

R-390 Reflector March '03 Edited

From jbischof@nycap.rr.com Sat Mar 1 03:03:36 2003
Subject: [R-390] two diode ssb mod

I am looking for the Lankford 2, diode SSB mod to be used in a r390,non a receiver. Can any one help me? James

From wgitte@buffnet.net Sat Mar 1 04:51:28 2003
Subject: [R-390] Low Gain on 3-4Mhz

Hello R-390 Fans, Last night I posted a request for information on possible faults on an R-390A which had low gain on all bands up to 8 mhz. I replaced the first RF amp tube V201 and the gain came way up on all frequencies except 3 and 4 mhz bands. I checked the second crystal osc output and it looks good. Question is, has anyone experienced a failure in the RF coil circuits between V 201(RF amp and V202 1st mixer). Also wondering if C252 and C279 are common points of failure. Any help is greatly appreciated. 73's Bill K2LNU

From AB3L1@aol.com Sun Mar 2 03:14:07 2003
Subject: [R-390] T-368 Pricing Help

Hello, I have come across a T368 that may be coming up for purchase. I would like to be in the ballpark for an offer to get the owner interested. Seems to be all there. Paint has been touched up in many spots so it is in no way "excellent," "good" might be a closer description. All knobs there, two out of three meters are matching. Has been in storage for a few years but was used before that. Thank you, Bob AB3L Pittsburgh

From w5or@comcast.net Sun Mar 2 13:29:23 2003
Subject: [R-390] Feb 2003 stats

Charter reminder:

The is for the discussion of the features, operating, troubleshooting, repair, maintenance, improvements and general lore related to the R-390 family of radio receivers which were developed for military and government applications. This group includes the R-390, R-390A, R-392, R-391, R-389, as well as related equipment.

For subscription problems or questions send an email to w5or@comcast.net.

From Scott Seickel" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Sun Mar 2 13:38:25 2003
Subject: [R-390] T-368 Pricing Help

Got mine on E-pay a few months back and paid \$650 for it. Came from a gentelman in the Pittsburgh area who bought if from Fair Radio several years earlier for about the same price I paid. It was a Fair Radio "checked" unit. It's condition sounds very much as you describe. The only other one I know of that sold on e-pay recently went for almost \$1000 and was currently in use when sold. I believe also had an antenna tuner. I would think a known operating unit would catch a few more \$\$\$, and it did. Let us

know how you make out. My opinion is that \$650 is fair price for the unit. Scott

From wa9vrh@ocslink.com Sun Mar 2 16:05:06 2003
Subject: [R-390] CCA's First Wednesday AM Night March 5th

Hi everyone This Wednesday March 5th , 2003 is the next First Wednesday CCA AM night on 3880 kcs.

Join us for some outstanding AM signals!

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

When checking in please give your name, location and equipment you are running.

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

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

Starting at 8:00pm EST (01:00 UTC) East coast ncs will start the net
At 02:00 UTC East coast ncs will turn ncs to Midwest ncs
At 03:00 UTC Midwest ncs will turn ncs to Mountain ncs
At 04:00 UTC Mountain ncs will turn ncs to West coast ncs
comments please to wa9vrh@ocslink.com
Have fun and enjoy the great sounding AM signals. 73's Larry WA9VRH

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Sun Mar 2 20:12:59 2003
Subject: [R-390] T-368 HF AM Transmitter.

Paid \$800+ for mine. and I'd rate it at a 8 or thereabouts. Mine was complete but missing the rear filter, the cover screen and hardware plus some of the thuds were broken off. In addition there were a few extra holes drilled on the rear plus a added toggle switch. Scott's price of \$650. sounds like a pretty fair and good speculation price to pay. On that note, does anyone have the net or email for the reflector for those owners of the BC-610 & T-368 Transmitters? I heard a rumor that there was a reflector for those boatanchors! 73, Glen Galati KA7BOJ

From ToddRoberts2001@aol.com Sun Mar 2 20:44:24 2003
Subject: Fwd: [R-390] T-368 HF AM Transmitter.

Go to this address for the T-368/BC-610 users group. 73 Todd WD4NGG.
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/T-368_BC-610/

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Mon Mar 3 01:32:46 2003
Subject: [R-390] 2 diode SSB mod

James, For information on the 2 diode (Lankford) AGC modification try R-390A.net

Go to References, Pearls of Wisdom, SSB conversion. You will find pertinent postings gleaned from this list over the past few years. While all stages of the modification can be performed, the majority of its effect is provided by just the addition of 2 diodes (1N4148 or other silicon small signal type). Drew

From antero.nordlund@nokia.com Tue Mar 4 08:03:36 2003
Subject: [R-390] alignment assistance for an R-390A beginner

Dear group, this is the first, but probably not the last time I write to you.

I have just recently acquired an R-390A receiver from Fair Radio. Having my background in humanities (linguistics), I chose the "checked" option in hope of a working unit. After having paid almost another USD 550 for shipping, value added tax and customs duties, I finally have my radio on my desk here in my hometown of Nurmijarvi, Finland. I think I got a nice receiver: it has an engraved front panel (without a manufacturer's tag), one fuse, the PTO is a Collins, power transformer from EAC, AF subchassis from Capehart... well, all in all, a nice example of the modular construction principle! These all are from the 1960-1961, or thereabouts, contracts.

I resisted the temptation to apply power to it before I had changed the critical capacitors in the IF subchassis (C-531, 547, 549, 553). Obviously, I also had to make the necessary changes in the power supply for our 230 VAC. Further, I have now changed all the capacitors in the AF subchassis listed on KK4DF's homepage.

At this point, the receiver is working surprisingly well, taken into account the little work I have done so far. Signals are present on all bands, random checks into tube sockets show approximately the correct resistance and voltage values, and test point E607 provides exactly 150 VDC. In fact, my R-390A receives just about every signal my other receiver, a Drake R8B, receives. Not bad, although I do notice that the Drake is more sensitive on the medium wave band, at least so far... Of course, my R-390A probably has who knows how old tubes and it probably is not perfectly aligned, which brings me to, yes, alignment issues:

I can at the moment adjust the frequency display to indicate the correct frequency as described in the Operator's manual, but I notice that, using the "zero adj", I end up at the very limit of the KC knob's range of movement without the last three digits of the display changing. More specifically, I can't move the KC knob to the right (higher frequencies).

Further, the mechanical alignment at the frequency reading of 07+000 is slightly off, with the cam plates (all of them) better in place at frequency reading 07 990. Now, in such a case, the manual suggests the remedy is to set the cam plates to their correct position, and then manually change the frequency reading to 07+000. In my case, then, I would have to add 10 kHz to the reading. But here's where my confusion already starts: if I add 10 kHz to the frequency reading, I can't correct that using the "zero adj." as I'm already at the limit of its range. Further, the nice balance of approximately 35 kHz above and below a "XX 000" reading on the frequency indicator will be gone, right?

So, as you notice, I'm a bit confused as to what setting affects what other settings and what the correct order of doing things is. Is there a procedure described somewhere that corrects the frequency error, centers the "zero adj." to the middle of its 15 kHz range, and restores the 35 kHz on both sides of a "XX 000" reading? Of course, what I'm after is a non-technical description using layman's terminology and definitely not using signal generators, oscilloscopes and other equipment that I don't happen to own! I have downloaded TM 11-5820-358-10 and -35, and the 21st century technical reference, but can't seem

to be able to extract the information I'm after.

Any help you can provide is received with gratitude! Greetings from Finland, Antero Nordlund
antero.nordlund@nokia.com

From Walter Wilson" <walter@r-390a.us Tue Mar 4 11:04:05 2003
Subject: [R-390] alignment assistance for an R-390A beginner

Antero,

It sounds like your PTO is not outputting 2445 KC when your KC knob is at 7+000 with the cams aligned at the marks. Here's what I would do:

- 1. Set the zero adjust mechanism in the center of it's range by tightening down the ZERO ADJ knob, spinning the KC knob one way and then the other until it stops, setting the KC knob near the center of that range between the stops, and then loosening the ZERO ADJ knob. The zero adjust mechanism is now near the center of its range.**
- 2. Set the camshafts at their alignment marks. Don't worry about whether the dial reads 7+000 or some other value.**
- 3. Loosen the clamp that connects from the KC shaft to the oldham coupler, which ties the KC shaft to the PTO. This will decouple the KC shaft from the PTO.**
- 4. Rotate the PTO shaft by spinning the oldham coupler until the PTO is outputting 2445 KC. If you don't have a frequency counter, you can just use the CAL function to find the carrier (at 8.0 MC). You now have the camshafts aligned with the zero adjust near the center of its range and the PTO putting out 2445 KC.**
- 5. Retighten the clamp connecting the KC shaft to the oldham coupler.**
- 6. Look at the frequency readout. If it is very far from 7+000, you will have to remove the front panel and adjust the veeder root (frequency readout) by loosening the gear clamp and rotating the gear on the right side of the veeder root mechanism. If it's close to the correct reading, you should be able to adjust it with the ZERO ADJ method.**

This will get the camshafts aligned at their marks when the PTO is at 2445 KC with the zero adjust range near center and the dial readout at 7+000. That's your starting point. If the radio was aligned when the camshafts were in their misaligned positions, the radio will now be in need of a good alignment. Walter Wilson - KK4DF <http://r-390a.us>

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Tue Mar 4 12:28:31 2003
Subject: [R-390] alignment assistance for an R-390A beginner

Greetings Antero and Welcome Aboard!

Also apologies to the List as I think I just hit the send button before typing anything, so there will be one of those reply posts with no reply in it.

>this is the first, but probably not the last time I write to you.

Well, I hope someone writes to the group -- it's been too quiet lately. ;-)

>I have just recently acquired an R-390A receiver from Fair Radio. Having my background in >humanities (linguistics), I chose the "checked" option in hope of a working unit.

That makes good sense. Something to keep in mind about Fair Radio. They are true to their name. This is a good time to look over the receiver carefully for any missing or broken parts, just in case they missed anything. In particular, check for any broken shaft clamps, but also any missing hardware, etc. Make sure the receiver is truly working on all MC bands. If a few are not, it is probably a bad crystal. Fair is good about replacing any missing or defective parts and it is usually not necessary to return a bad part to get replacements..

>After having paid almost another USD 550 for shipping, value added tax and customs duties, I >finally have my radio on my desk here in my hometown of Nurmijarvi, Finland. I think I got a >nice receiver: it has an engraved front panel (without a manufacturer's tag), one fuse, the PTO is >a Collins, power transformer from EAC, AF subchassis from Capehart... well, all in all, a nice >example of the modular construction principle! These all are from the 1960-1961, or >thereabouts, contracts.

Wow! I suppose that was for air freight. At some point you might want to get a repro tag for the front panel depending on what the receiver mostly is. However, it seems it is the traditional "depot dog", so a generic tag might be most appropriate. They can be mailed in an envelope for about 80 cents US postage.

>I resisted the temptation to apply power to it before I had changed the critical capacitors in the >IF subchassis (C-531, 547, 549, 553).

A good move.

>Obviously, I also had to make the necessary changes in >the power supply for our 230 VAC. >Further, I have now changed all the capacitors in the AF subchassis listed on KK4DF's >homepage.

Also good.

>At this point, the receiver is working surprisingly well, taken into account the little work I have >done so far. Signals are present on all bands, random checks into tube sockets show >approximately the correct resistance and voltage values, and test point E607 provides exactly >150 VDC. In fact, my R-390A receives just about every signal my other receiver, a Drake >R8B, receives. Not bad, although I do notice that the Drake is more sensitive on the medium >wave band, at least so far...

A small digression: Now that you have an R-390A, with all its substantial knobs, etc., the Drake's tuning knob may feel particularly cheesy (cheap/light) by comparison, if you have not yet "upgraded" it. This is done by filling the hollows with something like steel balls and glue or by substituting the tuning knob from an Icom R-72, which is available from Icom as a replacement part.

>Of course, my R-390A probably has who knows how old tubes and it probably is not perfectly >aligned, which brings me to, yes, alignment issues:

It would be good if you could acquire or borrow a good tube tester. While you can simply substitute known good tubes, some replacements require an alignment. It is also important to check replacement tubes for shorts before using them. A short in a tube can cause other damage.

>I can at the moment adjust the frequency display to indicate the correct frequency as described >in the Operator's manual, but I notice that, using the "zero adj", I end up at the very limit of the >KC knob's range of movement without the last three digits of the display changing. More >specifically, I can't move the KC knob to the right (higher frequencies).

>Further, the mechanical alignment at the frequency reading of 07+000 is slightly off, with the cam >plates (all of them) better in place at frequency reading 07 990. Now, in such a case, the manual >suggests the remedy is to set the cam plates to their correct position, and then manually change >the frequency reading to 07+000. In my case, then, I would have to add 10 kHz to the reading. >But here's where my confusion already starts: if I add 10 kHz to the frequency reading, I can't >correct that using the "zero adj." as I'm already at the limit of its range. Further, the nice balance >of approximately 35 kHz above and below a "XX 000" reading on the frequency indicator will >be gone, right?

It seems that -- provided all the cams are lined up at 07 990 -- you might simply adjust the reading of the counter with the gear on the counter shaft. However, the +/- 35 kHz will be off at the ends of the 10-turn stops of the KC shaft. It would seem that you should be able to adjust for that with the appropriate clamp on that shaft. But first

Do you have the Bristol (spline) wrenches of the correct sizes?

>So, as you notice, I'm a bit confused as to what setting affects what other settings and what the >correct order of doing things is. Is there a procedure described somewhere that corrects the >frequency error, centers the "zero adj." to the middle of its 15 kHz range, and restores the 35 >kHz on both sides of a "XX 000" reading? Of course, what I'm after is a non-technical >description using layman's terminology and definitely not using signal generators, oscilloscopes >and other equipment that I don't happen to own! I have downloaded TM 11-5820-358-10 and >-35, and the 21st century technical reference, but can't seem to be able to extract the >information I'm after.

The alignment procedures are all in the manuals, however they presume going from start to finish, beginning with a full mechanical alignment. There isn't much in the way of isolated, individual "tweaking" instructions, because the receiver is so complex mechanically, and so much is interdependent. The only way to assure that the receiver is running at peak performance is to go through all the steps.

It seems as though you have been very thorough, however, it might be a good idea to do some more checking. For example, is the PTO fairly linear over its range? In other words, is the dial accuracy about the same at the low and high ends of the bands? Did you allow the receiver to warm up completely? Might take an hour or two for best results. If you have not already done so, "walk through" the full alignment as much as possible without changing anything.

You can do some alignment just using the crystal calibrator, however, it would be better to have a signal generator available. A modest unit will be good enough, however, for accuracy, a frequency counter should be used along with it. The small pocket-sized counters are sufficient.

Hopefully, someone else on the list can suggest a simple adjustment -- perhaps just the coupling on the PTO. However, any quick fix may throw something else off, even slightly off peak and you will not be getting maximum performance. Considering the investment you already have made, the accuracy you seek and the fact that you are an R8B owner, I suspect you'll be shopping for some test equipment very soon ;-). I only spent one day in Helsinki a few years ago on a Scandinavian cruise, and I do not remember too much of what I saw through the tour bus window, so have no idea as to availability. Typically in the US, a suitable signal generator can be purchased for under \$100. A new, small frequency counter typically sells for under \$75. Radio Shack used to have one that went on sale for less

than that. A signal generator with the built in accuracy required generally costs more than the sum of the two. You may be able to borrow these -- and possibly borrow the guy that owns them. I am sure there are sources in Europe where the base price might be higher, but shipping and customs would be less. You don't need an oscilloscope. Hope this helps. Barry

From BRingwoo@csir.co.za Tue Mar 4 14:34:45 2003
Subject: [R-390] alignment assistance for an R-390A beginner

Dear Antero,

Welcome. The majority of the group are in a different time zone and will offer their wisdom when they awaken. I'm afraid my advice to you would probably cause a furore as there are others who know much more about the 390A than I do. There is a wealth of information in the pearls of wisdom <http://www.r-390a.net/Pearls/>

The R8B can be used to adjust the frequency and end-points of the PTO, and also to check the 1st Oscillator crystal frequencies are correct. The 455kHz IF strip must be in approximate alignment, so I would tackle the RF stage next. I'm not sure how you would proceed without some sort of signal generator. I just use an ancient signal generator (Clough-Brendell w/lethal PSU) and set its frequencies accurately with a digital Rx.

Now there's one thing I'm not understanding - "Medium Wave Sensitivity". In the evenings here, stations can be heard from quite long distances on Medium Wave, but there's a huge level of background noise - much of man-made from TVs and goodness only knows what else, but the level of atmospheric noise is around S5 on all my Rxs. Most of the local stations pin the meter. (Again on all Rxs). The question then, is does sensitivity matter much above 10 MHz or so ? and should I buy a Drake R8B ?
Best wishes - Bryce

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Tue Mar 4 20:04:29 2003
Subject: [R-390] 390 non

Friends, Thought I would put a quick post about my 390. Some of you will recall that it has gone inoperable on me, and I am not- - NOT going to do the tech on it..I did most of a 390a for nothing it seems, and I just want this one to work. I don't intend to work ON it again... (It just sits in the closet, looking at me whenever I walk in...)I don't WANT to learn the 390..I just want to USE it...like I did so many years ago...How long has it NOT operated? About a year and a half....

Prior to May, I can drive it to you to repair for me, and pick it up as far away as Tallahassee to Pensacola...To Atlanta. (Or even Mobile or N.O. for that matter) I shipped so much stuff, I am SICK OF SHIPPING...

In arnd. May and beyond I can drive it most anywhere in a west of Atlanta situation.almost to the west coast..(That way you have to pack and ship it to me, not "vicy versa") and:

No.! I am not ready to sell it cheap yet..(It was completely rebuilt less than two years ago..after all, and I want it to WORK...)

Miss You All, Just don't feel like doin radio anymore now.. Regards, John

Oh Yeah....I use the SP600 a kind soul on the list sold me...It always works...(But NEVER as well as the

390 used to...) Oh well....

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Tue Mar 4 20:50:16 2003
Subject: [R-390] Alignment Assistance

Antero wrote:<snipped>>I can at the moment adjust the frequency display to indicate the correct >frequency as described in the Operator's manual, but I notice that, using >the "zero adj", I end up at the very limit of the KC knob's range of >movement without the last three digits of the display changing. More >specifically, I can't move the KC knob to the right (higher frequencies).

Cam setting seems to be about right (you mentioned alignment of timing marks at 7990 KC). With zero adjust in the center of its range, can you get about 35 KC overtravel at both ends of range (7-965 to 7+035)? If so, then reset PTO shaft to receive indicated frequency with zero adjust in center of range.

If you cannot get 35 KC overtravel at both ends, reset position of large gear on KC knob shaft (with zero set in center). Then reset PTO shaft.

Of course, it would be desirable to set PTO endpoint adjustment for 1 MHz in exactly 10 turns.

The R-390 series tracking preselectors and tunable IF's are quite selective. If you carry the above process too far, sensitivity will suffer. It would be well to electrically align those sections. In the 1-2 MHz band, for example, sensitivity is noticeably reduced when PTO mistracks by 10 KHz. Drew

From ham@cq.nu Wed Mar 5 03:29:11 2003
Subject: [R-390] alignment assistance for an R-390A beginner

Hi, >> In fact, my R-390A receives just about every signal my other receiver, a Drake R8B, receives. Not bad, although >I do notice that the Drake is more sensitive on the medium wave band, at least so far... Of course, my R-390A probably >has who knows how old tubes and it probably is not perfectly aligned, which brings me to, yes, alignment issues:

>

Once you get it all tuned up and running right the R390A should do better than the R8B below about 10 or 12 MHz. From there up to roughly 22 MHz they should run equally well. The Drake *might* do a little better above 22 MHz. A lot depends on how well each radio is working. Take Care! Bob Camp KB8TQ

From windy10605@juno.com Wed Mar 5 14:06:27 2003
Subject: Fw: Re: [R-390] alignment assistance for an R-390A beginner

Also, be sure and use the twinax connector (fed by coax) for the antenna. Definite improvement in sensitivity. 73 Kees K5BCQ

From lal@metrocast.net Wed Mar 5 14:37:30 2003
Subject: [R-390] FS R-390-A

Hello to the list.. Nice R-390A for sale, all Stewart Warner modules, with meters. The radio has had the caps replaced also the Lansford SSB Mod. I installed the audio Mod. Using the 6360 from Electric Radio. Audio is now Hi Fi quality. The new owner will have nothing more to do to it except plug it in

and enjoy ! I can not ship due to the weight, however I will take it to any of the local Hamfests or meet the buyer at a reasonable distance. The price is \$ 550 Thanks for reading Merle W1GZS

From Aidehua@aol.com Wed Mar 5 15:26:56 2003
Subject: [R-390] WTB: Restored R390 (non A)

Looking for a nice R390, preferably restored by Rick Mish or some of the other greats. Would like to have a keeper....Please state price and condx. Thanks, fellow boatanchor enthusiasts! 73, Ed NI6S

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Wed Mar 5 19:18:15 2003
Subject: [R-390] My 390....

Friends, I want to thank just about a BUNCH of nice people who wrote, w/offers for repair, and suggestions for an expert, and advising possible solutions...and then more suggestions of which expert...

I have one. I hate to bother him with it again, but he has offered and I am thankful. I WONT HAVE that hard a time shipping, as he is sending me a container made for it...I HATE SHIPPING...and was ready to drive almost anywhere...but this will work. How can I thank you? By saying it...no other way.. My Best Regards, John

From k6fsb@juno.com Wed Mar 5 18:57:50 2003
Subject: [R-390] wanted r390 (nonA) if

I figure i'll ask here before i go to Fair radio. Does anyone have a R390 NonA If deck they would like to part with? I have a 390 without the IF deck., I also need the 3.5kc med audio filter off the audio deck. ive been looking for 5 years, are these things scarce or what? let me know Thanks Ron

From rnharsh@attbi.com Wed Mar 5 21:52:15 2003
Subject: [R-390] WTB: Restored R390 (non A)

N2XD has exactly what you are looking for on e-Ham.... of course it's priced accordingly! K3PID

From rnharsh@attbi.com Wed Mar 5 21:57:34 2003
Subject: [R-390] wanted r390 (nonA) if

There is an RF deck and chassis on e-Bay right now for \$22.00... go to ebay and search for R-390 K3PID

From Scott Seickel" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Wed Mar 5 22:59:56 2003
Subject: [R-390] wanted r390 (nonA) if

He is looking for an IF deck. None on e-pay. I don't think Fair Radio has them anymore either. Scott

From jbischhof@nycap.rr.com Wed Mar 5 23:02:16 2003
Subject: [R-390] diode ssb mod

Thanks to every one who sent me information on the two diode ssb mod. James Bischof

From djmerz@3-cities.com Thu Mar 6 01:46:58 2003
Subject: [R-390] wanted r390 (nonA) if

Hi, whoops, excuse the empty message. And excuse the mistake - I put the 390 non-a i.f. into a R-390a, Dan.

From flood@Krohne.com Thu Mar 6 14:33:40 2003
Subject: [R-390] wanted r390 (nonA) if

Greetings, This week I was on the telephone with and ordered a new BFO from Fair Radio. It seems that what IF deck stuff that they have left are good for parts only. Hope that info is helpful. Also be prepared to read my future BFO repair questions when I get the part! John Flood (KB1FQG)

From ghayward@uoguelph.ca Thu Mar 6 15:19:07 2003
Subject: [R-390] Algnment

Hello all. I recently acquired an R-390A. I have replaced all the electrolitics and recapped the AGC and AF areas. Z503 was open so I replaced it (wice after learning a valuable lesson about Q) and I have gone once through the alignment. It sounds pretty good and the response seems to be at specification. Question: the manuals don't seem to say anything about setting the crystal oscillator plate coils T401 and T207 nor aboutsetting the RF amp input coils from the balanced input. Can anyone shed some light on this for me? Thanks much es 73 de Gord, VE3EOS.

From jordana@nucleus.com Thu Mar 6 15:34:49 2003
Subject: [R-390] wanted r390 (nonA) if

I am also looking for an R-390 Non "A", perferably from someone here in Canada... I thought I had found one, but the seller decided to keep it ... As long as it is complete, and at least capable of receiving something, I'd be interested... I have a small stock of original meters , so it isn't necessary that they be present... As an aside, did all the 390 non "A" receivers have etched or engraved panels..? I can refinish front panels also as long as they are of the engraved type... 73 de Jordan...

From R390rcvr@aol.com Thu Mar 6 17:29:56 2003
Subject: [R-390] Engraved front panels on R-390(non A)

Dear Jordan: All the R-390 non A panels were engraved, to the best of my knowledge. I have handled units from about all the contracts, and so far, have never seen a silk screened panel.

I must say I continue to be amazed by the R-390 non A. Mainly about its incredible durability and built quality. I have had a number of As, and invariably find the non As have held up better over the years.

I am not qualified to really comment on performance numbers, but it sure sounds nice, and its nice not to have to worry about the mechanical filters dying. Randy Stout

From rnharsh@attbi.com Thu Mar 6 21:37:20 2003
Subject: [R-390] R-390 or R-390A

riatla is selling an R-390 for \$400+ on E-pay but I think it's really an R-390A. Did I miss something?
K3PID

From David_Wise@Phoenix.com Thu Mar 6 21:46:00 2003
Subject: [R-390] R-390 or R-390A

Quite right, it's an R-390A. 73, Dave Wise

From roy.morgan@nist.gov Fri Mar 7 02:11:34 2003
Subject: [R-390] T-368 HF AM Transmitter.

Glen Galati wrote: > On that note, >does anyone have the net or email for the reflector for those owners of the >BC-610 & T-368 Transmitters? I heard a rumor that there was a reflector for >those boatanchors!

There is a mail group on Yahoo for T-368's. If you buy one you really should join that group. The input (posting) address is: T-368_bc-610@yahoogroups.com but if you go to Yahoo.com and poke around for news groups you will likely find out how to subscribe. (I was added by the fellow who runs it.) Roy

From davidmed82@yahoo.com Thu Mar 6 19:48:42 2003
Subject: [R-390] [R390] John in Florida

Recently John posted a message re problems with his R390. I offered to help but have not heard from him. I have lost his email address. Can anyone help me. I need to get in touch with him ASAP. Dave

From l.baldi@www.dottorbaldi.it Thu Mar 6 21:19:49 2003
Subject: [R-390] Engraved front panels on R-390(non A)

Dear Randy and Friends, my R-390 non-A have a silk-screened front panel (and is the same on the R-390 non-A of my radio friend) instead of my other two R-390-As that have an engraved front panel. What do you think about? Federico IZ1FID

From Aidehua@aol.com Fri Mar 7 03:19:52 2003
Subject: [R-390] Engraved front panels on R-390(non A)

To my knowledge, all of the R-390 (non A) were silk-screened (Collins/Motorola). Even the early R390A's were silk-screened (Collins/Motorola). I think the engraving started with Capehart, Imperial or Stewart Warner in the late 50's. Hence forth, they were all engraved....That's my story and I'm sticking to it... 73, Ed NI6S

From wb5hak@sirinet.net Fri Mar 7 03:49:05 2003

Subject: [R-390] Engraved front panels on R-390(non A)

Sorry, But both of my "non A's" (1 Collins, 1 Motorola) are engraved. They are at least "original Depot Dogs", hi hi. 73, Don, WB5HAK

From w5kp@direcway.com Fri Mar 7 03:55:09 2003
Subject: [R-390] Testing 390A mechanical filters

Anybody know of a quick and dirty test to see used filters are still ok? Have accurate millivoltmeter, scope, HP sig gen, etc. etc. available. I'd just dive in and try some things but don't want to take a chance on frying a good one in the process. 73, Jerry W5KP

From myoung76@bellsouth.net Fri Mar 7 04:02:07 2003
Subject: [R-390] Engraved R390 Front

Me too. Motorola Mike

From jlkolb@cts.com Fri Mar 7 06:11:20 2003
Subject: [R-390] Testing 390A mechanical filters

Jerry Kincade wrote: > Anybody know of a quick and dirty test to see used filters are still ok? > Have accurate millivoltmeter, scope, HP sig gen, etc. etc. available. I'd > just dive in and try some things but don't want to take a chance on frying a > good one in the process.

First step would be to measure the coil resistances. A F455N-160 filter (R-390A 16 kHz) here measures 41 ohms each coil, A F455FA-21 measures 53 ohms. Don't use the X1 range of a VOM as the low range puts more current through the measured resistor. (and you can hardly measure 40-50 ohms on the low range anyway) Each coil should read open from the coil to the case or gnd terminal.

The next test would be to drive one coil with a signal generator and put a scope or AC or RF voltmeter across the other. Most Collins filters are spec'ed as 2 or 2.5 V RMS max for recommended operating conditions, so keep the signal generator down around 1V RMS to be safe. You would have to terminate the filter coils with the proper resonating caps and load resistors to run accurate curves, but tuning across the expected passband freq will tell if the filter passes anything or not. Filter insertion loss can be as low as 5 db high as 25 or 30 db, so it helps to have a data sheet for the filter you are testing.

The filter type number will tell you a little about the filter F455FA-31 has a carrier or center freq of 455 kHz and is 31 times 100 hertz (3.1 kHz) wide at the nose, and is in the "FA" case. This system works for most filters, but not all. Specifically, it doesn't work for "Q" or "Z" filters. "Z" filters (F500Z-10, etc) are generally either LSB or USB, rather than centered on the listed freq, and anywhere from 2 to 3.5 kHz wide.

A full data sheet will give passband wt the 3 or 6 db points and also at the 60 db points, as well as impedance, resonating caps, insertion, case dimensions. Full data sheets are rather rare. I have a small number of them so may be able to look up some filters.

PLUG: I have a number of filters for sale - e-mail for list. John KK6IL jlkolb@cts.com

From antero.nordlund@nokia.com Fri Mar 7 10:17:36 2003
Subject: [R-390] Thank you for quick alignment help!

Dear R-390A fans, Thank you for the many messages I received as a response to my assistance request. I will try the suggested procedures, including the one heavily relying on Finnish vodka, as soon as I can. As a father of two young ones, I will probably have to wait for my winter holiday to have a little peace. Best regards, Antero

From Scott Seickel" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Fri Mar 7 11:54:52 2003
Subject: [R-390] Engraved front panels on R-390(non A)

Ditto here for my 2 390's. I think Silk Screening was a money saving thing with very early 390A's. Scott

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Fri Mar 7 14:54:24 2003
Subject: [R-390] Engraved front panels on R-390(non A)

Scott wrote: > Ditto here for my 2 390's. > I think Silk Screening was a money saving > thing with very early 390A's.

More ditto's -- 2 non-A's, 2 R-391's and spare panels I've had -- all "engraved".

I suspect you're right -- tried silk screening early R-390A's, then realized it would be more costly in the long run when the lettering rubbed off to repaint AND then re-silk-screen panels vs. refilling the stampings. Somewhere along the line, some people must have got the notion that these receivers would be in use for a very long time, long enough to be overhauled several times over a couple of decades or more. That's not true of most equipment. Barry

From Aidehua@aol.com Fri Mar 7 15:12:33 2003
Subject: [R-390] Engraved front panels on R-390(non A)

Boy, I luv this group!!! The synopsis is that the R390's (non A) were engraved and that the early R390A's were not (Motorola/Collins). Don't own an R390 (yet), so I wasn't exactly sure on that....Thanks for the feedback. 73, Ed NI6S

From Michael Tallent" <mtallent@highstream.net Fri Mar 7 16:31:03 2003
Subject: [R-390] Engraved front panels on R-390(non A)

My R390 has an engraved (stamped) front panel. It is Serial 1693 Order# 14214-PH-51-93 Collins Radio Mike W6MXV

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Fri Mar 7 16:49:29 2003
Subject: [R-390] R-390 or R-390A

wrote: >riatla is selling an R-390 for \$400+ on E-pay but I think it's really an R-390A. Did I miss

something? > > >K3PID

>

No Ron, it's yet another case of 'lack of knowledge' to put it mildly, or assumption. Those who don't really understand the radios or the differences (they look fairly similar at first glance) tend to call them all R-390s as do many who used and maintained them. The equally-clever response was to make up a new name ('non-A') to try to differentiate between the two, rather than calling them by their actual production designation. Essentially, the R-390 is the original or 'complete' model, the R-390A is a cost reduced version with mechanical filters added. Of course, the A model is also an R-390, just a different model. Who ever knew one letter could confuse so many?

One quick way to tell is the location of the tag and the addition of an antenna trimmer control in the upper center of the panel on the A model which the R-390 doesn't have. The tag (or space for it) is below the trimmer on the A model, higher on the R-390. The A is also considerably lighter, but unless you have an R-390 in the other hand, you probably won't notice.

Beyond that Ron, I don't know what to tell you. There are other models like the R-391 which is an auto-tune version of the R-390, but it somehow escaped having an imaginary name made up for it like "R-391 non-A". It has locks in the middle of the large tuning knobs too, to prevent confusion if the tag is missing.....

"Hey.....whassat? Looks like an R-390 non-A with locking knobs! I sense a conflict - we'd better call it the 'R-390 non-A locking knob' just to be safe."

The R-389 is similar in appearance too, but a different radio. I've yet to see one tagged as the "R-390 non-A LF", though. Same with the R-392 or "R-390 non-A Green with bumps". **Then there's the R-648 airborne version or "R-390 non-A Black 28VDC much smaller".**

Or, compare it to the Collins KWM-2. There is also an 'A' model of this radio. Is the KWM-2 called 'KWM-2 non-A'? Y'know, I'll bet there's someone out there right now saying "yes!".

We won't get into the 75S-3 non-A non-B non-C..... (-: You're not missing anything, Ron. You've actually got it right! de Todd/'Boomer' KA1KAQ (still searching for that elusive R-390 non-A nomenclature plate!)

From K2CBB@aol.com Fri Mar 7 19:04:53 2003

Subject: [R-390] Alignment - Gord Hayward Question

Of the three questions, T207 is the simplest to align. Set the Megacycle control to any frequency below 8 MHz. Put an RF probe (or a scope probe) on the cathode of V202 and peak L403 for maximum output at the 17.00 MHz crystal frequency.

T401 is a different story because L234 has to resonate over the complete range of frequencies from 11.0 MHz to 34.0 MHz with only the values of the shunt capacitors switched from band to band. The simplest answer is if each of the trimmer capacitors peaks the output signal don't fool with it. The only time it has to be adjusted is if one or more of the trimmers has to be set to maximum or minimum capacitance to get a peak. (In other words, the screwdriver slot of the ceramic trimmers should NOT be perpendicular to the front panel.) Ideally, the slug of L234 should be set so all the trimmers are somewhere around mid-range when adjusted for peak output.

TH-5820-358-35 sort of buries the procedure for adjusting the antenna balance trimmers in paragraph

122 on page 164. I connect a 62 ohm carbon resistor from each side of the balanced antenna jack to the hot lead of a signal generator that has been terminated with a 125 ohm load. Follow the procedure in subparagraphs "a" thru "e" and "g" of paragraph 122. Adjust the "BAL" TRIMMERS C201A, C205A, C209A, C213A, C217A, and C221A for MINIMUM indication of the meter collected to the DIODE LOAD terminal with the front panel ANT TRIM knob peaked.

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Sat Mar 8 01:45:19 2003
Subject: [R-390] -

Dave, Did you get my e mail.. (Apology to the list....) John

From jbischof@nycap.rr.com Sat Mar 8 04:57:30 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

I have a r390, non A. There is a red dot on the shaft that is part of the antenna trim capacitor. Where should the red dot be when aligning the radio? James Bischof

From k6fsb@juno.com Fri Mar 7 05:47:44 2003
Subject: [R-390] Engraved front panels on R-390(non A)

mine is silk screened, (390 collins) as is my 390A collins, the EAC 390A is Stamped, most A's seem to be stamped, all 5 of the 390(not A) that i've worked on were mixed. Ron

From K2CBY@aol.com Sat Mar 8 10:45:32 2003
Subject: [R-390] Re: antenna trim red dot

Per the tech manual -- with the red dot at the 3 o'clock position when the shaft is viewed from the top with the front panel forward, set the ANT TRIM knob to "0"

From 1.baldi@www.dottorbaldi.it Fri Mar 7 08:18:23 2003
Subject: [R-390] Engraved front panels on R-390(non A)

I agree with Ed, also in the Viappiani book on R-390 & R-390A is written that mostly of the R-390 were silk screened instead of R-390A that have engraved front panels except for the rigs manufactured from Motorola (silk-screened). Federico IZ1FID

From pha@pdq.com Fri Mar 7 16:16:04 2003
Subject: [R-390] Engraved front panels on R-390(non A)

Ditto again - 4 R-391 panels, 2 R-390 (non A) panels are all engraved.

Very interested to hear more about Federico's silk screened 390 non A panel, though. It could well be a very early production R-390 non A? Sometimes you have to look real, real close to see if it is really engraved versus silk screened.

R-392 panels only rarely seem to be engraved. All but one of the ones I've seen seem to be silk screened. Too bad, as it makes them more difficult to restore to perfection. Paul

From courir26@yahoo.com Sat Mar 8 12:46:41 2003
Subject: [R-390] 390A Drawings, was Engraved front panels

As far as the 390A goes, the revision from silk screened to engraved is on the drawings I believe. I think most were actually stamped, not engraved, but the Fowler rigs were engraved with a rotary tool. Tom

From jimsim@adelphia.net Sat Mar 8 12:53:44 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

" <jbischof@nycap.rr.com> I have a r390, non A. There is a red dot on the shaft that is part of the antenna trim capacitor. Where should the red dot be when aligning the radio? James Bischof

From jimsim@adelphia.net Sat Mar 8 12:56:04 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

Can we please stop using this "non A" nonsense! No one here is named Dr. Spock and we are not on the Star Ship Enterprise. You either have a R-390 or a R-390A. I have yet to see, and I am sure that none of you have seen, a radio, marked by the manufacture, as R-390 non A. Jim Simmons

From mail08458@pop.net Sat Mar 8 13:51:10 2003
Subject: [R-390] Engraved front panels on R-390(non A)

I have a R-390(non A) that is silk-screened, but it was remanufactured through Tobyhanna depot in the late 1970's. Bryan Stephens KG4UPR

From rickmurphy1001@earthlink.net Sat Mar 8 14:07:09 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

What do you do if the red dot is missing?

From bloper5@comcast.net Sat Mar 8 14:22:05 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

What if you have a dot and it's non red

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Sat Mar 8 15:58:46 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

Jim wrote: > Can we please stop using this "non A" nonsense! No one here is named Dr. > Spock and we are not on the Star Ship Enterprise. You either have a R-390 or > a R-390A.

Heh heh -- odd coincidence, your name is Jim! So, imagine this coming from Mr. (non-Dr) Spock ...

"Jim, the use of the term "non A" is not nonsense, it is ... logical. It is a known fact in communications that it is not reliable to use the presence or absence of a designa-TOR -- a suffix in this case -- to distinguish between two similar but quite different pieces of equipment. Long ago our ancestors on Vulcan determined that it is wise to use a positive identifier, and even your primitive human computer and communications engineers learned to use operative descriptors rather than nulls. This is very important, especially in interstellar communications where the reference to the receiver may be the last word in the transmission and the transmission may break off prematurely as foretold by your great philosopher, Murphy, the creator of intergalactic law. Imagine what would happen, Jim, if a technician were guiding an operator to repair a receiver and the "A" did not come through on the first communication. That operator might well be trying to jam a 6082 into the audio deck of an R-390A. This is not logical. That is why, on Vulcan, our Collins engineers designated all of our original receivers of the series as the R-390-1 and the cost reduced, mechanical filter version as R-390-2, and all the way up to the Vulcan R-390-41, which is not simply receiver, but also the control head for a particle beam weapon, also know as a phaser. Not only that, Jim, but we very precise Vulcans, due to exposure to humans, and joining many of your list reflector groups, have picked up the human tendency to generalize and even truncate components of our email. So now even we Vulcans have started to call the first receiver by the appellation of "Non-A", especially in making reference to the Earth-contract units, which lack the Vulcan -1 suffix on their tags. Finally, Jim, there is the third and most important reason."

Jim: "And just what is that Mr. Spock?", he said, smirking, rolling his eyes and playing to the camera, as usual.

"Well, Jim, on the interstellar R-390 reflector list, the term "Non-A" has become ... TRADITION!"

Spock now breaks into the first few bars of the show tune while dancing around the flight deck, jumping up on the consoles, etc. If you can picture that, you're as crazy as I am.

Seriously though -- we have sort of migrated to using "non-A" as a red flag to catch the eye of the reader so it's clear that the writer is talking about that receiver. Simply writing "R-390" is not enough. In fact, the name of this list is "R-390" (no A), while most of the posts are about the A-version. scuze me ... Spock! Get off that table! Have you been sniffing the DeOxit again?! Barry

From jbrannig@optonline.net Sat Mar 8 16:09:10 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

I am reminded of the old WWV North Atlantic WX broadcast. Part was proceeded with WARNING (pause) then the forecast. If there were no dangerous wx conditions the broadcast was: WARNING (pause) none.

A mariner wrote an impassioned plea to the NBS for a change in the broadcast. I seems he spend anxious hours listening to the weather broadcast just to hear WARNING - pause - (static crash/QSB) and finally, to his great relief heard WARNING - none. Jim

From tetrode@worldnet.att.net Sat Mar 8 16:17:17 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot - "nonA"

I often refer to my R-390 as the R-390 (original), but nonA, no A, pre-A, A-1 are all fine too :^)

Overly precise types (like I can be) may get irritated but the models are so often confused that in my thinking an intentional emphasis of the nonA part help keep things straight and adds a measure distinction and honor to the original radio. (Another way you can look at it is that it's like adding some parity bits to the name)

I know AM op's who go *out of there way* to let you know they are listening on a non-A so that you know you are being heard through the better sounding IF filters. John

From tetrode@worldnet.att.net Sat Mar 8 16:51:19 2003

Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

James, on the R-390 and R-391, the red dot should be pointing straight up (12 o'clock) with the antenna trim control set to 0. If I go "in" to a radio I usually freshen the dot with a dab of Testors model paint to make it more visible. I saw another post stating different, but that procedure is for the R-390A which has a totally different mechanical connection to the antenna trimmer cap. John

From jimsim@adelphia.net Sat Mar 8 17:23:41 2003

Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

To The Group, I have both radios, the R-390 and the; r390a, R-390A, R390nonA, 390 non a, and so forth. I have never had any problem telling them apart. In my 20+ years in the military I always knew if I saw, was using, or if someone asked me, which radio was which. People who used them, just identified them as a R390 or R390A. I gues I just don't understand all the new-speak. You can't call a dog a dog anymore. Jim

From R390rcvr@aol.com Sat Mar 8 20:45:18 2003

Subject: [R-390] Racal RA17 - off topic question

Good day all: Would like to hear from anyone in the group who has experience with the RA17 line of receivers. My 1st impressions are that it is a mix of interesting engineering and frustrating execution at times. Does not lend itself to easy service like the R-390X series. Sorry for the off topic post, but this radio def. is a kissing cousin to the R-390 radios, at least as far as its mission in life! Randy

From rodney_bunt@yahoo.com Sat Mar 8 22:36:28 2003

Subject: [R-390] Racal RA17 - off topic answer.

Randy, I have a RA-17 and a R-390 and a R-390a. My impression is that it is a shot at reproducing the performance of the R-388/51J2 receivers. (I also have a 51J2 and a R-388)

It is amazingly stable, and easy to use BUT needs a competent operator, as it has a manual preselector, and you have to 'trim' the MHz knob for maximum signal. It is definitely a repair in place receiver, even though some sub components are removable. The cast aluminium chassis provides goods isolation between stages, but is a nightmare to work in. Heat, and under rated components, and some really second class soldering are the worst problems. I suppose if it were to be mainly operated in the cold northern hemisphere it would be OK, but I am in Australia.

Another 'crazy' about the design, it has 100mw audio output, believe it or not it actually works, with an efficient speaker, the BW filters are superb with the 100kHz IF, and SSB is a dawdle even without a product detector. Regards, Rodney VK2KTZ

From G4GJL@btopenworld.com Sat Mar 8 22:39:11 2003
Subject: [R-390] Racal RA17 - off topic question

Hello. Randy and the group.... You are right that they are kissing cousins. Our military and covert services used them for similar purposes as the US Govt used 390s. They were ubiquitous in their day. The RA117 (similar line up to the RA17, but with an extra IF stage at 1.7Mcs) may still be in use in the Royal Navy.

I have an RA17 Mk2, and RA17L, and RA117E and an RA117, plus some of the add on units...SSB convertors, LF adaptors etc. They are great receivers to use, as band cruising is easy and the resetting accuracy is about +/- 500c/s. There is a synthesiser for the RA117/- series, but it almost as big as the RX!

Disadvantages include the physical depth (front to back dimension), they are relatively noisy, especially compared to the 390, and the fact that they run quite hot, which tends to age the wire and components, especially those in the sealed compartments beneath the chassis.

Do you have the manual for your set, Randy? I can point you at some of the most likely candidate components for changeout, if you want to bring the RX up to its spec. performance.

Enjoy listening to the rig....they, like the 390 hark back to an age of tremendous innovation and progress in design. Not much to touch either of them in my opinion! 73 Pete G4GJL

From wli@u.washington.edu Sun Mar 9 00:35:15 2003
Subject: [R-390] Re:2003 Payullap WA hamfest

Members: Just got back from the annual Seattle area hamfest with 44,000 sq ft of stuff. many folks despite the rain. Only one R-390A slightly battered, with both meters and cover plates and the shipboard rear plate for \$350 (passed on this one). Picked up a USM117 scope and a I-177 tube tester. both with manuals which was nice. Saw a RACAL for \$900, as well as a SP-600 and a R-441. Good fellowship with old friends made the day worthwhile. W. Li

From ba.williams@charter.net Sun Mar 9 02:09:27 2003
Subject: [R-390] Re:2003 Payullap WA hamfest

If you go to <http://www.webdsi.com/nlee/>, you will find the best tube data list for the I-177B. Nolan Lee did a fantastic job on it. That is what I use for testing tubes. There is a good diode mod to protect the meter. Those are hard to find. Barry

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Sun Mar 9 09:02:38 2003
Subject: [R-390] Re:2003 Payullap WA hamfest

Hello W.Li & All, I'd say Puyallup was a grand success. The Mike and Key ARC knows how to orchestrate a FUN and GREAT EVENT. Of course the Puyallup Fairgrounds "Pavilion" offers superb layout, excellent lighting for this the largest event in the Pacific Northwests HAM Electronics Fleamarket. largest. Many thanks and KUDOS the the super team effort by those members of the Mike

& Ket ARC. Two floors, twenty booths, & some 285 floor tables. Great friendships and renewal of ole faces. My favorite of all the HAM fests in the Northwest. Can't believe that I still hear people say, "that they didn't know there were ssellers UPSTAIRS. da-A! SEE YOU ALL AGAIN Saturday MARCH 6th, 2004. 73, Glen Galati, KA7BOJ

p.s. That Hammarlund SP-600 WAS PRETTY NICE. I'd give it a strong 8. By the way W.Li, how's that I-177 coming along. Wish we could have chated longer.

From stevehobensack@hotmail.com Sun Mar 9 22:05:13 2003
Subject: [R-390] Alignment

Gord, I feed my r-390a using the balanced input and tv ribbon. I adjusted the balancing trimmers this way: I put the main dial to the center frequency of the respective rf coil. I put two matched 150 ohm resistors in series across the balanced antenna input. I attached a signal generator to the center of the two resistors and ground. I injected a weak signal and adjusted the balance trimmer for a dip (null) on the carrier meter. It was quite sharp. Do this for every rf coil and also peak that coil (the other adjustment) by grounding one side of the balanced input and feeding a weak signal to the other side. Be sure the front panel antenna trim control is near zero and/or the two red dots on the gears are aligned.Steve...KJ8L

From Richard.McClung@Dielectric.spx.com Mon Mar 10 14:56:57 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

STOP with all the NON sense.....;>) RICH @B> }

From ba.williams@charter.net Mon Mar 10 15:25:52 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

> Can we please stop using this "non A" nonsense! No one here is named Dr. > Spock and we are not on the Star Ship Enterprise. You either have a R-390 or > a R-390A.

Jim, While this thread is a bit useless, a little humor is much needed again. I say 'again' because the last attempt at censoring humor made this list go from being quite active to quite dead in just a day or two. It doesn't cost anything to put up with other peoples humor for a few days. Fun is still allowed, I hope.

I gather that you are somewhat new to the list. Therefore, you may be missing the old humor that goes back years. The A and non-A thread is ancient. Maybe it is best to let the old topics continue so that this formerly-great-list doesn't die a complete death. I suspect that we lost a lot of good members a few months ago when a group of new guys started p*ssing and moaning about our list. They ruined it for some of us who have enjoyed it here for a long time. Guess what. Those chronic complainers seem to have gone away now that the list is neutered. Don't hear from them anymore. They contribute zilch. Hit and run. The rest of us are left with a formerly-great-list that hardly has any message traffic now.

If humor isn't your style, there are a lot of other lists out there for you. I vote for humor and that is why I still have hopes for this place. Barry Williams

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Mar 10 15:42:45 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

Yeah...and like James Bond, I prefer my front panels engraved, not stamped. Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From ghayward@uoguelph.ca Mon Mar 10 16:28:14 2003
Subject: [R-390] 390A Aligment and 392 IF out.

Thanks for the answers to my sort of obscure alignment questions. I followed the suggestions which worked very well and have installed the R-390A in its rack. It's working well and I'm quite happy with it. Now I'll get back to my synchronous quadrature detector project using the R-390A IF out. I have an R-392 but its IF out saturates on strong signals and I haven't yet tracked that problem down. Any previous experience here? I replaced the cathode follower with an op-amp (Its a plug into the tube socket so I didn't do any drilling and blasting ;-) which improved the output, but didn't completely fix it.
73 de Gord, VE3EOS

From jimsim@adelphia.net Mon Mar 10 17:17:06 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

Barry and the Group, I was not trying to be a hard-ass, and I do enjoy the humor in this group. It just that, why don't a person just say what they mean? If it a 390, then just say 390. If it's a 390A, then just say 390A . I will agree, doing that will take away all the mystery in just trying to figure out what they are talking about. A lot a good stuff is said here, some humorist, some not. I enjoy the group, but if stating my opinion causes some of you to want me to leave this group, Good-By! Jim Simmons

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Mon Mar 10 17:16:59 2003
Subject: [R-390] 390A Drawings, was Engraved front panels

Tom M. wrote: >As far as the 390A goes, the revision from silk screened to engraved is on the >drawings I believe. >>I think most were actually stamped, not engraved, but the Fowler rigs were >engraved with a rotary tool. >>>Tom N5OFF

I used to think they were all stamped myself (before the Fowler rigs), but recently when I was going through a manual for a Collins mixing console it specifically refers to the engraved labels. Stamping sure would be a lot faster, but maybe engraving produces a cleaner letter or less distortion to the metal? This has to be related to the Bristo/Bristol wrench issue.... ~Boomer, KA1KAQ

From barry@hausernet.com Mon Mar 10 18:06:42 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

Hi Jim, (third Barry of the day -- we come in three's or maybe four's) That's another silly but "traditional" thing-- numbering Barrys.

Anyway, you are technically correct. There is the R-390 and the R-390A. However, we found it helpful to refer to the former, highlighting it as the "non-A" to avoid confusion.

Nevertheless, it is helpful when starting a post about the R-390 (the one with the 6082's, L/C IF, no mechanical filters, AKA "the man's radio", etc.) it is useful to fly the "non-A" flag, even though it is in fact, a tad peculiar.

Funny thing -- just remembered -- my first post to this list 3 or so years ago was about that very issue. I asked the group what is used to distinguish between the two because it seemed that many referred to the A-model with just "R-390" at the time, and being a newbie, it was very confusing.

Not sure where one of my namesakes got the notion that you were anti-humor. As long as you enjoy the list, that's qualification enough, so hell no, please don't go... Barry (#1, I think)

PS -- heh heh -- when I was a kid, I always wished I had a more popular name -- like Steve, or Dave or Jim .. Then one year, there were suddenly three of us in one class, and then 43 years later -- this list. Go figure...)

From Miguel Bravo" <mbravoc@wanadoo.es Mon Mar 10 18:15:47 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

Hi Jim et al, English is not my mother language so maybe I miss something, but where somebody told you to leave the list?.

I agree with Barry at all (who d'ont remember Dr. Johnson or Nolan) and think there are too much cops in a paranoid world. And I want to say to the actual members that forget that such one or other threads has been carried up to perfection before, because then the list can be closed. The R-390 with or without A has been fully disassembled in this list at least 5 times, so it is possible to say "oh, that old thread again" to every new/old member question.

I believe that it has been also one of the problems. If I were to repair one of my R-390A now, I will prefer to ask to the list instead to check the archives, but if the cops is ready to say "oh, that old....." maybe he got a good Spanish repply because I'm a little bit short in this kind of English.

Me he quedado a gusto. Saludos Miguel

From Richard.McClung@Dielectric.spx.com Mon Mar 10 18:37:08 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

Buena contestaci=F3n Miguel. Como usted dijo all=ED son tambi=E9n mucho el parinoid "POLIS" en la lista.= Nunca lastima a los viejos hilos de rosca del rehash. El R-390(*) es una radio magnificent y dudo que cualquier una persona en esta lista sabe todo sobre ellos. LasE9pocas revuelve tan encima de las memorias que no eran la vezFAltima. =A1Buena suerte! RICH WA6KNW

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Mon Mar 10 18:52:08 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

Jim Simmons wrote: >To The Group >>I have both radios, the R-390 and the; r390a, R-390A, R390nonA, 390 non a, >and so forth. I have never had any problem telling them apart. >>Jim

Well Jim.... I made a post about this just last week. You're right - it doesn't make much sense, but it does exist. It reminds me of the 'politically-correct' way of speaking, so as not to offend those who might be of a lesser ability to understand. Not saying anyone on here falls into that category, just that this is what it reminds me of. I've been on here since sometime in the mid-90s and watched it go from being a joke when 99.9% of the members understood the difference to being more of an accepted way of referring to the radios - almost as if someone with the knowledge to know better was talking down to the level of

someone who didn't. A lot like the dumbing down of ham radio in general. Rather than pointing out the problem and the foolishness of the entire concept, it became easier to just 'go with the flow' rather than risk offending someone who was fond of the term or truly believed it was correct. So it's gone from an issue of two similar but different radios - the R-390 and A model to a warm-fuzzy new name for those less able (or willing) to actually use the correct term.

And Barry (take your pick, there are a couple) is right - it is funny. Imagine going from 4 syllables (R-three-nine-tee) to 6 syllables (R-three-nine-tee-non-A) to make it....easier! Easier than saying "R-390" or "R-390A". Easier than learning the difference perhaps? And if that's not enough to make you bust a gut laughing, then apply the same concept (since it's 'acceptable') to the Collins 75S-3 receiver: with several different variations, you can end up with a pretty interesting label, like "75S-3 non-A non-B non-C". Or the "KWM-2 non-A". I wonder, did the military have a FRC-93 non-A?

I have to disagree though, with the R-390 label as being 'precise'. It's just correct, nothing more or less. True, R-390-non-A is not "wrong" in that you can call a cat a dog if you want (my mom used to tell me horses were cows, just to see if I was paying attention) or for that matter, you can call the R-390 a Kenwood since it's a far more familiar term to so many these days. I just believe that going along with this 'mis-speak' for the benefit of others is really no benefit at all, and certainly unfair to them if they don't know any better. Y'know...I'll bet this is how those people in France came to believe that Saddam is really a decent guy who hasn't done anything wrong. (-:

The best we can do Jim is call a spade a spade. Hopefully it will become fashionable again some day? In the meantime, I'm thinking of getting some tags made up that say "R-390 Non-A" so we can make a killing on ebay. I mean.....if it's really true, then they must be incredibly rare too. Right?

" R@RE ORIGINAL R-390 NON-A S/N 1 MINTY LQQK!!! "

"Tag says it all. If you are an R-390A aficionado, then you know JUST how rare these R-390 non-As really are. In fact, this is the ONLY known example! No documents to confirm it, but I have it on good authority that Art Collins had this radio made for God himself, as his personal Non-A. PERFECT condition! (which reinforces this radio's past - would God have it any other way??). I restored this radio myself and can assure you that it is completely original and has NO modifications except for the Kenwood LED VFO read out and a few extra holes from old stuff I added, then removed. Don't miss this opportunity!"

It's a good thing we don't have a union involved, that's all I can say.... 73, Boomer KA1KAQ (using one of Barry #1's good hideouts to....hide out)

From barry@hausernet.com Mon Mar 10 19:00:06 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

Gracias Miguel: Good points! We've covered just about everything -- maybe that's the reason some are hesitant to post replies. I get the feeling that many questions are answered off the list, which only detracts from it.

The archives are difficult to search. Very often, the subject lines do not agree with the content and the search engine brings up all sorts of things -- everything but what you are looking for.

I suspect the best compromise, to allow for a flow of posts without re-hashing every detail -- is to make us of Wei-Li's "Pearls of Wisdom". He has made the (excellent) effort to organize the posts on AI

Tirevold's site. The URL is <http://www.r-390a.net/Pearls/>

There are other multi-lingual list members, (I can think of two right away) so even if you find something there which is not completely understandable, you can ask for a translation or (at your own risk) run it through one of those online translating web sites. They are far from perfect, especially with technical language and slang/colloquial things. But, sometimes they help a bit. At least they are good for a laugh.

This is NOT to say don't ask. In many cases, the archives, whether in the "pearls" or not -- do not have the last, final words on a subject. And -- if no one ever asks about old subjects -- there may be nothing more to post about at all.

Heck -- we even started an "unabridged" list where every topic is OK, but that list has been quiet also. How do you say "ukkumpucky" in Spanish? ;-) Saludos Barry

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Mon Mar 10 19:07:41 2003
Subject: [R-390] Racal RA17 - off topic question

R390rcvr@aol.com wrote: >Good day all: >>Would like to hear from anyone in the group who has experience with the RA17 >line of receivers. >>Randy

You've pretty much covered it, Randy. Served in similar-to-identical roles, similar performance, a bear to work on. Takes a little getting used to as far as setting and tweaking the Mcs knob when tuning the Kcs knob at the same time. No clickety-click bandswitch like we're so familiar with. From the reading I've done, it seems the founders of RACAL were originally supposed to build R-388s under license for the gov't in UKland, but would have been required to use all Collins parts or parts accepted by Collins, something to that effect. So, the deal fell through and they instead decided to roll their own. Take a look at the escutcheon sometime and note the similarity to the Collins design.

Several of us have RA-17 variants. I've spoken with Don who owns one about problems I have with mine. I think Barry Hauser has one also, certainly a few others guys on this side of the pond. The RA-17 is to us what the R-390A is to the guys on the other side of the pond - a wonderful receiver not easily found and once found, not easily parted with. Mine has an intermittent problem at the base of a tube which requires the tube be wiggled to get reception. Apparently some of the parts were of dubious quality (like those Black Beauty caps we're so fond of?) or are just NFG after so many years. Solder connections are also a problem according to the RACAL experts. I love mine, I just wish I didn't need to perform major surgery to get to a place where a 5-10 minute fix is all that will be required.

Other than said defect, mine is rock-solid stable, extremely quiet and sensitive as well. And it's really fun to use. Certainly one of the best once it's been rehabilitated, just like an nice R-390(*). Boomer, KA1KAQ

From plmills@attglobal.net Mon Mar 10 19:08:48 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

What is the problem with using the phrase "non-A" ? Many people say "R-390" when in fact referring to the -A and as we all know these are two quite different beasts in a lot of respects. Anything that ensures accuracy should be encouraged. thanks & 73, Phil W5BVB

From barry@hausernet.com Mon Mar 10 19:17:18 2003

Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

Miguel (Rich & Gang) -- I told ya' there are some bilinguals and maybe even tri-linguals on the list. Meanwhile, here is what a free translation page did to Rich's espanol:

"Good answer Michael. As you he/she said there they are also great the parinoid "POLIS" in the list. It(he,she) never hurts the old men threads of coil of the rehash. R-390 (*) it is a radio magnificent and I doubt that any person in this list knows everything on them. The epochs it(he,she) re-returns so on the memories that were not the last time. Good luck! "

heh heh. The free translation site I used was <http://translation2.paralink.com/> I guess you get what you pay for.

I wonder what would happen if I run the translated English results back into Spanish and back again? Triple and quadruple conversion probably doesn't work well with this technology, eh? Actually, single conversion is a bit tricky by itself, though I can make some sense of what Rich wrote. I really like the part about "old men threads of coil of the rehash".

Heck, we can use these translators to come up with stuff that goes way beyond "non-A" in the way of grand concepts. ;-)
Runnin' & duckin' Barry

From Miguel Bravo" <mbravoc@wanadoo.es Mon Mar 10 19:27:22 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

That is Barry, if nobody ask again the same, we will never get a new an better repply for a old question.

And about ukkumpucky, we have 300 kms of the north Spanish coast cover by 75,000 tons of ukkumpucky from the m/v Prestige. We call it Galipote in south Spain and Chapapote in the north, and how can I say it? it is really not fun. Thanks all for questions and replies. Miguel

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Mon Mar 10 19:47:32 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

wrote: >What is the problem with using the phrase "non-A" ? > Phil -

I think it's something along the lines of "two wrongs don't make a right". They just make the wrong moreso by leanding some sort of credibility to it. This just adds to the confusion, and before you know it someone is making toy soldiers from the black goo in the filter caps and Roy has to remind someone not to open and eat the pretty, glowing meters since the glass is dirty. I'm all for helping newbies, but I'm in favor of giving them accurate information, not misinformation.

Keep in mind that the "two wrongs don't make a right" is in no way related to the fact that two Wrights *did* make an airplane.... (-: Boomer, KA1KAQ

From Miguel Bravo" <mbravoc@wanadoo.es Mon Mar 10 19:37:09 2003
Subject: [R-390] connector with broken pin R-390A

I have been given a audio module in very good condition but miss the pin nr 1 from J-620, the 15 pins

connector. The former owner tried to put it straight and ...

Did someone changed just one pin before?

It is a Stewart-Warner with two orders numbers. Was 42428 PC 59 A1 51 and then painted over and a new one added 20139 PC 60 A1 51. Curiously only one srl number 3129.

From jimsim@adelphia.net Mon Mar 10 21:13:12 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

I concede to the use of 390A, nonA, or whatever. The reason for this is as follows; This afternoon I went out to the shed and cranked up both, the 390 and the 390A. I then spoke with both of them, neither seemed upset when I referred to the 390 as a non-A. The 390A did show some smugness' when she heard my reference to the 390 as a non A. But the 390 can take it, she is older, in mint shape, and she is a Collins. Jim

From jimsim@adelphia.net Mon Mar 10 21:19:39 2003
Subject: [R-390] Simpson Gages

Got some stuff here I thought I would ask you all about before putting it on eBay. I have a box of simpson gage cases (those little/big black things with the glass in front), in it also, is some glass faces and quite a few movements. Looks like depot rebuild/repair stuff. Got it from the USAF. I can send you picture's if you are interested. Jim

From n4xy@earthlink.net Mon Mar 10 21:51:32 2003
Subject: [R-390] Re: Racal RA17 - off topic question

I also have an RA17-in fact, mine is THE unit decommissioned from the Washington, DC Executive Offices of Radio Free Europe when the USSR folded and so did RFE. I also have the analog version of the LF converter (RA-37A) for it, extending the range all the way down to audio (10kHz - 980 kHz). See: <http://www.qsl.net/n4xy/rcvr_racal.html> . 73 Ed Tanton N4XY <n4xy@earthlink.net>

--

"Suppose you were an idiot ... And suppose you were a member of Congress... but I repeat myself." -- Mark Twain

--

From w5or@comcast.net Mon Mar 10 22:26:25 2003
Subject: [R-390] 390A Drawings, was Engraved front panels

So what kind of machine was used to do engravings? I'm familiar with the badge engravers used at conventions and 'fests to engrave names in plastic. Is that what Tom means by 'rotary tool'? How much set up time and expense would it be to take a silk screened panel and engrave it? Lets hear from you machinists. Don

From cbScott@ingr.com Mon Mar 10 22:34:42 2003
Subject: [R-390] 390A Drawings, was Engraved front panels

I believe they used a Pantograph. It is very much like the engravers you see used for badges. They use a similar machine at places that do engraving for jewelry. It is a time-consuming process, but it does do a good job. I have a panel from a frame of unknown manufacture. I stripped it down to the bare metal and, under an eye loupe, you can see the rough surface that is typical of an engraving process. Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From jlkolb@cts.com Mon Mar 10 23:31:47 2003
Subject: [R-390] 390A Drawings, was Engraved front panels

Don Reaves W5OR wrote: > So what kind of machine was used to do engravings? I'm > familiar with the badge engravers used at conventions and > 'fests to engrave names in plastic.

I'm not a machinist, but I used to watch them engrave dials for the frequency knobs of Wavetek function generators - individual to match the pot exactly.

A pantograph was used <<http://www.ies.co.jp/math/java/geo/panta/panta.html>> with a rotary cutter to duplicate characters from a stencil.

Once you get a pantograph that would handle 19" rack panels, you would then need a stencil set with the proper font. John

From hankarn@pacbell.net Mon Mar 10 23:54:47 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

Jim, Screw'em. Don't let your drawers get too tight. We have a bunch of pot stirrers around about these oars, I happen to be one in some cases. So don't run off in a huff.

Get and oar and stir the pot. You will never win on just 390 or 390A TOOOOO!!! many people still trying out engineer Collins and the design. I have 389, 390, 390A, 391's, 392's, R41, 75A1, 3, and 4 4's along with some S line junk. A lot of it is highly overrated and overpriced. You sell it for what the traffic will bear.

Dig in your heels and stand your ground. Hank KN6DI I wear a 15 layer NOMEX fire suit so fire away.

From ba.williams@charter.net Tue Mar 11 01:44:40 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

> Barry and the Group, >> I was not trying to be a hard-ass, and I do enjoy the humor in this group. > It just that, why don't a person just say what they mean Jim,

Which Barry are you speaking to? The other one? Or, the other, other one?
Wait, that would be me. It gets confusing around here.

Well, you don't sound like a hardass to me. You can't be too careful around these parts nowadays. It does seem like the fun killers did their deeds and left the list.

I agree with both sides. I think the reason we started the A and non-A thing is that some serious

questions were being asked about R-390s and the answers were given for R-390As as they are more numerous. I remember some confusion a while back. It never mattered to me. Kinda like saying the radios are hollow state. Just something we said around here. Nah, don't leave. I'm glad you spoke out after my message. See, we all know you are a good guy now. Bartender, Joe the beehive kicker is going to buy this guy a round. the other other Barry

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Tue Mar 11 02:44:06 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

Round? A round what? A round to-it? Joe

From chacuff@cableone.net Tue Mar 11 03:11:59 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

Greetings, I have fallen right into that trap Barry! (blw) Yes siree Bob. Jumped all over a note a while back about something or other.....went about three rounds before I figured out what was being discussed was the R-390 not the "A" which is the only one of the two that I have even the slightest experience with. Had to back out of that one gracefully. (NOT) I'm sure I was laughed at in several languages. A "NON-A" flag would have helped me on that one. It no doubt was my problem but any help to make it clear is to everyone's advantage.

No big deal....I just have to look a little harder at the posts before I jump in to offer my 2 cents worth.

I think the secret to surviving on these lists is to be forgiving enough of the differences in people and not let those differences get under your skin. If a guy is off in left field far enough the masses will let him know in due course. Live and Let Live....a good philosophy.

And Jim...I am glad you put the question to a panel (engraved or not) of experts and they didn't have a problem with how we refer to them! Works for me! Cecil...

From Scott Seickel" <polaraligned@earthlink.net Tue Mar 11 01:30:28 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

Problem with using R390 is too many dopes will be completely confused if you just use 390. They will find themselves asking "is it a 390 non-a, or an a model" Scott

From glennmaillist@bellsouth.net Tue Mar 11 04:47:26 2003
Subject: [R-390] wire list

Is there a wire list for the R390A published anywhere? I am looking for the color of the wires, the wire gage and the lengths of each color to build a R390A. I am trying to weed out some of my scrap wire an want to save what I might need for restoration of my R390As. 73 Glenn

From hankarn@pacbell.net Tue Mar 11 06:58:58 2003
Subject: [R-390] 390A Drawings, was Engraved front panels

THEY WERE STAMPED Hank

From BRingwoo@csir.co.za Tue Mar 11 07:14:50 2003
Subject: [R-390] 390A Drawings, was Engraved front panels

Stamped ? - Nice job then. Mine looks exactly like the panels I get made for my instruments - done on a rotary engraving machine. There are plenty of outfits here who do that.

OT - I once tried getting a front panel engraved using photosensitive chemicals. The result was OK, but not as nice as the rotary engraver. The letters weren't cut as deep. Something you can do at home. - Bryce

PS Don't dry the photoresist in the XYL's oven.

From Miguel Bravo" <mbravoc@wanadoo.es Tue Mar 11 13:38:30 2003
Subject: [R-390] connector with broken pin R-390A

Hello Wally, Simple?, You have been thinking a lot. Thank you. But then this module can only be used in this radio?. What I want is the possibility to put a new pin instead. I don't know if the pins are removables as in another's connectors are or, Murphy watching, they are molded together. Regards
Miguel Bravo

From cbscott@ingr.com Tue Mar 11 14:09:15 2003
Subject: [R-390] 390A Drawings, was Engraved front panels

NOPE! Barry - N4BUQ

From ba.williams@charter.net Tue Mar 11 14:28:58 2003
Subject: [R-390] antenna trim red dot

Cecil, I agree. I also got into some of those earlier posts on non-As before I realized they were not intended for the R-390As. I never minded the off subject info on other radios. I've learned some good stuff on SP-600s, R-71s, etc. I've never seen radio related/off topic threads get out of hand. For example, it was good to hear about those radios that Hank gets from Germany. The Simple Green thread seemed to live for months, but there was actually some good radio stuff in there too regarding corrosive effects. I'm trying to think of how Nolan's public deer dressing tale got back towards radio subjects, but I forget how that worked out in the end.

I would rather be on a list where humor is tolerated rather than be on a list where it is squashed immediately.

Yep. That question on engraved panels seemed to work out okay. We just had an oven burn out and I didn't do photoresist work or RF deck drying in it. Barry

From _dave.f@mail.com Tue Mar 11 14:51:27 2003
Subject: [R-390] List behavior, was antenna trim red dot

Everyone is entitled to their opinion, and since I have not come across this viewpoint in the posts, I

thought I would present it myself. I very much enjoy reading the technical discussion but have not joined in. Time is one factor, and lack of expertise another. Once I get my shack to the point where I am ready to tear into a non-functional R-390A setting on the shelf, I'll be asking lots of questions. I am trying to absorb as much knowledge as I can through this forum and find most threads interesting. I am glad the moderator tightened down on the off topic chatter. I didn't appreciate using my low bandwidth connection to wade through 39 e-mails a day, most of which were discussing what and where Nolan did whatever to a sheep. The tirades about A vs. non-A get old quickly after a few posts. An active list is good, but I'd prefer technical (on-topic) discussion to banter and flaming. Just one voice.... Dave

From chacuff@cableone.net Tue Mar 11 15:36:24 2003
Subject: [R-390] List activity. (was trim red dot)

Greetings Barry and Group, I agree with some of the off topic wanderings...especially things like the SP-600...I also subscribe to the Hammarlund list but it seems most of the SP-600s are in the hands of folks who also own R-390X 's (that's all inclusive not a new variant) so the vast knowledge resides here as well. I think exposing the R-390X owner to discussion on fine radio's like the SP-600 will further promote the long term existence of that radio because more interest will be generated.

Maybe what we need is a Premium Vacuum Tube RX list where discussion of SP-600's, R390X's, EK-07's (hope to own one of those one day) and the like would all be on topic discussions. Similar to the Sand Box crowds list.

Just a thought...if we feel a need to constantly justify the off topic stuff...(I know Flames probably on the way....but no harm intended!)

What I don't enjoy is checking the computer several times a day only to find a couple of posts total and that's it. This list more than any other I subscribe to has become a big part of my day. (I know, I heard someone in the back say "Get a Life") Something I look forward to as a diversion from the other things such as work, raising kids and family illness.(See I got one!) When it is dead or "goes underground" it loses purpose. Life's too short! (I'm learning) Lets make the best of it...whatever it takes! Cecil....

From DAVEINBHAM@aol.com Tue Mar 11 19:22:19 2003
Subject: [R-390] Was antenna trim red dot. Now dreaded black ukkumpucky

writes: How do you say "ukkumpucky" in Spanish? ;-) > > Saludos > Barry

Barry, "Ukkumpucky" is the same in Spanish and English. But since we are being so bloody proper these days, you might want to use the proper phrase " the dreaded black ukkumpucky" . This will avoid confusion between the R-390A ukkumpucky and R-390 nonA ukkumpucky. Kindest regards, Dave

From hbreuer@debitel.net Tue Mar 11 19:24:23 2003
Subject: [R-390] List behavior, was antenna trim red dot

wrote: 39 e-mails a day, most of which were discussing what and where Nolan did whatever to a sheep.

Sheep ??? I must have missed that one. I thought it was about CAT - the other white meat. 73 Heinz DH2FA, KM5VT PS: I miss Nolan and the others

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Tue Mar 11 20:05:34 2003
Subject: [R-390] Old Men Threads of The Coil

Barry Hauser Wrote: >There are other multi-lingual list members, (I can think of two right away) >so even if you find something there which is not completely understandable, <snipped>

Reminds me of the old men threads of the coil of the rehash about repair of mechanical filters. A link was provided to a Japanese website addressing that topic (Kokusai) and the "funky fractured English" referred to the "Mechanism a Philharmonic".

Well, I have a non-functional 4 KHz mechanism a philharmonic whose old men coils (input and output) both show continuity and are not shorted to ground. Haven't opened it up but I suspect those little disks may have become loose on the wire. Could be that the galipote (or is that chapapote) self-disumpuckeyed from those filter caps and magically migratedcross-deck into the little disks, immobilizing them.

By the way, which Barry is Barry, which is the other other Barry? Or is it just "Barry: the other white meat"? Drew

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Tue Mar 11 20:19:51 2003
Subject: [R-390] Rong or Wright?

wrote: >Keep in mind that the "two wrongs don't make a right" is in no way >related to the fact that two Wrights *did* make an airplane.... (-:

<snipped> This is certainly something to consider...but let us not forget that three rights make a left! (Or is that a turn for the worse?) Drew

From David_Wise@Phoenix.com Tue Mar 11 18:35:59 2003
Subject: [R-390] wire list

The color coding (but not the gage or length) is documented in the Y2K manual. See Figure 6-35, "Main Frame Wiring Diagram". 73, Dave Wise (SWL)

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Tue Mar 11 21:04:08 2003
Subject: [R-390] Engraved Panels

Don Reaves wrote: >So what kind of machine was used to do engravings? I'm >familiar with the badge engravers used at conventions and >'fests to engrave names in plastic

A vertical CNC machining center, though overkill, would make quick work of engraving a panel. A PC based CAD program would be used to enter text data, including size and position. The same program would translate that data into G-code (CNC machine language). Once that part was completed, the same machine code could be used to do any number of panels.

CNC setup would be fast and easy. Clamp panel to machine table, establish a zero reference (perhaps the KC shaft hole), and hit start button. Engraving would be done in a matter of minutes.

The major time and expense would be a one time effort : use of CAD, fiddling with data for a desired appearance, and test runs on CNC (using expendable material such as pieces of wood). It would be most economic to amortize that development expense against an eventual large number of panels. Maybe "someone" could do CAD part as a labor of love ala Dave Wise with his microcontroller based 3DW7 BallasTube replacement. Drew

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Tue Mar 11 16:58:08 2003
Subject: [R-390] 390A Drawings, was Engraved front panels

Don Reaves W5OR wrote: >So what kind of machine was used to do engravings? I'm >familiar with the badge engravers used at conventions and >'fests to engrave names in plasti
>

Looks like others have nailed this one pretty well, Don. I always wondered this myself, since doing one panel at a time would be awfully time-consuming. Along with the fact that you'd want repeatability through many examples. I have seen references to both stamped panels in some literature, and more recently engraving for the previously-mentioned mixing console (which is almost 4' across, so not easily engraved). The manual is dated late 40s/early 50s.

Here's an even more interesting thought though: the console panel has a wear mark around one lever switch used for opening and closing the main mic. The paint appears to be several layers thick, a good baked on paintjob. However - the actual engraving in the metal sits somewhat below the paint. Therefore it *appears* to me that these huge panels were painted, then baked, *then* engraved afterwards through the thickness of the paint. Nothing else easily explains the crispness of the letter edges in the paint above the metal surface.

So, with one of these nifty machines and the knowledge to set it up and operate it, the world is your oyster! I'm sure many application used stamping instead or in addition to angraving, simply for the time involved and economy of large runs. I'm not prepared to say that panels for the R-390 or A were all stamped because I have no proof. Until recently I assumed so, based on what I knew. It certainly makes sense to me that large production runs would warrant this approach. No idea the time involved with a...Pantograph(?) in regards to how long it takes to set up or to complete a panel. If it's all automated, then probably not long. One other note worthy of mentioning is this: the console panel is shaped, not a standard flat panel. This may have some bearing on the method used. My guess is that the main panel was bent when it was made, certainly before painting or the paint would've cracked off.

As far as my radios, the Teledyne R-390A indeed has a stamped/engraved panel. I'm 99.9% certain that the Collins-tagged R-390 does too, but I'll check again to be sure. The #2 R-390A came with a silkscreened panel and a Motorola tag. John Watkins fixed me up with a nice replacement panel for it though, so the silkscreened version will be available if someone wants authenticity or something to experiment with. The paint is still in decent shape overall.

It sure would be nice to find a place that could properly engrave panels. Instead of trying to plug those 1/4" holes added by a previous owner, one could just get a new panel made. Probably wouldn't be cheap (the good stuff seldom is), but I bet it would look great. de Todd/"Boomer" KA1KAQ

From flood@Krohne.com Tue Mar 11 15:23:06 2003
Subject: [R-390] BFO Question

Greetings all! Wow I get to ask my first question! Please forgive my being a bit rusty on hollow state

technology. I had my training during the fall of hollow state and the beginning of solid-state and as it would turn out I know enough about each to be dangerous.

My early 60's vintage Amelco R-390A has bfo trouble. It would generate a signal but the frequency sounded high (sorry did not measure it) and there was very little adjustment with the dial. A tube swap did not help and looking at the drawing and being dangerous as mentioned above, I thought that there was not much that could be wrong there other than the little, pto I think, bfo can. A new one just arrived from Fair Radio and thus generates, pun intended, my question. The shaft on the new bfo can is a bit stiff not easily turned by fingers. There seems to be a bit of oxidation on the shaft bearing. Is it OK to put a drop of oil on it without risking damage of some type and if so what is the official BFO lube approved by the list? I certainly don't want to get blacklisted for using solid-state lubricant.

Is the old bfo repairable? I can't resist opening up little things like this, especially if it has a stamp telling me not to do so! John Flood KB1FQG

From Richard.McClung@Dielectric.spx.com Tue Mar 11 23:25:24 2003
Subject: [R-390] List behavior, was antenna trim red dot

Ahhhh..... Cat IS the other white meat at some Asian restaurants. Sheep is the significant other forShepherds???? RICH @B> }

From mark.richards@massmicro.com Tue Mar 11 23:36:21 2003
Subject: [R-390] Rong or Wright?

Which reminds me of something a boss of long ago said to me in a heated argument that he was rapidly losing - "When you're right, you're right... and when you're wrong, you're no righter than wrong!". -m-

From myyoung76@bellsouth.net Tue Mar 11 23:50:49 2003
Subject: [R-390] Engraved R390's ?

You guys think CNC and CAD was available in the early 50's?

From w7itc@hotmail.com Wed Mar 12 01:39:17 2003
Subject: [R-390] Break in function

I have a Receiver Radio R-390A/URR, Electronic Assistance Corporation; Ok I am poking fun with the non-A discussion 8^)

The above radio is hooked to a Johnson Viking II through a TR relay. It does the antenna switching and it has additional connects which I use to operate the break in function on the 390A. I have also have had to use one of its break contacts to shut the speaker off. The manual, at least what I have found, is not clear as to just how the break in functions. The receiver is muted, however without also turning off the speaker I get feed back. My question concerns the break in relay in the 390A does it just disconnect the antenna, and mute the receiver. Is the speaker muted as well? When I key the transmitter without disconnecting the speaker I get feedback. I can switch speaker off with the TR relay so this is no problem. I guess what I need to know is the break in on this 390A functioning as it should.

This old Viking transmitter is a real blast to operate, AM phone of course. It is also very touchy and I still have some work to do to it. Can you image if a transmitter such a this came to the market today. It takes skill to operate one of these buzzards. If you don't know what you are doing you can detonate it. Of course this is what make the use of this type of equipment so much fun. Easy to fix as well. These transmitters you have to operate, it isn't like modern stuff which you just turn on and say "HELLO RADIO". Ken de W7ITC

From ba.williams@charter.net Wed Mar 12 02:23:04 2003
Subject: [R-390] List activity. (was trim red dot)

Cecil, Do you mean the SP-600 non-JX 26? Barry

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Wed Mar 12 02:40:50 2003
Subject: [R-390] List activity. (was trim red dot)

Hi Cecil: Not sure to which Barry you refer, but I agree. However, creating a Premium Tube RX list will tend to dilute things. I recommend we designate the SP-600 as the "Non-R-390X". On second thought, let's just stick with SP-600 and post on them if we wanna.

The thing is this: This list always stood out in quality -- even to the extent of posting an SP-600 question here rather than on the Hammarlund list where it would seem to belong. Why? Because you stand a greater chance of getting a good answer. If you get a good answer on the other lists, often it comes from an R-390 list member.

You see, it's not just about the R-390 -- A or not A, but the nature of the "clientele" it attracts -- demographics, psychographics, psychometrics, orientation, inclination, and so on. A good part of this is built into the nature of the 390 "beast". There is certainly other electronic equipment out there that is more complex electronically. There is certainly other mechanical equipment that is more complex mechanically. However, I can't seem to think of anything that covers both bases for a few hundred bucks that's not under warranty or otherwise untinkerable.

So, the temptation is there to ask certain off-topic questions, but with the confidence that someone on this list will have the answer.

Unfortunately, we've lost some of the people who used to make this list extra special -- some due to excess banter and some due to criticism of banter and others due to I-don't-know-what. In a little while, I'm going to test my hypothesis that this is still the "Ace is the place" to get results on off-topic questions. My apologies in advance -- just testing. (also runnin' and duckin') Barry

From myoung76@bellsouth.net Wed Mar 12 02:53:58 2003
Subject: [R-390] List activity. (was trim red dot)

And where can I find the Sand Box crowds list? Mike

From hankarn@pacbell.net Wed Mar 12 03:17:33 2003
Subject: [R-390] Spot

And do not forget the R&S EK-07 lurking in the background that puts them all to shame. Hank KN6DI

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Wed Mar 12 04:14:43 2003
Subject: [R-390] OT Off the Wall Test

Sorry in advance .. but just have to find out: The other night my windows iced up and I probably didn't scrape enough off before rolling the driver's window down (electric). The noise wasn't all that much louder than usual when it breaks loose from ice. However, when I tried to roll the window back up, it came up crooked -- back first, tilted, then started to jam. I was able to raise it inch by inch, pulling up on the forward part of the glass as I went.

Well, later on, I forgot and rolled down the window. It went way, way down. Called the dealer service department and they told me where the hidden screws were to remove the door panel. Did that and found nothing broken, but the glass was off the clamps it is normally glued into. There are two -- forward and back, each about 2 1/2 inches long each, fastened to the linkage with bolts. The rear one is fixed laterally, while the forward clamp slides fore and aft on its linkage, but that looks like it is only to ease assembly. The glass was just glued into the clamps with something like GE silicone sealer/adhesive, and not much of it. I had to loosen the bolts on the clamps to line up the glass. The bolts don't tighten the clamps, just set the angle and/or allow enough play to get the glass into them. I used some fixture adhesive I had on hand -- apparently not the right stuff as it didn't last too long.

So, question is -- anybody reset door window glass? What adhesive did you use? Did it last? Any other tricks?

BTW -- for practical reference purposes, this is a late model truck based on the Ford 150 series.

I normally don't post anything so wildly off topic -- just a test. (Please respond off list -- I'll report results if anyone cares.) Dollars to doughnuts I get someone who's been there done that. Barry

From Jim Shorney" <jshorney@inebraska.com Wed Mar 12 04:29:11 2003
Subject: [R-390] OT Off the Wall Test

Barry Hauser wrote: >So, question is -- anybody reset door window glass? What adhesive did you >use? uckumpucky? Jim Shorney

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Wed Mar 12 04:34:22 2003
Subject: [R-390] OT Off the Wall Test

That'd be the obvious choice,..... that or catapote. Joe

From nextgen@nextcentury.com.au Wed Mar 12 04:44:08 2003
Subject: [R-390] Wanted R-390 Front panel

Hello Everyone I need a front panel for my R-390 someone added holes to mine and I want return it To original condition and plan on powder coating as we have a plant at work. If you have spare panel, please hollar. 73's Lee.

From chacuff@cableone.net Wed Mar 12 04:51:40 2003
Subject: [R-390] List activity. (was trim red dot)

Agreed on all the above...I mean below! Cecil..

From chacuff@cableone.net Wed Mar 12 04:57:07 2003
Subject: [R-390] List activity. (was trim red dot)

I think it's by invitation only....you have to own what is classed as a "Premium" receiver to participate. I'm not a member....I don't think my only sand state radio qualifies....Icom R-75. There are others on this list that are members I think...Les Locklear has been in times past.....one of them will have to share how to join because I am not quite sure. Cecil...

From ba.williams@charter.net Wed Mar 12 14:32:59 2003
Subject: [R-390] List activity. (was trim red dot)

Cecil, I like this list for the same reasons. One of the other Barrys mentioned that a lot of the past contributors/experts/bee hive kickers/storytellers have left over the past year. Maybe they will drift back here in time.

The SP-600 JX and non-JX seems to be pretty much adopted around here. By the way, I've moved my JX into the room with the Quantum QX loop for MW listening. It is amazing all that I can hear with that combination. The Quantum makes a great radio even greater.

It seems that the attitude of the list is getting back to where we used to be. I was always encouraged by not only the topics/off topic threads, but by the natural limits we seemed to have. Learning new things doesn't have to be restricted to only what is in the confounds of the chassis. I think the household current wiring and proper grounding thread bears this out. I sometimes wonder why we don't get into antenna topics more, but that is just my own thing. The best radio in the universe is just a doorstop without externals like current and antennas. Some people need to know about cleaning decks/chassis and dishwashers. Some have sleeping cat problems while others think they taste like chicken. The Ukkumpucky dreaded and non-dreaded seems to be a universal puzzler. Just how deadly those meters can be is another perennial source of questions.

Actually, the sleeping/urinating cat thread came in useful the other night. I moved the SP into a spare bedroom next to my RBL-5 and Quantum loop. I didn't put it in the case. My son's cat sleeps in the chair there and the cat thread made me think about covering the radio with a towel to keep the cat off in case it ever got curious, or whatever cats get with new, warm things.

If I have offended anyone with these views, it is unintentional. I don't seem to be alone in thinking this list is a great group of people. I just don't want it to become a near death experience as it was recently. Barry (the other other Barry)

From flood@Krohne.com Wed Mar 12 14:57:16 2003
Subject: [R-390] BFO Question

Phil, Sorry to you and all, I should have mentioned it but I thought of this as well and removed the knob and tried the whole range of the control. Two or three times the bfo came to life but any shaft movement

would kill it again. That is why I purchased the new bfo. Thanks, John Flood KB1FQG
TASC Department

<plmills@lobal.net> attg >03/11/2003 06:27 PM
Subject: Re: [R-390] BFO Question

John, Did you loosen the BFO knob on the shaft and try to bring it within range? There is a physical stop on the front panel that keeps the knob from rotating more than half way in either direction..... but the bfo inductor is a multiturn job.

I've had this happen on a recently acquired R-390A. The bfo would barely come within range but I just loosened the knob, pulled it back from the stop, zeroed the bfo, then reset the knob. good luck, Phil

From roy.morgan@nist.gov Wed Mar 12 15:10:35 2003
Subject: [R-390] Old Men Threads of The Coil

Drew Papanek wrote: >Reminds me of the old men threads of the coil of the rehash about repair >of mechanical filters. ...

Unlikelty but possible.. the coupling wires were spot welded to the disks.

> Could be that the galipote (or is that chapapote) self-disumpuckey-ed > from those filter caps and magically migratedcross-deck into the little > disks, immobilizing them.

BINGO, or almost. The filter was made with foam supports for the mechanism. The foam is likely transmogrified from foam to ukkumpucky, or a relative of ukkumpucky.

I suggest you diesmbowel your "mechanism a philharmonic" and look closely. Do not be surprised to find ukked-up foam contaminating the once-free-to-vibrate resonator disks and coupling wires.

Cleaning with delicate brushes or other instruments, and maybe solvent keeping that away from the coils, may solve the situation. Please report your findings! Roy

Who still suspects the early uses of the word had only one "k", thusly: "ukumpucky". And, who has at least two defunct 4 kc filters scheduled for examination.

From cbscott@ingr.com Wed Mar 12 15:23:01 2003
Subject: [R-390] Old Men Threads of The Coil

IIRC, from 3rd grade phonics classes, it will have two k's. This provides the break between the first and second syllables allowing the primary accent to be on the first syllable. uk-kum-puck-y Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From roy.morgan@nist.gov Wed Mar 12 15:35:31 2003
Subject: [R-390] Break in function

wrote: >The above radio is hooked to a Johnson Viking II through a TR relay.

Ken and others, Some time ago I wrote a detailed description of the break-in function, with part numbers and such. I can't find it just now but here are the basics for the R-390A:

- The break-in relay coil is operated with 6.3 volts ac filament current by grounding a rear panel terminal, and carries about 40 ma ac when energized.
- The relay will only operate as above if the BREAK IN switch is on the ON position.
- When the relay is energized, it does the following:
 - 1) Grounds the common audio input to both audio preamp stages: line and local
 - 2) Operates the antenna relay to remove the antenna input connectors from the RF INPUT circuits (both Balanced and Unbalanced) and ground both antenna input connectors.

Notes:

- The connections from the audio output tubes to the line or local audio outputs are not affected.
- The entire R-390A is left fully operating.
- No local oscillators or amplifiers are disabled.
- No changes to the RF or Audio gain are made, except to ground the audio signal from the detector to the audio amplifiers.
- The grounding of the antenna inputs depends on the condition of the antenna relay contacts and also the condition of the antenna relay supply rectifier and filter cap (there **is** a filter cap, right?) Low relay voltage may cause high closed contact resistance.
- The reduction in audio signal level toward zero depends on the condition of the break-in relay contacts and grounds in the audio module.
- During "break-in" operation the whole receiver is capable of receiving, except for the grounded antenna input and the grounded audio.
- The break-in relay and antenna relay are hopelessly too slow for real QSK operation. Roy

From roy.morgan@nist.gov Wed Mar 12 15:37:31 2003

Subject: [R-390] Spot

you wrote: >And do not forget the R&S EK-07 lurking in the background that puts them >all to shame.

Hark, The EK-07 is never forgotten here. Roy Who wants one.

From flood@Krohne.com Wed Mar 12 16:12:01 2003

Subject: [R-390] BFO Question

Oops hit send to soon, Thanks to all who have made suggestions for checking out the BFO. Perhaps I was not clear enough in my question. I am going to replace the bfo and I would like to know is it safe to add some "oil" to the shaft of my new "unused" Fair Radio bfo. I just opened it and the shaft is a bit tight. It seems to be from a small amount of oxidation from sitting in the box all these years. Sorry for the confusion here. John KB1FQG

Sent by: flood@Krohne.com ,03/12/2003 09:57 AM

Subject: Re: [R-390] BFO Question

Phil, Sorry to you and all, I should have mentioned it but I thought of this as well and removed the knob and tried the whole range of the control. Two or three times the bfo came to life but any shaft movement would kill it again. That is why I purchased the new bfo. Thanks,

John, Did you loosen the BFO knob on the shaft and try to bring it within range? There is a physical stop on the front panel that keeps the knob from rotating more than half way in either direction..... but the bfo inductor is a multiturn job.

I've had this happen on a recently acquired R-390A. The bfo would barely come within range but I just loosened the knob, pulled it back from the stop, zeroed the bfo, then reset the knob. good luck, Phil

From hankarn@pacbell.net Wed Mar 12 18:07:34 2003
Subject: [R-390] Spot

Roy, All it takes is money, Hi Hank

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Wed Mar 12 18:33:32 2003
Subject: [R-390] BFO Question

wrote: <snipped> >My early 60's vintage Amelco R-390A has bfo trouble. It would generate a >signal but the frequency sounded high (sorry did not measure it)

The BFO knob has a tab providing a robust end of travel stop for BFO shaft. If knob is installed too far out on shaft, tab is non functional and it is possible to turn several revolutions. BFO can provides no real stops; forcing at end of travel will easily break BFO tuning slug partially or completely. This may be your trouble.

Remove and open that can despite those warnings which simply goad you on! Make a note of wire connection points. BFO slug/shaft can be rejoined with great care and sparing use of epoxy.

>A new one just arrived from Fair Radio and thus >generates, pun intended, my question.

Oil won't hurt. A lubricant prized by many list members is Mobil 1 synthetic motor oil. It does not gum up as some others do. Fair Radio is very good about customer satisfaction; you might consider returning the unit for another replacement. Drew

From David_Wise@Phoenix.com Wed Mar 12 18:52:48 2003
Subject: [R-390] Break in function

wrote: >>> The above radio is hooked to a Johnson Viking II through a [snip]

The R-390A antenna relay pulls in to mute. My '54 Motorola is sticky, doesn't always pull in completely in spite of normal coil voltage. I'll get to it soon. You might have the same thing. Hook up a decent amount of antenna. In CAL mode, can you hear stations? You should not hear anything, not even faintly, except the calibrator. 73, Dave Wise

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Wed Mar 12 19:07:20 2003
Subject: [R-390] Early 50's CNC and CAD

Michael Young wrote: >You guys think CNC and CAD was available in the early 50's?

They were sort of available, but little used. CAD was basically limited to solutions of mathematical equations. CNC had relay and tube logic and was programmed on punched paper tape (Vestiges of that remain today; new CNC machines specify RAM capacity not in K or meg, but "feet"). Mostly it was confined to point-to-point motions for drilling/boring hole patterns; very few machines had capability of arc motions as would be needed for curved toolpaths such as engraving.

For sheer speed in lower precision operations involving impressions (as stamping), shearing or punching (those panel shaft holes) the ancient punch press still reigns supreme today. The large initial investment in punch/die tooling tends to relegate punch press use to higher volume production. Drew

From cbscott@ingr.com Wed Mar 12 19:15:30 2003
Subject: [R-390] Early 50's CNC and CAD

Just to be precise, NC was probably around in the '50s, but CNC didn't come along until later. NC stands for Numerical Control. CNC stands for Computer Numerical Control.

As for the second paragraph, there are CNC punch presses today that make the punch/die thing not as much of a factor as it was before. They can nibble a fairly decent hole using standard size punches thus negating a lot of the need for the specialized tools of yesteryear. Barry(III) - N4BUQ (Who used to program a lot of NC and CNC machines)

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Wed Mar 12 20:02:17 2003
Subject: [R-390] Break-In Function

wrote: <snipped> > - The grounding of the antenna inputs depends on the condition of the >antenna relay contacts and also the condition of the antenna relay supply

The R-390A antenna relay is powered from the 25 VAC supply via a selenium full wave bridge rectifier. There is no filter capacitor. It is fairly common for that rectifier to fail either open or in an increased resistance mode.

If relay armature pulls in and makes solid contact with coil's iron core, original rectifier is at least temporarily functioning well enough.

The rectifier can be replaced with a silicon full wave unit. The style rated at 4 amps or so having a mounting hole and all 4 terminals exiting at 1 end conveniently bolts on to the original bracket. Silicon has a lower forward voltage drop and so relay coil will see higher voltage than with original rectifier. If that is a concern, you can add series resistance. No list members have reported problems with excessive coil heating when using silicon replacement. To read more on this topic, goto r-390a.net Click on References, Pearls of Wisdom, Power Supply. You will find a collection of power supply related postings gleaned from this list over the past few years.

(Aside: 25 amp "block" style bridge rectifier makes a good replacement for selenium in older car battery

chargers. Mount to metal case for heatsinking.) Drew

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Wed Mar 12 20:35:48 2003
Subject: [R-390] Old Men Threads of the Coil

Barry(III) (does the "III" denote the other other white meat? Or is that Big Meat?) wrote: >IIRC, from 3rd grade phonics classes, it will have two k's. This provides >the break between the first and second syllables allowing the primary >accent to be on the first syllable. > >uk-kum-puck-y

But Barry, how much is actually spelt phonically nowadays? I vote for Ebonics, not phonics, dat be da way. (BTW, I prefer the spelling "uckumpucky". The u's have a short sound and accent is on first and third syllables) Drew

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Wed Mar 12 23:35:41 2003
Subject: [R-390] Break in function

You will still have to turn the RF gain down to keep a T-368 in the same room from registering on the carrier meter when on the same freq. Joe

From ba.williams@charter.net Thu Mar 13 01:49:43 2003
Subject: [R-390] Non-Uckumpucky

>> But since we are being so bloody proper these days, you might want to use the

It cleans off most of the non-Rippel? Joe Foley

From w7itc@hotmail.com Thu Mar 13 02:40:26 2003
Subject: [R-390] Break-In Function

Thanks for the info on the break in function I will check it out to see if the relay is pulling in all the way. Now that I have been making use of the Y2K manual in earnest it strikes me how nice it would be to have some sort search engine embedded in the manual

From jbrannig@optonline.net Thu Mar 13 10:54:51 2003
Subject: [R-390] Break in function

I used an R-390A as a second receiver with a Collins S-line driving a 2KW amp. There was never a problem with bleed through or over load when using the break-in function. Jim

From David_Wise@Phoenix.com Thu Mar 13 16:20:21 2003
Subject: [R-390] Break-In Function

All of the text can be searched using ^F/^G, and Y2KR2 has a full table of contents in the Bookmarks section of the navigation pane. (N.B.: I'm using Acrobat Reader 4.0 under W98.) If you mean something other than that, I don't know what it could be. Regular expressions or all/any/exact with a display of hits, I suppose, but that's for Adobe to do, not us. 73, Dave Wise

From jimsim@adelphia.net Thu Mar 13 16:45:28 2003
Subject: [R-390] simpson gages

To all those asked for pictures. I will be sending them out this Saturday. Jim

From rbethman@comcast.net" <rbethman@comcast.net Thu Mar 13 21:47:54 2003
Subject: [R-390] Looking for a dial lock assembly for an R-390A

I'm still in the process of restoring an older Collins R-390A, S/N 252. Yep! It is a depot dog. But all the modules except for the PTO are all Collins. The IF deck has a S/N of 35.

I find that I am missing the dial locking assembly. Anyone have one they would be willing to trade for (tubes?) or sell? Bob Bethman N0DGN

From _bobs@pacbell.net Thu Mar 13 21:51:00 2003
Subject: [R-390] Old Men Threads of the Coil

As a child, I learned from my father and grandfather - it was definitely "akumpucky") or, in phoenetics, "ak-kum-puck-y" Also, in grammar school, a teacher used the same pronunciation. Plumbers applied it to pipe joints, electricians applied it to solder joints, and it could be used to repair household items - a very versatile item. Wonder if akumpucky and uckumpucky are two distinct and different substances? Can these substances be used interchangeably? Bob

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Thu Mar 13 22:40:32 2003
Subject: [R-390] Old Men Threads of the Coil

wrote: > Barry(III) (does the "III" denote the other other white meat? Or is > that Big Meat?) wrote: >
>> IIRC, from 3rd grade phonics classes, it will have two k's. This >> provides the break between the
first and second syllables allowing >> the primary accent to be on the first syllable. >> >> uk-kum-
puck-y > > > But Barry, how much is actually spelt phonically nowadays? I vote for > Ebonics, not
phonics, dat be da way. > (BTW, I prefer the spelling "uckumpucky". The u's have a short sound > and
accent is on first and third syllables)

Hmmmm...ebonics....wouldn't that make it "da 'pucky" then? I've yet to intentionally cut one of these
open to rebuild, so I haven't had to me wif da 'pucky. Boomer, KA1KAQ

From BRingwoo@csir.co.za Fri Mar 14 11:15:03 2003
Subject: [R-390] DRM

For those interested in DRM, the open source version of a Rx is now on the web site <http://www.tu-darmstadt.de/fb/et/uet/fischer.html> -B

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Sat Mar 15 01:11:01 2003
Subject: [R-390] YOUR CHANCE FOR FAME -- WIN FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE, ETC.

wrote: > wrote: >>>Need contributors for Hollow State Newsletter > articles, so if you've got one > >under your hat, drop me a line. We're due for a > nice, juicy R-390A article, >>but anything on R-39x, R-388, R-648, transmitters > too, as well as SP-600, >>HQ-170/180, etc., higher end Hallicrafters, and > other golden glowy oldies. >>Also, appropriate test equipment -- URM-25x's, TV-X > and Hickok tube testers, >>SSB converters ... well, you get the idea.

>

> I've always wanted to write historical porn. Yep, > pornographic > stories with important historical females as the > central > characters.

>

> It would be easy enough to incorporate the BA gear > angle into > the stories. Suppose I create a fictional female > character that > worked as a Navy inspector. Let's say that she was > the secret > daughter of Eleanor Roosevelt or Eva Braun. She > lands a job as > a Govt inspector in the <fill in the blank> plant > that built > <fill in the blank> BA gear. The hi-jinx begin....

>

> I think it's got potential. We could do a different > plant each > month.

>

>>Don't worry about writing skills -- most of you > don't need much help in that >>department -- and, that's what an editor is for. > (including removal of >>dangling participles - ed.)

>

> I couldn't tell you what a participle is if my life > depended on > it. I despised English class. If it was up to me, > I'd have hung > the old gal with barbwire from a telephone pole.

>

> Barry, If you need a space filler you're more than > welcome to use > my 17,640 hour R-390A endurance run test story that > I posted > last Fall. I could rewrite it and incorporate the > secret twin > nympho daughters of Tojo if you like. <grin> >> holler back, > nolan

From ba.williams@charter.net Sat Mar 15 01:59:40 2003

Subject: [R-390] YOUR CHANCE FOR FAME -- WIN FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE, ETC.

Did I miss something? Barry

From bill@iaxs.net Sat Mar 15 06:20:16 2003

Subject: [R-390] YOUR CHANCE FOR FAME -- WIN FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE, ETC.

blw said, >Did I miss something?

Perhaps. That was vintage Nolan Lee, from August 2001.

Nolan was (might have been) a cop. He had a high native intelligence, but nobody had helped him to discipline it. So his stories were laced with the seamy side of life as only a cop sees it. At least, that's the way it seemed - because on the Internet, nobody knows what you are. The person known as Nolan might have invented the persona, but it sure seemed real.

At first I was put off by this seamy stuff in a group dedicated to a kind of radio. But after a while, I couldn't wait to see what he'd come up with next. You see, I am curious about the extent of differences there are between people, even as we talk about our Fellow Man. I now think that anybody who talks about their Fellow Man has lived in isolation from all of the other people on this planet, and thinks that all others are just like himself. Or is a politician who could not care less about the fate of his Fellow Man

except that they vote for him. But I digress.

Nolan knew the R-390 class set very well, and shared his knowledge with the group. But tolerance has a wide range also, and the people who lean toward the in-side made him not welcome on this list. And so we go on discussing things that we have discussed before (grounding, anyone?) without ever being put in perspective. Thanks, Joe. Regards, Bill Hawkins

From wgittere@buffnet.net Sat Mar 15 17:18:43 2003
Subject: [R-390] Low sensitivity on 3 mhz

Hello again R-390A fans, We are still working on Tom's R390A and have the following Information.

The 3 mhz band has low deflection and sensitivity for the calibrator signal or an input from a signal generator. The real kicker is that it seems very sensitive when we hook up an antenna and listen to 75 meters. We get carrier readings in excess of 80.

The 4 to 5 mhz band has to have the band switch off center a bit and actually out of the detent.

We replaced cans T-203 and the two Z203's

We replaced the crystal and the 20mhz band is working just fine. We replaced HR 202 We replaced C-252 and C-279 with silver micas

Any thoughts on why the sensitivity appears low on the 3mhz band would be appreciated. Thanks, Bill K2LNU

From n8blb@hotmail.com Sun Mar 16 03:56:19 2003
Subject: [R-390] looking for parts

I am looking for a complete I.F. chassis for an R-390A in working condition. Would anyone out there have one extra to their needs that they would be willing to sell? John

From ham@cq.nu Sun Mar 16 14:34:34 2003
Subject: [R-390] looking for parts

Hi, This may be redundant but you might try Fair Radio. I have gotten "parts grade" IF's from them in the past. They may be willing to sort through the pile to come up with one that's in better shape than the rest. Enjoy! Bob Camp KB8TQ

From R390revr@aol.com Sun Mar 16 15:39:08 2003
Subject: [R-390] 1960 EAC tag with A at end?

Good day all: I have just acquired a 1960 EAC with 714A as front tag #. The rear panel is 741. Does the A signify a reproduction tag, that someone had made to match the rear panel? It looks very good. I haven't seen this contract before, but have seen a lot of others, and it looks original. I pulled the filter cover, to see if this might be one of the rigs with the Clevite(sp) filters, but just regular Collins.

I have dropped a note to Tom Marcotte, but would welcome input from anyone with thoughts on the subject. Thanks Randy Stout

From R390rcvr@aol.com Sun Mar 16 18:54:29 2003
Subject: [R-390] Tag number dyslexia

Had a bit of dyslexia while typing. Both the front tag# and rear panel #s are 741, with the A added to the front tag. Sorry Randy

From n8blb@hotmail.com Sun Mar 16 21:16:15 2003
Subject: [R-390] looking for parts

Yesterday I asked if anyone had an I.F chassis as mine had a bad socket. And since it was in a really hard place to get to I thought I would try to get a new unit. Thanks to all who responded with help and offers.

I thought I would have one more crack at it before shelling out lots of green.

GOOD news. I did fix it. Acted like a bad socket in that you could wiggle the tube and it would work. Yes I did try several other tubes.

Today I got to measuring voltages at the socket. It was V501 the first I.F. amp. No B+ on pin 5 but it did have screen voltage on pin 6. Hhhhhmmmmmm. It sure doesnt have far to go from pin 5 to pin 6. Well it turned out to be in a one inch piece of wire from L505 to V501 pin 5. It was broken inside of the insulation. I was able to repair the wire and now the unit works great. Well almost great.

Now it wont turn off. The filaments stay on as does the dial lights. Looks like the micro switch on the function switch is staying closed. That sure looks like a pain to get to. Oh well I always wanted an instant on 390. Its always in standby this way.

I remember someone saying that this is not good though. Learning the 390 the hard way, John

From w7itc@hotmail.com Mon Mar 17 04:12:41 2003
Subject: [R-390] Black beauties

I have a question about the so called black beauty, red stripes, etc. As I understand it these were made by Sprague. I have a bunch of these capacitors that are brand new unused. Do these things deteriorate while in use over time, or by age regardless. I would love to use them but if they are always bad I suppose it's a waste of time. Kenneth A. Crips

From glennmaillist@bellsouth.net Mon Mar 17 04:33:15 2003
Subject: [R-390] Black beauties

I think that the black beauty caps are all bad by definition. Check some of your NOS pieces on a good capacitance meter and report back on the leakage at rated voltage and the capacitance. It would be good to know. 73 Glenn WB4UIV

From w7itc@hotmail.com Mon Mar 17 04:36:28 2003
Subject: [R-390] Black beauties

I have a Cap tester on this ExTech multimeter I just purchased. It seems to be accurate. The problem I have is just how reliable is the meter checking.

From keng@moscow.com Mon Mar 17 06:30:40 2003
Subject: [R-390] Black beauties

> I have a Cap tester on this ExTech multimeter I just purchased.> It seems to be accurate. The problem I have is just how reliable is> the meter checking.> > > Kenneth A. Crips W7ITC

Multi-meter cap testers don't have high enough voltage to really check leakage in caps. They can do a decent job of measuring capacitance only.

You would need a Sprague Tel-Ohm-Mike, or Heathkit C-3 or IP-28 , or equivalent, type of capacitor checker to measure leakage. You have to check the caps at their rated voltage in order to get an accurate idea of leakage.

One way you can check them for leakage without the above listed capacitor checker is to connect them in series with a decent milliammeter across a source of HV at the rated voltage of your capacitor. If the milliammeter reads much above a microamp or two, the capacitor is leaky. Ken Gordon W7EKB

From rodney_bunt@yahoo.com Mon Mar 17 08:11:19 2003
Subject: [R-390] Off Topic but WTB - 2 knobs for National NC-109

I have National Radios too, so might some of you, so.... I need two knobs for NC-109, the small ones, NOT the tuning/bandspread, I have 2 that have lost the metal disk insert, so damaged knobs with the insert intact would be fine too. Check out <http://www.rigpix.com/national/nc109.htm> for a picture
Regards, Rodney VK2KTZ

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Mar 17 14:16:32 2003
Subject: [R-390] looking for parts

John, The microswitch isn't all that hard to fix. Drop the front panel, disassemble the mode switch and it's right there. My Motorola would not turn off when I first got it. I cleaned and jostled the actuator and the microswitch started working again. By the way, these are designed such that the actuator has to pop "up" to break the connection. If it doesn't turn off, the actuator is stuck in the "down" position. Barry(III)
- N4BUQ

From w7itc@hotmail.com Mon Mar 17 14:40:43 2003
Subject: [R-390] Black beauties

With orange drops so cheap there is no reason to use such old junk. 'll hang on to them for now. Should I say on E-Bay they were touched by Mr. Macintosh himself, or in the presents of an Western Electric 300.

From roy.morgan@nist.gov Mon Mar 17 14:50:32 2003
Subject: [R-390] Black beauties

wrote: >I have a question about the so called black beauty,

... Do these things deteriorate while >in use over time, or by age regardless. I would love to use them but >if they are always bad I suppose it's a waste of time. Ken,

There is good news and bad news. The bad news is that all of them are leaky. New, unused, pristine, it does not matter. Chemistry did it. It's not your fault. It's not Sprague's fault. They will not work well.

The good news is that you can sell them on eBay for money. Real money. Just do it. Then buy new good last forever nice working capacitors from wherever you can. It does not matter what kind you buy. Just do it. They will make your radio happy. Roy

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Mon Mar 17 17:25:18 2003
Subject: [R-390] Black Beauties

wrote: >I have a question about the so called black beauty, red stripes, etc. >As I understand it these were made by Sprague.

Yes, these Black Beauties are bad by definition. I have a few NOS Black Beauties of Death and they test leaky.

Leakage testing using a milliammeter in series with a high voltage power supply will certainly work, but a milliammeter is not sensitive enough to detect leakage current levels which would be detrimental in vacuum tube circuits. If the capacitor under test has extremely high leakage or shorts out, destruction of the milliammeter is certain.

A more sensitive and robust test is to use your VTVM or DVM set to the volts scale, in series with cap under test and a power supply of appropriate voltage (preferably the cap's rated voltage). The meter serves as a sensitive microammeter with a built-in current limiting resistance. To calculate a cap's leakage tested in this way, divide meter reading by meter's input resistance (typically 11 meg). A typical BBOD might show 100v reading with a 300v power supply. This works out to 9 uA leakage (with 200v across cap). If you want to get really picky, adjust the supply voltage so that the difference between it and the meter reading equals cap's rated voltage.

Heat the capacitor slightly (hairdryer) and watch leakage current soar. Shows what happens as the radio gets hot.

Modern plastic dielectric caps such as the highly esteemed Orange Drop will show no discernible reading, just a fluctuation of a few tenths of a volt positive and negative (power supply noise).

Believe it or not, I have read banter in some of the AudioPhool forums extolling the "sonic virtues" of NOS Black Beauties and Vitamin Q's. You might sell your BBOD's on one of those forums or on E-Pay and make a bundle! Drew

From G4GJL@btopenworld.com Mon Mar 17 19:43:40 2003
Subject: [R-390] Black beauties and other old capacitors

I would advocate the use of the Vishay Roederstein MKT1813 range of capacitors when replacing the likes of BBODs and others in the range 4700pF to 1uF at 400 or 630 v working.

These are available in the UK, Europe and yes...the USA!

Their advantage, in my opinion, over the now famous Orange drops is that they are of axial construction (Cylindrical with the leads emerging from the centre of the two ends.) They are much easier to fit as replacements for the old axially constructed BBODs, Vitamin Qs etc as the leads are in the right place with respect to the capacitor body...you dont need to cram them in as often they are smaller than the capacitor you are replacing.

Outer foil is clearly marked with a ring. The capacitor is made of Yellow polyester and is much more in keepink with the colours of the era of our R39/- series friends.

...And on the subject of DC leakage they pass the VTVM and HT PSU test in the same manner as the Orange drops...With flying colours! They perform well as coupling / decoupling capacitors at DC, AF, well into the RF spectrum. I would NOT use them as a resonating capacitor, though. Pete G4GJL

From G4GJL@btopenworld.com Mon Mar 17 19:49:18 2003
Subject: [R-390] R-278B/GR -USA 1952 Receiver

Apologies for off topic post, but this might appeal to like minded people on this list..... I have parted out such a receiver. If anyone on the list needs parts from this set please mail me direct. I will ship from UK if expenses are covered. Pity to scrap the set, but there are better examples around than this one! 73 Pete G4GJL

From anchor@ec.rr.com Mon Mar 17 20:13:33 2003
Subject: [R-390] Black beauties and other old capacitors

Hi Pete, et al, I'm ready to order a qty of 0.01's, so took a look at Mouser for the MKT1813 polyesters. They do list them as a new product, but only have some values in stock, no 0.01's, 0.022@250v, all the rest are 0.1 and above, a few at 630v. The price is slightly above their Orange Drop polypropylenes, which they do have in 0.01@630vdc, in stock. (400v is not very useful, I think.) Newark, whose online catalog is horrible to navigate, has even fewer in stock. I guess I'll have to wait until next order, even tho' I agree with the advantages you point out. thanks for the tip, 73, Al, W8UT

From ba.williams@charter.net Tue Mar 18 14:14:40 2003
Subject: [R-390] Black beauties

> With orange drops so cheap there is no reason to use such old junk. > 'll hang on to them for now. Should I say on E-Bay they where touched by > Mr. Macintosh himself, or in the presents of an Western Electric 300.

Yes, say they came out of a McIntosh and were shaped properly. You have that special CD to run all of the right frequencies so they form just right. You should make some good money this way. Barry

From dps4@juno.com Tue Mar 18 15:24:42 2003
Subject: [R-390] Dave Medley's website

Hello All, Does anyone have Dave Medley's current website address? I have been trying for several days and keep getting the message that the user has reached his bandwidth. The address I am using is www.davemed.com Port 80. Thanks for the help, I do enjoy the list. David Seckel W8GWI

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Tue Mar 18 18:07:15 2003
Subject: [R-390] Black Beauty Replacements

Pete wrote: ><snipped> would advocate the use of the Vishay Roederstein MKT1813 range of >capacitors when replacing the likes of BBODs and others in the range 4700pF >to 1uF at 400 or 630 v working.

Excellent choice, these are very good capacitors. Another good choice is the Cornell-Dubilier (CDE) DME series, available inexpensively in a wide range of values from Mouser. These caps are so small that despite their radial lead construction you can fit them in easily. In the R-390A IF deck many of the BBOD's are installed on standoffs with a couple of inches total lead length to tube socket pin. DME's can be installed right on the tube socket with much shorter lead length (possibly a benefit in bypass application). A "relocation notice" can be written in the original BBOD location. Yes, DME's also show virtually no leakage at rated voltage. Like the MKT1813's, DME's are not well suited to high current applications but are fine for bypass, coupling, timing and the like.

The Orange Drop is a fine capacitor with a proven reputation for reliability going back over 40 years. They were originally manufactured by Sprague. Maybe Sprague came up with such a good product as attonement for their BBOD's. Drew

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Tue Mar 18 18:08:46 2003
Subject: [R-390] Black beauties

Kenneth Crips wrote: > I have a question about the so called black beauty, red stripes, etc. > As I understand it these were made by Sprague.

Hi Ken - I've read the responses to this and decided to add my 2¢ worth. My experience and understanding from other more knowledgeable than me is no, not all caps classified as 'Black Beauties' are bad, meaning of questionable design. Contrary to popular belief, there were several types and not just one. Some were black with red writing, some were black with yellow writing, some had a number of colored bands on them and so on. Having seen them in many applications over the years I've seen fewer of the obvious split and leaking than still intact examples. Not being an expert I won't try to tell you which ones are the types that almost always go bad because I don't remember. Instead my advice would be to at least test them and not dismiss them out-of-hand based on popular opinion.

Having said that, I'd also point out that even as NOS caps, they are probably 35+ years old at the very least. I'm not sure I'd want to install them into anything critical even if they check out okay. Might end up costing a lot. SBE Orange Drops are indeed inexpensive, they come in different types(not just one composition), and the company is located here in the USofA, not China. Recently a friend who works there told me that the vintage radio and guitar/audio crowd has pretty much been carrying the business through the slow time.

Roy had the best suggestion: sell 'em on ebay. Consider that you're doing a service to some audiophile type by providing them with an original component not easily found these days. I saw someone post here once that this is 'wreckless and dangerous' or something to that effect, not sure why. Perhaps it was based on that general 'all of them are bad' statement. Regardless, where would we be if people refused to sell tubes to use because they could break and cut someone or because they use more energy than an IC chip? Or that old adage about "one man's trash.." Someone sold a handful of them a few months ago for over \$200. Doesn't take too many of those to make an R-390! Good luck - Boomer, KA1KAQ

From pha@pdq.com Wed Mar 19 12:05:32 2003
Subject: [R-390] WTB - 390 RF deck cables

Howdy, I'm trying to salvage a pretty good RF deck that has a close serial number to my R-391 that I'm restoring.

It is a Mod 3 RF deck, and needs four pieces:

- 1 Z203/Z209/Z215 2-4MC transformer and slug
- 1 Z204/Z210/Z216 4-8MC transformer and slug
- 2 Amphenol 31-119 male plugs for P225 and P226

I could also just use the P225 and P226 cables with plugs on them. Does anyone has a scrapped R-390 RF deck with these parts? Thanks, Paul

From flood@Krohne.com Wed Mar 19 16:53:17 2003
Subject: [R-390] Re: [R-390A] BFO Question

Thanks to all who replied with your bfo comments. A drop of oil on the "unused" shaft smoothed things out a bit. It still was much tighter turning than the bad one in the radio or other good units that some people had as could not be turned by my fingers on the shaft. I believe this is caused by an internal (o-ring?) seal on the shaft, similar to the one used to seal the bfo(pto) case. After many years of use this wears down allowing the shaft to turn much easier. It would seem that, this being the case, the new bfo did not have a problem after all and turns as it should. Perhaps this experience will benefit others in the future.

My Bristol wrench set came in yesterday, I installed the new bfo last night and all is well. It turns out that the internal core was broken on the bad one. I am almost brave enough now to drop the front panel and repair the stuck microswitch on the function control! BTW Am I allowed to listen to anything other than AM on this fine old radio without getting flamed? John Flood KB1FQG

From kherron@voyager.net Wed Mar 19 17:27:09 2003
Subject: [R-390] Fwd: 950 series Acorn Tubes for Sale

>Hi Gang,

> Here's some stuff that the Boatanchor crowd can probably use, but I don't need. These are Acorn tubes. All are new in the box and I will test them before they leave to be sure that they are good. Here are the numbers and the quantities that >I have.

>

>954 35

>955 2
>956 0 (I don't have any)
>957 6
>958 5
>959 2
>

\$2.00 a piece will get them and if decide to spend more than \$10.00 >I'll throw in the shipping. I know that some of these were used in the >IFF radios (BC-645), but besides that I have no idea on the application. >Let me know if you can use them. > >Thanks!! > >Kim Herron >1-616-677-3706

From cbscott@ingr.com Wed Mar 19 17:21:58 2003
Subject: [R-390] Re: [R-390A] BFO Question

<snip>BTW Am I allowed to listen to anything other than AM on this fine old radio without getting flamed?

Yes. RTTY. Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From G4GJL@btopenworld.com Wed Mar 19 20:45:46 2003
Subject: [R-390] Re: [R-390A] BFO Question

and CW

From jbrannig@optonline.net Wed Mar 19 21:08:33 2003
Subject: [R-390] any good frequencies?

As we get closer to H-hour are there any good frequencies to monitor? Jim

From w7itc@hotmail.com Thu Mar 20 00:19:59 2003
Subject: [R-390] any good frequencies?

Here are two good sources. I think the first one is the best and the largest.

**<http://www.wunclub.com/>
<http://www.milaircomms.com/index.html>**

From mahlonhaunschild@cox.net Thu Mar 20 00:09:35 2003
Subject: [R-390] Help wanted: RF Communications RF-505A ISB HF receiver

Hello, list. OK, so my request isn't exactly pertaining to R-390As, but NEway, knowing that there's a lot of crossover interests in old military/commercial comm gear, maybe someone can help me out. I am looking for any sort of tech data (would like to beg/borrow/steal a manual to repro.) for the RF Communications (later Harris) RF-505A ISB HF receiver. Please reply if you can help. Picked one up over the weekend at a hamfest for not much bux (fortunately) and would like to try to get it to work.
regards, Mahlon - K4OQ

From w7itc@hotmail.com Thu Mar 20 00:48:03 2003
Subject: [R-390] any good frequencies?

I am listening to 9.715 to an EC130 Commando Solo aircraft broadcasting to Iraq. I don't understand what they are saying but it's interesting never the less. Kenneth A. Crips W7ITC

From rnharsh@attbi.com Thu Mar 20 01:21:30 2003
Subject: [R-390] Toronto Surplus selling R-390A parts

If you are in need of any R-390A parts, checkout Toronto Surplus' auctions on epay..... search for R-390 on epay. Ron H. - K3PID

From jbrannig@optonline.net Thu Mar 20 01:27:04 2003
Subject: [R-390] any good frequencies?

Thanks....

From jbrannig@optonline.net Thu Mar 20 01:29:40 2003
Subject: [R-390] any good frequencies?

I hear a strong signal on 9.715. The audio is not very good (even if I could understand it)

From ba.williams@charter.net Thu Mar 20 01:37:12 2003
Subject: [R-390] Re: [R-390A] BFO Question

> and CW

And FM with a bit of knob twiddling. Barry

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Thu Mar 20 01:42:48 2003
Subject: [R-390] any good frequencies?

I'm hearing it very well here in NY, only thing I can understand is names of big politician's. Joe

From ba.williams@charter.net Thu Mar 20 01:48:24 2003
Subject: [R-390] any good frequencies?

> As we get closer to H-hour are there any good frequencies to monitor? > > Jim

Jim, Here is a good starting point:

<http://www.hard-core-dx.com/index.php?topic=iraq&page=1> this may be a better one to check often for latest frequencies reported: <http://www.clandestineradio.com/intel/iraq.htm> Barry

From jbrannig@optonline.net Thu Mar 20 01:58:56 2003
Subject: [R-390] any good frequencies?

VERY strong signal. (Huh, they said, cuente (veinte) minutos, (twenty minutes until the deadline) then more "whatever" it sounds Slavic (Russian?) I know they are broadcasting from a plane at ??? feet, but this is really strong and HF condx are terrible. I just gave up on a 20M sked with California. But I hear Saddam, Iraq, Kuwait and other key words, so this must be the place. Jim

From ba.williams@charter.net Thu Mar 20 02:00:32 2003
Subject: [R-390] any good frequencies?

> I am listening to 9.715 to an EC130 Commando Solo aircraft broadcasting to Iraq. I don't understand what they are saying but it's interesting never the less. >>>> Kenneth A. Crips W7ITC

Kenneth, They are very loud here at 0150U on 9.715, which is outside of the schedule listed on milaircomms. Mentions of Kuwait and propaganda.
I found these listed:

Air Force bcst 689, 756, 9715, 11292, from 1500-2000 UTC.

R. Kuwait in English: 15.110 from 05-0800 UTC. Reported that bcst was advising what to do if attacked with chemical or biological weapons. Heard in the US. Also, 11.990 from 1800-2100 UTC. Barry

From wf2u@starband.net Thu Mar 20 02:18:37 2003
Subject: [R-390] any good frequencies?

I'm listening to 9.715 and it's in Portuguese... Its very unlikely that the transmitted propaganda over Iraq is in Portuguese ;-) Maybe I hear a different station on the same frequency in this location (NW South Carolina)?

Transmissions to Iraq would be in Arabic, also possibly in Kurdish and maybe in Farsi for those along the Iranian border. 73, Meir WF2U Landrum, SC

From wf2u@starband.net Thu Mar 20 02:23:41 2003
Subject: [R-390] any good frequencies?

This is Brazilian Portuguese - This is what I hear also. 73, Meir WF2U Landrum, SC

From jbrannig@optonline.net Thu Mar 20 02:33:00 2003
Subject: [R-390] any good frequencies?

Just by chance I tuned to 11.658+/- and hear the same program. as on 9.715. Jim

From w7itc@hotmail.com Thu Mar 20 02:38:34 2003
Subject: [R-390] any good frequencies?

on 9.175 I was hearing a couple of signals just about on the same frequency. The one which must have Commando Solo was a very business like male voice speaking in Iraqi.

From n4xy@earthlink.net Thu Mar 20 02:51:45 2003
Subject: [R-390] any good frequencies?

Currently on 6712.0 USB... Message groups, being read in English, by (what sounds like) African-American female speaker. Enough echo on signal makes it sound like a skip signal to me.

NOTE: Over FOX News just now, explosions heard in Bagdad, and President will speak at 22:15 EST.
73 Ed Tanton N4XY <n4xy@earthlink.net>

From jbrannig@optonline.net Thu Mar 20 03:01:43 2003
Subject: [R-390] any good frequencies?

Heard the same thing on 11.175. Wasn't sure if it was WAR started or send more scotch....

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Thu Mar 20 03:17:48 2003
Subject: [R-390] any good frequencies?

Too much local noise, digital signal here, chirp, chirp, chirp,..... Joe

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Thu Mar 20 03:20:02 2003
Subject: [R-390] any good frequencies?

Me, too, message in other languages, too. Good signal still. Was Japanese/Chinese, now some African language. 10:30 PM Eastern. Joe

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Thu Mar 20 03:45:33 2003
Subject: [R-390] Commando solo

http://www.cbsnews.com/elements/2003/01/29/iraq/whoswho538410_0_4_person.shtml

From terryo@wort-fm.terracom.net Thu Mar 20 13:45:25 2003
Subject: [R-390] Fwd: As the feces is about to hit the blender...

From: Thomas Adams <103360.2133@compuserve.com> Date: Wed, 19 Mar 2003 19:40:58 -0500
Subject: As the feces is about to hit the blender...

Greetings.

We're within a half hour of the time limit Bush imposed on Saddam now, and HF radio has gone slightly nuts.

I've been going light on the aviation frequencies, instead checking out a number of modes other than

SSB. Traffic levels are WELL above normal for a typical Wednesday evening.

There's a great deal of NATO based ALE (Automatic Link Enablement) on the air, carrying digital communications, presumably for long haul US circuits... so much, in fact, that the ionospheric sounding sweeper portion of the ALE signal format is interfering with other communications from 10 MHz up. Unfortunately, my digital decoder box isn't able to read ALE mode once links are established.

The US Navy is very well represented right now; MANY more than usual encrypted, high power teletype links operating at the moment. They're breaking with normal operating patterns in that they aren't working station to station, `2 way traffic; they seem to be broadcasting one way.

Most interestingly... my pet information source, the French Navy, has also greatly increased it's radio activity level. The French are my favorite because they make a LOT of errors and security slips, and this show is no exception.

At present, they're not handling much traffic, but a LOT of thier radio circuits are on the air, in hot standby mode, sending marker signals. A lot of stations that I haven't seen on the air in months or years are active. For example, right now I'm getting solid teletype copy on 6WW (Dakar, Senegal) sending a channel marker on 16,951.5 KHz . This is the first time I've copied this station in over a year. In terms of radio propagation, Dakar is in a perfect position to hit the Med and the Persian Gulf area.

A great many French colonial radio circuits, running thier favorite teleprinter mode (ARQ-E3) are up and running from 8 MHz up. They're simply sending idling signals to keep the channels open. So far they're keeping thier callsigns mum, but they've already tipped their hand; the few that ARE identifying are on the wrong frequencies. For example... a mainstay frequency for Fort De France, Martinique (Carribean) is suddenly inhabited by a Paris naval circuit; Fort De France is nowhere to be heard. French radios that have no chance of being useful in the middle east, like the Papeete, Tahiti naval radio, are suddenly gone, only to be replaced by other signals on thier frequencies.

Checking the US military aviation frequencies briefly, I'm seeing something new. After initial voice contact with ground stations, a lot of aircraft are being asked if they have "L Band" (ie, satellite) comm capabilities. If they do, they're being moved to The Bird... and away from the snooping receivers of folk like me, even for routine message traffic.

Lajes and Ascension Island are carrying a lot of SKY KING and EAM messages. Drills? Actual tactical orders? These two stations are well positioned to put solid signals into the middle east, so it can be just about anything.

Identifiable callsigns have just about dissapeared, as have base references. Aircraft asking for weather at thier destinations aren't mentioning those destinations; ground stations apparently have a database that matches callsigns with destinations. They pass the information without mentioning destination names.

One thing is clear... domestic avation comms have just about dried up; 8992 KHz and 11,175 KHz are being kept clear for a big glut of overseas voice traffic. The excaption to that is SKY KING broadcasts from Offut AFB (Omaha, Nebraska).

Interestingly... I've heard almost NO voice scrambling from KY-89s on mil air voice frequencies. They don't seem to trust the security of "Go Green" right now. Possibly that gear isn't being used right now to deprive enemy intercept / analysis posts of sample traffic to work a crack on.

Diego Garcia (Indian Ocean) seems active with EAMs and SKY KINGS, and that's to be expected; they

too can lay down a solid signal in the Middle East.

I'm rather surprised that I'm not hearing as yet much in the way of BARRIE 6028 antijamming multiplex teletypewriter transmissions. It surprises me because that mode is a favorite of the Royal Navy and RAF.

This could get interesting while it lasts Mr. T.

From cbscott@ingr.com Thu Mar 20 13:48:29 2003
Subject: [R-390] any good frequencies?

Joe, I was hearing the Asian dialect broadcast here in Alabama about 9:00PM CST. Barry(III) - N4BUQ

Me, too, message in other languages, too. Good signal still. Was Japanese/Chinese, now some African language. 10:30 PM Eastern. Joe

From ba.williams@charter.net Thu Mar 20 13:50:58 2003
Subject: [R-390] any good frequencies?

Sounds like an EAC from one of the major Air Force bases. They are common in that frequency range. The echo is also common. They bcst from more than one location. Barry

From ba.williams@charter.net Thu Mar 20 13:57:37 2003
Subject: [R-390] any good frequencies?

> on 9.175 I was hearing a couple of signals just about on the same frequency. The one which must have Commando Solo was a very business like male voice speaking in Iraqi. > > > Kenneth A. Crips

Same thing here. Later, I did hear 2 males chatting and music. It was a different format.

I did hear suspected R. Kuwait that came up at 0500U. It was a very weak signal on 15.110. I was hoping for the English bcst. I'll be on 11.990 at 1800U for the next scheduled bcsts. Barry

From wf2u@starband.net Thu Mar 20 14:12:31 2003
Subject: [R-390] any good frequencies?

Can you tell whether the Arabic you heard is spoken in the Iraqi dialect? 73, Meir WF2U

From ba.williams@charter.net Thu Mar 20 14:42:40 2003
Subject: [R-390] any good frequencies?

EAC was supposed to be EAM (Emergency Action Message). Sorry 'bout that. Barry

From drewmaster813@hotmail.com Thu Mar 20 19:57:26 2003
Subject: [R-390] BFO: You'll Need It

wrote: <snipped> >BTW Am I allowed to listen to anything other than AM on this fine old radio without getting flamed?

Yes, you can listen to slopbucket and we won't care (It is, after all, still AM even though curbed and gutted). SSB reception has been discussed many times on this list; topics covered have included add-ons and modifications for improved slopbucket reception. Drew

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Fri Mar 21 00:13:24 2003
Subject: [R-390] Dredging up old stuff

<<http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-e-bomb,0,4553290.story?coll=sns%2Dap%2Dnationworld%2Dheadlines>>

Just in case anyone was going to bring up this old story, I thought I'd beat you to it! Joe

From frledda@attbi.com Sat Mar 22 15:29:25 2003
Subject: [R-390] HP606 - HP8708

Hello, I am looking for the calibration procedure/manuals for two older HP test equipment: HP606 and the HP 8708. PDF, scanned, copied or originals would be great. Please, reply directly. Regards,
Francesco Ledda

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Sat Mar 22 18:16:33 2003
Subject: [R-390] Shock and Awe!!

<http://www.amwindow.org/wwwboard/messages/17939.html>

From n1vbn@bit-net.com Sat Mar 22 20:03:28 2003
Subject: [R-390] Listen in on Military communications

Gents and Ladies, While I realize that the R-390A-R-390 will not receive LSB/USB I have some radio frequencies that I have come across that are busy with military traffic mostly phone patch stuff. Nothing critical.

Iraqi war freqs incl - 4709, 4724, 6712, 6739, 8992, 11175 (very active), 11271, 15038 Khz USB
Enjoy, James Shanks

From wf2u@starband.net Sat Mar 22 20:31:38 2003
Subject: [R-390] Listen in on Military communications

The statement is incorrect. Any receiver with reasonable stability and a tunable BFO will receive LSB/USB. The R-390 and R-390A are in this category. The AGC system and/or the BFO injection level may not be optimum for quality reception but with judicious use of the RF gain control, and proper BFO tuning adjustment either sideband is received with reasonable quality - this applies to the R-39* family of receivers also. 73, Meir WF2U Landrum, SC

From R390rcvr@aol.com Sat Mar 22 21:13:02 2003
Subject: [R-390] R-390A tag with A on it - field mod?

Good day all: I posted this last week, but no response, so thought I would try it again. Tom Marcotte believes the tag is original. It has an upper case A after the #. The A is slightly higher than the original #, so it does look like it was added. Tom thought it might be to denote a field mod. Any thoughts from the group? Thanks Randy

From buzz@softcom.net Sat Mar 22 23:43:53 2003
Subject: [R-390] PTO to gear train alignment question

I have a R-392 that has had the KHz knob and PTO shaft rotated while the PTO was removed. How do you realign the two ??? Thanks in advance, Buzz

From courir26@yahoo.com Sun Mar 23 00:30:07 2003
Subject: [R-390] PTO to gear train alignment question

Buzz, If it is working, set the rig dial to a known local station, and turn the PTO shaft until you hear the desired station. There are a lot fancier ways to do it, but this will get it for you. The tuning of the racks will hardly allow any reception until you get real close, and then you'll hear it. 73 Tom

From R390rcvr@aol.com Sun Mar 23 01:33:55 2003
Subject: [R-390] Email address for Chuck Teeters?

Good evening: Does anyone have the email address for Chuck Teeters? Tom Marcotte thought it was in one of the ERs, neither of us have the ER in question. Any help would be appreciated!! Randy Stout

From hankarn@pacbell.net Sun Mar 23 02:23:23 2003
Subject: [R-390] Listen in on Military communications

Meir, This does not apply to appliance operators, only true operators. Hank KN6DI

From keng@moscow.com Sun Mar 23 04:25:05 2003
Subject: [R-390] SSB with the R-39*...

> Gents and Ladies, While I realize that the R-390A-R-390 will not receive LSB/USB...

Not true. ANY receiver with a BFO can receive SSB with proper use of the RF and AF gain controls, and tuning knob or BFO "pitch" controls, by the knowledgeable or experienced operator.

I am presently using an Hallicrafters S-41G to receive SSB and it does a good job, although I had to add an "RF" gain (actually IF gain) control to reduce the gain a bit on strong signals to prevent overload.

If the S-41G can copy SSB, the R-39* series sure as heck can. Perhaps you were jesting with the above statement? If so, I apologize as I am a little dense sometimes. Ken W7EKB

From mc@sover.net Sun Mar 23 14:23:18 2003
Subject: [R-390] Neat War Photo

Hi All: My friend Ed VA2ES sent me this great photo of Baghdad being bombed with the {quot}Ultimate Weapon{quot}. I guarantee you that this is definitely not "off topic!"
Enjoy! <http://www.sover.net/~mc/r390bomb.jpg> 73, Michael W1RC

From capt.al@verizon.net Sun Mar 23 16:21:55 2003
Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390 digest, Vol 1 #622 - 10 msgs

You can find all the original HP manuals at Consolidated Surplus..... cs@usimperio.com A little pricey but available. AI K2DYH

From theprof@texoma.net Sun Mar 23 19:09:23 2003
Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390A tag with A on it - field mod

My Dittmore-Freimuth Serial Number 62 has a stamped A on the tag obviously after it was made. The contact numbers match on most of the modules. There was a paper tag on the front panel as follows:

NOMEN R-390A/URR
APL 81039001
Serial 00000S0062
NSG PIESIII 21 JUL 83

There was also a Dynamo Label 63182 002809

It had the Navy Mod for front panel AGC test point. This is how it came from Fair Radio. Best I could ever come up with was the A was added at the depot when this the mod was done. 73 de Richard, W5SRB

P.S. I was looking at my maintenance log for the radio. This one was cleaned and lubed by me in 1996 using Hoppes gun cleaner, gun oil, and gun grease. (This was before everyone became an expert.) The KC knob can still be turned with my little finger. I was called a heretic then and probably will be again:)

From n1vbn@bit-net.com Sun Mar 23 16:43:00 2003
Subject: [R-390] Listen in on Military communications

Gents, I stand corrected. I haven't used my R-390A in over a year due to extreme space limitations in my shack. Time to dust it off and warm up the shack again. My head is both bloody and bowed. James Shanks

From frledda@attbi.com Sun Mar 23 19:18:27 2003
Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390A tag with A on it - field mod

Why did the Navy decided that an AGC test point in the front panel was necessary? Regards, Francesco Ledda

From R274C@aol.com Sun Mar 23 19:20:28 2003
Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390A tag with A on it - field mod

theprof@texoma.net writes: > My Dittmore-Freimuth Serial Number 62 has a stamped A on the tag obviously

The "A" indicates that a modification was done at the Depot (or in some cases) the Field Level. Les Locklear

From Robert Nickels" <w9ran@oneradio.net Sun Mar 23 20:38:03 2003
Subject: [R-390] FS: Mil tube testers

I'd like to offer these Signal Corps US Army tube testers to list members before the hamfest season starts up:

1. I-177-B in OD green case, made by the Daven Corp. Excellent condition with manual \$175 plus shipping.
2. TV-7A/U in grey painted aluminum case. Case has some dings but inside it's very clean and includes original manual. \$225 plus shipping.

Photos are available upon request, and I'll be happy to answer any questions, just drop me a private e-mail. Thanks and 73, Bob W9RAN

From k6fsb@juno.com Mon Mar 24 06:35:24 2003
Subject: [R-390] meter repair

hi all- the amount of knowledge this group has is tremendous. best not to reinvent the wheel.....

I think someone had posted a method of getting inside the metres?, I have been able to repair metres when i can get into them. I have two that i'm unable to access.

METRE 1. EAC - steel rear/aluminum front bezel and Looks like an aluminum threaded collar on the rear of metre bezel holding the movement case? is it, isn't it- solutions

METRE 2. Simpson Bakelite case has 8 screws on front of case, looks like a rubber(?) gasket under the glass. the glass will not pop out with pressure on the glass with the loosened movement from the rear. it is like glued down (too many years of compression). Thoughts on this one?

thanks for any info and help Ron

From wa1qhq@yahoo.com Mon Mar 24 10:10:37 2003
Subject: [R-390] meter repair

Hi Ron, I have disassembled both types with success, the unit with the threaded collar is indeed as you described, I use a pair of needle nose pliers as a wrench inserting one nose into each of the collar slots

and then twist on the handle of the pliers to unthread the collar, they are seldom torqued in very hard so it should be easy. On the other meter this is a tough one and has to be approached very carefully. I use the tip of an exacto knife to wedge under the meter glass and work my way around to loosen the glass from the surface it is attached to, there isn't much room to work the blade in and some glass chipping can be expected but will not show up when the bezel is back in place, the secret to making this work is to use a heat gun on the the glass to try to break down the adhesive. All the usual precautions apply use eye protection and don't inhale radioactive dust. No guaranties that you won't make the meter worse than when you started but I assume the meters are already defective so nothing ventured nothing gained.
Mark WA1QHQ

From w5kp@direcway.com Mon Mar 24 12:29:21 2003
Subject: [R-390] meter repair

It can be done if you are lucky and careful. I was able to resurrect a dead line level meter - one of the two little series wirewound resistors inside was open, and I paralleled it with a 1/4W metal film unit that was very near the same resistance, meter now works fine. Probably no longer calibrated with any precision, but I can't tell any difference in normal use, so what the heck. A better idea calibration-wise might have been to select another exactly matching resistor and replace the good wirewound at the same time, but inherent lazyness took over. Jerry W5KP

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Mar 24 14:37:26 2003
Subject: [R-390] Alodining

Does anyone know where I can get some parts alodined? After reading about the process, I don't think I want to do the process myself. 73, Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From R390rcvr@aol.com Mon Mar 24 14:43:11 2003
Subject: [R-390] Alodining

Barry: My local aircraft restoration shop does alodining, and said they would run some parts through for me. Didn't get to prices, but I think that would be a good place to start. If they don't do it, they would know where to get it done locally. Randy Stout

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Mar 24 14:49:50 2003
Subject: [R-390] Alodining

Well, I should have looked in the Yellow Pages first. Local places will do this reasonably. Sorry for the bother. Thanks, Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From roy.morgan@nist.gov Mon Mar 24 19:21:52 2003
Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390A tag with A on it - field mod

you wrote: ... lubed by me in 1996 using Hoppes ... The KC knob can still >be turned with my little finger. I was called a heretic then and probably >will be again:) Richard,

YES! You *are* a heretic.

Now stop causing trouble by invoking the gods of great ukumpucky and the devils of gear train grease! (Shudder ... dare I refer to them obliquely, let alone say their names in print!)

Leave well enough alone.. go back, BACK, I say.. !! ... back to the shack where you may spend many, many hours of penitence spinning that knob with one finger. Tune Djarkarta. Tune London. Tune the weekend ham cw contests. Tune local and DX am radio (but only briefly, lest the programming rot your mind.) Tune numbers stations ... All the while imagining yourself a long-retired shift worker doing "government work" behind locked doors at Vint Hill Farms Station in the late 1950's.

Concentrate on the lone sailor radioman on a destroyer at midnight far at sea north of the arctic circle in late Fall with the outside air well below freezing, setting for the hundredth time a new comm frequency to pull in the fleet commanders' encrypted signals from Norfolk or Puerto Rico.

Think back carefully lo, these many years now, that you overhauled that radio and put a, (gasp!) *gun lubricant* in the gear train! Give the knob a twist once more with a single finger of the other hand, now that the first hand is worn out from spinning in frequency after frequency. Ponder on all the time gone by since the overhaul you did, all the many, many frequencies you've dialed in.. Imagine, if you need to imagine it, that the thing moves even more smoothly than earlier as you ask it to once again nudge up a whisper fraction of a kc to center the signal in the selected bandwidth.

Yes, back to the shack with you. Take THAT for penitence! (And in another year's time let us know how well it's tuning!) Roy

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Mon Mar 24 21:32:45 2003
Subject: [R-390] R-390A tag with A on it - field mod?

wrote: >Good day all: I posted this last week, but no response, so thought I would try it again. Tom Marcotte beleives the tag is original. It has an upper case A after the #. > Randy - All of the responses about depot mods seem to make sense, but I have a hunch this was an early attempt by those who knew to prevent the silly "non-A" issue coming up in the future.

Grunt: "Hey Sarge....don't you think we'd better stamp one more A on this thing just to be safe? You just know that later on someone is gonna come along and wanna start renaming these radios. How about fluorescent orange??" Sarge: "Fluorescent orange?? Nah, just stamp it in. Make it a little bigger, that should be enough. They'll figure it out. No one is *that*.....see, this is why I'm a sergeant and yer a grunt!" It was an early pre-emptive strike... Boomer KA1KAQ

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Mon Mar 24 23:15:51 2003
Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390A tag with A on it - field mod

You forgot to chastise him for not having a "half-moon" guard on his KC CHANGE knob. Joe

From ghayward@uoguelph.ca Tue Mar 25 00:34:29 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

What is the "half moon guard"? I have wondered what the 4 tapped holes around the kc knob are for. Of course, I'm a newbie in the R-390A realm. :-) 73 de Gord, VE3EOS.

BTW: My restoration is going well and my R-390A is performing beautifully. There is hum when I turn on the limiter but I suspect a leaky cap. I haven't fixed up that area yet.

From keng@moscow.com Tue Mar 25 00:45:02 2003
Subject: [R-390] Julien Creek receivers...

I have heard that the Julien (sp?) Creek R-390-A receivers bought and then sold by Fair Radio are all so water-soaked from being stored outside that restoring them is practically impossible. Is this true? Ken Gordon W7EKB

From wa1qhq@yahoo.com Tue Mar 25 01:13:53 2003
Subject: [R-390] Julien Creek receivers...

Ken, I have two R 390A receivers that were from the massacre that were brought back from the dead, they cleaned up nicely but did require total disassembly. Thankfully the widespread use of stainless hardware and coated aluminum offers a great deal of protection from the elements. I also think it depends on whether the receiver you get was toward the top or the bottom of the pile and how well it was treated prior to being decommissioned. Try to inspect the inside of the RF transformers, the hardware on the slug racks will usually be rusted but can either be cleaned up or replaced, usually easy to remove.

From brumac@juno.com Tue Mar 25 09:24:28 2003
Subject: [R-390] Julien Creek receivers...

Ken, Yes, it's true! If you have any then please send them to me immediatly for proper disposal. Shipping prepaid, of course. Thanks, Bruce MacLellan (grin)

From keng@moscow.com Tue Mar 25 07:15:06 2003
Subject: [R-390] Julien Creek receivers...

> Ken, Yes, it's true! If you have any then please send them to me immediatly for proper disposal. Shipping prepaid, of course. >> Thanks, > Bruce MacLellan (grin)

Oh, I would be MOST happy to do that, Bruce! Sure! ;-) Thanks. Ken

From jetemp@insightbb.com Tue Mar 25 08:20:24 2003
Subject: [R-390] Julien Creek receivers...

I have restored two of the in the last couple of years. The problem I find that is the most bothersom is the internal grounding points throughout the modules. There are quite a few of grounding points that are not associated with the tube socket mounts. The dissimilar materials that make most of the grounding points will have a slight corrosion associated with them after sitting so long in the weather. Other than that the parts mostly are in fine shape. I would follow the capacitor replacement guidelines that are outlined at Chuck's site and the restoration should go fine. Hope this helps. Sincerely, Jim

From gwmoore@moorefelines.com Tue Mar 25 13:26:09 2003
Subject: [R-390] Julien Creek receivers...

GM, Bruce and Ken-- Hey, there is more than one collection center for Julien Creek R-390's....You may also send them to me (prepaid of course) and I will give them proper rebuilding oooooooops I mean disposal :-)

you may contact me 24/7/365 at the email addy from which this message originated, or, at the organisation which will be helping to reb-ooops again dispose of them safely and properly, at gwmoore@ussamerica-museumfoundation.com. You will find a very helpful and friendly Preservation Officer there who will take great care with this equipment [Huge Evil Grin]

While you are there at the website: <http://www.ussamerica-museumfoundation.org> , please take a minute to sign the petition to help save the 'ol CV/CVA-66. There is also a print petition which you can download, print, fill with signatures, and contact those who are handling the petitions (the addy is on the print petition page). I don't handle that, I am the Preservation Officer and Webmaster. All orphan R-390s, R-1051s, AN/URC-32's etc (more list to come as I go over what is needed, it's too early in the AM for proper remembering material requirements) will recieve a hero's welcome, proper counseling for the PTSD due to the terrible POW experience at St. Julien's Creek, and then be adopted to a caring home, from whence it may have been removed. (ROTFLMAO). Rest assured that it will be recieving proper material (CW/AM/RATT (RTTY if you weren't a swabbie). None of that half baked material with no carrier and only half the voice :-)) like Bruce said 73 es tnx much, Greg Moore WA3IVX/ NNN0BVN PA and former crew of the ol'66 (RM2 USN, a long time ago [grin])

From craigmc@pacbell.net Tue Mar 25 14:39:24 2003
Subject: [R-390] Anaheim area, surplus/radio stores?

We are off to Anaheim/Disneyland California this coming weekend. Joan is attending a regional meeting for her work and I am going along as a "spouse" - a first for me. While the meetings are going on (Mon/Tue/Wed) I will have nothing to do, so I thought about surplus or radio stores. What is in the area that is worth visiting? Craig

From Richard.McClung@Dielectric.spx.com Tue Mar 25 16:18:08 2003
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Selectable SSB

Does anyone have documentation on the Airborne Electronics SSB modification for the R-390A? And if so, are willing to share it? RICH WA6KNW

From roy.morgan@nist.gov Tue Mar 25 17:27:37 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

wrote: >What is the "half moon guard"? I have wondered what the 4 tapped holes >around the kc knob are for. >Of course, I'm a newbie in the R-390A realm. :-)) Gord,

I am not certain, but I think that aa half moon guard is a mythical accessory. It attaches to the front panel by any good means (one such means being four dabs of ukumpucky) to prevent the noble "Half Moon Syndrome" from occurring. This syndrome was most often found among radios used by spook

operators. They would tune from frequency to frequency, three shifts a day, 7 days a week, for years on end. The paint near the tuning knob would wear through in a half moon shape.

I can't locate a picture of such a radio but one of my radios shows the effect quiet dramatically. I think it is the Collins R-390A S/N 17 from contract 375-P-54. I am NOT about to repaint that panel. To me it's a badge of long continuous service, a mark nobly won and proudly displayed. Roy

From roy.morgan@nist.gov Tue Mar 25 17:33:15 2003
Subject: [R-390] Julien Creek receivers...

wrote: >I have heard that the Julien (sp?) Creek R-390-A receivers ... restoring them is practically impossible. >Is this true?

'Reminds me of a Chinese tale. A fellow had run afoul of the prince and had been sentenced to death. He had a chance to go free if he answered a riddle from the prince correctly. The riddle was: "How many baskets does it take to hold the holy mountain?" His answer saved his life: "One if it is big enough. Two if it 'taint"

Translation: If it is me, no St Julians Creek radio is impossible. If it is somebody else, maybe they are. HAH! Roy

From cbscott@ingr.com Tue Mar 25 17:35:01 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

Roy, Now you've gone and made me feel bad. The front panel I'm currently working on had these so badly that even though I sanded for a long time with #320 wet-or-dry while removing the paint, these "badges" are still ghosted in the aluminum. I beginning to think I've done something terribly wrong... Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From roy.morgan@nist.gov Tue Mar 25 17:52:50 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

you wrote: >Roy, >>Now you've gone and made me feel bad. ... I sanded for a long time ... >these "badges" are still ghosted in the aluminum. Barry(III),

Oh, Darn.

Well, maybe you (and the Great Gods of Ukumpucky) would feel better if you ran the radio a *lot* and tuned it more than the other ones. Why, maybe after a while the half moon would reappear! Roy

From rbethman@comcast.net" <rbethman@comcast.net Tue Mar 25 18:14:48 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

Hey! I've got one of those "rare" half moon panels! It is from a '52 Collins R-390A. Maybe I should encapsulate it in acrylic and post it for auction! Bob - N0DGN

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Tue Mar 25 18:48:04 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

Those are not "half moons" -- they are either crescent moons or better -- eyebrows! Groucho
Say the magic word, win a hundred dollahs. {-{'

From cbscott@ingr.com Tue Mar 25 18:45:02 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

They're quarter moons, but since there are two of them, you have a half moon. Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Tue Mar 25 18:50:16 2003
Subject: [R-390] Julien Creek receivers...

wrote: >I have heard that the Julien (sp?) Creek R-390-A receivers >bought and then sold by Fair Radio
are all so water-soaked from >being stored outside that restoring them is practically >impossible.

Ken - Some time ago the ol' sage Nolan gave his opinion on these radios. I believe it was based not only
in his past experiences with many of these radios, but also with the work involved in restoring them to
top condition. The problem was and is the degree of damage done over time and the amount of work
required to restore and/or repair it. This was then compared to what you could buy a decent working or
restorable example for, one that hadn't been exposed to the elements for years.

To cut to the chase, Nolan figured it was just not worth the hassle to bother. Mainly because to do it
right, you'd pretty much need to tear the radio down to parts (not just modules) and reassemble it,
replacing many components and pieces, if you really hoped to have a reliable radio. Coils, caps,
resistors.....many items would absorb moisture over an extended period of exposure. Combine this with
the many bad electrical and mechanical connections to be expected and you get the idea.

I don't think his intent was ever to claim no one should bother, more that they'd be better off to use a
blue striper as a parts donor for a rig in better shape. It was just a clear case of the potential time and
money invested by the time you got through, what you'd likely have to replace, and would you just be
better off finding a better set to start with.

If you have a lot of time and access to a lot of known-good parts, and if the blue striper (name given to
radios from the 'St Julian's Creek Massacre' derived from the blue stripe painted across all of the radios
on the pallet) was free or really cheap, then go for it. Nolan's original post was with respect to the prices
being charged for them by Fair Radio and perhaps others who were selling them at the time. He figured
with the \$200+/- price, the price of parts you'd likely need to replace (many if it was one of the exposed
top/front/side victims), the difficulty in finding some of the coils and other scarce parts, and the time
you'd have invested you'd be better off to pay more for an example that was never exposed to the
elements like that.

I tend to agree from the time/cost/availability side. We're fortunate to live in a time when decent R-
390As are still plentiful and comparatively inexpensive. 100 years from now a blue striper will probably
be worth its weight in gold. Okay, maybe not *that* much.... Boomer, KA1KAQ

From rbethman@comcast.net" <rbethman@comcast.net Tue Mar 25 19:00:42 2003

Subject: [R-390] Julien Creek receivers

I can only tell you from MY first hand experience. I have one of these "Blue Stripers". It sure ISN'T corroded. It is pretty darn clean.

The Restoration, as it is, is pretty painless! I'm going through and recapping it, found only one bad tube, and have had to replace one "can" due to careless handling by someone over the years. The 455Kc oscillator can had the slug broken, and the threaded portion was sheared off level on the top.

The PTO is great, all modules are clean. If this is extra work, expense, and labor, I'd like to know WHAT kind of cake walk some folks are getting! Bob - N0DGN

From R274C@aol.com Tue Mar 25 19:14:05 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

Ok, that is enough. Pack it up and ship to the Receiver recovery unit at the following address: 1122 36th St. Gulfport, Ms. 39501 Attn: Radio Recovery Commissioner Les

From chacuff@cableone.net Tue Mar 25 19:27:39 2003
Subject: [R-390] Julien Creek receivers

Greetings all! I agree...mine was dirty to say the least....lots of sand etc. But it cleaned up nicely. The only problem was some of the ferrous hardware...like the studs and nuts that hold some of the can covers on have rusted and that will probably take a little work to clean up. The slug rack springs were rusted and I picked up a couple sets from Dave of R-390/URR fame. (look I can do it without saying Non A) Beyond that once the gear train is cleaned up the rest is pretty much the same as for any other R390A. I have not had to replace all the coils or all carbon resistors etc....they all look great and even after being in the weather for quite some time the radio worked when I received it! Not the greatest but, it would receive WWV which was a good starting place! The under side of all the modules and the chassis looked like brand new!

I wish I had 10 of these things...and am very glad they were able to be saved from the scrap yard!!! Wish we could do the same for the R1051's....I'm afraid that day has passed though! Cecil Acuff

From cbscott@ingr.com Tue Mar 25 19:28:52 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

Radio Recovery Commissioner
1122 36th St.
Gulfport, MS 39501

Dear Mr. Commissioner, Come up here and try to get it. Sincerely, Barry Scott

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Tue Mar 25 19:34:58 2003
Subject: [R-390] Julien Creek receivers

wrote: >I can only tell you from MY first hand experience. I have one of these "Blue Stripers". It sure ISN'T corroded. It is pretty darn clean.

Sounds like you got one of the better ones, Bob. As was mentioned, the placing in the pile (along with the amount of time exposed, I don't think they all just appeared one day) has a lot to do with it. I've seen a few of them at hamfests over the last 2-3 years. Some looked like they were 500 years old. Chassis were corroded and pitted, crud in every corner and crevice, broken tubes, crappy looking sockets that had been left empty and exposed, stiff/frozen controls....

Like anything else, having one in front of you before deciding is the best approach. My response was one of attempting to clarify where the original 'not worth the effort'/'impossible to restore' view may have come from. As long as the person is aware up front of what they are getting into, there's really no harm in trying. Worst you can do is fail, best you can do is succeed. Being able to evaluate the radio and your chances up front always helps. Besides, nothing is impossible if you have enough time and money. The P-38 'Glacier Girl' proved that. (-:

It's good that at least some of them escaped Cap'n Crunch the shredder. It's too bad they weren't taken better care of in the process, though. Gems to us, so much scrap to someone else.

From tetrode@worldnet.att.net Tue Mar 25 19:46:25 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

Q. > What is the "half moon guard"?

A. Pants Belt :^)

From rbethman@comcast.net" <rbethman@comcast.net Tue Mar 25 19:52:06 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

March 25, 2003 Radio Recovery Commissioner 1122 36th St. Gulfport, MS 39501 Dear Mr. Commissioner, Come up here and try to get it. Sincerely, Barry Scott

Amen! All shots taken through a scope - and VERY deliberate. N0DGN

From G4GJL@btopenworld.com Wed Mar 26 00:27:12 2003
Subject: [R-390] Julien Creek receivers...

I imported 10 of these, and between 4 of us hams in on the deal over here, we have 8 or so of them on the air now. I personally revived 4 of them.

I agree with the comments on quality of materials being the main reason they are still worth fixing. I did all the prescribed capacitor changes, 2k2 resistor changes and resistor checks but there again I would have done those mods on any rig.

The main problem was the paint stripes, dust / sand and the dried grease and crud on the gear box.

Fortunately on the sets I had there was enough grease and oil around on the upper chassis that it acted as a protective layer to the metal, though of course it was also layered with sand.

Does any one know if there is a lot of black sand or cinder near St Juliens.? Well most of it ended up in my sets!! I removed the dried grease and sand with 2 pints of Kerosene washed over the metal parts per radio, followed with hours with light oil on Qtips. A labour of love really.

The Last set I revived has a better performance than any 390A I have heard- Mine or those heard at Neil Cline G8LIU (UK R390 Guru) shack. . In summary, I think the \$100 plus shipping (\$150 per set) was well worth it for us UK guys, but yer pays yer money and yer takes yer choice as they say! 73 Pete G4GJL

From ba.williams@charter.net Wed Mar 26 01:28:43 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

Roy, Yep, my PH-56 has a nice, shiny half moon too. I feel the same about it. My MC Change knob has a peace sign scratched into the thick paint. I didn't notice that for a long time, but I would never think repainting it either. This radio has the ASA sticker on the back. What a history this radio must have.
Barry

From R274C@aol.com Wed Mar 26 01:33:52 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

writes: Roy, Yep, my PH-56 has a nice, shiny half moon too. I feel the same about it. My MC Change knob has a peace sign scratched into the thick paint. I didn't notice that for a long time, but I would never think repainting it either. This radio has the ASA sticker on the back. What a history this radio must have. Barry

I know a retired sgt. major who was in the asa, Ed Norton, he has a bunch of the R-390 series receivers. He lives somewhere near you Barry.....:-) Les

From Jim Shorney" <jshorney@inebraska.com Wed Mar 26 02:17:04 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

Roy Morgan wrote: >The paint near the tuning >knob would wear through in a half moon shape.

Hmmm. Mine looks more like a crescent moon. Was there a 'Crescent Moon Guard' too? Jim

From jtone@sssnet.com Wed Mar 26 02:23:24 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

Gents, Have just re-uped to the R390X reflector and so don't know what's been happening over the last many months...but...did see this note re the classic "eyebrow" or Half Moon....

And I too have some classic half mooners...but here is a bit of variation on a theme..I have them both ways in my stable of R390X's and have refinished panels too...to the extent visitors can't tell if they are new out of the box . . .which leads to the next item...

For info...I've just completed a course in Metal Lathe (Engine Lathe) at local Vo Ed facility...and plan on purchase soon..but...the very long story boiled down to a nut...is that I've machined a customized dial skirt for the R390A - Motorola - currently sitting on 40 meter AM freq....the skirt

was machined to a diameter that just clears the lettering above the dial...and has a secondary 'skirt' that goes between the larger diameter skirt and the knob...the skirt is painted semi gloss black...with the intermediate diameter skirt gray...The color contrast is great and looks like Art C himself might have approved it ...

This prototype was a perfect project for me to play with and was the project I took on for the class...it's machined from mild steel and is "hefty" to match the mil style of the R390X breed...the grip is fantastic and adds a certain beefiness to an already premier piece of equipment...

Don't have a digital camera...but if I can borrow one sometime...will post some place for those interested... If lathe purchase should develop in the weeks ahead...will add details on "how to" for those interested... Best regards to all and glad to be reading current comments about one of our Favorite Pieces of electronic equipment. 73, Gene W8KXR

From brumac@juno.com Wed Mar 26 05:54:06 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

Gene, This web site, <http://bbs.homeshopmachinist.net> has some very good information on purchasing new and used lathes . I suggest that you scan the archives. The South Bend 9" Model A seems to be very versatile and well made piece of equipment. Great for making R 390- parts. (there, I got the link in) Bruce

From jtone@sssnet.com Wed Mar 26 03:58:58 2003
Subject: [R-390] Julien Creek receivers...

Om Ken, Wow!! Totally not so....I've been away from the list for some time and seems our lore is slipping into obscurity....!! The now famous St J's are a legend and I can offer testimony as to their restroability...

I pick up two from Fair that had their "Blue Strips" in place plus some yellow...and some black...plus a fair share of 'sand' from the out door bivwac ... My only mistake was I didn't pick anothe half dozen...when they were stacked to the ceiling over at Fair...

Today they are in regulars use here at W8KXR...and in one case, as I've just mentioned in another post to the list...visitors want to know where they can oder one...the second was intentionally left with a trace of "blue" just to remind me of the battle scares this beauty has been through....

If you are new to this list you will learn that all info needed for a complete restroation or clean up, depending on how much work (learning) you're willing to absorb...is avialable.

The St. J's are a legend...and if u have one...or more...get started...Mine hold their own with most of the new sushi boxes not bad for multi year old technology... 73, Gene W8KXR

From jtone@sssnet.com Wed Mar 26 04:44:29 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

Bruce, Thanks for info...went directly to site and found msg saying no info avialable...looks like site is down or not out there? Are u able to connect to it? Sure sounds like some info I need to check out.... Are u machining stuff...?

Great experience and what a fantastic tool to fabricate parts...looking forward to lathe purchase...jury still out on what to buy...so very interested in ref u provided... Tnx es 73, Gene

From jtone@sssnet.com Wed Mar 26 05:09:59 2003
Subject: [R-390] Alodining

Gents, For any one interested...and who might be here in the North Central Ohio area...there is an organization that I've never contacted, but they are an aircraft restoration group..."MAPS" or Military Air Preservation Society....I think that is the translation...they might be a source of info on where to do the chemistry...

I could dig up the address if anyone is interested if anyone wants to ask them the quesitons... Gene W8KXR

From brumac@juno.com Wed Mar 26 08:26:57 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

Gene, Do a search for Home Shop Machinist This is actually a magazine dedicated to home machinists, found on the better news stands. Try this:
<http://bbs.homeshopmachinist.net/ubbs/forumdisplay.cgi?action=topics&forum=General&number=1&DaysPrune=45&LastLogin=> I copied and pasted it from the site. 73s and gud luck Bruce

From dps4@juno.com Wed Mar 26 12:26:19 2003
Subject: [R-390] Alodining

Just in case anyone is interested, MAPS has a really nifty museum near the Akron-Canton Airport. The entrance is on Massillon Road, State Route 241. Enjoy Dave W8GWI
- Gene Beckwith <jtone@sssnet.com> writes:

From ba.williams@charter.net Wed Mar 26 17:17:15 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

>> I know a retired sgt. major who was in the asa, Ed Norton, he has a bunch of > the R-390 series receivers. He lives somewhere near you Barry.....:-) >>> Les

He talked too much. We took care of him with a firing squad. Besides, all he had was a bunch of sandbox junk. I sold it all on ebay as "L@@@K @@@RARE@@" junque. Barry

From chg111@hotmail.com Wed Mar 26 18:14:24 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

Barry- He didn't have a buddy- a sort of loudmouth type- named Ralph, did he ?; They could be the wahoos responsible for all the sand in the Blue-Stripers.....-Sandy G. C.H.(Sandy)Geiger III

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Wed Mar 26 19:44:51 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

wrote: >Roy, > >Yep, my PH-56 has a nice, shiny half moon too. I feel the same about it. My >MC Change knob has a peace sign scratched into the thick paint. I didn't >notice that for a long time, but I would never think repainting it either. >This radio has the ASA sticker on the back. What a history this radio must >have. > >>Barry

My Collins R-390 has an ASA sticker on the back still, along with the BFO vernier dial MWO often found on these rigs. Someone even took the trouble to mask off the MWO decals on the front panel when they repainted it. No peace sign on the tuning knob, though. You must have the rare, limited-edition model autographed by Martin Sheen or Alec Baldwin. Boomer, KA1KAQ

From Llgpt@aol.com Wed Mar 26 20:05:47 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

What about his wife?? She will be looking for him.....maybe. Les

From rbethman@comcast.net" <rbethman@comcast.net Wed Mar 26 21:01:19 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

Naw. If done "right" she is NOT an issue. Bob - N0DGN

From terryo@wort-fm.terracom.net Wed Mar 26 23:47:29 2003
Subject: [R-390] powerline noise

My QTH has a horribly high noise level starting from what appears to be a raspy fundamental that wanders between 400 and 450 kHz. It persists to well over 15MHz and has rendered all my shortwave radios essentially useless. It even overwhelms my R-390, R-390A and R-388 on a medical isolation transformer circuit with a Kelvin ground. My antenna ground system is extensive as well.

I tried tracking it down with my Sony 2010 and it seems to follow some of the power lines around the neighborhood. But I can't pinpoint it. I've been assuming for 2 years the source is the aluminum recycler (smelter) 2 blocks away (the largest electrical user on the east side of town). My Sony 2010 detects little or no noise around the factory and tons in a one block radius of my house. I assumed it was the recycler because the noise is often much lower or gone on Sundays.

I let this go for a long time assume I couldn't get the Al recycler to deal with EMI. Now that it appears to be coming from somewhere else I want to nail down and get somebody to fix it. Any ideas? 73 Terry O' WB9GVB

From mark.richards@massmicro.com Thu Mar 27 00:00:09 2003
Subject: [R-390] powerline noise

If you think that this is something that's being generated by your electric utility, they have to investigate it, and within a specified period (which escapes me at the moment). Same thing with the smelter. If they are radiating crap, they have to clean it up. The FCC will get involved if the utility does not comply

(sometimes with a nasty-gram).²⁰ Check in with the ARRL. They have considerable experience in this area and are often called on to act on the Amateur's behalf.

We had an issue with our local power company and they contracted with a former FCC inspector who had all the necessary test gear to locate the source, at least one of which they found. It's in the utilities best interest. In our case, the utility replaced some equipment which was about to fail. Mark Richards K1MGY

From dsmaples@comcast.net Thu Mar 27 00:22:05 2003
Subject: [R-390] powerline noise

Terry: First, I think I'd check to see if my own house was in order. If you can drop power to your entire house, do that with the Sony on batteries and see if the spur goes away. If it does, then restore power and drop breakers one at a time till you find the offending circuit, then go figure out what equipment is causing the problem. Since it's strongest close to your house, chances are good that it's something in the house. I have a TV set that causes these kinds of problems from time to time, as well as some network gear that does also. Be sure you are listening to the fundamental so that you get the most signal from the device. Hope this helps. Dave Maples

From ba.williams@charter.net Thu Mar 27 01:32:52 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

> My Collins R-390 has an ASA sticker on the back still, along with the > BFO vernier dial MWO often found on these rigs. Someone even took the > trouble to mask off the MWO decals on the front panel when they > repainted it. No peace sign on the tuning knob, though. You must have > the rare, limited-edition model autographed by Martin Sheen or Alec > Baldwin. >> Boomer, KA1KAQ

Are you trying to make me put a thermite grenade in the radio with that Martin Sheen comment? That puke probably can't spell 'radio'. His crowd used to post one lonely protester at the main gate of Ft. Benning. I would always yell something appropriate every time I passed one of the oxygen thieves. It is better than FTA scratched on there. I can live with some soldiers peace sign. Barry

From fhaney@inteliport.com Thu Mar 27 01:41:53 2003
Subject: [R-390] (no subject)

I had similar problems about a year ago with strong broadband buzz-saw type RF noise with fundamentals below MW band radiating multiple harmonics up past UHF TV frequencies. I also took my Sony SW receiver outside and heard it on the power lines; called the power company who sent a tech specialist, and noise was coming from my house, and radiating to outside power lines !

A wall wart power supply had somehow partially shorted a diode or something, and was resonating the house wiring and L/C loads, acting like a pulse generator. It would come and go at random intervals, with no apparent reason for the trigger. Removed it and never had it again. This can happen to all kinds of stuff: surge protectors, automatic controllers, etc.

When it happens, take the portable RX around the house and "sniff" every corner. It helps to have the receiver with you next to the breaker panel and switch off each circuit breaker until the noise goes away, isolating the problem sector location. Then zero in on that part of the house. You will really be surprised what you find. 73, Fred

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Thu Mar 27 02:03:07 2003
Subject: [R-390] powerline noise

Hello INTERFERENCE GROUP, For my TWO CENTS WORTH! 400-450 Hertz sounds very unusual. I think a Spectrum Analyzer is in order or a NOISE MEASURING SET. I anxiously await the verdict. Best Regards, Glen Galati, KA7BOJ eldim@att.net Tacoma, WA

p.s. Is anyone out there using ELITE SERVERS as their Web Server. We've been down since late Sat night. and I think their system has been seriously compromised.

From jamesmiller20@worldnet.att.net Thu Mar 27 03:54:09 2003
Subject: [R-390] powerline noise

Could this be Power Line Communications (PLC), where data networks or utility monitoring signals are carried through power lines. I think they operate in frequencies up to 142 kHz, maybe what you're seeing is some harmonic multiple.

From Richard.McClung@Dielectric.spx.com Thu Mar 27 15:37:42 2003
Subject: [R-390] Half moon guard?

Speaking of Marty..... I saw him on the NEWS last nite were he was at an ANTI-AMERICAN rally somewhere in Southern California (Northern Mexico). He had a piece of duct tape across his mouth. Just as it should be a ALL THE TIME.... FTA..... Follow The A I R B O R N E..... RICH @B> }

From roy.morgan@nist.gov Thu Mar 27 15:45:59 2003
Subject: [R-390] powerline noise

you wrote: >My QTH has a horribly high noise level ... >Any ideas?

Terry, Location of power line noise has had lots and lots of discussion over the years. I can only recall a small bit of the advice and experience from others:

- 1) Get and thoroughly read the ARRL publication on the matter. Then read it again.
- 2) Enlist the help of any radio clubs with experience.
- 3) Get and use intelligently a small am radio receiver that has a ferrite loop stick inside it.
- 4) Be persistent, detailed, and thorough in documenting signal levels around your area.
- 5) Correlate noise levels with locations, times of day, rain/dry periods and workday/weekends.
- 6) Go out at night with binoculars to inspect suspicious poles for visible arcing.
- 7) Contact the FCC field office in a polite and cooperative manner to get more advice and assistance if possible.
- 8) (Not recommended): use a sledge hammer on wood poles if you suspect arcing insulators or other hardware.
- 9) In the meantime, contact N3RFI, who is the FCC field engineer in my area and a specialist in noise and related matters. (I think that's his call.. I can check on that.)
- 10) If all that fails,
 - a) use \$2400 to buy an Icom IC-709 Pro II super or whatever it is that is reported to knock the socks off

of every other radio in civilian existence for noise reduction.

b) dis-enroll from this list to save yourself the grief you'll get from all of us tube radio owners. Roy

From chacuff@cableone.net Fri Mar 28 01:59:03 2003

Subject: [R-390] powerline noise

Hi Folks, I agree that it is in the Utility's best interest if for no other reason than customer satisfaction...but I doubt the FCC would have anything to do with matters of Power Line noise and am certain that there are no time constraints the Utility is held to. I can tell you that they will usually be willing to help you solve the problem especially if you can try and pinpoint it to a specific pole. It is usually a piece of wire that is used to tie the 13kv Primary conductor to the insulator. When one end breaks loose there is a small arc over that occurs to the tie wire...it creates fairly broadband noise. Sometimes the pole ground breaks loose at the top and causes noise as well.

The Utility usually has it's hands full dealing with outage related problems and will consider the noise trouble report a fairly low priority in the grand scheme of things. Try to remember that they have all been "DOWN SIZED" to death and are usually understaffed. (been there-doing that)

I know all this because I am a Telecommunications Wireless specialist with the nations largest Public Electric Utility. The easiest way to get in touch with someone that can help is to stop by your local "Service Center", easily spotted by all the bucket trucks going in and out, and ask to speak to one of the division Engineers. Explain what you are experiencing and what you have done to try and locate the source. It may take a few weeks to get someone to come out and meet with you...but when they do show them what you are hearing. You probably won't have much luck calling the number listed in the phone book used to report a power outage.

I assume you are hearing it equally well on the portable. Another very common source are door bell transformers. There is usually one in every house on your street and they have a nasty habit of becoming very noisy before eventually failing. (takes years).

Above all be friendly and patient....usually they will be willing to give you a hand....Threatening to call the FCC or the Public Service Commission will usually just get you ignored! Cecil Acuff WB5VCE
FCC General Commercial Licensed

From mark.richards@massmicro.com Fri Mar 28 02:16:11 2003

Subject: [R-390] powerline noise

>From the ARRL: "If someone has exhausted every reasonable possibility at resolving a power-line interference problem with a utility company, they can contact the FCC Call Center and discuss their problem with one of the FCC personnel. If the FCC staff feel that it would be helpful, they can send out their "RFI -- Power-Utility Letter" that explains the FCC rules, explains the possible penalties for violating those rules and asks the utility operator to resolve the problem voluntarily in a reasonable time period. "

I believe there is a written limit to their patience otherwise there would be no statutory power available to the commission on these issues. I recall in one case that the utility was completely arrogant and refused repeated attempts at resolution. The FCC letter spelled it out and they jumped into action.20

>>The Utility usually has its hands full dealing with outage related >>problems and will consider the noise trouble report a fairly low priority >>in the grand scheme of things.

They might sink back into their easy-chair, but when informed of FCC regulations on these matters, most utilities will heave ho. Whatever the reason, there's no excuse for brushing aside interference complaints. Just because we are a bunch of lowly ratepayers does not mean we can be written off or excused away.

>>Threatening to call the FCC or the Public Service Commission>>will usually just get you ignored!

The ARRL suggests that notifying the FCC should be the last step, should all else fail. There's a great reference available here: <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/rfi-elec.html> Best of luck, -m-

From wa4zlk@acer-access.com Fri Mar 28 05:18:09 2003
Subject: [R-390] powerline noise

wrote: My QTH has a horribly high noise level ... Any ideas?

My particular "horribly high noise level" was mainly below 4 Mhz; sniffed it out using a transistor radio as mentioned in other posts and turning off circuit breakers. Turned out to be a garage door opener. The little remote receiver must have a dirty power supply, and the wiring going to the remote button and safety sensors made a great transmitting antenna. Knocked it down 95% or so with an inductor in series with the remote button wire at the receiver end, and a little cap across the remote button contacts. Don't know the inductor value (random junkbox parts); the cap value was fairly critical - .0022uF comes to mind but would have to check. Good luck. Bruce WA4ZLK

From tangerame@earthlink.net Fri Mar 28 03:54:55 2003
Subject: [R-390] RE: Half moon guard?

As an old Keesler graduate I can safely say that all the "Good Stuff" in Gulfport has been had. Biloxi was never an issue. Tony

From cbscott@ingr.com Fri Mar 28 14:24:14 2003
Date: Fri, 28 Mar 2003 08:24:14 -0600

I don't know if Mark is a member of this list, but I figured someone here might be interested in this. http://www.dealamerica.com/deal/cgi-bin/ads/bcads.cgi?search_and_display_db_button=on&db_id=4207&exact_match=on&photo_size=full&query=retrieval This is not my radio nor do I know anything else about it! 73, Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From hankarn@pacbell.net Sat Mar 29 12:56:19 2003
Subject: [R-390] [Fwd: [Milsurplus] RE: R-390-A Engraved Panels]

Here is your chance to get your 390-A panel "ENGRAVED". The project is to have the panel CNC engraved using a end mill pantagraph program to engrave the furnished "FLAT" panel. If I can get orders or 30 panels in a short period of time, like 2 weeks. I can provide the following service in a batch order: Strip panel, clean, powder coat, silk screen rear of panel, engrave, fill with acrylic white, pack,

and ship in lower 48 for \$155.00. Other areas as per postal/UPS charges.

All panels must be flat with no tags or hardware, if required to run through a time-saver to get flat for engraving process \$15.00 per panel. All panels will be marked as per customers name by stamped number in the contact strip on the back of the panel which is masked in the powder process. Color is as close as original as possible.

For the economy side without recourse as to quality /depth and detail of engraving, your panel painted or stripped bent etc. one pass no refunds \$80.00 no bitching. PERIOD.

This process requires a lot of coordination, time and effort to get the programming correct plus all of the other related effort. I do not need nor do I want to hear comments about the pricing. If you do not like it then get off of your B and try it on your self.

Estimate about 3 weeks for turnaround time.

Payment Payapl/Bidpay or your good personal check. Paypal in my email address and my shop address
Dan Arney
c/o Global PAcK & Mail
21315-R Saticoy St.
Canoga Park, CA 91304-5685

PUT UP OR SHUT UP HiHi Thanks es 73 Hank KN6DI

From dpg@coe.neu.edu Sat Mar 29 14:29:24 2003
Subject: [R-390] R-390(nonA) IF Cans

Hello All, After a long wait, I have recieved my first (may not be the last) R-390. The modules have been handled roughly, and there are quite a few scratches, gouges and dents. Nothing too bad, just looks ugly. Now for my question: Besides the dents, I'm noticing that the tops of the IF cans are all 'pushed in', andf that the can nuts are tightened 'till the sides bulged out. Is this normal, or was it a bad day in the shop for this radio? Is there any harm in banging out the dents? Thanks, David P. Goncalves, N1XZB

From dpg@coe.neu.edu Sat Mar 29 14:37:45 2003
Subject: [R-390] WTB: Small Parts

Hello Again, My R-390(nA) is missing quite a few small parts. If somebody on the list has a spare set of these, or knows where I can find them, please respond. I'll pay any reasonable price.

Oldham coupler springs
Oldham coupler disks
Shaft coupler for Bandwidth and BFO Pitch controls
Green captive screws, short (for power supply)
Case handles
Meters (rare, but I'll give it a shot anyway)
Veeder Root counter cover screws

Also, there is a mounting tab on the rear of the PTO and on the case, but nothing else. What goes into these tabs? A screw set? Perhaps somebody has one available as well? Thanks again, David P. Goncalves

From kmackey@woh.rr.com Sat Mar 29 14:54:42 2003
Subject: [R-390] RE: R-390-A Engraved Panels]

Anyone interested in taking Dan up on this offer but does not have a non-engraved panel can buy one from me. Best offer takes it. Kim Mackey

From tetrode@worldnet.att.net Sat Mar 29 20:30:17 2003
Subject: [R-390] R-390(nonA) IF Cans

Hi David, yes to both of your questions.

It's fairly common to see IF transformers that have been over tightened somewhere along the line, those deep draw cans (a piece of art in themselves) cannot support a lot of force without starting to buckle along the edge.

The tops of the cans in my 390 were buckled pretty good, but they straightened out easily by tapping out the dents with a wooden dowel against the workbench. The shields cans are just that, only shields; the transformer frame itself is secured from the inside of the chassis. If the mounting hole are seem out of alignment after straightening out the cans you can use a small round file to enlarge the hole a little. John

From R274C@aol.com Sat Mar 29 22:33:49 2003
Subject: [R-390] What a beautiful sight, slightly OT

Took the back road back to the house a little while ago, had to pick up some # 47 bulbs for the SP-600. Saw a Chance Vought F4U Corsair making an approach to the Gulfport-Biloxi airport from the south over the Gulf of Mexico.....damn, what a pretty sight it was! Good timing on my part. Les

From ba.williams@charter.net Sun Mar 30 01:42:15 2003
Subject: [R-390] What a beautiful sight, slightly OT

I bet it sounded good too. Barry

From courir26@yahoo.com Sun Mar 30 01:55:29 2003
Subject: [R-390] What a beautiful sight, slightly OT

A rare sight indeed. Did it sound good? We had a guy here in my town who had a Corsair and a TF-51 Mustang. He bought the farm flying an East Bloc jet. I guess the planes were sold. Tom

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Sun Mar 30 05:57:46 2003
Subject: [R-390] What a beautiful sight, slightly OT

WOW! What's the chance of that happening twice! There's a fellow up in Edmonds, Wa who traded a restored helicopter to a town center in Eastern Washington for a CHANCE VOUGHT F7U-3 CUTLASS, BuNo.129554, Built 1953 in Dallas, Tx. I don't know if Tom Cathcart has completed

restoration. He gave me a nice photo dated NOV 93. He working to restore it to airworthiness. I think the odds of seeing a flying UFO is much greater than ever seeing one of these. Then again, I wonder what boatanchors were used for radios in that bird? Best Regards, Glen Galati

From K2CBY@aol.com Sun Mar 30 13:02:43 2003
Subject: [R-390] Re: WTB: Small Parts

If you have no luck elsewhere obtaining Oldham coupler springs, try W. M. Berg, Inc., Long Beach, New York. Their website is www.wmberg.com and there is an on-line catalog. They make and sell Oldham couplers in a variety of sizes along with precision gears and a pile of other hardware. Caveat: This stuff is very high quality and EXPENSIVE when bought off the shelf.

From courir26@yahoo.com Sun Mar 30 14:33:58 2003
Subject: [R-390] 390A with 390 IF on Ebay

<http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=3015875221&category=4673>

I believe this chap is reserving the IF deck, but he shows a 390 IF deck installed in his 390A. He bought it this way from a surplus outfit. Hmmmmmm. See his website also. 73 Tom

From courir26@yahoo.com Sun Mar 30 22:10:20 2003
Subject: [R-390] Not R-725 on ebay

Group, Close, but rig is not a R-725. The R-725 IF connections are on the flange which holds the IF gain and the meter adjust pots. It also lacks the extra transformer in the PS. The IF deck in the photo is a 390 deck. But they are so close, its hard to tell at first glance. Tom

From djmerz@3-cities.com Mon Mar 31 00:19:15 2003
Subject: [R-390] Not R-725 on ebay

Tom, Tom, I didn't email him and ask, but from his website it can be interpreted that he put the 390 IF deck in himself after he got the set - especially since his says the Motorola 390a IF chassis is the original. Did you ask him? By the way, I'm thinking of applying the 390a ER agc mod, that takes the screen suppressor connections out of the picture, to the 390 IF chassis I have in the 390a. There's an additional combination of this mod and the diode connections of the Lankford mod (that I currently have in the set) that I became aware of in communication with Ron Deeter. As far as I can tell the 390a and 390 agc circuits are nearly the same except for the cathode follower and last i.f. suppressor connection in the 390a. So what works for the 390a should work for the 390 agc ??? Dan

From bill@iaxs.net Mon Mar 31 04:32:33 2003
Subject: [R-390] Not R-725 on ebay

What is it with this business of "Here's a picture, but I'm gonna change it before I ship it"? Do people really not have enough time to prepare an item for auction before they go through the trouble of listing it? Bill

From billsmith@ispwest.com Mon Mar 31 05:12:18 2003
Subject: [R-390] Not R-725 on eBay

It's happened to me. In spite of all care, something has been spotted in a pix or description when proofing the submission to e-bay. It's a nightmare to go back through the listing process, even if one prepares text descriptions before-hand. If it can't be quickly edited, it's practical to keep going and fix a pix or other detail later.

It is also possible to change or correct a pix without editing the eBay listing, so it probably isn't necessary to write a disclaimer such as you point out here. But it is understandable to me at least why such disclaimers show up from time to time. Bill billsmith@ispwest.com

From ghayward@uoguelph.ca Mon Mar 31 13:31:14 2003
Subject: [R-390] R-390A with R-390 IF deck on E-Bay

The R-390A on E-Bay had an R390 (non-A) IF deck in it. Are the IF decks interchangeable? 73 de Gord, VE3EOS

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Mar 31 14:10:03 2003
Subject: [R-390] What a beautiful sight, slightly OT

Not sure what an F4U is, but we had an airshow here this weekend featuring the Blue Angels. They did some pre-show stuff for the press and I work very near the airport. I think it was my first time to see them. Watching those guys doing formations over the area was awesome.

I didn't see it before the show, but they had an F14 Tomcat at the show. That thing was pretty cool! Also had some of those twin-engine types that they are using in Iraq now (A-100??). Pretty chilly day, but fun. Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From w7itc@hotmail.com Mon Mar 31 14:31:05 2003
Subject: [R-390] F\$U

Here you go Berry have fun. http://users.skynet.be/CORSAIR-F4U-CFS2/Menu_orientatie/htm/openmenu_algemeen.htm

From w9wis@charter.net Mon Mar 31 14:33:44 2003
Subject: [R-390] What a beautiful sight, slightly OT- 'Nam

You guys that served in 'Nam will like this... One of my former Community Service Officers (student employee) is serving in Iraq with a USAF Special Operations Squadron as a part of a AC-130 Spectre Gunship crew.

I collect military patches and have since I can remember... even inherited my dad's collection from WW2... anyway he sent me several patches that they wear on their flight suits.

Check this one out... Hanoi Jane <http://webpages.charter.net/w9wis/fonda1.jpg>

Who said no one remembers..... don't know about you but it's been a while for me since I thought about her.... "Screw you Jane Fonda !" ... now I feel much better. Mike

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Mar 31 14:38:27 2003
Subject: [R-390] F\$U

Oh, you mean a REAL airplane with a propeller! There were some single-engine stunt planes at the show as well. Amazing critters. Pretty cool seeing one of them mimic a helicopter. Those are some more powerful engines... Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Mon Mar 31 14:57:11 2003
Subject: [R-390] RE: R-390-A Engraved Panels

Kim Mackey wrote: > Anyone interested in taking Dan up on this offer but does not have a > non-engraved panel can buy one from me. Best offer takes it.

Ditto, I have a nice stamped/engraved panel sitting here waiting to replace the screened one on my mongrel R-390A (non-R-390). The silk-screening is actually still in pretty good shape, but it would be a great candidate for this project. I'd prefer to trade for some nifty R-390(*)-type part I could use, but contact me if you're interested and we'll take it from there. Boomer, KA1KAQ

From gwmoore@moorefelines.com Mon Mar 31 15:33:17 2003
Subject: [R-390] What a beautiful sight, slightly OT- 'Nam

OUTSTANDING!!!!!!! If it's ok, I would like to place a copy of the patch on the USS America (CV/CVA-66) Museum Foundation Website. It is always SO nice to see Hanoi Jane get the appreciation she deserves.... [Huge Evil Grin] 73 es tnx de Greg WA3IVX

From chg111@hotmail.com Mon Mar 31 15:39:36 2003
Subject: [R-390] What a beautiful sight, slightly OT

Gents- Wasn't the Corsair around for quite awhile after WW2 ? Seems like I remember it had the distinction of being the 1st piston plane to shoot down a jet over Korea in 1950 or so. I believe they still have a big; "Warbirds"; show in Hickory, North Carolina in May...most of the planes will make your mouth water; bring tears to your eyes. As well as I remember, all the period electronics were installed

From djmerz@3-cities.com Mon Mar 31 16:46:40 2003
Subject: [R-390] R-390A with R-390 IF deck on E-Bay

Gordon, they aren't directly interchangeable without modification. But the 390 IF deck will physically and mechanically fit and can be electrically modified to operate. This mostly involves rewiring the filaments from series (390 non-a) to parallel (390a) and a couple of other changes at the underside of the cable connector plus making up two cable adapters for BNC to mini-BNC. The result is a nice sounding radio, Dan.

From kmackey@woh.rr.com Mon Mar 31 16:48:39 2003
Subject: [R-390] Check out this picture from ARRL

<http://www.remote.arrl.org/news/stories/2003/03/27/1/?nc=1>

From keng@moscow.com Mon Mar 31 17:38:03 2003
Subject: [R-390] What a beautiful sight, slightly OT

> Gents- Wasn't the Corsair around for quite awhile after WW2 ?

They were used heavily in the Korean "Police Action". In one scene in the movie "Bridges of Toko Ri" the commander of an aircraft carrier is using them, positioned on either side of the flight deck with their noses pointing towards the center of the flight deck, to assist in maneuvering the ship into harbor by revving up those on the appropriate side to shove the ship starboard or port. Interesting.

> Seems like I remember it had the distinction of being the 1st piston plane to shoot down a jet over Korea in 1950 or so.

Could be. I know the F-82 "Twin Mustang" also shot one or more down. Nearly ALL F-82s were essentially "used up" in that conflict, BTW. Another beautiful plane shot to hell. Ken Gordon W7EKB

From Miguel Bravo" <mbravoc@wanadoo.es Mon Mar 31 18:14:05 2003
Subject: [R-390] R-1051

How did compare the R-1051 to the R-390A. I can get three units of the 1051 in unknow state and would like to know what can they worth and possibility of parts. Have a manual somewhere but think the list is best than read it all. T(h)anks Miguel

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Mar 31 19:06:43 2003
Subject: [R-390] Check out this picture from ARRL

It says it took them three days to finally hear the signal. Judging from the picture, I can see why. They had the wrong receiver connected. :) Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Mon Mar 31 19:45:50 2003
Subject: [R-390] What a beautiful sight, slightly OT

wrote: >Took the back road back to the house a little while ago, had to pick up some ># 47 bulbs for the SP-600. > >Saw a Chance Vought F4U Corsair making an approach to the Gulfport-Biloxi >airport from the south over the Gulf of Mexico.....damn, what a pretty sight it was! Good timing on my part.

I've heard of special delivery before, but.....that's a great way to get bulbs! Boomer, KA1KAQ

From chacuff@cableone.net Mon Mar 31 20:50:35 2003
Subject: [R-390] What a beautiful sight, slightly OT

Greetings Group, That same day I was returning from New Orleans after taking my wife to a Dental appointment and watched a B-17 and a B-25 or 26...can't remember....whatever the Mitchell was....26 I think....Making an approach to Lake Front Airport. Must have been some Confederate Air Force activity in the coastal area....that's a lot of rare WWII hardware to be spotted in one day! I rolled the windows down but could not hear the 4 radials churning (B-17)...too much road noise....Huge airplane though...probably could haul quite a few 390's..... Cecil Acuff

From R390rcvr@aol.com Mon Mar 31 21:32:34 2003
Subject: [R-390] Mitchell - B-25

Cecil: Mitchell B-25; Martin Marauder B-26 Randy

From Richard.McClung@Dielectric.spx.com Mon Mar 31 22:05:45 2003
Subject: [R-390] What a beautiful sight, slightly OT

B-25 Mitchell
B-26 Marauder
RICH @B> }

From keng@moscow.com Mon Mar 31 22:35:31 2003
Subject: [R-390] More beautiful airplanes...

> Greetings Group, That same day I was returning from New Orleans after taking my wife to a Dental appointment and watched a B-17 and a B-25 or 26...can't remember....whatever the Mitchell was..26 I think

B-25. B-26 was, 1st, the Marauder by Martin, then a completely different airplane by Douglas called, I think, the Invader. The Douglas B-26 was, IIRC, first designated the A-26, then its designation was changed to B-26 when the Martins were phased out.

I don't think there are any Martins left. A few Douglas B-26s are used as fire bombers at the moment.
Ken W7EKB

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Mon Mar 31 22:41:34 2003
Subject: [R-390] What a beautiful sight, slightly OT

wrote: Also had some of those twin-engine types that they are using in Iraq now (A-100??).

>

Ah, yes....the A-10 Thunderbolt a.k.a. 'Warthog'. What a plane. Saw my first one up close in the late 70s/early 80s when it came down the runway about 50 ft off the ground without a sound until it was *there*, then went straight up as the pilot pulled back on the stick. Tail bears a striking resemblance to the twin tail of the B-25 Mitchell. Titanium 'bathtub' cockpit to protect the pilot from ground fire. Hard to believe they wanted to muster these birds out in the mid-90s. Actually it's not, considering the mindset then.

That would sure be my choice of today's rides. Something about the looks, the mission, and those depleted uranium rounds spitting out of the mini gun in the nose....

Hey Barry, didn't you ever watch Black Sheep Squadron? They had a buncha F-4Us. They also had some really good close ups of military BAs as well as a few civilian sets in the radio shots. Most amusing was a shot in the cockpit of someone changing frequencies with a much more modern tuning head. 50s/60s style avionics look. Boomer, KA1KAQ

From r.tetrault@attbi.com Mon Mar 31 22:43:46 2003
Subject: [R-390] More beautiful airplanes...

There is an A-26 at the Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville, OR, along with the Spruce Goose. They also have, among many other aircraft, a P-51. A factoid for the P-51 states that the plane flew just 126 days after they started drawing lines on paper... Sounds like North American knew what they were doing.

From hankarn@pacbell.net Mon Mar 31 22:59:13 2003
Subject: [R-390] Mitchell - B-25

Douglas B-26 in WW II A-26 Invader Hank KN6DI

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Mon Mar 31 23:38:13 2003
Subject: [R-390] Mitchell - B-25

wrote: >Douglas B-26 in WW II A-26 Invader
>

Nice plane, too! I talked with a fellow some years back who flew them in Viet Nam and possibly later (or earlier?) for the CIA? He said they had to be taken from service and retro-fitted at one point because the wings were ripping off in dives. Something along those lines. I've seen updated models with the wingtip tanks and larger props. Looks like a Sky King on steroids!

There is a *beautiful* A-26 for sale out in Rockford, IL right now (or was). Just under \$500K. I saw it before the restoration and could've bought it for \$45K. If only! That was a lot of money to me in 1996. Nice to see some old 'heavy metal' still being used. These birds remained in active service for an extended time much like the R-390(*)s did! Boomer, KA1KAQ

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Mon Mar 31 23:49:45 2003
Subject: [R-390] What a beautiful sight, slightly OT

A few years ago I got to see SEVEN B-17's with fighter escort in formation over Geneseo, NY.
@RARE@ sight!! Joe

From rbethman@comcast.net" <rbethman@comcast.net Mon Mar 31 23:08:40 2003
Subject: [R-390] A-26/B-26 OT-what else!

The Martin B-26 was a four engine bomber with the same type of twin tail as the B-25 Mitchell.

The Douglas B-26, (Yep! Both had the same designation for some reason.) , is a twin engine single

vertical fin job. A follow on to the Douglas A-20 Havoc. Renumbered eventually as the A-26 Invader.

The A-26 was flown extensively in Viet Nam in counterinsurgency operations with 8 .50 cal in the nose and eight hardpoints used for either 500 lb bombs or napalm - OR a mix of bot,

The A-26, for movie buffs, was flown by Richard Dreyfus, in the movie "Always" as a fire bomber.

Trivia - The specific A-26 flown (supposedly) by Richard Dreyfus, is parked on the backside of the Billings, Montana airport long with a camouflaged Viet Nam veteran A-26 with the 8 .50cal, and "inert" 500 lb bombs. Email direct for pics. Bob - N0DGN

From WardSRehkopf@eaton.com Mon Mar 31 21:38:26 2003

Subject: [R-390] Wanted LS 206

Would like to purchase a LS 206 spkr for the R390 series of rcvrs. Ward K8FD