

R-390 Reflector November '02 Edited

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Fri Nov 1 00:05:45 2002
Subject: [R-390] Purchase Advice

- > There are some factors to consider:
- > A. Money
- > B. Your skill at fixing things
- > C. A friend's skill at fixing things.
- >
- > If you have lots of A, buy it.
- >
- > If you have a modest amount of A and lots of B or C, buy it.
- >
- > If you have a little of A, and no R-390 at all, buy it and acquire B or C.
- >
- > If you have no A at all but lots of B, use B to get A and buy it.
- >
- > I guess the bottom line is: buy it.

++++++

Oh, definitely! All inputs on this flow chart lead, eventually, to output BUY IT! Now, then, IF you find that "C" applies to the seller, even if he is a friend, and you have more "B" than he has "C" then it should take less "A"!

Um,..... IF "B">"C" THEN <"A" Or something, Joe

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Nov 1 00:14:19 2002
Subject: [R-390] Purchase Advice

writes: << Now, then, IF you find that "C" applies to the seller, even if he is a friend, and you have more "B" than he has "C" then it should take less "A"! Um,..... IF "B">"C" THEN <"A" Or something, Joe

Still kickin' beehives 'eh? Igor Lab Assistant

From laffitte@prtc.net Fri Nov 1 01:07:52 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS Drop kicked my R-391 !

Hi Guys,

You know, I have sent 6 R390s including a 392 by USPS Parcel Post Insured. Not one has arrived damaged or mangled in any way. So I give 5 stars to our old but reliable US Postal Service. By the way, my radios travel by both ground and sea. Best 73s to all Guido Santacana KP4FAR

From kc2kj@mac.com Fri Nov 1 01:46:53 2002
Subject: [R-390] James Knight 100 kc Crystal question

Looking for the base diagram of the 100kc T-9 crystal mounted in an metal octal tube enclosure. What pins on the octal plug do I connect to reach the crystal?? Mike kc2kj

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Fri Nov 1 02:14:57 2002
Subject: [R-390] James Knight 100 kc Crystal question

The ones that measure open on the Ohmmeter? ;-)

From maritimus49@yahoo.com Fri Nov 1 02:21:31 2002
Subject: [R-390] SSB reception with R-390A

Hello everyone -

I am pleased to be able to say that I will finally be able to buy an EAC R-390A remanufactured by Rick Mish within the next week or so. I am really looking forward to seeing what this wonderful receiver can do on the SW and BC bands. I am also curious about some possible SSB mods and would like to ask what you think the pros and cons are for the following possibilities -

1. The 2 diode mod of Dallas Lankford.
2. The use of the CV-591
3. The older mod from Capt. Paul Lee changing the BFO to a 6BE6.

I would appreciate any comments you have. 73, Bruce K6RQR

From k06bb@elite.net Fri Nov 1 02:23:06 2002
Subject: [R-390] James Knight 100 kc Crystal question

> The ones that measure open on the Ohmmeter? ;-)

I thought it was the pins that measure 100K on the Ohmmeter 8^)

In all seriousness, if the octal unit is the type where there is a removable cap (cover) and the Xtal plugs into a internal Xtal socket you can do this. Take the cap off, unplug the Xtal and use your ohmmeter to measure for continuity between Xtal socket and octal tube pins. 73 de Phil KO6BB

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Nov 1 02:30:36 2002
Subject: [R-390] SSB reception with R-390A

writes: << I am also curious about some possible SSB mods and would like to ask what you think the pros and cons are for the following possibilities - 1. The 2 diode mod of Dallas Lankford. 2. The use of the CV-591 3. The older mod from Capt. Paul Lee changing the BFO to a 6BE6.

Hi Bruce and Group, The Lankford/Chambers agc mod is simple and works great! CV-591A's work great, need filter electrolytics replaced, some caps. The Captain Lee mod is extensive and works no better than the above. YMMV Les Locklear Gulfport, MS.

From kc2kj@mac.com Fri Nov 1 02:34:21 2002
Subject: [R-390] SSB reception with R-390A

I have great experience with the "Lankford mod". I used genuine diodes (1N4148) and increased bfo injection by placing about 50 pf cap in parallel with C535. AM reception was altered a bit - in my case the already strong local am station was distorted (over 100 perhaps 120 on carrier level meter). Others (normal levels up to 100) ok, but seems am demod audio level was lower. SSB came out good. Mike kc2kj

From bratcher@pdq.net Fri Nov 1 02:55:36 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A needs fixing

Does Rick Mish have a web page or other contact info? I need him to fix up my R390-A....

From courir26@yahoo.com Fri Nov 1 03:01:10 2002
Subject: [R-390] SSB reception with R-390A

I like to rectify the line audio and connect the output to the AGC to push back a bit on the AGC signal. This allows a frequent hands on approach requiring much human intervention. "It's what men do!"

From BRingwoo@csir.co.za Fri Nov 1 07:25:59 2002
Subject: [R-390] SSB reception with R-390A

Hi all,

My set came with the Paul Lee mod. It works well - but is too extensive and may be the cause of a change in AVC behaviour. I would have left the set alone and used an external SSB converter out of choice. Preferably a CV-591, but no chance of getting one of those here. Would have done my own using tr*ns*st*rs and ch*ps. - Bryce

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Fri Nov 1 10:36:22 2002
Subject: [R-390] Preproduction R-390

Hello Danny & the group,
I did a FEDLOG search and did not turn up any part numbers showing this Ballast (2HTF11B) . I've seen a lot of ballast tubes and this number eludes me. I wonder if this was a DECOY UNIT to throw our adversaries off track??? Did you or do you have a picture of the IF Unit to post for furthur insight and corroboration by the group experts? 73, Glen Galati, KA7BOJ eldim@att.net Tacoma, WA

From Walter Wilson" <walter@r-390a.us Fri Nov 1 10:43:08 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390A needs fixing

> Does Rick Mish have a web page or other contact info? I need him to fix up my R390-A.... >
<http://www.dxing.com/r390/r390.htm> Walter Wilson - KK4DF <http://r-390a.us>

From Tubsc66@aol.com Fri Nov 1 10:59:39 2002
Subject: [R-390] FedX ground much better than UPS

Hello all, I must agree with Cecil here, FedEx Ground lost a R648 I had bought in August, which surprisingly showed up on my doorstep this week. The box looked as though it had been steamrolled, obviously it had been dropped (upside down) many many times as the top of the case was compressed alot... Packing job wasnt too great either which compounded the damage but I dont believe they handle packages with any more care than UPS... 73's Chris KC5IIE

From jamesmiller20@att.net Fri Nov 1 14:39:10 2002
Subject: [R-390] FedX ground much better than UPS

I never ever use any of those third party "Pack and Post" places. The only way to ensure safe delivery is to pack it yourself. Go to the local TV store and find a good sturdy box a TV set or microwave came in, or go to U-Haul and buy a couple of boxes. Remove any knobs that could be damaged. Especially if a 75A4, remove the tuning knob. Pack separately. Go to Walmart and buy a couple of \$9 foam mattress pads and wrap the unit in them. Put in box 1. Then go to Home Depot and buy some of that blue foam board (8 x 4 ft sheets). Cut to fit and pack these around box 1. Then put all that in box 2, packed tightly. There are many variations on this depending on weight. I have also cut the foam board to fit around the radio, putting twolayers of foam board around all sides (with holes for the knobs). If you're not willing to take 2-3 hours of time to pak it properly, it will most likely be damaged. It's usuallly not the shipper's fault. Remember the Army can pack equipment to survive anything. They don't fuss if a couple of grunts drops it. It still survives. And in case I forgot, don't EVER use the third party pack and ship outlets. Tubsc66@aol.com wrote:

From maritimus49@yahoo.com Fri Nov 1 15:43:38 2002
Subject: [R-390] SSB for R-390A

Hello everyone -

I just wanted to thank you all for the many excellent respnses to my questions about SSB reception with the R-390A. You've given me some good advice and I can't wait to start implementing some of the suggestions when the receiver gets here. 73, Bruce K6RQR

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Fri Nov 1 16:06:49 2002
Subject: [R-390] FedX ground much better than UPS

Cecil Acuff wrote: <snip> > A lot has to do with packing methods....don't use peanuts or bubble > wrap...it don't work!!! 1/2 or 5/8 sheets of foam...

Have to agree with Cecil here. I've used FedEx, UPS, USPS. I've never had anything arrive damaged or even close if properly packed. Last night I had two pieces of gear waiting for me from Maine, shipped parcel post. One box was ruptured on a corner from either being dropped or having something heavy stacked on it. Fortunately the person who shipped the items did a decent job of packaging, so the hole in the box didn't matter. Think of the box as the container, not protection, and think of the wrapping and packaging as the protection.

I recently opened an account with FedEx. Sent out a 75A-4 and 51S-1 using the account. To my horror,

when the bill arrived the cost was roughly *double* what their site quoted me for the weight, dimensions, and location. Still need to work that one out. I was pretty excited about using them because they have a good reputation overall. The aircraft gear I received from Australia recently came via FedEx, only one box was slightly scrunched.

I think part of the issue is how long the item remains in the shipper's hands. The longer they have it, the more times they move it, the better chance something could happen. Even with UPS though, I haven't had anything arrive damaged. The only issues I've *ever* had were from bad packaging, including one item sent from a Kalifornia packing place that used foam children's blocks with duct tape for binder, laid around and over the radio in a random fashion. I knew when I got the box it hadn't been packed well. The collapsed top and rattling sounds were big clues. Fortunately there was no real damage, only loose cabinet parts. A miracle, though. When I asked the seller, his reply was 'sorry, I just paid the place and left it with them'.

A while back I had an R-320 (SC-88) shipped to me from Colorado. Since I couldn't pick it up, I had no choice but to use a packing place. I spoke with the owner of the business and worked with him, insuring the best possibility of safe arrival. He even cut me a price break since it weighed 100 lbs, but it was still almost as much as I paid for the radio to ship it. End result was a ½ inch split seam inside the cabinet despite the Versa-pak type foam and double boxing. The radio was fine though, because the packer followed my instructions, but weight is the enemy. The sudden deceleration when a box falls or is pushed off makes for problems.

I think the one thing that is being overlooked here is the most obvious: these companies are paid to ship millions of items all over the country and world, daily. They aren't paid to babysit your radio in the event that the person shipping it did a crappy packing job. This is why people have said good and bad things about all shippers - because none of them are perfect, and they are in business to make money, not to be sweet and kind to your package. If you have something heavy to ship, pay to have it crated or do as Hank says and get a shipping container for it. Spend the money, do it right. Or, at the very least, minimize the chance of damage by insuring it is packed well, even over-packed. I always pack things like I'm sending them to myself from the back hills of Burma, with multiple shipping gorillas handling them. The main thing is to get it there in one piece. Unfortunately, too many of us (I've been guilty of this) don't want to inflate the already high price of a piece of gear more with expensive shipping. So, it all comes back to money and cost. You get what you pay for. Don't expect an 85 lb item to do as well in the same type of packaging that a 20 lbs item arrived in just fine. That's about as sensible as expecting a Mack truck to go down toe road on tires made for a Ford pickup. sure you might get away with it for a while, but eventually it'll come back to haunt you.

Do it right and you won't be sorry you did. Barring a rabid forklift operator (which even a proper shipping container won't survive), you should receive the item in the same condition it left in. And don't blame the shipper when your 75 lb radio flattens the packing peanuts, pops the bubblewrap, and eats its way through the side of its single-walled box during the 5-day trip across country. de Todd/'Boomer'
KA1KAQ

From keng@moscow.com Fri Nov 1 17:54:58 2002
Subject: [R-390] FedEx, UPS, etc...

I have sent 3 ea R-389s, 2 ea SP-600-VLF-31s, a CU-168, an RAL- 7, and a Tracor 599 all via Universal Package Smashers and ALL arrived at their destinations with no damage.

HOWEVER, I packed them all carefully in form-fitted, custom- made (by me) crates built out of 3/4" plywood, held together with deck screws and glue, and with hand-holds cut out in the sides near the

tops so the gorillas would know where to lift the things.

As someone else said here, it is in how you pack them, not who carries them.

I had a nice ARC-5 damaged by USPS Priority Mail, even though IT was packed properly. I always insure those now.

I used Mail Boxes Etc ONCE to pack a fairly light 300 watt Carillon amp and it arrived damaged because they do such a crappy job of packing. I have never used them since, believing that if you want to see a job done right, do it yourself. FedEx air is too darned expensive, and FedEx ground doesn't appear to exist here in the sticks of Idaho, so I am left with UPS.

BTW, I usually ask those to whom I ship these heavy receivers to ship the empty crate back to me so I can use it again. I get about 50% return. Ken Gordon W7EKB

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Fri Nov 1 18:05:28 2002
Subject: [R-390] FedEx, UPS, etc...

Got any more R-389's?

From hankarn@pacbell.net Fri Nov 1 18:10:19 2002
Subject: [R-390] FedEx, UPS, etc...

Ken, You hit the nail on the head. Good pack good Radio CHEAP PACK BAD RADIO Hank

From N2PNT@aol.com Fri Nov 1 19:44:15 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS Drop kicked my R-391 !

Thanks for all the stories and advice. This thread contains some useful info that should be helpful to others shipping their BA's in the future.

Based on what I've read, it sounds like I'll be wasting my time trying to squeak some money from UPS. I will however go a round or two with them based on principle. This parcel was certainly dropped from a considerable height. (Truck to floor, conveyer to floor etc...) I'm also going to file a claim with The Box Place. The radio could have been packed better. The radio was covered in bubble wrap, a layer of single wall cardboard taped around that, then placed in a larger single walled box with peanuts stuffed around.

Many of the peanuts were crushed to tiny crumbs by the weight, 108lbs. Yes, it was in a cabinet,

I had no idea. The seller didn't mention it. The seller is a yard sale guy and really didn't know too much. He said it would be professionally packaged and I, never having had a shipping problem before, left it at that. BIG MISTAKE!

UPS wanted me to put the radio back in its' original packaging and ship it to their customer service department for evaluation. FAT CHANCE! The next time this radio will see daylight is after I'm dead. Then my poor family will have to sell off my radio estate to some yard sale guy who doesn't know anything about radios who will sell it to some guy who'll be so excited to get it that he won't question the

sellers shipping techniques and OH NO this poor R-391 is destined to hit the deck once more. D C3 A9j C3 A0 vu all over again!

Upon closer inspection the radio doesn't seem to be a basket case at all, more like a handyman special. The outer frame looks like it can be straightened and the RF deck turns freely. Removing the front panel may reveal more problems but I'm waiting for the UPS inspector to arrive first. Clearing some dust off with a finger shows a very clean chassis. All in all not bad considering I planed to tear it down anyway. Still I can't help being a little annoyed. Thanks everyone! Phil /N2PNT Solder first, ask questions later E2 80 A6

From pjdefayette@earthlink.net Fri Nov 1 20:09:29 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS Drop kicked my R-391 !

Whenever someone says "professionally packed", that's when I start getting worried and ask a lot of questions! Learned from my own bad experiences. Cheers, Paul DeFayette

From barry@hausernet.com Fri Nov 1 21:21:55 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS Drop kicked my R-391 !

Phil wrote: >The outer frame looks like it can be straightened and the RF deck turns freely. Removing the front panel may

I think you're on the right track, Phil. Don't let 'em take it away. R-391's are highly repairable. "Reparable R-390x's" have been a staple of Fair Radio for many years, so it must be so.

However, you have a circular problem. It might be better to drop the front panel and possibly lift a few modules to check further to have a complete list of parts to replace with price quotes from here and there. You might call UPS (a bit of a stretch here) and explain that some disassembly may be needed to reveal the extent of concealed damage. Or, drop the panel, inspect, and reassemble without fixing anything and give them the list -- they won't know what the heck is what -- unless they send an R-391 Shipping Malpractice Specialist.

However #2. My experience in the Twisted Radio Dept. (way in the back by the hammers) is that when you drop a panel of a slightly bent radio, it sometimes won't go back together again because everything is under tension right now. I had a similar experience with a banged up SP-600 VLF. Once I dropped the panel, I had to go the rest of the way -- straighten it out and a side panel, etc. before I could line things up again.

It's one of those YMMV things-- might even be a Yin-Yang thing.

What troubles me though is that "Still I can't help being a little annoyed." Sounds like you need an alignment -- running way too mellow. Correct output is a lot annoyed, mucho grande annoyed, beacoup annoyed, angered, P-O'ed, fit to be tied, outraged, enraged, boiling mad, ARRGGGHHHH!, etc.

Recommendation is to (a) keep the R-391, (2) stay angry, (3) assess the damage, (4) get your claim money, (5) fix radio (while being somewhat annoyed, but engrossed), then (6) get mellow -- but just for a while. Why? Because it's (7) autotuner overhaul time! Then get serious, steely-eyed and practice your thousand-yard stare. Barry

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Fri Nov 1 21:43:22 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS Drop kicked my R-391 !

wrote: > Whenever someone says "professionally packed", that's when I start getting worried and ask a lot of questions! Learned from my own bad experiences.

It's right up there with 'excellent' or 'mint' condition. Excellent compared to what? Mint except for the scratches or extra holes? Indeed, it's all a matter of opinion. Ask for answers, never assume. Boomer

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Fri Nov 1 22:04:30 2002
Subject: [R-390] SSB Reception with R-390A

Hello All,

My vote for SSB reception is the 2 diode (Lankford) modification for its simplicity. This method works quite well. A couple of points: 1. Make sure that AGC capacitors are not leaky, especially the large oil filled unit atop IF deck (This should not be a problem for Bruce as his receiver was done by Rick Mish) 2. When increasing BFO injection capacitance remember to adjust BFO neutralization in AGC IF amp.

The 2 diode modification gives good SSB reception even without altering BFO injection. Done this way and with AGC capacitors verified leak-free (by Dr. Jerry's method) I have not found any change to reception of AM and CW signals strong or weak.

Capt. Paul Lee's 6BE6 product detector modification has been mentioned. The National NC-300 uses a 6BE6 as a product detector giving good results; this should perform satisfactorily in the R-390A (although the NC-300's final IF is 85 KHz vs R-390A at 455 KHz). Lee's R-390A mod calls for alteration of mainframe wiring harness to run shielded audio cables to a multisection BFO switch. This accounts for some of the "invasiveness" of the mod. I would suggest leaving mainframe wiring and BFO switch intact and use a small relay in IF module for audio switching. The relay would be powered by B+ switched to the BFO-turned-product detector when in SSB/CW mode. A quick perusal of Mouser's catalog shows a 24V relay with coil power consumption of 70 mW. A series dropping resistor to operate this relay from the (approx.) 180V B+ line would dissipate only 450 mW. In this fashion modification would be limited to IF module only. Drew

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Fri Nov 1 22:21:29 2002
Subject: [R-390] SSB Reception with R-390A

Word!

Hello All,

My vote for SSB reception is the 2 diode (Lankford) modification for its simplicity. This method works quite well. A couple of points: 1. Make sure that AGC capacitors are not leaky, especially the large oil filled unit atop IF deck (This should not be a problem for Bruce as his receiver was done by Rick Mish) 2. When increasing BFO injection capacitance remember to adjust BFO neutralization in AGC IF amp.

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From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Fri Nov 1 22:34:10 2002
Subject: [R-390] Drop kicked/heavy weight....

Hello All,

Todd Bigelow was certainly correct when he wrote that weight is our enemy in shipping survival. When shipping our beloved R-390X we can reduce impact-induced deceleration forces by removing heavy subassemblies from the unit and shipping those in separate packages. The best candidates are obviously power supply and audio modules. If the buyer doesn't object to slightly more complicated reassembly the RF deck could be shipped separately (put index marks on PTO and KC shafts and don't lose the Oldham coupler disc). Drew

(P.S: Sorry for egregious waste of bandwidth on my last post)

From martin.benoit@sympatico.ca Sat Nov 2 01:48:17 2002
Subject: [R-390] 4 KC filter swap

Hello i want to trade a working RV4 or a HQ100 (Drake aux VFO) against a 4 KC filter and local and RF gain pot (here they are vry noisy) for my R390A. Martin VA2ZO

From ham@cq.nu Sat Nov 2 02:41:30 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS Drop kicked my R-391 !

Hi,

I have had a number of items trashed by UPS. They aren't any worse at breaking stuff than the other guys but they ship a lot of stuff.

I have **never** had them pay on a claim. Not ever not under any circumstances. The drivers are ok and the people who answer the phone are ok. They even admit that things are their fault. The claims people are simply paid to not pay you and are apparently highly trained in the art of not paying. Just my experience Bob Camp KB8TQ

From Llqpt@aol.com Sat Nov 2 03:15:15 2002

Subject: [R-390] UPS Drop kicked my R-391 !

writes: << Hi, I have had a number of items trashed by UPS. They aren't any worse at breaking stuff than the other guys but they ship a lot of stuff. I have *never* had them pay on a claim.

I guess I'm lucky, all the items I've shipped, I have only had two claims, they paid both promptly, I can't imagine accepting them not paying.....wouldn't happen to me. Just my 2 cents. Les

From gharmon@idworld.net Sat Nov 2 03:18:41 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS Drop kicked my R-391 !

My only experience with an UPS claim was positive. Seems like the first level claim support is always NO. I quickly elevated it to the second level and an agreeable claim was soon reached. I kept the radio, reduced the claim an appropriate amount and UPS sent me a check in two weeks. Aside from a few phone calls and a letter or two it was pretty painless.

Just my opinion based on limited experience.

From ham@cq.nu Sat Nov 2 03:00:03 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS Drop kicked my R-391 !

Hi,

Just thought of another angle on this one. Both UPS and FedEx let you set up an account with them. At least with FedEx it's free. You then have a shipping account with them that incoming freight can be charged against. It's the same thing that we do on stuff coming to us at work.

The advantage would be that you are now the "customer" on the deal. They can no longer give you the run around that the other guy is the one footing the bill.

Has anybody had any experience doing it this way? Thanks! Bob Camp KB8TQ

From metzd@intelos.net Sat Nov 2 04:50:12 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS tactics

wrote: >My only experience with an UPS claim was positive. Seems like the first >level claim support is always NO. I quickly elevated it to the second >level and an agreeable claim was soon reached. I kept the radio, >reduced the claim an appropriate amount and UPS sent me a check in two

Some time back I remember seeing a post from someone suggesting always insure for at least \$1000 because they seem to take better care for high value. Has anyone had any direct experience with this tactic? 73's dave

From Aidehua@aol.com Sat Nov 2 06:51:00 2002
Subject: [R-390] CV-591 vs CV-1722/CV-1758 Demodulators

Wondering if somebody could shed some light on the major differences between these?? Thanks, Ed

NI6S

From hankarn@pacbell.net Sat Nov 2 12:31:17 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS Drop kicked my R-391 !

If it was packed properly and you know that for sure, and you are the SHIPPER then talk about Small Claims court, they all of a sudden lose the ear wax and read you 40 over 9. Do not be a pussy cat be a mean hungry H---y Tom Cat. If you are the consignee then tear into the shipper. Hank KN6DI

From hankarn@pacbell.net Sat Nov 2 12:39:20 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS Drop kicked my R-391 !

I agree with Gary.

You have to get by the duh!! gum chewers and get up to a somewhat educated level of intelligent individual that understands what you are saying and the real reason of why you filed the claim in the first place. If not you are trying to paddle upstream with a broken paddle, or better known as whistling in the wind. Hank KN6DI

I have had ONE claim denied in 22 years and that was due to lazy former employee in 22 years. They have always paid. Hank KN6DI

From hankarn@pacbell.net Sat Nov 2 12:52:46 2002
Subject: [R-390] CV-591 vs CV-1722/CV-1758 Demodulators

They are one and the same performance wise, look same, play same, sound same, made under different contracts. Some slight mods. Some are MSR1, MSR2, MSR3, MRS.4 and I think a MSR9. I have the orange tags for all three models. and have one of each.

You can play musical tags with them and for all practical purposes wind with the same results. Hank KN6DI

From ham@cq.nu Sat Nov 2 14:31:24 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS Drop kicked my R-391 !

Hi,

At least out here the process goes something like:

- 1) We have to come by to pick up the package. You must be home to give it to us. Generally this involves three missed attempts and three days off work.
- 2) Since we (ups) can't get there to pick it up we have to send out an inspector to check it out. Usually he shows up on the second try.
- 3) Inquire a couple of weeks later - the inspectors report got lost.
- 4) A couple more days off work - another inspector.

5) A couple of weeks later, back comes the report - package was not properly boxed by the shipper. UPS is not responsible. Out comes a bunch of stuff about how *every* box must have at least two inches of packing on all sides and be in brand new boxes. If it's heavy stuff there are even more rules about box weight and more packing.

Bottom line is that if you look at the way the computer companies pack monitors they do it for a reason. Their packing just barely meets the packing rules UPS comes up with. Anything short of a foam in place, properly done won't meet their standards on a big piece of gear.

Regardless of the value of the item I can't afford a week off work to fiddle with a claim. I make more in a week than most of the stuff I ship is worth. I also only have just so much vacation. Waiting around for the UPS man isn't exactly on my list of neat stuff to do.

Interestingly the same UPS when I need a package picked up to ship seems to be able to get here on time 100% of the time, first attempt. They also seem to be able to deal with me not being here on a pickup to ship. Weird outfit. Bob Camp KB8TQ

From djmerz@3-cities.com Sat Nov 2 16:12:54 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS Drop kicked my R-391 !

Hi, I had a similar "positive" experience on a claim - it took about 3 months before I got a \$100 out of them on an item that was broken way inside a package that was probably my fault for not packing differently. The guy I sent it to was adamant about pursuing UPS on it so I made about 4 contacts in all before it was resolved. On another shipment of a Viking transmitter, they dented the frame of the power supply and a couple of ceramic sockets got broken - again the recipient was sure it was UPS's fault and I ended up getting a \$100 out of them after almost a year of going back and forth, about 4 or 5 exchanges between them and me. They never examined either item. I concluded that for small claims they will settle with persistence - they are not easily accessible to handle matters but it can be done. I do not recommend the process as being worth it. I have become a better packer which is a better solution and I don't hesitate to offer my advice to someone sending me a vulnerable item. I try to be tactful when advising since there are a lot of good packers out there that know more than me. Dan.

From hankarn@pacbell.net Sat Nov 2 16:18:03 2002
Subject: [R-390] [Fwd: [Fwd: REF: FS ITEMS]]

This is a correction to my original post.

I still have R-39XX and other parts for sale.

KC/MC Knobs new CNC machined out of 6061 aluminum and powder coated \$30.00 ea. For all R39XX including R-391.

Large clamps new made out of 6061 with screw, nut & washer 7.00 ea. for KC/Mc knobs

Locking pins for R-391 and ARR-15 long & short. ne 15.00 ea.

R390/391 new green gears made out of stainles 45.00 ea.

Oldham couplers disk with 3 springs new stainles 12.00 ea.

Tags for all R39XX contracts plus other with S/N of YOUR choice/ R 274, SP 600 freq. plates, EFJ Desk, RACAL 2274, CV/591/1722/1728, 391 channel plates & R-388 27.00 ea. 51J? plus S/N, Caution, LS-206 and others

Meter gaskets new die cut rubber 2 for \$1.00 with any order

75A-4 audio mod plate 6.00 ea.

R39XX top and bottom covers. New gold alodined \$55.00 set or 30.00 ea.

I am having covers made for R-388 price ???? TBD.

R-390A Utah RF deck cover plate new alodined/silk screened 15.00 ea.

R-390/391 RF deck covers alodined and silk screened 30.00 ea.

R39XX 15 small knobs stripped, powder coated and 13 filled 70.00 set

SX-88 new panels powder coated & silk screened 330.00 ea.

SX-88 new bezels CNC 6061 aluminum and powder coated 250.00 ea.
Have 2 panels and 2 bezels left.

R39XX panels stripped powder coated, silk screened, filled Check for \$\$

32V-3 & KWS-1 panels re-finished Check for pricing.

Cabinets stripped and powder coated Check for pricing

Any welding, hole plugging surface finishing etc to be determined

All items are plus shipping USPS Priority mail with confirmation in most cases.

Payment Hams with current address in QRZ.com personal checks Prefer USPS money orders. If Pay Pal please add 2.5% as the above prices are fairly tight.

Please mail payments to my shop address:

Dan Arney
c/o Global Pack & Mail
21315 Saticoy St. Unit R
Canoga Park, CA 91304-5685

Thanks, Hank KN6DI

From k06bb@elite.net Sat Nov 2 17:05:25 2002
Subject: [R-390] FS/Trade. 'nice' '67 EAC R-390A.

Hello all.

FIRST: If you're interested in this receiver, PLEASE read shipping notice at bottom. THIS UNIT IS PLUG/PLAY, NEEDS NO REPAIRS.

All my Radios are Boatanchors and I'd like to get ONE nice Solid State General Coverage receiver. To that end I'll Sell/swap my R-390A. So, now's your chance to own one of the finest receivers ever designed. This is my 4th one, and everyone who has bought one of my R-390A's has been VERY pleased with the radio.

An UNUSUALLY nice R-390A from the '67 EAC contract (one of the newer ones). All modules in the receiver are from the EAC contract (NO Depot Dawg ;-) PTO is a Collins unit (I don't think EAC made any PTO's).

Some specifics of THIS radio.

1. All oil/paper capacitors and Electrolytic caps have been replaced as have any out of tolerance resistors. All weak tubes replaced.
2. Gear train, rollers etc have been cleaned and lubricated, tunes smoothly, and easily. RF deck was torn down and all coil sockets, tube sockets, connectors etc cleaned/lubricated with DeOxit D5.
3. Has the black heat conducting tube shields. Been fully aligned and plays as it should. (as only an R-390A can :)
4. Has all original meters, top/bottom covers, 3 Wire Power cord, TWO like new military manuals (TM 11-856A and TM 11-5820-358-35 Field and depot maintenance manual).
5. Has the following Mods (non cosmetic). I can easily reverse any except "A" or "F" you wish removed (I have no spare rectifier tubes). ALL mods are documented.

A. Power supply solid state mod (an authorized military mod). Reason: reliability.

B. Ballast socket has been jumpered to allow substitution of a 12BY7 tube for the ballast. YES, IT DOES HAVE THE RARE BALLAST TUBE STILL FUNCTIONING. REASON: The mod was done for future convenience.

C. LF Mod to allow receiver to also tune from about 10kHz to 500kHz (needs an outboard LF preamp to perform well, I'll include a small one that tunes about 150kHz to 500kHz). This is a "plug in" mod that can be removed in about 5-10 minutes. REASON: I'm an avid longwave beacon DXer.

D. Lankford AGC/BFO mod. Is simply the addition of 2 diodes and one capacitor to the IF strip to allow GOOD reception of SSB. Can be reversed in under an hour. REASON: Enable good SSB reception.

E. 6AQ5 Local audio output mod. This one replaces the 6AK6 tube with a 6AQ5 and the output transformer with one matching an 8 Ohm speaker. Provides much stronger and clearer audio AND you do NOT need a 600 Ohm matching transformer to connect between radio and speaker/headset. I saved the original output transformer in case the mod ever needed to be reversed. REASON: Much better audio.

F. SMALL, unobtrusive jack added to RF deck to allow connection of a Q-Multiplier (for notching) OR a Panadapter for visual display (Q-mult or Panadapter not included). REASON: Collins did not provide a method of notching adjacent carriers.

COSMETICS: A very nice looking R-390A. Best one I've ever had out of the 5 I've worked on, 4 were mine. Engraved panel. Lettering clear/legible. All original knobs, meters covers etc. Usual screw

scratches around rack mounting holes. Small scratch between AGC and BFO, some very minute scratches around edge (after all this is a MIL Surplus receiver).

I'll toss in what spare tubes I have, the old plug-in electrolytic capacitors (in case you wish to have them rebuilt), original audio output transformer etc.

WHAT I'M ASKING.

I will take \$675.00 Cash OR possibly the following depending on what you have. Any swap receiver I take must be in "Like New" condition with proper documentation/accessories and NO known problems.

1. Icom R-75 receiver WITH Narrow CW filter (DSP and/or TCXO a plus). If NO filter I must have some cash "boot".
2. Yaesu FRG-100B (must be "B") WITH Narrow CW filter and some "boot" (TCXO a Plus).
3. JRC NRD-525 or NRD-534 WITH Narrow CW filter.
4. Possibly another "Modern" digital General Coverage receiver that displays at LEAST to 10Hz and has Narrow CW filter (NO Radio Shack please).

SHIPPING: (Please read carefully).

Due to weight, I 'prefer' pickup of the R-390A BUT will ship under the following conditions.

1. R-390A Buyer provides all packaging materials (I can direct you to someone who makes PROPER shipping containers).
2. R-390A Buyer Assumes all shipping/insurance costs of both radios (if a swap) as well as the liability incurred when shipping (IF a claim is needed I WILL assist in any way I can). I do NOT have the funds needed to ship anything (I'm on limited income).
3. If a Swap, the radio I'm receiving MUST be well packed and double boxed! 73 de Phil KO6BB

From k06bb@elite.net Sat Nov 2 20:04:33 2002

Subject: [R-390] R-390A spoken for.

Goodness, I could have sold a dozen of them. 73 de Phil KO6BB

From kberlen@ticz.com Sun Nov 3 03:40:27 2002

Subject: [R-390] R-391 for trade

I have a R-391 in un-restored condition. It has sat in a friends garage for about 15 years. It has original meters and top and bottom covers. I also have an original Collins tech manual for it. I brought it up slowly with a variac about a year ago, and it works to some degree, but will need some servcie/restoration. It currently has a 12BY7 installed in place of the balast tube. I have made no attempt to fire up the autotune mechanisim. I have pictures and additional info upon request.

I am looking for a Kenwood TS-850 or TS-690 with antenna tuner option in trade for this rig. I have a number of boat anchors and am running out of room.

I would prefer not to ship this rig, and would drive up to 200 miles one-way from southwest Indiana to deliver the rig and complete the trade.

Please e-mail me direct if you are interested in discussing this deal. Thanks, and 73 Kevin, K9HX

From Llgpt@aol.com Sun Nov 3 17:16:22 2002
Subject: [R-390] FS/Trade

Hallicrafters SX-100 MK1A recapped, retubed, aligned, filter electrolytic replaced, original manual. \$300 shipped continental U.S. Or, will trade for an "ORIGINAL" Hammarlund SP-600 cabinet and a little boot. Les Locklear

From courir26@yahoo.com Mon Nov 4 13:08:00 2002
Subject: [R-390] PTO Doesn't "O"

Gentlemen:

The PTO on my 51J-3 has gone kaput.

I've checked the tubes, its getting filament and good B+ from the OA2 but still no output. I get nothing on the freq counter at the PTO output where I usta could. The radio makes all the proper noises other than those you would associate with PTO operation (like zero beat with cal).

Before I dive into the innards, does anyone has a list of common failures in these PTO's? Thanks Tom

From dmartin@visuallink.com Tue Nov 5 00:20:31 2002
Subject: [R-390] PTO Doesn't "O"

Tom:

I seem to remember Howard Mills >always< preemptively replaces some component (a cap or two?) inside J-series PTO's whenever he does his famous rebuilds, likely to avoid the very thing that has happened to you. I cannot recall details but I've cc'd him on this message in hopes he might respond. Dan WB4GRA Winchester, VA (not too far from W3HM)

From ezeran@concentric.net Tue Nov 5 19:05:06 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS is Garbage

Universal Package Smashers! My losses so far? R808, Viking mobile transmitters twice, TCS power supply, EICO 723 The plain old Post Office is much more BoatAnchor safe as long as the size and weight fit the limits. EdZ San Diego

Subject: [R-390] UPS is Garbage

Always avoid UPS if possible. They have lousy customer service and insolate themselves as much as possible from interaction with the customer. Regards to All, Jan Sugalski.

From n6py@QNET.COM Tue Nov 5 19:49:23 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS is Garbage

I agree Ed,

I have never had a problem with USPS shipping damage. However also had good luck with FedEx. In the R390 cabinet deal I helped Mac with. he shipped all of them FedEx and we had no damage claims I

know of. Only a problem with some of their bar coding of the packages causing some to be not delivered in Canada. Bill N6PY

From ezeran@concentric.net Tue Nov 5 19:53:41 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS is Garbage

> I agree Ed, I have never had a problem with USPS shipping damage. Bill N6PY

I double box and use foam, bubble wrap, etc. padding with much success at USPS but the same packing with the R808 arrived looking like a bean bag chair. The string tape was all that held it all together.

From Danny Lunstrum" <dlvnstru@netins.net Tue Nov 5 23:32:53 2002
Subject: [R-390] Photos of Preproduction R-390

I have put together a file of photos of this R390. If you are interested, please send me your e-mail address and I will send you a set. One surprise was when I removed the Serial Number tag- I found where someone had scratched "R390#11" in the paint. Apparently no mods have been performed on this radio.

I believe the orange-stenciled notice on the side of the radio reads as follows: "This equipment was tested as a preproduction sample by the Signal Corps Engineering Laboratories. It is to be retained intact without alteration or improvement of any kind for use by the Signal Corps Inspector ?? ?? by him."

I have had to guess at some of the words a couple are completely unreadable. I invite your comments concerning this radio. Dan

From metzd@intelos.net Wed Nov 6 02:10:35 2002
Subject: [R-390] FS: Free (or almost)

Friends on the reflector,

I cannot bring myself to dispose of this equipment to the metal recyclers. So, here is the deal. The following is free for pickup only. In case of tie offers, winner will be decided on the basis of my arbitrary method but serious consideration will be given to prior help! 2nd caveat is that it all has to go. I'm not in a rush, just so it's picked up within the next couple of months. QTH is Staunton Va, along I-81 at the intersection of I-64. I will post here first because while it's not 390 equipment, the group here is first class. Lastly, I won't decide till Wednesday night so if you don't catch the post at the first minute, I will review all plea bargaining stories first before deciding.

1 HP 612 signal generator, I think this works but not sure. (too many years since it was plugged in)
1 HP 608d Rackmount generator. There is one meter missing here but everything else seems in order. I sort of had an accident with it one time and removed it. Seems complete but no idea if operational.

2 ea AN/URR 13's. one works, one not so hot. 200-400mhz AM

2 ea Motorola lowband FM transceivers in a case that is about 3'high 2' wide, 15" deep or something close to that. I think the original freq was 33.06 mhz. Condition unknown, appear to be complete except for the rectifier tubes.

1 ea hp 312 selective voltmeter, could use some work but powers up.

1 ea HP distortion analyzer (332??)

So, hope someone close wants a few things to play with, PLEASE, help a guy out! The XYL is getting a bit impatient! 73's and thanks! dave

From courir26@yahoo.com Wed Nov 6 13:09:18 2002
Subject: [R-390] Use of PP Rig, Was: Photos of Preproduction R-390

Danny, Based on your post of the stencil contents, I'm thinking one use of this rig would be to send to Motorola for assistance in building their sets. I recall a story when GM was building airplanes for the war, and the Navy sent them a Grumman example along with the drawings. TBM I believe. 73 Tom

From jordana@nucleus.com Wed Nov 6 13:16:45 2002
Subject: [R-390] Use of PP Rig, Was: Photos of Preproduction R-390

It looks to me to be a test sample from Collins Radio to the Assessment division of the Signal Corps...Serial number PP2... Maybe the second R-390 ever built..? Or it could be the second sample submitted for testing to see if it met the specs required by the Signal Corps....prior to a production run... 73 de Jordan....

From wgdavis@ipass.net Wed Nov 6 17:17:57 2002
Subject: [R-390] Viking

Hi Guys,
I have a Viking(s) that I would like to use on the AM Station that I have planned; along with my R-390A.. Do U know of someone who works and restores them?? I am Not looking one of those \$30,000 jobs like the R-390A that was posted here a week ago or so; if U get my meaning.. I am in North Carolina; near Raleigh..
C U Later, 73 WG WG Davis / KB4ZMB

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Wed Nov 6 22:28:32 2002
Subject: [R-390] Tubes vs. SS??

Item#1871775187 Seller says radios are a mix of tubes and SS, and states that tubes withstand EMP better,..... what a surprise! Joe

From kellerfamily01@charter.net Thu Nov 7 00:50:22 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

I can relate to that - they are worse than garbage. I had a restored R-390A shipped to me via UPS. Extra money was paid for special handling to keep it off the conveyors. They paid no attention, flung it off the conveyor and, according to the restorer, did at least \$300.00 damage to it. UPS came to my house, examined the packaging, said that it had been packed OK, and admitted full responsibility. They agreed to send it back to the restorer, who does a lot of business with UPS, and pay for the repair plus shipping both ways. But the restorer would not take it back unless I paid him for the repairs up front. He said that UPS would never give him his money based on past experience with them, and

that he just flat didn't want to fool with the radio anymore. So, UPS said how about them just reimbursing me for the \$300.00 damage and me keep the radio as is. I said OK, and the restorer also said that was a good idea. After a year of corresponding with them trying to get my money, and being told continuously that they were still working on it, I contacted UPS headquarters to complain. I was told that the restorer had long before agreed to settle the claim for one half the estimated damages, so they had paid him. UPS had been just stringing me along with no intentions of making good on the claim. Bill K.

From hankarn@pacbell.net Thu Nov 7 03:34:56 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

Who was the restorer that raked you over the coals? Hank, KN6DI We can stay away from him.

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Thu Nov 7 03:47:42 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

Yeah, who was the "restorer?" Sounds like a class act. NOT!

From dalmatians98@yahoo.com Thu Nov 7 15:15:07 2002
Subject: [R-390] RE: Viking

Hi WG,

One of the most enjoyable facets of AM, to my mind, is working on your own equipment. To that end, why not do the work on the Viking yourself? You don't say whether your's is a Viking I or II, but both are laid out simply and provide plenty of space in which to work. Further, there are several audio modifications (the URL for one site appears at the bottom of my note -- go to the TECH section and check out the Modifications) which take the Viking's stock audio from "communications" quality to something quite a bit better. Do you have the manual for your xmtr? If not, go to the BAMA site and download and print out the manual there. If you have trouble along the way, go to the AM Window Bulletin Board and post your question. Yes, it takes a bit more time to do the work yourself, but along the way you will become acquainted with the equipment you're using which will make operation and trouble shooting easier. Here is the URL.

<http://www.amwindow.org/> Good luck! Paul Goodman, K2ORC

From kellerfamily01@charter.net Thu Nov 7 17:40:07 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

I'm brand new to the net, so If I'm breaking any rules by mentioning names on the net, someone please let me know. But to answer Dan & Bob's question, the restorer was, surprisingly, Rick Mish. To be as fair as I can to Rick, he did send me a rack handle to replace the one that UPS had sheared off the right side of the receiver and four used crystals to help get the radio working right again. According to the local UPS investigator, the radio had gotten caught on a conveyor mess-up and the box damaged. It was then flung off the conveyor onto a concrete floor shearing off the right side rack handle and damaging the front panel. They thought it then bounced and came back down on the bottom left side of the front panel and doing damage there. The thing is it wasn't supposed to have been on the conveyor in the first place. Rick was extremely critical of UPS and urged me to take them to the cleaners and get every

penny of reimbursement for the damage. But he didn't want the radio sent back to him for repair because, as he told me, he had a back log of other work it would cut into and that UPS would never give him his money for the work. Anyway, the thing that really upset me was that, while I was waiting patiently for over a year trying to get UPS to settle the claim with me, Rick and UPS had already made another deal on the side for their own mutual benefit, and no one bothered to tell me about it. I wrote a letter to both UPS and Rick and told them how I felt about the way this matter had been handled, but I never got any response from either one. Bill K.

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Thu Nov 7 17:48:14 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

You are joking, right?

UPS sent Rick a check for half of the damage to YOUR radio and he never fixed it or sent the check to you? If I am interpreting this right you got shafted by both. A handle and a couple of used crystals are worth next to nothing. UPS holds the lesser of the blame here. Scott

From chacuff@cableone.net Thu Nov 7 19:54:48 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

Greetings group,

I think this validates our discussion a few weeks back that the contract for shipping and insurance coverage is between the "SHIPPER" and the shipping company. Bill you never had a chance in this case...you were at the mercy of the shipper...being Rick. A stand up guy would make things right by his customer....Until that radio (or a refund) was delivered to you in the shape you paid for.....the deal was not done. Of course a lot of this is hindsight.

I can remember 15 or 20 years ago it was not uncommon to open a package and check for suspected damage and refuse the delivery if there was. I'm not sure how that would fly today!

I have never met or done business with Rick...but I would hope this is not the norm for how he does business..... He should not have recommended any action by you, outside reporting the damage, with the shipping company because he knows very well that the contract is between he and the shipping company!

I shipped an R1051 to a customer a few weeks ago and physically the radio arrived without a scratch. But the RF deck had taken a shot somewhere along the line. As soon as the turret assembly tried to spin several of the contacts were folded. Needless to say the radio didn't work and the customer was dissapointed after waiting on a list for a few months and paying several hundred dollars for the item, much as Bill did I'm sure. The customer was very nice about the whole thing which made a difficult situation much easier. The box was not damaged at all...best we can figure it was dropped flat on it's bottom or top from a significant height. The radio was surrounded by 3 inches of high density foam insulating board on all sides and could not move within the box. A claim would have been a waste of time with any shipper in this case because there was no physical damage.

The customers radio was repaired promptly and at no additional cost to him. The deal is done....the customer got what he paid good money for! I'm convinced Rick should have done the same! Certainly any money recovered from the shipping company should have come to you if you opted to keep the damaged (and devalued) radio! Rick should not have profited from the situation! Just my 2 cents worth! Cecil Acuff

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Thu Nov 7 20:23:48 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

Agreed.

From w9wis@charter.net Thu Nov 7 20:42:19 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

I think in all fairness that if one is concerned about this incident they should talk to Rick and get the story from his perspective. I did... the basic facts are not in dispute. The radio was done and shipped back as it was received via UPS. The radio was damaged by UPS.

Here is where things get a little "fuzzy". There is no implication anyone is being less than truthful here... however there appear to be details that have not been related in the information provided. In my experience this isn't uncommon at all... everyone has a different point of view... often reflected in their individual recollection of an incident.

Before crucifying Rick Mish and telling each other what he "should" have done I suggest you get "all" the facts from each side.

And... for those who might ask... I have never met Rick Mish. All I know is he has been immensely helpful, fair and kind to me... a guy he has never even met. And... when I sent my R-390A to him in May his terms were clear and up-front regarding damage claims. And I agreed to the terms.... if I didn't accept or agree with them I was free to turn elsewhere. That's the American way... Mike

From bobm@hcsmail.com Thu Nov 7 21:11:16 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS Damage

Gents,

Here is how I do it.....and it works I sell an item, we agree on the shipping, I pack the item, I insure the item. The item is damaged in shipment. The buyer notifies me and refuses the item. Within 24 hours the buyer's money is returned in the form of a certified check.

I then fight with UPS, it is not the buyer's obligation to insure safe arrival. It is the seller's responsibility.

I have not lost a battle yet....claims have been settled within two to three weeks. This works for me..... 73, Bob, W4WSZ

From j.t.king@worldnet.att.net Thu Nov 7 21:12:18 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

What Mike said. [I] mine was 10/01] John

From chacuff@cableone.net Thu Nov 7 21:26:48 2002

Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

Mike and group, I agree with what you are saying....there are two sides to every story! I don't think there has been a crucifixion here.

I see quite a few items offered for sale on the lists and on the auction sites with the statement that "All damage claims to be settled between the buyer and the shipping company".

That does not make the shipping company responsible to the buyer...it only attempts to relieve the shipper of any responsibility to the customer in the event of shipping damage. Most shipping companies will not give the buyer the time of day during one of these events beyond allowing the inspector to see the package in question and maybe doing some of the paper work. Any money that changes hands during claims settlement will be between the shipper and the shipping company...not the buyer. That is not likely to happen unless the seller pursues the claim....

So I guess "Buyer Beware" is in order if you are dealing with someone that doesn't want to accept the responsibility that the shipping company's place upon them! Cecil Acuff

From j.t.king@worldnet.att.net Thu Nov 7 22:43:01 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

Apologies--my remark was cute, but, out of context, meaningless. While Rick needs no defense from me, I'd ask that everyone remember that it's not possible to please everyone, and there are always two sides. For my part, he was very very good to me as a complete newbie, having bought an R-390-A which made "funny grinding noises," and appeared not to be more sensitive than a crystal set. Rick could easily have sold me the \$1k restoration, but instead looked at the radio, found it to be not as bad as I in my ignorance feared, and serviced and aligned it for \$250.00. No UPS probs, and the unit has been on 24/7 for over a year performing very well indeed. [tho I would trade it for an immaculate 240-D with ice-cold air]. Dealing with the public is fraught with all sorts of peril. First posting, enjoy the list, thanks John

From martin.benoit@sympatico.ca Fri Nov 8 00:29:43 2002
Subject: [R-390] AF67 swap 4kc filter

Hello i am always looking for a 4 KC filter for my R390A. Ready to swap a Multi elmac AF-67 (no ps) for it. Any interest ???? Tnx Martin VA2ZO/VE2EDK

From kellerfamily01@charter.net Fri Nov 8 03:15:22 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

Actually, I didn't ship the radio to Rick for restoration. Rick supplied both the radio and the restoration for \$1000.00 plus \$100.00 for shipping, and we never discussed anything about the handling of damage claims. I wish we had. I offered several times to go from Texas to Ohio and pick it up in person just to make sure that I got it in the condition that Rick put it in, which appeared to have been outstanding. But Rick said he thought he could pack it where UPS couldn't tear it up. And he did pack it very well - even UPS admitted that. And I got along just fine with Rick up until the time I found out that he had settled with UPS without telling me about it. I had even written UPS a letter telling them that Rick was a person of undisputable honesty and integrity, and that if Rick said that the radio was shipped in a certain condition they could take it to the bank. Rick asked me what I wanted him to tell UPS at his end, and I

told him to just tell them the same thing he had told me - that the damage appeared to be about \$300.00 to repair, and that he would prefer to settle it without sending the radio back to him.

I'm sorry that I stirred things up. I didn't mean to do that, and I should not have revealed who the restorer was. I thought it was plain that I actually hold UPS more responsible than I do Rick, and I understand that there might be an honest difference in opinion about the worth of the rack handle and four used crystals that Rick sent me to help repair the damage. Rick may have thought they were worth the \$150.00 that UPS paid him to settle the claim. I didn't, especially since Rick had already told me that I could send him about \$40.00 for the handle and crystals when UPS settled the claim with me. As far as I know, Rick never told me anything that was actually untrue, and I have never claimed that he was untruthful. My main bone of contention with Rick was that he settled the claim himself with UPS without telling me about it, and then let me continue to make a fool of myself for over six months trying to get UPS to do what they said they were going to do. And as far as UPS was concerned, it was no contest between me and them. They held all the cards, and they didn't mind lying to me until they could make their deal with Rick and get off the hook. And even after that, UPS kept on corresponding with me about how they were still working on the claim without telling me that they had already settled it with Rick. I only found that out after I made an issue out of it with their corporate office. And I am not going to say anything more about this incident. I have learned my lesson - from now on, all my input will be technical. Bill K.

From chacuff@cableone.net Fri Nov 8 04:13:49 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

Bill you are being way too hard on yourself....you haven't seen this list stirred up! In fact if you hadn't posted about your experience there probably wouldn't have been any traffic on here at all! All the lists I subscribe to have been unusually quiet lately. Been wondering if something was broke. I guess everybody is getting their Christmas shopping done or something.

The disclosure of the restorer was no big deal either...there are only two guys doing pro restorations of the R390A's that I know of and everyone on the list know who they are.

On a more positive note...did you get it back together and how does it perform? I've heard Rick does a nice job! Cecil...

From kellerfamily01@charter.net Fri Nov 8 20:50:27 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

Yes, I got it back together, and it's performing really good except for some misalignment, especially of the PTO, caused by UPS bouncing it around on a concrete floor. And, yes, to the other question, too. Rick Mish does an exceptionally good job. He did the entire radio, electrical, cosmetic and all. And, except for a small paint run on the upper edge of the panel, Rick's work on the panel was flawless and of exceptional quality. The lettering and knobs were especially good. I paid Rick \$1000.00 for the radio plus the restoration, and I am convinced that he shipped me a radio worth every bit of that and then some. The fact that UPS turned it into a \$700.00 radio enroute was no fault of Rick's. I have since then acquired two more of these radios plus two of the SP-600 and the necessary test equipment to do my own restoration. I'm looking forward to it as soon as I can get my cat to give me back my workbench. So, I may be asking some of you guys who have a lot of experience for advice from time to time. Bill K.

From chacuff@cableone.net Fri Nov 8 23:19:51 2002

Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

Hi Bill, Sounds like you need Chuck Rippel's R390A and SP-600 videos....

You have got the bug....along with the rest of us. I also own 2 R-390As and 2 SP-600's one of which is an early John Leary. Along with various other Hallicrafters, Hammarlunds and soon a National NC-183D and matching speaker. That should look nice next to the SX-28A and it's matching speaker. Most are awaiting time on the bench for their turn at restoration. Hard to find time between the R-1051's moving through the shop! Life is good! Cecil...

From kellerfamily01@charter.net Sat Nov 9 03:27:04 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

You're right, Cecil, I have gotten the bug. I operated both the R-390A and the SP-600 back in the late Nineteen fifties when I was in the Air Force and attached to the NSA. I fell in love with these radios and have wanted to own them ever since, but only in the last couple of years got around to doing anything about it. I started doing this when I got bored with ham radio. I do have Chuck's R-390A video, and I am going to get his video for the SP-600. I have also accumulated several loose leaf binders full of other technical info on the R-390A. Every time I come across a new piece of information, I collect it and organize it in the binders. But I have found it much more difficult to find the same depth of information on the SP-600. Nevertheless, I have got one of my SP-600s, a 1952 JX-14, working really good electrically, black beauty caps and all, but the front panel is pretty beat up cosmetically. The other one has serious electrical problems but looks really nice. Of the two non-restored R-390As, one works extremely well but needs a lot of cosmetics, and the other one needs both electrical and cosmetic restoration. So I have quite a bit to do whenever I get around to it. It will probably take me a lot of time because I tend to be somewhat of a perfectionist like Rick and Chuck. FYI, there is another "Master of the R-390A" gaining recognition. His name is Dario Hernandez, and he lives in Abilene, Texas. I have seen some of his work, and I can't say that I have ever seen better. I thought his attention to detail was beyond belief. Regards, Bill K.

From ody@radicus.net Sat Nov 9 05:46:56 2002
Subject: [R-390] Sticker under carrier level meter

Hi Gang, I wonder if someone might be able to tell me something about the sticker under the carrier level meter on my 62 teledyne. It is a chrome sticker about 1 inch square and says

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] U.S.B.]
] 5822 ]
]-----]
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Also, I removed the name plate and found the number 1833 hand written beneath it. The serial number on the plate is 3022. I am guessing that the real serial number for the radio is 1833 and the tag on it now is not the original. Thanks, Scott

From hankarn@pacbell.net Sat Nov 9 22:06:53 2002
Subject: [R-390] [Fwd: FS R-388 Top & Bottom Covers]

I have for sale top and bottom covers for the R-388 series 51J-3 and J-\$ These are new repro covers that will be gold alodined and WILL NOT HAVE THE TOOL HOLDERS, REPEAT NO TOOL HOLDERS, adds \$25.00 to cost of each top cover. NO TOOL HOLDERS. I will furnish a schematic for

either the J3 or J4 on a PSA Pressure Sensitive Adhesive to place in the cover. The price is \$80.00 for the set, schematic and shipped in lower 48. All other locations depends on actual cost.

Payment by personal check to clear, Postal Money order or Pay Pal. If by Pay Pal would appreciate the 2.5% they charge me added on to the total. I am looking for real orders so I do not have too many sitting on the shelf. Thanks, Hank KN6DI

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Sat Nov 9 22:53:42 2002
Subject: [R-390] TS-505's on E-but

Just what you need for restoring your radio, same as in the manual!

No, they're not mine, but I did just buy one, what a Boatanchor!! I actually got a Phaotron "A" model, too. Joe

From k06bb@elite.net Sat Nov 9 23:09:17 2002
Subject: [R-390] Anotehr R-390A for sale.

Hello.

This listing is made on behalf of Don, W6LRG (who isn't on these reflectors). PLEASE don't contact me about the set. Don can be reached at w6lrg@elite.net OR telephone (209) 358-4217 AFTER 5:00PM California time. Done lives in Atwater, Central California.

Don has the "sister" to the R-390A that I recently sold (we got both of them at the same time). It is a '67 EAC in nice condition. Here are some specifics.

1. '67 EAC with Collins IF module, Cosmos PTO, all remaining modules are EAC.
2. Includes original meters, all covers, COPY of manual.
3. All paper capacitors, electrolytic caps and out of tolerance resistors have been replaced. 3 Wire power cord installed.
4. Has two electrical mods that I'm aware of, the Power supply Silicon Rectifiers and the Lankford AGC/BFO mod for improved SSB.
5. Unit has been lubricated, aligned and plays well. It's plug and play.

PRICE AND SHIPPING: Don is asking 600.00 Picked up in Atwater. He may also ship IF the buyer provides a suitable shipping container and assumes all liability. 73 de Phil KO6BB

From RDavis24@carolina.rr.com Sat Nov 9 23:14:37 2002
Subject: [R-390] What are the favorites to Listen to on an R-390A?

Hello

I just started listening to an R-390A that I have acquired, and have much work to do on it before it gets much use. I am wondering though, since I have no DXing experience, what are the favorite stations to listen for of the group? I am new to AM broadcasting and to the R-390A, so please keep this in mind, I have no idea where to look or what to look for. All I know is this thing can hear things I have never heard on Ham Rigs. I have been a CW operator for a short while, and that is the main reason I bought the R-390A, but my CW is not what I want it to be hi, so I am wanting to learn to chase DX with my new R-390A. I have a MFJ-DSP unit hooked up to the R-390A now and it really gives me good audio. I

do need to replace the problem caps though, before I listen to much. Any help will be greatly appreciated. I have a 160 meter antenna hooked to it now, and its a very quite antenna, but I have no idea where to start listening. I would like to find several things, including Christian Broadcasts, DX favorites, Digital communication for images, Beacons and more. Thanks in advance Ronnie KE4VPN

From theprof@texoma.net Sun Nov 10 00:23:08 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS Bashing is getting old

Let's lighten things up a little - UPS bashing is getting old

An article popped up on the Defense Daily News today talking about the "Reconnaissance and Aerial Interdiction Detachments (RAID) that consisting of aviation units in 32 states to serve as a "force multiplier" element for law enforcement agencies, as well as the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)."

In talking about marijuana, it was mentioned that "growers are going indoors, turning basements and mobile homes into hot houses." It went on to say that "more than half the OH-58s helicopters are equipped with the FLIR system which detects differences in temperature. This allows the RAID pilots, with mandatory law enforcement agents (LEAs) on board to spot houses with unusual amounts of heat being radiated, indicating indoor growing sites."

Okay boatanchor collectors, if you hear a helicopter and then find a DEA agent is your door, they are there to confiscate your radios.

"They'll get my radio only after they pry my cold dead fingers from the tuning knob." 73 de Richard, W5SRB

From barry@hausernet.com Sun Nov 10 00:50:42 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS Bashing is getting old

Richard wrote:> Okay boatanchor collectors, if you hear a helicopter and then find a DEA > agent is your door, they are there to confiscate your radios.

That's why you need IERC heat dissipating tube shields, and maybe some blower fans.

> "They'll get my radio only after they pry my cold dead fingers from the> tuning knob."

Yup -- always keep some crazy glue handy, just in case ... Barry

From asolway@sympatico.ca Sun Nov 10 02:15:28 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-390As FS Qty 3

To All,
Frank Deluca, VA3FSD has the following for sale. Three R-390As in Parry Sound, Ontario Canada. Two are in fair condition similar to Fair Radio's Used Repairable. One radio has the line meter only. The other two have no meters. Frank indicates that the third radio is suitable for parts. I think that the price he is asking is very good. I am sure that you will all be pleasantly surprised at what he is asking for the three as a package.

E-mail him at. va3fsd@yahoo.com

I would have purchased them but for two reasons, the lack of meters and my radio room is full. An R-390A and a R-390 with an SP-600 waiting for restoration plus all my Ham radios fill the shack. Also the Boss Lady frowns on any more of what she call "monstrosities" in the apartment. Good luck. Al VE2TAS

From rbethman@comcast.net Sun Nov 10 02:33:05 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: Reconnaissance and Aerial Interdiction Detachments

They have been flying a pair of OV-10 Broncos out of Manassas, VA for the last five years with extra fuel tanks and FLIRs.

They painted them up to look "civilian", but the tail numbers don't show in the FAA aircraft registry. And the exhaust of the turboprops lays a layer of soot over them anyway. Bob - N0DGN

From w9wis@charter.net Sun Nov 10 04:26:26 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: Reconnaissance and Aerial Interdiction Detachments

> They painted them up to look "civilian", but the tail numbers don't show > in the FAA aircraft registry.

Yeah ... just like the Blackhawks etc. that were in Peru and Bolivia in 1980. However the first "military support" mission there "officially" was in about 1991 to help with the "war on drugs". Ever seen an EP-3 in civilian markings or an unmarked RF-4C ...<grin>.

Interestingly, there is a company here in Oshkosh, Wisconsin called Basler Turbo Conversions that makes various C-47 turboprop conversions called a BT-67. Most people figure they are only for cargo or small airlines mainly in the third world. Most go to Africa, South America, various private contractors... and a few to USFS for fire fighting and a few "other" US Agencies.

They actually make a great interdiction version and the mini-guns are hardly noticeable . hehehe. Check out the black paint sans markings and look at those sweet cannons <http://www.baslerturbo.com/specialop.html> Reminds one of the heady days of "Puff the Magic Dragon".... I can attest to the fact that this bird really performs much better. BTW they also have a special ops commo/countermeasures version too <http://www.baslerturbo.com/ah.html> Odd that a 1939 design can still be partially "classified"..... way cool ! Mike

From jbrannig@optonline.net Sun Nov 10 13:31:50 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS Bashing is getting old

It is disturbing to discover that in this post 9/11 environment we still allocate assets to finding "indoor pot growers" while our borders are as porous as a sieve..... Jim

From scott" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Sun Nov 10 14:25:35 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS Bashing is getting old

Boy I couldn't agree any more. I don't smoke it, but fighting it is certainly a loosing battle. The dope

heads are going to get it one way or another. Let's seal our borders. Seems much more important issue. Not only for security but we are also fast losing our language and culture. Scott

From beckrep@citlink.net Sun Nov 10 14:41:41 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS Bashing is getting old

Well said, gents. Couldn't agree with you more. Paul K2LMQ

From hankarn@pacbell.net Sun Nov 10 14:49:47 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS Bashing is getting old

If they did fast track executions for sellers it would dry up real fast. In Malaysia if you are caught with drugs you are tried in the Morning, appeal in the PM and you go down through the trap door the next sunrise. Do they have a drug problem? NOPE Hank KN6DI

From gpewitt@execpc.com Sun Nov 10 17:44:04 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS Bashing is getting old

Actually they stand you in front of an M-60 machine gun and fire a whole belt into your chest. Happened to two American kids. Gary Pewitt N9ZSV

From jbrannig@optonline.net Sun Nov 10 16:57:09 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS Bashing is getting old

Due process can be frustrating, but it is one of our civilizing attributes that separates us from the rest of the world.

From myoung76@bellsouth.net Sun Nov 10 21:35:27 2002
Subject: [R-390] Computer RFI and R390s

How do you guys keep out computer hash from your listening/receiving? Turning the computer off isn't viable, since one of the programs I use is a RTTY program.

In addition, I am in suburbia so no room for big antennae. Just long wire in the attic. Plus the Radio Shack ferrite core ant that was talked about on this forum this summer. TNX Mike

From billsmith@ispwest.com Sun Nov 10 23:35:21 2002
Subject: [R-390] Computer RFI and R390s

Hopefully, the noise you hear is from your computer, and not from a neighbor's or a computer in another room. In the latter case, you can still quiet it down. A neighbor's may be more difficult unless you can gain access to the equipment. First, switch off the computer, or any other suspected source of noise to establish whether that equipment is really the source of interference.

(1) Keep the display away from your receiver. The high voltage and high magnetic fields generated by

the monitor are shielded better in newer models.

(2) Ground everything well. 2nd story grounding situations can be problematic.

(3) Invest in Radio Shack 273-104 Snap-together chokes. Wrap several turns of wires from every connection in and out of the computer as close to the computer as practical. If you wish, start by hooking only the minimum connections to the computer to see if that initially helps noise, then connect attachments one by one, with and without cores to see whether the cores help.

(4) Wrap the power cord to the radio equipment through a choke. Note that each turn through the choke counts as another choke in the line, so more turns wrapped through the core the better.

(5) You may need to wrap your antenna coax through a choke. Yes, noise signals can travel on the outside of a coaxial cable into the receiver, especially if you are operating with a high SWR.

(6) Feed the receiver with a balanced line, i.e. a balun at the end of the coaxial line if you use coax. This is difficult in a R-390 series receiver since the center of the balanced input in those receivers is grounded and it is hard to match the ground point in the receiver to an external ground without developing a ground loop (and defeating the effort). You can test your feed to the receiver by attaching a section of coax to your balun (for example a ten-foot line from the receiver to a coax switch), and shorting the open end. The receiver should fall silent. If it doesn't, the coax not working as coax, but is acting as a local antenna and will pick up local noise such as from your computer.

(7) Start with the simplest combination - a minimum of external connections to the computer and the receiver. See if you can minimize noise with that configuration, then gradually add connections, testing each time to determine whether noise is added. Resolve each line before adding the next.

Your receiver will work better overall. 73 de Bill, AB6MT

From Jim Shorney" <jshorney@inebraska.com Sun Nov 10 23:59:04 2002

Subject: [R-390] Computer RFI and R390s

wrote: >(1) Keep the display away from your receiver. The high voltage and high >magnetic fields generated by the monitor are shielded better in newer >models.

That depends. I use 'vintage' IBM PS/2 server machines with IBM XGA-2 monitors from the same era for ham apps. This is some of the best shielded computer gear ever made, and I have yet to detect any hash from this stuff. Of course, the new shack and R390A are both still disassembled, so I haven't tested that particular equation.

Bottom line, consumer grade monitors tend to have poor shielding, despite what they want you to think.
Jim Shorney

From Llgpt@aol.com Mon Nov 11 00:11:44 2002

Subject: [R-390] Computer RFI and R390s

writes: wrote: >(1) Keep the display away from your receiver. The high voltage and high >magnetic fields generated by the monitor are shielded better in newer >models. That depends. I use 'vintage' IBM PS/2 server machines with IBM XGA-2 monitors from the same era for ham apps. This is some of the

best shielded computer gear ever made, and I have yet to detect any hash from this stuff. Of course, the new shack and R390A are both still disassembled, so I haven't tested that particular equation.

Bottom line, consumer grade monitors tend to have poor shielding, despite what they want you to think. Mi Mac is always on, never a problem. Les

From courir26@yahoo.com Mon Nov 11 00:25:58 2002
Subject: [R-390] Computer RFI and R390s

Mike, A couple of things . . .

A) you must get the antenna to a low noise area, away from the house. The rx should be fed with good quality coax all the way to the ant. The ant does not necessarily have to start at the house. You can bury the coax and start the ant somewhere out in the yard.

2) you should choke off all of the transmitters, that is, all of the cables coming off your computer with iron toroids or equiv.

But the main thing is it is coming in the antenna and your ant is in a high noise area. This may not eliminate the noise but should help. 73 Tom

From kberlen@ticz.com Mon Nov 11 00:58:05 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-391 for trade

I have successfully traded the R-391 that I offered for trade. Thanks to all those that expressed an interest. 73, Kevin, K9HX

From jonandvalerieoldenburg@worldnet.att.net Mon Nov 11 03:38:06 2002
Subject: [R-390] UPS Bashing is getting old

If you truly analyze the situation described, the problem really lies in the litigious society that the USA has evolved into. Television worships these bottom feeding slime bag lawyers with programs such as "the Firm". Regular news television interviews with genuine concern the slime which will represent the murderer, the child molester and the drug dealer with all the respect they would afford to a district attorney. While I can not think of a better system off hand, it is my true christian belief that the slime which most trial lawyers are will get their own justice in the after life along with those who associate with them. (BTW my sister is a Chicago trial lawyer and I haven't seen her in 10 years for this reason). Jon AB9AH

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Mon Nov 11 03:50:17 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-392 Audio Module

Hi Gang:

No -- not that audio module, but an oddball retro-fit. Once again, a toob radio turns up on my doorstep

with something other than all tubes plugged into it.

This one is Model 1240 audio amp made by Epitek Electronics, Ltd. of Ottawa. It's about 1 X 2 inches and a bit over 1/4" thick with an aluminum plate (probably a heat sink). The back is marked "R-76-49"

I found this, along with a 1000 mfd 50v electrolytic, stuffed into the cubby where the 26A7 is supposed to go and secured with masking tape. (yup) It looks like the cap tossed its cookies. There's also some white stuff around one corner of that module, but I don't know if that's an inside job or not.

Anyone know anything about this module. Obviously a home brew addition. Only 5 solder-on terminals -- "GND" wired to pin 2 & 7 (grounded) of the tube socket, "IN" - wired to pin 3 (which makes some sense), "+40" - hooked to pin 6 (26v filament). "OUT" is wired to pin #1 of J613 -- bypassing the output transformer and going directly to the audio out.

The fifth terminal is marked "CAP" and connected to the negative lead of that electrolytic. The positive lead was just dangling -- apparently disconnected itself and it looks like it was originally tacked onto the "OUT" tab. Does this make any sense -- a 1,000 mfd cap from the output to what?

It also appears that the original wiring was left unmodified to the tube socket - there's some instances of "tack soldering" which suggests tentativeness (i.e. "It still don't woik!")

Anybody have any info on this module? Any suggestions? Probably doesn't pay to mess with it -- I'll probably pull it out and re-tubify the audio. Barry

From theprof@texoma.net Mon Nov 11 04:21:25 2002
Subject: [R-390] Computer RFI and R390s

If you are connecting the R-390 to the computer audio card, you may also want to try a 600ohm/600ohm isolation transformer in the audio line. I had a ground loop problem that cleared right up when I did this. I also put a Topaz line isolation transformer on the primary of the radio before the variac.

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Mon Nov 11 04:31:58 2002
Subject: [R-390] R-392 Audio Module

Barry,

Without aligning myself in any way with something that can only be viewed with disgust, I do have to point out that modern low impedance solid state audio output modules do not need coupling transformers to match the 4 to 32 Ohm speaker impedances, but do need a means of de-coupling the speaker from the DC potential present at the complementary symmetry output connection. Hence, the large electrolytic...

The module was probably capable of some Watts of power output. The larger the cap value, the more power to you, Buckaroo, especially at the low frequency end. Imagine Amperes of current through the cap to a woof-woof... Bob

From jamesmiller20@worldnet.att.net Mon Nov 11 05:02:58 2002
Subject: [R-390] Computer RFI and R390s

Switching to a laptop might help. Modern laptops tend to use low voltage logic (3 volt) which may

naturally radiate less. Also, the LCD screens would tend to radiate less I would guess. If you use a "build it yourself" computer or something assembled by a local shop from generic parts, you also run the risk of more interference. Computers sold by name brands like Dell, HP, etc. are required to meet FCC certification for RFI. Something assembled at the local hacker shop may or may not meet certification. Otherwise, all the suggestions about ferrite cores on all wires into and out of the computer are good ones. And distancing the antenna from the operating area as much as possible. An antenna in the attic just above the shack or in the same room is not good.

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Mon Nov 11 17:41:54 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390 digest, Vol 1 #463 - 14 msgs

Mike,

Some on this list have reported good noise reduction results by using a balanced antenna/feedline connected to balanced antenna input. For feedline, twinlead, twinax (data cable), twisted pair, and even cheap CAT 5 networking cable have been used. If going this route, make sure that connections from antenna relay to RF deck are in original specified locations. There is a "mod" which swapped two of these connectors to facilitate unbalanced use of RF deck balanced input. Drew

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Mon Nov 11 18:00:00 2002
Subject: [R-390] Computer RFI and R390s

Richard,

Very good point regarding use of audio transformer for isolation. Telephone line coupling transformers salvaged from computer modems work well for this and audio work. I recently tested one flat within 3 dB over 30Hz - 40KHz with 600 ohm source and load (has 1:1 turns ratio and electrostatic shield between primary and secondary).

You can accomplish the same result by using the Line Output of the R-390x (being balanced it is already isolated). Drew

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Mon Nov 11 18:54:17 2002
Subject: [R-390] Computer RFI and R390s

The best implementation is to use balanced shielded pair between the 390 and the PC line input, with the ground shield connected at only one piece of equipment to avoid ground loops. As a kinda useful connection, one may use CAT5 cable, using a true color coded pair and then all others as a ground or shield. Real shielded twisted pair is hard to find at the Shack. The modem transformers are a good idea; they are extremely well made as Drew pointed out. I used to design them and Ethernet transformers for a living. The 100B Ethernet transformers on network adaptor cards are typically flat from 100kHz to 100MHz and very good impedance match to 100 Ohms. Quite good for 390 service. Not to mention, the modem and Ethernet transformers are Hi-potted to better than 1500VAC Primary to secondary. Bob

From myyoung76@bellsouth.net Mon Nov 11 22:08:58 2002
Message-ID: <00d101c289ce\$f0a7eb00\$f2ec1542@MichaelYoung>

Those OV-10's with FLIR are built up from surplus airframes at PAFB, just a couple miles from my

house.

Heat from R390s lighting up your house? Yep. All the more reason to convert from toobs to
(Can't say it. Sent my armor out to be polished) Mike

From rodney_bunt@yahoo.com Mon Nov 11 22:42:05 2002
Subject: [R-390] Computer RFI and R390s

Michael,
Lap top computers have very little hash coming from them, I use an OLD laptop to run the RTTY prog.
Rodney VK2KTZ

From iasckids@pacbell.net Tue Nov 12 02:10:53 2002
Subject: [R-390] Looking 4

Hi , I was wondering if anyone has an CU-286 antenna coupler for sale? Thanks ,Gregory Mengell

From Llgpt@aol.com Fri Nov 15 00:52:41 2002
Subject: [R-390] For Trade

A pristine Hallicrafters SX-100 MK1, recapped with orange drops, replaced filter electrolytic, retubed where necessary, aligned. Original manual. Trade for an original Hammarlund SP-600 cabinet. Les Locklear

From mtech@airmail.net Fri Nov 15 04:02:58 2002
Subject: [R-390] OT: WTB AN/GRR-5

Any ideas as to where a person could obtain such a thing? 73, Mike, WB5MYY

From jonandvalerieoldenburg@worldnet.att.net Fri Nov 15 04:50:39 2002
Subject: [R-390] Coaxial extremes!

I've been finally assembling an amplified receive antenna project here. I have obtained a broad band amplifier with a coverage of 5-mhz to 1500-mhz, which uses SMA connectors. I will be mounting the amp in a weather proof feed with 1/2 inch hard-line to the steel box on the mast of the antenna. The box will be provided with "n" chassis mount jacks. The big question is on the SMA connectors to the amp. The connectors I have obtained appear to be of a crimp-on type, with a knurled shield crimp area having a diameter of .168 (OD) inch, and a crimp sleeve provided to fit over it of .197(ID). The box for this installation is rather small and since the coax runs are only 2 or 3 inches I was going to use RG-174. The crimp/ contact area seems wrong, but the center conductor -ok, maybe RG-58 is required? On the other extreme-(he-he !!!) I just obtained a brand new 150' roll of Andrew LDF7-50A Hard-line. Will be using this as the feed line on my tower project in Townsend WI. If any one has a line on reasonable priced "N" female fittings for this 1 5/8" foam dielectric cable I'd appreciate the tip. Thanks in advance & 73's Jon AB9ah

"If everything seems under control, you're just not going fast enough." - Mario Andretti

From wf2u@starband.net Fri Nov 15 13:30:36 2002
Subject: [R-390] OT: WTB AN/GRR-5

If everything local fails, try this surplus dealer in Italy: <http://www.radiosurplus.it/> - they sell GRR-5's for 200 Euros (approx. \$200). Good luck, 73, Meir WF2U Landrum, SC

From chacuff@cableone.net Fri Nov 15 15:17:27 2002
Subject: [R-390] Coaxial extremes!

Hi Jon and group,

Concerning the SMA connectors...my documentation indicates the closest crimp connector to the sizes you have mentioned are for RG-58. I think the standard is to measure the outer diameter of the the crimp sleeve or ferrule...which is listed as .213 for use with RG-58. That's an RF Industries part number...the AIM Electronics part which is more common at electronics parts stores is .210 for RG-58...so both are very close to the ID measurement you listed. My guess is that they are for RG-58. Sounds like your best bet would be to put the SMA connectors you have on the best quality RG-58 you can find and put some crimp on Type N male connectors for RG-58 on the other end and use a couple Type N female Bulkhead feedthroughs for mounting in your weatherproof box. The Bulkhead feedthroughs are available with O rings mounted to seal the opening made through the box. Works real nice. The added loss incurred from using these instead of a crimp on N female bulkhead is negligible at the frequencies you are working and it allows you to change the equipment or cables in the box without having to disturb the connection through the box once you have it sealed.

1 5/8 foam connectors are expensive as you have found....besides that the feedline will need to be attached to the tower in a way that will support it's weight...cable ties won't get it! You need to use a hoisting grip attached to the tower at the top to support some of the weight and probably hose clamps at 15 or 20 foot intervals with maybe some cable ties in between. It is usually installed using round member adapters and butterfly or snap in hangers down one tower leg if the tower is not already punched for snap in hangers. But all that gets expensive for Amateur work so hose clamps to the tower leg would work fine.

The connectors are upwards of \$200+ each for N female, which is probably what you will want. A low loss Type N M-M jumper is usually used at the top and bottom ends to connect to the antenna and equipment.

I will look around and see what I can find for connectors.....

You know of course that for HF frequencies....1 5/8" feedline is way overkill....you don't gain much over using 1/2" foam hardline for example. 1/2" has .357 db loss per 100' whereas 1 5/8" has .109 db loss per 100' both at 30 mhz. Less than a quarter of a db per 100', you could not tell the difference on the air...but the cost to implement is much higher with the 1 5/8". Connectors for 1/2" can be picked up easily for \$10-\$12 each. Hanging it is easy as well. But...I am sure your decision is based on the fact that you already have the 1 5/8" cable, which by the way, weighs nearly 125 lb all by itself...so hopefully it's not going on a light weight Rohn 25G tower. Of course at frequencies of 450 mhz and up all this changes....1/2" becomes more lossy and the 1 5/8" begins to shine! Cecil Acuff.... WB5VCE

From jonandvalerieoldenburg@worldnet.att.net Sat Nov 16 05:24:09 2002

Subject: [R-390] Coaxial extremes!

Hello Cecil & the Group: I have had my gut feelings that the SMA connectors where for RG-58, so I will change to that. I am familiar with the installation requirements for 1 5/8 heliax, working as a municipal construction inspector, I have over seen a couple of cell tower installations with lets say a greater than normal amount of time & interest allocated. The tower for this project is a Rohn HDBX-48 (48' self supporting tower rated @ 16sq ft load). The antenna plan is stacked KMA log periodics, the lower one a 20 - 10 meter unit, the upper a 50-1300mhz unit. Will top mount a 440 antenna for a GE Mastr repeater, and have a side mount for a 2 meter fm Quad. I am still considering between using a remote antenna switch or getting some 7/8 hard-line for the H.F. antenna. I think it will be real intersesting to get a R-390A on a directional antenna instead of a long wire! Thanks for your help & 73's
Jon AB9AH

From ceripel@yahoo.it Wed Nov 13 10:23:12 2002
Subject: [R-390] Help Me for R390A

Hallo,

J have a R390A, suddenly does not receive nothing, alone noise, if i put in function the Filters hears to Vary itself the noise (wider or more squeezed) but does not receive nothing. I how I can find the Broken one, besides how I can dismiss the Valve V207 (5654/6ak5) experience it? The problem is able to be the Valve (RF Amplf. 6DC4) or the 1 VALVE Mix V207 (5654 /6AK5) OR OTHER Thanks of all
Frank

From ba.williams@charter.net Sun Nov 17 02:28:31 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

Bill,

Since I've talked to Rick Mish in the past and found him an unusually nice guy to deal with I decided to ask him his side of this story. I've been on R-390A lists for a long time, and I've never read anything bad about him. To the contrary, everyone seems to universally agree on his honesty and quality work.

Well, he said just about everything you did....to a point. He didn't feel that you should get all of the claim money from UPS to do your own repairs AND demand the replacement parts from him for free. He did say that he offered to do the claim paperwork, repairs, and repacking for you but you decided to not trust the radio to a shipper again. He said that he suggested some other shipping options to you but you turned those down.

I felt it wasn't fair to rake a guy over the coals without him being around to offer his side of things. I'm glad I contacted him so that both sides are heard. There are some great guys who do qreat work on boatanchors. Rick, Chuck, Dan, and Al are a few. I think those guys deserve their input if someone is disgruntled and starts saying things about their work.

Go ahead and flame me if you want. But, Rick said one thing that sort of bothers me about this whole mess. He said that you swore you would poison any talk about him in the future. I hope this isn't what you are trying to do now. Barry Williams

From iasckids@pacbell.net Sun Nov 17 02:46:04 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

Barry ,I have had several conversations with Rick Mish and found him to be very honest,competent and trustworthy. While I have had no direct business transactions with him .I know several people that have. Never heard a discouraging word . My only issue is he needs to participate on this list. 73 Gregory Mengell

From hbreuer@debitel.net Sun Nov 17 03:10:41 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

Hi, nice to hear the other side's view. The facts are:

Bill got a radio damaged by UPS. The damage is estimated at \$300 (by Rick?). He gets replacement parts for free from Rick to do the repair work himself because he fears more damage when the R-390 is shipped back and forth again. He doesn't get any money only the parts and has to invest his work.

Rick sends a few parts for free and settles the claim with UPS. He gets \$150 out of it.

Well to me Ricks business attitude still stinks. The parts sent for free are not worth \$150 and he makes a nice profit out of it. Bill has to invest his work but the front panel is still damaged. If I would have to sit trial over this I would have paid Rick for the parts plus shipping cost and give the rest of the money to Bill.

Ok start the flames, I have the fire extinguisher ready. Vy 73 de Heinz DH2FA, KM5VT

From ba.williams@charter.net Sun Nov 17 03:21:38 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

Heinz, You got a lot of the facts wrong in some places. Rick was out money in the end. UPS did the damage, not Rick. Barry

From hbreuer@debitel.net Sun Nov 17 03:41:23 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

Barry,
sorry but I never said that Rick did the damage. Also I need more input to see why Rick was out of money in the end??? He got \$150 from UPS. Rack handles ought to be much cheaper than this. Vy 73 de Heinz DH2FA, KM5VT

From jbrannig@optonline.net Sun Nov 17 13:20:47 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

I agree with Heinz,
The shipper insures the package and is entitled to any claim. As a practical matter the shipper did not suffer any economic loss and in usual practice charged the receiver for packing and shipping. The recipient suffered the economic loss and is entitled to the insurance recovery, less a charge for the parts.
Jim

From Scott Seickel" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Sun Nov 17 14:53:25 2002

Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

Well Barry, I think what people are a bit sore about is the fact that a handle and a couple of crystals are not worth \$150. Also Rick could have been a nice guy by just giving the person that spent \$1000 on one of his radios a \$10 handle. In defense of Bill, his posts certainly were not malicious and he only revealed Rick's name after being asked by multiple folks on this list. If he really threatened to "poison" any talk about Rick, I certainly do not see it. I think Bill just needed to vent a little bit and he did it respectfully. He only mentioned names after he was asked and could have been a lot more malicious. You state that "He (Rick) didn't feel that you (Bill) should get all of the claim money from UPS". My question to Rick is why he has not sent the balance of the \$150 back to Bill?.

I don't doubt Rick is a good guy, but he certainly needs a better defence than this. Maybe he just made a bad judgement call. Maybe Bill is really at fault. In most conflicts such as this I find that the truth usually lies somewhere in the middle. From what has been laid out here it looks like Rick was not reasonable. This is just my humble opinion. Scott

From w5or@comcast.net Sun Nov 17 17:48:55 2002
Subject: [R-390] Off Topic Posts

Gentlemen, This discussion of a private business transaction is off topic and in poor taste. Just stop it.

Don Reaves R-390 list administrator
<mailto:r-390-admin@mailman.qth.net>

R-390 Mailing List Rules:

1. Stay on topic
 2. Be civil and courteous
-

From kellerfamily01@charter.net Sun Nov 17 21:40:57 2002
Subject: [R-390] Re: UPS is Garbage

Well, I said that I was not going to say anything about this episode again, but it just won't die. So, one more time, I will state the facts as I know them from my end based on information given to me by UPS and Rick, and make it as plain as I can.

1. UPS offered to send R-390A back to Rick for repair and pay transportation both ways plus pay Rick for the repair. As Rick says, I was concerned about their ability to get it there and back without further damage, so I discussed it with Rick, and he told me about a special box that he could provide that would solve the problem. I told UPS about the box, and they said they would pay for the box. I told Rick that I wanted to go with the box, but for some reason, Rick was not able to get one of the boxes.
2. Then, Rick told me that he would do the repairs only if I paid him up front for the work because he did not trust UPS to ever give him his money. He plainly said that his experience with getting money from UPS was almost nil, and that he also had a big back-log of other work that he couldn't cut into right then to work on something that he was likely to never get paid for. We both agreed that if that was the case it might be better if I tried to fix it up as well as I could from this end. It was not my first choice, but I'll admit that I didn't want to pay Rick for the repairs myself and then have UPS never reimburse me as Rick, who dealt with the all the time, was so certain that they wouldn't.

3. I told UPS that Rick had said that he preferred to not have the radio sent back. I didn't mention all the negative stuff he had said about them. They said it would be OK - that they would proceed with plans to reimburse me for the damage at this end subject, of course, to approval from Rick. I told UPS to contact Rick and verify everything and go ahead with that plan.
4. I called Rick and told him that UPS would be contacting him about verifying the repair cost, etc. Rick asked me what I wanted him to tell them, and I told him tell them exactly what he had told me the repair costs would be, which was about \$300.00, and that we had decided to settle it without sending it back.
5. I called UPS again to verify that they were proceeding as planned, and they said that they thought the way Rick and I had decided to handle it was the best way overall for all three parties, and that they were going ahead with that plan. There was a question in their minds about whether or not the radio had been shipped in the condition Rick said that it was, so I wrote them a letter saying that besides being a world class technical expert on this radio, Rick was a person of absolute honor and integrity, and that whatever he said about the condition of the radio and the repair costs should be accepted without question. I don't remember my exact words, but I heaped a lot of praise on Rick.
6. I called Rick again to discuss what I could do about fixing what could be fixed at this end. At the time, in addition to the panel damage, the radio would not work on several bands. We determined that in addition to replacing the rack handle, four of the crystals also needed to be replaced. Rick agreed to send me one replacement rack handle and four crystals. He also included a small (less than one ounce) bottle of touch-up paint to try to touch up the damaged panel. We also discussed the best way to fill in the holes the broken rack handle had gouged out in the panel. I asked Rick how much money he wanted me to send him for the items, and he said about \$40.00 would cover it nicely. And it was my understanding that I was to send him the \$40.00 from the money collected from UPS settlement.
7. I didn't bother Rick anymore, because every time I contacted UPS, they told that everything was going fine - that it just took a lot of time to handle the paperwork between them and Rick and all that. Because I, too, had a job and couldn't spend all my time fooling with UPS, I would let months go by without contacting them. I was dealing with the local UPS office, and they had a change of personnel that they said also slowed things up. All my communication with them was verbal at this point.
8. After I realized that a year had gone by, I wrote the local UPS office a letter and demanded to have some kind of an answer one way or another. I got no response. I didn't try to contact Rick again because I thought it was at that point totally between me and UPS and that Rick was not in the loop any longer. I really did not feel that Rick had any more responsibility in the matter, and based on my previous conversation with Rick, I really did not think that he wanted to have any more to do with it after agreeing to have UPS settle with me.
9. I called the UPS corporate headquarters to complain about the situation, and was told that the claim had been settled some six months earlier. I said that couldn't be true because I was the person they were supposed to settle with and that the local UPS office was still giving me the run around. They told me that it had been settled by paying Rick Mish \$150.00. At that time, it would have been stupid on my part to go ahead and send him another \$40.00 for the rack handle and crystals on top of what he had already collected from UPS.
10. So I wrote both UPS and Rick a letter telling them that I was not happy about the way the whole thing had gone. I told them both that the only loser in the whole deal was me. Minus a rack handle and four crystals, Rick had collected \$150.00 more for his work than he was entitled to, and UPS had settled a claim for only one half what they were obligated to pay. I put all that in the letter, but I don't

remember the exact words I used. I told UPS that if I could avoid it, I would never use them again.

11. I also told Rick that he could keep the money as far as I was concerned but that he would not get anymore business from me, and that I would not recommend him to anyone else. Since then, I have never discussed this matter with anyone until the UPS thing came up on the net. Every time anyone had asked me about the quality of Rick's work, I have told them the truth, that it's outstanding - without ever mentioning the UPS situation. So, I guess, in effect, I have been recommending him to people by praise for his expertise and quality of work.

12. I have never told Rick that I would "poison him", as Barry reports, I only told him that I would not do business with him again and that I would not recommend him to anyone else. But I have never made any attempt to not recommend him, either. He does outstanding work, and that's a fact. I don't know if the problems I had were my fault, Rick's fault, or the fault of UPS, where I have been putting most of the blame. I have never said one word to anyone about Rick's character or integrity other than the letter to UPS praising it. And I am not judging his character or integrity by the UPS incident. It would take more than one such incident to make me tell people that he is not honest. I originally just told what happened with UPS without mentioning Rick. And, once again, I am truly sorry that I revealed his name when asked.

Now, for the people who keep using this whole thing to try to make it look like some kind of vicious attack on Rick's character, you are not doing him any good keeping the story repeated on the net. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, and I have not passed judgment on his character one way or another. I have only stated what happened between me, Rick and UPS without trying to analyze why anyone acted in what way or attaching motives, honest or not, to anyone's actions. I have not called Rick a liar because he never told me directly that he was going to tell UPS to settle with me. I just assumed that he was going to do that from our discussions. I have no idea what he actually told UPS, so I can't judge him based on that. But I do know what happened at my end and what was said to me, and I do know that UPS lied to me over and over for months on end just to keep from paying the full amount of a just claim. And that's all I was trying to testify to when this subject came up on the net.
Bill Keller

From courir26@yahoo.com Sun Nov 17 22:20:41 2002
Subject: [R-390] I'm Beggin' Ya, STOP THE UPS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

See subject fer Christ's sake!!!!!!!!!!!!

From courir26@yahoo.com Sun Nov 17 22:33:09 2002
Subject: [R-390] More 51J-3 PTO Fun

Gentlemen? Last week I reported that my PTO doesn't "O."

I found that the PTO was missing its bypass caps (I went in to replace them and they were gone)." The unit actually had a crude solder job done on the cover so I smelled a rat. When it worked, it also had the freq vary with operating voltage, so I figured a kluge was in there somewhere. Still not sure what is wrong with it, but since it acted funny all along and now did not work at all, I went to the parts bin for a spare.

The spare had a s.n. of > 9000, and the circuit cover was screwed down instead of soldered down, a great improvement.

I went into the spare and replaced the bypass caps (which were set up differently than the schematic, not

sure why) and then powered it up. The endpoint was 15 kcs long (or is it short?), anyway, in the usual direction.

I tried the one turn removal trick and this did not do the job. Still 9 Kcs out For the first time I had to remove two turns to bring it in. This worked, but of course the adjustment range is very skinny (since the adjustment coil is almost gone).

Anyway, the PTO is in the oven right now getting Hurricane Lili baked out of it (eat cereal for supper, this is important!).

This is all very difficult to explain to the neighbor why I'm doing this for a radio to listen to in the shop. Cheers Tom N5OFF

From wa4zlk@acer-access.com Mon Nov 18 03:25:02 2002
Subject: [R-390] More 51J-3 PTO Fun

Tom, I'm still looking for a better explanation why there's been an R-392 (with power supply) and almost same size Hallicrafters speaker on the kitchen counter since July. Excuse hints welcome. 73, Bruce WA4ZLK

From craigmc@pacbell.net Mon Nov 18 02:38:43 2002
Subject: [R-390] More 51J-3 PTO Fun

Ballast... At least here in California we use heavy objects to keep the furniture in place in case of earthquakes. Craig

From ezeran@concentric.net Mon Nov 18 03:20:05 2002
Subject: [R-390] More 51J-3 PTO Fun

Yep! The BA heap makes my garage a dead spot on the CALTECH seisma giggy.

From jonandvalerieoldenburg@worldnet.att.net Mon Nov 18 04:13:12 2002
Subject: [R-390] More 51J-3 PTO Fun

Pretty minor explanation Tom , This week end I have had the neighbors admiring the 5-foot diameter reel of 1-5/8" hard-line on the trailer next to the garage. They just don't get why I would want to, (or need to) use cable of this size. I just launch into a talk on losses, and the extreme efficiency of cable of this size. Their eyes begin to wander, they make excuses to leave. They'll realize your a fanatic, and maybe they well accept that. (yea right!) 73's Jon AB9H

From djmerz@3-cities.com Mon Nov 18 05:19:42 2002
Subject: [R-390] 6BF5 S line

Hi, sorry to post this here but at least it's off the unmentionable subject, which I think has been put to rest, I hope. I am wondering how the 6BF5 was wired in a 75 or 51 S line receiver, e.g. cathode resistor, (by-pass cap?) , screen resistor/voltage, plate voltage. I tried to get the schematic from the

CCA site but it kept timing out on me before it downloaded enough to see. I am trying to improve the audio of the 6BF5 in a Mackay 3010, so why not go to Mecca and see how Collins did it, though from browsing the archived Collins files, I found that this tube runs pretty hot in the Collins applications. Even so, it seems it is better than a 6AQ5 at the low plate voltages in the Collins (and similarly low in the Mackay, 140 vdc or so B+ for the receiver in general). So if anyone can read their Collins schematic to give me the details of the hookup, I'd appreciate it. In the Mackay, it uses 150 ohm cathode bias resistor, has 110 on the screen and 130 or so on the plate. The cathode resistor is bypassed with a large electrolytic, which I don't think Collins did, judging from some comments in some of the archived messages, thanks, Dan.

From hankarn@pacbell.net Mon Nov 18 12:04:41 2002
Subject: [R-390] More 51J-3 PTO Fun

Since I a 1 1/2 blocks from the Northridge epicenter between the house and my shop in Canoga Park I now have over 300 Boatanchors to stabilize this part of Earthquake central. Along with about 5 tons of misc. JUNQUE. Shake Rattle & Roll Hank KN6DI

From WardSRehkopf@eaton.com Mon Nov 18 14:44:04 2002
Subject: [R-390] Relay and Tube Straighteners

Need a relay box, appropriate cables with connectors, and tube straighteners for my R390 - trying to get back into original shape. thanks K8FD

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Mon Nov 18 15:20:13 2002
Subject: [R-390] More 51J-3 PTO Fun

Look them straight in the eye and ask, "If I explain it to you will you be able to understand it?" That usually works for me. Well,..... after the last attempt to explain it anyway. Joe

From roy.morgan@nist.gov Mon Nov 18 17:18:33 2002
Subject: [R-390] 6BF5 S line

wrote: >Hi, sorry to post this here but at least it's off the unmentionable >subject, which I think has been put to rest, I hope. I am wondering >how the 6BF5 was wired in a 75 or 51 S line receiver, e.g. cathode >resistor, (by-pass cap?) , screen resistor/voltage, plate voltage.

Dan,

Here is what I know and think. Some of this is fact, some is my opinion:

Facts (as near as I can remember them):

- 1) In the 51S-1, the 6BF5 has a 39 ohm (unbypassed I think) cathode resistor, fixed grid bias, plate and screen at full B+.
- 2) The nominal 51S-1 plate voltage is 150 volts, but I found it to be something like 180 volts at normal line voltage.
- 3) The 6BF5 is rated at 5.5 watts plate dissipation MAXIMUM
- 4) Total tube dissipation from cathode current in my 51S-1 was nearly NINE watts (this includes screen

dissipation, I now realize)

Opinion:

- 1) The 6BF5 in Collins S-line radios is run way too hot
- 2) If you add a cathode resistor, or change the fixed bias resistors to reduce the plate current, it will be a good thing.
- 3) Maximum audio output for a given distortion will be reduced, but almost nobody needs full audio output from these radios.. If you really do, consider using an external audio amplifier.

There is a web site with a 6AQ5 audio mod for the R-390A:

<<http://www.geocities.com/husbeck/CONTENTS.HTM>> I recommend you go look. Roy

From w5kp@direcway.com Mon Nov 18 17:21:23 2002

Subject: [R-390] TEK Scope, HP Counter for sale

I upgraded my shop a while back, time to clean out some of the older stuff:

Tektronix 7603 100 mhz scope, previously owned by NASA Labs. NASA Cal Lab sticker expired Nov 2000. Good condition, works perfectly, comes complete with one TEK 7A18N Dual-trace vertical plug-in, a brand new TEK 7B53A Delayed/Delaying Horizontal plug-in, TEK blank plate for the empty plug-in slot, and a full set of new original TEK manuals covering the scope mainframe and both plug-in modules. No probes are included. \$300 plus actual shipping cost from 73064. Heck, the manuals are worth half of that. Not super heavy, but it won't be an inconsequential shipping charge, either. This is a good reliable scope, I used it for two years prior to recently getting my new scope.

TEK tilting-type shop cart w/drawer and locking wheels. This is the narrow model, built for the 7600 series scopes by TEK. \$100 plus shipping (it knocks down flat).

HP 5328A 512 MHz Counter. Excellent bench counter, looks good, very accurate, works perfectly. Has Option H99 (military case with snap-on front cover, cover is included but no HP accessories are in it) and Option 011 (HPIB Interface). Has ovenized crystal oscillator HP P/N 10811-60111 installed. I don't know if this is the "high stability" time base or not - I thought it was. But the chassis does not have "Option 010" on the back, so maybe not. \$125 plus shipping.

Please reply direct to w5kp@direcway.com Thanks Jerry W5KP Mustang, OK

From cbscott@ingr.com Tue Nov 19 14:32:37 2002

Subject: [R-390] Wiring harness clamps needed

Does anyone know if the wiring harness clamps and their rubber inserts are available anywhere? These are the ones that that are used to secure the harness to the front panel and the frame. I have a radio where these clamps disintegrated over time and when I cleaned the frame and harness, they simply crumbled to nearly nothingness. Perhaps these are still available new? Thanks, Barry - N4BUQ

From craigm@pacbell.net Tue Nov 19 15:24:29 2002

Subject: [R-390] Wiring harness clamps needed

Barry,

I have seen them new, in assorted sizes, at a local distributor called HdB Electronics. I think I bought a few and if I can find them I'll get the manufacturer's data. However, HH Smith comes to mind. Craig

From buzz@softcom.net Tue Nov 19 17:13:49 2002
Date: Tue, 19 Nov 2002 09:13:49 -0800

Barry,

I've got some NOS, MS cable clamps available at:

<http://www.lanset.com/buzz/misc/hardware/clamps.htm> All prices are plus shipping from 89506. Buzz

From chacuff@cableone.net Tue Nov 19 23:22:25 2002
Subject: [R-390] Wiring harness clamps needed

Hi Barry and Group,

What you are probably looking for are called "Adel Clamps" They are used extensively in the aircraft industry...some have teflon inserts others rubber, some are aluminum others stainless...they come in all sizes and should not be too hard to find! A Google search should turn up several sources! Cecil...

From pstaube@qwest.net Wed Nov 20 01:24:38 2002
Subject: [R-390] Leonid meteor shower

R-390 folks,

I got up in the middle of Monday night to see a spectacular meteor shower display. Did anybody else see this?

Also, I know there is VHF propagation enhanced by the ionization of the meteor trails. Sadly, I forgot to turn on my non-A to see if there was any HF effects. Anybody else who was more alert? Best regards, Paul W0AD

From jbrannig@optonline.net Wed Nov 20 13:01:48 2002
Subject: [R-390] Leonid meteor shower

Paul,

I went outside, briefly (Brrrrr), to watch the shower, but there is too much light pollution here in suburban NYC to see much. Then I listened around 144.180 Mhz. and heard several burst transmissions from stations working M/S.

The current vogue for meteor scatter work is WSJT. A computer generated tone set sent to the XMTR via the sound card. Receive audio is passed to the computer, via the sound card and the program sorts things out. Due to lack of foresight I was not set for this and Oh dark thirty is not a good time to start hooking things up and loading software. I am not aware of any M/S affect on HF propagation. Jim

From cbscott@ingr.com Wed Nov 20 13:40:30 2002
Subject: [R-390] Leonid meteor shower

It was a bust here. A combination of the nearly full moon and a slight haze made all but the brightest stars invisible. Maybe in 2098... Barry - N4BUQ

From cbscott@ingr.com Wed Nov 20 13:57:44 2002
Subject: [R-390] Wiring harness clamps needed

Bingo. That's what they are. Now to find them w/o a \$20 minimum order. :(Hopefully I can find them locally. Thanks! Barry - N4BUQ

From wb3akd@arrl.net Wed Nov 20 14:06:56 2002
Subject: [R-390] Leonid meteor shower

Well, I didn't use the R-390(*) but I did acquire 9 hours of data on 83.25 MHz (picture carrier for TV Channel 6 in Richmond, VA) with a whole lot of quite interesting events, orders of magnitude above the sporadic rates. Visually was quite interesting, too, but Full Moon and proximity of the DC area (sky glow) plus impending dawn detracted. Still, the clearest demonstration of the "radian" idea that I've ever seen and the first time I ever saw one headed right toward me (no trail, just a circular bloom). Worth getting the out chaise lounge and bundling up for.

No to get back on topic, anybody got an extra 8 KHz mechanical filter for an "A"? 73 Tom WB3AKD

From kmackey@woh.rr.com Wed Nov 20 17:28:21 2002
Subject: [R-390] Leonid meteor shower

I stayed up all night for this one. I knew right from the beginning there was not going to be any outside observation as it was completely cloud covered. So I set up my station for the audio show. After a lot of Web searching I found bits and pieces of what I would need to know to listen in.

The best I found, and I'm sure there was more to be found, was at 61.26 MHz. At this frequency I could hear the meteors whistle as backscatter/forward scatter from a meteor observers signal. I have lots of audio recordings starting before Midnight and going on through 6am (EST). I was also going to set up my tv on a blank channel and record that, and forgot to start the recorder. Kim Mackey (KC9BZL)

On topic --- I didn't use my R-390A since it is off the bench and waiting to be sold.

From courir26@yahoo.com Thu Nov 21 01:50:43 2002
Subject: [R-390] Want 6AQ5 for 51J

Guys, Looking for a 6AQ5 tube. If you are willing to part with one, please reply direct. Thanks! Tom

From courir26@yahoo.com Thu Nov 21 13:22:04 2002
Subject: [R-390] 6AQ5 Found (Four Offers!!) Thanks Bill Smith

Thanks everyone for the offers of the tube. What a great group! 73 Tom

From courir26@yahoo.com Thu Nov 21 13:23:28 2002
Date: Thu, 21 Nov 2002 05:23:28 -0800 (PST)

Anyone notice the Collins equipment on General Stewart's plane last night on AMC? Also spotted a BC-348 and ARC-5. 73 Tom

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Thu Nov 21 15:24:42 2002
Subject: [R-390] 8kHz filter was Leonid meteor shower

Tom -

Have you tried Fair Radio Sales in Ohio? They've had these in the past, wouldn't surprise me if they still did. A friend of mine has a box of NOS R-390A filters in his cellar that I'm trying to talk him out of. They came from a base closing somewhere, he bought a bunch of the stuff surplus. If I ever get my mitts on 'em, I'll certainly post the contents here.

Nice to see another user who knows the difference between the R-390 and "A" model, too! 73 es gud luk de Todd/'Boomer' KA1KAQ

From greg_werstiuk@msn.com Sat Nov 23 06:21:01 2002
Subject: [R-390] Wiring harness clamps needed

As I recall, Richco manufactures the metal+rubber or metal+plastic insert style. These days, the more common solutions are made from nylon and manufactured by Panduit Corp., among others. - greg

From rbethman@comcast.net Sat Nov 23 08:45:36 2002
Subject: [R-390] Wiring harness clamps needed

Barry, Try Aircraft Spruce & Specialty. <http://www.aircraft-spruce.com/>

What you are looking for are MS-21919 clamps. "Loop type cushioned aluminum, alloy clamp for tubing or conduit. Cushion (non-fuel resistant) is bonded to surface and edges of clamp. Cushion assures tight fit and eliminates vibration, thereby preventing line abrasion."

They have a Griffin, GA and a Corona, CA location. There is a -XX, where the XX is a number that determines the inner diameter. I did NOT see a minimum order requirement! The cheapest size is \$0.40, and the most expensive is \$4.95 for a 3" Bob - N0DGN

From ezeran@concentric.net Sat Nov 23 18:06:24 2002
Subject: [R-390] Wiring harness clamps needed

What # clamp are you looking for? I have several sizes, black rubber over metal cable clamps. Red Rubber is hi-temp.

From rbgerut@alumni.northwestern.edu Sun Nov 24 03:47:22 2002
Subject: [R-390] Speaker and SSB question

Hello:

Was there a matching speaker cabinet for the R-390s? If so, what is the model number? Also, is the outboard product detector unit still available-- or was this a rare device. Many thanks! 73, RON K9KLT

From rbethman@comcast.net Sun Nov 24 04:03:48 2002
Subject: [R-390] Speaker and SSB question

Ron, There is a matching LS-206 Speaker Assembly for the R-390 series. Rick Mish offers them for sale. Bob _ N0DGN

From ToddRoberts2001@aol.com Sun Nov 24 15:35:19 2002
Subject: [R-390] Good Shipping Experience on eBay

<PRE>Recently had a good experience with shipping an R390 from an eBay auction. I sent to the seller several heavy cardboard boxes that were fitted to pack an R390 with thick pieces of styrofoam sheet cut to size. Inner box fitted inside outer box with more polystyrene sheeting. Two inner boxes placed inside a 24" cube with noodles filler for triple-boxing. It cost less than \$10 to ship the empty boxes cross-country to the seller. It made things easier for the seller who didn't have to make trips across town to find packing materials that may have been less than optimum. It made things easier for me since I didn't have to worry how the radio was going to be packed. Result radio arrived in perfect shape from FedEx Ground. Unless the seller really enjoys packing/shipping heavy radios it really does make things easier for him if you send him the boxes you want your radio shipped in. Plus it can save a lot of money if the seller was planning to take the item to one of those commercial packer/shippers like mailboxes, etc. and you still don't know how good of a packing job you will end up with. Hope this good experience may encourage others to get similar results. 73 Todd Roberts WD4NGG.

From chacuff@cableone.net Sun Nov 24 18:24:02 2002
Subject: [R-390] Good Shipping Experience on eBay

Greetings,

I think the bottom line is if it is packed properly, it won't matter who the shipping carrier is...it should arrive in good shape! You helped assure your new radio would arrive in nice shape! That's a good approach! Cecil...