

R-390 Reflector November '04 Edited

From drewmaster813 at hotmail.com Mon Nov 1 13:17:37 2004
Subject: [R-390] R-390 Problems Update

wrote: >With just a paper clip jumper you may be putting too much voltage on the >BFO >and VFO tube filaments. A 22 ohm (5-10W) resistor is preferred...<snip>

The transformer winding supplying the PTO and BFO tube heaters supplies nominally 25.2 VAC. In the original configuration; the ballastube drops about 12.6 volts, leaving 12.6 volts for the seriesed 6BA6 tube heaters in the PTO and BFO.

With "Two 12BA6 and a Paperclip", 25.2VAC is applied to the seriesed 12BA6 tube heaters in the PTO and BFO. Each 12BA6 receives its rated 12.6 volts. No additional series resistance is required.

That is the simplest Ballasubstitution. 12BA6 is probably the most common tube ever made, being the IF tube of choice in millions of radios with the "All American Five" tube lineup. No trouble finding those! Drew

From ka6uup at pacbell.net Mon Nov 1 14:50:56 2004
Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390 Digest, Vol 6, Issue 26

Check the 3TF7 ballast tube Chuck

From jpl15 at panix.com Wed Nov 3 21:51:47 2004
Subject: [R-390] What's in YOUR RF Amps..?

wrote: > Hi > [snip] > > So what stations are people listening to these days? >

Now that I'm approaching my dotage (52) I've been reliving my childhood by working the SW worldwide broadcasts - especially HCJB, R. Duetschland, even R. Habana Cuba - on the R390, the R388, and my Icom PCR-1000, just to see how each performs on the same signal and antenna.

But mainly I've been remembering how it was on cold winter evenings with my National NC-200 (which I still have, though it need much TLC) and my long-wire made up of every longish scrap of copper I could find, old lamp cords, fence wire, phone cables... going to school the next day with my log and it's newest entries to compare with my other nerd buddies, who had Hallicrafters, Allied Star Roamers, hand-me-down Mil gear... near the end of 9th grade I got a ratty old Viking mono tape recorder, and immediately used it for recording my SWL activities... for a while, tape was my main expense in life. It would be such a very cool thing to have those reels now, but they're long gone...

Also I've been doing some digital listening, and using the Dovetron and Models 28 and 19 to print - but there's not much unadorned 5-level out there anymore. O well... So you asked... Cheers
John KB6SCO

From ham at cq.nu Wed Nov 3 22:10:26 2004
Subject: [R-390] Re: What's in YOUR RF Amps..?

Hi I would say that back in the "good old days" (as in pre-high school) the main things on the air that I noticed:

1) Radio Netherlands 2) Radio South Africa 3) The boys and girls in Moscow 4) The beeb

I actually hate to admit it but the most fun was with an old Philco five tube radio. My first R-390 just made things to darn easy. Of course then I made it into high school and there were other distractions ...

The radio dial has changed a bit over the years. Used to be a *lot* of five level code out there.

Enjoy! Bob Camp KB8TQ

From ka4prf at us-it.net Thu Nov 4 08:32:45 2004
Subject: [R-390] J104

Hi all, Is there anywhere in the world where I can get the connector for J104 - either the UG-421/U or UG-969/U? Please advise Thanks Chuck ka4prf@us-it.net

From mikea at mikea.ath.cx Thu Nov 4 09:43:33 2004
Subject: [R-390] J104

If you're talking about the (non-A) R-390 power connector, they are pretty scarce. You might look for the entire power cable, CX-1358/U, as an alternative search key. Also call Rick Mish in Toledo (he's in the phone book, or was), or try E-mail to him at radiomon@accesstoleado.com -- Mike Andrews

From dhamm at rapidsys.com Thu Nov 4 10:16:15 2004
Subject: [R-390] J104

Hi, Try Bill Perry at William Perry Co. 502 893-8724. They have all kinds of surplus military connectors among other things. The power cords also show up on eBay occasionally 73 David C. Hallam KC2JD

From eldim at att.net Thu Nov 4 11:40:19 2004
Subject: [R-390] J104

Okay, talking on the subject of the R-390. Can anyone tell me if the two wire tube pullers on the rear accessory rack have Part Numbers, Stock Numbers, and oif they are listed in the R-390 Manual which I donot have a copy of? I saw a picture in one of the Operators TM. What exactly is the UG-421/U? I found it listed in the FEDLOG ,but did not find the UG-969/U listed. I thought that these were RF Connectors. Is that the funny screw-on POWER CONNECTOR? If so, then I stand corrected. 73, Glen Galati, KA7BOJ Tacoma, WA eldim@att.net

From brookbank at triad.rr.com Thu Nov 4 12:21:32 2004
Subject: [R-390] J104 and tube pullers

On the subject of tube pullers, talk to your local chiropractic and/or orthopedic doctor, the use them to place fingers in traction. They work great on tubes also. Pat

From dps4 at juno.com Thu Nov 4 14:42:47 2004
Subject: [R-390] J104

I bought the tube pullers from Fair Radio a couple of years ago. They called them military tube pullers, small and large. As I remember, they were reasonable, \$2.00 each. David Seckel W8GWI

From tetrode at comcast.net Sun Nov 7 18:53:49 2004
Subject: [R-390] Tropical Band listening

Well, let's see if this gets through without bouncing this time, have had a heck of a time trying to reply to this thread (What's in your RF Amps?).

Being that I just returned from an Aruba honeymoon I have very fond memories of our trip. Warm aqua ocean, no hurricanes, palm trees, bikinis, the westerly growing divi-divi trees, white sandy beaches, more bikinis, friendly folks, mostly friendly wife =: ^), and the delightful aroma of fine food, #30 sunscreen, and Cuban cigars. I tried a little DXing of the 120 meter band with a Sony portable I brought along but I didn't know quite where to tune so I didn't hear anything, and really wasn't trying too hard either.

So now that I've returned to cold and windy New England I've been doing some listening of the tropical shortwave bands so I can hear some more of that soft Latin American beat and reminisce. The long winter nights and reduced static make for good listening conditions on the lower freqs so now's the time to do some DXing there. (And the tubes in the radios also help keep the room warm too)

The tropical bands are considered:

Mhz	Meters
2.30 - 2.55	120
3.15 - 3.45	90
4.70 - 5.15	60

So far I've heard no broadcast on the 120 meter band, and from what I've read it seems a lot of station that were once there have moved to the 90 and 60 meter bands for increased coverage and better listening during QRN.

Last night I heard stations on 5025 - Cuba, loud 4990 4915 4885 - Brazil? (nice music) 3291 3280 3250

There were a few other stations too such as the domestic bible beaters and some chatter on 2552 USB as well but I wasn't interested in this stuff. More stations should become listenable as conditions improve too.

Here's a few links to checkout, the freq list is very useful for station ID help as most language is non-English.

<http://donmoore.tripod.com/genbroad/tropical.htm>
<http://www.hard-core-dx.com/nordicdx/dxlab/latinam4.html>
<http://www.sover.net/%7Ehackmohr/sw.htm> (freq list) 73, John

From kherron at voyager.net Mon Nov 8 09:02:30 2004
Subject: [R-390] Fwd: [Drake] Fwd: Bristol Driver and Allen Driver set for sale

From flood at Krohne.com Mon Nov 8 13:11:22 2004
Subject: [R-390] Framingham, MA Flea report Nov. 8 New R390

Greetings,

This is a small but usually well attended flea that is put on by the Framingham Amateur Radio Assoc. two times a year (spring and fall). John >From CT, (forgot his last name) was there with some spare parts PTO/knobs/gears. Next to him a someone had driven up from NY with a good looking R-390/URR. a '51(for Collins) and it was looking for a new home. It had meters, top cover, power cord with connector, all internal covers and a good looking engraved front panel. It was stated that it was working and in current use. Asking price was \$500. Fair considering the going price in "E" land. As the morning went on and I sold a few things I started offers. At the end of the show, I had \$425 in hand and just enough left over to pick up the favorite coffee for "she who must hold the door open and let it pass incoming inspection". I was lucky enough to convince the seller that although less than he wanted, with todays high fuel costs, the elimination of about 100 pounds of ballast would help to reduce fuel consumption and help to offset the difference.

Powered up at home it seemed to overload on some of the local BC stations. A quick adjustment of the gain control helped that and then the AGC was AG'ing again. I let it run on a local station a few hours and after getting the kids to bed started tuning around HF. Not much heard. Tried the BBC on 5975 and found them weak. Got depressed at that point and went to bed. The baby was crying at about 4:00AM and when I went in to sort things out I was wondering why the sun was coming up so early. It turned out to be an aurora. The baby and I checked out the light show and other radios on HF and they were dead as well. I guess things are OK after all.

One thing I have noticed is that the tuning seems to be offset a couple of kHz depending of the filter settings. Is this a sign of impending doom? Now that I have some experience on the "A" It's nice to get this one as well. The main question is, should this go on top of or below the '67 EAC R-390A/URR in the rack? John Flood KB1FQG 7 Dearborn Rd. Peabody, MA 01960 Tel.: 978-535-6060 / 800-356-9464 Fax: 978-535-8180

From ai2q at adelphia.net Mon Nov 8 13:45:35 2004
Subject: [R-390] Framingham, MA Flea report Nov. 8 New R390

John: Go through the entire alignment, and you'll see what's needed. Good luck with it! Vy 73, AI2Q, Alex in Maine

From mikea at mikea.ath.cx Mon Nov 8 13:51:26 2004
Subject: [R-390] Framingham, MA Flea report Nov. 8 New R390

wrote: > Greetings,

Wherever you put it, _do_ please make sure it has some support from the back, and ditto for the R-390A: supporting them from the front panel only is A Bad Thing. I'm mounting mine on angle iron or

90? aluminum extrusions, just to make sure I don't stress the gearing.

There's not a whole lot to be done when the Wendigo is walking; you might be lucky to pick up local BCB stations when it's really severe. Do keep us posted on the R-390, please. Any word on the T-827?

That was my point, actually: in some Amerind/"First Nations"/"Native American" tales, the aurora borealis is associated with the Wendigo being on the prowl -- not someone/something you want to encounter. Hence my reference to the Wendigo walking. Roy

From ba.williams at charter.net Mon Nov 8 23:00:29 2004
Subject: [R-390] Framingham, MA Flea report Nov. 8 New R390

John,

If you are talking about SSB tuning, this sounds normal. The Operators Manual shows how to set the BFO depending on the filter selected, and either USB or LSB. In a nutshell, you set the BFO half the filter width. For example, you use -2 on the BFO for the 4 kHz filter. Good catch on the radio. Barry

From hcjoel at direcway.com Tue Nov 9 12:10:57 2004
Subject: [R-390] Off Subject - Help!!!

My beloved HRO-50TI receiver did not turn on last night. No filament power. Looks like power transformer is kaputt. Any suggestions were I might find a replacement? Thanks

From nhøj at epix.net Wed Nov 10 13:43:33 2004
Subject: [R-390] HRO trans

Harry - It is unlikely the winding opened up,. Check closely for bad connection. I just replaced a trans in a HRO-60 and added an extra 6volt trans for the fancy fil circuit. Good luck. John K3OPC

From redmenaced at yahoo.com Wed Nov 10 19:15:42 2004
Subject: [R-390] Oh, NO! MARS left overs?

What happens to radio equipment from the MARS when the operator dies? Especially if the Army won't come to get it? Joe

From stevehobensack at hotmail.com Wed Nov 10 20:32:41 2004
Subject: [R-390] HRO 50t1 power transformer

Hash: SHA1

Harry, you can run the rcvr from outboard power until you find a suitable replacement. the b+ voltage doesn't have to be exact. You can remove the bad transformer, remove the end bells and examine for shorts, opens. etc. I just got a flyer from Fair Radio. They have a variety of power transformers. Peter Dahl can hand fabricate a replacement. Good luck 73...Steve...N8YE

From ham at cq.nu Wed Nov 10 21:00:01 2004
Subject: [R-390] Oh, NO! MARS left overs?

Hi

Well I suspect a lot depends on the survivors. I guess that 90% of the time it winds up in the dumpster. Certainly a significant part of what's left goes up for sale.

There are disposal regulations on the stuff but I doubt *anybody* cares as long as it's not exported. I'd say it's fair game. Take Care! Bob Camp KB8TQ

From flood at Krohne.com Thu Nov 11 14:11:54 2004
Subject: [R-390] Framingham, MA Flea report Nov. 8 New R390

Thanks for all of the replies. Hope to start the alignment this weekend. I've already found out (the hard way) that the dial lamps are 28Volt not the 6 volt of the "A". However for a split second the dial was very bright! My five year old son, who thinks the radio is great because of the army reference on the data tag, said, "Do that again Daddy! Perhaps I should read the manual?.... John Flood

From peuhs at bellsouth.net Fri Nov 12 20:57:22 2004
Subject: [R-390] new/old chap

I return after a long hiatus (long omission or loss), and I have been lost. Even forgot where to go, and had to seek help from the only friend I could find in a hurry...I used to be jlap...and my name is still John..Hope I will still be welcome here..

From karlheinz at direcway.com Sun Nov 14 10:34:16 2004
Subject: [R-390] Propagation question

While the frequency is actually way beyond what our 39x radios do handle, I hope someone here can answer this.

My satellite dish signal loss always occurs when a certain amount of precipitation is between the dish and the satellite transmitter. I observed that a lightning discharge in the general direction of the satellite (south) will restore reception for about 2 seconds. Could it be that the funnel of highly ionized air acts like a reflective medium the same way that allows round the world HF transmission to be possible by the ionizing layers in the upper atmosphere? Thanks for any enlightenment.

From djmerz at 3-cities.com Sun Nov 14 13:55:09 2004
Subject: [R-390] Testing

Hi,

server seems fine - conditions for propagation are hindered by sluggish keyboard in the 390 band. I've been on a different band discussing 6BE6 converter tube grid blocking (= greater than 50 volts positive

appearing on the G3 grid when operating with too high G2/G4 voltage). Does this ring a bell with anyone? If not, let there be no further propagation on this subject in the band. I'll continue on the band I've been using. My 390a is getting dusty recently, best regards, Dan.

From chacuff at cableone.net Sun Nov 14 16:19:04 2004
Subject: [R-390] Propagation question

The cause of your dish losing signal is rain attenuation. The signal is blocked by enough water that the level that does get through exceeds the bit error rate of your receiver. My guess is the lightning vaporizes the water in its path and momentarily reduces the amount of water between your antenna and the satellite transponder causing an increase in signal strength and a resulting reduction in bit error rate to just below your receiver's threshold. Of course that's just a guess...it could also just be coincidence. Cecil....

From ka4prf at us-it.net Sun Nov 14 16:52:12 2004
Subject: [R-390] 3TF7 resistor replacement

Can someone give me the specifics on how to replace the 3tf7 Ballast tube with a 42 OHM resistor? I am wondering where the resistor leads are placed in the tube pin holds etc. Any help would be appreciated. **The resistor goes between pins 2 and 7. Page 115 in the Y2K manual**
Chuck

From Llgpt at aol.com Sun Nov 14 18:37:27 2004
Subject: [R-390] 3TF7 resistor replacement

I have heard from various experts that if one were to do this, when somebody turns a light switch on in any part of the house, the receiver will change frequencies. Can you confirm or deny this? Alfred E. Neuman

From bhagen at msn.com Sun Nov 14 22:03:41 2004
Subject: [R-390] 3TF7

The Amperite TJ311M01 is supposed to be a direct sub for the 3TF7 and is still available from some internet tube merchants. Bruce

From: brumac at junos.com (Bruce MacLellan) Date: Sun Nov 14 19:07:59 2004
Subject: [R-390] 3TF7 resistor replacement

Charlie, I had a ballast fail on me last night. I replaced it with two 51 ohm resistors in parallel inserted into #2 and #7 socket positions, Use 2 watt or better. A bit of shrink tubing on the leads will keep them away from the socket shield mount. If you don't have carbon you can get MOVs in 3 and 5 watt values from Mouser. It works well for me. Bruce

From wabate at dandy.net Sun Nov 14 23:04:28 2004
Subject: [R-390] Front Panel Lettering

I have a 390A that I think was manufactured around 1957 by Motorola. The front panel is a blue/green

color (original to the primer) which I think is for the Navy. The front panel is engraved and the lettering is black. This surprised me as I thought it should be white lettering. I repainted the panel and was getting ready to fill in the engraving with black when I saw a picture of an identical one on the internet with white lettering. Which is right? Or are both original? Anyone have any ideas? Thanks, Bill, K3PGB

From flderoos at mmmppcc.org Mon Nov 15 07:28:17 2004

Subject: [R-390] R390A 200 KHz Calibration Crystal

Is the 200 KHz calibration crystal series or parallel resonant? If parallel, what is the capacitance? Mine won't oscillate, so I'm trying to find a replacement. Also, what was the purpose of reducing the 2400 pf caps in the two 05 - 1.0 MHz cans to 1500 pf? Thanks, Fred WA0GMH

From drewmaster813 at hotmail.com Mon Nov 15 13:18:02 2004

Subject: [R-390] RE: 3TF7 resistor replacement

Charles B. wrote: >Can some one give me the specifics on how to replace the >3tf7 Ballast tube with a 42 OHM resistor? <snip>

Bob Camp responded: >Alternately you can solder the resistor to the tube socket pins under >the IF module.<snipped>

That is neat and unobtrusive, but will add almost 4 watts of heat under the IF module. Baked BFO, anyone? Bruce MacLellan responded: >I had a ballast fail on me last night. I replaced it with two

Two 51 ohm resistors in parallel is about 25 ohms; that value is too low. The desired value is 42 ohms. A 47 ohm resistor will work. A sufficient power rating is 5 watts; a 10 watt unit would run cooler and be less of a temptation on which to burn your fingers.

Bruce wrote of "MOV's" from Mouser, I believe he meant "MOX" (metal oxide power resistor).

Methinks the simplest ballasubstitution to be swapping out the PTO and BFO tubes with 12BA6, then jumper out the ballasocket. No resistor required!

An Alfred E. Neuman impostor attempted to kick the beehive by writing:

>I have heard from various experts that if one were to do this, when >somebody >turns a light switch on in any part of the house, the receiver will change >frequencies. Can you confirm or deny this?

In this rushing-about-hither-and-thither busy busy busy age many of us just don't have sufficient time and energy to kick about a good ol' dead horse and play the controversies. Wei-i Li has recognized that unfortunate hallmark of present-day life and has given us powerful freeze-dried knowledge comprising tidbits coursing through this forum over the years, complete with all of the high-spirited equine percussion for which one could ask. Goto r-390a.net , click on references, Pearls of Wisdom, Ballast Tube (then just add water). Drew

From bhagen at msn.com Mon Nov 15 17:25:41 2004

Subject: [R-390] The ballast still

Yikes!

The simple mod is change the two tubes to 12ba6's and jumper the ballast with a U made from a paper clip which is the David Medley way. Ten minutes and less than \$5.00 and in ten minutes you can reverse it if you think it gives the audio too much bass. Bruce

From bill at iaxs.net Mon Nov 15 21:39:00 2004
Subject: [R-390] The infamous or notorious Ballast Tube

What's all this about infamous and notorious? These are euphemisms.

Obviously, the ballast tube is immoral. It cannot be born again. It has nothing to say to the unborn fetus, and it does not have an opinion about gay marriage.

The will of the people has been made manifest. Let us have no more talk about immoral ballast tubes.

William Hawkins, Defender of My View of the Faith (Yours doesn't count)

From terryo at wort-fm.terracom.net Tue Nov 16 10:31:50 2004
Subject: [R-390] FS: Mini BNC stuff

I have an assortment of mini BNC cables, connectors and parts I no longer need. Quantity discounts, if you'd like a bunch. Just make me an offer. Here's what I have:

6 - RG-174 cables of mini BNC male to cut end that are 6-8 feet long. These are \$3.00 each.

5 - RG-1428/U (same size as RG-58) cables of mini BNC male to cut end that are 3-6 inches long. These are \$1.50 each.

3 - RG-174 cables of mini BNC male (2 straight, 2 right angle) to cut end that are at least 6" long. These are \$1.25 each.

1 - RG-1428/U (same size as RG-58) cable of mini BNC female to cut end that is 3" long. \$2.00 for this one.

15 - RG-174 cables of mini BNC male to standard BNC male, various lengths 8-16" long. Make great test leads for troubleshooting the modules in the radio. \$1.00 each

2 - RG-174 cables of mini BNC male to standard BNC female, about 7" long. These are \$1.50 each

1 - RG-174 cable of mini BNC male to standard TNC male, about 12" long. \$1.00 for this one.

2 - cables of mini BNC male to standard BNC female, one of RG-55 about 16", one of RG-58 about 8" long. These are \$1.50 each

3 - RG-174 cables of mini BNC male to right angle mini BNC male, about 12" long. \$1.25 each.

2 - RG-174 cables of mini BNC male to right angle mini BNC male, about 5" long. \$1.00 each.
(Original R-390 with tags P114 and P116 at each end. Jackets on cables on brittle and flaking.)

5 - RG-174 cables of mini BNC male to mini BNC male, one 12" long and four 5". \$1.25 each.

13 - female mini BNC panel mount connectors by Amphenol. Removed from equipment. \$1.00 each

3 - mini BNC coaxial relays. SPDT with 115VAC coil winding. \$3.00 each.

Small amounts of cables can be crammed in a \$3.85 priority mail, flat rate envelope. For quantities and the relay's, I'll have to pack up and get a quote. 73, Terry O' WB9GVB

From stevehobensack at hotmail.com Tue Nov 16 18:46:53 2004

Subject: [R-390] 200 khz crystal

Hash: SHA1

Fred, my crystal went on the fritz also, but I managed to repair it. I opened the can and removed the 200 khz crystal. I opened the crystal and found one of the fine wires came off the quartz due to some kind of green corrosion. The wire was too short to reuse, so I used a piece of nr38 copper wire that I cut and bent to size. I filed a find point on my iron and tack soldered it in. It wasn't pretty but it worked. Some types of those crystals are really fragile, because the fine wires actually suspend the crystal in space instead of the normal pressure plate type of contact. 73...Steve...N8YE

From ka4prf at us-it.net Wed Nov 17 09:59:05 2004

Subject: [R-390] Solid State replacement

Hi again,

On Chuck Rippel's web page, he has a Solid State Replacement modification for the Ballast Tube, introduction printed. He says anyone interested in purchasing this unit should email him which I did and my email was bounced back. Anyone know if this unit is still available, and if not, is there a similar modification around that I can get my hands on? Thank you Chuck B.

From kgordon at moscow.com Mon Nov 22 00:29:45 2004

Subject: [R-390] Operating Hours / MTBF

Bob Camp wrote a while back: > The list has been a bit quiet recently.... Again...so I'll resurrect an older post > Here's my question - How much do you operate your R-390 and how long > does it operate between maintenance "events"?

<snip> > So any body want to contribute to the data base?

Sure. Although this isn't an R-390, I ran an RAL-7 for 6 years without ever turning it off. Finally thought I better check for flat tubes in it, so shut it down to check them.

Didn't find any, so turned it back on for another 4 years.

Finally, I discovered that the rectifier tube had gone really gassy when I noticed some tar running out of the power supply. I replaced the tube and also turned off the big 300 watt ballast tube (876?) which wasn't really needed in the first place.

So, that was about 87000 hours MTBeforeF. Not too shabby. Ran it for another 2 or 3 years after that, then turned it off when I left home.

So, now, 35 years later, I have another one. Wonder how long it will last? Ken W7EKB

From ka4prf at us-it.net Mon Nov 22 05:55:04 2004

Subject: [R-390] SSB unit

Hi all, someone told me that there's an outboard unit that allows one to receive LSB & USB better with his R-390A. He said that it was made by Barker & Williamson. Anyone know the email or URL of B & W? I would like to investigate the unit mentioned. thanks Chuck ka4prf@us-it.net

Chuck,

The B&W unit is the "Model 370 Single Sideband Receiving Adapter:" It operates on the frequency conversion principle, with its low IF frequency at 17 to 20 Kc. Upper or lower sideband is selected by changing the mixing frequency. A filter at 17 Kc selects the desired band of frequencies. There is a 17 Kc injection oscillator to re-inject the BFO signal for SSB, CW, or enhanced am operation. The thing contains an audio amplifier (6V6) and speaker.

These units seem quite hard to find. I have one, one other fellow I know of has one also. I also have an original manual, and will be happy to provide copies of it to anyone who needs one (it is not on the BAMA site - When I get the time, I'll scan it and send it in for all to have.)

Other sideband adapters that can be used with the R-390A or other radios with 455 kc IF frequencies include:

Hammarlund HC-10: quite rare and expensive Hammarlund SPC-110 rack mount equivalent: even more rare and expensive Military CV-591 (aka MSR-4) made by TMC sideband adapter Any modern rice box that will receive SSB and tune to 455 Kc. Roy

From klycotek01 at mchsi.com Mon Nov 22 11:48:57 2004

Subject: [R-390] Re: B and W SSB Adaptor

I sold those when I was a B and W dealer and later a lot of used ones came through the doors when fully SSB receivers came along. There were several similar units popular in early 60s and prior.

B and W was a no nonsense unit that worked very well and was a companion to the 5100B transmitter and 51SB SSB Adaptor. Add one to a 75A3 or similar and you had a great receiver.

Lakeshore, Eldico, and Central Electronics made various models with various results. Most of the Central units were in kit form and I had to rework so many I quite taking them in trade as did my friend Bob Henry.

The jewel that people wanted but was rather expensive was the Hammarland HC-10 and SPC10

....SPC was rack mounted. It was literally the whole front end, if strip and all from a HQ-170/180 with the excellent SSB system, stagger tuned IFs, and other features. Being a Hammarlund dealer I sold them

as fast as I could get them.....many went on NC300s and 303s. I put one on an AR-88 and it is still there. Also used others on a my R388 and R390A and a couple of commercial receivers.

But when all is said and done the TMC strip rack panel adaptors were a terrific bargain when several surplus stores were selling them for \$50. I bought four and three had off freq crystals (they had your choice of variable tuning or crystal controlled USB/LSB. I bought a handful of crystals from International and made them do what they were supposed to do. Still have one and like it for it's simplicity. A natural with the R390A.

Sooo it is all in what you are looking for in additional features beyond just adapting to SSB.

There were lesser units on the amateur market but the didn't last long. One great thing about the B and W was a front mounted speaker of high quality.... But then all their gear was great! 73, Frank Gilmore K0JPJ ex-W5PVX

From ai2q at adelphia.net Mon Nov 22 12:42:20 2004
Subject: [R-390] Baker and Williams

I have a Hammarlund HC-10 hitched to my 51J-4. If someone's interested, and makes me an appropriate offer, I might be persuaded to part with it. I even have the original owner's manual. Vy 73, AI2Q, Alex in Maine

From N4BUQ at aol.com Mon Nov 22 12:42:23 2004
Subject: [R-390] Baker and Williams

...and the little PD-1 solid-state unit. I have one and it works pretty good. Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From Llgpt at aol.com Mon Nov 22 14:12:43 2004
Subject: [R-390] Baker and Williams

Alex and group,

Why not just do the Lankford agc and product detector modification? I have that on my 51J-4 and it works spectacularly! The agc mod takes care of the crappy audio when listening to fading sw broadcasters and the product detector is superb. No need to vary the bfo, as it is a true product detector, center the bfo in the passband and listen away to USB or LSB with equal ease! The articles were in HSN 26 and HSN 28. Les Locklear

From wabate at dandy.net Mon Nov 22 15:29:15 2004
Subject: [R-390] Cosmos PTO adjustment

I'm tackling the Cosmos PTO for linearity adjustment. I have Dave's article on how to do it but I'm having problems in finding out what tool to use. Those darn small screws are hard to see especially at my age!! I was able to determine (with an 8X magnifying glass!)that the cap screw is an Allen head cap screw. The smallest allen wrench I have is .028" and it fits but jumps when I try to turn the screw. I have no idea what standard sizes allen wrenches come in. 1/16" is way to big. 1/32" is .032" but that does not seem like too much of a difference from the .028 that I have. Anybody know what size wrench I should be looking for? 73, Bill, K3PGB

From roy.morgan at nist.gov Mon Nov 22 17:16:48 2004
Subject: [R-390] Cosmos PTO adjustment

wrote: >I'm tackling the Cosmos PTO for linearity adjustment. I think the Cosmos PTO's I have here use screwdriver-slotted screws for the linearity adjustment. > I have no idea what standard sizes allen wrenches come in.

Check <http://www.engineeringfindings.com/cat22/cat22pg364.pdf> (Small Parts, Inc.) they seem to come in 28, 35 and 50 thousandths. Roy

From wabate at dandy.net Mon Nov 22 17:54:22 2004
Subject: [R-390] Cosmos PTO adjustment

Roy,

Thanks for the info. It looks like I need the .035, unless it is a non-standard size which I doubt. I have a friend checking for one. Hope he can come through.

Also, it is my understanding that the Cosmos PTO used allen, slotted hear and bristo head cap screws for the linearity adjustment. Go figure! At least they didn't use them all on the same PTO! HI HI.. 73, Bill, K3PGB

From ka4prf at us-it.net Tue Nov 23 05:45:36 2004
Subject: [R-390] BFO Pitch

Hi again,

I had the IF sub-chassis out of my R390A last week to check underneath to see if there were any problems i.e. burnt resistors etc. There weren't. Anyway, I had inadvertently turned the BFO Pitch shaft when it wasn't hooked up and consequently I think my pitch maybe off. Anyone know the proper procedure for adjusting the Pitch WITHOUT instruments before connecting it back onto the knob?
Thanks Chuck

From kc8opp at yahoo.com Tue Nov 23 06:41:50 2004
Subject: [R-390] BFO Pitch

Charles,

Tune in a known freq station, WWV works good. If your dial is set right it should read XX.000 depending on the freq. Tune for max carrier level at the lowest bandpass possible to make sure your centered on the freq.

Turn on the BFO and zero beat. Should be 0 on the BFO dial. Comments welcome. 73's Roger KC8OPP

From kc8opp at yahoo.com Tue Nov 23 08:56:20 2004

Subject: [R-390] Cosmos PTO adjustment

Bill, Here is what I found and it fits a couple of the PTO's that I have been into. Some of them have slots for a tiny jewel screwdriver bit, but then there is the allen type.

Contact your Snap-On dealer and order up "MS2A". this is a multi spline L-shaped wrench. Four flutes at .033 inches. When it comes in take your magnifier with, it is very small. Good luck and let me know what you find. 73's Roger KC8OPP

From kgordon at moscow.com Tue Nov 23 12:27:57 2004
Subject: [R-390] BFO Pitch

wrote: > Hi again, > > I had the IF subchassis out of my R390A last week to check > underneath to see if there were any problems i.e. burntPitch WITHOUT instruments > before connecting it back onto the knob?

What has always worked pretty well for me is to set the selectivity at one of the narrower positions, but usually not the narrowest, tune in a place with NO SIGNALS, turn the BFO on, turn up the RF and AF gain so I can hear a lot of band hiss, and adjust for lowest pitch. Ken W7EKB

From wabate at dandy.net Thu Nov 25 20:58:33 2004
Subject: [R-390] Schematic

I found a pdf of the R-390A manual on the net but the schematic is cut up into 8 1/2 X 11 pieces. Does anyone know where I can DL a full size version of the two schematics? Thanks Bill, K3PGB

From tetrode at comcast.net Fri Nov 26 13:51:49 2004
Subject: [R-390] Schematic

Bill,

Check out James A Moorer's R390 page at his Jammin Power site, there are full size hi-rez schematics in the PDF file named TM-11-856A.wide.PDF which is the second one from the bottom in the R-390 literature section. It's a 32MB file but if you like R-390s then your used to big things. The schematic looks good even at 400% size!

<http://www.jamminpower.com/main/r390.jsp>

IMHO James deserves a big thankyou from everyone in the boatanchor community. His freely available high rez manual scans are obviously a labor of love and its his own dime hosting the bandwidth for all those huge files too. 73, John