

## R-390 Reflector August '02 Edited

From Llgpt@aol.com Thu Aug 1 00:03:34 2002  
Subject: [R390] auction scams

writes: << Forget it, I'm not bidding anymore. I'm just going to start selling. Who wants my cherry SP600 for \$1500? R. E. ffolkes >>

I'll take two of 'em!!!! Strudwick Wickerwire

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Thu Aug 1 00:09:31 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: Help please

They are VERY different. scott

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Thu Aug 1 00:14:36 2002  
Subject: [R390] auction scams

Hmmm....It would be interesting to see if "radiograveyard" actually wins any descent merchandise. Everything I see him bid on he gets blown away. Scott

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Thu Aug 1 00:25:38 2002  
Subject: [R390] auction scams

> Forget it, I'm not bidding anymore. I'm just going to > start selling. Who wants my cherry SP600 for \$1500?

If you have patients and don't mind relisting, some knucklehead will come along sooner or later and pay you a stupid price. I may have done that a time or two myself. :) There is a guy selling a bunch of Bristol wrench sets now for \$18 each. And he has sold some and will eventually sell all. Thing is, McMaster Carr sells the same MADE IN THE USA, not crappy china, set for \$7.69. Maybe I should buy a bunch and turn a \$10 each profit. Ahh... as they say.... there is sucker born every day..... Scott

From twleiper@juno.com Thu Aug 1 01:17:36 2002  
MessageID: <20020731.202226.1364.25.twleiper@juno.com>

writes: > If you have patients and don't mind relisting...

I don't see what one has to do with the other, unless they are bidding for my services or something. M. Welby

From twleiper@juno.com Thu Aug 1 01:13:41 2002  
Subject: [R390] auction scams

writes: > Hmmm....It would be interesting to see if "radiograveyard" actually > wins any descent

merchandise.

I don't know if he has since I don't bid on parachutes or climbing and rapelling equipment, such as brakebar caribiners, or even skis for that matter. S. Wicks

From Llgpt@aol.com Thu Aug 1 01:29:16 2002  
Subject: [R390] auction scams

writes: << I don't know if he has since I don't bid on parachutes or climbing and rapelling equipment, such as brakebar caribiners, or even skis for that matter. S. Wicks >>

Or, relative bearing grease, boxes of prop wash, 50 ft. coils of chow line and buckets of high pressure steam. Dr. Seymour Butts

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Thu Aug 1 01:30:13 2002  
Subject: [R390] auction scams

Oh my, you have missed your medication. Do take it ASAP R.U. Nuts

From bill@iaxs.net Thu Aug 1 02:04:08 2002  
Subject: [R390] auction scams

>Ahh... as they say.... there is sucker born every day.....

Well, actually, it was P T Barnum (of circus fame) who said, "There's a sucker born every minute".

That was back in the thirties. Must be up to a sucker a second by now. Truth is, we're all born as suckers. P T was talking about the folks that attended his carnival booths and side shows. Bill

From RICKSHAVER@aol.com Thu Aug 1 02:42:02 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

Please restrict emails to radios, etc. Misc. conversational emails are getting out of hand. tnx. Rick.

From twleiper@juno.com Thu Aug 1 02:55:43 2002  
Subject: [R390] Your order for two cherry SP600s

writes: > I'll take two of 'em!!!!

Just fax me a check and I'll email them to you... J. T. Kirk

From ba.williams@charter.net Thu Aug 1 03:36:34 2002  
Subject: [R390] auction scams

> Or, relative bearing grease, boxes of prop wash, 50 ft. coils of chow line > and buckets of high

pressure steam. > > Dr. Seymour Butts

The key to the hydrostatic lock a can of night vision paint 10' of flight line

From twleiper@juno.com Thu Aug 1 03:16:52 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic...but back on again...maybe

writes: > Please restrict emails to radios, etc. Misc. conversational emails > are getting out of hand. tnx. Rick.

We give "etc" plenty of attention here as well as radios, and some of us actually get a chuckle out of it. And you would be suprised, but sometimes crackpots like me have made rather significant contributions to the art, if I may say so myself.

"You just did, and you may not, you pompous jerk"  
"Shut up"  
"Sorry"  
"And now for something completely different"

The R390 family of radio receivers has two great big knobs on the front and a lot of little teeny ones too.  
Hammarlund C. F. Frost

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Thu Aug 1 04:21:10 2002  
Subject: [R390] auction scams

> The key to the hydrostatic lock  
+++++

Yeah? Shows how much YOU know! ALL hydrostatic locks are combination locks! Oliver Hazard Perry

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Thu Aug 1 04:40:22 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

wrote: > Please restrict emails to radios, etc. Misc. Who??

US??

On this list where we've covered every art and science, including cooking and transportation, even remotely related to R390's?? On this list where we've covered every subject known to man from cats whizzing in the tube tester to the ramifications of banning the private ownership of military surplus?? (Including efficient techniques for gutting and skinning sheep in the back of a pickup truck!)

Nah,..... we don't EVER get out of hand here.

Bzzzzzzz,..... whatcha got in the box, Les?

Bzzzz,.....(boot!)

Oliver Hazard Perry (again) (CooperBessemer)

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Thu Aug 1 04:52:55 2002  
Subject: [R390] auction scams

wrote: > Hmm...It would be interesting to see if  
+++++

I quit selling on Ebay, too many times I only got one lone bid and the thing went WAY too cheap!  
Willie Vertel (Amish Carpenter)

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Thu Aug 1 04:56:19 2002  
Subject: [R390] auction scams

> 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~~  
Nobody even bids on my stuff! R. F. Fields

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Thu Aug 1 05:01:51 2002  
Subject: [R390] Help please

> 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.  
+++++

There's an opportunity!

Tear one apart, get the specs and see what price Peter Dahl can come up with for new replacement units.  
More than anything just so someone will have the drawings already done in order to make a several unit  
production run. Davey Croquette

From Jim Shorney" < Thu Aug 1 05:29:07 2002  
Subject: [R390] auction scams

wrote: >Nobody even bids on my stuff!

This is what works for me:

1. Include a decent picture in the auction ad.
2. Include plenty of info in the ad. Check your grammar and spelling. Make sure your ad is nicely formatted (white space between points really helps readability) and doesn't take forever to load (keep pictures under 3040 KB). A poorly formatted ad in badly phrased or misspelled english really hurts credibility (at least, it does with me).
3. Advertise. Do a google groups search to find any newsgroups where your particular item (or something similar) is discussed. Then post a FA ad with a link to the auction BUT FIRST, peruse some of the message headers in the newsgroup to see if this type of post is acceptable. OT posts get some folks all twisted up in a knot. Don't post FA ads to newsgroups or lists (reflectors) where it is expressly forbidden.

4. Set the start price LOW (set a reserve price if appropriate) this helps get the bidding frenzy started.
5. Don't bother trying to sell any Collins gear, just send it directly to me. YMMV

(insert obligatory mention of R390a here to keep this ontopic) Big Jim (IBM)

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Thu Aug 1 13:30:06 2002  
Subject: [R390] auction scams

Hi Gang and "undisclosed recipients":

While we're on this offtopic topic, here's a good way to reduce risk of auction scams: Exorcise your paypal accounts if you have 'em by doing a good deed. Al Waller needs some funds and some of us are about due, so just hop over to paypal and send some lucky bucks. The qth payment ID is k3tkj@qsl.net but don't take my word for it check the official notice that just went out..

Disclaimer: I have no pecuniary interest in paypal (tho' they might have one in me.). (Send the money any which way you can.) I do have a vested interest in the qth lists and so do you. While there is no guarantee that this "exorcism" will prevent falling victim to scams, at least the amount you donate will be 100% swindlefree and well invested. And .. as usual, your mileage may vary.

Oh, yeah, the obligatory spam notice: You did NOT receive this unabashed piece of spam because you opted in by clicking a button on some web site or merely stumbled into one during a messy web search. I just felt like it nobody made me do it. (i.e., don't blame Al.)

To opt out of future messages of this type, simply click on this link: ;() Ha ha gotcha! (Could have been worse a real link might put you ON a 100's of spam lists.) Barry

From richardlo@devax.admin.athabascau.ca Thu Aug 1 17:16:54 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

wrote: > On this list where we've covered every subject known > to man from cats whizzing in the tube tester to the

Joe, you never get this stuff complete. It was skinning a sheep in the back of a pickup truck in the parking lot of a city apartment block and the horrified bystanders were aghast to find that eviscerating a dead animal in public is not against any law: municipal, state, or federal. Hah! Every once in a while there is true justice! Richard Loken

From Barry Hauser <barry@hausernet.com> Thu Aug 1 17:39:57 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

> Joe, you never get this stuff complete. It was skinning a sheep in the back > of a pickup truck in the parking lot of a city apartment block and the > horrified bystanders were aghast to find that eviscerating a dead animal in > public is not against any law: municipal, state, or federal. >  
> Hah! Every once in a while there is true justice!

Richard, Richard, my friend, tsk tsk, you've got a detail or two wrong ...

It was a deer, not a sheep in the parking lot of an apartment building, not necessarily in the city. Might have been on the hood of a car rather than the back of a pickup. Anyway, that was Nolan Lee's story. Which reminds me, once again ... has anyone heard from Nolan lately? Barry

From richardlo@devax.admin.athabascau.ca Thu Aug 1 21:42:07 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

wrote: > Richard, Richard, my friend, tsk tsk, you've got a detail or two wrong ...

> It was a deer, not a sheep in the parking lot of an apartment building, not > necessarily in the city. Might have been on the hood of a car rather than > the back of a pickup. Anyway, that was Nolan Lee's story. Which reminds

HaH! I recall it better now. Yes, it was a deer and he had a sheet of plywood on which he placed the sacrificial animal. But was the sheet of plywood held up by a truck? A suburban? Probably not a Volvo P1800E. Yes where is Nolan? Richard Loken

From Llgpt@aol.com Thu Aug 1 23:00:04 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

writes: << Yes where is Nolan?

haven't heard from him or seen him since April, 2001. Les

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Thu Aug 1 23:39:06 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

He's been updating his website regularly, do a search for Redneck Boatanchors. Joe

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Fri Aug 2 00:21:05 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

It was a SHEEP!!

He bought it at the local farmers' market, slaughtered it and butchered it in the apartment parking lot.

I din't go into (gory) details because I wanted to lead to the off topic nature of past posts and the wide breadth of topics touched on here, all having SOME relation to the R390 series of radio, even that one, and not get bogged down in the details, however colorful, of a particular thread, or in that case, gut pile.

I wonder if he made sausage? Capt. Hans Langsdorf

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Aug 2 00:30:34 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

writes: << I wonder if he made sausage? Capt. Hans Langsdorf

With.....cat?? The other white meat.....LOL. hey Nolan where are you?? Les

From kd9kc@elp.rr.com Fri Aug 2 00:34:24 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic: Nolan, Sheep, R390As, etc...

Hmmm... are we talking about Nolan here ??? Nolan and a sheep??? Him being a red neck and all, are you sure he just butchered it? I mean.... well.... hmmmmm... you know..... ahhhhh.... darn.... guess I will just say it... he might have shaved the wool off first to make a sweater or something... Do ya think??? A sweater to keep his R390As warm in the winter. Yeah, that's it!!! The winters in Alabama do get cold. Don't they??? Mike.

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Aug 2 00:39:40 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic: Nolan, Sheep, R390As, etc...

writes: << Hmmm... are we talking about Nolan here ??? Nolan and a sheep??? Him being a red neck and all, are you sure he just butchered it? I mean.... well.... hmmmmm... you know..... ahhhhh.... darn.... guess I will just say it... he might have shaved the wool off first to make a sweater or something... Do ya think??? A sweater to keep his R390As warm in the winter. Yeah, that's it!!! The winters in Alabama do get cold. Don't they??? Mike.

ROTFLMAO>>>>>>>>>>

Baaaaaaad Nooooooaaaaaaaan!!!!!! We have pictures. The Shepherd

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Fri Aug 2 00:56:47 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic: Nolan, Sheep, R390As, etc...

I still say it was a deer. My memory generally stinks, but I do remember important stuff like that. Tho' I must confess misplacing 2 or 3 sets of bristol wrenches, but hey they're small. Barry

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Aug 2 01:00:36 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic: Nolan, Sheep, R390As, etc...

writes: << I still say it was a deer. My memory generally stinks, but I do remember important stuff like that. Tho' I must confess misplacing 2 or 3 sets of bristol wrenches, but hey they're small. Barry

It has been suggested that Nolan killed the "sheep" to keep it from talking.....:) Alfred E. Neuman  
"What, Me Worry"?

From Richard.McClung@Dielectric.spx.com Fri Aug 2 01:26:45 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

His web page is still up but Email gets bounced..... RICH WA6KNW

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Aug 2 01:35:33 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

writes: << His web page is still up but Email gets bounced..... RICH WA6KNW

He visited over here in April, 2001. Spent most of the day, we went out for lunch which Nolan graciously bought. Talked about radios, made a few swaps. Loaded some goodies in his famed "Surburban" and that was the last i saw or heard from him. Les

From Michael Tallent" <mtallent@concentric.net Fri Aug 2 02:24:44 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

OK, here is a clip from the original email from Nolan in May of 1999. My wife says I don't throw anything away, and I guess I don't delete much either.

One Saturday morning that fall, I nailed a pretty decent sized deer and decided to butcher it in the parking lot. I bought me a sheet of 5/8" plywood, a roll of visqueen and a new halfsized metal trashcan to use as a gutbucket, on the way home. I put the tailgate down on the old GMC, slid the plywood out about six feet or so and supported the other end of the plywood with two folding lawnchairs and then covered the whole thing with a couple of thicknesses of visqueen. It made pretty decent table. With the weight of the deer on it, it bowed the plywood down enough so that the blood would run off of the table on each side of the middle. I put the gutbucket on one side and the lid on the other to catch the drippings. No mess at all.

Small excerpt included without permission from Nolan Lee May 13, 1999 Mike Tallent W6MXV

From plmills@attglobal.net Fri Aug 2 02:25:12 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

Where oh where is our list admin....off topic is off topic and very inconsiderate of those of use who are really interested in R390x equipment. If you can't get on topic then get off the list..... 73, Phil W5BVB

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Aug 2 02:28:30 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

writes: << Where oh where is our list admin....off topic is off topic and very inconsiderate of those of use who are really interested in R390x equipment. If you can't get on topic then get off the list..... 73, Phil W5BVB

Baaaaaaad Booooooys!!

From bill.riches@verizon.net Fri Aug 2 02:38:00 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

Nolan is missed.



I purchased two bulbs for a 1015 from him and in my clumsyness I broke one when unpacking them. I asked him if he would sell me one more me sent me one no charge. Nolan where in the world are you?? Bill Riches WA2DVU Cape May, NJ 08210

From nryan@intrex.net Fri Aug 2 02:43:52 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

PHIL IS RIGHT, GUYS. Enough already. 73 de Norman KG4SWM

From ba.williams@charter.net Fri Aug 2 03:54:22 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

> << I wonder if he made sausage? > > Capt. Hans Langsdorf >>> > > With.....cat?? The other white meat.....LOL.hey Nolan where are you?? > Les

Les, wasn't it you who found a catalog for oversized women's underwear in Nolan's truck? Is that how that story went? Barry

From ba.williams@charter.net Fri Aug 2 03:55:45 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic: Nolan, Sheep, R390As, etc...

Daaaaady Daaaaady

Was it something like that? Dick Pistek

From ba.williams@charter.net Fri Aug 2 03:58:50 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

I guess we will never find out if he ever got help to put all of those telephone poles up for his antenna farm. I think he had something like nine of them to sink. Roy D. Mercer

From ba.williams@charter.net Fri Aug 2 04:05:29 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

> PHIL IS RIGHT, GUYS. Enough already. > > 73 de Norman KG4SWM

I'm not sure if it was on this list or that other 'pay' list, but there was this one guy who never wrote a thing except for one message a year to yell at everyone to get back on topic. Somebody told me this guy sent the same complain once a year. Anybody remember that? This guy would ream out everyone and everything in sight for being a smidgen off topic. It was like he saved up all of the sins of every list member or something. Marcus Welby, M.D.

From kd9kc@elp.rr.com Fri Aug 2 04:24:04 2002

Subject: [R390] off topic

Think I will turn off my R390 and go to bed. RIGHT NOW. It really chaps my AS that some people didn't get a delete key on their keyboards.

Yall take care, and happy listening in ur sleep. Hmm... getting cloudy, better disconnect first, or I will be offering my scrap for sale on the list. After all, it is our rainy season, 3 inches in the last 6 weeks. Makes the ground a better ground.

Lets see. I mentioned R390. I mentioned GROUND. I mentioned lightening safety disconnecting. Is that on topic? Is complaining about being off topic on topic? Mike

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Fri Aug 2 04:42:38 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

Do a search for "Redneck Boatanchors" he's still there.

Now look, This is why we get off topic every once in a while, its been going on for YEARS!!!

That is what I was trying to demonstrate to you, Sometimes these threads are like trying to unravel a plate of spaghetti but they are often constructive in the end,..... as long as they keep turning toward the right direction. John Bell Hood (Crosley)

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Fri Aug 2 04:50:06 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

wrote: > Where oh where is our list admin....off topic is > off topic and very inconsiderate of those of use > who are really interested in R390x equipment. > > If you can't get on topic then get off the list.....

+++++

HI Phil,

We're just standing around engaging in harmless chatter while waiting for someone to post something about R390's,.....

waiting,....

standing,....

ho,. ...hum,....

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Fri Aug 2 05:00:42 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

If nothing else this thread has brought people out of the woodwork that I haven't seen post in a long, long time! Hope you're all well! Joe

From davidmed82@msn.com Fri Aug 2 05:05:13 2002  
Subject: [R390] I'm back!

Hi Guys,

Finally I am back in Tucson and ready to chat/help with R390 stuff. My workshop is set up and believe it or not my first job is with a Stewart Warner R390A. Physically this is a really beautiful radio but the problem is it doesn't work!! My web site is still up at the old address and I will update it from time to time. My email address is: davidmed82@msn.com. The old address at sbcglobal is dead so please don't use it. Glad to be back. Moving is for the birds!!! Dave

From Fri Aug 2 05:08:24 2002

Subject: [R390] off topic: Nolan, Sheep, R390As, etc...

wrote: >I still say it was a deer.

Nolan told of buying a "barren ewe", bringing it back to where he lived, tying the thing up to the raised rear door of his station waggon, slitting its throat and then dressing it out into a plastic bucket. He then explained that he got no more sh\*t from the neighbors as he had been getting over something or other.

This story was quite a long time ago now. Roy

From twleiper@juno.com Fri Aug 2 05:11:41 2002

Subject: [R390] Re: Nolan

writes: > Nolan is missed. ... > Nolan where in the world are you??

I think Carnivore got him after 911. Remember that tag line he always had with every possible terrorist trigger word? ...it was a hoot. He's probably in a detention cell with his own unshaven sweaty Arab bitch...

"I only listen R390. I not terrorist. I good redneck American...only joking about Semtex. Hah, Hah, Hah."

I wonder how the bars would work at supressing PC noise. If the warden lets him put up an antenna, he might be able to get good reception on his R390, and pretty good lightening protection as well. According to "Audels R390 Operating and Repair Book", the R390 requires at least a forty square foot jail cell for proper operation under those conditions, and the bars must be of steel or some other ferrous material. Extensive debriefing of the Myaguez (sp?) prisoners revealed that the R390 they built from scratch had a noise figure that was slightly below factory spec, and they concluded that the problem was that the bars were of bamboo instead of steel. They also had trouble getting a proper load on the antenna when they fired up their scratch built T368. They eventually built a T195/R392 pair that worked well...oops...drifting off topic again. KEEP IT TO R390's ONLY PLEASE.

Get Kraco on the blower and tell him we're stopping by for our "cut". Sulu, make course for Iotia, ahead warp 9. J.T.K.

From willowfly2000@yahoo.com Fri Aug 2 05:28:12 2002

Subject: [R390] Re: Nolan

I thought the story was he cornholed it in the driveway

From bill@iaxs.net Fri Aug 2 05:38:07 2002

Subject: [R390] off topic

Is anybody keeping statistics on the amount of offtopic material?

We've had some great off topic threads, but if you add in the auction stuff, this looks like a record breaker.

In fact, there are just so many on topic things you can say. I mean, the radio only has so many tubes and modules. Should the list die while we wait for a new and original question? Should we wait for a newbie to come along and then rehash line cords, filters, grounding, microswitches, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera? (Sounds like the King of Siam in the Deborah Kerr movie (The King of Siam).)

No, this is a good group of people that should not be required to go quiet until something we haven't discussed before turns up.

Now, maybe we could get more esoteric, and discuss how the thickness of chassis plating affects the reception from Beluchistan, or how tubes with certain decals seem to provide an 0.01 dB improvement in signal level. But even that would end in absurdity, and we would be left with silence. I much prefer to hear from Joe Foley, Les, the Barrys or the twit :) on any subject they choose. Or Nolan, if he's still out there.

Not that serious stuff isn't welcome, but you can't keep that going forever.

Tolerance is a virtue, especially when there's more of them than there are of you. Regards, Bill Hawkins

From willowfly2000@yahoo.com Fri Aug 2 05:47:59 2002

Subject: [R390] off topic

Moo

From w5or@comcast.net Fri Aug 2 09:00:51 2002

Subject: [R390] OFF TOPIC POSTS

Hmm, looks like there is excess steam to blow off this week.

If you made an outrageous donation to Al's QTH operating fund, then go ahead, weigh in, and make those off topic posts. Otherwise, let's get back on subject. Don Reaves W5OR

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Fri Aug 2 11:08:32 2002

Subject: [R390] Stats

Hey!! I win!!!! What's my prize!!! Do I get a nice shiny NOS R390 that has just been found after 50 years??? We'll come on. I am waiting!! Scott (polaraligned)

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Fri Aug 2 11:12:36 2002

Subject: [R390] I'm back!

Hi Dave. Certainly glad to have your nona expertise here. Scott

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Aug 2 13:50:40 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

writes: << Les, wasn't it you who found a catalog for oversized women's underwear in Nolan's truck? Is that how that story went? >>

No, I spotted a large bra and clothing, a purse was open and there was a picture id of Nolan in a wig.....going by the name of Helga Rubenstein!!!

Les Locklear " That's my story and I'm sticking to it "

From gsosinski@earthlink.net Fri Aug 2 14:44:19 2002  
Subject: [R390] Delurking

Gentlemen (And I do use that term loosely),

In the next few days I will be making a pilgrimage to Fair Radio. They are listing a "400watt Regulator". <http://www.fairradio.com/0102567.htm> Does anyone have any experience or thoughts on using this item to regulate the Input voltage to the R390 (a)?

On a lighter note Humor is not a bad thing... As I have been crisscrossing the eastern US with my job over the past few weeks performing "Emergency security upgrades". The off topic remarks do add a little bit of levity to the ordinary monotony. Keep up the good Work. Greg

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Fri Aug 2 15:41:30 2002  
Subject: [R390] I'm back!

Welcome back, Dave. Congrats on accomplishing the move and getting the shop set up. There were a few folks looking for R390 advice in your absence, so I'm sure you'll have more questions coming your way. Good to have you back 73 de Todd/'Boomer' KA1KAQ

From Richard.McClung@Dielectric.spx.com Fri Aug 2 16:19:58 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

I was wondering????? Has anybody ever done a thread on that black stuff that oozes out of the R390(\*)'s power transformer when it has been overexerted by the power provider?

I have several questions about it's effects on the environment and people in general. Is it toxic? Will it make a rash appear on my skin? Will it cause me to progenerate mutated offspring? Is it OK to chew it like gum? Can I use it to plug bullet holes in my radiator and/or gas tank?

Also , I would like to put forth a theory..... Is it possible that Nolan has suffered foul play at the hands of this black ooze? Is it further possible that he may, at this very time, be held prisoner by some strange creature that was caused into being by the black ooze that may have spewed forth from the many R390(\*) transformers that are known to litter Nolan's humble shack (radio or otherwise).

Where are those black helicopters when you really need them? RICH WA6KNW

P.S. Note the clever insertion of R390 into the off topic subject..... Morrow / Hammarlund / Lowe

From jetemp@insightbb.com Fri Aug 2 18:12:10 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390\* test instruments

Idle chatter is harmless. Just glad to see that this list avoids flaming.

2 questions....

1. Does anyone have an AC probe for a HP 410C meter (11036A) that they will part with??
2. Is a length of RG58 with clips on the end an appropriate lead attachment to the BNC input to a HP 3400A AC voltmeter? The lower scales go crazy with this lead. Is there a dedicated probe that has components that will settle down this instrument?

Thanks for your past support. Sincerely, Jim Temple

From n4xy@earthlink.net Fri Aug 2 19:23:43 2002  
Subject: [R390] P.S.

P.S. The "cUS Customs" was a mistype... I decided to capitalize "US Customs" and added the "US". Certainly no reflection but good meant towards them. And... you may see the receiver and read the whole story at: <[http://www.n4xy.com/RCVR\\_Chinese\\_Army.html](http://www.n4xy.com/RCVR_Chinese_Army.html)>. 73 Ed Tanton N4XY  
<n4xy@earthlink.net>

From DJED1@aol.com Fri Aug 2 12:34:03 2002  
Subject: [R390] I'm back!

Welcome back David. hope you're doing well. Ed

From n4xy@earthlink.net Fri Aug 2 18:59:48 2002  
Subject: [R390] Chinese Army receiver arrives

My Chinese Army receiver arrived in perfect shape this afternoon. As with David Medley's, it just showed up on my doorstep w/no fanfare, cUS Customs, or otherwise. Came with a lot of spare parts, etc. even switch wafers, and one wiring harness. I suspect you could keep this receiver running way out in the countryside which was the idea, I'm sure. I will have it at tomorrow's North GA QRP Club meeting, for those of you within range of the Atlanta area. Ed Tanton N4XY

From DJED1@aol.com Fri Aug 2 22:02:17 2002  
Subject: [R390] P.S.

Gee, Ed. Does this mean we're going to see Chinese R390s for \$99.99 in WalMart soon? I hope so!

From dave\_faria@hotmail.com Sat Aug 3 00:23:57 2002

Subject: [R390] Nice AM Loop Antenna(off topic)

GE list. I thought this might be something worth mentioning. Radio Shack is closing out their AM loop antenna for \$20. I bought one and hooked it to my Sony 2010. Really nice sharp nulls. I'll try it on my 390 to night. My home made 12 turn/3ft. diagonal loop does not have as sharp nulls. I probably need to try changing the coupling cap. on the pickup loop. Anyway for \$20 it weighs 1lb. and 12in. diameter its worth the time if u listen for am dx. Monitoring Times has a review of the loop and it was good. Radio Shack part number is #151853. Its a passive loop no amp. Dave FariaAustin, Tx

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Aug 2 13:37:27 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

writes: << Les, wasn't it you who found a catalog for oversized women's underwear in Nolan's truck? Is that how that story went? >>

No, I spotted a large bra and clothing, a purse was open and there was a picture id of Nolan in a wig.....going by the name of Helga Rubenstein!!! Les Locklear " That's my story and I'm sticking to it "

From DAVEINBHAM@aol.com Fri Aug 2 22:34:05 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic: Nolan, Sheep, R390As, etc...

Hi Gang,

I think Nolan lives in Mississippi not Alabama. Alabama has two of the Barry's and me too. Isn't that about enough for one state ? And, yes, the winters do get cold in Alabama. Regards, Dave PS. Gotta dead tube in one of my R390's. That makes this post on subject.

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Aug 2 22:38:20 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic: Nolan, Sheep, R390As, etc...

writes:

I think Nolan lives in Mississippi not Alabama.

**Nolan lives in Sun, Louisiana, which is near Covington, La., north by northeast of New Orleans, La.. Just for the record.....:) Les**

From Jim Shorney" < Fri Aug 2 22:56:43 2002  
Subject: [R390] Stats

wrote: > 13 jshorney@inebraska.nospamcom,

Hmmm.... I've been told that I talk too much....

From hankarn@pacbell.net Fri Aug 2 13:32:47 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

Nolan used a Product Detector not the BBB Ffff OOooooo!!! Hank

From Llgpt@aol.com Sat Aug 3 00:57:55 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390A cross post

Hi all,

Thought that I would give someone on this list first shot at this receiver.

Siemens E311e2 receiver, tunes from 1.500 khz to 31.5 mhz Continuous. Has cabinet. Selectivity 30 hz, 1 khz, 3 khz and 6 khz. 17 tubes. Copy of manual in english. Extraordinary condition. Tapped for U.S. voltage. Has 14 spare tubes included, also test connectors included. This receiver is extremely stable, drift in hardly discernible 100 hz readout on dial.

I'm getting out of the tube receiver business is the only reason for selling. Photos available via email. \$550.00 plus shipping. Les Locklear

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Sat Aug 3 01:53:52 2002  
Subject: [R390] I'm back!

Hello Dave,

Welcome back ole boy. Know first hand that movin ain't no fun, no matter how much beer and pizza they pass out. Of course if it's for a friend then no problem\*\*\*YOU MAKE IT FUN! Good Luck on that SW Receiver. If anyone can get it going ITS YOU! 73, Glen Galati KA7BOJ

From kd9kc@elp.rr.com Sat Aug 3 02:06:15 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

> Subject: RE: [R390] off topic Is anybody keeping statistics on the amount of offtopic material?

Nobody has answered my question yet.... IF YOU ARE WHINING ABOUT "OFFTOPIC" ARE YOU "ONTOPIC???" Mike.

From mparkinson1@socal.rr.com Sat Aug 3 02:43:20 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390a

Is this on topic I just had my cat lay on top of my R 390a and then there was this load winning noise then a explosion all I could see after that was brown fur and white meat all over the place and the receiver kept on playing just fine.

I will clean the receiver and send the white meat to Nolan . I think the BFO works even better than before now . I guess it needed a little more resistance in the circuit hey a new product detector in the makings. Matt

From Llgpt@aol.com Sat Aug 3 02:41:53 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 Off topic



The Siemens E311e2 Receiver has been sold. Thanks, Les

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Sat Aug 3 03:14:32 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 Off topic

So, Les, does that now render you tubeless?

What kind of rx are you into now? Of course, now you're a heretic as well as a witch, maybe even a traitor. This is what becomes of sticking wirewound resistors where ballast tubes are supposed to go.

How are you going to maintain your historian status with nary an SP600 on premises. (Though I suppose a historian specializing in ancient Greece doesn't have to keep an old Greek around.) Barry

From Llgpt@aol.com Sat Aug 3 03:19:42 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 Off topic

writes: << So, Les, does that now render you tubeless?

Almost.....:)

What kind of rx are you into now?

Drake R8B..Kiwa modified Icom R75 and a Hallicrafters SX100 on the horizon.

Of course, now you're a heretic as well as a witch, maybe even a traitor. This is what becomes of sticking wirewound resistors where ballast tubes are supposed to go.

How are you going to maintain your historian status with nary an SP600 on premises. (Though I suppose a historian specializing in ancient Greece doesn't have to keep an old Greek around.) Barry

I suppose the 20th SP600 will show up soon. Can't be without one of them. Les

From RICKSHAVER@aol.com Sat Aug 3 04:21:11 2002  
Subject: [R390] \* ON TOPIC \*

I have not "whined" nor ever requested before, that a bulletin board remain closer to its specified agenda as some have alleged. Only after reading many recent posts....scam after scam again and again and again....I politely asked the offending few to contain their conversations to the designed purpose of the 390 bulletin board. After that request, it was obvious that the character of the few is extremely poor. The ridicule and mockery continues. Being a ham for over 20 years and owning a Collins 390a with a legit tag#14, I have always counted it an honor to be affiliated with a group of decent and honorable men and women: unlike our unlicensed Citizens Band counterparts. A group of respectable, although sometimes humorous and gruff, radiopersons that would stand up and be counted for good character. Alas, I guess we have arrived at the new millennium where Billyjoe has bought a 390 receiver to keep the sheep happy. Thanks to all who have contributed in a POSITIVE way to the 390 support group. It is appreciated. tnx, Rick.

P.S.This may be an interesting read..... check it out.... The 390 info page..... <A HREF="">R390 Info

Page</A>

From kd9kc@elp.rr.com Sat Aug 3 04:32:19 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390a

> Subject: [R390] R390a > > > Is this on topic I just had my cat lay on top of my R 390a > and then there was this load winning noise then a explosion > and all I could see after that was brown fur and white meat > all over the place and the receiver kept on playing just fine. > I will clean the receiver and send the white meat to Nolen . > I think the BFO works even better than before now .

Does BFO mean Broiled Feline Organs? <I just had to do it> Mike.

From kd9kc@elp.rr.com Sat Aug 3 04:38:53 2002  
Subject: [R390] Nice AM Loop Antenna

> Subject: [R390] Nice AM Loop Antenna(off topic)

I too just bought one. I will report to the list my impression of it, just as soon as the storms let up and I dare plug in my antique rack. You will notice I am willing to risk my computer.

BTW, we experienced a MAJOR power outage in El Paso today. Rumor has it that something between 9 and 19 states were involved in this. Anyone else experience an outage today? If so, what state/city? Hope nobody lost any radios in that. Mike.

From hankarn@pacbell.net Fri Aug 2 13:39:05 2002  
Subject: [R390] Stats

You win for the mantle piece a R510 with open filament. So Sollyy Hank

From Jim Shorney" < Sat Aug 3 05:12:11 2002  
Subject: [R390] \* ON TOPIC \*

wrote: >A group of respectable, although sometimes humorous and gruff, >radiopersons

Ummm, so what exactly has changed? This list is a hoot. I'm loving every minute of it. Hey, Chuck, IINCOMING! Let me know when the box arrives. Jimbo

From ba.williams@charter.net Sat Aug 3 05:25:43 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

Rich,

That is very sneaky. Very sneaky indeed. Somebody is going to get you for this. Richard M. Nixon

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Sat Aug 3 05:40:31 2002

Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

OK Gang,

Hate to be a wet blanket, but I have an on topic type post here I've been sittin' on.

One area for improvement in the Y2K manual is in the gear train department. What we still have there is that exploded line drawing with dotted zigzag lines. I don't know about you, but it doesn't really fill me with a whole lot of confidence to pursue a full teardown, cleaning and reassembly with that as a guide.

Sooooo... it would be great if one of you geartrain experts with a decent digital camera would do a teardown/reassembly, stopping at each baby step to snap a photo, so the rest of us can have a shot at it one of these days. It could use a little bit of narrative, but the pictures would do most of the talking.

Any takers? Who's gonna be the hero? Barry

From mparkinson1@socal.rr.com Sat Aug 3 05:50:34 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390a

The BFO on my R 390a will clean up very nicely. Mike you hit it right on the well in this case the ballast tube.

Yes Nolen would be proud of my R 390a having responded the way it did when it was violated by that cat.

I am also so proud of my receiver it is so sensitive and will except anything and any frequency this has got to be the strongest front end I have ever seen it has a way of taking care of any over load . God bless America .

We American can be proud of all our R 390 series receivers I am sure they will all respond the same way with this kind of over load. Matt

From ross\_s@excel.net Sat Aug 3 09:34:00 2002  
Subject: [R390] off topic

Sounds like the XFiles black oil. Ross KA9NPS ross\_s@excel.net

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Sat Aug 3 10:51:46 2002  
Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

I'm about to do my 390A geartrain. While I am certainly no expert, (first time) I'll be happy to shoot digitals. I'll shoot them in full resolution (3 meg). They can always be compressed. I was going to do it for myself anyway. Might need them as a guide putting the gear train back together. :) Scott

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Sat Aug 3 11:42:08 2002  
Subject: [R390] 390 NONA HELP

Can anyone loan me a descent copy of a 390 nona manual?? I will send you a SASE and have it back to

you in 2 weeks in as sent condition. I need to make high quality scans of the schematic. I have not been able to get a manual from ebay and other sources. Scott

From Walter Wilson" <walter@r390a.us Sat Aug 3 12:31:58 2002  
Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

You may have seen the pictures I have posted on my website already. I think there are only eight shots taken during disassembly, but I've used these pics a number of times when rebuilding gear trains, and they work well for me. If you'd like more pics added to this sequence, give me some idea of where you'd like to see more details. At one time, I was limiting the number due to web space size restrictions, which is no longer an issue. /gear\_train\_rebuild.htm Walter Wilson KK4DF

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Sat Aug 3 14:43:29 2002  
Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

Hi Walter:

The photo sequence and instructions on your site are terrific many thanks. However, I see where you started to move from "baby steps" to giant ones, no doubt owing to the web storage limits. Later on, you go with more of a verbal description.

I just spent about 30 mins., so need to look over it more to see where to add intermediate steps. Meanwhile, I humbly submit the following suggestions:

1. Superimpose number labels on the gears that are about to be removed. Maybe I'm a dummy, but I had to flip back and forth between adjoining photos a few times before I could spot what was coming off. It might be a good idea to use the numbering scheme from the manual blowup.
2. Use arrows in addition to "spotlight" highlighting. In particular, it's a bit difficult to make out the two gears that should not be meshed.
3. Do a step by step reassembly sequence, not simply rely on the "assembly is simply the reverse of disassembly" approach. Fact is, it's not, and that's where a lot of the vebiage comes in. You can reuse most of the disassembly shots, but the key difference is this is where the synchronization takes place. (Actually, the \_assembly\_ sequence is more important than the disassembly it's generally possible to take something apart with little or no instructions, however, tradition has been the ol' "reverse of disassembly" thing.)
4. Maybe I didn't notice, but along the way I recalled some advice from various posts to the reflector. For example, the split gears may have burred or chamfered over from wear such that they won't slip smoothly against each other which is easy to test with the gear sets out and the springs removed. Someone had recommended (Nolan?) to lightly polish the mating surfaces with very fine grit abrasive or maybe a wet stone? May not be necessary in most cases, but this would be the time to fix them..
5. I test printed everything in black & white on a 600 dpi laser printer, just to check if all the detail comes through. Sometimes, even starting from excellent quality color, detail is lost when adjoining parts are of similar color or shade. They print quite well in B&W the detail and contrast hold up. Only thing I'd point out is the superimposed text about the twogearsnottomesh is hard to read in B&W. While the color contrasts on screen, the shade is too close for B&W. It's over a shadow, so yellow would work

better when printed in B&W.

6. It would be good to illustrate directly how to set up the intermittent gear, rather than refer to the manual so your creation can be a standalone.

7. I strongly (but humbly ;) suggest that you leave the disassembly be for now, and start with the assembly sequence. This will make it clearer as to what additional shots are needed. In many cases, photos can be the same between the assembly and disassembly sequences, so it won't be added storage, just an html photo link. You probably have a lot of the photos already.

8. I dunno might be better to break it up into pages with "next" buttons. This would help control the pagination for printing purposes and it might make it easier for you to clone assembly from disassembly pages by doing a "save as" as a first step before editing.

9. Now this one will illicit an involuntary ROTFL reaction in some readers, but ... For a real geartrainfordummiies nobrainer approach, someone could put together a grid that prints out on, say 4 pages to be taped together which would have a place to lay down each part as they're removed, with the corresponding reference number. Many of the gears look different enough, some look similar and some may be the same/interchangeable or maybe not, duhhhhhh. Eventually, we could turn the R390A into a true Heathkit experience. ;).

10. An emergency 24/7 hotline to call. OK, I've gone too far.

Great site, though. Hope you use this in the spirit intended (everybody's a critic, yadda yadda). I posted my suggestions in case some one else has additional or alternative ideas. Barry

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Sat Aug 3 15:06:53 2002  
Subject: [R390] 390 NONA HELP

Hi Scott:

It's possible to make some use of the schematic in the nonA manual on the LOGSA site if you're in a hurry. It prints too small as a whole page, however you can zoom in, then use the "graphics selection tool" in the Acrobat reader to pick sections to blow up for printing selected parts of it.

You click on that graphics selection icon furthest to the right on the toolbar with the default settings. Drag a rectangle over the part of the schematic you want, then place the cursor inside the rectangle, right click and choose print from the popup menu. You'll need to click on the checkoff in the print dialog box that says "expand small pages to paper size". Then OK.

Unless you figure out some way to line up one selection on the next not easy, it won't be possible to print a set of pages on the exactly same scale so they line up on each other. However, you can make a bunch of close ups, whereby each one covers about as much of the schematic as you need to look at at a time. Barry

From fstyron@nc.rr.com Sat Aug 3 15:07:05 2002  
Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

Barry,

I can certainly vouch for Walter's gear train pictures. They were very helpful on my first 390a (and second). Thanks Walter! 73, Frank Styron W4CWA

From jetemp@insightbb.com Sat Aug 3 15:18:13 2002  
Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

A few weeks after I obtained my first R390a, I ordered a spare RF deck from Fair Radio. I understand that they have a few palletts of them, as rejects from the depots. They are complete, to include coils, racks, slugs, transformers, etc. I mean they are plug and play, except you have to find the fault before it will work. In my purchase the fault was only an intermittent RF coil that ended up being caused by a malformed coil pin socket. No amount of bending or forming would remove the intermittent. So I simply removed it from the plastic holder (which destroyed the plastic) and then it was easy to reform it. I now only needed to remember to plug in that individual pin from the bottom of the RF deck. It works like new now. I digress....

The point I wanted to make was that this RF deck is an excellent model to compare to when disassembling and assembling your subject gear train. And it is only \$40 from Fair Radio. When I rebuilt my gear train, I used Walters photos and dialog as a step by step guide to disassembly and assembly. But as good as Walters efforts are, 2D photos have limitations that a 3D model does not have. I have no doubt that the guys that did this for a living referred to a 3D model, frequently, while learning their trade. For the best and easiest rebuild, both methods together are superior to either one by itself.  
Jim Temple

From wb5hak@prodigy.net Sat Aug 3 15:19:51 2002  
Subject: [R390] 390 NONA HELP

Scott,

I have an excellent copy of TM 11856, with the companion schematic package that I would be happy to send to you for scanning, if I could get a copy of the scanned files when you are through, hi hi. I am good on the QRZ database, but send your address on private email and I'll get it out to you. 73, Don, WB5HAK

From hankarn@pacbell.net Sat Aug 3 15:36:43 2002  
Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

Barry, I agree on your post. I have one comment. When trying to read it on the computer the text is very close to the background color. Yes I know that is PC correct to merge the text and graphics to make it fancy but hard to read.. A good contrast makes it a lot easier to read. It prints out fine TEXT wise and I think numbers would help immensely. Good job Walter.. Hank KN6DI

From Walter Wilson" <walter@r390a.us Sat Aug 3 15:56:08 2002  
Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

Barry and others,

Thanks for the comments. I especially like your suggestions about the numbers and arrow pointing to the gears to be removed or aligned, and can make some improvements with these existing photos. I may also take your suggestion of a PREV/NEXT sequence, just to make it more navigation friendly and to control the print pagination. I'll have to take some more pics during the next rebuild, as I didn't take too

many more than shown during this rebuild. I really do need to take some good pics of the intermittent gear, as I've had to refer to the manuals a few times to get mine back together correctly. I've got a really nasty but spare RF deck and gear train in the workshop, and I might tackle that one sometime this fall.

I don't believe I want to turn this into a Heathkit experience yet, but a better sequence and layout may be called for the next time I take the pics. The hotline will be open only on evenings from 79 PM EDT, Saturday afternoon following my nap, and Sundays before the R390 net.

BTW, it's nice to be back on topic. Cheers! Walter Wilson KK4DF

From DCrespy@aol.com Sat Aug 3 16:33:13 2002  
Subject: [R390] Sunday's net

Gang..

Its time to try this thing again. I hope we will have more success this week! Walter has proposed a simple format and subject for this week's net that should help us get everyone checked in and have a little informative fun in the process.

So we will take checkins first. Sunday, 14.278 at 1900 UTC SSB (or SSB/AM if the frequency is clear enough) Listen for KG5LO on USB or KK4DF on USB (or maybe AM?). Please check in with name, QTH and which net control(s) you can hear.

Then we'll pass it around again to ask you to share your thoughts on "modifications or accessories have you tried with your R390 or R390A, and how did you liked them?" Please consider things like ballast tube substitution, SSB mods, Kleronomos audio mod, SE3 or CV591 or CV157 SSB converter, or ???

As propogation and noise improves into the fall we can get into some of the more complex subjects.

AN IMPORTANT REQUEST: I am in Michigan, Walter is in Georgia. For the net to work well, I think we still need a western volunteer to help with eastern stations that are only getting long skip propogation. So please, any volunteers contact me. Thanks to all and see you Sunday!! 73 Harry KG5LO

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Sat Aug 3 16:50:38 2002  
Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

Hi Walter .. again ...

Sounds good. It would also be OK I suppose if some others on the list with a gear train teardown in progress shot a few photos and sent them on to you. This would be in the spirit of a joint project and ... (read Grouchostyle) we could use a few more projects around this joint (raise eyebrows and flick cigar.)

Now that you mention it a preparatory nap of at least 2 hrs. should be recommended before starting. Should be full horizontal position to maximize blood flow to the brain as a warmup. If that's not enough and there are signs of the jitters, a suitable liquid sedative & confidence booster should be included in the chemicals kit along with the carb cleaner, WD40, Mobil One, and so on.

BTW Jim Temple's advice about having a spare deck on hand sounds good to me. Or even another

whole R390A. Even with the panel in place, you can peek behind it, but would that be cheating? Barry

From jetemp@insightbb.com Sat Aug 3 17:20:19 2002  
Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

Back in 1969, in boot camp, I had to disassemble and reassemble an M14 blindfolded. An R390A gear train blindfolded now? Some might say, if it was good enough then, then why not now??  
.....Nahhh, are you crazy?? The simpler the better I say. :o). Jim

From ba.williams@charter.net Sat Aug 3 17:25:52 2002  
Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

**Barry,**

**I uploaded a TIFF file to Al Tirevold over a week ago on the RF geartrain. I scanned the exploded assembly drawing of figure 636, which is two pages at a very high resolution around something like 1200 dpi. I aligned the two pages in Photoshop, did touchup work on the alignment so it would look seamless, and sized it for a one page figure. I uploaded the 150 dpi version to keep the file size down as much as possible. The 150 dpi version prints good at 360 dpi on an inkjet printer using regular noninkjet paper. Everything is sharp and easily read. I thought that would be a good test of resolution and readability for most people. If it prints well on regular paper, then it will look excellent on inkjet paper or on laser printers. I have a 300 dpi version ready to upload if a higher resolution is more suitable.**

**If anyone else wants the work to put on a website, just let me know. I'll be happy to upload it if that is okay with the Y2K folks. It is ready for final annotations, such as page number, etc in Acrobat to make it complete for the manual. I'm just waiting to hear if the work is acceptable for the manual, and I'm ready to do any other figures that may need something more done to them. I sometimes miss doing this for a living, so working on Y2K manual stuff is the next best thing.  
Barry Williams**

From dave\_faria@hotmail.com Sat Aug 3 23:13:12 2002

GE list. I tried the antenna and these are the results:

1. Computers, TV's, and light dimmers cause serious noise on the receiver. I know that's not a new comment but, I thought I should mention it.
2. I took a r392 outside (it's easier to carry than a 390A) about 50 yards from the house. The antenna was connected to the BNC connector. The antenna tuned broadcast band from 535kHz to 1700kHz as started in the spec.s.
3. The antenna was not able to null completely local stations but I did reduce signal strength.
4. Radio stations in San Antonio (90 miles away) I was able to null to the point where they were not a problem.

Your mileage may vary but, I'm happy for \$20 Dave Faria

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Sat Aug 3 22:32:41 2002  
Subject: [R390] 390 NONA HELP



I have a 35 manual with the staples already pulled if it'll help anyone. Joe

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Sat Aug 3 22:50:55 2002

Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

wrote: > I'm about to do my 390A geartrain. While I am > certainly no expert, (first > time) > I'll be happy to shoot digitals. I'll shoot them in > full resolution (3 > meg). They can > always be compressed. I was going to do it for > myself anyway. Might need > them > as a guide putting the gear train back together. :) > > Scott

+++++++

**I did one, its not that bad!**

**Hone all the mating gear sets with a wet stone, like Nolan said, use a dental pick shaped like a hook to align the cams, use small Pony clamps to hold the spring tension on the double gears, the plastic shoes on the clamps won't mar the gears. The Geneva drive is a pain and touchy to align. You might need to straighten the dial lock disc, it is not easy to assemble onto the shaft as the notch is tight on the roll pin make a note of this at disassembly. Check the KC CHANGE shaft for true, it may be bent slightly, its a target for getting knocked sideways.**

**Pull the rack springs off before you go too far with this, if the racks snap down the cores will fall of the springs!!**

**Note the insulators on the Antenna trim shaft, clean, clean.**

**There's a pinion gear, it runs on a much larger gear, on the righthand side, about the middle of the deck. Its about 1" in diameter with the tension spring INSIDE the two halves, neat, huh!? This gear will have BIG burrs on it because it makes so many turns against the larger gear, mine was frozen because of the burrs,.....240 grit sandpaper! I didn't drive out the pin.**

**Note the thrust washers, they may be in the right place, they may not. Mine weren't!**

**Impossible to tighten the post that the Geneva drive runs on! Well,.... without taking the front of the deck off, I didn't.**

**Anyone want to hash over the proper assembly of the clutch? Oh, boy! Joe**

From ba.williams@charter.net Sun Aug 4 01:07:29 2002

Subject: [R390] Test of Nice AM Loop Antenna(off topic)

> GE list. I tried the antenna and theses are the results: point where they were not a problem.

I went and bought one today too. Very nice plastic shell. I have only tested it a bit in daylight, but it sure seems to be picking up some AM stations on the SP600 that only come in at night. I was impressed with that, especially a weak TIR station out of Orlando, Fl. for travelers on 1680 (TIS). I later hooked it up to the RBL5 and was more impressed. It seems to be picking up the carrier hets of longwave stations out of Europe which I never got with an Octalooop or dipoles during the day. I'm going to give it a workout later tonight. Some beacons did not come in as expected, but I'm using it way under the 535 kc design. It does seem to null a little bit; maybe it will show more nulling tonight.

I'm thinking of buying the last one they have for use on some radios around the house and to open up and see what is inside. I'm will probably try to amplify one some day. Barry

From ba.williams@charter.net Sun Aug 4 01:11:46 2002  
Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

> Back in 1969, in boot camp, I had to disassemble and reassemble an M14 blindfolded. An R390A gear train blindfolded now? Some might say, if it was good enough then, then why not now??  
.....Nahhh, are you crazy?? The simpler the better I say. :o). Jim

Jim,

That reminds me of when I just got out of Infantry Basic and AIT. I was in a local shorts shop and was contemplating whether to buy an AR15 at \$250 or not. That was very expensive for back then. Anyway, I wasn't paying attention to anyone and stripped the rifle down in a few seconds to have a good look at it. Reassembled it quickly without thinking anything about it. I looked up and a big group of people in the store were watching what I was doing. I guess they thought I was too quick for being a local guy. My drill sergeant would have probably reamed me good for being slow. Barry

From ba.williams@charter.net Sun Aug 4 01:41:48 2002  
Subject: [R390] \* ON TOPIC \*

> I have not "whined" nor ever requested before, that a bulletin board remain > closer to its specified agenda as some have alleged. Only after reading many > recent posts....scam after scam again and again and again....I politely > asked the offending few to contain their conversations to the designed > purpose of the 390 bulletin board. After that request, it was obvious that > the character of the few is extremely poor. The ridicule and mockery > continues. Being a ham for over 20 years and owning a Collins 390a with a > legit tag#14, I have always counted it an honor to be affiliated with a group > of decent and honorable men and women: unlike our unlicensed Citizens Band > counterparts. A group of respectable, although sometimes humorous and gruff, > radiopersons that would stand up and be counted for good character. Alas, I > guess we have arrived at the new millennium where Billyjoe has bought a > 390 receiver to keep the sheep happy. Thanks to all who have contributed in > a POSITIVE way to the 390 support group. It is appreciated. tnx, Rick. > P.S.This may be an interesting read..... check it out.... The 390 info > page..... <A HREF="">R390 Info

Personally, I find myself a much better person after I learned how to gut a deer on a tailgate over lawn chairs. It must have been the side drip thing that did the trick. Also, the cat urine thread made me rearrange my racks and shelves of gear. I remember thinking to myself, "whew, I'm sure glad I read those cat urine messages." In fact, I put all of my heavy gear in the middle of the shelves so that any potential cat urine would drip off the middle and not run down the length of the boards....just like Nolan did.

Not all of us have ham licenses, so we may not be up on the honor and decency aspect of things. Bubba Jenkins

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Sun Aug 4 01:47:23 2002  
Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

GET IN THERE AND TRY IT YOU BIG WEENIE!!!

From willowfly2000@yahoo.com Sun Aug 4 01:55:06 2002  
Subject: [R390] \* ON TOPIC \*

Yeah just cause some of us like a liittle mud on our helmet doesn't make us Cbers

From kd9kc@elp.rr.com Sun Aug 4 02:38:32 2002  
Subject: [R390] \* ON TOPIC \*

>> I have not "whined" nor ever requested before, that a bulletin board remain closer to its specified agenda as some have alleged. Only after reading many recent posts....scam after scam again and again and again....I politely asked the offending few to contain their conversations to ...

I guess I am indecent and dishonorable, if that is what you want to read into the above. My point was that it is easier to just delete it if you don't like the content, rather than adding MORE to the offtopic by whining about the offtopic. It usually will die on its own in time, and it isn't like there is a lot of other traffic on here right now. But being a ham, you will understand when I compare it to someone who puts up a repeater, makes it a private machine, then kerchunks it ones an hour just to make sure it is there. There are those type of people.

If the history channel is playing on TV, and I don't like the segment of history they are playing, I don't call the cable company and complain... I just change the channel. Just because I do not like what is on doesn't mean others aren't enjoying it. And why should I spoil it for them, if they are enjoying it. Too easy to switch off.

The topic on this group is often wide and varied. The group seems to do a good job of policing themselves. And other than the occasional flairup, it runs smooth. I have learned much from this list, and most of it doesn't have a thing to do with the R390. I thank you all for what I have learned R390 wise... and other. After all, only Nolan would think of using a basketball needle and pump to skin a cat!

> Not all of us have ham licenses, so we may not be up on the honor and decency aspect of things.

Another good point. But I am a ham. And if belonging to a group like the majority of the list seems to be makes me indecent and dishonorable, I guess I will have that tag printed on the back of my QSL cards.

ANYWAY... My dog loves me!

BTW, my 5 Great Danes all love cat food. Especially if it is made with FRESH CATS!!! Mike.

Freedom is expensive. Those who are not willing to pay the price ultimately lose everything.

From Llgpt@aol.com Sun Aug 4 02:43:26 2002  
Subject: [R390] \* ON TOPIC \*

writes: > Subject: Re: [R390] \* ON TOPIC \* >> I have not "whined" nor ever requested before, that a

>> bulletin board remain closer to its specified agenda as some >> have alleged. Only after reading many recent posts....scam >> after scam again and again and again...I politely asked the >> offending few to contain their conversations to ... >> I have always counted it an honor to be affiliated with a group >> of decent and honorable men and women:

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BTW, my 5 Great Danes all love cat food. Especially if it is made with FRESH CATS!!! Mike.

Freedom is expensive. Those who are not willing to pay the price ultimately lose everything. >>

Well put Mike!!!!!!

And, how do we know that his Collins with the legit tag No. 14 is legit?????

Les Locklear " That's my story and I'm sticking to it "

From willowfly2000@yahoo.com Sun Aug 4 02:57:50 2002  
Subject: [R390] \* ON TOPIC \*

Hey Lets talk about fat chicks

From jbrannig@optonline.net Sun Aug 4 02:24:18 2002  
Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

Isn't the M14 a muzzle loader with a bad kick?

From willowfly2000@yahoo.com Sun Aug 4 03:01:42 2002  
Subject: [R390] \* ON TOPIC \*

Q: Heard of the new Nazi microwave oven?  
A: They say it seats 35.

Q: Why did the Leper leave the party?  
A: Everyone kept dipping crackers into his back!

Q: What do you call a leper in a bath?  
A: PORRIDGE!

Q. What's the difference between a tribe of Pygmies and a Girls track team?  
A. The Pygmies are a bunch of Cunning little Runts!

Q: What's the difference between sin and shame?  
A: It is a sin to put it in, but it's a shame to pull it out.

Q: What's the speed limit of sex?  
A: 68; at 69 you have to turn around.

Q: What's the ultimate rejection?  
A: When you're masturbating and your hand falls asleep.

Q: Why is air a lot like sex?  
A: Because it's no big deal unless you're not getting any.

Q: If there is H2O on the inside of a fire hydrant, what is on the outside?  
A: K9P.

Q: Why did Raggedy Ann get thrown out of the toy box?  
A: Because she kept sitting on Pinocchio's face, and moaning, "Lie to me!"

Q: What did the egg say to the boiling water?  
A: "How can you expect me to get hard so fast? I just got laid a minute ago."

From kd9kc@elp.rr.com Sun Aug 4 03:40:54 2002  
Subject: [R390] \* ON TOPIC \*

> Well put Mike!!!!!! > And, how do we know that his Collins with the legit tag No. > 14 is legit?????  
Les Locklear > " That's my story and I'm sticking to it "

Well, no matter what "TAGS" are attributed to me, I will give him the benefit of the doubt. Mike.

From twleiper@juno.com Sun Aug 4 04:19:01 2002  
Subject: [R390] \* Qubit TOPIC \*

writes: > My point was that it is easier to just delete it if you don't like the content, rather than adding  
MORE to the offtopic by whining about the offtopic.

Hey, I delete ON topic stuff all the time (like the entire recent geartrain thread) so what's the big deal about deleting offtopic? Ukumpucky ! Twit Hammarlund

By the way, a "qubit" is a quantum bit and can be both "1" and "0" at the same time...not the ancient measurement that Cosby made famous, which is a "cubit". "Right!"

From Barry Hauser <barry@hausernet.com> Sun Aug 4 04:24:50 2002  
Subject: [R390] \* ON TOPIC \*

> BTW, my 5 Great Danes all love cat food. Especially if it is made with > FRESH CATS!!! > Mike.

Gentleman, gentleman .... we're regressing off the deep end. You know what all this is leading to, don't you?

In the immortal words of John Belushi ... (scroll down)

\*\*\*\* FOOOOD FIGHT! \*\*\*\*

Barry Animal House Alumnus

From willowfly2000@yahoo.com Sun Aug 4 04:33:01 2002  
Subject: [R390] \* ON TOPIC \*

Time to go up the muddy road Ben Dover

From bloper5@comcast.net Sun Aug 4 05:02:41 2002  
Subject: [R390] HP400e

Anyone familiar with this piece of gear and how it copares with a 410( ) series Tnx

From theprof@texoma.net Sun Aug 4 05:27:33 2002  
Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

Once upon a time a few years ago, I was told by an old hand on the payperview boatanchors list "Don't mess with the gears. They were assembled by elves. And all the elves are dead now." Armed with a spare RF deck from Fair Radio and a manual, I tore into the gear train and scattered it all over the desk. I found and fixed the broken hootus and put it back together. I didn't know any better it looked like a motorcycle transmission and I had already done some of those. When done I could spin the KC knob with my little finger.

For that I was named an honorary elf. (A 6'2" 280 lb elf at that!) So all youse guys that tear into gear trains (and make them work) are or will be honorary elves as well:)

Give it a try a worst you can send all the pieces to one of the gurus to reassemble. Can't be any worse that some of the shoebox jobs my shadetree gunsmith friends have had me reassemble. The best was the Colt revolver. The guy removed the side plate to lube it and pulled the trigger to "spread around the

grease". He found all the big pieces.

73 de Richard, W5SRB Tinkerer and lover of boatanchors and other fine old things (married for 23 years so I'd better be)

From beckrep@citlink.net Sun Aug 4 03:49:05 2002  
Subject: [R390] \* ON TOPIC \*

Per chance, are you referring to the Hershey Highway? Jacques Strappe

From ross\_s@excel.net Sun Aug 4 09:45:43 2002  
Subject: [R390] \* ON TOPIC \*

Road Trip!!

From wa9vrh@ocslink.com Sun Aug 4 14:03:39 2002  
Subject: [R390] CCA First Wednesday AM Night

Hi everyone This Wednesday August 7th is the next First Wednesday CCA AM night on 3880 kcs.

Join us for some outstanding AM signals!

REMEMBER you DO NOT have to be running Collins gear to check in. Everything is welcome!

We will have 4 main ncs. One on the East coast, Midwest, Mountain area, and West coast. The main ncs will have others in their area helping with their hour. (Please note ONE HOUR). At the end of their hour the main ncs for that region will contact the next regions ncs and turn ncs over to them etc.etc. etc.

Each ncs will start at 08:00pm in their time zone.

Starting at 8:00pm EDT (00:00 UTC) East coast ncs will start the net  
At 01:00 UTC East coast ncs will turn ncs to Midwest ncs  
At 02:00 UTC Midwest ncs will turn ncs to Mountain ncs  
At 03:00 UTC Mountain ncs will turn ncs to West coast ncs

comments please to wa9vrh@ocslink.com Have fun and enjoy the great sounding AM signals. 73's Larry WA9VRH

From jlkolb@cts.com Sun Aug 4 20:40:41 2002  
Subject: [R390] HP400e

wrote: > Anyone familiar with this piece of gear and how it copares with a 410( ) > series Tnx

Entirely different animals the 400 series are AC only voltmeters, for measuring AC signals from 1 millivolt to 300 volts FS (full scale), from low freqs up to about 10 MHz.

The 410 series is more closely related to the classic VTVM's (vaccum tube voltmeter) from RCA,

Heath, EICO, etc. It measures DC voltage and current, AC volts, and resistance. AC voltage is measured with a large probe, with sensitivity of 0.5V FS to 300V FS. 2% accuracy from 100 Hz to 50 MHz, 4% from 50 to 100 MHz and 1.5 db from 100 to 700 MHz. [from the 410C manual]. There's also a useful AC probe adapter that converts it from a 1/2" spike tip to a shielded pair of "N" connectors for placing in a transmission line.

So to measure audio signals, get a 400. To measure transmitter output voltage (and calculate power into a dummy load), get a 410. John

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Mon Aug 5 02:18:40 2002  
Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

> I did one, its not that bad!

No, not at all. I just finished it, and made some major improvements. A very minor gear modification has enabled me to improve the tuning range of this unit from 000 Khz up to 55 Khz. I also found no need for the 10 turn stops and canned them so now I tune right from 55 khz down to 0 Khz. No spinning the Mhz dial all the way down!!!!. It is a real time saver. Scott

From cosmos41@ix.netcom.com Mon Aug 5 03:45:12 2002  
Subject: [R390] FS: Collins R390A/URR Restored by Chuck Rippel

OM's,

I have for sale my own personal R390A/URR. I do not wish to ship it but will do so if unable to find a buyer who can pick it up in Flagstaff, Arizona. You may read all the particulars and view the receiver at the links below.

<http://www.geocities.com/sweetvengeance/R390a.htm>

<http://www.geocities.com/sweetvengeance/390cab.jpg>

Please note that the photo (as mentioned in the text) is not of the actual receiver but is identical except for the type of fasteners used to mount the receiver in the cabinet.

If you are a serious inquirer, you may request an email which details the complete "Restoration Summary" of all actions performed by Chuck Rippel on this receiver.

The price is \$2200 firm, less shipping from Flagstaff, Arizona if pickup cannot be arranged.

Terms: Cash if receiver is picked up. If shipped, money order or cashier's check only. Thanks for looking. Ron KD5S (K5MVR from 1957 to 2001)

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Mon Aug 5 11:26:15 2002  
Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

> No, not at all. I just finished it, and made some major improvements. > A very minor gear modification has enabled me to improve the tuning > range of this unit from 000 Khz up to 55 Khz. I



also found no need for > the 10 turn stops and canned them so now I tune right from 55 khz down > to 0 Khz. No spinning the Mhz dial all the way down!!!!. It is a real time > saver. > Scott

Oops!! Screwed that one up. 55Khz should be 55 Mhz Scott

From hankarn@pacbell.net Mon Aug 5 14:38:48 2002  
Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

Sounds all screwed up to me. 55 MHz donde esta?? How do you get 6M out of it?? Hank

From pbigelow@us.ibm.com Mon Aug 5 15:20:50 2002  
Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

Hello,  
Isn't the 10turn "stop" present to prevent one from destroying the PTO? Best regards, Paul Bigelow

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Mon Aug 5 15:37:32 2002  
Subject: [R390] (no subject)

Friends,

I seek someone within about 300 miles of Panama City FL., that would be willing to repair my rebuilt r390 non a. I have no idea what is wrong, but I love to travel within limited areas, and across country on occ. For this reason it would be the best way to get the radio to someone. I would bring it to you, and pick it up later. The closer to P.C. is of course, the better...I refuse to pack any more items...I have been doing that for several years, and am just through with it...period... If I sell, I will be doing delivery.. (or even in a case of giveaways...)

This radio quit soon after I rec. it back from a rebuild, so I never really got much of a chance to enjoy it.. It was all, Once upon a time.... orig. but had to have some changes to rebuild so I can't guess what is wrong. The person who did the rebuild is a bit too far away to help out on this...It will be a year or more before I go that far again... It is almost dead, other than on the STRONGEST local AM station, which can barely be detected with gains wide open..nothing else is there at all..

I have no material/test items left, and had not con. the possibility of a breakdown, so I don't even have more than a few tubes. (I know that was a dumb idea..)

My SP 600 continues to do well, so I am not without something to listen to, and I still have my 515 I bought in the winter..when I am willing to accept sand in my diet...

I do have a person NE of me that will help, but seek someone who is closer, and more interested in the non a. ...

If you know of someone I would appreciate a hint... To define in general a limit...AtlantaCharleston JacksonvilleTampaNew OrleansBirmingham. Best Regards, John L. Peuhs, Jr.

From hankarn@pacbell.net Mon Aug 5 15:53:55 2002

Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

Paul, The new generation is reinventing the wheel. Collins had no idea on what they were doing.

Next deal is to replaces all of the tubes with SAND and get all of the noise etc. Digital meters motor tuning, 5,000 memories Ultra DSP. Hank KN6DI

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Aug 5 16:07:45 2002

Subject: [R390] (no subject)

John,

Have you checked the tubes? Surely someone in P.C. has a checker. It might save you some trouble. I'm not sure if this could be the problem, but I would think a very weak tube somewhere in the RF section could produce the symptoms you describe. Of course, there are many other things that could do it too (problems with the AGC, etc.), but after a rebuild, I would look at the tubes before taking it somewhere. \$0.02. Barry(III) N4BUQ

From Mon Aug 5 16:20:15 2002

Subject: [R390] Wanted: Manual for TS382D/U Audio Oscillator

Anchorites, Wanted, manual for TS382D/U Audio Oscillator for cooperative repair project. Good copy is fine. Will pay costs/fair price. Roy

From ody@radicus.net Mon Aug 5 18:25:57 2002

Subject: [R390] Wanted to buy

Hello everyone.

I wonder if anybody here has an R389 for sale. I live near Baltimore and would like to pick it up if possible. Thanks, Scott W3CV

From ody@radicus.net Mon Aug 5 18:31:09 2002

Subject: [R390] Wanted dead or alive R390

Hello,

If there is anyone here that has an R390 non a for sale, I would be interested. As I noted in my plea for the R389, I would prefer to buy one in the Baltimore area but will take anything I can get. The radio can be dead or alive as long as the price is fair. Thanks, Scott W3CV

From rbethman@comcast.net Mon Aug 5 19:53:00 2002

Subject: [R390] Parts and connectors

For a myriad of connectors, resistors (1/2 W, 1 W, 2 W) Capacitors at reasonable prices, try: CCarvell@aol.com

This is Clarence Carvell. I just visited him and his parts supplies. He has just about ALL you could want or ask for. He's trying to sell off over twenty years worth of collection of parts and other items.

I picked up an HP 410B, some 1 and 2W resistors and misc. other items from him. A very fine gentleman! Bob N0DGN

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Mon Aug 5 23:01:12 2002  
Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

We'll I thought it was funny anyway....saying I rearranged some gears to get the sucker up to 55 Mhz.....Oh well, I guess I will have to try to understand how Nolan and a sheep are funny to you all...Maybe when I get old in 50 years or so. Scott

From hankarn@pacbell.net Mon Aug 5 23:19:04 2002  
Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

See that is what happens when you try to change something that is 50 or older. The irresistible force and the immovable object the gain Ø. Hank

From twleiper@juno.com Tue Aug 6 01:15:07 2002  
Subject: [R390] Wanted to buy

writes: ... > I wonder if anybody here has an R389 for sale. I live near > Baltimore and would like to pick it up if possible.

You'll need a Brinks truck both ways to pick that up... First to carry all the bullion, and then to carry back the radio. Tom (Twit) Hammarlund

From DCrespy@aol.com Tue Aug 6 03:00:43 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 net update

Well, we had a little more success last weekend than the one before. A small roundtable discussion followed checkins. We did manage to cover the topic of the day. Checkins were:

KC8OPP, Roger in Lima Ohio  
K0KWK, Dave in St Paul Minn  
W1GZS, Merle in Maine  
WA0KZP, Steve in Iowa  
KK4DF, Walter in Georgia  
KG5LO, Harry in Michigan

Copy was very poor between Walter and me. Walter took Roger's checkin. I took the rest. Conditions did improve toward the end of the net. Besides propagation, QRM was a problem for most of us.

Thanks to all who listened, but heard nothing (Hank, thanks). And thanks to those who tried to checkin but were not heard (Joe, I thought I heard an AM carrier in there, but no copy). As conditions improve

into the fall, we may have better luck.

I would welcome feedback on ways to improve the mechanics of making everyone heard for the next try at the net. (HELP PLEASE!)

Just a side note, interestingly, I had one of the R390A's on, along with my KWM2 and TS850. I got the best copy on the R390A! The TS850 was second, with the KWM2 bringing up the rear. I think it is time to align the KWM2! 73 Harry

From gwmoore@moorefelines.com Tue Aug 6 04:22:01 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 net update

I tried to check in and heard Dave about 15 seconds before losing it down in the QRM. I tuned around the freq and couldn't really get anything, so knocked it off about 10 minutes in. Then I started tuning around the band to see what the condx were, and to be honest, propagation was lousy yesterday (At least in PA).... Will try to make it again next Sunday 73 de WA3IVX Greg

From buzz@softcom.net Tue Aug 6 05:47:54 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 parts for sale

for pictures and prices see: <http://www.lanset.com/buzz/misc/390parts.html> Thanks, Buzz

From BRingwoo@csir.co.za Tue Aug 6 07:59:41 2002  
Subject: [R390] Nearly OT Wave winding ?

Hi all,

I'm faced with the gruesome prospect of having to rewind a set of IFTs and all that entails. (I should look more closely before I buy things). All the commercial IFTs use wave winding is this done just to look pretty and hold the pie together, or is there some 'electrical reason' ?

Thought I'd put the question to this list on account of the fact that it is the most learned and academic.

BTW its amazing the lengths to which some people will go to stuff up a perfectly good receiver. Bryce

From rbethman@comcast.net Tue Aug 6 08:11:39 2002  
Subject: [R390] Gear Train Guru Wanted

Actually, I thought it was rather creative.

I was wondering how many would rise to the occasion and try to learn ever so much more. BTW, sheep are especially important to former Navy folks. They replaced them with Marines on board ship as they are less conspicuous! (52 Collins R390A under restoration)

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Tue Aug 6 12:30:22 2002  
Subject: [R390] RF rebuild

I have photos of every step of the disassembly and reassembly of the geartrain. The pictures show the individual gear and the geartrain, and the next shot shows it installed with the next to go gear on the bench. They are good quality with a white background. If anyone wants these to annotate them, let me know and I will send you a CD copy.

My first geartrain rebuild was a piece of cake. I used Walter Wilsons photos as guides and had no problems. Mechanical alignment and the RF bandswitch alignment was also no problem, unlike I thought they may be. The hardest part was hooking the damn springs up to the racks. It operates very smoothly and there is no slop at all in the geartrain. Oh, and it tunes only 500Khz to 32 Mhz. I need something more complicated now to keep me out of trouble....bring on a nona. Scott

From hankarn@pacbell.net Tue Aug 6 13:32:20 2002  
Subject: [R390] RF rebuild

Hey Scott, sure is nice to hear that with all of the parts installed correctly it only tunes in the designed bands.. It sure would be nice to have a copy of the CD to try and get my friend Alex to annotate it in his spare time. I would be more than willing to pay any related cost for a copy. Thanks, Hank KN6DI

From ai2q@adelphia.net Tue Aug 6 15:01:00 2002  
Subject: [R390] Green gear redux

Hi Scott:

My R390nonA was missing the coveted green gear, so I disregarded it entirely as I went about the task of degreasing and degunking this grand old radio. I didn't disassemble the geartrain. I soaked it, cleaned it, and lubed it, but didn't loosen or move any gears, clamps, or shafts after pulling the RF deck.

By the way, to get it back in sync after the big cleanup, first I set the RF deck racks to the appropriate settings (rear cam line markings) as per the TM photo, for what they should be at 02 000 (though the VeederRoot counter was not connected yet). I did that by manually turning the big split gear, moving the cams around and around until they lined up. I visually checked to see that the bandswitch contacts aligned properly by poking my beady eyes under the chassis.

I then placed the RF deck on the chassis, loaded the brass split gear, and dropped the assembly onto the gearset, with the counter set at 02 000. Then I raised the righthand front side of the RF chassis (as you face the set) using the screwdriver technique described in the TM, not disengaging the gears already set in the previous step, and turned the MEGACYCLE CHANGE shaft a few turns clockwise. I then dropped the righthand side onto the loaded gear, and used the knob to turn the shaft and entire engaged gearset down to the 0.5 MC band.

I then raised the chassis again, and turned the MEGACYCLE CHANGE shaft and gear fully CCW again, and then placed the loaded gear in place, dropping the chassis on the gears. Turning the shafts through the range of 00 to 31 and the full 000 to 999 range on the VFO shaft (plus overrun) moves the cams through their positions properly. The small subchassis moves up and down as well.

The ol' 390 aligned beautifully. Dave Medley provided encouragement. Vy 73, AI2Q, Alex

From buzz@softcom.net Tue Aug 6 17:22:01 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 Parts for sale II

I was overwhelmed with the response to the parts for sale.

The following parts have been sold; front panel, RF deck, IF deck, Audio, Xtal Cal., Knobs and shafts, Coupler.

The Power supply, PTO, and Xtal Osc. are stil available.

Since there were multiple replys, I will sort through the responses then based upon the time of your email will notify everyone of the outcome. Thanks, Buzz

From buzz@softcom.net Tue Aug 6 18:03:34 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 PTO is sold

R390 PTO is sold. Buzz

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Tue Aug 6 22:21:41 2002  
Subject: [R390] Nearly OT Wave winding ?

It's called pie wound and helps to minimize distributed C. Rewind? YMMV. Bob

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Wed Aug 7 01:39:34 2002  
Subject: [R390] Dan Arney

Hank (Dan Arney). Send me your address so I can mail you a CD. Your private email address bounces. Scott

From ft990@hotmail.com Wed Aug 7 20:12:26 2002  
Subject: [R390] Hello New to list

Hi everyone, I just found the list and joined.I am very interested in getting a 390A and wanted to get your opinions. I'm thinking about getting one (checked with meters) from Fair radio.I found this mod on an old Yahoo board for SSB and wanted to get your opinion as to if I should try this or do you suggest something better? Here is the url to the mod: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/r390/message/9987> Can you also suggest a good automatic T/R switch for me to use with my set up?( FT990,Harris RF353 amp,TenTech 238 tuner & 2WL 160M horizontal loop)Again Hello to all and thanks for any suggestions. , Mike

From sbiddle@ti.com Wed Aug 7 22:12:58 2002  
Subject: [R390] RF rebuild

>From my deep dark days of repairing teletypes, I managed to hang onto a couple of spring hooks. I never thought I would need them again until the R390A RF deck appeared.

**[http://www.tecratools.com/pages/service/spring\\_hooks.html](http://www.tecratools.com/pages/service/spring_hooks.html) was them for less than \$5.00. Having**

**them saves making up new cuss words like "dog crotch" :)**

> The hardest part was hooking the damn springs up to the racks. It operates very smoothly and there is no slop at all in the geartrain. 73 de Richard W5SRB

From w5or@comcast.net Thu Aug 8 04:00:11 2002  
Subject: [R390] Hello New to list

Greetings, and welcome, Mike.

Fair Radio has always lived up to their name, in their pricing and aftersale support. You can find 390's at hamfests, and various 'net places (ebay, newsgroups, mail lists, even \*this\* list) but these venues require a bit more patience and luck!

The mod you refer to is the Dallas Lankford mod. His mod is generally recognized as a simple, effective, reversable one that works well. Dallas frequents the list here so he might comment, unless he is busy swatting those Louisiana state birds.

I'll let others comment on how best to use a TR switch. I just run 100 watts and blast away at a couple of diodes back to back on the antenna input. Don Reaves W5OR

From mackeyka@mac.com Thu Aug 8 13:09:11 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 net update

I also tried listening in, but too much QRN and QRM. Hope conditions change soon. Kim Mackey KB9BZL

From courir26@yahoo.com Thu Aug 8 13:15:58 2002  
Subject: [R390] Net Arrangements?

What are the net arrangements?

From dallas@bayou.com Thu Aug 8 14:52:34 2002  
Subject: [R390] Hello New to list

Welcome Mike and Hi Don

At the moment we are swatting mosquitoes because of the West Nile virus or whatever here in Louisiana. I think we have encephalitis floating the state too.

I was gonna let this pass because of the tendency I have to stir up the hornets, but then I decided to go out to the shed and get my hornets nest stick and give it a little workout.

I wouldn't buy an R390A from Fair Radio or anybody else unless I was certain it did not come from the government auction at St. Julian's Creek Annex, VA. (We may swat mosquitoes in LA, but we don't leave R390A's in parking lots to be rained on for a year or whatever.) That means I would probably only buy from a long time friend who had an R390A from before the SJC massacre (as it has been

called). You may read glowing reports of rebuilds of these SJC 390's in the reflector archives, but I would want to use one of these R390A's myself, give it some thorough measurements, and draw my own conclusions. Even if it passed those tests, I don't like the idea of squirting a bunch of Tilex, 409, Windex, or other kitchen cleaner into an R390A. I wouldn't even set an R390A of mine in the driveway and wash it down with tap water. My car shows numerous water spot residues after I wash it, and I don't think I would care for those water spots on and in my R390A's. Then you would have to remove the PTO and crystal ovens, take them apart, and dry out the innards. Among other things, I guess that means you would have to remove the insulation from the PTO, wash it (to remove any residue), and hang it on your clothes line in the back yard to dry out. I think the ovens also have insulation that you would have to remove, wash, and dry, but it has been a while since I have been inside one of them. A couple of years ago when the SJC R390A's were hot items, someone emailed me a very well written discussion about the things that were wrong with a typical SJC R390A. I thought he posted it on the reflector, but now I can't find it. Here are a few of the things I remember from his discussion. Stainless steel screws rusted (not surprising). This, of course, could make repairs more difficult. Yellow wrap capacitors coming unwrapped. Well, that's not too tough. Replace the capacitors. Coil windings in the shielded transformers of the RF deck starting to come unwound. I don't know how you would fix this. His conclusion (not mine) was that this RF subchassis was unsuitable for use in an R390A.

Despite these difficulties in getting a good R390A, it is certainly worth the trouble. I don't think there is a finer receiver made. If you can't find a nonrained on one, let me know, and I'll try to help you find one. Best regards, Dallas

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Thu Aug 8 15:45:01 2002  
Subject: [R390] 390 probs

Friends,

May I thank all for kindness...Turned it on yesterday out of boredom...pops and smells and smoke...so as you might expect, I turned it off...It is got to be more than a tube..now..

What I would like to do is get someone to look, and then maybe trade if poss..and I could pay the diff. Then I would have a ready to go unit, (maybe)

Will point out that I have about \$600 in it all together..(that includes the 390a I traded to David to do the rebuild..) It seems I am not, maybe, supposed to have a 390 of any kind...The 390a from Fair was such a wreck, no one got it going until I got rid of it..then my 390 I had for a long time started acting up...rebuild, ...now its' gone again..

Don't know what I will do..May send it to a major builder before it is all over...

Am open to offers and trade info...Have all the documented info from David as to what he did... any sugg??

Might remind you that I don't wish to work on these radios...I only want to use them...and I never did have the expertize anyway..thats why I seek prof. help..(I know I should include a visit to a psy.) My best regards, John

From ft990@hotmail.com Thu Aug 8 16:46:02 2002  
Subject: Fwd: Re: [R390] Hello New to list



Just a note to say thanks to all for your help. I remember seeing a pic. of those 390a's sitting outside at "SJ", I've never had one yet but even so it made my stomach turn: ( I've also seen Mr Mish's name pop up a few places on the net, I'll give him a call and check what he has. Thanks for the #:) Again, Thanks for your advice. , Mike

From chashugg@earthlink.net Thu Aug 8 17:19:23 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390A Knobs FS

I have for sale 15 knobs that fit a R390 or R390A including the two large tuning and band change knobs. The knobs that are missing are the little ones that go across the top. Four of these are missing, but I have 2 extra of the bigger knobs that could be used for trading to get a complete set. I am asking \$20 for the lot. They all need to be repainted, but all are in good condition and complete with screws and clamps. Thanks, Charlie Hugg, K5MBX

From hankarn@pacbell.net Thu Aug 8 17:23:30 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: [Collins] REF: FS R390 non A GREEN GEAR

Well the Green gear deal is a little short in total required orders. I am going to order them and the extras will have to go to the bay joint. I would prefer USPS MO or good personal check for those that have not paid. Pay pal is taking just under \$2.00 to use them.

Any orders after today will be firm \$45.00 plus \$2.00 S&H.

Please remit the money ASAP, like yesterday. Hi My address is:  
Dan Arney  
c/o Global Pack & Mail  
21315 Saticoy St. Unit R  
Canoga Park, CA 913045685

or KN6DI CBA. Thanks es any additional add on orders appreciated. Have to order 50 and have 33 including mine confirmed. Thanks, Hank KN6DI

From ft990@hotmail.com Thu Aug 8 17:46:27 2002  
Subject: Fwd: Re: [R390] Hello New to list

Thanks again for the good advice. I think now I'll just keep my eye open for some thing local. I see there will be a Ham fest on 914 about 130 miles from me so I'll go check it out. I've never been to one and it sounds like it would be fun even if I don't find what I'm looking for. Heck if nothing else, I may get a lead on where a good one may be in the central Texas area:)

From r390a@enteract.com Thu Aug 8 19:36:59 2002  
Subject: [R390] St Julien's Creek (was 'Hello New to list')

site: [http://www.r390a.com/html/radio\\_rape.html](http://www.r390a.com/html/radio_rape.html)

Here's a text version of the 'St. Julien's Creek R390A Massacre'

<http://www.radioworks.com/nr390saga.html>

And a few pix from Fair Radio's old warehouse where a some of the 'blue stripers' ended up:

[http://www.enteract.com/~r390a/hobby/fair390\\_1.jpg](http://www.enteract.com/~r390a/hobby/fair390_1.jpg)

[http://www.enteract.com/~r390a/hobby/fair390\\_2.jpg](http://www.enteract.com/~r390a/hobby/fair390_2.jpg)

(Someone from this list posted these a few years ago but I cannot remember who sorry!)

**From myyoung76@bellsouth.net Thu Aug 8 21:26:32 2002**

**Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State**

**I have an R390 (not A) receiver that I have been wanting to convert to solid state for many years. Now that I am retired after 32 yrs as an electronics engineer (communications and instrumentation) I am ready to have a go at it. One of the things I bought a few years ago is the IF strip from an R390A (tubeless but with all Mech Filters). I have the depot manuals for both the R390 and R390A.**

**Can someone point me to some sites that have information on my proposed venture? I am not particularly interested in reinventing wheels. I also want to build and install a electronic digital counter or the vfo. TNX Mikey**

From Thu Aug 8 21:33:08 2002

Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

wrote: >I have an R390 (not A) receiver that I have been wanting to convert to solid state for many years.

I think you should take your boatanchor, tie it to your misguided neck, and jump in the lake. Just my opinion. Roy

From cbscott@ingr.com Thu Aug 8 21:39:53 2002

**Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State**

**Not that I agree with what you want to do (for fear others on this list will label me as a heretic or worse), but you can check out the following link:**

**<http://www.aade.com/dfd.htm>**

**Barry(III) N4BUQ**

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Thu Aug 8 22:41:16 2002

Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

wrote: > I have an R390 (not A) receiver that I have been wanting to convert to solid state for many years+++++

Now,..... just exactly why?

> Can someone point me to some sites that have information on my proposed venture? I am not particularly interested in reinventing wheels.

+++++

Hmm,..... I think you're contradicting yourself here.

I > also want to build and install a electronic digital counter or the vfo.

+++++

Not a bad idea, but most on this list would go with a counter that has nixie tubes for the display. Its the only appropriate thing to do. Joe

From hankarn@pacbell.net Thu Aug 8 22:43:41 2002

Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

Roy you have it all wrong. Give me the boat anchor I will furnish box and shipping and will include some concrete blocks as anchors for his misguided re inventive screwed frame of mind. Better yet give him a rice box to play with. Him a enngginneer him fix it play 80 over S9 real quick. They already have digital VFO for \$150.00. PT Barnum had correct. Hank KN6DI

From n4xy@earthlink.net Thu Aug 8 22:53:50 2002

Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

Converting an R390 to solidstate? Isn't that the same thing as jumping out of a perfectly good, working, airplane? Or refitting submarines for screen doors? I mean, you can do it... but whatever for? Next thing, you'll be telling us that transistor stuff is better than tube stuff. Have you no sense of decency man? Oh the shame of it! 73 Ed Tanton N4XY <n4xy@earthlink.net> Ed Tanton N4XY

From twleiper@juno.com Thu Aug 8 23:08:26 2002

Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

writes: > I have an R390 (not A) receiver that I have been wanting to convert > to solid state for many years.

Michael,

I think you should send a specimen to Nurse Ratchet, however, if you are hell bent on doing this, consider first some other alternatives that may give you the same type of thrill:

- 1.) Track down and kill some endangered species.
- 2.) Purchase a Monet and repaint it as a Dali.
- 3.) Kill all your surviving relatives...then yourself.

If those are too drastic or costly, consider converting an R392 instead. They are of the ideal design for FET conversion, are cheap and plentiful, and there are many who have done it with good results already. And it performs just about as well as the nonA anyway. Tom Twit of the Year '01

From wf2u@starband.net Thu Aug 8 23:51:34 2002

Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

I'm an EE and worked many years in solidstate and tube RF design and I'm totally at loss why is that urge some people feel to take a mature and proven product and start "improve" on it....

The R390 is a result of zillions of dollars of design and development effort and it is one of the ultimate HF receivers in existence. Its sensitivity and noise figure are about the optimal you need for any practical purposes.

Is it the power consumption that bothers some people? If you're an EE worth his salt, and looking for a challenge, maybe you can design and build a solid state receiver from scratch, which will beat the original R390 in performance, and keep the D&D costs to a level which won't make you broke out of your house and retirement...

Butchering an R390 in the manner you're planning to do, will leave you not with one of the best receivers anywhere but will render it totally worthless, and you'll destroy a historical technological resource which unfortunately is found in ever dwindling numbers and is irreplaceable. Would you want to destroy a historical artifact such as a pyramid to rebuild it with more "modern" building materials?

Here I do exactly the opposite from what you want to do: once in a while I find a "modified/improved/modernized" military radio which was a technological marvel for its times and restore it as it was intended to be. This way hopefully it'll be preserved for posterity, in the same working condition to enjoy and to use as it was 5060 years ago.

My 2 cents' worth... 73, Meir WF2U Landrum, SC

From terryo@wortfm.terracom.net Thu Aug 8 23:47:17 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: R390/Solid State

Converting an R390 to solidstate makes sense.

Tubes waste energy, they generate more electrical noise and they have a high failure rate. The R390's biggest advantage over all the new solidstate rigs is not vacuum tubes. It's the tuned circuits.

You might want to leave tubes in the audio stage for all those guys who think Monster Cable is worth the money. You might want to leave tubes in the first RF stage for all the survivalists who fear that an EMP attack will wipe out their front ends. But for the most part the tubes are just a relic of obsolete technology.

The government made well upwards of 50,000 of these radios. If you guys want to say disgusting, nasty things about one guy experimenting with one radio, then this hobby has gone to hell. Terry O'Laughlin, PE WB9GVB A ham who likes tinkering better than stupid jawing.

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Thu Aug 8 23:49:50 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Squalid State

Don't be too tough on him, Hanker! He just spent too long in college, we just gotta reeducate him. Consider, too, that he doesn't know us either, hehehehehe Joe

From mahlonhaunschild@cox.net Thu Aug 8 23:40:53 2002

Subject: [R390] Re: R390A Knobs FS

Charles, I'll take them (if not already spoken for). regards, Mahlon Haunschild K4OQ

From goode@tribeam.com Thu Aug 8 23:55:25 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

Mikey,

Here is a copy of an email I sent to this list in January when another person mentioned converting a 390 to solid state. I have not gotten any farther than looking at the QST article. 73, Steve, K9NG

=====

Alright! I must confess that I have had similar evil thoughts.

WARNINGSAND STATE THOUGHTS TO FOLLOW!!!!

I love the way my R390A performs. Right now the only sand in it is the Navy approved power supply changes. It even has a working ballast tube. But I want this receiver to work forever! So what happens when I run out of tubes? My thoughts are that anything behind the mechanical filters is fair game since that should have minimal performance hits in dynamic range, sensitivity, etc. So I was thinking of looking at the IF, detector, agc, calibrator circuits to start experimenting on. **What I have found so far in discussions with others who have actually done solid state conversions is an article from the April 1977 QST (it is not the April fool article). This article shows how to make plug in solid state replacements for any tube using JET or MOSFETs in cascode with high voltage transistors.** This is as far as I have gotten. Anyone else willing to confess? Anyone actually succeeding in doing a solid state conversion? Steve, K9NG

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Thu Aug 8 23:59:39 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

Well said, Meir!

Your Email is bouncing the T3 mailing list posts again.

I suggest he start with the 1921 Signal Corps manual so he can get a grasp of what the people of that era had to work with for equipment and a solid feel for the intelligence level of the engineers of the time. That way he can learn what they knew of radio and what they had to go through to get to where we are now, so he can develop a feel for the history that the R390 is part of.

Also, we should remember that the SJC Massacre was only a few short years ago, not decades. These radios are NOT obsolete, except for the lack of computer control.

I can't say, maybe he likes diginoise in his radios. Joe

From W2ZR@aol.com Fri Aug 9 00:02:50 2002  
Subject: [R390] Solid State R390

<<Converting an R390 to solidstate makes sense.>>

Surely it would be better to buy a solid state radio than to modify an R390. This reminds me of the guys who used to put small block Chevy engines in their Jaguar XKE's. To gain some added reliability, they made an abortion out of the most beautiful car ever made, when they could have just bought a Corvette. 73, Steve W2ZR

From hankarn@pacbell.net Fri Aug 9 00:13:19 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

Meir, Very well said and a pat on the back. Hank

From David\_Wise@Phoenix.com Fri Aug 9 00:16:00 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: R390/Solid State

> The government made well upwards of 50,000 of these radios.

Nope. They made that many R390As but far fewer R390s. What was it guys, around 15000? 73, Dave Wise SWL

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Aug 9 00:30:37 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: R390/Solid State

writes: > The government made well upwards of 50,000 of these radios. Nope. They made that many R390As but far fewer R390s.

What was it guys, around 15,000? 73, Dave Wise SWL >>

16,000 +..... Les Locklear

From billsmith@ispwest.com Fri Aug 9 00:31:53 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

The last thing you need to worry about wearing out in an R390/R390A are the tubes. How many have you had to replace so far? You'll wear out the knobs before you go though the thousands of hours available in standard tube life, and the R390 series treat tubes very gently. 73 de Bill, AB6MT

From davidmed82@msn.com Fri Aug 9 00:36:58 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390A problems

I posted this message last week and received no responses nor did I see it on the list. I have had trouble with my ISP lately so I hope it gets through this time.

I have here a very nice SW R390A which I got in a swap deal. When I say nice it is as clean as can be and the mechanism is as smooth as silk. The flip side is it doesn't work, at all. I have found two

problems unfamiliar to me as I have never struck them in an R390.

1. The AC power cord has been replaced by a three wire with the green wire connected to the chassis. When I connect it to the outlet the protector red button on the outlet releases cutting off the power. If I disconnect the ground from the chassis this problem goes away. Bad line filter?
2. The cosmos PTO dies when tuned above about 2.3MHz. Changed tubes several times but that is not the problem.

I solid stated the power supply and that works fine. The 150v checks out OK.

3. The audio module is dead. Don't expect to have much trouble with this and I do have a spare around here someplace. I may have some kind of depot dog on my hands? Dave and David Medley Tucson AZ

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Aug 9 00:38:33 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

writes: << The last thing you need to worry about wearing out in an R390/R390A are the tubes. How many have you had to replace so far? You'll wear out the knobs before you go through the thousands of hours available in standard tube life, and the R390 series treat tubes very gently. 73 de Bill, AB6MT

33 R390A's and 1 R390 over a period of 23 years, I probably have replaced less than 100 tubes, and that's counting old on the pallet 390's that were missing tubes. Les Locklear " That's my story and I'm sticking to it "

From davidmed82@msn.com Fri Aug 9 00:49:39 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 restoration

I have followed with interest the thread re solid stating an R390 and heartily concur with those who oppose this idea. I have spent the last several years restoring R390 radios to as near original as I can but this job is getting more difficult as time goes by. This is due to the dwindling supply of spare parts, especially tubes. The 3TF7 seems to have joined the list of unobtainables together with the 26Z5W and the 6082. There are a number of solutions to replacing the 3TF7 and solid stating the power supply is no big deal. The 6082 is another matter and I would love to see a thread develop towards replacing them with something readily available. I think there have been thoughts given to solid stating the VR circuitry but that would be a major departure from the original and spoil the radio as an item I believe. Other small parts such as antenna relays and RF coils can only be found in junkers and parts radios and I am always on the lookout for those. Dave KI6QE David Medley Tucson AZ

From wf2u@starband.net Fri Aug 9 00:56:43 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

I bought my 2 R390A's in completely original condition 18 years ago from a ham who was a retired AF officer. One is a 1955 Collins and the other is a Motorola. He used them for a number of years as he got them from a direct surplus sale. I've been using them almost daily since I got them and I never had to replace a tube. One of my R392's has been in my possession since 1981 and the person who owned it before me had it for almost 15 years. It's been in frequent use for at least 35 years so far and it's still on

its original tubes. Another receiver I own, a 1955 vintage German Siemens E305 professional HF receiver I got in 1969 and is also frequently used still has the original Siemens tubes in it and as far as I can tell, it still performs great. I did an alignment procedure on it in 1981 to make sure everything is according to the specs... 73, Meir WF2U Landrum, SC

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Fri Aug 9 02:09:12 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 restoration

Dave wrote: <snipped> >The 6082 is another matter end I would love to see a thread develop towards replacing them with >something readily available. I think there have been thoughts given to solid stating the VR circuitry but >that would be a major departure from the original and spoil the radio as an item I believe.

Not really Dave, not all that difficult or a major departure ...

Issue #52 of the Hollow State Newsletter has an article by Dr. Jerry analyzing a solid stated VR circuit I stumbled upon in an R391. This had apparently been done years ago, and it has been operating well since then from what I can determine. Among other things, we compared the regulation performance over a range of AC supply voltages from 95 to 125 and the 180 B+ was comparable to most of the stock nonA's we polled and was also in spec. Only a few components two transistors, one or two zeners and a few other parts can replace the 6082's. This is one partial solid state conversion that's worthwhile in view of the declining availability of 6082's though some are still out there and the damaging heat they generate. So, in an odd sense, it's in the best interest of preserving the nonA so it can continue to operate on tubes dammit. (oooops) Also, I might add, the mod is reversible.

Someone has replicated the circuit as a plug 'n play as recommended in the article. Piece of perfboard with one or two octal sockets that just plugs into the spot where the two 6082's normally reside. He's done this with currently available solid state components. (To be reported as an update in a later HSN.) The '391 this was derived from was converted some years ago and has old part numbers that may not be available as such anymore. This raises another issue about solid state stuff which I will rail about in another post. Barry (Editor, HSN)

From myyoung76@bellsouth.net Fri Aug 9 02:14:50 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 restoration

Someone tell me where I can find the detailed information on the VR circuitry??? TNX mikey

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Fri Aug 9 03:04:58 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

If anyone wants to replace the tubes more often they need only halve the value of the cathode resistors. Then it might 'age' them faster... How about those old horizontal sweep tube 'linear' amps from the late 60's and early 70's? Drive 'em hard, replace tubes daily. But think of the cheap Watts/dollar... BA in Bridgetown

From W1CNY Bob Rinaldi" <w1cny@attbi.com Fri Aug 9 03:05:57 2002  
Subject: [R390] solid state



Drilling a 1/64th hole in each bottle would be the best way to age them. Bob

From theprof@texoma.net Fri Aug 9 03:03:03 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

Even if this wasn't a troll it still generated the most posts at least close to ontopic in recent weeks :)  
73 de Richard, W5SRB

From jetemp@insightbb.com Fri Aug 9 03:08:26 2002  
Subject: [R390] Coaxial cable test leads

I am in the process of restoring a couple of HP 410C's that I got for parts. The test leads are either damaged or too short. I have not been able to find a source of this coaxial cable test lead, which is hardwired into the instrument. The color is red and gray. The size seems to be about what RG174 is, but this is only available in black. I know I can probably use RG174 (if it is appropriate for test lead use), and use probes of the appropriate color, but I would like to find a source for the REAL THING.

I have tried many web sites and have even called HP, who no longer stock this coaxial test lead cable. Anyone have any clues or advice on where this can be obtained? Thanks. Jim Temple

From ft990@hotmail.com Fri Aug 9 03:18:01 2002  
Subject: [R390] Hello New to list More questions

I did some looking around on the 392's and was wondering what the disadvantages are on the 392 compared to the 390/390A's. I can see 1)Needs a power supply 2)"tighter" to work on 3)Not as good lookin. Are there any other draw backs to the 392? I'm also wondering how I would connect both the Yaesu FT990 and the (390/390A/392) to the same antenna. Thanks for helping a newbe:) , Mike

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Fri Aug 9 03:33:49 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

WARNING: THE FOLLOWING IS A DIATRIBE & MANIFESTO

Michael, Michael <sigh> (as in Lee Strassberg to Al Pacino in Godfather II)

Where have you been? Actually, you've been in the thick of it. Me? I'm not even in electronics by trade, but have witnessed what you must also have witnessed.

One of the reasons for converting to solid state might be that, like diamonds, silicon is forever NOT on two counts.

Another might be improved performance not likely. There are many "premium" military and commercial units that may outperform the R390 in one area, but not another two or three. There always seems to be a tradeoff noise, susceptability to overload or front end burnout, etc. Power conservation not particularly. Less heat, maybe, but it's amazing how much heat some solid state equipment puts out. Longevity? Well, that gets back to the "two counts".

One: Solid state stuff fails also. Usually the active components aren't plugins. Some SS components degrade not true that they either work on spec or not at all. As front end FET's take hits, they can weaken gradually before they fail.

Two: To borrow someone's sig line "They don't make tubes like they used to." However, the most common tubes in the R390 and '390A are still highly available at reasonable prices, with maybe two or three exceptions, however those are reversably solidstatable. I have a passel of tube radios of various stripes. I have also acquired a number of high end solid state receivers of the last 3 decades. Take a look at the component complement of the WJ's, Racal 6790's, R1051's and so on. How many of those components are still widely available? I have a Debeg 2000 that needs work. Fortunately, it doesn't appear to have any latter day custom LSI or VLSI chips mostly all standard, including a raft of CMOS and Schottkey IC's as well as an 8080 microprocessor. (Leading, bleeding state of the art 'late 60's early 70's.) They used to be as cheap as dirt. Now find them, other than collector's items for show. Some of the CMOS and Schottkey numbers are familiar to me from when I worked a parts counter. Now, one digit off is a miss that's as good as a mile.

Problem is, a lot of the solid state components had a limited product life cycle and are no longer in production. What components will you choose, considering that some may fail, particularly in an experimental mode?

As Tom L. pointed out, the R392 is a much better candidate for solid stating. I have one that someone did a full SS job on. It arrived in the form of a surprise. It appears that many of the transistors were a one for one replacement for the tubes. There is somewhat more rationale for doing this to an R392 the 26 volt tubes are getting harder to find in general, not as if it were just one or two like the R390's so far. However, when I first made some inquiries on this list about it a 23 years ago, I learned that the most likely transistor types with high enough impedance were already of the unobtainium variety. Hopefully, there's something else to use. Oh, yeah, my SS R392 works, drawing only about 80 ma with the dial bulbs off and 250 ma with 'em on. But it doesn't work nearly as well as a stock R392, but that's not to say it couldn't be improved upon.

Now, if you really want to whip up a solid state R390, I suggest the following: Purchase a front panel and set of handles in good shape and refinish as needed. Use a standard chassis or modified '390 H mainframe behind it. Get a Sony 2010 and make some modifications externalize the LCD and place it behind the Veeder cutout, get rotary pots to replace the volume control, etc. Get some of those digital rotary controls or cannibalize some computer mice, etc. to bring the controls out to the front. Secure the 2010 to the chassis and you're done. Or you could do this with a PCR1000 or a Ten Tec RX320 and a used laptop. Just position the laptop computer with the screen opened so you can look at it through the Veeder port.

OK, sorry, but here's a bee for your bonnet. The "manifesto" part.

Thirtytwo years as an EE and recently retired? I have an assignment for you:

1. Start from a blank piece of paper.
2. Tweak your nonA to a fairtheewell and give it a good workout and evaluation.
3. Study the treasure trove of documents available (another thing missing from those latter day wonders most don't even have decent troubleshooting sections. You're supposed to master the theory section and then theorize what's broken)
4. Carefully review the mission of the R390 series the extremely wide usage in various situations military, NSA, CIA, commercial, hobbieist, etc. over the last 40-50 years. The historical perspective.
5. Review all the significant receivers that followed it the Racals, WJ's, Harris, the military plus

commercial, and high end consumer, including current wideband Icom, Yaesu etc. Also consider computer connectivity and control.

6. Anticipate later, recent and coming changes in "software" namely digital transmission, satellite, MP3, whatever signal "modalities" (always wanted to use that word).

7. Design the functional successor to the R390A. R390B? At least, on paper, and see what it looks like.

OK, some hardnosed requirements low/no noise, wide selection of bandwidths, tuning accuracy, long term serviceability (like 50 or 100 years, not 7), same form factor of 19 inch standard panel by 10 whatever high and about 14 ins. deep. No need to make it small whatever room is left over will be needed for optional expansion modules or storing things like Bristol wrenches and spares. Probably need a tube front end to ensure protection of what follows from overload and nearby lightning strikes.

Oh, BTW, it's top secret, so if you tell I'll have to kill you, but the latest greatest is guesswot? Thermionic emission technology on a micro level. Yup, LSI chips with a jillion micro 5814A's inside. Someone on this list told me, but I'm not tellin' who. (Of course, now he'll have to kill me.) A few years off before it hits the commercial markets, and by then, all the silicon stuff will be designated obsolete.

Should you decide to accept this assignment Mr. Young, the agency will disavow, oops scrap that I'm sure you can count on a lot of help from your friends. This email will self destruct in 10 seconds, or maybe I will ..... <poof>

Barry P.S "Michael, Michael, we could be bigger than US Steel!"

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Fri Aug 9 03:34:51 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

I think, yes, he is setting us up. Trying to stir something up. Kicking the beehive, as it were. ARGH!!

From Jim Shorney" < Fri Aug 9 03:42:06 2002  
Subject: [R390] solid state

wrote: >Drilling a 1/64th hole in each bottle would be the best way to age them.

A few seconds in a microwave oven works nicely too (also works with AOL CDs).

From Fri Aug 9 03:46:33 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390A problems

wrote: >1. The AC power cord has been replaced by a three wire with the green wire >connected to the chassis. Bad line filter?

No no no.. Just normal operation of your GFI. The line filter caps in the radio are NOT leaking are NOT shorted and are working just fine. They are simply high enough in capacitance to pass enough ac from line (hot) to chassis to trip the GFI. Simple fix: use an isolation transformr or get rid of the GFI.. DO NOT get rid of the safety ground on the three wire cord.

>2. The cosmos PTO dies when tuned above about 2.3MHz. Changed tubes >several times but that is not the problem.

Othe guys will have answers to this.

>3. The audio module is dead. Don't expect to have much trouble with this >and I do have a spare around here someplace. >I may have some kind of depot dog on my hands?

Not likely..you just have the good fortune to be able to learn more about your radio as you fix it.

(CHeck that there is no jumper on the "BREAKIN" rear terminals and the break in front panel switch ON.) Roy

From wf2u@starband.net Fri Aug 9 04:04:22 2002

Subject: [R390] solid state

Sandstate rice boxes do very well in microwave ovens they shrink first....

Meir WF2U Landrum, SC

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Fri Aug 9 04:14:56 2002

Subject: [R390] Hello New to list More questions

Hi Mike & Crew:

Guess I'd rather write about 'em than do 'em tonight, but since we're on a roll:

Biggest problem with the R392 is that they're small and green. So, compared to the big gray jobbies, they're oft negelected. Small enough (about 11 inches in all directions) to stow in the bottom of a closet and forget it's there for a few years.

I've had a bunch of them and they all worked either on delivery or after a bit of tweaking tubes, adjustments, etc. Haven't had any capacitor failures at all. One day, I actually sat down and did a full alignment on one. And then I tried it with something other than the "official" LS166 speaker. The LS166 is waterproof and concussion resistant, so not exactly hifi. It is authentic and plug 'n play so that's what most of us use. However, the easy thing is to tap off the inside of an LS166's transformer and run speaker leads to a modern speaker to hear what the audio is capable of.

Results were impressive. They are comparable in performance (almost) to a nonA, with the main drawback being the limited number of bandwidth settings. This is one tube radio that's also a "tub" radio if you wanna. One list member tested the waterproofness of his that way. The R392 actually floats, but unfortunately, upside down, so you'll need your snorkel and goggles.

Powering the '392 is no big deal. A reasonable 24 volt supply with about 3 5 amps will do, though should be 28 vdc. Don't forget, these ran off vehicular power 24 volt nominal, 2728 vdc actual, so not too smooth or steady.

There was a nice piece with performance comparison on Josh Provero's web site, but it's not where it was and I haven't found a new URL for it. (anybody know?) One recommendation was to use two P/S's with 24 volts for the filaments and 28 or more for the B+. The pins are separate on the front panel jack, but usually strapped in the connector. Another way to power them is to use a pair of 12 volt gel cells

and charge them up between uses with a trickle charger. (Can use a 12 volt charger by switching them to parallel.)

Go get one, but try to keep it from the closet or under the bench. Tell your XYX it's the latest fashion shade of avocado and put it in the kitchen. Or maybe the patio or near or in the pool. Excellent pool radio, in which case, go with the LS166. Betcha they sound better under water. Barry

From myoung76@bellsouth.net Fri Aug 9 04:22:11 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

Ok guys. Enough is enough. No I am not a troll. Yes I want to convert this anchor to SS. I came to this place asking for help. I have received over 100 messages in the last day. TWO were helpful.

You have talked me out of the project. I will follow Mr Hauser's recommendation with a few modifications.

1. I will remove the front handles and use them for drawer pulls on an over size drawer in the kitchen.
2. I think I can sell the PTO to a kid down the street for \$5. I just have to convince him it is some kinda special motor to use on his skate board.
3. The tubes I will place in epoxy on a coffee table I am building for the living room.
4. I will probably use the power transformer and larger chokes and transformers to weight down paper towels to soak up cat barf from the carpet.
5. Maybe I will send the power cord to that guy that is having trouble with his.
6. I may remove the front panel and mount my Yacht Boy behind it, drilling the necessary holes to line up with important buttons.
7. I have a friend (retired Mech Engineer) that will be glad to get all the gears, esp the planetary system, for the robot is building.
8. The coils I will probably just toss in my parts box.
9. The frame and the rest I will give to my friend who needs a boat anchor.

From Jim Shorney" < Fri Aug 9 04:26:34 2002  
Subject: [R390] solid state

wrote: >Sandstate rice boxes do very well in microwave ovens they shrink >first....

That must be what they did to that ugly one with the melted front. Was that a yayhoo? Yuck.

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Fri Aug 9 04:41:12 2002  
Subject: [R390] Come and listen,..... maybe even join in!

Friday the 16th we will be having a get together of the T368/BC610/HT4 mailing list participants. It will be at 8:00 PM Eastern on 3.885 MHz or thereabouts allowing for noise and other interruptions. The West Coasters want to join in, too, so it may go late, ... especially if you participate! Joe KG2CI

From hankarn@pacbell.net Fri Aug 9 05:29:33 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

Barry, You have it all wrong. Mike is going to take the ROUND wheel and prove to you that a SQUARE wheel is far smoother and faster. Hank

From hankarn@pacbell.net Fri Aug 9 05:32:12 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

Maybe the beehive will find the south end opening of his northbound chassis and use it for an active beehive. Hank

From hankarn@pacbell.net Fri Aug 9 05:34:04 2002  
Subject: [R390] solid state

AOL CD'S sure fill up my file 26. Hank

From hankarn@pacbell.net Fri Aug 9 05:41:36 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

So he is still destroying a masterpiece. What a shame. Hank

From n4xy@earthlink.net Fri Aug 9 05:43:33 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

I don't believe it was anything but an honest inquiry about something he was interested in doing. Now, I feel bad about ribbing him about it... things did get a bit out of hand.

OTOH... Michael should understand that he was advocating a relatively unpopular idea, on this, and any other reflector that discusses BoatAnchors.

My best recollection of solidstate tube substitution as a project is that similar conversions (to other receivers) have been performed in the past, with never better than mixed success... and, frequently, resulting in poorer or worse performance.

Most of us revere our equipment, and suggestions regarding major surgery are anathema. Personally, I have two simple rules. Rule 1: 1) I don't make no new holes; and 2) I don't ever violate Rule 1. While I am humorously suggesting these two rules, the truth is that I make no visible modifications whatsoever to anything I own... and that is the reason that most people on these BoatAnchor Reflectors get riled up when a major change like this is suggested.

My own advice would be to either make a project out of turning it into the nicest R390 you can; or, sell it and use the money to do something along major from scratch homebrew lines. That way, the very finite remaining number of R390s isn't reduced by one; and, just possibly, that remaining number of R390's will have one more excellent example of American HF Tube Radio Design at its very finest. 73  
Ed Tanton N4XY <n4xy@earthlink.net> Ed Tanton N4XY

From bryanste@yahoo.com Fri Aug 9 07:31:58 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 restoration

I didn't realize the 6082 was as hard to find as the 26Z5W or 3TF7, but I plan to take about a dozen NOS to the Carroll County Tailgate Fest (Westminster, MD) this weekend for sale or trade (~\$9/ea is that reasonable?). If anyone is in a crunch for a pair, let me know and I'll set a couple aside. Also have a few of the 26Z5 and ballasts plus miscellaneous 390A/392 parts. Bryan Stephens

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Fri Aug 9 10:24:09 2002  
Subject: [R390] Hello New to list More questions

Hello Mike,

Your main Antenna for your FT990 should also exit on the RX Ant Output of which you would connect to the UNBALANCED type C connector on the rear of the R390/391 or the BNC ANT Jack on the R392. I would use the Type UG636/U RF Adapter which accepts a standard BNC male connector plug and mates with the Type "C" UNBALANCED ANTENNA Connector on the rear of the R389, R390, R390A, and R391 HF Receivers. This way you only need a small length 50 Ohm Coax cable with a RCA male plug to mate with your Yaesu FT990 to a BNC male connector plug that will mate with your other receivers. Of note: It must have the front RX ANT Push switch engaged. Please consult your FT990 Manual and see if the REC ANT OUT Jack is "Muted" or grounded out during Transmit. If this is true, then you won't have to use your AUX Receiver "BREAKIN" FEATURE. I'm not positive about the latter and maybe some one from the group can add the correct info on this or make comment. I haven't had my radio on line since 75. 73, Glen Galati KA7BOJ Tacoma, WA eldim@att.net

From ft990@hotmail.com Fri Aug 9 11:57:11 2002  
Subject: [R390] VIRUS !?!?

I have this EMail address set up just for this list and no one has the address. I just received the "Snow White" EMail. It was put in the "junk" folder and as soon as I saw it I got rid of it before opening it. Just thought I would pass this along. Please check your computer. Unless it was just randomly making up address's it came from someone on this list. Thanks , Mike

From Lester.Veenstra@lmco.com Fri Aug 9 12:31:16 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 restoration

I lean toward the use of an external 300 VDC lab supply rather than trying to modify the internal regulator. Keep in mind no matter what you do internally, you still have to get rid of the IR drop heat. Instead, present the regulated bus with the right voltage from an external unit that can be disconnected to restore to the OEM design. Les K1YCM CTM1

From jbrannig@optonline.net Fri Aug 9 12:58:27 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

> Ok guys. Enough is enough. No I am not a troll. Yes I want to convert this anchor to SS. I came to this place asking for help. I have received over 100 messages in the last day. TWO were helpful.

Mike,

It is hard to believe, but this reflector is a gold mine of information on the R390 receivers. Unfortunately, as of late, the simplest question seems to elicit hundreds of sophomoric responses. The

R390's follow the standard Collins receiver electrical design. The big difference is the ingenious mechanical tracking. You might want to try the Collins reflectors for ideas on SS conversions. ( I recall a SS 75A4 some years ago) Tube to SS conversions have not been too successful, but that is no reason for not trying. Good luck with your project and please keep the community informed on your progress.  
Jim

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Fri Aug 9 13:10:33 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 restoration

wrote: >I lean toward the use of an external 300 VDC lab supply rather than trying to modify the internal regulator. Keep in mind no matter what you do internally, you still have to get rid of the IR drop heat. Instead, present the regulated bus with the right voltage from an external unit that can be disconnected to restore to the OEM design.

That sounds like a good idea with the reg. supply set to 180 vdc. If you need the P/S for other work, just won't be able to listen to your nonA at the same time.

However, the heat dissipated by the SS VR circuit is much lower than what is given off by the 6082 pair and Dr. J. offers some heatsinking suggestions in the HSN article which get the heat out of the chassis altogether e.g., by mounting the heatsink on the outside of the chassis using existing holes alongside the audio deck area. Warning on that the transistor that needs the heat sink will probably have a "hot" case or tab, so needs a mica insulator and heat sink grease plus an insulated cover over the transistor itself so as not to have a very oversized, external and dangerous B+ "test point". If you don't like the idea of an outboard heat sink, one can be positioned inside and a small fan can be used to draw the heat out through a nearby "porthole". BTW this is a good idea when running the 6082's. The heat buildup is aggravated by the fact that they are upside down and the heat otherwise rises to cook the deck and warm up the whole chassis on that side.

However #2: The '391 I have (that sparked the article) has no heat sink. A tab mount style transistor is just "floating" on the perfboard. It looks like the guy originally had it mounted to the shield that encloses the 6082 area, as there is a small hole and a residue of heat sink grease there. Maybe he had trouble isolating the tab, I don't know. But it's the coolest spot in the rig and the mod was probably done over 15 years ago, judging from some of the components used. I should point out that this was done irreversibly and the audio was solid stated out using one of those handy dandy ECC modules. There is only one tube remaining on that audio deck. The rest of the radio is stock "tubular" and the solid state VR is supplying B+ to all of that. Yet, no heatsinking and not much heat. So ... I dunno. Barry

From Lester.Veenstra@lmco.com Fri Aug 9 14:01:06 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 restoration

Yes, of course, a regulated external 180 VDC supply is what I meant to say. Brain drifted out of phase lock. sorry! I have been accumulating these at the local fests, to be dedicated to the (non As in the) receiver rack. Some day real soon I will actually get it done along with the general overhaul of the receivers now backed up waiting my attention.

From jordana@nucleus.com Fri Aug 9 14:15:25 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 restoration



Seeing as the 6080 tube is readily available, wouldn't a simpler solution be to use them with a separate filament transformer ?? With proper ventilation, the original design is a very good one... and removing the 6082 filament drain would also allow for less strain on the power transformer..even though I don't think it is exceedingly stressful on the transformer in the first place...jmo....73 de Jordan...

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Fri Aug 9 14:42:32 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

wrote: > to elicit hundreds of sophomoric responses.

Gotta disagree. "Senior moments" yes, "sophomoric" no we're too old. <sob>

> The R390's follow the standard Collins receiver electrical design. The big > difference is the ingenious mechanical tracking.

Yes, but that's not the half of it. To most of us, the R390's represent more than just a clever clockwork. They represent the pinnacle of mid20th century technology, a combination of mechanics, the very tops of the hollow state, permeability tuned and "modular serviceability" arts. A key objective was to develop a true digital readout before it was really practical as evident by, yes, all those gears and cams, but also the PTO AND the coils. Officially, there's only maybe one "solid state" item as original equipment, but it's virtually guaranteed to fail, smoke and stink eventually, so it doesn't count. ;)

> Tube to SS conversions have not been too successful, but that is no reason > for not trying.

Well, there ya' go. It's like the mountain climber who climbs the mountain because "it's there". However, when a climber says he plans to go up the wrong side of the wrong mountain, from whence no man has returned, we brethren are dutybound to dissuade him every which way we can. Think of it as a public service. Awright, there's also the matter of tradition, which can be dangerous to mess with, provoking unrest amongst the masses.

Judging by the rapier wit of Mike's reply, I'd say we did our duty. He may well proceed with his quest, but better conditioned and toughened up for the task.

In fairness, there may be some good basis for such a project. While most of the tubes are still available at reasonable prices, there has been some indication that time is taking its toll with leakage, etc. and a lot of these tubes have been shipped around repeatedly increasing the possibility of internal damage to filaments and shorted elements on NOS supplies. So, it might be a good idea to cover the bases. If it becomes impractical (expensive) or impossible to keep these going 100% hollow state, truth be known, most of us would revert to solid state at least on a stagebystage basis to keep them running.

However, I would strongly recommend, Mike: Keep your R390 intact as a working reference. Pick up a junker, and/or some spare working or nonworking (cheap) modules, and work with those. While Fair Radio doesn't have any more nonA's, they do have parts not listed in the catalog and others have odd parts and modules they could supply.

For some modules, it makes more sense to start from scratch with a clean Bud chassis arranged to drop in such as the audio/VR module. A solid state version can be much smaller, leaving room for new "enhancement" modules product detectors, synch detectors, and even (forgive me Great Engineer in the Sky) DSP. The remnants of the audio module would just get in the way that part wasn't anything special performancewise and sandbags the audio response. What others? Maybe just the xtal calibrator,

but it's fairly small to start with. Maybe the PTO, if you can whip up a synthesizer yet keep the noise out.

Another approach is the one for one "solid tube" thing. I suspect that's a tall order and if possible, might run as much as \$20.30 per unit, if possible. Not particularly attractive until the tubes approach that price, but who knows?

> Good luck with your project and please keep the community informed on your progress.

Amen on that one just as long as you don't wreck any good '390's in the process or we'll sic a bunch of sophomores on ya'. <WHACK! SMACK!> No, no ... It's your radio, do what you want with it. I'm a bit conflicted on this issue, and now I'm bleedin', so gotta go. Barry

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Fri Aug 9 14:42:36 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: R390/Solid State

The gov't made tens of thousands of WWII aircraft too, as well as other equipment. Granted, they did a better job of destroying them sooner, but they were still working on destroying the R390 family not too long ago too.

Not being one who likes to tell others what to do with their property, I'd like to suggest that Mike try building his solid state replacement technology into a 79 pin tube base arrangement or other such 'plug and play' things so that the modifications would be easily reversed when the day comes that Mike no longer owns this radio. It would likely be more challenging than just tearing into a chassis and hacking it up, and as well he may solve a future need for tubes as they become more scarce. Maybe he'd become the Bill Gates of tube replacements?? Well, that really wasn't a nice thing to say. I apologize.

Honestly, none of this gear is really "ours" for long. Everything I have of tube vintage belonged to at least one other person before, who considered it 'theirs'. I'm sure glad they took as good a care of these rigs as they did, too. The fellow who sold me my first R390A passed away a couple years back, but the radio lives on in the same like new condition he sold it to me in.

Mike, we're really not a bad bunch of guys. This list probably contains the biggest wealth of R390\* (and other) knowledge that you'll find anywhere. We are focused on preserving and finetuning an outstanding 50 year old design that still manages to whoop the hell out of much (most?) of the newer SS gear. Wouldn't it be more challenging to take some of the older 'new' technology Yaecomwood receivers and see if you could eliminate all the phase noise, chuffing, and bring the noise floor down to something approaching the R390? I'm certainly not against experimenting and making new discoveries, but it's going to be difficult making most of the list members believe that solid stating an R390 will make it 'better'. de Todd/'Boomer' KA1KAQ

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Fri Aug 9 14:59:12 2002  
Subject: [R390] solid state

wrote: > AOL CD'S sure fill up my file 26. > Hank

They make really good coasters for your brew or coffee. Or, if you like skeet shooting. I have a box full of old IBM and CA mainframe software discs at home to protect the furniture. Boomer KA1KAQ (o:

From rbethman@comcast.net Fri Aug 9 14:55:05 2002  
Subject: [R390] IF deck question

Okay guys, I have an older R390A, a 1952 Collins contract, S/N 252. The IF deck is S/N 35. It was only brought up to "MOD 1". It has no variable capacitors to tweak the filters into line.

- 1) Should I leave it that way and just take my chances with the filter alignment?
- 2) Or should I try and scare up eight of the buggers and modify it so that I can bring them right in on the money?
- 3) If the latter, does anyone have a source of these critters?

I'm ready to start bringing it back to life, and want to lay out the course of events.

(Now if I can only find L501 that I scrounged to replace the one with the broken slug.... Where oh where did I put that thing.....)

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Fri Aug 9 15:11:36 2002  
Subject: [R390] VIRUS !?!?

Yes, I've been getting the same thing here but my virus scanner trashes them. Seems like something is grabbing the email addresses of users and reusing them? Wonder if it has somehow found its way into the server or is just using an address book? I use Eudora here as Outlook annoys me.

Anyone else getting these messages? de Todd/'Boomer' KA1KAQ

From n4xy@earthlink.net Fri Aug 9 15:25:20 2002  
Subject: [R390] VIRUS !?!?

Email viruses (virii?) seem to come in separate (by indeterminate timeframes) 'waves' of virusladen emails... this past week having been yet another round. While there's been only ONE Norton AV Virus Definition update this week, I've seen weeks where there was one per day (and a one day record of 2!) Although that is only an indicator of 'new' virus configurations, and not necessarily proof of higher activity. Norton AV detected 5 or 6 virusladen emails yesterday alone (or more I stopped counting somewhere in there). I have personally taken to running a complete HDD virusscan at least once daily.

P.S. Number 1 son Rusty has taken to a 100% LINUX environment... but personally, I cannot: 1) FrontPage 2002 for my website; 2) Photoshop 6; and 3) the entire ULEAD series of Graphicsrelated programs; and 4) EUDORA... plus others I have not thought of. 73 Ed Tanton N4XY  
<n4xy@earthlink.net>

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Fri Aug 9 15:48:32 2002  
Subject: [R390] Broke 390

Friends,

Thanks for many fine offers, including as much as \$650 for the radio. (How much will it be worth if I get it repaired correctly?? makes one wonder...)

Thanks to David, who will fix it for free if I can get it to him...(I am just TIRED of the pack/ship, and then worry if I did well enough..Several of the old items I sent to people from my years of junk, had additional damage...and David lives 1400+ miles from me. It may, however be the best thing to do in the long run..)

Thanks for many suggestions: I have to have help (AGAIN) to get it out of the rack...Maybe one of the boys will be in town for a visit and will then, drop by this week end..I tell you this to explain why I am not saying exactly where the damage was...I haven't seen it ... it is too heavy for me alone..To recap what happened, for some who asked...It quit except for a very soft "buzzy" response on the STRONGEST local AM station, with the gains on wide open.. I tried it on Wed. to see if any change...and that was when it sputtered and smoked..shut it off quick...

Havn't been talking, but have been reading all along.. still a great list..Everyone is very interesting...  
Regards, John

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Aug 9 17:45:33 2002  
Subject: [R390] VIRUS !?!?

writes: << Yes, I've been getting the same thing here but my virus scanner trashes them. Seems like something is grabbing the email addresses of users and reusing them? Wonder if it has somehow found its way into the server or is just using an address book? I use Eudora here as Outlook annoys me.

Anyone else getting these messages? de Todd/'Boomer' KA1KAQ >>

I even get them on my Mac, but have never gotten any kind of a virus. I refuse to use outlook..... Les

From Fri Aug 9 17:52:23 2002  
Subject: [R390] VIRUS !?!?

wrote: ><< Yes, I've been getting the same thing here but my virus scanner trashes >them. >Anyone else getting these messages?

No I have gotten no viruses here. If I do, most likely the firewall/protection system in place here will strip them off. Roy

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Fri Aug 9 18:22:38 2002  
Subject: [R390] VIRUS !?!?

Yes, same set up here Roy. I get blank emails or one or two lines, that's it. Just wondered why all of a sudden I'm getting them from list members. Ed mentioned it was likely the address book deal. 73,  
Boomer KA1KAQ

From David\_Wise@Phoenix.com Fri Aug 9 19:05:34 2002  
Subject: [R390] IF deck question

> I have an older R390A, a 1952 Collins contract, S/N 252. > The IF deck > is S/N 35. It was only brought up to "MOD 1". It has no variable > capacitors to tweak the filters into line.  
>  
> 2) Or should I try and scare up eight of the buggers and modify it so > that I can bring them right in on the money?

If I saw reasonable gain out of the deck, I wouldn't bother.

Unless you're a stickler for historical authenticity (in that case, you wouldn't put them in in the first place), you can use any trimmer that covers the range and fits in the available space. It won't be just a trimmer; the capacitance needed is too large. Instead, it will be a fixed cap paralleled by a trimmer. I don't remember the values, but they're in the manual.

The manual doesn't say what the trimmer TC is; probably NPO. I would probably compare an NPO to an N750 and pick the one that stayed on the best. Mouser sells a variety of trimmers in various TCs. I used a couple to redo my PTO's compensation; one NPO, one N1500, and turn one up and the other down until the drift was minimized. By the way, changing the total capacitance modifies the gross linearity, bowing the curve up or down in the middle. Some of you might be able to avoid a linearity adjustment with that trick. 73, Dave Wise

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Fri Aug 9 19:06:45 2002  
Subject: [R390] Solid State R390

wrote: > <<Converting an R390 to solidstate makes sense.>> Surely it would be better to buy a solid state radio than to > modify an R390. This reminds me of the guys who used to put small block > Chevy engines in their Jaguar XKE's. To gain some added reliability, they > made an abortion out of the most beautiful car ever made, when they could > have just bought a Corvette.

Saddest part is that the Jags are a very reliable car if you maintain them properly. Unfortunately too many people want the looks but have all they can do to change the oil regularly. At least their problems are solved now with the Forduars. Plug'n'play mentality, not unlike ricebox vs. tube rigs. 73,  
Todd/'Boomer' KA1KAQ

From cbscott@ingr.com Fri Aug 9 19:17:41 2002  
Subject: [R390] Meter Swap

I have an R390A with a Carrier Level meter that appears to be just a tiny bit smaller (height x width) than the Line Level meter. The meter appears to be an original replacement unit (maybe replaced at a depot?), but doesn't match the other meter as I would like.

I wonder if anyone has the reverse situation and would want to swap one or the other meter? I figure it's a long shot, but thought I would give it a try. Thanks, Barry(III) N4BUQ

From cv591a@bellsouth.net Fri Aug 9 20:15:47 2002  
Subject: [R390] St.J radios...long long long msg

wrote: >I wouldn't buy an R390A from Fair Radio or anybody else unless I was >certain it did not come from the government auction at St. Julian's Creek Annex, VA.

I have to agree with you. Nasty nasty. Sad, too.

>A couple of years ago when the SJC R390A's were hot items, >someone emailed me a very well written discussion about the things that >were wrong with a typical SJC R390A. I thought he posted it on the >reflector, but now I can't find it. Here are a few of the things I remember >from his discussion. Stainless steel screws rusted (not surprising). This, >of course, could make repairs more difficult. Yellow wrap capacitors coming >unwrapped. Well, that's not too tough. Replace the capacitors. Coil >windings in the shielded transformers of the RF deck starting to come >unwound. I don't know how you would fix this. His conclusion (not mine) >was that this RF subchassis was unsuitable for use in an R390A.

I did some searching and found some of them. I seem to remember more. There were several threads on the prospects of rebuilding one without future problems.

(Begin Message 1)

Subject: Re: [R390] New Owner

At 07:33 PM 11/1/98 0800, you wrote: >So, if someone got an R390 A in their Christmas >Stocking..... (I can dream, can't I?). Let's say a St. >Julian's Creek victim. What would be the best first thing to do >with/for it?

Rip it apart for parts. I've seen a couple of radios from there. Too many "little things" damaged by the elements. You'd be looking at hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of hours of work to bring them up to the level of a radio that'd only cost you a couple of hundred dollars more in the first place. I don't make a tremendous salary, but my spare time is worth a hell of a lot more than \$0.51 an hour. They're good for parts. If I could find a couple of them local for ~\$100.00 each, grab 'em for spares.

Don't get me wrong, I don't have a problem with pumping tons of hours into a receiver. I just did one and am still working on a second one. BUT, I started with two clean receivers. I can't see doing this with something that'll always show the physical and emotional scars of sitting in the rain and snow and sun for a couple of years when you can start with a much nicer radio for a couple of hundred dollars more.

Let's look at it from another perspective. It's kind of like deciding that you want to build and drive a nice looking, good running 1958 Buick Limited because you worship chrome and they were cooler than The King (Elvis).

Where's the first place that you'd look for one to restore? Well, let's see, Otis, down at the local wrecking yard has one that you can have for \$125.00 dollars and \$50.00 dollars freight, I mean a \$50.00 wrecker bill to get it home. Best of all. you've got a couple of hundred dollars in mad money that you picked up cutting pulp wood that the old lady doesn't know about. ROAD TRIP! Load up the dogs in the truck, take a bottle of Rebel Yell with you, and hit the road! HEEEEHa!

After 14 miles of dirt roads, you're at Otis's place. "Out back of the tire pile", slurs Otis. You wade thru saw briars and fight off swarms of mosquitoes, shoot two copper heads, and suddenly, there it is! An aura of fire dances around it as the chrome reflects the sunlight into your bloodshot lust filled eyes while the 4 foot tall briars rustle seductively in the wind and the cicadas make the sound of Summer time love. Here Otis!, take the money bubba, I gotta have it! Tow it out to my place and drop it next to Ma's old burn out trailer. No, the first one....

Well, after you and the dogs and the car are home, Otis is gone, and the Rebel Yell wears off, you eat a half a handful of BC's to kill the headache and you ease over to it to evaluate your new "project".

It sat out there at Otis's place a few years after the courts released it. They never did find the guys head or right foot, remember? Well, after setting here soaking in the old UV rays, rain, dew, and snow, for a few years, the stench of death and the blood stains are all gone. The chain saw cuts in the upholstery are still there though. Gonna have to fix that....

The chrome still shines, and now, it's all yours and you're now a full fledged member in good standing of the Cult of the '58 Buick Limited! Life is good bubba!

It's had a few dozen other's like it stacked on top at different times, and the roof is mashed in about 6 inches and the doors won't open, but hey, it's tough, it's a 58 Buick and it's cooler than The King (Elvis)! Besides, look at all of that chrome....

Six months ago, Otis's brother in law was drunk and foolin' around on the fork lift after his wife (the gal with the big hairdo) left him, and he accidentally rammed a tine thru the grill, taking out the radiator, cooling fan, water pump pulley, water pump and the upper generator bracket.

There's a few holes in the left fin where Otis Jr (product of Otis and his 1st cousin Myra) sighted in his rifle one year. That boy never was what you'd call "right". Most of the glass and various lenses are either missing or broken. The numbers are peeling off of the odometer.

The battery froze a few years ago and ruptured, leaking electrolyte all over the inner fender and radiator support and ate a hole big enough for a possum to climb thru. All of the tires are flat, two wheels missing, and the two that are there are wrong. Whoa! Look at all of those old snake skins on the engine. Cool!

The deck lid and the intake manifold and cylinder heads are missing too. What the hell, 58 Buick Limited deck lids are common as dirt and so are the high compression heads for the 300 hp version of the 364 cubic inch Buick engine. Oh, oh, the carb is gone too. :( Not a problem, someone on the R\_390\_'58\_Buicks\_Cooler\_Than\_Elvis? reflector might have some for sale.

Oh, I almost forgot. The back seat and carpet has been the home and breeding place of 17 generations of watch dogs for the wrecking yard. What the...is that?...no... why yes, yes, I think that it really is, it's dog fur carpet bubba! Damn, life sure is interesting at times!

No thanks! I'd rather pay a more money initially and buy one that's been sitting in a barn for years, and has all of it's original innards after the little old lady that drove it into to town once a month, went insane from watching game shows and drinking fluoridated water, and committed suicide and was eaten by little Fluffy and the other 41 cats.

Your mileage may vary. If you're ever in this neck of the woods, I can fix you up with Otis's 1st cousin Mrya. Since she got that new glass eye, the upper plate, and the make over, she looks pretty hot... nolan

CAT, the other white meat!

(Begin Message 2)

Subject: Re: [R390] St. Julian's Creek radios  
ReplyTo: Nolan Lee <nlee@gs.verio.net>

wrote: >Nolan, you are forgetting about the character of these radios. These receivers have been all over the world and served as soldiers for the good old USA, they deserve some respect.

I'm immune to that aspect of it. They're machines, nothing more. In the mid 1970's I worked for a division of Southern Scrap down in New Orleans. I had a crew that averaged about 6 guys working with me. One of my jobs was to see that all of the electronic gear that was worth anything, stripped out of two USN WWII cruisers (Topeka & Boston) just ahead of the crews with the torches. BTW, my Collins R390A is off of the USS Topeka.) The big dollar items like the guided missile systems, fire control systems, etc. had priority. Most of the rest of the stuff was just considered as obstacles impeding higher profits.

I've cut up, destroyed, burned, shredded, and smashed enough history to last several lifetimes. I've taken sledge hammers and fire axes to stuff to get it out of the way so that I could get to something that needed to be removed when I didn't have a fire wrench (torch) handy and I didn't feel like using handtools. Sometimes we just beat on stuff for the hell of it. "Hey! Bet you a dollar that I can knock that audio amplifier off of the bulkhead with only two licks".

On a side note though, I did haul truckloads of RTTY gear and other stuff, in the form of TTY terminals, FSK converters, etc. out of there that I gave away rather than see it run thru the shredder. It cost me about 3 cents a pound to do this. :) I still have a few pieces of it. This was where I got the dozen or so R390A SSB converters that I once had. Three cents a pound. :)

>I own several, and by the time you go all the way through >them, it's not that much more work. They may not pass for >bright shiny new ones, but these things will still blow >the doors off of any ricebox/sandbox SWL receiver.

Sure they will. It's just I'd rather start with something that's in better condition. The two St.J R390A's that I looked at had set outside long enough for the digits to start falling off of the counter and the color traces on the chassis harness to fade away. I have to question the viability of the RF coils and forms, the IF coils and forms, the PTO, the potentiometers, the switches, the UV damage to the chassis wiring insulation, etc. before I spend hours and hours of my time restoring it. What will it be like, electrically, ten years from now? Twenty years? I generally keep stuff a long time and look at it from long term perspective.

They're well worth the ~\$125.00 dollars that they sell for just as a source of parts. Hell, the mechanical filters in the IF deck alone are worth the purchase price.

>It's neat to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear now and >then.

Some people would probably find the '58 Buick Limited that Otis sold, an enjoyable challenge. I wouldn't. ;)

>Sound's like Nolan may have ate a little too much >CAT meat. Burrp... It's gotta be well done...

With pecan sause.... <grin>

>In my opinion, the St. Julian's radios are worth more than "a just driven on Sundays by an old lady" R390A. This is because of the history behind each one of them. When they are gone, there ain't gonna to be no more. These receivers are world class, if they could only tell us where they have been and what they have been through.

I was originally in awe of the R390A receivers when I saw my first one, but then something happened that really changed my outlook on them. Another thing that the division of Southern Scrap that I worked for did was dabble in the old GSA auctions. We bid on and won hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of R390A's back in the mid 1970's. Back then, all of this stuff was stored in warehouses and not exposed to



the weather. They all had the meters back then too unless they'd been robbed for parts. At the time, a good working R390A could bring close to \$700 at the retail level. This is when a new fullsize GMC Cost me 3654.81. I put \$700 down and financed the balance for three years at \$98.50 a month. R390A's were not a cheap item back then. As a result, there was no enviromental damage and they looked pretty damn decent. The nice ones that were complete went first. We shipped most of those to Phil and George up at Fair Radio Sales. Some went to other places, but truckloads went to FRS. At any rate, as the pile of good complete ones got smaller and the pile of incomplete ones got larger, I would strip modules out of some radios to be able to have complete ones to ship. We also had a retail outlet and we'd keep it supplied with clean working R390A's. After a while, a point was reached where we had dozens and dozens of hulks that weren't worth the trouble to mess with. After I grabbed a few extra goodies for spares for the R390A's that I had, they were shredded bubba.

I suppose that if I'd wanted to, I could have bought what was left for .03 a pound rather than run it thru the shredder but I already had a few good clean R390A's and enough spares to have lasted to today. :)

Picking thru surplus R390A's 25 years ago was a lot different than today. :)

>This is my two cents, whoever don't like it, <delete> please.

Cool! I did like it! thanks, nolan

"No question that an admission of making false statements to government officials and interfering with the FBI is an impeachable offense." Bill Clinton, ARKANSAS GAZETTE, August 8, 1974, page 7A.

(Begin Message 3)

Subject: [R390] St.J. receiver rebuild  
Sender: ownerr390@qth.net  
ReplyTo: Nolan Lee <nlee@gs.verio.net>

wrote: >I have had quite a job with the I.F. module. All of the 455 kHz I.F. >transformers needed work, I think the rain had effected the glue that holds >each endcheek onto the coil former, with the result that the former would >rotate and break the wire off.

I just finished gutting an RF deck out of a St.J. receiver for parts. I found a lot of deterioration in the variable IF's and the RF coils in the RF deck due to exposure to the elements. In addition, a lot for the tuning slugs were loose on their wires. It ended up that about 20% of the plugin coils were out of spec and as a result, were scrapped. All of the capacitors in them checked goo though. :)

My comments on using the St.J. receivers as a restoration project have been voiced here before and I won't go into it here. But, if you're going to rebuild a St.J. receiver, or any other receiver that's sat outside for a while, there are a few extra steps that would probably be in your best interest, for the long term, to do:

First, I'd remove all of the variable IF and RF coils from the RF deck. Then, one at a time, remove the metal covers and do an inspection and swab any film or loose debris out of them, especially around the terminals, using a suitable solvent and without wetting the coils them selves. Some of the films (maybe oil washed down from the rain from receivers stacked above it) can be conductive and give false values when you do the resistance checks and probably would contribute to signal loss.

Measure the resistance of the coils and compare your readings to the manual. Then, using a good

sensitive bridge or VTVM that'll do >500 megohm resistance or so, measure the resistance of the other pins to each other and to the coil pins. If you get any reading here, you'll need to either track down the problem or replace the coil assembly. It doesn't take much of an oil residue on the phenolic to give a 10 meg resistance reading. You may find lower than normal readings on some of the coil windings due to failure of the insulation. ;(

I had one RF coil that had leakage that turned out to be the trimmer capacitor. I disassembled the cap and cleaned it and reinstalled it and the leakage was gone. Oh, while you're at it, I'd give each of the trimmers a couple of three spins in alternating directions to insure that the two little spring contacts are making good contact.

Also inspect the coil forms and see if they are coming apart. They're basically a flat spiral cut sheet rolled into a tube. I've seen them starting to unwind on some of the coils of St.J. receivers. Redoping the coils and the outside of the forms should prevent this and should stop any that has already started from getting worse. I'd suspect that this will help the receiver to hold alignment a lot longer.

For the coils that meet resistance specs, I'd either bake them in the oven at a very low setting for a couple of hours or place them in a very dry (humidity) area for a few days or so and then redope the coils and outside of the forms.

Don't forget to check T207, T208, and the antenna trimmer can on the RF deck. While you have the deck out, I replace the three paper capacitors on the underside of the module and check the little nut mount paper capacitor located near the 6DC6 tube.

Another thing that's probably worth doing would be to clean the bandswitch to not only make sure that the contacts are clean but to remove any possible oil film. Any type of conductive film here can cause a flashover and a carbon track to the shaft and render that switch section unusable. The fiberglass ones seem to be more prone to flashover. These switches were more of a problem than a lot of people think, evidenced by the number of RF decks with mixed (ceramic and fiberglass) switch sections that I've seen. ;(

I'd apply the same steps to the coils/switches/etc. on the crystal osc, and IF modules. nolan

"Man, I'd kill for a Nobel Peace prize."

From bratcher@pdq.net Fri Aug 9 21:56:32 2002  
Subject: [R390] VIRUS !?!?

I haven't had a virus sent to me in 3 or 4 weeks. last one came from overseas from a person I never heard of but not through a mailing list. NAV 2002 (kept updated) catches all that are sent to me anyway. If you don't have an antivirus program GET ONE!

From bratcher@pdq.net Fri Aug 9 22:15:55 2002  
Subject: [R390] VIRUS !?!?

Somebody just tried to send me one today addressed to the moderator of a mailing list (for Annette Funicello) I run on Yahoogroups. NAV 2002 caught it as usual but I haven't checked to see which virus it was. The sender is not on my mailing list.

From tpinner@aeroinc.net Fri Aug 9 23:03:34 2002  
Subject: [R390] VIRUS !?!?

Hello Everyone, >From www.nai.com W32/Hybris.gen@MM aka Snowwhite and the Seven Dwarfs

Currently this virus downloads plugins from alt.comp.virus. The virus contains an internal list of several news servers it can access. It searches the newsgroup for any plugins that it doesn't have, or has older versions of. Since the worm searches all Internet activity for email addresses, people who post to alt.comp.virus using their real email address may get many copies of the worm when Hybris searches alt.comp.virus for new plugins. When a full moon occurs according to the computer's internal clock, the virus will randomly post its plugins to the alt.comp.virus newsgroup. It uses a mailtonews gateway at anon.lcs.mit.edu to send plugins with a fake return address of root@microsoft.com.

From DJED1@aol.com Fri Aug 9 23:27:17 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

Hi Mike I've been reading the mail, but in the interest of bringing up your ratio of serious replies I'll offer a few opinions: I'm also an EE (not yet retired). I converted an old Super Pro to solid state back in the 70s. In that case, the objective was to reduce the drift. It did OK, but no other improvement that I can recall over the original radio. I eventually gave it away, and it was likely scrapped. As others have noted, this conversions used dualgate FETS, which are harder to find than tubes.

I've had a lowmileage R390A for about 25 years, but the thought has crossed my mind about improvements. Tube life has not been an area to improve, I don't think I've replaced more than 4 tubes in 25 years (and I've got enough spares for another 50 years). So no good reason to change there. I thought about improving the frequency readout it sure is impressive to set my new solidstate receiver to the nearest 10 Hz. I concluded, however, that 300Hz is good enough for any use I would have, tho I'm still thinking about how to set each band so that you don't have to calibrate each time. So no strong reason there, tho it might be nice. As one of the other posters noted, you can buy or make an external readout for the PTO. Still needs to be set to each band.

In terms of sensitivity and strong signal performance, the R390 can only be equalled by a few commercial solidstate receivers (if you've got \$20K for one). so probably a minus for any solid state substitution. Same for drift almost negligible despite the temperature rise because of the tube heat. Not as good as newer solidstate, but no great need for improvement with drift of a few hundred Hz.

Finally, the greatest weakness is the lack of SSB detector. Thid really needs improvement! I compromised on this one I built a solid state product detector and AVC that connects to the radio's IF output, and audio and AVC terminals on the back of the radio. This allow seamless operation of the radio in SSB, using all of the front panel controls. Just a little box on top of the radio. And no holes in the radio, which I assume will fund my grandchildren's college education someday. The one drawback to the product detector is that I need to manually offset the BFO for sideband selection, thus I need to recalibrate when switching sidebands. I'm now working on a new version with some surplus 100 KHz filters, which will allow sideband selection without recalibrating. Once I get that done, I think it will be close enough to perfect for my purposes.

However, if you launch into some work keep in touch. I'm still looking for the solution to get the crystal oscillators exactly on frequency.

From myyoung76@bellsouth.net Fri Aug 9 23:40:04 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State|

I already built the outboard SSB detector. Two Mech filters I was able to pickup, 455kc USB and LSB. So I had simultaneous dual sideband all in a minibox. Connected to IF output. Fast Attack, slow release. Have had that for 15 yrs.

Direct frequency readout with out requiring band change "messaging" is a real desire. I think AADE may have something that will work. mike

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Sat Aug 10 01:28:08 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: R390/Squalid State

Correct me if I'm wrong here, I only have a two year engineering degree.

But isn't the first step in ANY engineering project to determine just what the "givens" are? Wouldn't it be most efficient to learn what the previous engineers went through when they invented the wheel so you don't trod the same path and burn that time all over again?

Didn't we lament the Navy doing just that when they threw out the engineering reports of the last 60 years?

It just seems wrong to dive into a piece of equipment full of arrogant selfconfidence thinking of improving it without learning about it first.

But Mike didn't do that, did he? He asked us first, and we told him, now the details and reasons why are coming out.

Everyone got their NOS dead horse beating sticks ready? I think you put it into perspective, Todd. Joe

From Jim Shorney" < Sat Aug 10 01:43:33 2002  
Subject: [R390] solid state

wrote: wrote: >>> AOL CD'S sure fill up my file 26. >> Hank >>They make really good coasters for your brew or coffee.

A couple of seconds in a microwave produces a nice light show, and some very interesting patterns etched into the CD. Best to try this when the XYL is out of the house...

From twleiper@juno.com Sat Aug 10 02:15:36 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: R390/Squalid State

writes: > Correct me if I'm wrong here

You're not wrong there, or here either, but I am going to "correct" you anyway...just like I had to "correct" my two little girls...and when my wife tried to stop me, I "corrected" her too.

As to the folks who want to sandstate their rigs...perhaps they need a good talking to, if you don't mind my saying, perhaps...a bit more.

Then only thing I know, Mr. Torrance, is that I have many pieces of hollow state gear that are still in good repair and serviceable after fifty years, and I cannot claim the same, or even thirty or forty years service life for any sand state stuff except my HK Citation 11 & 12 stereo. But it took me longer to find a replacement output transistor pair for that amp than it ever took me to get a replacement KT88 for the Citation I. Most old solid state stuff gets thrown out, but the hollow state lives on, so why convert? The only acceptable reason is simply because you want to try it...and that certainly is a good enough reason for any experimenter.

The only R389 I ever owned was what I would now call quite restorable, but at the age of thirteen it was on a useless band and simply made a good prop. We used it in a mockup space ship we built in the woods, and then the old oil burner we were using as a rocket engine set the whole thing afire and burned a couple hundred pounds of BA equipment in the "command" module. We were dancing around with glee as it all went up in flames, and I am still glad it happened that way...it was a riot.

We laughed so hard... in fact I think I am going to take my CV157 out back and torch it just for kicks.  
Twit

From anchor@ec.rr.com Sat Aug 10 02:33:57 2002  
Subject: [R390] Hello New to list More questions

Josh's new URL is: <http://www.roveroresearch.com/rovero.html> (it's on the Hammarlund Historian website) 73 from another R392 owner, Al, W8UT

From ba.williams@charter.net Sat Aug 10 03:24:35 2002  
Subject: [R390] VIRUS !?!?

> Anyone else getting these messages?

Outlook Express for the Mac is pretty much bullet proof. I have gotten those too. I hate anything by MicroSwindle, but I haven't found an email program that I like better so I suffer with the stigma of using it. Barry

From hankarn@pacbell.net Sat Aug 10 04:19:40 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: R390/Squalid State

Hey TWIT if you want to do a fire dance on a CV157 let me know and I will bring a bunch of 500 series TEK scopes to go in its place sans tubes. Will take the 157 to a loving home. Hank

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Sat Aug 10 04:25:45 2002  
Subject: Fw: [R390] Hello New to list More questions

Hello Mike and gang, Was this received okay? I did not find any virus, however this morning my computer froze upbut restart correct the problem. 73, Glen Galati KA7BOJ Tacoma, WA

p.s. Barry H. is a swell fella.

p.s.s. All BOATANCHORS deserve Respect, TLC, and Originality.

From ba.williams@charter.net Sat Aug 10 05:17:56 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: R390/Solid State

> Mike, we're really not a bad bunch of guys. This list probably contains the biggest wealth of R390\*(and other) knowledge that you'll find anywhere.

What gets me is all of the new sandstate rigs that try to tune "just like analog" with different schemes. You ain't going to get analog out of a slotted wheel letting light strobe through the slots. I always chuckle when I play around with some sandbox. The choppy tuning is awful. You can't tune some things in like you can with analog. There is always going to be that digital edge you either cross or don't cross, and those are never aligned perfectly to what you want to fine tune in.

Then there is the noise. Most of the time, that is enough said. Look at all the megabucks WJ put into the doomed HF1000. You know, the R390A killer. It suffered from lack of shielding. What's that? You mean that rolling stock grade chassis we have on our boatanchors serves another purpose? That HF1000 was a transmitter in it's own right with so much RF leakage. I think Chuck Rippel can say more since he is the one who went head to head with George Zeller's HF1000 on a DXpedition.

Did we mention fixing the things? I mean those surface mount parts on the motherboards.

Yeah, the R390A doesn't have memory banks. It takes a while to tune around. It makes noises when tuning. No tuning dimple on the KC knob. But, it sure is nice to get stations so elusive that editors question whether it was really heard at all. That sort of makes me smile when my logs seem a bit past what the sandstate guys are used to.

Did I mention that it has been working for about 9 years now? Attila the Hun

From ba.williams@charter.net Sat Aug 10 05:23:24 2002  
Subject: [R390] Solid State R390

> Saddest part is that the Jags are a very reliable car if you maintain them properly. Unfortunately too many people want the looks but have all they can do to change the oil regularly. At least their problems are solved now with the Forduars. Plugnpay mentality, not unlike ricebox vs. tube rigs. 73, Todd/'Boomer' KA1KAQ

My grandfather had a couple of new Jags about 10 years ago. I drove them both and they were absolutely depressing. One had a lot of interior parts falling off and lying on the floor mats. Nice acceleration. I couldn't hold either in a straight line no matter how smoothly I drove it. They wandered all over the place. I grew up with a Jag that my dad had back around 1957-58. It was beautiful. That is one of the reasons I was so depressed with Jags 10 years ago. Barry

From wli@u.washington.edu Sat Aug 10 05:28:20 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: some thoughts on restoration

Gang:

Very insightful thoughts on restoration from Nolan Lee circa 1998 thanks to Dallas' archival memory! Having restored milspec equipment on and off since the 50's (those were the days...) there is nothing more frustrating than physical cleanup of neglected or tropicalized gear.... or worst yet, gear that had been "customized" by a prior owner. However, the reality is simply that obtaining clean R390A's is almost impossible for casual shoppers. You have to look long and hard, and be patient. Personally, I have had the best luck at the smaller hamfests in my area. That said, the best plug and play samples available today are from Rick M. and Chuck R. today... expensive but worth every penny if you consider the hours of labor and experience behind each of them. Read Nolan's labor of love if you really want to restore your A back to what it was (appeared on May 22, 1999 on this list).

There was a brief period when ATC was selling unused halfbuilt decks, a real bargain as I recall. The Xtal deck came with ALL the rocks, something none of us will see again!

IMHO speaking practically, I believe that each of us should aim for, at a minimum, one clean working model (a 1967 EAC if you are real lucky) and another working one for spares. Obviously, we can all dream of multiple receivers nicely mounted in a rack, with a CV591 to boot... like a few members of this list have.

I agree that this remarkable receiver represents the pinnacle of mid50's technology, not only in electrical/mechanical design, but in sheer durability. Such quality is largely and sadly missing in today's gear.

For those of us obsessed with solidstate, I recommend looking at the TenTec 1254 kit for \$200 (no, I am not employed by them). It would make a nice "companion" but in no way has the history and the respect that a fully and accurately restored R390 series has.

Without a doubt, the most valuable asset for us is the Y2K manual.... many thanks for all who worked so long in that marvelous document. W. Li

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Sat Aug 10 05:39:44 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: some thoughts on restoration

WORD!

From Jim Shorney" < Sat Aug 10 05:48:41 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: R390/Solid State

wrote: >Did we mention fixing the things? I mean those surface mount parts on the >motherboards.

FWIW, I fix surfacemount stuff all the time at my day job. Having said that, I won't touch the new rigs. All my friends that have the new stuff have to send it off to Burghart, or the factory, or wherever for repair when it breaks. When my 'old stuff' breaks (rarely), I just fix it.

From Jim Shorney" < Sat Aug 10 05:56:42 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: some thoughts on restoration

wrote: >However, the reality is simply that obtaining clean R390A's is almost impossible for casual shoppers. You have to look long and hard, and be patient. Personally, I have had the best luck at the

smaller hamfests in my area.

I got lucky. I asked around locally a little, couldn't get one of my friends to come off of one of his, and finally ran into another ham I knew who used to deal in that stuff at an auction. The subject came up in conversation, and he mentioned that he had an extra 390a in his basement that he probably would never get to, and if I wanted it, he would give me a deal. Six months later, I finally got over to look at it, and the rest is history. 1958 Motorola, as near as I can peg it, with what looks to be all original modules, inside very clean, front panel shows the usual wear, original meters, all tubes (with original shiney shields, but I'm collecting IERC's now). The moral of the story is, ask around you never know what people have stashed away that they don't need...

From ft990@hotmail.com Sat Aug 10 06:05:47 2002  
Subject: [R390] VIRUS !?!?

Well I got 3 more today. Luckily Hotmail scans them and then puts them in the "junk" folder. I also have a AV set up on my putter so no problem:) I got nailed a few years ago on my old computer by the same email and it pretty much wiped the hard drive out. NASTY! Lesson learned;) , Mike

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Sat Aug 10 06:22:53 2002  
Subject: [R390] VIRUS !?!?

Funny, but my Wintel 98 Outlook box behind a cable modem behind a DHCP/NAT router has never, and I mean NEVER, had a virus. No AV whatsoever.

Now I really should pull on the rubber suit and duck while crossing the info superhighway! Whistling in the dark in Bridgetown, OR

From jbrannig@optonline.net Sat Aug 10 13:07:58 2002  
Subject: [R390] VIRUS !?!?

> Funny, but my Wintel 98 Outlook box behind a cable modem behind a DHCP/NAT router has never, and I mean NEVER, had a virus. No AV whatsoever.

Well, you don't think you have a virus, but without AV you will never know. Just because the computer is still working doesn't mean it is clean. You could be harboring one of the little suckers that collects email addresses and remails these gems. Anyone without CURRENT AV, exposes themselves to a potential killer (been there cleaned it up) and exposes everyone they are in contact with to a potential problem. The DHCP in the router does nothing to prevent this. Jim

From courir26@yahoo.com Sat Aug 10 13:26:59 2002  
From: courir26@yahoo.com (Tom M.)

Gentlemen? Why not solid state a R390A?

If it was very rare I'd say no. But as plentiful as they are, why not advance the range of the 390A hobby? Regarding the grandpa with two Jags, I guess I don't need to go into the joke as to why Jags are sold in pairs. 73 Tom



Favorite bumper sticker: "THE PARTS WHICH ARE FALLING FROM THIS MACHINE ARE OF THE FINEST BRITISH MANUFACTURE"

From Llgpt@aol.com Sat Aug 10 13:41:02 2002  
Subject: [R390] Solid State R390, Why Not?

writes: << Gentlemen? Why not solid state a R390A?

Uh ...Oh..British bashing.....LUCAS "The Original Prince of Darkness."

From kd9kc@elp.rr.com Sat Aug 10 13:58:44 2002  
Subject: [R390] Solid State R390, Why Not?

> Gentlemen? > Why not solid state a R390A?

Well... I will not try to stop you from doing it. I wouldn't stop you from killing your best dog, or turning a 1965 Mustang Convertible into a low rider. If you own it, you can do it.

But I damn sure wouldn't help you do them either. Other than the known rectifier or 3TF7 mods, I doubt you will get much out of this group.

Usually, I would end it with "Good luck, let us know how it turns out." In this case, I do not want to know, and will set a filter to dump further "Solid State R390, Why Not?" messages to the spamfile.

Don't know what you do for a living, but please do not apply for a curators position at the Smithsonian. Mike.

From JamesMiller20@worldnet.att.net Sat Aug 10 13:36:52 2002  
Subject: [R390] Reasons NOT to Solid State a 390

1 Dynamic range of a tube receiver typically better than solid state. Tubes run at high voltages, solid state devices run at low voltages, hence in general tube front ends have much better dynamic range. Better strong signal handling capability.

2 Resistance to EMP and Static Discharge. These days, don't laugh, it could happen. Watch the news. If you survive the burst, you're 390 will still work. Your \$4000 Icom radio probably won't. Also, in general a tube rig will be less susceptible to static discharge. During Desert Storm, the high tech solid state radios would be damaged by static discharge on antennas caused by sand storms. They had to rush in some KWM2 tube rigs as backup. So much for solid state.

3 Design incompatibility The unique capabilities of the 390 depends heavily on very high impedance tube circuits. The AGC is an example. The multiple stages of preselector and mixer tuning were carefully designed, mechanically and electrically, for high impedance tube circuits. Solid state is typically lower impedance, even FETs. If you replace the front ends with solid state, your preselector and mixer tuned circuits may not have the same Q and will probably not be as sharp in bandwidth. Hence, even more susceptibility to out of band strong signals and intermod.

4 Noise floor Assuming you also upgrade the LOs and PTOs to solid state PLL circuits, your noise floor will get worse due to phase noise from the PLL's.

5 Why bother? If I want a solid state radio, I'll go buy one designed for solid state devices. Any others?

From kd9kc@elp.rr.com Sat Aug 10 14:29:29 2002  
Subject: [R390] Reasons NOT to Solid State a 390

> 2 Resistance to EMP and Static Discharge. During Desert Storm, the high tech solid state radios would be damaged by static discharge on antennas caused by sand storms.

Yep... I was there. My personal IC735 took a hit exactly that way! ICOM rushed me the parts, for free. But I was still nonop for several days. I didn't take my R390A over, but if I had, I could have still been OP, running splitRX on it, since the 735 TX was just fine. Mike.

From jbrannig@optonline.net Sat Aug 10 14:50:04 2002  
Subject: [R390] Reasons NOT to Solid State a 390

> 1 Dynamic range of a tube receiver typically better than solid state. Tubes run at high voltages, solid state devices run at low voltages, hence in general tube front ends have much better dynamic range. Better strong signal handling capability.

At one time that was true, but not in the last 20 years.

> 2 Resistance to EMP and Static Discharge. These days, don't laugh, it could happen. Watch the news. If you survive the burst, you're 390 will still work. Your \$4000 Icom radio probably won't.

If I survive an airburst, the least of my problems will be the state of my radio.

Also, in general a tube rig will be less susceptible to static discharge. During > Desert Storm, the high tech solid state radios would be damaged by > static discharge on antennas caused by sand storms. They had to rush in > some KWM2 tube rigs as backup. So much for solid state.

That has less to do with the radios than the Army's penchant for fighting the last war. I'm surprised the Infantry wasn't issued parkas and skis.

> 3 Design incompatibility The unique capabilities of the 390 depends > heavily on very high impedance tube circuits. The AGC is an example.

Finally, a reasoned argument.

> 4 Noise floor Assuming you also upgrade the LOs and PTOs to solid > state PLL circuits, your noise floor will get worse due to phase noise > from the PLL's.

When you hook an antenna up to an HF radio, atmospherics will mask all of that. The noise floor is the broken thermostat in the neighbors house.

> 5 Why bother? If I want a solid state radio, I'll go buy one designed > for solid state devices.

Also, a well reasoned argument.

From ba.williams@charter.net Sat Aug 10 16:03:33 2002  
Subject: [R390] Reasons NOT to Solid State a 390

>> 4 Noise floor Assuming you also upgrade the LOs and PTOs to solid state PLL circuits, your noise floor will get worse due to phase noise from the PLL's. > When you hook an antenna up to an HF radio, atmospherics will mask all of that. The noise floor is the broken thermostat in the neighbors house.

If I were to follow that logic there would be no reason to even own a HF receiver. I would hate to live where you do with those atmospherics always masking things. My area produces some extremely quiet periods with great DX.

From jbrannig@optonline.net Sat Aug 10 17:11:03 2002  
Subject: [R390] Reasons NOT to Solid State a 390

> If I were to follow that logic there would be no reason to even own a HF receiver. I would hate to live where you do with those atmospherics always masking things. My area produces some extremely quiet periods with great DX.

You are indeed fortunate to live in a quiet location. Most urban and suburban locations sport a variety of interesting RF noises. HV lines, cable TV leakage, appliance noise, computers and home entertainment devices, lawn mowers..... These are combated using directional antennas, noise blankers, DSP.....

Other QRN is from thunder storms (propagated over thousands of miles), solar noise, splatter and harmonics from transmitters and general atmospheric crud.

When an antenna is conected to an HF radio you should hear the "roar" of the airwaves. If not, check the antenna, feedline and alignment. Jim

From mail08458@pop.net Fri Aug 9 03:33:26 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 restoration

I didn't realize the 6082 was as hard to find as the 26Z5W or 3TF7, but I plan to take about a dozen NOS to the Carroll County Tailgate Fest (Westminster, MD) this weekend for sale or trade (~\$9/ea is that reasonable?). If anyone is in a crunch for a pair, let me know and I'll set a couple aside. Also have a few of the Z5 and ballast plus miscellaneous 390A/392 parts. Bryan Stephens

From ai2q@adelphia.net Sat Aug 10 16:35:01 2002  
Subject: [R390] Solid State R390, Why Not?

Hey Tom, I drive a 1960 AustinHealey 3000, and every original part is still on the car, it steers perfectly, runs great, is very fast, and makes the unmistakable sound that only a "Big Healey" can make!

Varoooom!

There are NO transistors in this car! No room in it for a 390 though. :( Vy 73, AI2Q, Alex in Maine

...

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Sat Aug 10 19:32:39 2002  
Subject: [R390] VIRUS !?!?

As a rebuttal to this, my home address book contains my work email address since I frequently work back and forth. No virus laden email has ever come from home. End of story.

From DAVEINBHAM@aol.com Sat Aug 10 20:39:09 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 and Jagrolets

I have owned a bunch of Jags over the last 30 odd years. I currently have 2 XJ6's. Both Chevrolet powered.

I think you should look at putting a Chevy 350 in your Jag the same way you would look at putting solid state rectifiers in your R390 in place of the 26Z5's. Both are reversible if you should ever want to "restore" to original condition. 26Z5's are bloody expensive as are Jag engine parts. And the solid state rectifiers are very reliable for day to day service as is the Chevy engine.

As to putting the Chevy 350 in an XKE, you are going to have to alter the sheetmetal but that is reversible because all the body panels are still available. You can put a Ford small block in an XKE without altering the sheet metal. I have not done that one myself, but I have seen it done. The Ford engine is narrower than the Chevy.

And for your file of barely usefull information, one can easily turn an XKE coupe into a more valueable ragtop with all factory parts. The XKE was originally a ragtop from whence the coupe evolved.  
Kindest regards, Dave

From whertel@onemain.com Sat Aug 10 21:16:15 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 and Jagrolets

Ahhh, but wot wud you do if the Jag had six cylinders on each side, a V12! As dey say in Sicily "U toucha my car, I breaka you face!" I'm gonna have to try and get mine back, fat chance.

From myyoung76@bellsouth.net Sat Aug 10 22:32:15 2002  
MessageID: <006901c240b5\$67c95060\$baa23dd0@MichaelYoung>

What do you guys use for receiving antennae (general HF coverage) in suburbia where (alas) there is no room for rhombics, vee's and other cool things that I grew up with

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Sat Aug 10 23:14:03 2002  
Subject: [R390] 'Burbs antenna

I just ran 500' of 10 guage THHN down the side of the rifle range in the back yard, that runs north, another 500' runs generally west, kind of a beverage sort of thing.

The inverted "V" is hanging between two tall trees.

I have no idea what they do "farther out" in the woods. But I don't think they do much with anything

complicated like radios. Joe

From bill.riches@verizon.net Sat Aug 10 23:22:33 2002  
Subject: [R390] 'Burbs antenna

What do you guys use for receiving antennae (general HF coverage) in suburbia where (alas) there is no room for rhombics, vee's and other cool things that I grew up with

I live in a rural area and have room for wire antennas but I also have a Dressler active antenna that is mounted above a nonfunctional weather vane about 15 feet above the ground. It works quite well however do not use the wall wart power supply that comes with it the diodes hum modulate received sigs at times use 12 volts dc from a different better source. 73, Bill Riches,

From gwmoore@moorefelines.com Sat Aug 10 23:23:10 2002  
Subject: [R390] R392 Serial # (For those who keep track

Good afternoon, All, I forget who "keeps the books" for the reflector for R390's and 392's, but I wish to add an R392 to the list S/N 1009 Stewart Warner contract 44865 PL59

Ok, I have done my duty by disseminating the info...works great as well, incidentally. 73 de WA3IVX (Greg Moore)

From Llgpt@aol.com Sun Aug 11 00:17:20 2002  
Subject: [R390] R392 Serial # (For those who keep track

writes: << Good afternoon, All, I forget who "keeps the books" for the reflector for R390's and 392's, but I wish to add an R392 to the list S/N 1009 Stewart Warner contract 44865 PL59

Tom Marcotte N5OFF.....i have forwarded it to him. Les

From salmaniw@shaw.ca Sun Aug 11 01:19:49 2002  
Subject: [R390] 'Burbs antenna

wrote:

>What do you guys use for receiving antennae (general HF coverage) in suburbia where (alas) there is no room for rhombics, vee's and other cool things that I grew up with

Fellas, I live in a typical urban lot (actually 1 1/2 lots). In that space I've been able to erect and use 6 antennas. All of them have their uses for various portions of the spectrum, but my favourite by far is the K9AY. This is a superb, low noise, and very broad (longwave to 30 MHz) banded. Very directional on long/medium, and lower SW bands. After that, my previous favourite is the T2FD. Not quite as efficient space wise, and good for 4 to 30 MHz. So even in the urban location, one can do pretty well. I used to also have a 30 foot random wire, which by far was the noisiest and the least useful, so it's history now. Walter (Volodya) Salmaniw, MD

From ody@radicus.net Sun Aug 11 01:49:05 2002

Subject: [R390] 'Burbs antenna

Hi, I use a magnetic balun with a 51 foot wire. It works great. I feed it with RG8. Scott W3CV

From ba.williams@charter.net Sun Aug 11 02:09:42 2002

Subject: [R390] R390 and Jagrolets

Sounds like my dad's way of doing things. A Corvair engine in a KarmanGhia. A Cobra 289 in a Volvo. That one was a rocket on 4 wheels. My go kart had a 250cc BSA motorcycle engine. Barry

From ba.williams@charter.net Sun Aug 11 02:28:31 2002

Subject: [R390] 'Burbs antenna

You didn't mention if you have any trees to use. If so, get some kind of wire up there to start off. Vertical wire antennas work well. Loop the wire over a tall limb and tie the free end off a bit away from the vertical part that goes up to the limb.

No trees at all? Maybe you can run some wire out the window and toss it over your roof to hang down the other side.

Run the wire around the house at the rain gutter level for a horizontal loop.

Run it up and down the chimney several times for a vertical.

Run it out the window and let a lot lay on the ground. I've never done this, but I've read some incredible logs from guys who have done just that.

Make a loopstick antenna. Wrap multi strand wire around something like a broom handle. Tie the ends together to make one long length of wire. Find a good spot and orientation outside to attach the stick.

Neighbors have trees but you don't? Get the kid's bow, tie the end of some wire to an arrow and shoot it over the neighbor's tree. Retrieve the arrow and leave the wire drooped over the top of his tree. In the unlikely event said neighbor notices the wire running into your window, you can do one of two things. Tell him it is the neighborhood lightning strike protection system. What? He isn't protecting his neighbor the same way? Or, you can look stunned and accuse him of spying on you. Put him on the defensive. Maybe you can eke out a nice tower in lieu of a nasty lawsuit.

**I used a MFJ amplified HF antenna indoors for a few weeks. It worked great.**

I read where a guy in a radiounfriendly neighborhood cemented some poles in tires. He made a fake badminton net between them. One pole actually had several slopers running from it. The neighbors never noticed. Barry

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Sun Aug 11 02:35:50 2002

Subject: [R390] R390 and Jagrolets

wrote: > Sounds like my dad's way of doing things. A Corvair > engine in a KarmanGhia. > A Cobra 289 in a Volvo. That one was a rocket on 4 > wheels. My go kart had a > 250cc BSA motorcycle engine.

+++++

HA! That's nothin'!

I could borrow the '65 Galaxy or the Falcon station wagon anytime I wanted, our baler had a Farmall "H" engine on it and I had TWO bicycles!!

We could get \$3.75 for a Muskrat hide and I had a paper route until I graduated from high school,..... I was RICH!! Joe

From bloper5@comcast.net Sun Aug 11 02:39:42 2002  
Subject: [R390] 'Burbs antenna

Has anyone used the B&W BWD 1.830 (T2FD), any comments on it

From DCrespy@aol.com Sun Aug 11 02:41:25 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 net, round 3

Gang,

If you have tried to participate, you know how tough it has been to try to get the net going, with poor propagation and atmospheric noise.

I propose that, for the net month or so, we just set 14.278 at 1900 UTC as a gathering place for a round table for whoever shows up. We can anchor the frequency this way and maybe transition to a more formal net, when conditions and participation improve. So, for now an informal gathering: 14.278 at 1900 UTC every Sunday See you there! 73 Harry KG5LO Saline MI

From kd9kc@elp.rr.com Sun Aug 11 02:52:05 2002  
Subject: [R390] 'Burbs antenna

> Has anyone used the B&W BWD 1.830 (T2FD), any comments on it

DO NOT ASK ABOUT THIS ONE ON THE ANTENNAS LIST !!!!!

I have one. It does what I want it to do, that is to cover all ham and MARS freqs on one feedline with acceptable SWR.

It is not a GREAT antenna, and the dB purists will poopoo all about it. To them, if it isn't a ladderline fed dipole, it sucks. But it does work, and I will continue using it till I leave MARS, and have room for a separate dipole for each band. Mike.

Freedom is expensive. Those who are not willing to pay the price ultimately lose everything.

From JamesMiller20@worldnet.att.net Sun Aug 11 02:16:04 2002  
Subject: [R390] 'Burbs antenna

If it's what I think it is (folded dipole), it's junk. It has a shunt resistor at the feed point to give the illusion of a wide bandwidth match. I was suckered in by it years ago.

From Llgpt@aol.com Sun Aug 11 03:03:42 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 and Jagrolets

writes: << My go kart had a 250cc BSA motorcycle engine. >>

How did you keep oil in it????Les

From kd9kc@elp.rr.com Sun Aug 11 03:18:03 2002  
Subject: [R390] 'Burbs antenna

There you go !!!

From gwmoore@moorefelines.com Sun Aug 11 03:32:13 2002  
Subject: [R390] 'Burbs antenna

Just one question. I just got one, and was going to erect it as a inverted V in my somewhat restricted size property. I really don't want to alarm the (ignorant) neighbors with it, as they complain about everything, radio or not (I live in a row home and have quite a few antennas already on the roof LOL).. [ They tried to raise heck about my reloading activities( explosives!?!? they said) in the basement, but got nowhere, they are also somewhat antagonistic toward me not only because of radio but because of my Second Amendment proclivities](... Does anyone have experience with this configuration and the radiation pattern, gain, etc. I wanted to have a horizontally polarized antenna (at least as horizontal as I can make an inverted V) in addition to my GAP Titan and see what difference it actually made, as well as the 160M capability, which I don't have with the Titan.

If anyone has mounted this in a relatively small area, let me know, I have to go high in the center with a wooden tower on the roof, and the steeper the better on the angles. I am kind of forced to use two existing trees as endpoint anchors. 73 es tnx de WA3IVX (Greg)

(membership in the same organizations as the writer of the message replied to, with the exception of the Fort Bliss Shooting Club, as the QTH here is PA)

From salmaniw@shaw.ca Sun Aug 11 03:40:03 2002  
Subject: [R390] 'Burbs antenna

wrote: >There you go !!! >>>>> Has anyone used the B&W BWD 1.830 (T2FD), any comments on it

**Fellas, I think it's important to differentiate the T2FD for receiving and transmitting. I've used my home brew T2FD for about 5 years for receive only purposes, and it's served me extremely well. It displaced all of my other antennae 90% of the time. Wasn't it the USN that came up with this antenna at it's shore based receiving installations during or after WW2 resulting in their giving up on most other setups. It's very economical on the real estate. Having said that, now that I've come across the K9AY, it's blown away the T2FD. I'm now considering taking down the**



**T2FD.....Walt.**

From JamesMiller20@worldnet.att.net Sun Aug 11 03:02:34 2002  
Subject: [R390] 'Burbs antenna

I tried one of the B&W folded antennas several years ago. Spent a day erecting it, turned on the rig and yep the SWR was real flat on all bands, but reception sucked. And on the air reports showed a 10-15 dB lower signal as compared to my old dipoles. After a few contacts, it quit working altogether ehwn the "magic" shunt resistor burned up. It was also as ugly as can be hanging up there with big PVC pipe spacers. Neighbor started asking questions. Save yourself the effort, send it back for a refund, try something else.

From kd9kc@elp.rr.com Sun Aug 11 03:41:01 2002  
Subject: [R390] 'Burbs antenna

BTW, it is NOT a resistor at the "FEEDPOINT" !!! It IS a balun. Run it through a network analyzer, and you will see.

From JamesMiller20@worldnet.att.net Sun Aug 11 03:13:10 2002  
Subject: [R390] 'Burbs antenna

The balun was just a PVC pipe filled with ferrite cores and the coax ran through the centers. The big PVC center piece, conveniently filled with permanent potting umpunkumpy, contains a high wattage resistor bridging the two ends of the loop. Its easy to get a flat SWR when you're driving a resistor! Yes it advertised performance "quieter" than a dipole. Sure, my dummy load is quieter too! In case you haven't guessed, I have a bad taste in my mouth about this product from B&W.

From N4ue@aol.com Sun Aug 11 16:15:43 2002  
Subject: [R390] burb antennas

Barry good suggestions. However, use a slingshot instead of the bow. Less chance of a lawsuit. I recently made one from Wal Mart stuff:

1. slingshot (about \$10)
2. closed face reel w/ 20 lb test line (\$ 8)
3. piece of broomstick
4. couple of hose clamps

Sure beats paying \$100 (!!!!) for the ones advertised in QST.... Now there's markup. Must be from an old military contractor.... ron N4UE

From ba.williams@charter.net Sun Aug 11 16:45:21 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 and Jagrolets

> << My go kart had a > 250cc BSA motorcycle engine. >> > How did you keep oil in it???? > > Les

>From what I remember it was a one lunger and you mixed the oil and gas. It was a BSA engine from an Allstate motorcycle. The gear shifter shaft had a gear shifter attached with knob coming up on the left side. You shifted with the left hand. Gas was a hand break type of hand grip on the butterfly steering wheel. Both rear wheels were chain driven. Twin pipes along the sides. A metal bucket seat from some plane that he found somewhere. Barry

From ba.williams@charter.net Sun Aug 11 17:45:58 2002  
Subject: [R390] burb antennas

> Barry good suggestions. However, use a slingshot instead of the bow. Less > chance of a lawsuit. I recently made one from Wal Mart stuff:

Ron,

I have only used a wrist slingshot myself. I'm pretty good at wrapping lead tire weights in tape to shoot. But, the arrow suggestion is for longer range targets. I have a friend who used the arrow method on a neighbor's tree. I've aimed for a limb way up high in a tree and actually hit the limbs solidly with the weights several times instead of just getting it to go over the thing. Sort of gets me mad when the weights bounce off of the limb. I always use Shakespear 20 lb line sold at Walmart for about \$1.80 for 700 feet. I just lay the reel on the ground and let the line pay out freely. Barry

From ba.williams@charter.net Sun Aug 11 18:05:41 2002  
Subject: [R390] 'Burbs antenna

> They tried to raise heck about my > reloading activities( explosives!?!? they said) in the basement, but got > nowhere,

That would be none of their !@&\*##ing business. When I woke up this morning I was in America, not London or Montreal. Charlton Heston

From hardiem@intergate.ca Sun Aug 11 21:47:52 2002  
Subject: [R390] Net?

Tried to find net at 20Z, no luck. Mike VE7MMH

From ham@cq.nu Sun Aug 11 23:06:49 2002  
Subject: [R390] Solid State R390, Why Not?

Hi,

There is a closely related thread that comes up from time to time. More or less it runs "what can you do to improve an R390A". Needless to say it also creates quite a bit of traffic when it comes up. To really get things going you need to combine the two threads.

What's right about a '390 the tuned front end, the IF filters, The nice big knobs and dials, the dual audio outputs.

What's wrong with a '390 (compared to say an RF590) Frequency stability, dynamic range, harder to tune from 5.8 to 6.2 MHz, not as easy to use on SSB

What's commonly done to a '390 upgrade the AGC and audio

Assuming the objective is to "fix what's wrong" \*without\* getting in trouble:

1) The gain distribution of the radio is based on stuff that has a lot less gain than the solid state stuff you can get today. A simple conversion puts way too much gain in front of the IF filters. I suspect that getting the dynamic range up to modern standards will take more effort than it's worth.

2) The impedance levels of \*everything\* are way higher than what you would use with solid state parts. This starts with the RF coils and runs right through the audio transformers. This is true both in terms of the real part of  $Z_{in}$  and  $Z_{out}$  as well as the capacitances. Getting all the RF and IF stuff to track with a lot more C padding it all will be a pain. If you retain the high impedance coils getting the feedback capacitance under control will be a major undertaking.

3) To improve the frequency stability you need a different arrangement for the crystal oscillator section and the PTO. Simply putting trimmers on the crystals would make the radio a bit more user friendly. Mechanically this is a messy process. If you replace the PTO and crystal deck with a synthesizer the interface issues will be at least as messy.

The stuff that's easy to fix is all in the audio module. The stuff that has all the trouble above may not be worth it. Audio modules are a dime a dozen out there. Taking a junk audio module and fiddling it around is rarely an item of discord on the list.

So here's what I'd do to an audio module:

1) take care of the ballast tube issue, \*maybe\* run a jumper or two to a tube socket or two.

2) Put in a couple of real audio stages (two 600 ohm, one 8 ohm)

3) Put in a real regulator for the high voltage(s)

Assuming you start with a junk module you have taken care of about 80% of what can be done and it's pretty much reversible if you swap back the original module. Enjoy! Bob

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Sun Aug 11 23:50:09 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

wrote: >>I have an R390 (not A) receiver that I have been wanting to convert to solid state for many years.

UGGGG!!!! And people have the nerve to complain about "off topic" posts. Scott

From rbethman@comcast.net Mon Aug 12 00:05:28 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

No more offtopic than most of the garbage here. At least it PERTAINS to R390s. His choice if he

wishes to make it solid state. Last I heard IT IS STILL AMERICA Land of the FREE!

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Mon Aug 12 00:53:31 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

> No more offtopic than most of the garbage here. At least it PERTAINS to > R390s.

**Yes. It pertains to DESTROYING a 390 on a project that can't possibly succeed. I give everyone that right. I just would rather hear about Nolan and goats. Scott**

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Mon Aug 12 01:21:38 2002  
Subject: [R390] Solid State R390, Why Not?

Dynamic range is pretty hard to beat:  
IP3 +10dBm at 10kHz separation  
IP3 +20dBm at 100kHz separation (the difference is in the tunable front end)  
4dB noise figure on all bands.

One can buy receivers with better IP3 numbers, but they don't have a 4dB noise figure. It's debatable whether or not anyone can use 4dB, since it's commonly thought that the HF noise level is 10+dB, but that isn't always the case...and we watch and wait for those openings...

One could experiment with pushing the distortion levels even further down, but it requires pushing the tubes harder since the standing current determines their threshold of distortion. Turning up the juice means they'll exhaust the cathode emission sooner.

Having extra modules does give anyone the option to play all they want. I've heard that some people have replaced the first two mixers with 7360 designs; this is a double balanced tube mixer designed for SSB detection and generation. Rumor has it that they are noisier than the 6C4W, but I've never seen the numbers or methodology. How much it improves the front end is also anecdotal. There was a considerable body of literature about similar mods to the 75A4, since that receiver was/is(to some, even now) considered one of the best DX'ing receivers around. Again, my exposure never got beyond the anecdotal level, though I'd relish a review of all that was published on that topic. If memory serves, there was quite a lot in QST and CQ back in the 60's and early 70's. Anyone got any numbers on this mod?

The drawback to modifying an RF deck is the RF deck, as anyone who has ever taken one out will attest.

But let's remember that there were 50K of these made, and while there are an uncounted number of them that were lost, stolen, spindled, stapled and mutilated, modifying one is a drop in the bucket.

Imagine what a great exciter a 390 would make! Imagine a pushbutton where the diode load is so that you could zerobeat a carrier. potstirring in Portland, Bob

From ba.williams@charter.net Mon Aug 12 01:43:15 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

> Yes. It pertains to DESTROYING a 390 on a project that can't possibly succeed. I give everyone that right. I just would rather hear about Nolan and goats. Scott

You got that right, Scott.

From myyoung76@bellsouth.net Mon Aug 12 01:57:34 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

Shift Delete, followed by keypress "Y"

From mahlonhaunschild@cox.net Mon Aug 12 02:44:59 2002  
Subject: [R390] Stancor A3831 specs?

Hello, list.

WOuld one of you kind folks out there please crack open your vintage Stancor catalog and look up for me the specs on the A3831 transformer? I believe it to be some sort of lowpower singleended output transformer, but am not sure.

One of these animals has been grafted on to the audio deck of my "hangar queen" R390A, and I'm curious to know if it's a 600ohm or a hiZ primary. regards, Mahlon K4OQ

From w5or@comcast.net Mon Aug 12 03:22:26 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

Gentlemen?

Scholars of the R390?? Let's not turn this debate into a flame fest. I can feel your temperatures rising already.

With support and encouragement from the two founding members of this list, we may shift to a moderated format. That means that Chuck Rippel, or Michael Crestohl, or yours truly or other volunteer screeners have to review before release posts to the list. I regret having to do this but we feel the S+N/N level is way down, and many former valuable members have left the list for that very reason.

I don't want to do it, it's extra work for list wranglers, but the R390 and list family deserve nothing but appropriate list content.

I remind you to review the R390 intro below, stay on topic, and behave yourselves. If you do that, the list will stay unmoderated. Personal attacks and needless nonsense don't belong here.

Don Reaves W5OR

The is for the discussion of the features, operating, troubleshooting, repair, maintenance, improvements and general lore related to the R390 family of radio receivers which were developed for military and government applications. This group includes the R390, R390A, R392, R391, R389, as well as related equipment.

FOR SALE, WANTED and SWAP postings by PRIVATE PARTIES are acceptable but limited to the equipment under discussion. Commercial postings, announcements and SPAM are NOT welcome. If in

doubt of an article's suitability, DON'T POST IT and ASK!

It is hoped that all subscribers will contribute material to the R390 List as it is the knowledge, wisdom and experience that will make this list a useful, informative and valuable resource.

The advisory board of the R390 List are: Coadministrators are Chuck Rippel, WA4HHG, and Don Reaves, W5OR. Michael Crestohl, W1RC is a founder and former administrator. Historical Advisor is Tom Marcotte, N5OFF.

Thanks to Al Waller, K3TKJ, for his good offices at QTH.NET providing this List with a home. Please address any questions to: Don Reaves r390owner@mailman.qth.net Chuck Rippel R390A@R390A.com Michael Crestohl mc@shore.net

From DAVEINBHAM@aol.com Mon Aug 12 03:26:22 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 and Jagrolets

I shoulda been so lucky. My dadf died in 1947. So, in 1964 ( at age 23 )I put a Corvair engine in front of a Ferrari 5 speed transmission in a Lotus 11 ( that is a front engine car ). Select a gear any gear and let out the clutch and burn rubber for at least a block. It turned the quarter in the mid elevens and had a top end over 198 MPH. Try 180 HP and 940 pounds anytime you feel froggy. That is about a horsepower per 5 pounds or roughly what you get in a Grand Prix Car. I will be damned if I can figure out how to connect the above to an R390 post. R390.

From w5or@comcast.net Mon Aug 12 03:45:50 2002  
Subject: [R390] Stancor A3831 specs?

>From the 1949 issue of BA catalog:

Stancor A3831, Primary 10M C.T.,40MA, Secondary 8/4/2. 5 watts, Suggested tube: PP30, 49. Cost \$1.59 :)

From ba.williams@charter.net Mon Aug 12 03:56:03 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 and Jagrolets

> I shoulda been so lucky. My dadf died in 1947. So, in 1964 ( at age 23 )I put a Corvair engine in front of a Ferrari 5 speed transmission in a Lotus 11 ( that is a front engine car ).

My dad had a Lotus 11 for many years. He drove out to Oklahoma to buy it after it was in the movie, State Fair. It always had the Coventry Climax engine. He raced it at Road Atlanta when it first opened.

He was one of those guys who absorbed electronics at the Einstein level somehow. Never knew how he learned so much all of a sudden. He bought me a crystal kit when I was a kid. I bet he would get his jollies tearing into RF decks every night.

Your Lotus sounds like his Volvo with the 289. We went out on I285 when it was finished but not open to the public yet and raced around most of it at speeds over 150 mph. We never knew how fast it would go. Barry

From mahlonhaunschild@cox.net Mon Aug 12 03:55:52 2002  
Subject: [R390] Stancor A3831 specs?

Thanks, everyone, for answering my question. regards, Mahlon K4OQ

From nryan@intrex.net Mon Aug 12 05:23:38 2002  
Subject: [R390] Green gear redux

Hi, Alex and crew. > The hardest part was hooking the damn springs up to the racks.

**Use paper clips bent to suit for hooking and unhooking the rack springs. Mine look like a lower case letter "h" that hooks over the edge of the frame. The lower right "serif" is bent into a hook for the spring. When engaged, the paper clip hooks keep tension on the springs while the slug rack is out of the RF chassis.** 73 de Norman KG4SWM

From rbethman@comcast.net Mon Aug 12 05:40:56 2002  
Subject: [R390] IF can 1501

I went through the drill a year ago, or sometime last year gathering parts for the restoration of my Collins S/N 252. Somehow I have misplaced my beloved replacement and cannot locate it any where. (Probably put it somewhere for safe keeping <sigh>.

I need an L501 for the IF deck. I do have the crystal. The slug and brass thread of the slug are all fouled up. The brass is sheared off at the top, and the slug is broken.

Can anyone help with a cannibalized IF deck? H E L P !!

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Mon Aug 12 06:08:30 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State

I'd like to think that the high spirits and lively discussions are underpinned by sufficient self discipline that we can get the flames and specious stuff under control. The wonderful neighborhood we have here would be lost if it became moderated, like a homeowners association that decided they need an architectural review board and then some new CC&R's, etc.

From ft990@hotmail.com Mon Aug 12 08:19:47 2002  
Subject: [R390] R392 price range

I will be going to a Ham fest next month and was wondering what you feel is a fair price range on the 392. thanks , Mike

From BRingwoo@csir.co.za Mon Aug 12 09:09:18 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390/Solid State a plea

Hi all, Just got back after a day's absence to find 187 emails on the above topic.

I'm working on a badly butchered Eddystone 940 and would just ask that whatever you do to the radios "you have custody of" please make the changes reversible. Everything else has been said Bryce

From rbethman@comcast.net Mon Aug 12 12:02:58 2002  
Subject: [R390] Correction I meant Z501

Somehow I have misplaced my beloved replacement and cannot locate it any where. (Probably put it somewhere for safe keeping <sigh>.

I need an Z501 for the IF deck. I do have the crystal. The slug and brass thread of the slug are all fouled up. The brass is sheared off at the top, and the slug is broken. Can anyone help with a cannibalized IF deck? H E L P !!

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Mon Aug 12 15:22:47 2002  
Subject: [R390] Solid State R390

wrote: >> Saddest part is that the Jags are a very reliable car if you maintain them >> properly. > My grandfather had a couple of new Jags about 10 years ago. I drove them > both and they were absolutely depressing. >> Barry

I've had a '64 XKE coupe, a '66 MKII 3.8 w/OD, a '67 MKII 2.4 and a '75 XJ6L. I'd have to say that you're right about the quality, maybe the Brits were trying to follow Detroit's lead in making things cheaper in the 70's. We learned and survived, Jag learned and was sold.

They're a lot like finding an old R390 in used or abused condition. There is still so much to work with that with time, patience, and a bit of luck you can end up with a very nice end result. You could easily draw a similar analogy between riceboxes and Subarus in that abused examples are seldom worth saving. The Brits made those lovely Eddystones with the silky dials, built 'bulletproof' as the R390s were. 73 de Todd/'Boomer' KA1KAQ

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Mon Aug 12 15:50:21 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 and Jagrolets

wrote: > I have owned a bunch of Jags over the last 30 odd years. I currently have 2 > XJ6's. > Both Chevrolet powered.

You don't have Jaguars now Dave, you have kit cars, like those imitation Mercedes 300s on a VW chassis. (o:

Seems the same way of thinking applies to these as well as the 'ss R390' issue. I don't think anyone has said you \*can't\* do it, more why would you want to? Why not just buy a nice old Boss Mustang or Chevelle SS? I can no more think of a V8 looking nice compared to the polished aluminum overhead cam covers on the Jag engines than I'd find circuit boards attractive in an R390.

My guess is that the vast majority of list users share similar interests and therefore, a similar desire to preserve what we have and not destroy it for our own pleasure. I don't know anyone on this list who'd tell someone what they could or couldn't do with their personal belongings, but most of us would weigh



in with reasons not to alter a fine piece of work. Hey you could buy the Mona Lisa if it was for sale and paint a mustache on her, because it would be "yours" per say. Would that make it right? Depends on your definition of right.

Mike is probably clear now on the fact that the R390 list is a user/restorer/afficionado list and not a solidstate tips and projects list. I don't doubt that at some point we'll be glad for his expertise and the expertise of other 'sandmen' in helping us overcome things like ballast tubes, rectifiers, and whatever other component ends up being the next 'difficult to replace' item needed to keep the radios running. This group currently spans views from: "gotta be all tubes, even the ballast, crystal ovens on, stock shiney tube shields" to "willing to accept Les' and Chuck's witchcraft ballast ideas and maybe IERC sheilds" to "solid state rectifiers, ballasts, and other 'better' tube substitutions and we don't need no stinking tube shields!". I myself draw the line at drilling holes or anything else irreversible, but I'm not against plug in substitutions. I even keep the original shiney shields in a bag labeled for any radio I substitute IERC shields in, just in case.

I would just hope that as Bryce mentioned, we all give some thought to the modifications we make and think about someone else having our radios in the future. Not unlike caring for the land for future generations: no need to go to either the extreme of living in caves to stop building, or to the other of dumping toxic sludge in your neighbor's pool(unless they really asked for it). Enjoy your radios, use them as you see fit, and be mindful of the future and the wonderful opportunity that you have in owning(really using temporarily) such a fine piece of history. There's a very good possibility that someone not yet born or even thought of would love and appreciate the same opportunity.

I really need some offspring.... 73 de Todd/'Boomer' KA1KAQ

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Aug 12 15:58:36 2002  
Subject: [R390] Can I stay?

I own one of those solidstate product detectors sold for the R390a. Do I have to leave the list?  
Barry(III) N4BUQ

From n4xy@earthlink.net Mon Aug 12 16:12:27 2002  
Subject: [R390] Can I stay?

One of two (the other being the ballast/etc) places where most of us will concede SS is OK. I won't even use SS rectifiers, but there are jobs that SS can do as well or better. Few and far between... but  
73 de Ed.Tanton N4XY <n4xy@earthlink.net>

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Mon Aug 12 16:23:01 2002  
Subject: [R390] Can I stay?

As long as you didn't use an acetylene torch to modify the panel, no. Pray to Art, god of Collins radios, then tell us how you like the box. Does it work well? Boomer, KA1KAQ (o:

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Aug 12 16:30:21 2002  
Subject: [R390] Can I stay?

It works quite well. After using the R390a for a while, though, I find I can tune SSB well enough without it. Also, I like having all the controls in one place. Running the outboard detector makes it necessary for an outboard amp. I should investigate a method of routing the output back into the audio amp in the R390a. That would be a nice solution. Barry(III) N4BUQ

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Mon Aug 12 16:52:07 2002  
Subject: [R390] Broke 390

Friends,

Couple of loose ends...will try to address them. My I ask forgiveness for the length this will be..

First, for those who missed my location...I am on the Florida gulf coast..half way between Pansacola and Tallahassee. I would like to drive to someone who would do r & r as needed..Then, in a few whatever, I would pick it up. I like to travel by auto..and 300 or so one way doesn't bother me..More than that takes overnite, and I would rather avoid that at this time, as I would just take off again for the west coast and have a big time...(Only a few are aware that while I had a neat trip out in late winter, I broke down in the Missionary Ridge fire area this summer, to the tune of big \$ and so I came home...after paying too much for repairs in Farmington NM...)

Second, I need to explain about my comments on the 390a I had from Fair. Be assured it was in the advertised limits..It was just that as a nontech. I had HOPED for a "super luck" unit, as I have found some people had "lucked" into..In the end, after Ron Bussierre had rebuilt the IF and the big caps, and I put a pair of meters, some knobs, and other additions, it was STILL not holding an align. It would just jump off at any given time...For this reason I traded it to Mr. Medley for the rebuild of the 390 non a that I have had for some 10 or more years..All told I had some \$550 or more in it..but I am not unhappy, except with MY BAD LUCK...the 390 non a lasted about a month, and then took a dive...: not anyones fault,,it just happened... This is the unit I would like to get looked at, at this time. Again, it burned something up, in the lower section, I think...Must have help to get it out of the rack, which is in a tight place...then can tell more..The truth is I took a chance on the 390a as a nontech, and should have planned from the START to have it completely rebuilt..

Again, Mr. Medley has written to me, and I may send non a back to him..I JUST HAD MADE UP MY MIND...that I would NOT pack and ship anything again.,and he is a LONG ways away from me...However as he did the complete rebuild, he would be the best choice I suppose ..He would remember the unit when he got into it...

Oh well...I do thank all of you for your kind comments. Do hope this clears up the questions..Still am thinking about just getting another 390a and letting this non a alone 'till next summer.. My Best Regards, John

From Lester.Veenstra@lmco.com Mon Aug 12 17:09:14 2002  
Subject: [R390] Can I stay?

Q: " method of routing the output back into the audio amp "

A: And that is exactly what you can do using the Diode Load jumper Les K1YCM

From DAVEINBHAM@aol.com Mon Aug 12 17:29:46 2002

Subject: [R390] R390 and Jagrolets

Todd,

One of my 6 R390A's has solid state diodes in the rectifier holes. Does that make it a kit radio ? I don't think so. It makes the radio work. Just like the Chevy engines in the Jag makes it work. Both are reversible if someone should want to do that someday. Kindest regards, Dave

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Aug 12 17:33:05 2002

Subject: [R390] Can I stay?

I figured it was an easy task I just hadn't thought it through. I'll have to try that. I want to incorporate a switch such that I can jump back and forth from the outboard detector and the inboard detector (that works just fine for most things).

I guess this means with both of my R390a's and my old turntable, I can listen to my vinyl 33-1/3 "WORMs" in stereo. Thanks! Barry(III) N4BUQ

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Mon Aug 12 18:50:57 2002

Subject: [R390] R390 and Jagrolets

Dave

I'd compare the rectifiers more to inaccurate tyres or seats maybe, or perhaps those spinon oil filter adaptors they made for the older cars. The engine is more akin to taking out the PTO and installing one of those nifty digital chuffer machines, which to me would indeed make it something other than an R390. And if you changed the tranny too, then equate that to removing the gear train and installing a wafer band switch Not sure why you need a chevy engine to make a Jaguar work, the Brits didn't seem to. All of mine had original engines and did just fine sounded great and looked purty, too! Seems it would be more a case of wanting to, not needing to, which I think was the original intent Mike had about solidstating the R390.

The guys I talked to who did conversions said something about cutting or welding on the frames for the motor mounts, which doesn't sound all that reversible to me.

Regardless, I think we've flogged this enough and wandered too far from the original intent of the post, that being to heavily modify a unit or not. My thought is that if you want a solid state radio, you buy or build a solid state radio, and if you want a chevy V8, it's easier and better(to me) to buy a chevy V8 and not try to make something into a chevy that's not. They tore down the old Penn Station in NYC to make a newer, more modern one too, but it's difficult to find anything appealing about it. At the time, it seemed like a cool idea though, I'm sure. It's still called Penn Station and trains still use it. Thank you for the thoughts, Dave 73 de Todd/'Boomer' KA1KAQ

From laffitte@prtc.net Mon Aug 12 18:42:41 2002

Subject: [R390] R390 and Jagrolets

Hi Gang,

Let me remind both purist and notspurist that solid state diodes in the power supply is a common find and one of the mods usually found in this radio. I had a r390A with this mod and that's the way it came

from the navy. It worked well for 20 some years with me and keeps going in the hands of the new owner. Some solid state mods are more than acceptable. We all would like to have nice original sets but as 26Z5s and 3TF7s dissappear we have to do with what we have to keep these great rxs going. Best 73s  
Guido Santacana KP4FAR

From Llgpt@aol.com Mon Aug 12 23:08:32 2002  
Subject: [R390] Can I stay?

writes: << I own one of those solidstate product detectors sold for the R390a. Do I have to leave the list? Barry(III) N4BUQ

IMMEDIATELY!!!!!!!!!!!!!! But, first mail it to the proper disposal authority @..... Witch  
Transference Headquarters  
1122 36th St.  
Gulfport, Ms. 395017116 Boris Karloff

From ham@cq.nu Tue Aug 13 00:39:57 2002  
Subject: [R390] Solid State R390, Why Not?

Hi, Not saying you are wrong, but those numbers are about 40 db better than what's been published elsewhere on the R390A. Bob

From ba.williams@charter.net Tue Aug 13 00:44:25 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 and Jagrolets

> Hi Gang,> Let me remind both purist and notso-purist that solid state diodes in> the power supply is a common find and one of the mods usually found in> this radio.

Hey Guido. Not all 3TF7 substitutions are solid state. My Motorola has the jumper and 12BA6s instead of 6BA6s. Hope you kept some boatanchors around. Barry

From DJED1@aol.com Tue Aug 13 01:08:32 2002  
Subject: [R390] Can I stay?

Tapping into the audio works OK, that's what I did with my outboard (SS) product detector. Also tapped into the diversity AVC to provide the fast attack needed for SSB. Thus the audio controls and the meter work, as does the AVC switch and carrier meter. The only problem you may have with the commercial unit is the voltage level you need several volts RMS to drive the audio and over 10 VDC for the AVC. I built output stages operating at 28V to drive the terminals on the R390A. My only unhappiness with my rig is that the BFO is not nearly as stable as the R390A. That's one reason I'm doing another version which will have a 100 Kc IF and crystal BFO. Ed

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Tue Aug 13 01:25:06 2002  
Subject: [R390] Solid State R390, Why Not?

I've got the instrumentation and the degree and the methodology. You might also read the website of

Sherwood Engineering that discusses many receivers and their measured performance. My numbers are consistent with those numbers. Sherwood does competent work.

From DCrespy@aol.com Tue Aug 13 03:20:55 2002  
Subject: [R390] Solid State "Tubes"

**QEX, August 1997, pg 17, "Synthesizing Vacuum Tubes", by Parker Cope W2GOM.**

Solid state plugins for tubes (ie. "tubesters") using FETs. No mods to the radio. Write me if you can't find 7 or 9 pin "headers".

Now, can we talk about something else? 73 Harry KG5LO

From chacuff@datasync.com Tue Aug 13 04:06:30 2002  
Subject: [R390] Solid State R390, Why Not?

Greetings group...

I would be interested in reading more about the methodology...not much published that I have been able to find...I am sure it's out there...I just need to know where to look....

I have the instrumentation.....not sure the degree is necessary! I have worked with many highly degreed folks... some know how to make use of it, others get the most mileage out of it as wall decoration! Cecil Acuff

From bipi@att.net Tue Aug 13 05:07:35 2002  
Subject: [R390] Line Level VU Meter

Hello,

I am in the process of refurbishing an R390A. The carrier and line level meters are original and work fine. However, I have a NOS carrier meter (with the correct internal resistance) that I would prefer to use and I am looking for a replacement line level VU meter of proper physical and electrical characteristics to match this carrier meter. If you have such a meter, I would be interested in purchasing it outright or I would trade the 2 original meters for it.

I have posted some photographs of the original and replacement meters on my Web site. The carrier meter is in very good condition but the glass on the line level VU meter is "foggy". They are both made by Internationl. Note that the open viewing area of the NOS carrier meter is larger than that on the 2 original meters, but all other dimensions are the same.

Link to picture of 2 original meters: <http://home.att.net/~bipi/miscpix/mtrpair.jpg>

Link to closeup picture of original VU meter: <http://home.att.net/~bipi/miscpix/mtrvu.jpg>

Link to picture of all 3 meters together: <http://home.att.net/~bipi/miscpix/mtr3.jpg>

Link to picture of NOS carrier meter that I want to match:

<http://home.att.net/~bipi/miscpix/mtrnew.jpg>

The literature I have looked at references a meter resistance for the line level VU meter of around 3360 ohms but mine measures 15.3k ohms on a Fluke 77. The carrier meter measures 18.1 ohms as it should. So let me know if anyone is interested in an exchange or sale of a replacement line level meter that matches the NOS carrier meter that I have.

I guess the other question is if someone knows if these meters can be safely opened to clean the glass? They appear to be sealed. Thanks to all... 73 de Mike K7PI

From buzz@softcom.net Tue Aug 13 05:22:06 2002  
Subject: [R390] Line Level VU Meter

Mike,  
I have opened many of the "sealed" meters with a special tool that I made. Send me a picture of the back of the meter then I can better tell you if I can open it. 73, Buzz

From bipi@att.net Tue Aug 13 05:43:30 2002  
Subject: [R390] Line Level VU Meter

Hi Buzz,

Thanks for the quick reply... Here are some pictures of the backs of the original meters....let me know if they show what you need to see.

<http://home.att.net/~bipi/miscpix/mtrbk21.jpg>

<http://home.att.net/~bipi/miscpix/mtrbk22.jpg>

<http://home.att.net/~bipi/miscpix/mtrbk11.jpg>

Thanks Again... 73 de Mike K7PI Mercer Island, WA

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Tue Aug 13 09:41:36 2002  
Subject: [R390] Line Level VU Meter

Hello Mike, I've got a lot of those small meters, however I'll have to study your pictures and compare with our to decipher. I'll post after I have a BRAIN DIGESTION. 73, Glen Galati eldim@att.net  
Tacoma, WA

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Tue Aug 13 11:38:57 2002  
Subject: [R390] Line Level VU Meter

**Yep Mike, those International meters can easily be opened. They are plastic not glass and you can easily replace lens if needed. First turn the meter over and pick out the rubber around the edges. It will come out in one piece. You will see 4 hollow screws at the corners where the mounting screws go through. Remove these screws and presto! the meter separates from the front. I did this to repaint my meters. Very easy.**

I agree, your NOS meter there is quite a nice unit. Sure would be nice to find a matching pair. Scott

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Tue Aug 13 11:44:13 2002  
Subject: [R390] Solid State R390, Why Not?

This is a complex subject and it sure would be nice if some of you highly eddiecated folks would share it with us plain old folks. How about writing a chapter for submission to the Y2K manual??? And remember. No big fancy words. Yall hear? Scott

From ham@cq.nu Tue Aug 13 12:18:20 2002  
Subject: [R390] Solid State R390, Why Not?

Hi,

It sounds like a few pages of data on the R390A measured with modern equipment would be a good idea. Something like a QST review (multiple bands etc). The techniques and equipment to do so are not that big a deal, just a pain to set up and take all the data. Bob

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Tue Aug 13 15:46:42 2002  
Subject: [R390] 390 SSB

Friends,

Thankful to encounter some tuning SSB "freehand" as it were....

My time in mil. required a bit of "ad. lib." at times, and we used a # of methods to get good SSB...Always appreciate those who understand the subject..Also the few who understand "freehand" or "manual" alignment. I do understand that we are talking people like me, that are "older than dirt"...many of us wouldn't be caught dead trying to work on one of these beasts.. (before someone asks..when I was in mil. ser.there was very little SSB and the converters were not seen much 'till a few years later, but some agencys were moving to SSB pretty fast...so we listened best we could..)

(SORRY ABOUT THE NEXT STUFF.....)

Also, will complain again about the ones who don't recognize that there is no such thing as a 390 "non a" (and I was called down for saying it, (last posting), several times)...since I complained a lot before..It must seem to some that I am confused, and maybe I am. (I used it 'cause I disobeyed myself...indeed..)

I have it there are a # of diff. 3(XX) radios, two of which are the r390, and the r390a. It would seem to me since these are those most commonly found..(seems there were some 15000 390 and 65000 390a units made(?) , that we should call the 390 simply 390, and the 390a

WITH THE A... You should know that starting some 20 or more years ago with Mr. Mish, and down to the present time, I have been misread by not putting non a.. Why should I? There is noooo such thing.. Well in any event, I have had 3 persons write who believe that the radio I want to take to someone for repair is the 390a nomen. no, its a 390....(!!!)(32 tubes orig)

Are we ever going to get past this?? and if you want to call me a curmudgeon, or worse, O.K..(I thought my name was "hey, you" 'till I was 7...)There are others on this list who are called MANY things... As for the Jag.. was there life after XKE?? My Regards, Old John

From tkinney@klinktech.net Tue Aug 13 15:20:44 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: R390 digest, Vol 1 #335 13 msgs

Just listed on ham swap site, 2R390a's, one 54 Motorola, one 62 Amelco, 2 CV591 SSB adapters, audio amp all mounted in 6'rack \$1000.00 w7res@gbis.com or 7755754753 W7RES Photo posted on Ham site Tom Kinney ke9ue

From ft990@hotmail.com Tue Aug 13 18:21:46 2002  
Subject: [R390] 390 SSB

Even though I'm just now finding out about the 390/390A's, I have wondered myself why someone would want to call a 390 a "non A". Seems to me there is the 390 and the 390A. What more I.D. do you need? To me it's be kinda like ....I drive a Chevy/non Ford or a Chevy Impala/non Camaro?!? BUT, I'm not getting into the "Jag/non Chevy" thing ! Hehehe. , Mike

From R390A@r390a.com Tue Aug 13 18:46:22 2002  
Subject: [R390] SP600

Just an FYI out there to any who might be interested.

Posted an SP600 variant JX17 I just finished last night to EPay, a first for selling one of my receivers. The receiver came out great, the ad... well... <http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item1373361497> Want to see what an SP600 ought to look like, post restoration, have a visit. ciao Chuck Rippel, WA4HHG

From Tue Aug 13 19:15:48 2002  
Subject: [R390] 390 SSB

wrote: >Even though I'm just now finding out about the 390/390A's, I have wondered >myself why someone would want to call a 390 a "non A".

R39x aficionados,

Speaking for myself, the reason \*I\* use the term "nonA" is to be as clear as possible. And I developed the habit some time ago when the "nonA" was very seldom discussed on the boatanchors list and also on this list, which is called the "R390" list and has been mostly dedicated to the R390A.

Maybe I get easily confused and wanted to avoid it. Roy Who has at least one of each.

From DAVEINBHAM@aol.com Tue Aug 13 19:27:34 2002  
Subject: [R390] I still have a few ReCap kits available



Interestingly, I am still getting inquiries about the ReCap kits for our favorite radio, the R390A. Right now I have 3 kits with inthecan electrolytics and 6 kits for underthechassis electrolytics in stock and available for same day shipment. Regards, Dave

R390A capacitor kit.

I have put together a ReCap kit for the R390A. It consists of:

(13) 0.1 ufd

C256, C309, C504, C505, C517, C521, C528, C531, C536, C538, C543, C547, C548

(7) 0,033 ufd

C275, C529, C533, C534, C541, C545, C602

(7) 0.01 ufd

C549, C553, C601, C604, C605, C607, C608

( The above are Orange Drops or equivelent. )

(3) 30 ufd 300 v electrolytic C603A, C603B, C603C

(2) 47 ufd 300 v electrolytic C606A, C606B

( The above electrolytics have axial leads. You can wire them under the chassis and leave the originals in place to retain stock apperance. Or you can order capicators small enough to fit inside the cans of C603 & C606. Just remember you will have to deal with the Dreaded Black Ukkumpucky to get the guts out of the cans of C603 & C606. If you do not specify at time of your order, the under the chassis capacitors will be shipped.)

Finally, one each of :

0.047 ufd 100v C227

8 ufd 30v tantalum electrolytic C609

50 ufd 50 v electrolytic C103

0.22 ufd 100 v C101

I cannot find a source for:

2 ufd 500v C551 oil filled paper

so, I will include a very high quality poly cap. I have installed one of these in one of my R390A's and I can say I cannot hear any difference. They work great. This is the AGC capacitor.

The price for this recap kit is \$80.00 US funds. Price includes UPS or US post delivery. Canada and mexico US\$85. Western Europe, South America and Pacific rim US\$90, rest of world US\$93. All sent airmail if possible. ALABAMA RESIDENTS MUST ADD US\$3 STATE SALES TAX.

Dave Holder

Biological Instruments, Inc.

820 South 29 th. Street

Birmingham, Alabama 352051004

USA

Payment may be check or US currency.

From jlkolb@cts.com Tue Aug 13 20:34:43 2002  
Subject: [R390] 390 SSB

wrote:> Even though I'm just now finding out about the 390/390A's, I have wondered > myself why someone would want to call a 390 a "non A". Seems to me there is > the 390 and the 390A. What more I.D. do you need? To me it's be kinda like > ....I drive a Chevy/non Ford or a Chevy Impala/non Camaro?!? BUT, I'm not > getting into the "Jag/non Chevy" thing ! Hehehe. , Mike

When someone says 390, they might mean the original 390, the 390A, or a nonspecific either or both. (as in "the R390 is a great receiver"). [and don't let's start a food fight here over the 390nonA being better than the 390A this is just an grammer example :) ]

When someone says 390non A, you know exactly which rx is being referred to. John

From billsmith@ispwest.com Tue Aug 13 22:59:03 2002  
Subject: [R390] Off Topic Request

This request is horribly offtopic, because (I don't think) the R390 series receivers ever used this part.

I am looking for the VACO part number (is that the correct manufacturer?) for the nutdriver hand tool that is designed for use with 15/3232 knurled nuts. These are the decorative frontpanel knurled nuts that hold 1/4" collars or phone jacks. Anyone know where to order same? Thank you. 73 de Bill, AB6MT

From dmartin@visuallink.com Tue Aug 13 23:09:49 2002  
Subject: [R390] Solid State R390, Why Not?

>It sounds like a few pages of data on the R390A >measured with modern equipment would be a good >idea. Something like a QST review (multiple bands >etc).

Well, now. That's a fascinating thought. Imagine a thoroughly tweaked and prepped 390A, maybe one of Chuck's '67 EAC's, not an offthepallet SJC, put through a full, current QST review? One where the relevant results in a common format could be reviewed sidebyside against all the current crop of equipment. Wonder if QST is up to it? They've had a refreshing turn to some BA articles lately.

I rather imagine the outcome and conclusion for most of us here would be similar to what you see when car magazines do a sidebyside road test of an original, real, Shelby Mustang versus some current hot import. A few tenths of a second (or dB) of performance here or there aside.... which one would >you< really want? Dan WB4GRA

From hankarn@pacbell.net Tue Aug 13 23:50:58 2002  
Subject: [R390] Solid State R390, Why Not?

Well if they did a side by side comparison between the R39XX and the R&S EK07 I can assure you the R&S would beat hands down. Hank KN6DI

From chacuff@datasync.com Wed Aug 14 00:19:27 2002

Subject: [R390] Solid State R390, Why Not?

Here we go.....I think I saw this one a while back.....

I would love to own an EK07 but by the time I finished paying for it I wouldn't have any hands to put down....or legs for that matter. Probably a great radio but I am not sure the difference in performance one would realize could possibly justify the difference in cost between that and say a nicely working 390A. At least based on some of the prices I have seen flying around the groups over the last couple years....Several thousand dollars as I remember! I set the hook....one of ya'll reel em in.... Cecil...  
WB5VCE

From W2ZR@aol.com Wed Aug 14 00:25:19 2002  
Subject: [R390] Solid State R390, Why Not?

writes: <<Well if they did a side by side comparison between the R39XX and the R&S EK07 I can assure you the R&S would beat hands down.>>

And I'll bet you wouldn't solid state the R&S, would ya? Steve W2ZR

From rbethman@comcast.net Wed Aug 14 00:28:02 2002  
Subject: [R390] Solid State R390, Why Not?

There "may" be a difference. BUT "real" radios STILL glow in the dark! Robert Bethman N0DGN

From John Warren" <k5qx@earthlink.net Wed Aug 14 00:33:52 2002  
Subject: [R390] Snap Ring for VeederRoot Cover

Hello everyone,

I have recently acquired a StewartWarner R390A and the snap ring that secures the insert and holder for one side of the clear face in the VeederRoot cover is missing. Can anyone suggest a good source for a replacement item?

I have really enjoyed reading all the comments on the list and the wealth of information that has been assembled by many of the contributors. It has already helped me tremendously! 73, John K5QX

From bruceussery@hotmail.com Wed Aug 14 00:49:05 2002  
Subject: [R390] R392 quest for power

Hi gang,

I've had this R392 (not an A, not a Chevy), for a couple of weeks and have been enjoying it on the kitchen counter which is also green so it looks great. It's an actual working radio, unlike the ones I usually bring home. All bands fairly hot, fairly accurate.

My only problem is finding a better way to power it. The homebrew supply that came with it (very basic xfmr, square bridge rectifier, 33,000 uf cap) doesn't make any radio noise, but it has about 170 mV RMS ripple, which I can hear on CW or SSB. It's also putting out right at 30V which worries me a little. I've tried 2 regulated supplies; a Systron Donner bench type supply, and a Power One open frame

job. Their outputs are clean as a whistle, but they both radiate a loud buzz into the receiver from about 8 Mhz on down. (Too many solid state gizmos.)

This temporary?? kitchen setup is truly less than ideal a 15 ft. wire across the top of the cabinets and no ground. A temporary ground hooked from ant. ground to the AC outlet helped the buzz some, but it's gonna take more I think. I verified totally quiet operation with two 12V batteries. I not totally against using batteries as a permanent solution that's how I power my "late model" ham rigs. It just gets messier having to deal with 2 batteries, lacking a 24V charger. Anyone have similar noise problems on the lower bands?

(CraftBob, this thing sounds great with a Hallicrafters R46 speaker hooked up instead of the LS166/U. The R46 has a 500 ohm xfmr according to the label is that correct? Close enough for me anyway...) Bruce WA4ZLK

From DCrespy@aol.com Wed Aug 14 01:17:28 2002  
Subject: [R390] Line Level VU Meter

Scott, three added comments to the reply below.

1. Sometimes the International meters have left hand (vs normal right hand) threaded screws. If they do not come out easily, try turning the other way.
2. I have found them also with glass lenses.
3. The meters were painted with radioactive material that, in spite of no longer glowing, is still quite toxic. Particles are likely loose inside the housing. Let your conscience guide you on the health risk of opening one up. Protect yourself if you do. That \$80 NOS meter from SSN doesn't look so bad, in this context. 73 Harry KG5LO:

From rbethman@comcast.net Wed Aug 14 01:32:46 2002  
Subject: [R390] Line Level VU Meter

I don't know how "toxic" radium is after it has gone through several half lives. Is it an alpha emitter? If so, the particles could probably be safely vacuumed out. Alpha particles won't go through paper or unbroken skin, BUT are VERY toxic if breathed in or otherwise ingested. Bob N0DGN

From scr287@sbcglobal.net Wed Aug 14 01:48:57 2002  
Subject: [R390] R392 quest for power

>I've tried 2 regulated supplies; a Systron Donner bench type supply, > and a Power One open frame job. Their outputs are clean as a whistle, but > they both radiate a loud buzz into the receiver from about 8 Mhz on down.

One thing to try, put a .01uf disc ceramic across each rectifier diode. This cleaned up a couple of my solid state supplies. You might also try a .01 from the transformer secondary leads to ground, and make sure the case of the the power supply and receiver are tied together. Hope this helps Jack Jack Antonio WA7DIA

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Wed Aug 14 02:20:54 2002  
Subject: [R390] Dynamic Range Measurements

Developing the data (retrieving the 390a from a friend, unpacking from the recent move, bringing 'all systems' online) is simply out of the question until perhaps next summer. Some of you will groan and perhaps bark, but the caravan moves on.

The best thing for all concerned is to get your hands on a recent ARRL Handbook. All the techniques, measurement 'philosophy' and discussion is there. The 2000 Handbook is good. The 1995 or '98 Handbook is frankly better and has a discussion of the Minimum Discernable Signal (MDS) sensitivity test and the Input Intercept test by none other than Dr. Ulrich Rhode, whose family owns Rhode & Schwarz. He has cogent arguments for how he does the tests. This portion of the Handbook is not fuzzy, not "tune for minimum smoke," but completely supported by the strictest engineering rigor. The actual data collection is not rocket science, though good experimental technique requires scrupulous attention to detail. Things like double shielded cables and well shielded instruments are fundamental. Getting a substantial attenuator with 130dB of leakage is not trivial. Mine is a Weinschel, with return losses of 25dB from DC to beyond 1.3GHz (the limit frequency on the network analyzer at work). Building a return loss bridge with similar matching and 40dB isolation will occupy some evenings, though you needn't attempt going beyond 150MHz.. Luckily, the Handbook has a discussion of this aspect of receiver measurements. It is, quite easily, the best \$25 bucks you could spend, other than that pallet of BA's you stumble over at some geeks yard sale... Bob

From DAVEINBHAM@aol.com Wed Aug 14 02:36:10 2002  
Subject: [R390] was there life after XKE

writes: << As for the Jag.. was there life after XKE?? > >My Regards, > >Old John >>  
\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Old John,

In answer to your question was there life after XKE ? Yes. It was called Ferrari 250GTE. It don't get better than Ferrari. Regards, Dave

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Wed Aug 14 03:03:37 2002  
Subject: [R390] Line Level VU Meter

If this is a '67 EAC it probably doesn't have hot meters anyway. If its older,..... well, when I was out playing with my Geiger counter I happened to check the speedometer on my 1952 deuceandahalf,...WOW was that one HOT!!

Soooo, if your radio was built with "hot" meters they are probably still HOT! Joe

From Llgpt@aol.com Wed Aug 14 03:03:48 2002  
Subject: [R390] Dynamic Range Measurements

writes:<< other than that pallet of BA's you stumble over at some geeks yard sale... Bob >>

You mean to say that Barry Williams has a pallet of BA's for sale this weekend? Lon Chaney

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Wed Aug 14 03:05:56 2002  
Subject: [R390] Line Level VU Meter

Bob wrote:> I don't know how "toxic" radium is after it has gone through several half lives.

I read on one website that the halflife of Radium 226 is 1,620 years, so there's a way to go yet. After 1,620, half of the radium remains, at which point the price of the NOS meter will probably be a few million dollars or whatever currency they'll be using then.

Is it an alpha emitter? If so, the particles could probably be > safely vacuumed out. Alpha particles won't go through paper or unbroken > skin, BUT are VERY toxic if breathed in or otherwise ingested.

I don't know, but we generally recommend against sniffing or eating the meters. The cure could take a while. Barry

From ba.williams@charter.net Wed Aug 14 03:05:34 2002  
Subject: [R390] 390 SSB

> Even though I'm just now finding out about the 390/390A's, I have wondered myself why someone would want to call a 390 a "non A". Seems to me there is the 390 and the 390A. What more I.D. do you need? To me it's be kinda like ....I drive a Chevy/non Ford or a Chevy Impala/non Camaro?!? BUT, I'm not getting into the "Jag/non Chevy" thing ! Hehehe. , Mike

I don't know about all this. I guess it's okay to say that I drove a Chevelle non SS (actually, I only drove SS 396's). Or, how about a Charger nonhemi. That would make perfect sense to me if I heard someone say that. Sort of like telling people to stop asking for Camel nonfilters. Harry Potter

From rbethman@comcast.net Wed Aug 14 03:12:00 2002  
Subject: [R390] Fw: Ham Radio Parts List

The man is Golden in my book! He has what he says AND more!

From rbethman@comcast.net Wed Aug 14 03:15:12 2002  
Subject: [R390] Line Level VU Meter

My 67 EAC glows VERY well in the dark, thank you! My Collins 52 Definitely still does. As I dig through my archives Radium IS AN ALPHA emitter.

Recommendation: DO NOT OPEN original meters. I suspect that this would be VERY detrimental to one's long term existence! Ingestion of alpha particles is not a NICE way to go!

From rodney\_bunt@yahoo.com Wed Aug 14 03:19:31 2002  
Subject: [R390] R392 quest for power Circuit idea...

Bruce,

There are two pins for power on the connector Power Pins A & D +24VDC, Pin E is Ground One is for the fillament/heater circuit, the other is the plate B+ supply. Easy to check one lights the tubes!!!!

The B+ requirements are quite modest, so a simple 3 terminal regulator (such as a LM317 with heatsink) from the +30v to the B+ will give you the quiet supply that you want without much heat... Regards,  
RodneyV K2KTZ

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Wed Aug 14 03:20:52 2002  
Subject: [R390] Line Level VU Meter

wrote: > My 67 EAC glows VERY well in the dark, thank you!  
+++++

That's interesting! My '67 EAC doesn't glow in the dark unless I shine a flashlight on the meters first. These meters don't show any reading on the Geiger counter either. Joe

From rbethman@comcast.net Wed Aug 14 03:20:50 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: Ham Radio Parts List

**Clarence Carvell, Fulton, Maryland, 3017250234 (CCarvell@aol.com) (This is a partial list I'm still adding to it as I get the time)**

**Resistors 1/4w, 1/2w, 1w, 2w (10%, 5%, most values)**

**Capacitors**

**Paper .047/200v, .47/200v, .01, .006, .36, .15, (hundreds more)**

**Mylar .33/100v,**

**Coax Connectors**

**UHF, BNC, HN, Type N, TNC, RG17**

**Coax Adapters**

**N to UHF, HN to BNC, UHF to BNC, N to BNC**

**Fuse Holders**

**Chassis Hole Covers**

**Diodes**

**Transistors**

**Delco 2N553**

**2N696**

**1/4 inch shaft couplers, some solid and some insulated**

**Assorted plastic cable clamps**

**Various sizes of magnet wire**

**RF Chokes, 1 mh**

**Assorted sizes of grommets**

**10,000 assorted receiving tubes**

**Some transmitting tubes**

**Large assortment of meters**

**Antenna insulators, various sizes of folded dipole spreaders**

**Coax cable**

From rbethman@comcast.net Wed Aug 14 03:40:44 2002  
Subject: [R390] Tubes for R390As and R390

Folks, I got to him first because he is local. Here is his price list:

#### PRICE LIST

R390/R390A: TYPE PRICE(ea)

3TF7 25.00 AMPERITE (limited qty)  
26Z5W 15.00 TUNGSOL (limited qty)  
6082WB 9.00 JANSYLVANIA & RAYTHEON (limited qty)  
0A2 6.00 RCA  
6AJ5 3.00 TUNGSOL  
6AK5/5654 4.00 JANWESTINGHOUSE (WWII)  
6AK6 3.00 JANGE  
6BA6W/5749 2.00 JANPHILIPS/ECG  
6BH6/6661 2.00 SYLVANIA  
6BJ6 3.00 CEI  
6C4WA 4.00 JANPHILIPS/ECG  
6DC6 8.00 WESTINGHOUSE  
12AT7WC OUT JANGE  
12AU7A OUT RAYTHEON  
5814A\* 5.00 JANPHILIPS/ECG  
5651 OUT JANRAYTHEON

\*R390(nonA): \* Ok to use a 5814A for 12AU7 in V507/V510 and V901/V902 if done in pairs. Do not use a 5814A in V511 or V602 due to current draw limit for the serieswired filament strings.

OTHERS: TYPE PRICE(ea)

5Y3WGTA 8.00 JAN PHILIPS/ECG  
6AH6WA/6485 3.00 U.S.A.  
6AG7/VT247 4.00 JANRCA (WWII metal)  
6AU6WC 4.00 JAN PHILIPS/ECG  
6CB6A 2.00 JAN GE  
6H6 2.00 JAN GE (metal)  
6K7 3.00 JAN GE (metal)  
6SQ7 3.00 RAYTHEON ENGLAND (metal)  
5750 2.00 JAN PHILIPS/ECG (high reliability 6BE6)  
6360 8.00 WESTINGHOUSE

He has TWO running spare kits for R390s (Yeah NON A) Contact: Bryan Stephens  
<bryanste@yahoo.com>

From ham@cq.nu Wed Aug 14 03:41:39 2002  
Subject: [R390] Dynamic Range Measurements

Hi,

The other problem is that having done the measurements you then have to convince the world that you did them right. Getting 120+ db of isolation between any two things is a matter careful technique. The



equipment isn't much of a problem and the tests are pretty straightforward. If you look at what the ARRL uses none of it is very fancy stuff. The thing you hope is that they do it right each time.

Having the time to haul everything out and run the tests is a bit of a problem. Having enough time to run them on enough stuff to be sure you are right when you run them is a bigger problem. About the only way to be sure you are doing everything right is if all of your data matches published information.

As an example if you talk to Bob at Sherwood Engineering about their R390A data he more or less comes back with "that was from quite a while back and it may not be as accurate as the more recent data". At least that was his statement about two years back when I asked ...

Again none of this is any kind of knock on what anybody does or does not do. There are a lot of people out there that can run these kind of measurements. The point is that in order to be believed you need to do more than just one or two tests on one radio.

All that said if somebody wants to set up to do all this I'd be happy to help out. At the very least I can probably calibrate a lot of the stuff you would be using. Take Care! Bob Camp KB8TQ

From David\_Wise@Phoenix.com Wed Aug 14 03:53:53 2002  
Subject: [R390] R392 quest for power Circuit idea...

I can't speak for the bench supply, but if that Power One is a switcher, it will radiate all kinds of crud, loudly. If it's a linear, I don't know, maybe that tip about small caps across the diodes. The manufacturers don't worry much about RF emission. 73, Dave Wise

From rbethman@comcast.net Wed Aug 14 03:55:02 2002  
Subject: [R390] I hope.....

I hope my passing on info of sources has not offended anyone on the group. My endorsement is based on face to face dealings. Both gentleman have been straight forward, honest, and a delight to deal with. Bob N0DGN

From Jim Shorney" < Wed Aug 14 04:19:26 2002  
Subject: [R390] Line Level VU Meter

wrote:>My 67 EAC glows VERY well in the dark, thank you!>My Collins 52 Definitely still does.

Hmm... My '58 Motorola doesn't glow. What's up with that?

From rbethman@comcast.net Wed Aug 14 04:29:41 2002  
Subject: [R390] Line Level VU Meter

Jim, Could be replacement meters. They do NOT have Radium dial faces

From Jim Shorney" < Wed Aug 14 04:42:07 2002  
Date: Tue, 13 Aug 2002 22:42:07 0500 (CDT)

wrote:> Could be replacement meters. They do NOT have Radium dial faces

These appear to be originals (58 date code on one), and the seller of the radio (whom I trust and who is knowledgeable about these things) assured me that they are.

From rbethman@comcast.net Wed Aug 14 04:52:00 2002  
Subject: [R390] Line Level VU Meter

Do they glow if light is applied to them for a period of time THEN look for a glow? Bob

From Jim Shorney" < Wed Aug 14 04:59:19 2002  
Subject: [R390] Line Level VU Meter

wrote: >Do they glow if light is applied to them for a period of time THEN look >for a glow?

Haven't tried that yet.

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Wed Aug 14 11:50:04 2002  
Subject: [R390] Line Level VU Meter

> Radium IS AN ALPHA emitter. >> Recommendation: DO NOT OPEN original meters. I suspect that this would be > VERY detrimental to one's long term existence! >> Ingestion of alpha particles is not a NICE way to go!

I DON'T want to downplay the health risk. But it takes a pretty sizeable exposure before the risk of cancer goes up. We all drink radium in our water every day. Some water supplies are worse than others. Opening the meters is not sure death. It just needs to be done with caution and with care. Radium sits in our bones and decays producing Radon. Back in the 20's people used to drink radium for it's "invigorating" properties and believe it or not, some of these people were around 50 years later to tell about it. Others who drank a lot, were often not around for more than several years and died of bone decay and cancers. Like an idiot I smoked for 18 years, being quit for 2 years now, and probably did a LOT more long term damage to my body. Not to say that it is OK to just open meters carelessly, but doing so outside and downwind, with a quality partial protective mask, is probably just fine. JUST MY OPINION. Don't sue me for your own stupidity. Scott

From ai2q@adelphia.net Wed Aug 14 14:07:31 2002  
Subject: [R390] RE: Regarding the R390A, product detector....

Hi Rodney,

**You must be referring to my SSB detector, right? (you didn't say). In any case, to my knowledge nobody has made boards for it. Perhaps it would be something for FAR Circuits to consider. For me, the easiest way to assemble it is using Manhattan construction.**

**Check out <http://www.easystreet.com/~w7zoi/bboard.html> for some ideas, and <http://www.qsl.net/k8iqy/tips.html> for Manhattan pix in particular. GL es 73, AI2Q, Alex ...**

From ba.williams@charter.net Wed Aug 14 15:11:45 2002  
Subject: [R390] Dynamic Range Measurements

> You mean to say that Barry Williams has a pallet of BA's for sale this weekend? Lon Chaney

He meant Les Locklear, the witch of the list. Dick Cheney

From jamminpower@earthlink.net Wed Aug 14 15:51:34 2002  
Subject: [R390] Cute little RF connectors

I am trying to make some debugging harnesses for the R390A so I can take various modules out and debug them on the bench. One of the things I need is a set of extension cables for those cute little cables with the tiny connectors at the ends. They look like TNC connectors, but not like any I have been able to obtain.

Does anybody know if there is a modern connector that will fit? And where do you get them? Thanks.  
James A. (Andy) Moorer

From R390A@r390a.com Wed Aug 14 16:44:44 2002  
Subject: [R390] Solid State R390A Supply

Good point. I have done that on occasion however normally, its not an issue. I use about a 3KV ceramic disc. Seems that Antique Radio sells them. Chuck Rippel

Reply to: avsl1@avsl.hrcoxmail.com

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression."

From R390A@r390a.com Wed Aug 14 16:48:27 2002  
Subject: [R390] Jag

<< As for the Jag.. was there life after XKE??

Yes there was. Cleaning the oil spots off the driveway and rejoicing that you now have a car that the headlights don't start blowing at the first drops of rain.

Joke Dept:  
Know why the British drink warm beer?  
They had Lucas refrigerators.... Chuck Rippel, WA4HHG

From shortwave@earthlink.net Wed Aug 14 17:06:17 2002  
Subject: [R390] Jag

hmmm.. That's included in the two reasons given by a UK Guinness rep to a friend of mine who works for a local company that imports beer & wine. He said their beer is made to be consumed cold, but that you can't get a cold beer in the UK because either the cooler doesn't work or they're too cheap to turn it on.

DanF (who thinks beer should be iced down for at least 6 hours before consumption)

From rbethman@comcast.net Wed Aug 14 18:45:09 2002  
Subject: [R390] Cute little RF connectors

Andy, Fair Radio has a set of extensions for the R390s. You take it and go back to the IF out jack which makes it a standard BNC. Bob N0DGN

No I do NOT work or have any affiliation with Fair. Just pointing out a source!

From David\_Wise@Phoenix.com Wed Aug 14 18:55:49 2002  
Subject: [R390] Line Level VU Meter

Radium has a halflife in the thousands of years, so if it was hot, it's still hot. The phosphor, however, gets tired and quits glowing,

I wouldn't be surprised if a radiophosphor was also lightstoring; you folks who see that aren't off the hook.

Since it's an alpha emitter and alphas are stopped by just about everything, your geiger counter will not register through the glass. Alphas may be easy to stop, but if you inhale or ingest a source, it will work on you from the inside for the rest of your life; high risk of cancer.

If you open one, it's a good idea to wear a good fineparticlefiltering respirator, do it in a breezefree place, don't kick up any dust or let a single speck fall on the floor, and treat the tools and debris as lowlevel radioactive waste. My \$.02, Dave Wise

From twleiper@juno.com Wed Aug 14 21:51:37 2002  
Subject: [R390] Dynamic Range Measurements

writes:... > The other problem is that having done the measurements you then have > to convince the world that you did them right .... > The point is that in order to be believed you need to do more than > just one or two tests on one radio.

I just throw all the test equipment out the window and see how the rigs compare when trying to copy crappy signals in a noisy world. Tops for CW has been, and always will be the 51J4 (or 75A4) with the deadly combination of both mechanical AND tunable crystal filters at your fingertips. Being able to notch out adjacent interfering signals is a big plus for CW. Yeah, the audio stinks, but you can get good AM audio AND selectivity in the rough stuff with an SP600, which is easier by far than any of the others to cruise around and find those strange little signals in the first place. But, once you find that DOD channel or pirate station, there is none better than the R390 to lock the channel in and leave it there for a few weeks or months... and if you hang a CV591 on the ass end so much the better.

So much for all the testing and theory, the bottom line is that different rigs serve different missions. Regardless, you will never copy any signal of any mode better than I can with my soupedup SP600 and CV157 motosyncrodetectoleviathon combo. Lord Beaverbrook

From rbethman@comcast.net Wed Aug 14 22:23:11 2002  
Subject: [R390] Line Level VU Meter

Bob,

I was simply drawing from memory. I do not remember the half life. I sort of remember that it is an alpha emitter.

My concern is folks exposing themselves to an open source of alpha emissions. This is not good practice at all. While some talk about radon exposure, it isn't concentrated as the radium on the face of the meter.

Then there is the possible "flakes" or particles inside the enclosure. This should be handled with MUCH care.

Any "geiger" counter won't pick up the emissions with even a piece of paper over the particle(s), much less the glass or plastic meter cover/face.

If folks, especially us older ones, remember the results of the women working at National Lead whom used to hand paint the faces of meters, they'd give a LOT of thought as to the care they take with this.  
Bob N0DGN

From ba.williams@charter.net Thu Aug 15 00:41:50 2002  
Subject: [R390] Line Level VU Meter

I know that a lot of those ladies who painted our radium dials died an early death. They had a habit of wetting the points of the brushes in their mouths. A former factory in New York is still a hot zone after all these years.

I would suggest that a no wind environment is the idea place to tinker with radium dials. I did some component changing on a larger clock face a few months back and took precautions. My wife says that she can see me better at night, but I never listen to her anyway. (g) Barry

From DAVEINBHAM@aol.com Thu Aug 15 01:09:27 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 and Jagrolets

Todd,

I think you and I have just about beaten this poor horse to death. We are just going to have to agree to disagree on the Jagrolet. The conversion is so popular that there are at least 2 companies offering a "bolt in kit" to do it. ( John's Cars in Dallas and Sun Coast Conversions in Florida ) I did mine the old fashioned way, ie I made my own motor mounts that bolted to the original Jag mounts. No holes in the XJ6, no sheetmetal removed. Completely reversible if anyone wanted to do so. The question to me is why would anyone want to go back to the Jag engine ? Yes, the Jag motor is a beauty to look at what with the polished cam covers with the chrome nuts on top. Trouble is the damn things leak oil, run hot, leak coolant, and often will not start due to Lucas electrics. They also were notorious for the carbs catching on fire. We are talking 60's & 70's ( pre Ford ) XJ6's here. They have MUCH improved since Ford bought the company. They are now as reliable as any Ford. I still say the conversion is equivalent to putting diodes in the holes in your R390A where the 26Z5's came out. Nothing more.

I too, at one time entertained the idea of converting a R390A to solid state. The whole idea was to have a radio that would run when the electric grid failed. But after much thought I gave it up and bought a few solid state radios. I acquired a Racal RA6790/GM, with its built in microprocessor that checks out the radio upon demand. And I must confess, when just scanning the bands, it is MUCH easier to use than the R390A's. Keyboard frequency entry beats hell outa twisting the Megacycle knob. But the Racal will not dig those East African stations out of the noise like the R390A's. And I got a TenTec 1254 kit radio. It isn't anything to write home about but it is excellent for going to the beach and I no longer worry about the salt air eating my radio because it only cost \$200 brand new in the box and it works on a 12 volt battery.

In closing, the Jagrolet is not a Chevy in Jag clothing. It corners like a Jag, handles & steers like a Jag. Unfortunately it also brakes like a Jag. Because it IS a Jag.

Some of us just like to "improve" stuff. My wife bought a 4.3 liter V6 S10 Chevy Blazer from my brother last week. I drove it across town to the homebrew supply store & back and decided it needed more horsepower. A Chevy 350 V8 is only 4.4 inches longer than a Chevy 4.3 liter V6. I got the tape measure out and figured out I can move the engine, driveshaft & rear axle back 1 1/2 inches and the radiator forward 3 1/2 inches. That is 0.6 inches more than I need. Room to spare for a 350 in the hole !!!!!

Now what would you call a Chevy Blazer with a 350 in the hole where a 4.3 liter used to live? How about Chevzilla? I think I could light up the Michelins for at least half a block. And if I decide to do this conversion I am not gonna be particularly concerned with it being reversible because there are millions of S10 Blazers out there. You will notice I said "If I decide to do it". I must be getting old. Twenty years ago I woulda had it half done already. Is it old age or wisdom slowing me down? These things always cost 3 times as much as you think in time and 4 times as much in money. Kindest regards, Dave

From ko6bb@juno.com Thu Aug 15 02:06:38 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390A Capacitor question.

Hello.

I have a friend who has two R390A receivers that are supposed to be in good physical condition but has some electrical problems. He may be willing to give me one in exchange for recapping and electrically refurbishing the other and I'll probably take him up on it (I've redone 3 before).

Time is of the essence in this job as he is moving between the 13th Sept and the end of Sept...

I have an early "proof" copy of the "modified" service manual that was done by the good folks on this list so I'm all right in that department. Obtaining Parts is likely to be the bottle neck here.

QUESTION 1: At one time there was a gentleman who offered capacitor "kits" containing all the paper capacitors etc in the set. IS THAT individual still offering them? NAME, price and time of delivery? Otherwise I'll probably have the man order everything from Mouser who is a single source supplier who is very good about speedy order fills.

QUESTION 2: Does somebody have a complete list of all capacitor values used in the R390A to save me the time of having to go through all the parts lists in the manual (or maybe the manual has such a list, I haven't had time to check). 73 de Phil KO6BB

From hankarn@pacbell.net Thu Aug 15 02:16:24 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 and Jagrolets

Well Gang,

My 71 XJ6/350 is a Corvette eater from the get go. B&M blower, street charger cam, digital fuel injection, HEI, outboard oil cooler, heavy duty radiator, canyon balance single point drive shaft, in tank tranny cooler and Turbo 350 with B&M shift kit, GM alternator, and air compressor along with Delco Remy/Standard relays and all of the Jag driving qualities along with burning rubber in all 3 gears if you want to waste money. Could put some R39XX in trunk for ballast. Not needed. Hank KN6DI

From bruceussery@hotmail.com Thu Aug 15 02:59:29 2002  
Subject: [R390] R392 quest for power Circuit idea...

Guys,

Thanks for all the great tips; I've got some tinkering to do. I forgot about bypass caps on the rectifiers, and since the buzz sounds a lot like light dimmer noise, that may be the source. I like the split supply idea too. Bruce WA4ZLK Clegg

From wb5hak@prodigy.net Thu Aug 15 03:18:01 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390A Capacitor question.

Phil,

Get hold of DAVEINBHAM@aol.com . I got my "kit" from him. It is well done, labeled, and should be an easy job. Not sure about delivery times, but he can tell you. 73, Don, WB5HAK

From beckrep@citlink.net Thu Aug 15 02:50:18 2002  
Subject: [R390] Jagrolets & Receivers

Good thread. Age certainly has nothing to do with this interest, either. I'm 62, and still drive an innocent looking 1977 Datsun Pickup with a loaded 355 / 350 combo. Gives me 24mpg and the pleasure of occasionally dusting off a "knowitall", punk kid.

I'm mostly a lurker, but do read all the posts. For the record, I own three R390A's, one R390 and five SP600's.

73's de Paul K2LMQ/7

From rbethman@comcast.net Thu Aug 15 05:03:10 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390A Capacitor question.

The kits are great! The delivery times have been pretty darn fast too! For my two R390As, I have bought two kits at different times. Well worth it! Each cap or caps come in a ziploc bag listing the capacitor where it is to go, I.e., 0.01 C610, etc. Bob N0DGN

From Jim Shorney" < Thu Aug 15 05:22:51 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390A Capacitor question.

wrote:>The kits are great! The delivery times have been pretty darn fast too! For >my two R390As, I have bought two kits at different times. Well worth it!

FWIW, I just got my rebuilt main filter caps back from Chuck Rippel. One word: incredible! I'll count this as some of the best money I ever spent.

From rbethman@comcast.net Thu Aug 15 09:32:32 2002  
Subject: [R390] Jagrolets & Receivers

Now look here Paul. The weight of ALL those SP600s must be horrendous! Better hurry and send one here to Manassas, VA. I don't want your structure to develop problems! (Driving an unmarked '97 Ford Crown Vic Police Interceptor Fun to play with!) Bob N0DGN

From n4xy@earthlink.net Fri Aug 16 01:00:12 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: R390 <> Type 77 China trade

For those who might have been following this trade, the R390 got there in apparently great shape.

73 Ed Tanton N4XY <n4xy@earthlink.net>

From DAVEINBHAM@aol.com Fri Aug 16 01:06:31 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: Was Jag, Now Beer

writes: << DanF (who thinks beer should be iced down for at least 6 hours before consumption) >>

Here we go again.

Dan,

What kind of beer do you drink ? As a good rule of thumb, the lousier the beer, the colder it should be served and vice versa. American made near beers ( any "lite" beer ) are so watered down they lack taste so you have to drink 'em almost freezing to keep from gagging. Good beer ( English, German & Irish & others ) should be consumed much warmer in order to fully enjoy the flavors they present. Go buy yourself a six pack of Samuel Smith's Old Taddyporter and cool one beer down just like you do yer Miller Lite and cool one down to about 50F. Now, drink 'em. The " warm" one first then the icy cold one. You will find out what I mean .

If you have any taste buds left, you will really like the " warm" ( 50F ) beer better If you like clear beers, try the same experiment with Saint Pauli Girl or Beck's.

Now, how the devil can I make this post R390 connected ? Oh yes, I am sitting here at the keyboard not far from the radio listening to the Salsa music coming from Radio Havana and drinking one of my homemade Stout style beers as I type this. Several pleasures at the same time. Life can be beautiful.  
Regards, Dave

PS. The interest last few days in the ReCap kits had been peneomenal. All but one in the can and 2 under the chassis kits are now spoken for. Thanks, guys.



From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Aug 16 01:12:46 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: Was Jag, Now Beer

writes: << PS. The interest last few days in the ReCap kits had been phenomeanal. All but one in the can and 2 under the chassis kits are now spoken for. Thanks, guys. >>

It must be the Beer!!! Les

From wf2u@starband.net Fri Aug 16 01:44:09 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: R390 <> Type 77 China trade

How's the Type 77? Did you get it yet? 73, Meir WF2U Landrum, SC

From mparkinson1@socal.rr.com Thu Aug 15 06:00:55 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390A Capacitor question.

Hey don't forget Walter Wilson he also has a great kit . Both Walter and Dave has to be the greatest guys on the R 390 and Collins list for help with cap kits and Walter can help walk you threw some hard problem with the R 390a Receivers. Am I plugging for both guys you bet . Give em a try you will be glad you did. Matt Parkinson

From ko6bb@juno.com Fri Aug 16 04:11:03 2002  
Subject: [R390] Test Equipment and Radios for sale.

Hello.

Yesterday I posted a request for capacitor information for R390's. The man who is moving decided he didn't have time to have one overhauled before his departure so a friend of mine and I are buying the two R390A receivers. But he has a lot of other test gear etc for sale that is of interest to Boatanchor enthusiasts of all genre. Here is his list (gee, wish I had some money 8^)

Please reply to Steve at the email address at the bottom, DO NOT reply via me as I just forwarded the list he gave me. I've dealt with Steve before and he seems a 'straight shooter'. 73 de Phil KO6BB

TEST EQUIPMENT/RADIOS FOR SALE 8/9/02

Marconi TF2016A RF Signal Generator, solid state.  
10kHz-120MHz, CW/AM/FM, 110 to +10dBm output, calibrated attenuator. Solid state, sliderule tuning dial. I have two; one works fine, the other works but has hum in the output . One copy of manual with schematics. \$40 each or \$60 for both. Prefer sale of both at one time.

URM 25D RF Signal Generator. I have two; both in good condition, with accessories in case lid. Suitable for rebuilding. With copy of NAVSHIPS complete manual plus extensive rebuilding notes by D. Lankford, of Hollow State News. \$25 each or \$40 for both. Prefer sale of both at one time.

Clemons SG83C RF Signal Generator 50kHz-54MHz, switched attenuator output from 0.6160,000 microvolts across 50 ohms, in 1dB steps. CW/AM with metered output. Solid state. Manual and schematic. \$30. Works fine.

H.P. 545A Logic Probe, 546A Logic Pulser, 547A Current Tracer. This is a set of digital logic handheld testers in an HP handheld softcase. Manuals for each item. Excellent working condition and appearance. \$60/set. All items work fine.

Yaesu FRG7700 tabletop General Coverage Receiver. 150kHz-30MHz, digital readout. Good condition, with manual copy. \$150.

Icom ICR70 tabletop General Coverage Receiver. 100kHz-30MHz, digital readout. 500Hz CW filter as standard. Optional FL44A SSB filter; optional FM board installed. Good condition with original manual. \$200.

Icom ICR71A tabletop General Coverage Receiver. 100kHz-30MHz, digital readout, memories, original PassBand Tuning. Optional SSB FL44A filter. Good condition with original manual. \$300.

I am retiring and moving out of state. I'd like to sell all this stuff. Steve AA7U  
mailto:sratzlaf@flash.net 6503287654 eves/voicemail

From ko6bb@juno.com Fri Aug 16 05:15:28 2002  
Subject: [R390] Those Items I listed were pickup in Palo Alto California

Hello

I just received an email from Steve. He forgot to mention (and I didn't think to ask) that He wants PICKUP on those items from Palo Alto California. Since he is moving it is basically a "fire sale" and everything is priced accordingly. 73 de Phil KO6BB

From ko6bb@juno.com Fri Aug 16 05:50:49 2002  
Subject: [R390] Steve's Test gear was PICKUP only

Hello

My Apologies to anyone inconvenienced. I just received an email from Steve. He forgot to mention (and I didn't think to ask) that He wants PICKUP on those items from Palo Alto California. Since he is moving it is basically a "fire sale" and everything is priced accordingly. 73 de Phil KO6BB

From w5or@comcast.net Fri Aug 16 16:12:51 2002  
Subject: [R390] Important! R390 Non

R390 Aficionados,

I intend to turn the screws a bit tighter here on the list, following overwhelming support in private email for better control of offtopic material. So here are my rules.

1. Stay on topic. The primary subject of this list is as stated in the list membership intro, and was probably the very reason you joined the list. If you can't figure out what is non topic and topic then you need to unsubscribe. An oblique reference to the R390 will not qualify.
2. Be civil and courteous. Don't post messages to this list you wouldn't want your kids to read, or that

you wouldn't say face to face. Edit your replies to a previous post to be concise don't just blindly repeat everything. If you are new to list rules, put "Net Etiquette" in a search engine and acquaint yourself with them.

3. Understand the penalty box. If you misbehave, off to the penalty box you'll go, for read only access to the list, for a finite time, the length of which depends on my workload and travel schedule, the phase of the moon, your promises of atonement, and other factors. What is misbehaving? See 1 and 2.

4. Don't irritate me. If you irritate me, your email address will be banned. You can irritate me by drawing a penalty once too often, flaming me or the list, not accepting the judgment of the list administrator(s), or attempting to circumvent the purpose and intent of this list or my arbitrary rules.

Yes, you can spoof addresses or get another email account. But the same rules apply. Do you really want to play that game? Keep me happy and you keep the majority of the list members happy. We all get to talk about the subject that brought us together. I'm sure you all are fine creative people with a need to express yourself in many areas. Just take the R390 non topics to another venue.

Think of this as a technical symposium, where everyone gets to contribute to the symposium's specific subject matter the R390 and everything associated with its use, repair, history, restoration, documentation, modification, performance, and an endless thread of related sub topics.

Would you stand up and announce the best beer to drink after the forum or debate the merits of which automobile best transported you to the meeting, or spend your time addressing the audience making nothing but silly remarks? Would you?

I will not be an autocrat, but I don't intend to waste any more of my time and list members' time. See items 1 and 2.

Any questions? Everyone starts with a clean slate. Make it count. Don Reaves R390 list administrator

From rbethman@comcast.net Fri Aug 16 21:26:52 2002  
Subject: [R390] Please check your machines (computers) again!

Myself and another list member just got the W32.Klez.H@mm.enc in our email. It appears someone on the list is infected again. We've both checked and double checked our machines and we don't have it. Both of our antivirus programs caught it before we could get snared. For what it is worth.....

From kd9kc@elp.rr.com Fri Aug 16 22:56:34 2002  
Subject: [R390] Important! R390 Non

Well... it had to come.

Fellows, I have enjoyed this list up to now. All of it. Especially the fun and offtopic spoofs.

But it seems this list too is headed the way of our government and out freedom. Looks like it too is headed downhill.

I never had a lot to contribute in the way of R390 knowledge, so I should not be missed. I did learn a lot, and Muchas Gracias to all of you who were the teachers. About R390, about sheep, about whatever

else Nolan was up to. I enjoyed EVERY BIT of it.

Under the new rules/ruler, this will be just another DRY list. So it is time to say goodbye. So long, and thanks for the great times. Mike. KD9KC El Paso, Texas.

From courir26@yahoo.com Sat Aug 17 03:18:43 2002  
Subject: [R390] Please check your machines (computers) again!

Viruses are O.T. :) Tom

From Llgpt@aol.com Sat Aug 17 03:24:07 2002  
Subject: [R390] Ballast tube question

What is best, the 3TF7 or a solid state replacement? Kaiser Sosa

From bill@iaxs.net Sat Aug 17 03:51:04 2002  
Subject: [R390] Important! R390 Non

It is summertime, when silly things happen and thunder rumbles oppressively in the distance. So I find myself in full agreement with what Mike said. I have missed Nolan.

Evolution (believe it or not) progressed from surviving individuals to surviving groups, big enough to eliminate the threat of other groups. And so genes for the control of groups flourished in the pool, along with the genes to make leaders fight it out until there was only one who led. This has left us with a significant amount of the population who have high control needs. They mostly live under rocks, hoping that true leaders do not discover them.

And so they appear on all Internet lists, sometimes hiding and other times loudly protesting that the list needs more control, dammit. If these folks have the power to force the list administrator to enforce rules that will make this a dry and sterile group, then I am sorry to see it come to such an end.

How many times can you discuss filter "leakage", grounding, tube substitutions, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera? I sent some mail on this subject earlier. If you don't remember it, then it was not memorable and so it goes. But I won't unsubscribe until somebody takes that freedom from me.

Good fortune, my friends. May we have a better outcome than this. Bill Hawkins

P.S. Someone once told Ted Sturgeon that 90% of science fiction was crap. Ted responded that 90% of everything was crap. And so it is with this list. It needs more offtopic stuff (but not far offtopic, like politics or resource shortages or the deterioration of our once proud civilization) to hold the ratio at 90%.

From willowfly2000@yahoo.com Sat Aug 17 03:57:05 2002  
Subject: [R390] Important! R390 Non

Hey what can you say, but " Don't let the door hit you in the ass"

From myoung76@bellsouth.net Sat Aug 17 04:08:35 2002  
Subject: [R390] WTB R390 subchassis/modules

I would like to obtain one each of the following subchassis/modules for a R390. Note that I am interested in only the chassis's, not particularly the tube sockets, parts, etc. (connectors/audio transformers maybe ok). Damaged electrically ok, but not mechanically.

AF  
Ac Power supply  
Calibration oscillator

Tnx, Mike

From r390auser@cox.net Sat Aug 17 04:00:58 2002  
Subject: [R390] Zero Adjust

To the Group Sometime back there was a brief thread concerning nonfunctional zero adjust mechanisms. I can't find the thread in the archives. Does anyone remember the details? I have a zero adjust clutch that will not disengage. Any thoughts before I drop the front panel? Thanks, Kurt Holbrook

From ft990@hotmail.com Sat Aug 17 04:30:09 2002  
Subject: [R390] Please check your machines (computers) again!

I made note of this a couple weeks ago ;)

From chacuff@datasync.com Sat Aug 17 04:28:10 2002  
Subject: [R390] Important! R390 Non

Be careful Jack...That would be the same door that will bust your face while wandering around in the dark one evening...which is where we will all be when it comes the keeping these 390's going if we loose too many knowledgeable (and fun loving I might add) folks as a result of your type sentiment! Life's short Play Nice!

From willowfly2000@yahoo.com Sat Aug 17 04:58:43 2002  
Subject: [R390] Important! R390 Non

My last post on the subject, if you don't want to live by the rules take a hike.

From ft990@hotmail.com Sat Aug 17 06:26:39 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390A VS Harris RF590A?

OK, I know most of you good folks have a fondness for the "hollow state". That being said, Has anyone on the list played around with a Harris 590A? What's your opinion? I found a 590A with the preselector option for a very appealing price but wanted to get your opinions as far as recieve quality between the 390/A & 590A. Should I just keep looking for a nice 390/390A instead? Thank you in advance for your help. Mike

From bill@iaxs.net Sat Aug 17 07:38:24 2002  
Subject: [R390] Important! R390 Non

Minneapolis is getting hammered by storms tonight, so here's one more thought:

We know what the AGC does in the R390 series. When there's a signal, the amplifiers reduce gain until the signal is at a level that produces good audio. When there's no signal, you get a lot of static. The static tells you that the set is still working properly.

And so it is with a mailing list. When there's a signal, we stay on that topic until it fades. When there's no signal then there are random brain farts that appear on the list. Some of them generate very long threads.

Bottom line: the people who want us to stay on topic should keep the signal strength high enough to reduce the offtopic stuff. If they want a list that goes dead when there's no signal, let 'em subscribe to the VSS list (about 25 messages per year, except when admin wanted to remove the list). This is mostly a military list, and ancient wisdom says that there is something wrong with the warriors when they quit bantering. Regards, Bill Hawkins

Passing a law to squelch the list when there is no signal is as disconnected as the political correctness movement, and just as damaging. Lots of intellectual stuff with no understanding of its effect on people.

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Sat Aug 17 12:37:32 2002  
Subject: [R390] Ballast question and OT comment

I see no reason not to use a 3TF7.

All tubes for these radios are available and we certainly are not in need of any solid state replacements. It is all a matter of how much the tubes cost. A NOS 3TF7 will set you back \$30. Other "hard to find" one's are even less, but still available. So my opinion is keep it all tubes 'till you can't find one that you need to operate it. And this may not come for another 50 years.

As for the OT stuff...I am new here.....only 3 months and I will miss the OT stuff. It just got carried away this last month or so. Sad to see it get completely snuffed. It really just needs a little more restraint so it does not get completely wacky like we just had. I am not a fan of OT stuff but it really sometimes is necessary as it gives the list some personality. Too bad some people just get carried away with their postings.....I wish their was a way to limit it but I know that some people can't control themselves. I think the beer was the final straw.. Sad Scott

From Llgpt@aol.com Sat Aug 17 13:06:21 2002  
Subject: [R390] Filter Capacitor Question

What is that black stuff called that is inside the filter caps on the audio chassis? Is there an official name for it? Lewis Louis

From courir26@yahoo.com Sat Aug 17 13:59:30 2002  
Subject: [R390] Zero Adjust

make sure all you panel screws are tight, and that the clutch is clean. You can clean it with gumout carb and choke cleaner, then try again. 73 N5OFF

From ft990@hotmail.com Sat Aug 17 15:53:09 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390A VS Harris RF590A?

>>I don't know if any of that helps or not.

Yes it did. Thank you. , Mike

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Sat Aug 17 16:26:53 2002  
Subject: [R390] Broke 390

Friends,

Thanks to all who suggested answers...Today will be the day I get it out; my son will be by..Then we will look to see if we can see what was burning..

May bother one or more of you who offered help..if, as is likely, I can't do it...

Also:

Wonder how hard to manage 392 for normal use..Used it in mil..but never since..What do you use for power supp and is it practical? (One would be smaller for a limited bedside location..My wife does not want the big radios beside my bed..reason I use either the weak 394 from Radio Shack, or the 515 for that location..)

Also:

Anyone know the term "Bilateral Transceiver"? Person I have run into wants to find one but can't remember the manu. except it started w/"C". Says it was two receivers tracking w/one transmitter..??? (In one unit). He said it might have been "Cosgrove" or something near that... See You later... John

From ba.williams@charter.net Sat Aug 17 16:40:00 2002  
Subject: [R390] Important! R390 Non

Jack,

Did you should read rule #2 below? It appears that you either didn't read it, or you just don't care.

This kind of sentiment in an open forum will ruin the list for a long, long time. The kind of humorexperience mix we have in the list membership is just like the tube supply situation. Once it's gone, it's gone forever.

I've been reading Mike's messages for a few years now. I'm really sad that he has abandoned our list.

Yeah, we get off topic at times. But, flaming someone in the open is a major taboo on this list. I've been

on this list off and on for over 4 years. Your comment to Mike is a major mistake. Personally, I see no difference in comments like yours and someone stomping on a bunch of 2625's and 3TF7s. Barry Williams

From ai2q@adelphia.net Sat Aug 17 16:43:31 2002  
Subject: [R390] Bilateral xcvr

Hi John:

You asked about the term "Bilateral Transceiver."

This was the trade name for the Cosmophone series of ham equipment. There was a 1 kW unit, and a lower power (100W ?) model.

I remember the stir they caused at at the ARRL Convention in 1959 at the old Statler Hilton Hotel in New York City. I was just a Novice at the time, and a lad of about 16, but I clearly remember the OTs clamoring for a chance at the microphone on "the new singlesideband" voice mode.

Cosmos Industries in Queens, NY made the units. The company had a hospitality suite set up on a top floor of the hotel at the time. This is the same firm that made the Cosmos PTOs for our beloved 390As.

I even have some information around here on the sets, if you want more info.. Vy 73, AI2Q, Alex in Maine

From wf2u@starband.net Sat Aug 17 17:18:29 2002  
Subject: [R390] Broke 390

All the R392 needs is a 28 VDC supply at least at 3 amps. It doesn't have to be regulated, just well filtered. 73, Meir WF2U Landrum, SC

From r390auser@cox.net Sat Aug 17 17:15:10 2002  
Subject: [R390] Zero Adjust

Tom

Thanks for the response. The front panel screws are all tight. This is one of Chuck R's radios. There is a lot of travel on the zero adjust so I will clean the clutch and try again. Thanks, Kurt

From twleiper@juno.com Sat Aug 17 17:29:17 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390A VS Harris RF590A?

writes: > That being said, Has anyone on the list played around with a Harris > 590A?

That's off topic. You will be collected for reprogramming. Number One

From twleiper@juno.com Sat Aug 17 14:53:46 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 and Jagrolets



writes: > My 71 XJ6/350 is a Corvette eater from the get go. B&M blower, street charger cam, digital fuel injection, HEI,

...

> all of the Jag driving qualities along with burning rubber in all 3 gears if you want to waste money.

The only thing I find amazing is that the rear driveline can possibly hold up, especially if you deliver enough torque to "chip" into third with an obviously modified TH400 that must have been difficult to squeeze under the tunnel. I had a '67 Vette with the 427/435 "Trips" and it could "chirp" into fourth, but I was running a .488 rear. I always thought the Jag rear was pretty tall, like a .411 or .308, but maybe they used a .512 with overdrive like the Alfa Romeo. In any event I can't believe it (or the axles and CV joints) would take that kind of punishment the way the old "12 bolt" rear can, especially in that relatively heavy XJ car. By the way, your XJ350 would have seen nothin' but my modified "Thunderbird" style triple tail lights. Good luck with it. Tom

From twleiper@juno.com Sat Aug 17 17:39:29 2002

Subject: [R390] Important! R390 Non

writes: ... > And so it is with a mailing list. When there's a signal, we stay on that topic until it fades. When there's no signal then there are random brain farts that appear on the list.

...

> Bottom line: the people who want us to stay on topic should keep the signal strength high enough to reduce the offtopic stuff.

A most eloquent analogy, but unfortunately it is offtopic. Report to the showers at once! H. Himmler

From twleiper@juno.com Sat Aug 17 17:27:09 2002

Subject: [R390] Important! R390 Non

> writes: > My last post on the subject, if you don't want to live > by the rules take a hike.

Say, Jack, would you have lived "under the rules" or "taken a hike" if you lived say, in Munich in 1936? Adolf

From twleiper@juno.com Sat Aug 17 17:42:54 2002

Subject: [R390] Filter Capacitor Question

writes: > What is that black stuff called that is inside the filter caps on the > audio chassis?

Trying to restart the famous "ukumpucky" thead, I percieve... S. Holmes

From twleiper@juno.com Sat Aug 17 17:45:30 2002

Subject: [R390] Important! R390 Non (Abridged)

writes: > Well... it had to come. > But it seems this list too is headed the way of our government > and out freedom. Looks like it too is headed downhill.

Former Naval Person to M. Olbrisch:

It appears you are right. The "Pen Protectors" are attacking with overwhelming force from all sides. While we have been fighting without hope of relief, and would be willing to do so to the death, I have been ordered to leave Corregidor, so I must abandon the beach head as well. Some will doubtless prefer the "order" of rule under the Emperor of the Rising 390 and, while I am sure they will bid me good riddance, I wish them well. Old crackpots don't die, they just fade away.

We'll set up a R390 NonA (Non Abridged) reflector on Yahoo and pick up where we left off...I think it was Jagrolets. Stout yeoman and freedom fighters may ping their email addresses if they wish to enlist and, of course, we encourage and will support any resistance and guerillas who continue the fight. We will fight them in the air(waves), we will fight them in the sea, we will fight them on land, we will fight them in the streets, in the servers, in the chat rooms, in the switches...we will fight them and we will fight them until victory is won. I myself have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, sweat and a broadband connection.

Winston NonA MacArthur Twit of the year '01

From ft990@hotmail.com Sat Aug 17 17:57:12 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390A VS Harris RF590A?

>What was his answer?>Steve W2ZR

I have a couple of RF590's a couple of RF550's and more than a couple of R390A's. They all are nice radios.

The RF590 and 550 are more stable than the R390. They all pretty much do the same thing. That's not to surprising since the 590 was specifically designed to replace the 390. On audio the 550 is probably the best of the bunch, but a SP600 beats any of them.

They each have their issues with repair and troubleshooting. Manuals alone for the 590 will set you back as much as \$250. Some of the chips and stuff in the 590 are harder to find than the parts in a SP600 or a 390A. I don't know if any of that helps or not. Bob Camp KB8TQ

From federico.baldi@virgilio.it Sat Aug 17 18:12:05 2002  
Subject: [R390] SEARCH FOR RICK MISH & MILTRONICS

Hi friends, some of you ca give me contact information regarding Rick Mish and Miltronics on the net or by fax?. Many thanks in advance. Federico

From w5or@comcast.net Sat Aug 17 18:12:45 2002  
Subject: [R390] Important! R390 Non (Abridged)

> We'll set up a R390 NonA (Non Abridged) reflector on Yahoo and pick up where we left off...I think it was Jagrolets. Stout yeoman and freedom fighters may

An excellent idea, Thomas. So long. Don Reaves R390 list administrator

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Sat Aug 17 18:13:56 2002  
Subject: [R390] Filter Capacitor Question

wrote: > writes: >> What is that black stuff called that is inside the > filter caps on the >> audio chassis? > > Trying to restart the famous "ukumpucky" thread, I > percieve...  
+++++

So it would seem, feeble attempt to stay on topic? Everybody knows its TAR! Lt. j.g. Ernest Cody, pilot of the L8

From federico.baldi@virgilio.it Sat Aug 17 18:18:12 2002  
Subject: [R390] WTB R389/URR

I'm searching an R389/URR Collins receiver. Many thanks. Federico

From ft990@hotmail.com Sat Aug 17 18:20:45 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390A VS Harris RF590A?

; ) Well I have to admit, I was hesitant to post the question with what's going on now: ( As most can tell from my previous post, I'm looking for the best combination of user friendly/nice receive. Seems the 390/A's are "the one" to compare anything else to. I WILL eventually get my hands on a 390,390A or 392 if for nothing else than the magnetism (sp) they have. Maybe even next month at a couple Hamfest:) Thanks for the help! I will go stand in the corner now. , Mike

From ft990@hotmail.com Sat Aug 17 18:28:06 2002  
Subject: [R390] Important! R390 Non (Abridged)

If this does happen...please email me with the info as I value ALL members help. Mike

From twleiper@juno.com Sat Aug 17 19:07:10 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 Unabridged Reflector

The address of the Free French Republic is: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/R390NonAbridged/>

Subscribe: [R390NonAbridgedsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:R390NonAbridgedsubscribe@yahoogroups.com) General Charles De Gualle

From Gil Torbeck" <gtorbek@attglobal.net Sat Aug 17 21:10:33 2002  
Subject: [R390] Little problem

Hello, fellow enthusiasts.

I have a wonderful R390A that I have been listening to on and off over the years; lately I've had it more on than off, as it should be. I listen to different bands, depending on what the time of day or night it is and how much time I can spare.

In the last week, I've noticed that I can no longer calibrate the receiver on the 25 meter band (actually

anywhere in the 11+ Meg range). Whereas I get an earpiercing squeal on all the other bands when I calibrate, on 25 m I can barely hear the BFO. The resulting frequency calibration is about 810 khz off (above the correct frequency).

I no longer tinker much with my radios and have no signal generator or test equipment. But I do have the manuals and I think if it isn't too serious, I could probably adjust the band if someone tells me what has to be done.

I'm on digest. Thanks in advance, Gil Torbeck

From shadow@gilroy.com Sat Aug 17 22:45:57 2002  
Subject: [R390] ???? about URM25D Mod and Notes / Dallas Lankford

Hi Guys.....

I need some help and information....

I have read questions about URM 25D and from time to time and questions about the hollow state news letter article on this unit. Even as late as last week.

When I purchased and picked up my two 25 D today. I received a package of hand written notes and hand drawings from Dallas Lankford about the URM25D. Dated 1188 and Rev 194  
There is 26 pages of hand written notes...

My question is.... Has anyone scanned them before and posted them to a WEB site. So the entire group can view them.

The notes are old and its hard for me to believe. That someone has not posted the a site or scanned them. So they can be email to someone, that may need them....

I'm thinking that they may be the same notes as in the hollow state news letter, or maybe even the early version of them. I do not think the news letter used hand written notes.

But... I have tried to find the article before, but no luck.. If the notes are needed, then I may scan them. If not, then I'm not going to take the time... So I need some information and help... Shadow

A gun in the hand, is better then a cop on the phone.

From ko6bb@juno.com Sun Aug 18 00:56:09 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390A's on Longwave?

Hello all.

Next Saturday we go and pick up our (W6LRG and I) R390A receivers. Both will be recapped, aligned etc (but no panel painting). W6LRG is paying and I get to do the work 8^) I get to keep the unit of my choosing too!

Anyway, that's not what this post is about.

I remember reading something, somewhere, a couple years back that the

R390A could be made to receive in the below 500kHz range without major mods. In fact I 'think' it just involved connecting to a certain point in the receiver.... I don't want to do any real cutting or modifying of the R390A to accomplish this, especially if it disables the set for HF work.

As my primary listening interest is presently (and has been for a couple years) NDB's (Non directional beacons) in the range of 200525kHz as well as some "stuff" well below that, I would be vastly interested in hearing from anyone who has used a R390A in that range, performance etc.

IF the longwave performance is poor or not all that good then I'll probably build a longwave converter to convert 0530kHz to the 10 MHz range. I presently use a homebrewed converter to convert longwave to the 80 Meter hamband but why add in the "below 7MC" circuitry of the R390A when performance often falls off some there?

73 de Phil KO6BB

From ody@radicus.net Sun Aug 18 02:43:06 2002  
Subject: [R390] Tube testers and other babblings

Hello Gang,

Most of you don't know me. I am new to the list.

I recently bought a very nice 390A from a gentleman here on the list and am completely hooked on the 390A. I really love this radio. I then got on ebay and bought a ton of tubes. I then realized that I had no way of finding out the condition of the tubes that I am buying as "NOS & NIB". So I bid on and won a B&K Dyna Jet tube tester. Now, after it is too late, I have a few questions. Please remember that I know practically nothing about tube gear and tubes. So with all of the babble out of the way, This is what I would like to know.

Is the B&K tester worthy and accurate ? If not, is there a certain tester that would serve me better?

All of the tubes I have bought look new. Should I test them all? Does testing the tubes put wear on them?

Most of the tubes I bought are JAN tubes. Some are GE. I also got some 5814A's made by National Gold Line. Is it OK to use the National tubes if there are some JAN's or GE's already in the radio or does it matter if one would mix and match?

Lastly, some of the tubes that I bought are dated back to the 40's. Should I save these? It seems that they would be collectible. Thanks for any advice. Scott

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Sun Aug 18 03:07:42 2002  
Subject: [R390] Tube testers and other babblings

> Is the B&K tester worthy and accurate ? If not, is > there a certain tester > that would serve > me

better?

+++++

A tube tester will not INSURE that a tube will work in a certain circuit, it will only tell if the tube is "working". The TV7 military surplus tester is a good alternative, yours should be Ok, too. The thing about military surplus equipment is that it could be given to a high school graduate with a couple of electronics courses under his belt and the appropriate manual and he could get the job done.

So, now is the time to get some tube oriented manuals so you can "catch up" on the technique for testing tubes. Or,..... just ask more questions here, they will come up as you get more into this area of the hobby.

> All of the tubes I have bought look new. Should I > test them all? Does > testing the tubes > put wear on them?

+++++

Yes, somewhat, not seriously though. You only need to test them when you get ready to use them. You might take a sample of the tubes just to determine if the whole load got dropped or shipped poorly. It'd be best to test tubes of the same type to keep from wearing the switches out on your tester, they don't make them anymore either.

> Most of the tubes I bought are JAN tubes. Some are > GE. I also got some > 5814A's made by > National Gold Line.

+++++

Its considered rude to rub your good fortune in our faces like this,..... unless, of course, if you paid a rediculously high price for them, then,.....of course, it would NOT be rude of US to laugh our butts off.

Is it OK to use the National > tubes if there are some > JAN's or GE's > already in the radio or does it matter if one would > mix and match?

+++++

NO, definately NOT, the National tubes will RUIN your radio, send them to me, I will dispose of them so that no other radio tech will make the same mistake.

> Lastly, some of the tubes that I bought are dated > back to the 40's. > Should I save these? > It seems that they would be collectible.

+++++

NO, we don't "collectible" anything here especially tubes! Only audiophools do that. Joe

From hankarn@pacbell.net Sun Aug 18 04:12:15 2002

Subject: [R390] Tube testers and other babblings

The best tube tester you have is the R390 itself. Plug n Play. One good set of tubes and a good set of spares should in most cases out live you with all things being equal.. A dynajet was normally a TV tester. It will be fine to check filaments and general condition.. A TV7/B or so is a good tester but kind of pricey for the occasional user.

Mix and match. There are certain positions that the 5XXX series tubes should be used in. All of the tubes are getting harder to get but in most cases still available. There are some sellers out amongst the wherever that think they are Gold plated. If you plan on saving them for a retirement investment then my friend you are barking up the wrong tree. Maybe 3TF7's or sort. Current tube prices are a lot more stable than the stock market which could very likely bust its guts very soon.

Download a copy of the Y2K manual.

Once the nasty caps have been done and the radio tweaked, put your tubes in a box in the closet and then quit fooling with the radio and enjoy it for many years..

There are guys on the list that have had them running for 24/7 for many years.

AS you have heard if it works don't fix it. Enjoy it. Hank KN6DI

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Sun Aug 18 04:44:36 2002  
Subject: [R390] Tube testers and other babblings

Hi Scott:

You wrote: > Is the B&K tester worthy and accurate ? If not, is there a certain tester > that would serve me better?

You didn't mention the model like "your mileage" they vary, but quite a few are good. The last tube tester made of any (I think) was the B&K 747. Do you have the manual including calibration instructions? Tube charts? Might help the list assist you if you let us know on the model. May well be good enough, however, as I recall, B&K also made some cheap emissions testers (i.e. not mutual transconductance).

If they're not already installed, you might want to chase down some "socket savers" primarily for the 7 and 9 pin sockets, unless it's one of those tester designs with multiple "quicktest" sockets of the same type. In that case, wear may have been spread out over a bunch of the 7 and 9 pin sockets.

> All of the tubes I have bought look new. Should I test them all? Does > testing the tubes put wear on them?

As long as the tester is OK, not much harm in testing them all, but keeping them on the tester too long is not a good idea. You should test just prior to use, however, you might want to test them all so you will know how many good tubes you actually have on hand. A few things to keep in mind:

1. Make sure the shorts lamp(s) work and always do the shorts test first and make sure you watch and don't blink. Unless the tube is of the donottap type (like expensive 1L6's, and maybe the 26Z5W's) tap on the tube to watch for flashes. If there is a short don't go any further with that tube, it may well damage the tester. A shorted replacement tube can also damage your receiver.
2. Triplecheck that you have it set to the correct filament voltage. Also a good idea to test in order of filament voltage where applicable all the 6 volt, then 12, then whatever. In other words, don't test the 26Z5W's first and then go to the others, if you think you might forget to flip the fil. switch.
3. Set it up to check a number of tubes of the same type, as Joe suggested, to save wear and tear on the switches.
4. Keep the tube in long enough only to do the shorts test and then if OK, the quality test as long as it takes to get a stable, or good enough reading. Don't park the tube in there and let it sit or fall asleep with the quality test on.
5. If the tester hasn't been calibrated, test the tester with known good tubes to get a general idea. If it

tells you a variety of good tubes are bad, it needs work or at least recalibration. If it tells you all of your tubes or all of a type are shorted, that's another problem.

> Most of the tubes I bought are JAN tubes. Some are GE. I also got some > 5814A's made by National Gold Line. Is it OK to use the National tubes if there are some > JAN's or GE's already in the radio or does it matter if one would mix and match?

No, however, some like to optimize by swapping tubes of the same number around between sockets tube tweaking. Also, it's best if the PTO tube is not too hot/strong. If it reads middling, leave it in there.

> Lastly, some of the tubes that I bought are dated back to the 40's. > Should I save these?

Yes you may experience an expanding interest in hollow state gear and some rather gothic looking black wrinkle radios may materialize on your bench. If not you can sell or trade them.

> It seems that they would be collectible.

Yup, as I mentioned, BC312's, BC348's and some ol' Hallicrafters, etc. like to "collect" them. I can tell because, when I open them up, that's what's inside. ;)

Those are not particularly collectible in the real sense. Older tubes from the 20's silvery 4pin globe shaped ones may be, even if not working. Not necessarily all that expensive, though.

> Thanks for any advice.

Y' welcome Barry

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Sun Aug 18 04:57:53 2002

Subject: [R390] Tube testers and other babblings

?

> As long as the tester is OK, not much harm in > testing them all, but keeping > them on the tester too long is not a good idea.

+++++++

Leave them in the tester long enough to let the tube get up to operating temperature, I've had several that tested good cold go bad when warmed up.

You > should test just prior > to use, however, you might want to test them all so > you will know how many > good tubes you actually have on hand.

+++++++

Nah, handling is tough on boxes, etc. I'd test a good selection of spares for quick emergency changes or hot swaps but you'd have to test them just before using them anyway to see if they went gassy.

A few things > to keep in mind:

>

> 1. Make sure the shorts lamp(s) work and always do > the shorts test first > and make sure you watch and don't blink. Unless the > tube is of the > donottap type (like expensive 1L6's, and maybe the > 26Z5W's) tap on the > tube to watch for flashes.

+++++++

The military testers have jacks for plugging a headset in parallel with the shorts lamp to listen for loose



elements or microphonic tubes. Good idea!

> 2. Triplecheck that you have it set to the correct > filament voltage. Also > a good idea to test in order of filament voltage > where applicable all > the 6 volt, then 12, then whatever. In other words, > don't test the 26Z5W's > first and then go to the others, if you think you > might forget to flip the > fil. switch.

+++++

ARGH! Good one, I did that!

> 5. If the tester hasn't been calibrated, test the > tester with known good > tubes to get a general idea. If it tells you a > variety of good tubes are > bad, it needs work or at least recalibration. If it > tells you all of your > tubes or all of a type are shorted, that's another > problem.

+++++

Another good point about the military stuff, the manual will have a good troubleshooting section, also lots of people have worked on them.

> Those are not particularly collectible in the real > sense. Older tubes from > the 20's silvery 4pin globe shaped ones may be, > even if not working. > Not necessarily all that expensive, though.

+++++

Oh, yeah?

How much you give me for the ones I have? Joe

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Sun Aug 18 05:03:37 2002

Subject: [R390] Tube testers and other babblings

Hank/Dan wrote: > The best tube tester you have is the R390 itself. Plug n Play. <snipped>

For quality, I agree. For shorts? Listen for the snap, crackle & pop? Watch and sniff for the smoke?

A lot of NOS tubes, let alone pulls, have developed shorts along the way as they've been resold, repacked and shipped over and over again. Fortunately not too many, maybe, but enough that I wouldn't want to risk collateral damage using the receiver as the first tester.

When I first get a rig in, I check all the tubes. Even if it was supposed to be working before the trip.

Well, I have to admit, I skipped that step on a BC314 a few weeks ago. Guess what? Barry

From rbethman@comcast.net Sun Aug 18 08:12:21 2002

Subject: [R390] Please check your machines (computers) again!

I believe Don Reaves is the list administrator.

I also firmly believe that HE will inform me when I am off topic.

It is NOT now NOR has been an authoritarian society

A friendly heads up over a possible problem are that is at the CORE of the list EMAIL would definitely seem to be ON TOPIC. Bob N0DGN

From federico.baldi@virgilio.it Sun Aug 18 12:27:19 2002  
Subject: [R390] WTB R390/URR and or R389/URR

I'm searching both receivers R390/URR (nonA) and R389/URR, in both case I think that I shall ask to the Seller to ship the receiver (after payment obviously) to Miltronix for realignment. Many thanks to all. Federico

From JamesMiller20@worldnet.att.net Sun Aug 18 12:12:45 2002  
Subject: [R390] Please check your machines (computers) again!

Thanks for the heads up on the virus. Was seeing the same thing here. Please continue to advise the list so that his threat to our computers can take appropriate actions to clean house and get back on topic. That is far more important than any Topical Correctness (TC). And perhaps the comments of the r390 list topicpolice (LTP) should also be considered offtopic as well, since the topic of being off topic is itself off topic.

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Sun Aug 18 13:54:51 2002  
Subject: [R390] Tube testers and other babblings

Hi Scott,

Your B&K tester is a good middle quality mutual conductance tester that should serve you well. 99 out of 100 of your NOS tubes will be OK. Test them and if they all test strong then don't worry about the testers calibration. Most testers I have come across, the calibration has been pretty good. You don't have to go crazy stocking up on tubes. Everyone seems to think that these darn things burn out like mad when in fact if you put a fresh set in they would last for many many years running 24/7. I have seen original tubes in 60 and 70 year old radios that test just fine. And yes you can mix and match brands, and yes a tube from the 1940's or even 1920's can be just fine. Scott (the other Scott)

From courir26@yahoo.com Sun Aug 18 14:19:38 2002  
Subject: [R390] Little calibration problem

Gil:

Sounds like you have a bad xtal in the osc deck if you only have this problem on one band.

I think there is a 14 Mhz crystal which controls the 11 Mhz band.

Sorry but the only way to check is to swap out the xtal and see. If you like I can dig up a crystal for you to try. I had this problem on a 51J3. 73 Tom N5OFF

From ham@cq.nu Sun Aug 18 14:19:54 2002  
Subject: [R390] Tube testers and other babblings

Hi

About the only thing I can add to what's been said so far:

Often I get tubes in batches from very odd sources. Some better than others. This makes for some fun when testing them since a whole batch may be bad. Each time this happens I really don't know if it's the tester or the tubes. Here's a solution:

Take a couple of tubes that you have a lot of. Three is a nice number. Run them in the radio for a few days to burn them in. Then measure them in the tube tester. Record the readings and store them away.

Some time in the next few years you will pull out the tester, test a few tubes and then ask the question are all of these bad or is it the tester? Then you pull out the reference tubes and you have an answer.

Of course this only works on a tester like a TV7 that has a meter scale with numbers on it rather than a three zone good / who knows / bad scale. Take Care! Bob Camp KB8TQ

From jbrannig@optonline.net Sun Aug 18 14:36:31 2002  
Subject: [R390] Tube testers and other babblings

You make a good point. I have been a fanatic about collecting spare tubes, so I can have supply in depth. But as I think about it, I have replaced very few "bad" tubes. Even transmitting tubes will last a very long time if you don't abuse them.

From fstyron@nc.rr.com Sun Aug 18 17:42:34 2002  
Subject: [R390] Little problem

Gil,

I agree with Tom about the 14MHz crystal. As this crystal serves the 11 MHz and 25 MHz bands, I would look at the 25 MHz band and see if it is off as well. If it is, you definately have a bad 14 MHz crystal. Good luck, Frank

From ba.williams@charter.net Sun Aug 18 18:10:12 2002  
Subject: [R390] Little problem

This would be a good time to clean all of the crystal pins and put a little DeOxit on them.

Same goes for all of your tube pins. I went ahead and did all of my connectors too. I used a soft, nonabrasive, non compound type of slick eraser. It basically burnishes the crud off of the metal contacts to leave a smooth metal surface. Any fast drying liquid will leave a residue layer when it dries. When current is applied, this residue cooks and forms a shellac layer between metal contacts. The eraser polishing is fast and gives you a good metal to metal contact.

The performance increase was very noticeable after doing all of the above. Barry

From mmdues@halpc.org Mon Aug 19 01:50:37 2002  
Subject: [R390] Fair Radio Sales New Location

Hello Group,

I just returned from my 40th high school reunion in Flint, Michigan, and flew up there in my homebuilt airplane, a Van's RV6 kit plane. On the way up, I decided to stop in Dayton, Ohio, to visit the Air Force museum. Upon leaving there, I noticed I had to fly directly over Lima, Ohio, where Fair Radio is located, and decided to return there after my reunion in Flint. While in Flint, I called Fair Radio and asked for Dave, the R390 guy, and was told he is no longer with Fair, but another fellow by the name of Gary Clements (or Clemmons) was the current R390 guru. I asked about the possibility of getting an R390A bench checked on short notice and he said he might be able to help me and invited me to stop by. It took me a little over an hour to fly to Lima, OH. The airport is exactly three miles due east of Fair's new location in the old Wolohan's Lumber facility on St. Johns rd, so I got the free loaner car and drove over. Gary met me and had already had a '390A on the bench, but it had an AGC problem. He started swapping modules until it came alive, and then he began working on several other minor problems. He took a few minutes to give me the nickel tour of the new facility and allowed me to take pictures with my new digital camera, and went back to work on my radio. This was during his lunch hour! I wandered around like a kid in a candy shop, taking pictures of lots of neat stuff. I saw at least eight pallets of R390As with 24 radios on each pallet, plus some more pallets that had less than 24 radios on them. I also saw lots of R392s, some T195 companion transmitters to the '392, and about 25 or so R648/ARR41s. About 4 p.m. Gary had my radio ready to go, and he came out to the airport and helped me lift it into my plane. (I had to remove the copilot's seat and stow it in the baggage area and we put the R390A on the seat floor beside me and secured it down with the seat belts). I had to do this to keep the weight and balance within reason for control and trim purposes. I took some pictures of the radio while airborne. (It was an admirable passenger!) The flight back to Houston, TX was, as always, very enjoyable, except for one startling moment while encountering a B52 eight engined bomber at 13,500 feet over southwest Arkansas. I managed to get to photos of him as he passed less than a half mile and less than 1,000 feet below me. I will try to post the pictures of Fair Radio and the R390A (and the B52) on one of the Photo Sites as soon as possible. Will advise where and when. This ran too long, so I'll close and report more later. 73 Marshall M. Dues WB5MYO

From myyoung76@bellsouth.net Mon Aug 19 02:41:31 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390A IF chassis connector

Does anyone know the Amphenol number for J 512 on the IF chassis? Comparing the schematics of the R390 and the R390A, they seem to be mirror images. TNX, mike

From billsmith@ispwest.com Mon Aug 19 03:45:20 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390A IF chassis connector

Don't know if this is helpful, but according to manual NAVSHIPS 09670632010 (which has a parts list!)

J512 is CONNECTOR, RECEPTACLE, ELECTRICAL: 20 male contacts (02660) type no. 26806.

Hope that is an Amphenol number. J512 on the 390 is a BNC connector. The 20 pin connector is J517 on the 390. 73 de Bill, AB6MT billsmith@ispwest.com

From myyoung76@bellsouth.net Mon Aug 19 04:25:33 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390A IF chassis connector

Thanks Bill. That is the same AMP number as for the R390 IF module. Makes my day. Is that

NAVSHIPS document downloadable from somewhere? mike

From djmerz@3cities.com Mon Aug 19 06:01:54 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390a price/Mackay 3010

Hi, thought someone might be interested in a radio swapmeet price of R 390a in Seattle I think it sold. In passing I asked the price of this nice looking , working set in nonorig cabinet \$400. Granted I wasn't really going to buy it since I have one so I don't know what it went for, but \$400 was the casual asking price. I was much more interested in the Mackay 3010B that a friend brought there for me to look at, since I had picked up an incomplete radio earlier and wanted some parts for it. I went away with his rather complete radio with a smiling face and high hopes of making the two into a working set the other one I have is a 3010C, which I think will be the basis for the final set. I am anxious to compare this radio to the R390a when I get it operating. Dan.

From Mon Aug 19 04:04:09 2002  
Subject: [R390] Filter Capacitor Question

wrote: >What is that black stuff called that is inside the filter caps on the audio >chassis? > >Is there an official name for it?

Ukumpucky. Roy

From courir26@yahoo.com Mon Aug 19 13:10:34 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390A IF chassis connector

If you're asking about the main power connector, they are the same on the 390 and the 390A. In fact most of the functions are the same (but the modules are not directly interchangeable).

From Richard.McClung@Dielectric.spx.com Mon Aug 19 15:10:10 2002  
Subject: [R390] Important! R390 Non

Well, I believe that MR TAYLOR's OFFCOLOR comment is also OFFSUBJECT of this list and he should be placed in the penalty box for using such OFFCOLOR language. Imagine, not even a mention of R390(\*), except in the subject line.

Now does anyone have any spare shock mounts for the CY979A/URR cabinet for the R390(\*) series receivers???????? RICH WA6KNW @B> } De Oppresso Liber

From Mon Aug 19 15:33:29 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390A's on Longwave?

wrote: >I remember reading something, somewhere, a couple years back that the >R390A could be made to receive in the below 500kHz range without major >mods.

Yes. you connect your antenna wire to one of the test points in the RF deck.. I suspect it is at the grid of the first mixer, after the RF amplifier stage(s). You may want to ground the normal antenna input jack,

or pull the first RF amp tube. You may also want some kind of low pass filter in the antenna signal path to avoid broadcast band interference.

The trick was published in Hollow State news, I believe. Roy

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Mon Aug 19 15:46:59 2002  
Subject: [R390] 390 and ...

Friends,

Thanx so much/repl. on Cosmophone..(note post fr Alex) The mod. was Cosmophone 35..now if this guy can find himself one..He is really interested..

390 out of rack...Can't tell anything..BUT: I notice that the inner surface of the power conx. that plugs on back has blackened powder...(remember that I had it "wide open" in order to hear the "strongest" local AM sta.) Could have been just from the heavy load??? Everything still turns on, but HAVE NOT turned any gains up since I heard the "sizzle"...Will borrow back one of the tube testers I sold, and check tubes...Guess I better get another one and keep it..even 'tho I don't want it..If I fail, will take or send it somewhere later...

In the area of "sin and other salvations", a photo I have of the SP600 shows a different knob for the band change than the one for tuning...Mine,they are both the same..when was diff?...Must have been model..

Also have both my Cal. and D. Lock on the 390, orig. unlined now.

In ref to off sub:and speed...was on hiway N of Panama City last wk..Saw rice burner pass, on rear wheel, with total ear split sound, and about 130 mph....(I mean it...) Lets see you do that on a Hog...(He went past 4 veh. before he dropped front....!!) Then disap. in couple of seconds...(How many gears do these things have? He went through three, I know, before he was gone...traffic was at about 6575..

Now, how do I do penance? Regards, John

From DAVEINBHAM@aol.com Mon Aug 19 17:19:39 2002  
Subject: [R390] Filter Capacitor Question

writes: << >What is that black stuff called that is inside the filter caps on the audio >chassis? > >Is there an official name for it? Ukumpucky.>>>>>

\*\*\*\*\*

It is spelled with two "K"s UKKUMPUCKY as in "dreaded black ukkumpucky".

We are, of course, talking about the yucky soft black stuff inside C603 & C606 in your R390A.

Has anyone yet figured out a sanitary method of dealing with it ?

From jonandvalerieoldenburg@worldnet.att.net Mon Aug 19 18:04:21 2002  
Subject: [R390] Important! R390 Non

I beleive they are standard Barrymonut items and are stocked by Surplus Sales of Nebraska. 73's Jon AB9AH

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Mon Aug 19 18:06:19 2002  
Subject: [R390] Important! R390 Non

wrote: > Well, I beleive that MR TAYLOR's OFFCOLOR comment is > also OFFSUBJECT of  
+++++++  
I concur, Doctor! Joe

From courir26@yahoo.com Mon Aug 19 18:34:46 2002  
Subject: [R390] Shock Mounts

I believe the shock mounts were sourced from Lord's of Erie, PA. I can check on a p.n. if you like. 73 N5OFF

From mmdues@halpc.org Mon Aug 19 19:06:10 2002  
Subject: [R390] Fair Radio Photos

I found a place to post my pictures of my visit to the new Fair Radio Sales location in Lima, Ohio.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/R390NonAbridged/>

Go to the Photos section and select the album named MMDues. 73, Marshall M. Dues WB5MYO Katy, Texas

From myyoung76@bellsouth.net Mon Aug 19 21:46:37 2002  
Subject: [R390] Fair Radio Photos

Can't figure how to do this. Yahoo wants me to register.....? Mike

From ft990@hotmail.com Mon Aug 19 22:09:57 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390A VS Harris RF590A?

Thanks Roy & everyone for your help. I should be closing the deal on the 590A (actually a R2368) tonite for about the same price as it would cost me to get a 390A and have it rebuilt by someone. (I'm no tech) I'll still keep my eyes open in the future for a 390/A/392. The shack isn't bulging at the seamsYet:) Thanks again , Mike

From Mon Aug 19 22:21:46 2002  
Subject: [R390] Knurled Nut Wrenches (was: Off Topic Request)

And from even earlier: Date: Tue, 5 Dec 2000 09:23:52 0600 (CST) From: Bob Roehrig <broehrig@admin.aurora.edu> To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com> Subject: Re:

Knurled ring nut wrench.. stay tuned

Dialco had a couple of knurled nut wrenches for their dial lamps. One was about the right size for the switch nuts, but I am not absolutely sure. It wasn't very deep as I recall so it would not have handled the "Bat Handled" switches anyway.

From: James.Reid@merisel.com  
Subject: Knurl nut wrench

Greetings all,

Here's what I got when I emailed TechniTool about the wrenches:

"Part# 388WR014 is \$16.95 and delivery is about 2 weeks. The item is on backorder. Part# 388WR016 is discontinued and there is no sub. Any questions please call me @ 6109403707. Thank You, Shannon Hornberger"

So it looks they still have the one type. I suppose I should order one before they're all gone. Happy Holidays, all! Jim

From: Arden Allen <gumbear@pacbell.net> Date: Tue, 05 Dec 2000 07:44:28 0800  
Subject: Re: Knurled ring nut wrench.. stay tuned

Herb; > PS I really do have better things to do, but couldn't resist chasing > this down.

I followed a knurled nut wrench thread on here before and never found out where to get the wrenches. Hope you come through for us this time.

Arden Allen KB6NAX Vallejo, CA gumbear@pacbell.net

From: James.Reid@merisel.com Date: Tue, 5 Dec 2000 08:05:28 0800  
Subject: Knurl wrench update

Hi again,

Quick update: I just ordered the knurl nut wrench from TechniTool, but a couple caveats. One: the minimum order is \$30. Ok, no problem. I ordered two of them. Two: the part is on backorder, but should ship in about 2 weeks. I spoke with Shannon on the phone and she's ready for you guys to start placing orders. Good luck! Jim

From: Chuck Swiger <cswiger@widomaker.com> Date: Tue, 05 Dec 2000 13:00:39 0500  
Subject: Re: Knurl wrench update

wrote: > Quick update: I just ordered the knurl nut wrench from TechniTool, but a >couple caveats. One: the minimum order is \$30. Ok, no problem. I >ordered two

Oh, \*THOSE\* knurled nuts the one's I try to install with pliers and end up leaving big circular gouges in nice front panels, as well as damaged and deformed nuts (altho the mentioned technique of tightening



the nut behind the panel helps). Will definitely have to get one in also. They do have a web site <http://www.technitool.com/> with a few items to possibly fill out the \$30 min. I'm a little surprised Antique Radio Supply hasn't thought of (or thought it would be profitable) stocking those.

Chuck kb4new cswiger@widomaker.com

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Mon Aug 19 22:27:57 2002  
Subject: [R390] Fair Radio Photos

You have to become a member of that group to view the photo's. Scott

From PDulaff@dpconline.com Mon Aug 19 22:53:07 2002  
Subject: [R390] Audio Level VU Meter Specifications

I am quoting a reproduction run of the VU meter for the R390A. The supplier needs the Collins drawing and specifications for the meter. The Collins P/N is 481 0001 00. Any of you folks know how I can get a drawing or the meter specifications ? Paul WB2NMI

From Llgpt@aol.com Mon Aug 19 22:52:27 2002  
Subject: [R390] 390 and ...

writes:<< n the area of "sin and other salvations", a photo I have of the SP600 shows a different knob for the band change than the one for tuning...Mine,they are both the same..when was diff?...Must have been model.. >>

They are both the same John. Les

From billsmith@ispwest.com Mon Aug 19 23:09:21 2002  
Subject: [R390] Audio Level VU Meter Specifications

M102 METER, CARRIER LEVEL: (55026) type no. 182; per (80063) dwg no. SMC283216

M101 METER, LINE LEVEL: Flange, panel mountings, (80063) dwg. no. SMC283217

73 de Bill, AB6MT

From billsmith@ispwest.com Mon Aug 19 23:13:15 2002  
Subject: [R390] Audio Level VU Meter Specifications

I hve a spare VU meter. It is the same physical size, but it doesn't have exactly the same scale as other VU meters. I can take pix if you like.

The R390A needs a carrier meter. Anyone willing to trade? 73 de Bill, AB6MT  
billsmith@ispwest.com

From fritsche@email.msn.com Mon Aug 19 23:22:44 2002  
Subject: [R390] FS:R390A

Hi Gang, time to move over to other toys. FS R390A, EAC but with an Imperial Tag Front Panel recently stripped and painted with new filled in engraving...Knobs all stripped and done with Gloss Black Epoxy paint. All the important caps replace in the if deck... All rollers in the RF deck cleaned and lubed with silicon grease. Everything lubed with same grease.

This guy is mounted in a Bud Cabinet purchased last year for 150 Dollars. The cabinet has not been painted. Comes with an original TM11582035835 maint. Manual and all tubes checked and the rig has been aligned by me using an HP8640B Signal Generator per the manual. I worked on these guys when I spent 4 years in the ASA back in late 60's and know my business.

The 3 wire ac cord needs to be replaced as there is some insulation cracking around the plug end. and the Zero Adjust isn't working to spec. But should be easy to fix... All Bands work.....

Would like 600 dollars for this fine specimen. I am located on the west side of Houston.....

Only drawback is that I will NOT SHIP..... 73 de AL W5ADF

From ko6bb@juno.com Tue Aug 20 06:56:20 2002  
Subject: [R390] What is the audio bandwidth?

Hello,

Anywun know what the bandwidth of the 800 Hz audio filter of the R390a is? As I'll be chasing a lot of very, very weak beacons on this set I'm getting I'll be pushing the limits to the max. I am used to using very, very narrow filters for CW. (Once modified a Timewave DSP59+ for 12.5 Hz bandwidth!) 73 de Phil KO6BB

From mmdues@halpc.org Tue Aug 20 07:45:38 2002  
Subject: [R390] re: Fair Radio Sales Photos

Hello, all,

I just posted 20 pictures of Fair Radio and my newest R390A on a site where you can view the pictures in a slide show, or individually.

Go to: <http://members14.clubphoto.com/marshallm620050/879221/guest.phtml>

You don't need to be a member of this site because I can share albums with others. Let me know how this arrangement works out. This is still rather new to me. 73, Marshall M. Dues WB5MYO

From fritsche@email.msn.com Tue Aug 20 14:10:01 2002  
Subject: [R390] FS R390A

Rig has been sold.... AI W5ADF

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Tue Aug 20 16:01:04 2002  
Subject: [R390] Broke 390

Friends,

In testing tubes, found miss.pin in aud...borrowed one frm man I borrowed tester frm...plug in...add the ant...add 'phones...turned on...(Gains abt half way) heard the sizzle...snatched off 'phones, and began looking...NEVER saw anything..got scared and switched it off...checked mans' tube, and returned it, along with tester...Remember, I see some blackness inside the connector that carries the power into the back... (??). There was NO sound with the replacement tube...(IN other words, I doubt it was the prob...It just happened to lose a pin at this time..(Found pin in socket, and pulled it out...)

Have thoughts:

Trade with someone,for 390 and pay the diff.. Trade with someone for 390a, and pay diff. Trade with someone for something else...(I Hate to do that....)Of course, pay the diff...or get some money.

For ex, if I traded for Hall. mod. S 38, I assume I would get something back instead of paying... Take it to someone..(I could do that to anywhere for not a whole lot more than my loss for a broke set. Wish I had done it my last trip out to CO. Then pick up after repairs..In a month, or several, or a year..??.(Boy that seems dumb..)) Do the hated shipping, to someone for repairs..(would have to get help w/packing again...I KNOW you guys pack and ship all the time, but my last several were really bad experiences.) learn at this point in life to do quality Radio repair and replacement work. This is a long road.. I have trouble driving a nail... Sell it.. Lastly, just shove it in the closet..(The nearest one) and leave it there.

Will remind you that it was completely rebuilt by David Medley a year ago, and I have his email doc. and pictures if you want to know more... Of course, who could know that something was going to go wrong..It can happen any time, and it is not my fault, or Mr. Medleys' fault....As I said before, its the luck of the draw...

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Tue Aug 20 17:16:12 2002  
Subject: [R390] Important! R390 Non

Barry

This Jack guy just appeared recently, he's the one who posted the list of jokes a week or two back and several other trolling posts. It looks to me like he just wants to make problems. I'm surprised Don didn't boot him early on. Boomer

From catman351@yahoo.com Tue Aug 20 18:13:45 2002  
Subject: [R390] Hi folks! I'm back!

Hi again to the R390 list. Been back after a few years absence. Got inclined to do so as a result of meeting up with some fellow crazy friends, Dan"Hank" Arney and Matt P.

So...it's good to be back. How everything that is nonsequitur to the listserv going on???? Cal, N6KYR

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Tue Aug 20 18:44:42 2002  
Subject: [R390] Important! R390 Non

Ack! Sorry for posting to the list, meant this to only go to Barry!

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Tue Aug 20 18:52:11 2002  
Subject: [R390] One more thing...

BTW, wasn't meant to be critical of Don either, I think he's done a great job with this list overall and certainly tolerated plenty of 'offtopic' posts which rules out the idea of no freedom here. I'm merely confused that someone like this can surface and obviously contribute nothing to the list except snide remarks and somehow remain, but I did email Don about it. Probably someone using a fake address who's been booted but got back in, who knows?

Anyhow, apologies to the list and to you, Don wasn't trying to add to the problems or be critical of you. I'm prepared to accept my punishment of a power supply module to the noggin. 73 de Todd/'Boomer'  
KA1KAQ

From rbethman@comcast.net Tue Aug 20 19:36:12 2002  
Subject: [R390] Looking for C603 and C606

Hi Gang!

I'm looking for a set of C603 and C606 that somebody doesn't want to fool around with and rebuild.

Contact me direct. Bob

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Tue Aug 20 22:53:36 2002  
Subject: [R390] Broke 390

wrote:> In testing tubes, found miss.pin in aud...borrowed > one > frm man I borrowed tester frm...plug in...add the > ant...add 'phones...turned on...(Gains abt half way) > heard the sizzle...snatched off 'phones, and began > looking...NEVER saw anything..got scared and > switched

++++++

Loose pin or terminal in the power cord or plug, either on the cord or in the radio itself.

Time for a very careful visual examination of the area around the power cord plug. Joe

From andywilliams@pobox.com Wed Aug 21 00:40:07 2002  
Subject: [R390] RF deck questions

I finally had time to start work on the R390 I bought last year. Last weekend, I discovered that the RF deck will not mechanically tune past the 25 MC band. Since this unit has had some bad repairs done in the past, I was wondering if this could be the result of installing the RF deck without the green gear? Or is this likely to be a mechanical failure?

Which brings up another question: What do I use to clean and lubricate the gear train? Will SuperTech General Purpose Lithium grease work?

So far I replaced 1 tube socket in the power supply, the 4 47 ohm resistors in the power supply and half the power supply wiring harness. In the audio module I replaced C607 as a precaution, the 4 47 ohm resistors, fixed several bad solder connections and replaced some of the wires. The B+ regulates at 190v after replacing R626. Andy

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Wed Aug 21 01:55:05 2002  
Subject: [R390] RF deck questions

Hi Andy & list: > I finally had time to start work on the R390 I bought last year. > Last weekend, I discovered that the RF deck will not mechanically > tune past the 25 MC band. Since this unit has had some bad repairs > done in the past, I was wondering if this could be the result of > installing the RF deck without the green gear? Or is this likely to > be a mechanical failure?

The thing to do is a full mechanical alignment/synchronization which is spelled out in the manual. (Or at least walk through it.) The green gear, when used properly, avoids the need for this when the RF deck is removed for service or swapping between radios. It could have been that, or some clamp came loose and was tightened with things in the wrong position. May just be that the MC section is not synched right with the 10turn stop.

>

> Which brings up another question: What do I use to clean and > lubricate the gear train? Will SuperTech General Purpose Lithium > grease work?

Are you kidding? There are those on the list who would shudder at the thought of another lube thread. Just in case you're serious, a good grade of motor oil, particularly Mobil One, is popular. Don't use lithium grease. After cleaning the gears, cams, cam followers (make sure they turn freely), etc. apply very little oil to the gear teeth with an artists brush. Use a bent paper clip to apply a drop to each bearing. Wipe away any excess. One quart of Mobil One will be sufficient for 5001000 radios, or one R390 until the year 12002. This mostly benefits future owners as it shouldn't solidify and gunk up the works. Shows concern and compassion for generations to come so the archeologists of the future will look favorably on our culture and not write us off as a bunch of glorphomorphs. ("Hmmm .. they had the technological prowess to design such a thing, but look how they lubricated it. I give 21st century man a C minus.")

>

> So far I replaced 1 tube socket in the power supply, the 4 47 ohm > resistors in the power supply and half the power supply wiring > harness. In the audio module I replaced C607 as a precaution, the 4 > 47 ohm resistors, fixed several bad solder connections and replaced > some of the wires. The B+ regulates at 190v after replacing R626.

Sounds like your B+ is running high. As part of an analysis about a year ago, I polled some R390/391 owners on the list asking them to check the B+ while varying AC supply voltage from 95 to 125 with a variac. As I recall, the B+ held to within +/- one or two volts from 180. For some reason, one Motorola was virtually dead on over that range, outperforming the Collins units. So, even if your line voltage runs high, the B+ should be in range maybe 182 tops. Barry

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Wed Aug 21 02:08:42 2002

Subject: [R390] RF deck questions

> I finally had time to start work on the R390 I bought last year. > Last weekend, I discovered that the RF deck will not mechanically > tune past the 25 MC band. Since this unit has had some bad repairs > done in the past, I was wondering if this could be the result of > installing the RF deck without the green gear? Or is this likely to > be a mechanical failure?

Does the radio work below 25 MC?? If it doesn't it is time for a full mechanical sync. Scott

From andywilliams@pobox.com Wed Aug 21 02:43:12 2002  
Subject: [R390] RF deck questions

I'll pickup some Mobil One next weekend. What type of grease, if any, should I use? The gears need a good cleaning, what do I use to clean them? I may hold off on that job until the green gear shows up.

I'll take another look at the B+ this weekend. I just got the regulator working last weekend, maybe I missed another out of tolerance resistor.

Scott jogged my memory on another RF deck problem: it doesn't work on all bands. I'll check the synchronization before taking the deck apart. Andy

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Wed Aug 21 03:46:06 2002  
Subject: [R390] RF deck questions

> I'll pickup some Mobil One next weekend. > What type of grease, if any, should I use?

You shouldn't need any. Just wet the gear teeth with the oil, after cleaning. Maybe a dab of grease on the detent spring, if even that.

The gears need a good cleaning, what do I use to clean > them? I may hold off on that job until the green gear shows up.

Denatured alcohol, carb cleaner (like Gumout), or chorethene, but I doubt if you'll find it. I assume you don't plan to tear down, soakclean and reassemble the gear train. I use flux brushes the ones plumbers use available at most hardware stores for 10-15 cents apiece. On some, I cut the bristles down so they'll be a bit stiffer and good for cleaning the gear teeth in place. Be sure not to spatter any solvent where it shouldn't go. Barry

From pha@pdq.com Wed Aug 21 03:50:30 2002  
Subject: [R390] RF deck questions

wrote: > I finally had time to start work on the R390 I bought last year. > Last weekend, I discovered that the RF deck will not mechanically > tune past the 25 MC band. Since this unit has had some bad repairs > done in the past, I was wondering if this could be the result of > installing the RF deck without the green gear? Or is this likely to > be a mechanical failure?

One of the cams in the 390/391 RF deck will reach a mechanical limit if the unit is not aligned properly. On one of my R391's, this means that a motor can drive the cam to the point of failure (clamp or gear on

that camshaft).

> Which brings up another question: What do I use to clean and > lubricate the gear train? Will SuperTech General Purpose Lithium > grease work?

As Barry mentioned, a synthetic oil won't dry out quite so quickly. I have used Mobil 1 to good success. Someone here was suggesting Mobil 1 90W gear oil, which I think is a good suggestion, too, but I haven't tried it.

This may be heresy, but I used a dishwasher to clean several of my RF decks (391 and 390A). If that amount of water is going to cause problems, they were about to break anyway. I'd rather spend time fixing what the water broke than trying to clean the damn thing as well as the dishwasher can do. I do carefully rinse with distilled water and alcohol afterwards, followed by air hose and desiccant drying.

> So far I replaced 1 tube socket in the power supply, the 4 47 ohm > resistors in the power supply and half the power supply wiring > harness. In the audio module I replaced C607 as a precaution, the 4 > 47 ohm resistors, fixed several bad solder connections and replaced > some of the wires. The B+ regulates at 190v after replacing R626.

I recently worked on an AF deck that I had to replace all components in the VR portion of the circuit. There are a couple of caps (maybe C607 is one), but also a mica cap, I think, that seem to give problems simply from exposure to heat.

I think you should aim to do better than 190V, simply because if the components are to correct value, and the tubes are ok, you should get 180V. Better to fix now than fix later, in my opinion.

Good luck it is a great radio to work on! Paul

From shadow@gilroy.com Wed Aug 21 14:09:50 2002  
Subject: [R390] Dallas Lankford / Mod notes / URM25D

I have scanned the Mod notes. Walt (W2OKF) is going to convert them to a PDF file.

When completed.... The people that have requested them, will receive them. Shadow

A gun in the hand, is better than a cop on the phone.

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Thu Aug 22 16:27:13 2002  
Subject: [R390] broke 390

Friends, (if I have any left...),

Some points:

My deepest thanks to several whom I need to answer privately..To the others, you really have no idea of where I should put my 390...(No, I'm only kidding..., 'tho I know some of you must feel that way by now...)

To those who asked what I would trade for, I can only say...what have YOU..?? I would, of course, take a mint ek07, or that real rare Racal, or a brand new Omni.. etc, but not much hope that I could ever afford the diff....if I could find a trader...Frankly, I don't really expect the trade thing to work out, but you don't know unless you try..

Druthers: In order of pref...

1. Keep this one.Get repair somehow...(Had it 10 yrs)
2. Trade for Collins 390. Pay diff.
3. Trade for Mot. 390. ditto.
4. Trade for 390a, any, ex. cond., ditto.
5. Trade for other..(like maybe an Omni, or WJ 1000)!!
6. Sell out (not very likely).
7. Shove it in the closet for a while..then take it to someone for repair..
8. Leave it to someone in my will, who would appre. (only friends need apply, but you have to outlive me, and most of you are older than dirt anyway..)
9. Leave it to an enemy...or learn to "fix" it myself.
- 10.Leave it to someone with a boat..

Also, since I am here again: Am once in a while renewing my request for someone who might know my rec. monitor/amp. to tell me about it..never have found anyone who can..IT IS:

Teleregister Corporation

Type: CA 1318, S.N.: 383.

Contract #: Cca26540 (was made for Civil airo Admin. or whatever it was correctly called) Looks pre or during WWII.

It is ex. well built and has all high tol. rs and caps Input is on the front panel and is norm. phone plug type...has vol. cont., cal, and switch for X1 and X 10 for the meter..I simply plug the out from the headphone jack on receiv. into it..

(I got it when I bought a rackfull 10 yrs ago...At that time I got the orig, and never been on the mkt. UNALTERED 390, the monitor, a BC1421 which went to a list member, a TMC ssb conv. and a uhf mil. unit, I gave away the next day...(Can't remember what it was) At that time I paid a pittance for it all...The ssb conv also went to a list member last year..I have no interest in the conv, and never used one when I was in mil..)

ANY CHANCE THE MON. IS WRONG FOR THESE RADIOS AND WAS THE CAUSE OF THE PROB.? I DON'T THINK THAT IS LIKELY. BUT I DON'T KNOW....My limited ex has shown me that mismatch in audio can sometimes make a pretty good mess..

It is VTVM control and uses 4 tubes and massive filters for both audio and line in. Several HUGH el.Caps which prob. need rebuild. How can I find out more about this unit...Couldn't find it on the WWW (so far) Any ideas??

Please forgive my longwindedness. Thanks for your help. you have been more than nice... Best Regards, John

From PDulaff@dpconline.com Thu Aug 22 23:34:04 2002  
Subject: [R390] VU Meter Drawing SMC283217



Everyone

I am investigating sourcing a reproduction VU meter for the R390A. The potential supplier of the meter needs the drawing for the meter in order to complete the quotation process. I understand that a CD of the R390A drawings exists. If anyone can supply me with a copy of the drawing (electronically or otherwise), I could then proceed to investigate the cost of reproduction meters and report my results here.

As a side note, my research so far has determined that SSN is now out of stock of R390(A) meters. What was left were NOS replacement meters for the R390(A), but now are gone. I'm guessing that the source of meters has dried up and that there may be a need for replacement meters of 25 units or so (?) depending upon the price.

Again, if anyone can supply the documentation, please let me know. Paul WB2NMI

From wb5hak@prodigy.net Fri Aug 23 03:52:27 2002  
Subject: [R390] Manuals

Does anyone on the list need a nice set of manuals (Technical, Service, and Operators) for the AN/USM488 scope made by tektronix?? I have the set, and anyone who needs it can have it for postage reimbursement. In EXCELLENT shape, and a shame to see just sitting here. 73, Don, WB5HAK

From hardiem@intergate.ca Fri Aug 23 03:55:31 2002  
Subject: [R390] Question 9 Pin Plug

Does anyone know a source for a couple of nine pin plugs? (Same layout as base of 9 pin miniature tube.)

I've tried making one from a dud tube but been unsuccessful in two areas, breaking away the glass envelope from the base and soldering to the pin tops. Does anyone know any "sneaky" techniques?  
Mike VE7MMH

From ko6bb@juno.com Fri Aug 23 04:07:28 2002  
Subject: [R390] Question 9 Pin Plug

Mike et al.> Does anyone know a source for a couple of nine pin plugs? (Same layout as base of 9 pin miniature tube.)

Yes! Take a 9 pin tube socket, 9 pieces of stiff wire cut to length. Poke a wire into each hole of the socket, making sure the wire is large enough gauge to make good contact. Coat the entire surface of the tube socket with a good Epoxy material (or hotglue though it's not as strong).

The solder lugs of the tube socket then become the attachment points for any wires etc you wish to connect. This will work for all 7 pin, 9 pin, nuvisotr, compactron or even octal sockets (with appropriate wire size). If the ears of the socket get in the way cut them off with a file or other means. 73 de Phil KO6BB

From wb5hak@prodigy.net Fri Aug 23 04:11:17 2002  
Subject: [R390] Manuals Gone

Subject says it. One list member is FAST, hi. 73, Don

From ve3ajm@sympatico.ca Fri Aug 23 04:29:39 2002  
Subject: [R390] Question 9 Pin Plug

Mike,

**ElectroSonic in Toronto used to distribute 9 pin tube socket plugs made by Armaco Electronics of Vancouver B.C.. Its been a few years since I got any from them, but I believe Armaco is still in business. Hope this may be of some help to you. Al VE3 AJM**

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Fri Aug 23 05:20:32 2002  
Subject: [R390] Question 9 Pin Plug

Hello Mike & Crew,

Amphenol once made a 9 Pin blue plug that had a rubber boot, because I have "ONE" that was used as a test or shorting plug. I just made a check of my parts bins and only have a few of the 7pin type like that used to connect accessories to amateur radio transceivers. There may be a 9pin type that I've not seen before. I'll put a pix up on our web site to see if anyone else out there can help identify a source or if they have a few in their junk box. Probably a little later this evening. PIC ID:  
[www.eldim.com/images/amphenol.jpg](http://www.eldim.com/images/amphenol.jpg) & [www.eldim.com/images/amphenol2.jpg](http://www.eldim.com/images/amphenol2.jpg) Best of Luck, 73,  
Glen Galati KA7BOJ eldim@att.net

From dave\_faria@hotmail.com Fri Aug 23 14:01:37 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 and Boat Anchor Surplus

Good morning List,

My wife and I are going to be in Chicago during October. Are there any places there have electronic surplus that are worth visiting. My wife is running the Chicago Marathon she will usually place in the top 10 for her age group. Since she's not looking over my shoulder right now, she's 48. Thanks List,  
Dave Faria

From WardSRehkopf@eaton.com Fri Aug 23 14:29:29 2002  
Subject: [R390] Wanted Tube Straighteners

Need (would like) the two tube pin straighteners that go on the back of my R390. Any help would be appreciated. thanks K8FD

From catman351@yahoo.com Fri Aug 23 14:47:01 2002  
Subject: [R390] Capehart or Collins: which is better?

All:

Just wanted to know which unit is better? A Collins built R390A or a Capehart built R390A? I'd like to know in terms of sensitivity, quality, etc. I'm contemplating ridding myself of a Capehart R390A (in pretty good condition) for a slightly used R390A built by Collins.

I suspect that I'll have higher sensitivity, more quality components, and an overall better receiver if I make the switch. What do you think? 73's de Cal, N6KYR.

From hankarn@pacbell.net Fri Aug 23 14:58:38 2002  
Subject: [R390] Capehart or Collins: which is better?

Cal, Poca a mas a manos Hank

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Fri Aug 23 16:28:18 2002  
Subject: [R390] Broke 390 latest

Friends,

Please feel free to help...or "cuss" me out...This is going to be pretty long...

Decided that I doubted the old mans "borrowed" tube.. (he wanted \$5, and I already gave him \$5 to use his tester..) Talked him into letting me try it again.. then used alcohol on it, and got it under sunlight.. It was a 6CB6, not 6AK6...That means the pin two connect was cathode, not 1st grid (or screen), so I guess that would not work...6AU6 seems to have same base.(or does it?): see below and suggest. (I have 1) or must I have only a 6AK6? That tube having a broke pin would stop the audio, right? (It was pin one). When I took it back to him a second time, he was really mad...(and I thought I was an old crab....). Do you think I hurt anything with the 6CB6 in circuit?

Took apart the connect on radio end of power cord..(the 4 pin plug) and it had a wire that must have "arced"..(How do you spell that...how about arched?) Repaired...maybe that was the extra "noise" I heard...

Drove to R. Shack...They no longer send off for tubes..(I didn't know that. Its sad for me, as they were close, and easy, if not cheap or always good quality.) Someone tell me the best quick place to get a few tubes..\*(If you can, or wish, offer me some part of a set and I will send you the money...don't want to buy whole set right now, but would buy the most common "trouble" tubes if you want to sell..I mean to keep the radio...)

I believe that the broken pin may be the real pro. (other than the one regarding not using a bag. to see the printing on a proffered tube...I don't know the "insides" well enough to tell..but the old service tech. should have...). Too bad I didn't spend the time on this radio, that I put in the 390a I had...I got to where I could set the alignment, and new what was acting up, without instruments on that radio, (to a limited degree)...even tho I never figured out the "drifting" alignment...(Some of you may remember that...)

Even if I get help, and this unit is repaired, I still seem to want another radio...Is this normal behavior? It has just come on me in the last month..My wife doesn't know it yet...

What should I do??? My Best Regards, John

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Fri Aug 23 16:34:43 2002  
Subject: [R390] (no subject)

Friends,

Short note: anyone need a carrier meter? Have one and would sell very cheap if you NEEDED it..(I replaced it as it was International, and I wanted Simpson... or I would trade... Also still have a nice lg. knob... (clamp, but no screw...) Trade both for what have you, or what do you offer in green stuff...  
John

From richardlo@devax.admin.athabascau.ca Fri Aug 23 16:48:41 2002  
Subject: [R390] Question 9 Pin Plug

wrote: > Mike, > > ElectroSonic in Toronto used to distribute 9 pin tube socket plugs made by > Armaco Electronics of Vancouver B.C..

Armaco is or was the Russ Mack Company and they were importers (never made a thing themselves) from Japan from back when it was an insult to say "made in Japan". They imported good stuff and bad stuff and you never knew which one you would get. I read an article on Armaco once and they said that Russ could speak Japanese well and went over there to negotiate on his own behalf.

Nothing much has changed, today we have "Mode" brand imported connectors and I bought some N connectors with their name on them that were unqualified junk. But I was a "Made in USA" bigot before I bought those connectors anyway. Richard Loken VE6BSV

From pwokoun@hotmail.com Fri Aug 23 16:58:17 2002  
Subject: [R390] Capehart or Collins: which is better?

Like comparing Red Delicious and Macintosh, they're both apples. Just because you have a Ca or Co label on the front, all the internal modules have been intermixed while Uncle had custody.

From sbiddle@ti.com Fri Aug 23 17:37:08 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: Question 9 Pin Plug

Sneaky method number two also works for other types of connectors:

Take some 1/4" or 1/2" thick Plexiglas sheet. Cut to the desired shape. I use a band saw or DremelTool depending on how big the connector needs to be.

Heat up an old tube base just warm enough to make a mark on the Plexiglas. A little glue holds the pins in place. As far as a cover goes, there are vinyl dust covers for different size connectors or plastic covers for pipe that will fit.

Depending on the size of connector required, the pins used for the DB style computer connectors make a pretty good fit and they can be male or female.

I have also used this to make new inserts for Cannon connectors. 73 de Richard, W5SRB

From cosmo224@execpc.com Fri Aug 23 13:32:43 2002  
Subject: [R390] S102 Microswitch wanted

Greetings all

I am looking for a replacement AC power microswitch that is part of the Function switch. Please reply direct to: cosmo224@execpc.com Thanks Mike Kana AA9IL

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Fri Aug 23 18:42:11 2002  
Subject: [R390] Capehart or Collins: which is better?

> I suspect that I'll have higher sensitivity, more quality components, and an overall better receiver if I make the switch. What do you think? 73's de Cal, N6KYR.

I'll bet you are wrong. I'd rather have the Capehart just because it is 10 years newer than a Collins. They were all made to the same military specs. Did you check the modules for manufacturer?? The label on the front means nothing. My label says Collins but I am SOOOO glad that my modules are all Teledyne. Scott

From JamesMiller20@worldnet.att.net Fri Aug 23 19:55:29 2002  
Subject: [R390] Broke 390 latest

Antique Electronic Supply has plenty of tubes at good prices. I have ordered from them many times. You can order on the web at <http://www.tubesandmore.com>

They sell the 6AK6 for \$3.60 plus shipping. And many more as well. It will be at your door by UPS in a couple of days. Good luck, Jim

From JamesMiller20@worldnet.att.net Fri Aug 23 19:57:14 2002  
Subject: [R390] Broke 390 latest

Oh I forgot, as to what you should do with the 390. Sell it and get your 390a back if you can!

From courir26@yahoo.com Fri Aug 23 21:33:00 2002  
Subject: [R390] Capehart or Collins: which is better?

With few exceptions, all R390A's were built to the same Army specification. When they were new, you may have been able to tell a difference. At this stage of the game, the "best" radio, performance wise, would likely be determined by the skill of the restorer. You may just prefer Collins, which is OK too. But it won't necessarily work better.

Experience has shown that a '67 EAC is a good platform from which a great radio can be had, but the older radios can also be made good as well.

I have the oldest 390A I've ever seen, s.n. 7 from the first contract, and it works great because I've spent a lot of time on it.

Bottom line, a careful restoration on a good sound hull will net you a good receiver, regardless of make IMHO. Your mileage may vary . . . 73 Tom N5OFF

From Walter Wilson" <walter@r390a.us Fri Aug 23 21:50:56 2002  
Subject: [R390] Broke 390 latest

> Oh I forgot, as to what you should do with the 390. Sell it and get > your 390a back if you can!

Now there you go trying to start some trouble. Now everyone will pitch in with their opinion of the R390 versus R390A. You'll hear opinions from both sides, probably, so here's mine:

I've worked on a LOT more R390A receivers than R390. I know a lot more about how to tweak and tune and fix the A model. I feel like I can do a good job on just about any R390A, but don't have that same level of confidence (yet) on the nonA. BUT, here's the kicker. I have one nonA that I've worked with, and it has BETTER performance than my best A model in both SENSITIVITY and AUDIO QUALITY. Get in a tight band listening to AM with some SSB signals nearby, and the mechanical filters in the A model will put it a step ahead. But on a normal night, the nonA wins in my book EVERY time. I especially love the MED (medium) "audio response" position on the nonA, which the "costcutting" A model left out.

OK. I'll crawl back in my hole now, but you got me stirred up. Walter Wilson KK4DF

From tony@bright.net Fri Aug 23 22:06:18 2002  
Subject: [R390] Pricing Help on Adler R390A

Hi Gang,

I've been away from the R390 list for a year or better family and work obligations, enjoyable though they are, are taking up all of my hobby time.

So, I've started to thin my boatanchor collection. One of the radios I'm thinking of selling is my Adler Electronics R390A, Serial Number 5. Apparently, this is the only set to have surfaced from that contract. A fuzzy picture of the ID tag is shown on the R390A FAQ site.

Honest question time: is this set worth anymore because of the low serial number, or because it is the only one from that contract? My collector instincts tell me "yes", but, in the end, it's still an R 390A. Would the answer be different if it were a Fowler or Helena Rubenstein tag?

I'd like to know what you think. Thanks & 73, Tony W8HRO

From rbethman@comcast.net Fri Aug 23 22:54:28 2002  
Subject: [R390] Broke 390 latest

Okay,

I'm NOT going down the path of one vs the other. BUT, I have a question for Walter. (And it MAY have interest for others as well!)

Would it be possible to modify the R390A (DON'T SCREAM YET FOLKS.....) to incorporate "I especially love the MED (medium) "audio response" position on the nonA, which the "costcutting" A model left out."? Curious.....

From hankarn@pacbell.net Fri Aug 23 23:02:08 2002  
Subject: [R390] Pricing Help on Adler R390A

Tony, IMHO it is a R390A unless all of the modules are also from Adler and have S/N's in that range or date. Other than that, it is a Depot DAWG!!! Hi. I make repro tags for all contracts and stamp S/N of your choice on the tags. I have not made any Adler tags. Hank KN6DI

From tkinney@klinktech.net Fri Aug 23 22:25:35 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: Collins / Capehart

I did the same thing, Paid \$700.00 for a 'All Collins' with the label....sent it to Mish and found it was all SW, guy I got it from on EBay refunded me hundred bucks...but still.....paid alot for a Collins...

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Aug 23 23:28:05 2002  
Subject: [R390] Pricing Help on Adler R390A

In a message dated 8/23/02 4:08:36 PM, tony@bright.net writes:

<< Hi Gang, Honest question time: is this set worth anymore because of the low serial number, or because it is the only one from that contract? My collector instincts tell me "yes", but, in the end, it's still an R 390A. Would the answer be different if it were a Fowler or Helena Rubenstein tag?

Hi Tony,

IMHO, it is probably worth a little more than the average run of the mill R390A because it is the only "known" example of the Adler contract..... having said that, it is also "just another R390A"

If you can find a "collector" who is looking to have "one of each", then it is worth whatever he/she will pay for it. Good luck, Les Locklear

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Aug 23 23:38:45 2002  
Subject: [R390] Broke 390 latest

writes: < Oh I forgot, as to what you should do with the 390. Sell it and get your 390a back if you can!

Now there you go trying to start some trouble. Now everyone will pitch in with their opinion of the R390 versus R390A. You'll hear opinions from both sides, probably, so here's mine:

I've worked on a LOT more R390A receivers than R390. I know a lot more about how to tweak and tune and fix the A model. I feel like I can do a good job on just about any R390A, but don't have that same level of confidence (yet) on the nonA. BUT, here's the kicker. I have one nonA that I've worked with, and it has BETTER performance than my best A model in both SENSITIVITY and AUDIO

QUALITY. Get in a tight band listening to AM with some SSB signals nearby, and the mechanical filters in the A model will put it a step ahead. But on a normal night, the nonA wins in my book EVERY time. I especially love the MED (medium) "audio response" position on the nonA, which the "costcutting" A model left out. OK. I'll crawl back in my hole now, but you got me stirred up. Walter Wilson KK4DF

You got my vote and 2 cents whatever that's worth. Les Locklear" That's my story and I'm sticking to it "

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Aug 23 23:40:55 2002  
Subject: [R390] Broke 390 latest

writes: << Would it be possible to modify the R390A (DON'T SCREAM YET FOLKS.....) to incorporate "I especially love the MED (medium) "audio response" position on the nonA, which the "costcutting" A model left out."? Curious.....

Of course, purchase a R725/URR.....or do what Tom Marcotte N5OFF did, modify a R390/URR id chassis to fit a R390A/URR. Les Locklear

From courir26@yahoo.com Sat Aug 24 01:59:13 2002  
Subject: [R390] Pricing Help on Adler R390A

Gentlemen?

What Les said . . . If a guy wants one of each, he needs this one. He'll also need a Fowler (bonne chance). ebay is good at establishing value. Make sure it is working in tip top shape. What contract are the modules?

From asolway@sympatico.ca Sat Aug 24 04:22:18 2002  
Subject: [R390] Tube Sheilds

There are 6 black MS Tube Sheilds made by Cinch on ebay. Item 1375560654. I would bid on them myself but they only ship to the US. Good luck. Al VE2TAS

From rodney\_bunt@yahoo.com Sat Aug 24 04:54:44 2002  
Subject: [R390] Pricing Help on Adler R390A I must be lucky ....

Fellow Collins obsessive, compulsives ....

I recently acquired a R390A (from USA) as a companion for my Collins R390. It said Stewart Warner on the outside, and ALL modules are Stewart Warner on the inside!!! I am starting to feel that I must be VERY LUCKY, that is if, Uncle Sam played mix and match for all those years, with the insides. Is this the consensus out there ? Rodney VK2KTZ

From rbethman@comcast.net Sat Aug 24 05:11:59 2002  
Subject: [R390] Pricing Help on Adler R390A I must be lucky ....



Rodney, I must ask Are ALL modules the SAME ser #?

I have a '67 EAC with all EAC modules, but the modules ser #s do not match the chassis ser # I also have a '52 Collins with all modules Collins EXCEPT the PTO which is Cosmos. The chassis is ser# 252, the IF is #35, AF # 6XX, and so forth. Yep! Depot sure played mix and match from my observations of at least a half dozen different R390As.

From rodney\_bunt@yahoo.com Sat Aug 24 05:14:46 2002  
Subject: [R390] Pricing Help on Adler R390A I must be lucky .... #2

I didn't know the modules had matching serial numbers, so I will check that. You learn something new every day on this reflector... Rodney VK2KTZ

From tarheel6@msn.com Sat Aug 24 04:47:31 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 vs R390A

In my experience most 390's will run circles around your typical 390A ... in other words generally the 390 is more sensitive than a 390A. And a 390 should be; it has a 2nd RF Amp stage. I have several Motorola and Collins 390s that will reach out and grab stations that I can just barely hear on my 390A's.

On the other hand, when a ham band gets crowded (and most of the hams today are running at least a kilowatt!), the 390A, with its mechanical filters, lets you slice out adjacent stations, and hear the one you want. Far better than a 390. But then again, if you listen to foreign broadcast stations or you're listening to clear frequency SSB, a 390 will give you better audio over a 390A.

So I use a 390 or a 390A depending on the frequency and type of station I'm listening to. Each shines well in its niche.

The only 390A's that come close to matching the sensitivity of a 390 are a couple of Collins and Motorola R390A radios that I have. The Imperials and Teledynes are next (for me). Then EAC's. Though I'm told that some of the EAC's and Capeharts refurbished by people on this list (and those by Rick Mish) are hot as a pistol ... meaning matching that of any Collins or Motorola. I've just not personally seen an EAC or Capehart from those sources. The SW's are good receivers, but none I have seem to reach out and grab stations as well a radios from the other manufacturers.

The above is my experience; your mileage may vary. 73's, tom

From scott" <polaralined@earthlink.net Sat Aug 24 12:09:23 2002  
Subject: [R390] Pricing Help on Adler R390A I must be lucky .... #2

> I didn't know the modules had matching serial numbers, so I will check that. You learn something > new every day on this reflector...

I question whether the 390's came with matching module serial numbers. Some manufacturers may have done this but I am not too sure it was the rule of thumb. >From what I have been told by several guru's here, the serial numbers would be close but not necessarily the same. Any input from others?  
Scott

From DCrespy@aol.com Sat Aug 24 14:09:48 2002  
Subject: [R390] Pricing Help on Adler R390A I must be lucky .... #2

Actually Rodney, I think the conventional wisdom is that the modules will have serial numbers that are very close together, but not necessarily the same. If they are close then you probably have an original unit that has not been through Depot maintenance. 73 Harry KG5LO:

From courir26@yahoo.com Sat Aug 24 14:33:38 2002  
Subject: [R390] Not so lucky, re: matching modules and s.n.'s

Gentlemen?

Of all the 390A's I've had, at least half had modules from the same contract. This included Collins, Mot's EAC's, SW's etc.

I had a 725 that was scrambled and a few others, but to imply that all radios are depot dogs is incorrect.

The 67 EAC's seem to have been least likely to hit a depot as the majority of those that I've seen were all EAC. With EAC making so many, they could have gone to the depot and come out all EAC again.

My old Collins has all Collins modules. The RF and IF have no sn at all but have Collins p.n. s. You can see a pic at

<http://www.geocities.com/courir26/390Asn7.jpg>

The only contract that I know for sure the had matching s.n.s is the Fowler contract. I know a chap who owned two of the five and this was the case with both. But you picture the EAC assembly area working two shifts, making 15,000 390A's, Bob Edwards cracking the whip, who the heck would care about matching numbers when modules are coming down the line like cakes on I Love Lucy.

At Fowler on the other hand, where they made five total radios, a batch of two and then a batch of three, they probably had no choice but to match them up as they were completed. 73 Tom N5OFF

From bill.riches@verizon.net Sat Aug 24 14:43:32 2002  
Subject: [R390] Not so lucky, re: matching modules and s.n.'s

Original Message The 67 EAC's seem to have been least likely to hit a depot as the majority of those that I've seen were all EAC. With EAC making so many, they could have gone to the depot and come out all EAC again.

Hi Tom,

My 67 EAC #6179 has all EAC mods was lucky clean and has worked well for the 10 years I have had it. It has a place of honor in the living room!! The 725 lives in the ham shack of course better audio!!  
Regards, Bill

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Sat Aug 24 17:21:11 2002  
Subject: [R390] Broke 390

Hello, Friends,

As you noticed, I came crawling out of the woodwork again, but never meant to stir up the 390/390a nesting pairs so much. (But isn't it always refreshing....).

For the ones who never heard of me, I was Army, Tank C. Trained Ft. Knox. (MOS 131.XX) I had a lot of ex. with mil radio ONLY AS AN NCOIC for field prob and as interested spectator. However, I will say my personal ex. led to being in favor of the 390 series over all others, and I have played around with them starting w/S38 when I was 8...I like the 390 series the best, and the 390 has a few advantages over the a in sound and readability, while the a surpasses the non a in tight going..I say this KNOWING of which I speak, but knowing NOTHING about tech work..(and wishing to know nothing...there is no interest in me at all for transisters, tubes, res. etc....I just like to use the radios....)

The idea supported by many that you must have a product det. for SSB also falls short; there are ways with the finest non SSB radios to do it PERFECT, and I know how...a subject for another time. I mention it to bring to the front the EXCELLENT SSB poss. w/390 series, without the conv. That is not to say that the converter is not needed, it is to say you can do VERY well without it if you know how..The 390 does better than the 390a in this respect....So which is best? YOUR CHOICE, in my op. (However if you are used to a virtual radio or a rice bx you may believe diff..In my case, my fingers won't fit the knobs, etc.on those strange new things...I am an old man..)

How long did I do it? 6 years under mil. specs.. Why don't I do tech stuff? BECAUSE I HATE IT...We don't all have to be the same things..we just need to respect each other. Believe it or not, I learned more of that in the mil. than any where else...(lets go back to the streets of Watertown again, and talk to the girls...And remember our friends..that are gone across the sea...and not return..We must not forget them...)

All this has been said to let all of you know how MUCH help I have been offered this past week, and also, how many both pleasant (and unpleasant) requests I had for the meter and the knob..Most offered something, a few wanted to price it below the norm, and one wanted it now..(the meter)...Both will go to someone who really needs and is nice in list attitude...I am reminded of Gary Lee; has sight prob, but spent the time to pack and send me the separating fingered under bezel for the 390 readout...Mine was missing the Rt. finger...and he needed to use braille anyway, so he sent it and refused all attempts to pay him...What kindness I felt, brought my way....I am sorry I don't have more meters..

I waste your time in this way to try to emphasize the human need that is met by this list, and the responsibility we should feel toward other members. May we all bear well under stress, and assume new patience with those who don't seem to fit in as well. Don't fight about the best...but always be willing to stand for your beliefs...

I also know many will take issue with my sentimentality.. I ask you just ignore me if you wish...

My thanks and best wishes to you all (almost). I will make an attempt to answer all of you personally and tell you my decision on the parts. This having been said, I also have a scanner I just picked up this morn..Any one like them? Its old..I can't think right now what kind.(I am at the library)..Also now that I am back into this, I have found two tube testers (this after having to rent one last week for \$5...) so I also will have an extra tester if anyone needs one..

To those that think this is all a scam to get you talking about the right things again...WRONG..I am not that well regarded to get away with it..Cathy would tell you that..... Highest Regards, John

P.S. Will have to answer first of week...There are 56 items of mail in my bx...

From Barry Hauser <barry@hausernet.com> Sat Aug 24 16:43:17 2002  
Subject: [R390] Broke 390

wrote: > For the ones who never heard of me, I was Army, Tank C. Trained Ft. Knox. (MOS 131.XX) I had a lot of ex. with mil radio ONLY AS AN NCOIC for field prob and as interested spectator. However, I will say my personal ex. led to being in favor of the 390 series

Hi John:

Some would say that '390 owners shouldn't be "appliance operators", but that's OK by me. The radio begs to be tinkered with, but it's alright if you just want to run 'em. Due to the weight, as you know, it's a bit costly to ship them around to get service by others, so it pays to be able to do some yourself, even if you don't particularly care for it.

As for sentimentality, well we all have "squishy middles" when you get down to it. It's a known fact, as my father used to say. <sigh><squish>

Anyway, 'nuff of that. Here's a thought or "the mission, should you decide to accept it" (This email will selfdestruct in 10 seconds.) Once in a while, I'm sure many of us would like to read about your mil experiences. These radios have quite a history. If you can shed any light on the life and times of '390's in action without violating any military secrets I, for one, would like to read it, and a way to pay into the '390Bank.

As usual, "if you are caught or captured, the Secretary will disavow any knowledge of your actions."  
Barry

From hankarn@pacbell.net Sat Aug 24 19:40:52 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: HSN Packing article

Barry your article in the current issue of HSN on packing hits the nail square on the head. If the people that are shipping would adhere to your guide lines then we could use the BW for other subjects.

I make up custom 500#DW Stapled boxes for shipping the R39XX etc. using polyethylene foam. and I have one box that has made 4 round trips to Ft. Worth plus 3 local RT's and is still very serviceable. UPS says a 500#DW RSC is good for 150 pounds.

Most guys cry like a wet baby with the price. The ones that have used them, love them.

REF: UPS Claims. I have lost one claim to UPS in 22 years and that lady has been gone for over 20 years. Be firm with a REP. not a gum chewer on the 800 number. Follow all of their guidelines and they will pay promptly out of Ft. Worth. All claims are filed by FAX. THE SHIPPER IS THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN FILE THE CLAIM "PERIOD"

FYI UPS NOW CONTROLS THE CRUMMY MBE PACKING FRANCHISE COMPANY

DO NOT EXPECT ANY BETTER SERVICE OR PRICING THEY ARE STILL BEHIND THE EIGHT BALL. Hank KN6DI

From asolway@sympatico.ca Sat Aug 24 19:55:44 2002  
Subject: [R390] Pricing Help on Adler R390A I must be lucky .... #2

wrote: > Actually Rodney, I think the conventional wisdom is that the modules will > have serial numbers that are very close together, but not necessarily the > same. If they are close then you probably have an original unit that has not > been through Depot maintenance. > 73 > Harry KG5LO: >

Hi All.

My 2 cents worth. In my experience with manufacturing in the military environment one of the Quality Assurance requirements was a document called a Configuration and Serialization List. This document listed serial numbers, manufacturing history, test data, drawing revisions etc. of each module that made up the item being shipped. These modules usually came from a pool of modules and were drawn at random for integration into the final item. As a result it is highly unlikely that modules in any final item would have matching serial numbers. Serial numbers would usually be applied at a level of assembly when test data, by module, would be a QA requirement. So at time of shipment serial numbers of particular final item is known but at the first overhaul this would be lost.

The R390 series of radios was designed in a modular fashion to make field and depot repair simple and fast. Modules could be then repaired at leisure without affecting radio down time. So to have a mix of module serial numbers and manufactures in any radio is proof of the original radio reliability design objectives.

I don't know what kind of manufacturing QA requirements were required in the 50s. My experience dates to the late 60s. Also excuse my terminology for field and depot repair, it may not be appropriate. AI VE2TAS

From DAVEINBHAM@aol.com Sat Aug 24 22:27:21 2002  
Subject: [R390] ReCap Kits & Pay Pal

Fellow R390A Drivers,

Last week I got a request from a member of this list who wanted to buy a ReCap kit and pay for it with Pay Pal. That was the first such request in the nearly 2 years I have been doing the ReCap kits. He even agreed to add an amount to cover the fee charged by Pay Pal. I told him I would ask the list how y'all felt about that request.

So, would y'all be interested in Pay Pal or credit card purchases? The price of the ReCap kit would, of course, have to go up a couple or three bucks to cover the charges. Right now I do not know exactly how much the increase would be but I want to find out how you, my customers, feel about this before going further. Biological Instruments has been in business since 1987 and never offered credit card ordering because each sale is usually in the kilodollar range and orders come as purchase orders from big universities or research companies.

Speaking of prices, I will probably have to increase them by a couple of bucks soon anyway. Postage has gone up and capacitor prices, which have been almost steady for the last twenty years, are beginning to creep up. Particularily tantalum. Fortunately there is only one tantalum in the R390A ReCap kit.

Last week I piggybacked an order for more ReCap kit capacitors onto an order for the company. You might want to think about getting your ReCap kit now before the price goes up. I have capacitors for 15 inthecan kits and 25 underthechassis kits in stock. ready for immediate shipment.

In summary, are you interested in Pay Pal or credit cards ? Please reply directly to me and not to the list. Just a message with " Yes Pay Pal" or " No Pay Pal " will do nicely.

" Thank you" to those who have bought a ReCap kit for your R390A and also "Thank you" to everyone on the list for all the knowledge and occasional humor I have enjoyed here over the last few years.

Kindest regards, Dave

R390A capacitor kit.

I have put together a ReCap kit for the R390A.

It consists of:

(13) 0.1 ufd 600V C256, C309, C504, C505, C517, C521, C528, C531, C536, C538, C543, C547, C548

(7) 0,033 ufd 600V C275, C529, C533, C534, C541, C545, C602

(7) 0.01 ufd 600V C549, C553, C601, C604, C605, C607, C608

( The above are Orange Drops or equivelent. )

(3) 30 ufd 300 v electrolytic C603A, C603B, C603C

(2) 47 ufd 300 v electrolytic C606A, C606B

( The above electrolytics have axial leads. You can wire them under the chassis and leave the originals in place to retain stock apperance. Or you can order capicators small enough to fit inside the cans of C603 & C606. Just remember you will have to deal with the Dreaded Black Ukkumpucky to get the guts out of the cans of C603 & C606. If you do not specify at time of your order, the under the chassis capacitors will be shipped.)

Finally, one each of :

0.047 ufd 100v C227

8 ufd 30v tantalum electrolytic C609

50 ufd 50 v electrolytic C103

0.22 ufd 100 v C101

I cannot find a source for:

2 ufd 500v C551 oil filled paper

so, I will include a very high quality poly cap. I have installed one of these in one of my R390A's and I can say I cannot hear any difference. They work great. This is the AGC capacitor.

The price for this recap kit is \$80.00 US funds. Price includes UPS or US post delivery.

From ko6bb@juno.com Sat Aug 24 23:51:22 2002  
Subject: [R390] They followed me home <GRIN>.

Hello all.

Well, today Don and I drove up to Palo Alto and picked up our R390A's. Both turned out to be EAC units from the FR36039N00189 (E) Contract. SN's 6137 and 3715.

I haven't fired em up yet as I believe in the old adage, "Haste makes waste", especially in regards to old tube gear.

QUESTION 1: Seeing as how these units have the rectifier tubes in place, how high do I need to bring the Variac before they will start conducting enough to start forming the caps, at least some?

They are both in good condition, with meters, all covers and so forth. The #3735 "looks" much nicer on the front panel, has IEC tube shields, regulator tube etc. As I haven't pulled them yet, I'm not sure if all the modules in either unit are original or not. BOTH units have the 26Z5 rectifiers in place rather than sandstate devices. Not sure how good they are.

Don has already told me that I can pickNchoose modules to make myself a 'Best' set as he know mine will get a lot of use.

QUESTION 2: One unit has what appears to be a Collins PTO, the other a Cosmos unit. Assuming they both work well, which one should I put in "my keeper"?

I intend to run both units up and give them a thorough checkout before doing a complete recap. They were supposed to both be playing when put in storage two years ago, though he said both had problems on certain bands. 73 de Phil KO6BB

From root@al.tirevold.name Sun Aug 25 01:48:05 2002  
Subject: [R390] Fresh 'Pearls'

WeiLi has submitted an updated set of "Pearls of Wisdom" gleaned from the R390A reflector.

They can be perused at <http://www.r390a.net/Pearls> Enjoy! Al

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Sun Aug 25 02:32:39 2002  
Subject: [R390] They followed me home <GRIN>.

Hi Phil

Yeah, those radios have a way of finding you, don't they. ;)

> Hello all. >> Well, today Don and I drove up to Palo Alto and picked up our R390A's. > Both turned out to be EAC units from the FR36039N00189 (E) Contract. > SN's 6137 and 3715. >> I haven't fired em up yet as I believe in the old adage, "Haste makes > waste", especially in regards to old tube gear.

That's true I violated the indoor rauchen verboten rule twice in one month after no smokers for a few

years due to skipping the pre-nuptials. However, one was WWII vintage tube a BC314 which took a drag on a resistor (If you got 'em, smoke 'em.) and the other was a 70's vintage HP scope solid state. Can't find what puffed on that yet. The older SS stuff is starting to show the equivalent of black beauties like dipped tantalums. Take your time, go through the numbers. I violated this and got violated.

> QUESTION 1: Seeing as how these units have the rectifier tubes in place, > how high do I need to bring the Variac before they will start conducting > enough to start forming the caps, at least some?

You can plug in some diodes into the tube sockets temporarily. As I recall, the rectifier tubes don't start conducting until 90 volts, which is a bit too high to truly accomplish a slow resuscitation.

> They are both in good condition, with meters, all covers and so forth. > The #3735 "looks" much nicer on the front panel, has IEC tube shields, > regulator tube etc. As I haven't pulled them yet, I'm not sure if all the > modules in either unit are original or not. BOTH units have the 26Z5 > rectifiers in place rather than solid state devices. Not sure how good > they are.

Test all the tubes before powering up, especially attentive to shorts. As you know, can't do a quality test on shorted tubes or you'll smoke the tube tester.

>

> Don has already told me that I can pick N choose modules to make myself a > 'Best' set as he knows mine will get a lot of use.

That's sporting, and makes sense. Only problem is with your extreme DX'ing, you'll probably suck in all the signals on the Left Coast through your sloper and leave nothin' for nobody else. ;)

>

> QUESTION 2: One unit has what appears to be a Collins PTO, the other a > Cosmos unit. Assuming they both work well, which one should I put in "my > keeper"?

The Cosmos is probably newer, but ... get some other opinions.

> I intend to run both units up and give them a thorough checkout before > doing a complete recap. They were supposed to both be playing when put > in storage two years ago, though he said both had problems on certain > bands.

Open up the xtal deck and check that all the crystals are there and firm in their sockets. Also DeOxide the pins and the socket contacts. Some of these, particularly the EAC, have a tendency to loosen up. They can be tightened by pressing down on the biting edges to make, in effect, the hole smaller. Lately, I've come across a number of bad crystals. Refer to the xtal usage chart or xtal deck schematic for which xtals apply to which bands. Most all are used on more than one. Also, the trimmers may be oxidized a bit, and just touching them will bring the band back to life. Or it's something else, like the mech. synch/alignment but check the xtals and trimmers first.

Good tweaking! (Are you going to rig yours for "lowfering"?) Barry

From Jim Shorney" < Sun Aug 25 06:36:55 2002

Subject: [R390] R390 story

Someone was asking for R390 stories. This one is from my good friend Wayne, KE0BZ. When asked why he doesn't do CW anymore, he says he got burned out on it. Wonder why...



BEGIN FORWARDED MESSAGE =====

R390 stories?

Well the most memorable involved a stunt I used to do back in the Navy down in Panama in 1970.

As a Communications Technician, my job was to spend most of my time copying code using a couple of rack mount R390A's. The headphone outputs were wired up to a stereo headphone jack that was switched so we could listen to either receiver or both (one in each ear). All our code copying was done on an old manual typewriter. After a few months you got to where code was so automatic that it did not even register in your head, if you heard a *didah*, your left pinky finger automatically hit the "A" key, and so on.

Whenever we got a new guy fresh out of school, someone would bring the newbie around to watch me work. They would see me there with my feet up, listening to the code station on one side of my headphones, listening to some good rock and roll on the other side (usually Radio Nederlands), copying code on the typewriter with one hand, holding a cup of coffee in the other hand, and talking to the visitors all at the same time (and getting perfect code copy at about 15 groups a minute). Talk about multitasking! Needless to say, this always got the new guy nervous. There is my big story. Wayne

From billsmith@ispwest.com Sun Aug 25 07:56:36 2002  
Subject: [R390] Fw: Need Carrier Meter

Hi, here is a picture of a VU meter which needs to be replaced with the proper carrier meter in an R390A. This is for a receiver at the Hamilton Wireless Association Club (<http://www.k6bw.org>) Does anyone have a purpose for this meter, or a carrier meter they would like to trade?

VU Meter Pix is at: <http://members.ispwest.com/hbcs/mars/08240056.jpg>

73 de Bill, AB6MT billsmith@ispwest.com

From tony@bright.net Sun Aug 25 13:39:58 2002  
Subject: [R390] Adler Pricing Thanks!

Hey Guys,

Thanks for the advice you offered on pricing my Adler R390A. I'm going to take some time to check over the set soon. 73, Tony W8HRO

From DCrespy@aol.com Sun Aug 25 13:54:02 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: R390 digest, Vol 1 #364 2 msgs

Bill,

One of my R390A's is running that meter. I installed it. I got it at Fair radio years ago, along with my first R390A. Unfortunately, I do not know what it came from. It was a loose meter in one of their bins when I picked it out.

I have done side by side comparisons with both used original and correct NOS meters. The meter that you have reads correctly as installed in an R390A. That is, a 3dB reading on that meter corresponds to a 3dB reading on an original/NOS meter, and so on. I'd clean it up, paint it and use it! If not, let me know, I'd be interested in buying it! 73 Harry KG5LO

From Llgpt@aol.com Sun Aug 25 14:09:18 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 story

writes: << Someone was asking for R390 stories. This one is from my good friend Wayne, KE0BZ. When asked why he doesn't do CW anymore, he says he got burned out on it. Wonder why... And, a good one. father was a teletype and crypto technician during the 40's through the 60's. We were stationed overseas most of my teen years. Maany times I would go with him to Chicksands or Menwith Hill (England) and see literally dozens of operators wearing headsets while carrying on conversations, drinking coffee, smoking cigarettes and typing out messages. And they thought they were normal??

A good friend who was a Naval Intelligence high speed code intercept operator during WW2 tells me the same stories. He told me another interesting story.....ZZZZZZ

WAKE UP!!!!!! This is a good tale:

He was in Tokyo harbor for the signing of the peace treaty. He and others were sent aboard japanese ships (what was left) to remove communications equipment to send back stateside for examination. They had copies of the National HRO's, right down to the diamond with the "N" in it. Ya gotta love 'em! Then he was due to be discharged, and was asked if he would like to make some good money.....he thought about it and said yes. He was discharged from the Navy, sent to China and got a crash course in Chinese. They were then sent to a listening site near Russia, given Hammarlund SuperPro's, had literally miles of wire antennas. Using wire recorders they copied the russians in the clear for a year. Once a week a C47 would land and drop off supplies and pick up the rells of wire tapes. Once a month he was given \$1,000.00 in american dollars. At the end of the year, he came back and went to four years of college in Louisiana, he attained a degree as an EE and ME. He is still kicking and is quite fond of R390's.

Les Locklear " That's my story and I'm sticking to it "

From DCrespy@aol.com Sun Aug 25 14:37:32 2002  
Subject: [R390] They followed me home <GRIN>.

Phil, a few notes (I hope will supplement Barry's good advice):

>

> QUESTION 1: Seeing as how these units have the rectifier tubes in place, > how high do I need to bring the Variac before they will start conducting > enough to start forming the caps, at least some?

You can reform the caps outside the unit. I think this is easier, especially for the plug in caps found in mil receivers. Let the cap charge through a 10 to 30 K , 5+ watt resistor, connected to a 200 to 300 volt DC source. If you watch the voltage across the cap. It will rise very slowly as the cap reforms. Leave it on this rig for an hour or so. Then discharge it, plug it in and fire up the rig. BE VERY CAREFUL, A CHARGED CAP IS VERY DANGEROUS (experience based advice!).

> QUESTION 2: One unit has what appears to be a Collins PTO, the other a > Cosmos unit. Assuming

they both work well, which one should I put in "my > keeper"?

Cosmos can be externally adjusted for linearity. Collins requires a special fixture to set up the "corrector stack". I'd go with the Cosmos, long term.

> I intend to run both units up and give them a thorough checkout before > doing a complete recap. They were supposed to both be playing when put > in storage two years ago, though he said both had problems on certain > bands.

Regarding recapping. If the radios used Black Beauty plastic encased caps or their Brown equivalents, then I'd go ahead and replace them. I find some of them cracked allowing moisture to screw up the paper dielectric. If they are the metal and glass versions, I've had yet to find a bad one. Frankly, in either case, in my R388 / R390A (and other Collins) restorations I have had more trouble with defective postage stamp micas, than with the coupling/bypass caps most folks replace. Look for bad mica caps anywhere they are in the B+ line (in plate circuits).

Regarding trouble with certain bands, you got some great advice from Barry on this. Check the band crystals, their connections and their trimmers. Also, if the problem is all bands below 8MHz, it is the crystal oscillator on the RF deck. Good luck and 73 Harry KG5LO

From vze2gmp4@verizon.net Sun Aug 25 16:11:17 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 stories

I was stationed in the Canal Zone with "NickelDeuce" Signal company. When in the field, which was most of the time I would borrow an unused R392, which we had mounted on the back of our jeeps. (T150, and two R392's setup I forgot it's nomenclature). By one or two in the morning it was no problem receiving WABC-AM. It was great listening real news and songs and such from "the world".

One day one of our company cooks asked what I was listening to and I told him. He asked if I could get some powerhouse Nashville station and so we tuned in. Same thing, guy was happy as hell to hear something from home. He came by just about every morning for a listen. Boy, did I ever get some great breakfasts delivered by an orderly after that. Regards, Helm. WB2ADT

From wf2u@starband.net Sun Aug 25 17:02:44 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 stories

The transmitter is a T195 and the complete R392/T195 set is the AN/GRC19. 73, Meir WF2U Landrum, SC

From ody@radicus.net Sun Aug 25 20:24:35 2002  
Subject: [R390] Tubes

I wonder if there is a book that will teach me enough about tubes to understand them a little better. I have recently been buying tubes on line and some of the descriptions are too much for me to understand. Such as " getters" and stuff like that. There are several different styles of 5814a's. One auction has 3 different types in it.

I'm sure there is something in the on line manual but... I am using a dial up modem and can't keep the

phone tied up for a long period of time. I also want the book as a reference to use as I have this box of almost 150 tubes and want to throw out the TV tubes if there are any. Thanks, Scott

From vze2gmp4@verizon.net Sun Aug 25 21:03:11 2002  
Subject: [R390] Tubes

>I wonder if there is a book that will teach me enough about tubes >to >understand them a little better. I have recently been buying tubes >on line and some of the descriptions are too much for me to >understand.

That's an easy question, but could be hard to answer. Old electronic text books are good. Looking around my book shelf over here I'd say an easy start would be something like the RCA receiving tube manual, any of the various editions, reprints are available. The first 60 or so pages are on tube basics. It is also presumed that you've got some electron theory under your belt. It does make for a better understanding. After that the skies the limit on book learning. Radiotron Handbook is excellent. I'd stay away from 90% of web sources. Most of what I read makes me blanch. That's one curse of the web...too easy to communicate knowledge, including garbage, which often comes out the other end as gospel. One thing I do know is you can never learn enough about electronics and it can be enjoyable. Regards, Helm.

From ronhunsi@ptd.net Sun Aug 25 21:11:46 2002  
Subject: [R390] Chuck Rippel

All of the Chuck Rippel web pages seem to be gone.

A trip to [www.r390a.com](http://www.r390a.com) is a site about train watching. [www.r390a.net](http://www.r390a.net) is the FRQ page. [www.r390a.com](http://www.r390a.com) does not exist. [www.r390a.net](http://www.r390a.net) does not exist either. And links to the individual Rippel stuff seem to be broken too. Any idea what's up? Ron Hunsicker

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Sun Aug 25 21:44:22 2002  
Subject: [R390] Chuck Rippel

He had a serious lightning strike that took out his computers and some other stuff. He's lucky it didn't get him!! He's working on getting it all back up now. Joe

From Barry Hauser" <[barry@hausernet.com](mailto:barry@hausernet.com)> Sun Aug 25 21:51:36 2002  
Subject: [R390] Chuck Rippel

Ron & gang:

The first one which brings up the train site should be Chuck's. Could be a DNS problem. The Domain Name Servers are where the indexes are kept which translate a domain name such as "r390a.com" into an IP address in the form ###.###.###.###. If Chuck's site has a static IP address, you could probably reach it that way if you knew what it was. Another possibility is that Chuck's virtual web host provider has his site mixed up with another client's. I tried initially to copy Chuck on this at his @home email address and it rejected. Had to take it out. Does someone have another email address for him or nearby to phone and let him know? Barry

From Llgpt@aol.com Sun Aug 25 22:09:24 2002  
Subject: [R390] Chuck Rippel

writes: <The first one which brings up the train site should be Chuck's. Could be a DNS problem. >

Chuck is a devoted Railfan. This might explain what is presently up there. I'm sure it is temporary and is only up there while he updates the R390A/URR site. Les Locklear

From Jim Shorney" < Sun Aug 25 23:56:20 2002  
Subject: [R390] Tubes

wrote: >want to throw out the TV tubes if there are any.

I wouldn't. There are vintage TV collectors out there too. Ebay them and make yourself a couple of bucks.

From ko6bb@juno.com Sun Aug 25 23:26:13 2002  
Subject: [R390] Both R390A's Play!

Hello all.

More info on those two R390A's that followed me home yesterday. I plugged a temporary diode into one of the rectifier sockets and slowly brought the variac up to about 60 Volts and let the caps get used to that. I then plugged the rectifiers back in and finished bringing it on up to rated Voltage. I didn't spend much time forming em as they are all going to be replaced by below chassis filters anyway.

I then connected speaker and 'antenna' (6 foot wire) to each receiver in turn. BOTH sets played on all bands as evidenced by the calibrator and lots of stations.

NOTE 1: These are the two "cleanest" R390A's that have ever crossed my bench 8^)! The last three consisted of a Collins followed by two Motorola units. They were all very grimy before I started work, in fact the last Motorola unit had "burnt" behind the front panel and had to have the terminal board replaced and some wires repaired. These both are "quite clean", harnesses look new, in fact below decks look like they just came out of the EAC plant. Naturally topside is a little dirtier (mostly dust etc). Both gear trains are the cleanest I've seen come in, though BOTH will receive a thorough solvent cleaning to remove any hardened grease.

NOTE 2: The unit I have chosen to keep for myself has the following SN's bottomside (all EAC). The topside modules all have EAC inspection stamps (can't see S/N labels yet) so I suspect it is an all EAC unit. I'll know more once I dig into the topside. I'm doing bottomside work first. 73 de Phil KO6BB

From DAVEINBHAM@aol.com Sun Aug 25 23:48:03 2002  
Subject: [R390] ReCap Kits & and the Pay Pal vote

Fellow R390A Drivers,

The vote is in on Pay Pal and I am suprised !!! A full 90% want Pay Pal. A couple of guys made rather elegant arguments for keeping it like it has always been. So, I am gonna attempt to do both. So I signed

up for it. So let's try it out. I told you there would be an additional fee to cover this service, but Pay Pal says I can't do that. So, as of now the ReCap kits just went up \$5. I offer a \$5 discount on the new price for those who send a check in the mail. If you pay by Pay Pal, please add \$5 to the prices below. I will get a new price list typed up soon. There is more than one way to skin a cat.

Send your Pay Pal orders to BiologicalInst@aol.com and your checks to the address below.

I am curious to see how this works. Kindest regards, Dave

I have put together a ReCap kit for the R390A. It consists of:

(13) 0.1 ufd 600V C256, C309, C504, C505, C517, C521, C528, C531, C536, C538, C543, C547, C548

(7) 0.033 ufd 600V C275, C529, C533, C534, C541, C545, C602

(7) 0.01 ufd 600V C549, C553, C601, C604, C605, C607, C608

( The above are Orange Drops or equivalent. )

(3) 30 ufd 300 v electrolytic C603A, C603B, C603C

(2) 47 ufd 300 v electrolytic C606A, C606B

( The above electrolytics have axial leads. You can wire them under the chassis and leave the originals in place to retain stock appearance. Or you can order capacitors small enough to fit inside the cans of C603 & C606. Just remember you will have to deal with the Dreaded Black Ukumpucky to get the guts out of the cans of C603 & C606. If you do not specify at time of your order, the under the chassis capacitors will be shipped.)

Finally, one each of :

0.047 ufd 100v C227

8 ufd 30v tantalum electrolytic C609

50 ufd 50 v electrolytic C103

0.22 ufd 100 v C101

I cannot find a source for: 2 ufd 500v C551 oil filled paper

so, I will include a very high quality poly cap. I have installed one of these in one of my R390A's and I can say I cannot hear any difference. They work great. This is the AGC capacitor.

The price for this recap kit is \$80.00 US funds. Price includes UPS or US post delivery. Canada and Mexico US\$85. Western Europe, South America and Pacific rim US\$90, rest of world US\$93. All sent airmail if possible. ALABAMA RESIDENTS MUST ADD US\$3 STATE SALES TAX.

Send orders to:

Dave Holder

Biological Instruments, Inc.

820 South 29 th. Street

Birmingham, Alabama 352051004

USA

Payment may be check or US currency.

From larry.asp@sympatico.ca Mon Aug 26 02:04:30 2002  
Subject: [R390] Tubes

wrote: > >I wonder if there is a book that will teach me enough about tubes to understand them a little better.

Get an old copy of an ARRL "Radio Amateurs Handbook" from the 50s. That's one of the best resources there is / was then and now. They are easy to find too. Be careful though you might wing up starting a collection.

From vze2gmp4@verizon.net Mon Aug 26 03:03:09 2002  
Subject: [R390] Tubes

Silly me...I only have 7 copies of different years sitting in my library. Yes excellent source regards, Helm.

From Lester.Veenstra@lmco.com Mon Aug 26 13:11:53 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 story

In general, Manual Morse training for CTR types at NTTC Pensacola (Corry Station) was so brutal that few of them had the least interest in the ham club activities. Les (K1YCM/3 CTM1)

From hankarn@pacbell.net Mon Aug 26 19:13:03 2002  
Subject: [R390] REF: Solid State R390

I acquired a solid state conversion of a R390A over the weekend. R390T by Telelabs. Home brew IF deck, PS, Audio module. Collins PTO, Original Motorola unit, XTAL OSC. and RF deck, but unit has plug in SS devices in most of tube sockets. Original antenna relay. No LL meter.

AGC is bad, audio so so. Carrier meter is add on, Stamped panel and knobs are in good shape, painted off gray. Workmanship is OK. I do not have a place to post pictures. Hank KN6DI

From w7itc@hotmail.com Tue Aug 27 01:25:14 2002  
Subject: [R390] Chuck Rippel

I pinged his URL and it came back 65.89.93.18 however this goes to the outfit that is hosting his site. If you are curious the qth.net numeric address is 63.238.179.180 Kenneth W7ITC

From gfgitz34@gitznet.net Tue Aug 27 01:33:19 2002  
Subject: [R390] 9 pin plugs/headers

Hi R390X owners,

I noticed a recent thread on 9 pin plugs/headers, and a few suggestions on how to kludge them up using

tube sockets and extender wires. I may have a better solution.

A while back a local surplus electronics outfit had a bin with lots of bakelite 9 pin plugs, complete with screw on bakelite cover, as in "plug for a cable which won't get moved very often.

I'm using these for the diodes I used to "soiled state" the 26Z5s in my 390A, and also to provide a bypass for the ballast, since I'm using 12BA6s for the PTO and BFO.

So what's my point? I want to see how much interest R390X owners might have in these plugs/headers before I drive over to see if they have any remaining. Cost would be moderate; shipping would probably be more expensive. If you're interested in maybe five 9 pin plugs at reasonable cost, please let me know. <gfgitz34 @ gitznet. net> Regards, Gary

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Tue Aug 27 01:33:39 2002  
Subject: [R390] PTO

I dropped the front panel and set the endpoints through the access hole to within 50 HZ. The linearity is not so close. It is 530 Hz off at 250 on the KHZ dial, 600 off at 500 on the KHZ dial and 60 HZ off at 750 KHz on the dial. Is it worth messing with the linearity?? or is this pretty good. It is a Dubrow PTO. Scott

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Tue Aug 27 01:39:21 2002  
Subject: [R390] RF deck gear train rebuild

I promised about a dozen of you a CD copy of my rebuild pictures. I have added arrows pointing to where each gear goes and some text explaining what is going on and how to align the RF bandswitch. I will be sending them out in about a week or so. I have 2 extra mailers if anyone else wants a copy. Scott

From anchor@ec.rr.com Tue Aug 27 02:10:34 2002  
Subject: [R390] PTO

Hi agn, Scott,

If I got one that close, I sure wouldn't mess with the linearity stuff, I'd probably make it worse, and get real frustrated in the process. I think one of the guys I pal with at Shelby 'fest, who's into 390's real deep, had tried it once upon a time, I don't remember now what he said abt it. I've been into a cupla the smaller, R388 PTO's, I wouldn't try it there. I know there's a cupla systems. 73, A1, W8UT

From ko6bb@juno.com Tue Aug 27 03:54:50 2002  
Subject: [R390] No "Depot Dawg"

Hello again.

Well, today I pulled the IF and RF decks out of my "new" R390A to start recapping and refurbing them. As it turns out, all modules (and rear panel) are EAC with SN's ranging between 7125 and 9961.

Knowing how the depots tended to just throw everything in large bins (or whatever) and slap the R390A's back together using whatever modules were ready to install, I highly suspect that this unit has never been through depot maintainance. The only thing not EAC is the PTO, which is Collins. I may put the Cosmos PTO in this unit if I can get endpoints etc set correctly.



I got the transmission cleaned up really nice today (it wasn't very grimy anyway). Removed all the coils and cleaned em, "Caiged" the sockets for the coils. Cleaned the roller bearings on the slug racks etc. Got all that back together and the whole mechanism is much, much smoother and easier tuning now. It won't go back in the mainfrance until all the modules are completed, just in case I "forgot" something.

Question 1: The RF and IF decks only have a couple of the "Brown Beauties", which naturally will be replaced. The rest are either flat Yellow Aerovox units that "look" relatively modern, or the "West Cap" metal/glass types. I've heard these were relatively reliable. Are they???

Question 2: I've used DeOxit D5 on the bandswitch wafers in previous restorations, but have since read (somewhere) that it can swell the phenolic somewhat and cause trouble. The Xtal Oscillator switch looks like phenolic or bakelite (brown) while the RF deck switch wafers are green (Fiberglass?) Any truth in this? 73 de Phil KO6BB

From JamesMiller20@worldnet.att.net Tue Aug 27 04:46:18 2002  
Subject: [R390] No "Depot Dawg"

I don't believe there is any downside to having a so called depot dog. The 390a was specified by the government and designed to be modular for maintainability. The swapping of modules was expected, and the specification requirements demanded that modularity and maintainability. Therefore, an R390 that has a mix of modules while still meeting government specs. is actually living proof of the excellent design for modularity. An R390a is an R390a regardless of who made the modules.

After all, just because they swap assemblies and engines between Space Shuttles certainly doesn't make it a depot dog! It proves its worth.

From ko6bb@juno.com Tue Aug 27 06:09:00 2002  
Subject: [R390] No "Depot Dawg"

> I don't believe there is any downside to having a so called depot dog.

I know that 8^). In fact, if one were to have a whole warehouse full of modules and could "cherry pick" he could probably end up with a better unit than the ones that are "all original". I was fortunate enough once to have 3 sets of Xtals and I was able to match them up very closely so that particular set had very little frequency variation from band to band. 73 de Phil KO6BB

From hankarn@pacbell.net Tue Aug 27 06:49:36 2002  
Subject: [R390] No "Depot Dawg"

James,

Very well said, but you will never get it across to the DIEHARDS that no pure R39XX exists as they were never meant to be. they were as you said TOTALLY INTERCHANGEABLE..

Someone please show me a truly virgin M1, Duice & 1/2, Any make of car, boat, airplane, TV, any S line etc. etc. on & on, They are all made to be swapped out, replaced, overhauled.

S/N tags, cards etc are made solely for the purpose of keeping track of parts, modules, units and yes

even people. What was your S/N in the service? any one else have the same number? No Way. Mine was 25420362 can anyone match it? No way.. Collins R390 S/N 1 with all modules # ! or any other combination. You are smoking very funny stuff.. Have some Di Gel to feed your ulcer. Hank KN6DI

From eengineer@erols.com Tue Aug 27 09:52:20 2002  
Subject: [R390] James Skladany on the list?

James, are you on the list? Please send me your email. Jeff

From ham@cq.nu Tue Aug 27 07:49:43 2002  
Subject: [R390] No "Depot Dawg"

Hi,

I guess this is what makes it a hobby. I would vote with you a unit that is "all original" is slightly cooler than one with mixed modules. That's not to say better or more functional, just cooler. Needless to say this issue has come up before. Of course with very few exceptions (say 10 radios) there is no way to \*ever\* prove that a radio is original so you never really know.

The metal/glass package capacitors are better than the black plastic package ones. The yellow plastic wrapped ones are Mylar (or similar) with a plastic insulation. About the only disadvantage to the yellow ones is that when you hit them with a soldering iron they melt.

The thing that makes the black or brown caps a problem is that the insulation is paper (or paper with mica in it). The stuff soaks up humidity and then they get leaky. The whole process really gets going when the case splits open.

Leaky capacitors aren't all that hard to check. You can use a fairly simple setup. Get as sensitive a meter dc meter as you can find. A good old Weston or Simpson analog meter works well. If you can find something in the 10 or 20 ua range that should do. Then set up about a 100 volt power supply. Stacking two 48 volt units is one approach. One microampere at 100 volts works out to 100 meg ohms. A 10 meg ohm series resistor will keep you from blowing out the meter. New from the old box plastic capacitors will all read "no deflection" on the meter. Every black or brown body cap I have ever checked reads at least a couple of micro amps.

If you have a doubt about a type of capacitor find one that you can pull one end on. Hook up the tester and see what it reads. If it's ok then solder that end back in. On the truly bad stuff you won't be able to find one good one .....

Both the green and brown switch wafers will soak up deoxit. The brown ones swell up a bit more, but they both retain the stuff. In either case it's probably not a good thing, but nether are dirty contacts.

One thing you might do while you have the RF deck out of the radio meg out the AGC line and see what it reads. I have never tried it but each time I put a deck back in I kick my self for not thinking of it. I have no idea what it should read, but the schematic should be fairly easy to follow. Enjoy! Bob Camp KB8TQ

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Tue Aug 27 16:50:04 2002

Subject: [R390] Broke 390

My Friends,

As pointed out by a few, I could have just waited till someone asked for an item, and then contacted them ...but I wouldn't have all this nice mail to answer, and all the fine comments and remembrances,...

The knob is gone...The meter almost so.. 'tho I still have the extra tube tester...brought from the source on Sat...cost \$8...who needs it..(Eico, I believe 667) Must be painted, but works fine..Have a few other small parts I will mention after I check them...Free to good home AND NEED....

Also the scanner, who wants it? Cost me \$5.. Its an older Regency..works fine...Still have a Konel trans. in terrible cond.. will have to throw out soon..You see, my wife thinks I was dropped on my head a few too many times in my babyiage..(Could be, for that matter), and she can't see my keeping the old junk when we must simplify life in order to go on..(She doesn't complain about her junk however... funny that...)

Thanks to a few asking again for info on SSB the old way, and about harmonic considerations..I will prepare something on this and put it on the reflector when I have time..It is of historical interest, at least...I also want to again thank those prior mil. who wrote.. I lost a few addresses, but will try again to get together a group of vets interested in communications and mil. ops. I still have mail from many of you detailing your training, in particular on the 390 series, and on heavy trans. equip. as well. I believe such material is of prime importance to this list, and I thank those who have given your experiences. If any who have not contacted me are out there, feel free to do so... I love reading such material..I will also try to get something together on field probs and comm. for battalion and Regimental groupings..I used to have some, but can't find it..A few were interested..

I do wonder if others are around...I know, for myself, I take off on a tangent, and get lost for a while, but I come back...Where are some others, 3,4,5 years ago and more...Jerry, Paul and others...Chuck..Bill..They may pop up at any time, I suppose..

You see, I have prob. a thousand or more pages run off. I lay in bed reading the old material, and threads.. (I used to do this long before I joined the reflector.) There is so much there of interest, and so many of the people we no longer hear from..are they Silent Keys?? for some we will never know...(I know one I was wondering about ..Ron, are you out there??)

In the meantime, I want to thank you all for your thoughtfulness..Argent memories prevail, and I hear my friends who are gone, in full carillon calling by way of the 390 and its' child...And yet the true suzerainty of the 390 remains...and so it will be... My Best Regards, John

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Tue Aug 27 16:58:57 2002  
Subject: [R390] Stories

LES, JIM, and Any Others, Wonderful stories...Please keep them coming..!! John

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Tue Aug 27 17:05:33 2002  
Subject: [R390] Serial #

Yeah, Hank, mines 14759154...I'm older...((??))

Will drop you a line 'bout meter..still catching up on mail.. Regards, John

From ko6bb@juno.com Tue Aug 27 21:10:35 2002  
Subject: [R390] Slug rack question

Hello

I'm putting the final touches on this RF deck. I went to the 7+0000 position and notice I have two cams that are off a little. the 4.08.0 cam is probably off by about 1/4-3/8 inches. The 16-32 cam is probably about 1/4" or a little less off. Never had to correct one of these before. I 'presume' that I just loosen the gear clamp, position the cam where I want it and retighten the clamp?

Also, I don't see any marks visible on the rear two racks. Can these be checked for a "high point" or "low point" at a known frequency? 73 de Phil KO6BB

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Tue Aug 27 22:56:03 2002  
Subject: [R390] Slug rack question

Yes, that's all there is to it!

I used a dental pick to access the little hole in the cam so that I could drag it into alignment.

I think the rear cams are run off the front cam shafts but I can't remember and my two radios are either in the rack or packed in a box. Joe

From tgrieco@optonline.net Wed Aug 28 00:50:08 2002  
Subject: [R390] Test Equipment pricing

Could anyone direct me to a site where I could get an idea of pricing on alot of test equipment I acquired in an estate sale. Mostly older/classic gear? Once this is done I will offer for sale priced appropriately.  
Tim k1syn

From ko6bb@juno.com Wed Aug 28 01:31:53 2002  
**Subject: [R390] Slug rack question**

**Thank you. Found out the rear cams are pinned and not adjustable anyway. But I got the two front cams that were off, adjusted. 73 de Phil KO6BB**

From wbreden@tconl.com Wed Aug 28 02:19:14 2002  
Subject: [R390] SP600 Parts Wanted

I am starting to restore an SP600. In addition to being full of black beauties, the radio is missing the audio gain knob and the tuning unit shield cover (the bottom one). If anyone has a spare they would like to sell please let me know. If there is some place I can buy either one, I would appreciate that information also. Thanks and 73, Bill AB0FX

From bill@iaxs.net Wed Aug 28 03:34:18 2002

Subject: [R390] Test Equipment pricing

Me, too.

I have a basement full of what I considered to be classic test equipment, but most people seem to have moved on to sorry state stuff. It seems that the function outweighs the use of thermionic devices.

By classic, I mean HP, GR, Tektronix, etc. No URM stuff, though, and NO tube testers. Bill Hawkins

From Llgpt@aol.com Wed Aug 28 03:39:20 2002

Subject: [R390] Chuck Rippel's web page

Just got off the phone with Chuck. His computers were messed up in a lightning strike. He will have his web page up and running asap. Les

From ko6bb@juno.com Wed Aug 28 17:36:20 2002

Subject: [R390] No "Depot Dawg"

Hi Bob.

Thanks for the good info. As to the "Cool factor". Hey, to someone who grew up during the "Happy Days era" (born Aug '43) "cool" is important 8^) 73 de Phil KO6BB

From ko6bb@juno.com Wed Aug 28 19:38:45 2002

**Subject: [R390] Them Orange Drops are big....**

Hello all.

Well, I'm perhaps 3/4 of the way through the recapping of my R390A. Even though this receiver had "mostly" either the yellow Aerovox or metal/glass capacitors (With only 3 "Brown Beauties") I decided to go ahead and replace all the paper and 'lytic caps. My philosophy is that 400 and 600 Volt caps are far less likely to fail and cause damage than the 200 and 100 Volt caps that were in the unit. And I already had all the replacements except for the .033uF, 2uF and 'lytics which are on order. And yes, I'm replacing that large oil filled can as two of my previous (Motorola) units had AGC problems associated with this capacitor. I don't wish to take chances as once I put it in the listening post I don't desire to have to constantly pull it out for further troubleshooting.

**But boy, those 400 Volt .1 uF Orange Drops are much larger than the originals. I also had a bunch of 630 Volt "Blue Drops" that I used in many places as they are "flatter" and fit better in many places. In the last 3 R390A's I recapped (1 Collins and 2 Motorolas) I used the little brown capacitors from Mouser and they seem easier to fit in tight places.**

Of course I used a 600 Volt .01uF capacitor for coupling to the mechanical filters. 73 de Phil KO6BB

From ko6bb@juno.com Wed Aug 28 21:59:45 2002

Subject: [R390] Removing painted markings?

Hello.

I'm getting ready to start working on the 2nd R390A (Dons radio) while I'm waiting for my remaining capacitors to arrive.

This unit isn't "quite" as nice as the unit I'm keeping (though much nicer than the last three I had). While I don't intend to really do any cosmetic restoration it does have some small painted areas on the front panel that I'd like to remove. One is a Yellow "CN" stenciled below the carrier meter and the other is the upper left corner that is painted "red" for some odd reason.

Any idea about what these markings may indicate and how to best remove them without damaging the grey paint under them? I have paint remover but am almost certain that would damage the finish and make things worse than leaving it alone.

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Wed Aug 28 22:02:47 2002

**Subject: [R390] Re: Depot Dawg / Capacitor leakage test**

**Philip,**

**In his response to your concerns about capacitors Bob Camp mentioned a setup for leakage testing using power supply, current limiting resistor, and microammeter. Chances are you already have the meter with the current limiting resistor built in. It is your DVM or VTVM (Zin=11 meg). Use the meter in the dc voltage mode. The leakage current can be calculated as Vmeter/10 meg. The good thing about this test is that it is even more sensitive than the one Bob mentioned.**

**For a detailed description (and debate on all facets of R390x capacitors) goto R390a.net. Select References>Pearls of Wisdom>Recapping. On pages 99 and 100 there it will be, along with much other fascinating reading. Drew**

From cbscott@ingr.com Wed Aug 28 22:11:29 2002

Subject: [R390] Removing painted markings?

If it is original paint, it is pretty tough and most cleaners won't hurt it. You can try some of the commercial things like GoofOff or maybe mineral spirits. I wouldn't try anything as harsh as acetone, but ordinary paint thinners are not likely to damage the finish.

CAVEAT: If it is a repaint with Rustoleum, etc., then all bets are off. That stuff dissolves pretty easily. Good luck, Barry(III?) N4BUQ

From ko6bb@juno.com Wed Aug 28 22:12:27 2002

Subject: [R390] Re: Depot Dawg / Capacitor leakage test

Hi Drew.

Yes, I found his remarks interesting (and educational). But I decided to just go ahead and replace them all with higher voltage capacitors for reliability, especially since I had "most" of them in my box of parts that I'd been holding onto for just such a receiver. I have the meter but didn't really have a high Voltage power supply (unless I used the one in the R390A). As I really do intend to keep this one this time I thought I'd spend the extra time to do all I can to make it as reliable as possible. 73 de Phil KO6BB

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Wed Aug 28 22:29:53 2002

Subject: [R390] Test Equipment pricing

Tell me what you have and the condition of the units, and I'll give you my best shot at appraising their worth. 73, Glen Galati KA7BOJ Tacoma, WA

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Wed Aug 28 22:34:57 2002  
Subject: [R390] Removing painted markings?

You might also try rubbing or polishing compound if its not on there real good. Joe

From cbscott@ingr.com Wed Aug 28 22:39:40 2002  
Subject: [R390] Removing painted markings?

Good suggestions. Automotive paste wax may be a first start before going to these "rougher" abrasives. Polishing compound is pretty fine, but rubbing compound can take the shine right off if you're not careful. Barry(III?) N4BUQ

From N4ue@aol.com Wed Aug 28 23:25:09 2002  
Subject: [R390] cheap HV p/s

I have used the HV p/s and VTVM method since Dr. Jerry told me about it. It works perfectly. An excellent HV p/s is the one in the old Heathkit cap checkers. They can be had for almost nothing.....

Unless you check a cap at rated DC voltage, it means little. All the bypass (and some of the coupling) caps in my 75A4 checked perfectly on my NIST calibrated cap tester, (checks value only). They were all nfg at voltage. Yes, it does make a difference! The A4 really sounds perfect now. ron N4UE

From ko6bb@juno.com Thu Aug 29 00:31:03 2002  
Subject: [R390] A tale of two IF decks.

Hello one more. Just pulled the IF deck from Dons R390A. Even before pulling it I "suspected" it was an "older" unit. It is, it's an early Collins IF deck.

So, out of curiosity, I put it next to the '67 EAC IF deck from my receiver. There are many observable differences.

They are...

1. Most noticeable is the lack of filter trimmers on the Collins unit.
2. The Collins appears to be "neater" in it's construction. I.E. The cable harness is much neater, point to point wiring is neater also.
3. The Collins has everything coated with that MFP crap which is going to make recapping a tougher job.
4. The EAC deck had nearly all capacitors of the newer type, I.E. Yellow Aerovox and metal/glass. Only one "Brown beauty". The Collins is full of the BBOD's

I believe this is an example where I'd take the EAC over the Collins every time as it has all the updates.  
73 de Phil KO6BB

From rbethman@comcast.net Thu Aug 29 00:45:15 2002  
Subject: [R390] A tale of two IF decks.

I noticed a couple of other differences between an early Collins IF S/N 35 vs. a '67 EAC IF. The Collins Z503 and the like do NOT have holes in them to allow adjustment.

The early Collins IFs that I saw WITH holes, were obviously NOT done at time of manufacture. It is easy to see that they were drilled out later. They usually have "flashing" around them.

I am guessing, but it was probably done at a later date to align them. Bob N0DGN

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Thu Aug 29 00:50:18 2002  
Subject: [R390] A tale of two IF decks.

wrote: > I noticed a couple of other differences between an > usually have "flashing" around them.  
++++

This is covered in the manual! The first step to doing an alignment is to punch holes in those cans. Joe

From Llgpt@aol.com Thu Aug 29 01:32:34 2002  
Subject: [R390] A tale of two IF decks.

writes: << Hello one more. Just pulled the IF deck from Dons R390A. Even before pulling it I "suspected" it was an "older" unit. It is, it's an early Collins IF deck.

So, out of curiosity, I put it next to the '67 EAC IF deck from my receiver. There are many observable differences.

They are...

1. Most noticeable is the lack of filter trimmers on the Collins unit.

Standard, Phil, the early Collins and mororola units wer like this.

2. The Collins appears to be "neater" in it's construction. I.E. The cable harness is much neater, point to point wiring is neater also.

that's because the EAC chassis were "formed" after the wiring and caps, resistors etc. were added. Then, they were "bent".

3. The Collins has everything coated with that MFP crap which is going to make recapping a tougher job.

That's one reason IMHO they are less desirable.



4. The EAC deck had nearly all capacitors of the newer type, I.E. Yellow Aerovox and metal/glass. Only one "Brown beauty". The Collins is full of the BBOD's

Another reason.....making sense isn't it?????

I believe this is an example where I'd take the EAC over the Collins every time as it has all the updates.  
73 de Phil KO6BB

I have said for many years, that I would prefer anything but a Collins or Motorola in a R390A. It speaks for itself. Les Locklear

From rodney\_bunt@yahoo.com Thu Aug 29 02:45:09 2002  
Subject: [R390] Depot Dawg / Capacitor leakage test

The maximum voltage would be the "battery" inside the DVM say 9v. Only a really bad 200v capacitor would leak at 9v !!!

I have a Heath C3 Capacitance tester, and you can wind up the test volts to 450v and observe leakage on the magic eye tube as "noise" it is interesting to note how much more noise there is as you wind up the volts closer to the operating voltage.

Have a rethink about this as a testing aid. I got the Heath C3 tester on ePay for \$30, best investment I ever made, I have found capacitors that looked OK with the DVM, but were leaky at high voltages. Rodney VK2KTZ

From billsmith@ispwest.com Thu Aug 29 07:32:26 2002  
Subject: [R390] Depot Dawg / Capacitor leakage test

Here is a test I use with the Simpson 370 VOM (what else is there to use with an R390, or any other receiver, for that matter!). It is only a 9volt test, but works well to identify obviously bad caps.

1. Switch the meter to measure x 10,000 ohms (high ohms scale).
2. Put the meter leads across the capacitor (must be at least .01 mfd. or greater value, out of circuit, or in a deadend circuit).
3. Watch for a "kick" as the capacitor charges. If the capacitor is leaky at 9 volts, some resistance will be indicated. Of course it is worse at higher voltages.
4. Disconnect one probe, wait a second or two and connect the probe again. If the meter kicks again, even slightly, internal capacitor leakage has been enough to discharge the capacitor. It is likely bad at higher voltages.
5. This is a quickie test. Best test is at the rated voltage of the capacitor, but the VOM test can save a lot of time. If it fails, the capacitor will always fail the high voltage test.
6. I am not sure tests are all that valuable. I have had sets work well for the first several hours, then capacitors have deteriorated. With few exceptions, if I suspect caps are bad, out they go.

The Vitamin Q caps in the R390 are one of those exceptions, they seem to be holding up fine. Unless manufactured within the last twenty years or so, oil (bathtub) capacitors, however, are now going bad. Have a GR Wave Analyzer with 21 of them. :( 73 de Bill, AB6MT billsmith@ispwest.com

From cbscott@ingr.com Thu Aug 29 14:54:01 2002  
Subject: [R390] Audio Signal Generator question

An HP200CD followed me home from the local hamfest recently. I figured it was worth \$15 since it was working (plus it matches my HP410B). It is a 200CD model. Last night someone was advertising a 200AB on Ebay (a very nicelooking one at that). Is the CD a later version of the AB? Is that only difference? Anyone? Thanks, Barry(III?) N4BUQ

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Thu Aug 29 16:05:16 2002  
Subject: [R390] Broke 390

Friends,

Will send out the meter and knobs..Inq. on the junk complete, and I think I have got an answer to almost (") everybody. Thanks for caring..Wish I had a mess of meters for all..I am letting a MARS sta. have the meter...Feel it will be best.. Will be back Tomorrow, Best Regards, John

From cbscott@ingr.com Thu Aug 29 16:41:39 2002  
Subject: [R390] Audio Signal Generator question

Great...NOW you tell me it has expensive output tubes...sigh. <g> Barry(III?) N4BUQ

From gwmoore@moorefelines.com Thu Aug 29 17:57:51 2002  
Subject: [R390] Info on some websites URL

Does anyone have the URL's for the "R390 Reciever Home on the WWW" it used to be at :<http://www.avslvb.com/R390A/index.html>but it is no longer there I also need the website of the "St Juliens Creek Massacre" Photos.. 73 es tnx de Greg WA3IVX

From jmerritt2@capecod.net Thu Aug 29 18:34:03 2002  
Subject: [R390] Audio Signal Generator question

The "CD" has a balanced, 600 ohm output. The "A" does not. VERY late versions of the "CD" were also very low distortion. This series of HP generators was manufactured for decades, and were very stable and reliable. Suggest that you obtain the correct service / owners manual. Make sure that the manual that you get matches the serial number of your unit, as there were many mods made over the production lifetime of these units. Chuck N1LNH

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Thu Aug 29 18:55:02 2002  
**Subject: [R390] Re: Capacitor Leakage Test**

**Rodney,**

**The leakage test to which I refer is the one mentioned by Dr. Jerry a couple of years ago. The DVM or VTVM is set to the VOLTAGE mode and connected in series with high voltage power supply and capacitor under test. The meter reading is interpreted as leakage current by dividing by the input resistance of the meter. The meter's input resistance serves as a current limiting resistor. The maximum voltage across the capacitor will be that of the power supply minus the meter reading. The meter will read high for leaky, low for nonleaky. If the cap has negligible leakage its voltage will be essentially equal to that of the power supply.**

**This test with a DVM on the 3 volt scale would be very sensitive, having a full scale current of 270 nanoamperes. Drew**

From cbscott@ingr.com Thu Aug 29 19:42:44 2002  
Subject: [R390] Printing DjVu files (was: Audio Signal Generator question)

Does anyone know of a problem printing DjVu files? I downloaded the HP200AB manual from BAMA, but it is in DjVu format. I downloaded the viewer and I can see it just fine, but if I "Print Preview" or "Print", I get a blank page. Is there a setup I missed? Thanks, Barry(III?) N4BUQ

From ai2q@adelphia.net Thu Aug 29 19:45:33 2002  
Subject: [R390] cheap HV p/s

Hi Ron! I read your note with interest, as I own one of those old Heathkit capacitor bridges. It's great for ascertaining values, (although I increasingly find myself using a digital handheld for that purpose these days). Can you kindly tell me how to use the "magic eye" on the Heathkit for testing breakdown and leakage? Might you have the original Heath instructions? Thanks in advance.  
Vy 73, AI2Q, Alex in Maine ...

From cbscott@ingr.com Thu Aug 29 22:24:47 2002  
Subject: [R390] Printing DjVu files (was: Audio Signal Generator question)

Well, if all else fails I SHOULD HAVE READ THE DOCUMENTATION.

I found that one isn't supposed to use the File>Print facility from the browser. Instead, one must use the print icon on the DjVu toolbar. It works now. Thanks to all who replied. Barry(III?) N4BUQ

From rjb@lynden.com Thu Aug 29 22:36:43 2002  
Subject: [R390] Info on some websites URL

Did you try <http://www.r390a.com/> ??

I just tried this and got it okay. 73 Bob

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Thu Aug 29 20:20:39 2002  
Subject: [R390] Audio Signal Generator question

Hello Barry & Crew,

Nice Find on the HP200CD. The 200AB is a lower frequency version (20 Hz to 40KHz) vs 200CD (5 Hz to 600 KHz). This line of Audio Oscillators is one of the best and most popular ever manufactured by HP. Both are Vacuum Tube types with this version in production more years than one can imagine. It was in my 1963 HP Catalog at a cost of \$195 vs \$165 for the 200AB. Output level on the 200 CD is 10 Volts into 600 Ohm Load. The 200 CD is very nice for doing IF alignment and tests and of course for all your audio work. 73, Glen Galati, KA7BOJ

From David\_Wise@Phoenix.com Thu Aug 29 23:18:54 2002  
Subject: [R390] Audio Signal Generator question

ISTR (I Seem To Remember) that the last 200CDs were solidstate. Eh? 73, Dave Wise

From shadow@gilroy.com Thu Aug 29 23:31:00 2002  
Subject: [R390] \*\* Read \*\* URM25D Mod & Notes Dallas Lankford... Mail List / Names

Fellow boat anchor, military and heavy metal radio collectors plus current and X spooks....

Hello..... >From the dot com dead pool of silicon valley....

The following list members have requested the hand written notes and hand drawings from Dallas Lankford about the URM25D.

Make sure you email is on the list.  
Make sure the email address is CORRECT.... Make sure it is a VALID email address. > Remove your SPAM Text.

If you email address in is not listed and you would like a copy.

email > shadow@gilroy.com In the subject line > URM25D Mod and Notes. Shadow

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Fri Aug 30 01:10:44 2002  
Subject: [R390] Audio Signal Generator question

I'M DEFINITELY A "DOUBTING THOMAS" ON THAT ONE! I'd surely have to have a peek inside. There were some upgrades in the tubes as I've ben inside a bunch of these units. 73, Glen Galati, KA7BOJ TACOMA, WA. Hope everyone has a SAFE & ENJOYABLE LABOR DAY WEEKEND!

From bloper5@comcast.net Fri Aug 30 03:18:21 2002  
Subject: [R390] Audio Signal Generator question

How about the HP201C does any one have any info on that one

From bill@iaxs.net Fri Aug 30 03:37:51 2002

Subject: [R390] Audio Signal Generator question

Well, things are slow here, so I dug out the HP manuals for the AB and CB. The earliest is a 400B, tubes 6J7, 6F6, 6F5, 6V6 and 5Y3, Wein bridge with lamp bulb regulator, 400 VDC, not available in 1960.

The AB has 6SJ7, 6K6, 6SN7, (2) 6K6 PP and a 5Y3, 250 VDC. Rated 1 watt into 600 ohms (25 VRMS), range 20 to 40,000 CPS, 1 % distortion 30 to 20K. Cabinet and rack mounting, good for measuring speaker impedance without an additional amplifier, price \$120 in 1960.

The CD has a balanced Wein bridge and amplifier, tubes 2 6SH7, 2 6AU5 and a 5AR4, 190 VDC. Range 5 to 600,000 CPS, distortion less than 0.5% below 500 kc, output 160 mW (10 V) into 600 ohms, price \$150 in 1960.

In short, the AB provides power in the audio range. The CD provides a range wider than audio at less power.

HP held the patent for Wein bridge oscillators regulated by lamp bulbs. It provided the best signal. Others had to go with Twin T, etc. I'd snap the AB on EB if I was in a snapping position. Bill Hawkins

From Fri Aug 30 05:10:31 2002  
Subject: [R390] Audio Signal Generator question

Did whoever has an HP200 CD find a manual for it? If not, send me your postal mailing address. Roy who found a copy in his files.

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Fri Aug 30 16:16:15 2002  
Subject: [R390] The 390 archives

Friends,

Offer much thanks for help..I will try harder to be a part, and to do my own repairs..Will report what I find after I get another 6AK6 in it...

I did miss a few in replying to mail..In parti. a list member who offered a trade..lost the mail somehow, so I thank you right here...

I also was pleased to see some more "war stories" on. Really enjoy the real stuff...Remember well watching a row of "experts" (the orig. experts!!) run a "mill" and talk at the same time...Always did amaze me...I could never type that well, much less do the code.. Guess a lot saw the big teletype operations where the noise was high enough to give you a headache, as well. and the newer Amt. systems etc..I know the modern solid state and computer world has simplified all this, but some magic has been lost in the change, it seems to me..

I wanted to tell you how much I have enjoyed through the years reading the past archives of several groups. There is much to be gleaned from these sources, and I encourage it..In addition the lists of mil. equip. are really great..

I ran off many hundreds of pages from the 390 ref. and I would like to draw your attention to the period 1997 through 2000 for a lot of information on AM and SSB rec. from such as Dr. Johnson, and

testimonials on everything from the simple audio trans. to the best of Sherwood equip....Worth another careful reading for anyone. (I read them in bed with my crackers at nite.)

In addition there was a lot on testing and the various fig. possible, incl. material from many on the best rebuilders..all kinds of material to demonstrate the amazing stats. possible with the 390 series..Proof again that few units can surpass them..Also material on the Hammarlund and RME and TMC converters etc... and a lot on how to (try) to make the 390 sound Hi Fi...Incl. Klipsh to Kleronomos..All so much a part of the growing appreciation for tubes in gen, and the 390 in particular..(altho some stuff is in fact, solid state anyway)

((Reminds me of an acquaint...He has spent several THOUSAND...(per lick) on brand new tube based gear for Hi Fi..and pays upwards of \$150 for what he calls "Vinyl" (and I call a record...) Anyone know much about this "new" market for VERY HIGH END tube gear???)

Try reading this material again....Its great.. Regards, John

From David\_Wise@Phoenix.com Fri Aug 30 18:36:13 2002  
Subject: [R390] Audio Signal Generator question

I said: >ISTR (I Seem To Remember) that the last 200CDs >were solidstate. Eh? replied: >Don't think so. They were replaced by soiled state boxes with >a different model # which actually had higher distorrion specs.

replied: > I'M DEFINITELY A "DOUBTING THOMAS" ON THAT ONE!

Oh well, probably just a brain fade. Wouldn't be the first time, right gang? I have a book on test equipment, which I reread a few months ago, and the chatter about the 200CD rang a bell. 73,  
Dave Wise

From rbethman@comcast.net Fri Aug 30 21:57:55 2002  
Subject: [R390] A tale of two IF decks & READING the WHOLE passage

wrote: | wrote: > I noticed a couple of other differences between an > early Collins IF S/N 35| > vs. a '67 EAC IF. The Collins Z503 and the like do > NOT have holes in them > to allow adjustment.

|+++++

| This is covered in the manual!

I would have to disagree with that. Specifically, the manual says "remove" the covers that do not have holes and "temporarily" replace them with the shop set that are drilled (or punched), perform the alignment and then "replace" the shop set with the original. || The first step to doing an alignment is to punch holes | in those cans. || Joe

So either it was laziness or failure to follow "written procedure" that resulted in the holes. Bob N0DGN

From tkinney@klinktech.net Fri Aug 30 21:13:47 2002  
Subject: [R390] Re: R390a For sale

Anybody in Wis interested in a all SW Mish rebuilt R390a, with speaker, manuals, spare tubes (yes the

hard to get ones) RF connectors, spare covers,?...Am moving and no longer have the room. \$800.00 ?  
Contact me off list . Tom Kinney KE9UE

From Fri Aug 30 23:14:55 2002  
Subject: [R390] Manual copies: HP 200CD and the older HP 200C

Available: Manual copies for the HP 200CD and the older HP 200C signal generators. I'll be making copies for those who want them next week. Roy who found a copy of each in his files.

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Aug 30 23:20:04 2002  
Subject: [R390] A tale of two IF decks & READING the WHOLE passage

writes: << So either it was laziness or failure to follow "written procedure" that resulted in the holes.  
Bob N0DGN >>

Shoot 'em..... then hang 'em!!! "Laziness"....."written Procedure".....my, my, the "R390A  
Alignment Police" has spoken. Les Locklear

From ko6bb@juno.com Sat Aug 31 00:54:54 2002  
Subject: [R390] Millivac RF Voltmeter help

Hello All.

I have a test instrument here that I'd like to get a little information on. First, let me mention that I have used many Laboratory RF instruments during past "RF careers" but have never run across this particular instrument.

I did a web search on it but all I found were a couple units offered for sale with no other information. I suspect it is rather old as it appears to be early solid state and I can hear the "Choppers" whine. It's last inventory sticker is 1994 so I suspect it was pulled out of service around that time.

All I know about it:

It is a rack mount Millivac Industries Model MV828AR RF MilliVoltmeter with "Type G probe". The instrument has full scale ranges of 1mV to 3 Volts full scale in 8 ranges. It should be able to be read down to about .2mV or less.

One interesting point. The screw on probe tip is missing, though I believe the probe is electrically complete. But on the 1mV range the instrument is very sensitive, even shining a FLASHLIGHT or other light on the end of the probe affects the meter ZERO (Discovered when I turned the bench light on).

QUESTIONS:

Anybody know the frequency range, input impedance etc of this unit? Can this unit be used IN PLACE OF the HP Voltmeter/RF probe in the alignment of R390A's etc? 73 de Phil KO6BB

From courir26@yahoo.com Sat Aug 31 01:07:53 2002  
Subject: [R390] A tale of two IF decks.

You didn't comment on the sheet metal differences.

EAC applied for and got approval to redesign certain decks so that they could be wired easier.

From ham@cq.nu Sat Aug 31 01:35:22 2002  
Subject: [R390] Millivac RF Voltmeter help

Hi,

Later on these guys got bought out by Boonton. The Boonton RF milivolt meters are direct descendants of the unit you have. The circuits in all of them are fairly similar. I do not have data on the exact unit you have but here's my guess:

Frequency range to 1 GHz Input impedance > 5 K ohms , less than a pf or so

The screw on tips should be easy to find since I have only seen one type. The hard part is getting a unit with the probe still on it. They matched the probes to the instruments so a late model probe probably will not work right with an early model instrument.

The light sensitivity is due to your hitting one of the two diodes in the head with light. They do a difference measurement between the two to cancel out the temperature coefficient of the diode. The chopper in the box switches between the two diodes (more or less).

Sounds like yours is in working condition. I'd hang on to it. They are not as forgiving of high voltage AC as some devices but they are great for low level signals. Enjoy! Bob Camp KB8TQ

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Sat Aug 31 02:01:30 2002  
Subject: [R390] A tale of two IF decks.

Do pictures and a sidebyside comparison for the Y2K Manual! Some of us would like to see just how neat the Collins unit is. Thanks, Joe

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Sat Aug 31 02:02:22 2002  
Subject: [R390] Millivac RF Voltmeter help

Hello Phillip,

I'll check my library as soon as I get a free moment as I believe that I have a manual on this relic and probably has a few here in the store. The good news is that you have the matching probe. 73, Glen Galati

p.s. Everyone here in the U.S.A. have a Safe, and enjoyable LABOR DAY weekend. HAPPY HOLIDAY. I think I'll stay home. I5 is a MESS!

From ba.williams@charter.net Sat Aug 31 02:15:22 2002  
Subject: [R390] A tale of two IF decks & READING the WHOLE passage

writes: > << So either it was laziness or failure to follow "written procedure" that > resulted in the holes.



> Bob N0DGN >> > > Shoot 'em..... then hang 'em!!! "Laziness"....."written > Procedure".....my, my, the "R390A Alignment Police" has spoken. > > Les Locklear

Am I in trouble again? I make it a personal rule to avoid "written procedures" every chance I get. Sort of makes me feel retired from the military. Come to think of it, I rarely followed stupid orders when I was in the military. Oh well. Barry

p.s. Does anyone know the antenna impedance that a RBL5 wants? My manual makes no mention of this.

From tkinney@klinktech.net Sat Aug 31 02:37:31 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390A for sale

Included with this R390a Mish rebuild along with manuals, set of Fair Radio Covers and new Inrush protector is NOS tubes, 23tf7, 4 26z5w, connectors new in military wrap ug565A/U. ug971/u, Radio is engraved lettering and is in shipping ct I received it back from Mish in..2 mo ago...I will ship it at your cost UPS or Fed Ex from 54487 Rhinelander Wi, would be in 2 boxes.. Tom Kinney KE9UE

From hankarn@pacbell.net Fri Aug 30 18:25:20 2002  
Subject: [R390] REF: R390 non A Green gear.

Update on Green Gear. They will be ready for powder coating Tuesday and hope to get them in the mail by Friday.

OUT OF 38 ORDERS FOR THE GEAR I RECEIVED MONEY FOR ONLY 18 WHICH ARE FROM ONLY 10 PEOPLE.

I had to order 50 to get the price of \$40.00 prior to 80602 and then after I am charging \$45.00. A lot of people fell through the cracks.

This leaves me with 26 after 6 for myself. I asked everyone to hold off on sending money unit I got enough orders for them so I would not have to send back a lot of refunds. The next project will be money up front from unknown buyers. Hank KN6DI

From ko6bb@juno.com Sat Aug 31 04:26:20 2002  
Subject: [R390] First R390A is playing.

Hello all.

Tonight I finished the recap of the first (my) R390A. While I was doing this I incorporated the Lankford AGC/BFO mods for SSB. Right now I have the radio playing Radio Japan on 17825kHz. I won't start the alignment, selectintest tubes until tomorrow. One thing I've noticed about it. While it seems to be hearing quite well, it appears that it may be low in gain as I don't get a great deal of S meter swing except on the local BCB station. I suspect probably a tube in the IF strip at this time. Of course it may just need a good thorough alignment after all the work. I'll know more tomorrow when I dig into it further.

Note 1: Either the Electrolytics are getting smaller or I'm getting more experienced as they fit very neatly in two rows under the chassis. The two 47uF side by side and the three 30uF side by side. 73 de

Phil KO6BB

From eengineer@erols.com Sat Aug 31 11:41:00 2002  
Subject: [R390] Pentium 4 Motherboard w/ Sovtec 6922 audio Tube

Below are a few links for a new Pentium 4 motherboard w/ a Sovtec 6922 triode tube and Elna capacitors for the audio. Who said tubes are dead?

This is NOT a joke! Cheers, Jeff <http://www.aopen.com/products/mb/ax4b533tube.htm>  
<http://www.aopen.com/products/mb/Pax4b533tube1.htm> Jeffrey L. Adams eengineer@erols.com Web

From jmerritt2@capecod.net Sat Aug 31 08:52:38 2002  
Subject: [R390] Manual copies: HP 200CD and the older HP 200C

HP manuals are serial number specific. Please look at the first page for the numbers included, and post them. Newer manuals contain backdating information for older manuals, but only up to a point. Chuck N1LNH

From ko6bb@juno.com Sat Aug 31 16:48:59 2002  
Subject: [R390] Collins PTO Set.

Hello all.

After advice from a couple folks I decided to leave the Collins PTO in this 67EAC that I'm fixing up. I was a little concerned about it because the end point was so far off (over 6kHz). However, it came in nicely. The hardest part of the entire job was getting that cap screw back into place! It kept wanting to land "upside down" and there wasn't enough room to hold it with my small seizers while starting it.

1. End point adjusted to less than 50Hz error end to end (I had a long skinny screwdriver that let me adjust it without removing front panel).
2. Linearity "worst case" is about 600Hz in the 600kHz area. I think the book says it should be under 500Hz. IS THIS TYPICAL FOR A COLLINS PTO? I can (will have to) live with it in any case.

Next step is to "Select in test" Crystals between the two sets to try to get a "closest match" band to band (Don said I could). THEN I'll start on the slug rack alignment! 73 de Phil KO6BB

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Sat Aug 31 16:54:51 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390 Archives

Hello Friends,

Thank you for the nice mail...Hope you are having a great wk. end..

Limited here today (Library Busy). Answer in general: Meter on the way, Knobs on the way...

Give me a wk. or two on other things...Have to plan things a bit for ship.

Someone asked why I give things away...I do it so things get used that otherwise might just "go away". I seldom have fine items anyway...

To illustrate: A wk. ago, saw hugh pile of trash..at hist. home..(shack) had come out of barn..Stopped and looked...couldn't find anyone arnd..Was tube amp. (very lg. the kind w/pref. cover over tubes..) and J.C. Higgins CB (hugh) heaven knows what else, but I know the house was occu since abt 1900...Thought would check next day..Guess what? The city had picked it up and you know where it goes? To Incinerator and full separator...In other words , you may be sure, it is now smushed...Gone forever..So I try to buy little things I see, and put them back in service if they are TUBE especially....!After all, there were tubes, and knobs etc on even this junk..

Last, someone asked what are archives...Maybe a person knowing more than me will sometime cover it..in any event...I just put in key words, with "archive" and find many things...I use r390 for one, boatanchor for another, etc. Actually that is prob. the slow way, but I am basically computer braindead, and it does work..(eventually).

Also there are a mess of lists of mil. gear you can try, for information..Very interesting... Be back next wk..Librarian giving the "out of here" sign...Gotta go... John

From hardiem@intergate.ca Sat Aug 31 17:29:15 2002  
Subject: [R390] Oldham Coupler Spring

Does anyone know the specs or have a spare spring that "tensions" the PTO Oldham coupler? Mike VE7MMH

From hardiem@intergate.ca Sat Aug 31 17:34:47 2002  
Subject: [R390] Archives, Searching

I found a way to search archives, it may not be "the" way. Go to <http://www.r390a.net/faqrefs.htm> then scroll about halfway down to "web pages", then "The R390 Archives". There is some sort of search engine there. Mike VE7MMH

From Llgpt@aol.com Sat Aug 31 18:12:47 2002  
Subject: [R390] Collins PTO Set.

writes: << 2. Linearity "worst case" is about 600Hz in the 600kHz area. I think the book says it should be under 500Hz. IS THIS TYPICAL FOR A COLLINS PTO? I can (will have to) live with it in any case. >>

Specifications say 300 hz..... but, close enough I'd say. If it is 50 hz end to end, the problem is more than likely a xtal Phil. Les

From w6wy@citlink.net Sat Aug 31 19:42:32 2002  
Subject: [R390] R390A knob refinishers out there?

Hello gang:

I have a friend down near San Jose who is in the process of refurbishing his R390A and wants the

knobs refinished. I told him how to go about it himself but he doesn't feel he is up to the job (in other words he wants them done really nice). Could anyone point me in the right direction. ThanksPete  
W6WY nr Redding CA

From cbscott@ingr.com Sat Aug 31 20:15:26 2002  
Subject: [R390] First R390A is playing.

Phil,

Isn't that a wonderful feeling to plug it up and hear something after you've worked on it! I think you've refurbished a few of these already so you know how much can be gained from the alignment.

I've only done one so far, but it was quite an experience when I plugged it all in for the first time. It was pretty deaf and I thought it was going to be a lot of troubleshooting. I started the alignment process and was amazed at the difference it made. I suppose my eyes looked like the kid looking at the toy store for the first time. I felt kind of like Dr. Frankenstein "It's alive! It's alive!" Glad to hear it is back in service. Barry(III?) N4BUQ

From cbscott@ingr.com Sat Aug 31 20:19:58 2002  
Subject: [R390] Manual copies: HP 200CD and the older HP 200C

Roy,

Sign me up for a copy and let me know the cost.

Turns out I'm going to need it. I got to examining this one for the first time since wagging it home and it has problems. One of those "it worked at the hamfest but not anymore" kind of things.

It appears to be pretty unstable going in and out of oscillation and doesn't work at times at all. Looks like I get to fix something else. Yippee! I downloaded the 200AB manual from bama, but I'm sure I'll need the CD version. Thanks a lot,

From asolway@sympatico.ca Sat Aug 31 20:25:36 2002  
Subject: [R390] Oldham Coupler Spring

**Mike and All,**

**I found a large qty of springs that seem to work. I don't have and idea what the specs are but like I said these do the job.**

**Mike send me your address and will mail you some. Don't worry about the price, they are only 5 cents here in Montreal. Any body else need some let me know and we can work something out. I suggest that I mail a qty to an individual in the US for distribution there. AI VE2TAS**

From cbscott@ingr.com Sat Aug 31 20:38:57 2002  
Subject: [R390] Audio Signal Generator question

Thanks, Glen. I hope to get the bugs worked out of it and have something that will last me for quite a while. Barry(III?) N4BUQ

From ko6bb@juno.com Sat Aug 31 23:19:04 2002  
Subject: [R390] Low IF gain problem

Hello All.

Yesterday I mentioned that I thought the R390A I'm working on seemed to have low gain, though it was hearing weak ones ok (It "hears" my sig generator, AM modulated 50% at it's lowest setting of 127dBm just fine). However I mentioned I thought the IF gain seemed low as indicated on the S meter, so I checked it by inserting 150uV at 455kHz into J513 and tried setting the gain control for 7VDC at the diode load jack (per the manual). The highest I can set this for is 5.0VDC and with gain about halfway (where I set previous receivers) it reads 2.9VDC in ALL bandwidth settings.

Question. Does the Lankford AGC mod affect gain any in this IF strip, perhaps by loading it down (2 diodes across a couple resistors)? I've tried subbing tubes.

If I can get the IF gain up this receiver will be working just fine (did a preliminary alignment already).

I may have to finish recapping don's IF so I can sub it for troubleshooting purposes. 73 de Phil KO6BB