, that's NOT what was represented here. EBAY as a whole has worked just fine for me.

> P.S. And for the record... while I have "hundreds" of purchases over the years, I have never sold one single thing via EBAY. I think #2 son has-but don't really know that for a fact. > 73
<n4xy@earthlink.net>

If you read some of the other news stories about ebay you will find that the ripoff statistics are very high in some categories....far from the boatanchor interests we have. I've bought a few radio related things on ebay and have been very happy with the sellers. Les pointed me to my RBL-5 that was being offered and I got it for \$80 I think. It was way under represented, in my opinion, as it was in just about mint condition. This is the radio that got sent to about 4 wrong locations and the seller kept calling and tracking for me. He wrapped it in a big ball of foam and it survived just fine.

If you are into sports memorabilia, then be prepared to run a high risk of being scammed. You know, autographed baseballs, and things like that. There are areas where the ripoff rate is quite high, but obviously not in radios. I saw something on Fox a few days ago about computers having a high number of ripoff artists on ebay. Barry

From nryan@intrex.net Wed Jul 31 01:47:20 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390 Power-on micro switch

wrote: > I leave my FUNCTION switch on MGC and turn it on and > off with the switch on the power panel that has a > metered variac on the back,..... YES, I use a variac > and I don't care who knows it!!
> Joe

Hi, Joe, Way to go! My procedure exactly.

I leave the R-390A's Function on all the time and power the rig up or down with the Variac as needed. In the rack, below the receiver, is a homebrew AC power supply consisting of the Variac, AC voltmeter, and elapsed time meter, pilot light and AC power switch. It looks cool and the ritual is so automatic, it would feel odd to power up otherwise-- like not automatically buckling up when getting in the car.

Since there is no AC surge, I've changed the main AC fuse from 3 amp to 2 amp so as to obtain tighter protection. I've had no fuse failure to date after three years.

BTW, the ovens are left "off." None of us runs the receiver with the ovens "on" anyway, right?

OK, Joe, we've kicked the beehive again! :-) 73 de Norman KG4SWM

From tpinner@aeroinc.net Wed Jul 31 02:44:35 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

Hi Group,

Think there's a \$250 limit. Tom

From Jim Shorney" < Wed Jul 31 03:37:18 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

wrote: > Think there's a \$250 limit.

'Under the Fraud Protection Program, you are eligible for reimbursement for up to \$200, minus \$25 of the item price, if it is determined that you have been a victim of fraud. '
<http://pages.ebay.com/help/community/ins-process.html>

From w7itc@hotmail.com Wed Jul 31 04:52:22 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

Your reports have reassured me. I have been looking at Zenith Transoceanic's. Have several model 600's but I have wanted a Royal 3000 since I was about ten years of age reading their ad's in my parents National Geographic's. Do any of you use the automatic bidding option or is that a mistake? Kenneth A. Crips W7ITC,

From Jim Shorney" < Wed Jul 31 05:09:48 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

wrote:>Do any of you use the automatic bidding option or is that a mistake?

I've done it either way, and it really doesn't matter a whole lot. Some people like the excitement of last minute sniping, but there's always the risk of not getting your bid placed in time. If you're serious about it and have a maximum dollar figure in mind, it is probably best to go with the proxy system and let the chips fall where they may.

From twleiper@juno.com Wed Jul 31 05:06:07 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

writes: > Under the Fraud Protection Program, > you are eligible for reimbursement for up to \$200, > minus \$25 of the item price, if it is determined that > you have been a victim of fraud.

BFD. I only got ripped off once...a couple years ago for a Sun monitor. Some guy named Rialdi Monsour out in LA. Made the mistake of sending Pay Pal, and he never shipped. All Ebay ever did was try to send him e-mail (useful as balls on a skeleton) and after ten days of no response said there was nothing they could do. But they refused to give me his address info so I could send somebody out there to bash his brains.

I always either insist on cash-n-carry myself or through an intermediary, or they have to give me a street address, and if they say don't have one I ask them to send me a picture of their driver's license...otherwise I tell them they can go pound sand. A couple balked on the license, but they never gave me bad feedback because they were probably crooks anyway.

Respectfully submitted by the board of engineers, 8/27/30: Joseph B. Strauss Leon S. Moisseiff Othmar Ammann Charles Derleth, Jr.

From Jim Shorney" < Wed Jul 31 05:16:38 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

wrote: >BFD. I only got ripped off once...a couple years ago>for a Sun monitor.

Sheesh, a friend of mine just threw a couple Sun monitors away. I couldn't take them, no more room (and I've got a Sparc 10 box in the basement even). Common as dirt around here.

From twleiper@juno.com Wed Jul 31 05:16:39 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

writes: > Do any of you use the automatic bidding > option or is that a mistake?

I only bid low and early to warn certain fools that they may be up against me, and keep the auction in the bid group instead of the watch group. Then, if I really want it, I ALWAYS snipe bid about three to ten times the sensible price no earlier than five seconds before then end...usually two seconds. But there again, I may not bid super high at all and let somebody else get stuck with it. It is all based upon a theorem I devised quite a long time ago that best describes the probability of winning an auction based upon the best body of evidence available. Thomas Bayes

From twleiper@juno.com Wed Jul 31 05:23:19 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

writes: > I've done it either way, and it really doesn't matter a whole lot. > ...it is probably best to go with the proxy system and let the > chips fall where they may.

If there is a snipe bidder (like me) those chips will fall my way every time. And all I will have to pay is one bid increment more than the most you were willing to pay...which is worth it if I want it. I only use the proxy if I am not going to be around, and when I do I bid at least 50% more than the sane price if I really don't want to lose. But a clever shill bidder can detect your limit without busting it and push you all the way to the top for nothing. That's why I almost NEVER proxy bid. Wilford Robards

From twleiper@juno.com Wed Jul 31 05:28:54 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

writes: > Sheesh, a friend of mine just threw a couple Sun monitors away. I > couldn't take them, no more room (and I've got a Sparc 10 box in > the basement even). Common as dirt around here.

Yeah, and I like them. I use them with special adapter cards in a couple PC's. Made by Sony, and after ten years they are still the best CRT monitors I have ever had. Hyman Rickover

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Wed Jul 31 10:00:32 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

I second the comments by Jim Shorney, Ed Tanton, and Scott. Scammers can strike anywhere. Ads in QST, CQ, and the Old Yellow Sheets to name a few. I think that eBay is doing a good job considering the millions of transactions that occur. In addition the FEEDBACK is something not found in other areas. I been burned on Auctions many times. Primarily my fault-because I DID NOT INSPECT CLOSE ENOUGH. ASK QUESTIONS, CONFER with others when in doubt. EBAY can be a "BARGAIN BASEMENT" of real treasure that you'd spend a lifetime trying to find otherwise. 73, Glen Galati KA7BOJ

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Wed Jul 31 11:24:13 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

> <> writes: > > Under the Fraud Protection Program, > > you are eligible for reimbursement for up to \$200, > > minus \$25 of the item price, if it is determined that > > you have been a victim of fraud. > > BFD. I only got ripped off once...a couple years ago > for a Sun monitor.

You can easily get "contact" info on a seller. I recently did it. You click the button after signing in and e-bay sends you the phone number and address on file. They ALSO send the other guy your address and phone number on file automatically. Pay Pal or any credit card based payment is pretty safe. Almost all credit cards will accept complaints and DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. They will put the disputed amount on hold and try settling with the seller. Credit cards have the best protection of all. PayPal may also have some type of protection.

> I always either insist on cash-n-carry myself or through > an intermediary, or they have to give me a street address, > and if they say don't have one I ask them to send me > a picture of their driver's license...otherwise I tell them > they can go pound sand. A couple balked on the license, > but they never gave me bad feedback because they were > probably crooks anyway.

Who the hell does not have a street address?? Where do they live in the woods? I don't blame you for asking for one anyway. Who knows if it would be the right one anyway.

> Respectfully submitted by the board of engineers, 8/27/30: > > Joseph B. Strauss > Leon S. Moisseiff
> Othmar Ammann > Charles Derleth, Jr.

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Wed Jul 31 11:34:09 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

> Your reports have reassured me. I have been looking at Zenith Transoceanic's. Have several model 600's but I have wanted a Royal 3000 since I was about ten years of age reading their ad's in my parents National Geographic's. Do any of you use the automatic bidding option or is that a mistake?

I swear by: <http://www.bidslammer.com/> Just set your maximum bid and it will put it in 10 secs before closing. Late enough that no one (except a sniper), will be able to post another bid.

Problem is that if an item has standing bids on it, if you outbid them they get notified of being outbid. People hate being outbid and are more inclined to up the ante. I have put in bids 2 minutes before the closing only to have someone do the same and frantically re-bid the item cause they have enough time and win it. No more. I just give the item my max bid at the very end. Seems fair enough. I think I win more auctions sniping and at better prices. It only costs 10 cents if your bid is unsuccessful, plus I cant tell you how many times I wanted to bid last minute and forgot. Sometimes the auctions end at times when I am not available. Scott

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Wed Jul 31 11:42:29 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

> others when in doubt. EBAY can be a "BARGAIN BASEMENT" of real treasure that > you'd spend a lifetime trying to find otherwise.

You are right. I have items such as a HP8601A sweep generator and a HP8600 Marker generator, just to name a few, that I have gotten off of e-bay that I would probably not have been able to get very easily otherwise. And at \$100 each, the prices certainly were right. Scott

From lal@metrocast.net Wed Jul 31 13:06:37 2002
Subject: [R-390] Help please

Hello to all..

I have a friend, who does not have Email etc., who just picked up a real nice R-390 (Non A) The power transformer is burnt out in this rig. He asked me if I would put it on the reflector to see if anyone might know where he could pick up one of these. Thanks for any help, appreciate it. 73 Merle W1GZS

From cbsscott@ingr.com Wed Jul 31 13:33:58 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

Is that you, Sybil? Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Wed Jul 31 14:34:24 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

wrote: > <> writes: > ... > > I've done it either way, and it really doesn't matter a whole lot. > > ...it is probably best to go with the proxy system and let the > > chips fall where they may.

I agree completely. Proxy bidding is fine if you can't be there or don't mind paying an extreme amount for an item to insure you win. All it really does is allow others days to pick away at your bid and, at the very least, drive your bid higher than you'd have likely paid if you sniped. It isn't difficult to look up a high bidder's previous auctions and get an idea how they bid. All that bidding early does is make the seller more money while costing the high bidder more. If I bid from work here, I bid in the last couple seconds(possible with a T1 line), from home with dial-in usually the last 10. I bid as much as I'm willing to pay, but only at the end of the auction. As you say Tom, if you really want something, just bid a huge amount. This works with proxy too, of course - you just end up paying more generally than if you waited. A good friend here refers to sniping as 'bottom feeding', but I've tried to explain that bottom feeders only get the crap left over that know one else wants. Snipers generally get what they're shooting at.

As far as being scammed, I've only had one incident, and that was on the very first item I sold. My fault for posting feedback first. User has since been removed from ebay for ripping off others(he tried to blackmail me for a refund and the item, I chose the negative feedback instead and responded to my feedback and his), but ebay will not remove the negative feedback despite his obvious guilt. I do think they need to be more responsible for what goes on there, but that will never replace self-responsibility and common sense on the user's part.

On the upside, I've had good luck dealing with list members here and on other lists (except for the one crook in 6-Land), and encourage others to do the same. To me, it seems preferable to sell to or buy from those you communicate with regularly and have a good idea about character-wise. Plus you don't have to give a slice to a big company for the privilege, although a yearly donation to Al Waller is a good idea. 73 de Todd/'Boomer' KA1KAQ

From ba.williams@charter.net Wed Jul 31 18:28:54 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

> BFD. I only got ripped off once...a couple years ago > Charles Derleth, Jr.

Tom, Here are the results of a R. Monsour search for California:
R MONSOUR LA CRESCENTA CA
R T MONSOUR GILROY CA 95020 (408) 842-4099
R E MONSOUR 476 CALLE CADIZ LAGUNA WOODS CA 92653 (949) 581-9827
Monsour, R ORANGE, CA 92866 714-639-5038

He could have moved, or these are suburbs of L.A. but I don't know for sure. These are the rest of the Monsours as listed for Los Angeles. He could be listed under a wife or family member. That is why I'm sending it to you.

A S MONSOUR LOS ANGELES CA 90028 (323) 466-7498
C MONSOUR 420 S LA FAYETTE PARK PL LOS ANGELES CA 90057 (213)

381-5725

JESSE B MONSOUR 6600 YUCCA ST LOS ANGELES CA 90028 (323) 957-9327

JOHN MONSOUR LOS ANGELES CA 90046 (323) 650-5706

L MONSOUR LOS ANGELES CA 90046 (323) 654-9363 Barry

From Jim Shorney" < Wed Jul 31 22:06:38 2002

Subject: [R-390] auction scams

wrote: >Yeah, and I like them. I use them with special adapter cards >in a couple PC's. Made by Sony, and after ten years they >are still the best CRT monitors I have ever had.

Pretty much the same as the IBM 6091-19i that I have sitting here....

From Jim Shorney" < Wed Jul 31 22:32:28 2002

Subject: [R-390] auction scams

wrote: >I agree completely. Proxy bidding is fine if you can't be there or don't >mind paying an extreme amount for an item to insure you win. All it >really does is allow others days to pick away at your bid and, at the >very least, drive your bid higher than you'd have likely paid if you >sniped.

I suppose it depends on your philosophy. I generally do snipe if I can, because it's fun and because, like you say, you can sometimes win cheaper than via the proxy system. However, if I use the proxy system, I have a \$\$ amount in mind which I do not want to go over. I think that if someone is willing to go to the trouble to suss out my top bid or still the price up, it's no big deal anyway; if they push it over my max, that means the seller didn't want to sell it to me that cheap anyway, or someone else wanted it worse than I did. If I win at any price up to my max, I'll never know for sure if I could have gotten it cheaper, but I won anyway and am happy. IOW, as far as the final outcome is concerned, it doesn't make much difference to me either way, and I don't sweat it. Life is too short to get all worked up over a silly auction....

Then there was the time that I won an IBM processor complex on a proxy bid (had to be away at scout camp that week) for about half of its AEV (Average Ebay Value) at that time. So it does work.

I sometimes post a small opening bid early on if there are no bids yet, just so I can watch the subsequent bidding and get a feel for how it goes. Then I'll dive in with a snipe at the last moment. Sometimes it works, sometimes not, but it's all great fun.

From Jim Shorney" < Wed Jul 31 22:34:42 2002

Subject: [R-390] auction scams

wrote: >If there is a snipe bidder (like me) those chips will >fall my way every time. And all I will have to pay >is one bid increment more than the most you were >willing to pay...which is worth it if I want it.

Not necessarily. I have frequently beaten snipers with a reasonable proxy bid. So much fun to watch, too.

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Wed Jul 31 23:03:50 2002

Subject: [R-390] Help please

390 parts seem real hard to come by. If you can't locate a source for a new power transformer, may I suggest "restuffing" the old one with new 570V ct and a 25.2v ct transformers. And if anyone out there is parting out a 390, I NEED PARTS!!! And certainly will pay. Let me know. Scott

From mahlonhaunschild@cox.net Wed Jul 31 23:14:08 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: Help please

Would an R-390A transformer work? those can be had from Fair Radio for circa \$25. But someone who has actually inspected BOTH transformers should weigh in on this, rather than lil' ole' ignorant me. regards, Mahlon - K4OQ

From twleiper@juno.com Wed Jul 31 23:33:19 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

writes: > Not necessarily. I have frequently beaten snipers with a reasonable proxy bid. So much fun to watch, too.

But a "reasonable" proxy bid will never win against an "unreasonable" snipe bid, assuming the sniper has the balls to place a bid that trumps everything. And that's where it gets a little more tricky... you have to make sure that your "unreasonable" bid is well higher than all the "reasonable" bids, but below another possible sniper's "unreasonable" bid. And he is trying to do the same to you, so the best thing to do is shoot him if you know where he is...but that's "unreasonable".

Forget it, I'm not bidding anymore. I'm just going to start selling. Who wants my cherry SP-600 for \$1500? R. E. ffolkes

From twleiper@juno.com Wed Jul 31 23:23:04 2002
Subject: [R-390] auction scams

writes: > However, if I use the proxy system, I have a \$\$ amount > in mind which I do not want to go over.

But the question is, if you KNEW that you could in the item for one bid higher than whatever anybody else's "max" was, would you take it? All I know is that I almost never win auctions that I don't snipe, and about 90% of the bid histories you would review show that the sniper usually gets the kill.

> Life is too short to get all worked up over a silly auction....

There's some common ground...

> I sometimes post a small opening bid early on if there are no bids yet, just so I can watch the subsequent bidding and get a feel for how it goes. Then I'll dive in with a snipe at the last moment.

That's been the best strategy for me. I place zillions of "bargain" bids (like "radiograveyard") where it would be nice if I won it but I could care less. None of them have ever won. Wolf J. Flywheel