

R-390 Reflector September '03 Edited

From AB3L1@aol.com Mon Sep 1 17:42:40 2003
Subject: [R-390] W3HM Does 390 Knobs

Hello all, I wanted to pass a good thing along. I just got my knob set back from Howard Mills. He used the powder coat on them and they look great. He will do the line painting also. Have fun, Bob

From AB3L1@aol.com Tue Sep 2 01:27:54 2003
Subject: [R-390] W3HM Email and Phone

Sorry about my omission in my earlier note about the 390 knobs. Howard Mills email address is::
W3HM@nfis.com or call 304-876-6483 He can give you all of the info you need. Thanks, Bob

From ghayward@uoguelph.ca Tue Sep 2 13:28:07 2003
Subject: [R-390] Audio Hiss

It could be a lot of things. Try pulling tubes one by one and see when the hiss vanishes. When you pull the detector, all thats left is the audio, and if the hiss remains, you know where its coming from. Cheers de Gord, VE3EOS

From ceripel@yahoo.it Tue Sep 2 16:26:46 2003
Subject: [R-390] INFO Cristal Y201 and Y203

I must find the 2 Y201 Crystals and Y202 I want To know two quartzes Y201 from 17 mhz and Y203 from 200 Khz Which Characteristics must Have:

- 1) Resonance Parallel or Series
- 2) Which Type of container HC? and other Useful information, Thanks Frank

From roy.morgan@nist.gov Tue Sep 2 17:52:24 2003
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Audio hiss

wrote: .. I have a very >objectionable hiss from the spkr constantly.

Joe, Adjust the IF gain setting..

It is very common for folks who don't understand to set the IF GAIN adjustment too high. They think it "makes the receiver hotter." It is a mistake. (It is also a mistake to put higher gain tubes in place of the normal ones..Check that you have the correct tubes installed, especially the 6DC6 in the first RF amplifier.)

Here is the IF Gain set procedure:

IF GAIN SETTING

Here is Chuck's procedure: From: <http://www.R390A.com/html/gain.html> Text in brackets [...] is mine (Roy, K1LKY)

Procedure to set R390A IF Gain:

Once the receiver has been fully mechanically and electrically aligned, the final procedure to perform before "buttoning it up" is to set the IF gain control. [This means that you should have done the mechanical alignment - set the cams properly and so on.] Many otherwise very sensitive R390A's are thought not to be due to weak signals being covered by noise generated by excess IF deck gain.

Allow the receiver to warm up for at least 1 hour then:

- 1- Terminate the antenna input [This means unhook any antenna and put a 50 ohm resistor, or a 125 ohm resistor, on the balanced antenna input, no signals from any antenna or signal generator.]
- 2- Set receiver for 15.2 mHz
- 3- Set the "FUNCTION" control to MGC
- 4- Select the 4kc filter with the "BANDWIDTH"
- 5- Set "RF GAIN" control to 10 or maximum [If your receiver goes whacko at this point, reduce the IF gain setting as in step 9 till it behaves right.]
- 6- Peak the "ANTENNA TRIM" for maximum noise as indicated on the "LINE LEVEL" meter [If you do not get a noticeable peak, your receiver's front end and rf amplifier stages are not working right.]
- 7- Set "Line Meter" switch to -10db scale [minus 10 db]
- 8- Set "Line Gain" control to full CW or "10." [Local Audio gain 0 or low if you are listening to it.]
- 9- Adjust IF gain control, R-519 to cause "Line Level" meter to indicate between -4 to -7 VU.
- 10- Re-zero the carrier meter control, R-523 [This can be a touchy adjustment.]
- 11- Set controls above for normal operation and reconnect antenna.

Roy

From James A. (Andy) Moorer" <jamminpower@earthlink.net> Tue Sep 2 22:13:18 2003

Subject: [R-390] INFO Cristal Y201 and Y203

- (1) Y201, 17 MHz - this will be a SERIES mode crystal
- (2) Y203, 200 kHz - this should be a PARALLEL mode crystal with parallel capacitance of about 30 pF. That will put the proper frequency right in the middle of the tuning range of the adjustment capacitor.

I think the package should be the HC-6/U package, but I haven't actually looked to make sure. Anybody else know for sure? The resistance at resonance will not be critical. Just ask for "as low as is reasonable". For the 17 mHz, it will be around 400 ohms. For the 200 kHz, it will be much higher. These can be ordered from JAN crystals. Their inside sales person is Sue Brick sueb@jancrystals.com I like them because they will make crystals one at a time.

You can order them from the web site at www.jancrystals.com. Any questions you don't understand on their form, just don't bother to fill them in. They will contact you if there is a problem. Enjoy! James A. (Andy) Moorer www.jamminpower.com

From dsmmaples@comcast.net Wed Sep 3 02:13:42 2003

Subject: [R-390] R-390A Audio hiss

All: For those who are also LMR types, I wonder if using a SINAD meter and a signal generator that does AM would allow us to do this just as well? Seems to me (but I could be wrong) that checking SINAD at reference sensitivity would allow the IF gain to be set quite accurately. What does anyone else think? Dave Maples

From jlkolb@cts.com Wed Sep 3 06:54:37 2003
Subject: [R-390] R-390A Audio hiss

wrote: > All: For those who are also LMR types, I wonder if using a SINAD meter and a > signal generator that does AM would allow us to do this just as well?

OK, what's an LMR type? John

From g4gjl@btopenworld.com Wed Sep 3 23:06:51 2003
Subject: [R-390] Attn Hank (Dan) Arney

Dan are you out there? Shoot me your phone number if you are around, Ill call you! Pete G4GJL

From davidmed82@yahoo.com Thu Sep 4 01:20:58 2003
Subject: [r-390] Critical Issue

I am presently working on an R-391, a very old one. The audio deck was original without mods. The following is an excerpt of a message I just sent the owner. Anyone who owns an R-390 or R-391 should check this out. This damage can be horrific.

"The radio is disassembled completely. I have finished overhauling the audio/VR deck which is the most time consuming part. This one is very old and did not have any of the later mods. I have brought it up to date and replaced all critical parts. One of the bad things with these early assemblies is the 8uf cap in the audio section. This thing leaks acid over time and I have seen cases where complete replacement of the circuit board was needed and extensive cleanup of the chassis as well. If you have any other R-390/391 radios you should check this out. The mod is simple and eliminates this cap. In this one the cap had not started to leak so no damage was done."

Please note this applies to R-390/391 radios although I believe there may be a similar problem with early R-390A radios. Dave P.S. If anyone has this problem and needs help please let me know.

From theprof@texoma.net Thu Sep 4 02:35:29 2003
Subject: [R-390] INFO Cristal Y201 and Y203

I purchased the crystal oven with both crystals from American Trans-Coil <http://www.atc-us.com/> for US\$13.00. This may be a cost effective source even if you do not need the oven. 73 de Richard, W5SRB

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Thu Sep 4 02:43:26 2003
Subject: [r-390] Critical Issue

Hi Dave & Gang: I didn't realize that the non-A and '391 also have this cap, or do they? Is it the same type of small axial metal tantalum that's on the component board in the R-390A audio module? I finally

found one out of about 12 that didn't toss it's cookies. But usually the damage is limited to a 3/4 inch round splotch on the board and the two components alongside it. The 8uf tantalum (C609) is fairly small and doesn't have enough acid to do much more than burn a small crater in the board.

A good photo is on Chuck Rippel's site <http://www.r390a.com/ProbCaps.html> Scroll about halfway down to see C609. Some vary in style a bit, but they're all about the same size. They usually don't look as neat as the one in Chuck's photo. Barry

From w5or@comcast.net Thu Sep 4 03:33:29 2003
Subject: [r-390] Critical Issue

C609. You mean this one? <http://www.militaryradio.com/Images/caprotpcb3.JPG>

If anyone needs a replacement I have a lifetime supply of 10uf/50V electrolytics. They are radial mount but by judicious bending of the leads they fit nicely. Drop me a note if you want a couple. (free to listmembers) Don

From Barry Hauser" <barry@hausernet.com Thu Sep 4 03:43:54 2003
Subject: [r-390] Critical Issue

Yeah -- that's the other style - sort of a bullet. As with most, wasn't "house-trained". Barry

From davidmed82@yahoo.com Thu Sep 4 22:07:23 2003
Subject: [r-390] Critical Issue

Barry, I was discussing the cap in the R-390/391. This is/was a tantalum disaster that contained a surprising amount of acid. This together with the considerable heat in the R390 can cause a surprising amount of damage. The cap in the R-390A is a more modern variety I think. Collins modified the circuitry of the R-390 quite early on to eliminate this cap altogether. Dave

From cbscott@ingr.com Fri Sep 5 17:49:31 2003
Subject: [R-390] Knob painting question

I am in the (slow) process of refurbishing a couple of sets of knobs. I have cleaned the old paint off and smoothed the surfaces with #320 and #400 wet-or-dry paper and figured they were pretty much ready for powder coating.

In the process of restoring some brass and other parts for my "new" Zenith T.O., I was using a cotton buffing wheel with jeweler's rouge as the polishing paste. I wondered what this would do to the aluminum knobs so I gave it a shot. Wow! The surface really polishes up nicely. I thought about giving them a coat of lacquer and letting them stay bright, but it gives them a "dime-store stereo knob" kind of look so I nixed that.

My question is will buffing them prior to powder-coating be a bad thing? In other words, will the coating be less likely to stick to the shinier surface? If it will stick, then I think the polished surfaces will result in a much nicer looking knob. Anyone tried this? 73, Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From AB3L1@aol.com Fri Sep 5 22:55:16 2003
Subject: [R-390] Knob Painting

Hi Barry and all,

I just had Howard Mills do some knobs for me with the powder coat process. The first set I had were from my 390. Before I talked to him about doing them I assumed I would be able to dip them in paint stripper to get the paint off. The paint came off OK but the yellow primer underneath wouldn't budge. I spent a lot of time with steel wool getting down to the metal. Got them cleaned up real nice (I thought) but Howard set me straight on the coating process. If there is anything in the pores of the metal when doing it, there is a good chance that whatever is in there will expand under the baking step and cause the powder to lift and break the bond.

I figured that stripping might be good for cabinets also but the same thing can happen if there is any stripper in those hard to get corners or folds. The suggestion from him was to bake the knobs in the oven for a while to burn the residue out. Sure enough after they cooled there was some light powder on the knobs. Back to the steel wool.

Set two from the 390A had no primer and the paint came off nicely with a glass bead blast. I had first taken a dental type tool to first scrape out the line channels. I did that as an extra precaution so wouldn't have to spend too much time hitting that area with the blaster. Maybe a bit of overkill on my part cuz the line paint fills in the channel anyway.

I think the glass blast is the best route to take. It provides a nice surface to grip and it doesn't make the finish rough looking at all. Opinions vary. Have fun, Bob AB3L

From AB3L1@aol.com Fri Sep 5 23:04:49 2003
Subject: [R-390] Painting Knobs Apology

An apology in order. After I sent the last note I realized it came out of my AOL 9.0 and not the OAL Anywhere from the Internet Explorer where the plain text mail is sent. Let me know if I need to resend. Sorry, Bob

From hankarn@pacbell.net Fri Sep 5 22:15:09 2003
Subject: [R-390] Knob painting question

Scott, they have to be very clean to get a good powdercoat. Make sure they plug the set screw holes.
Hank KN6DI

From ba.williams@charter.net Sat Sep 6 01:48:35 2003
Subject: [R-390] Knob painting question

Hey Barry (III)

My guess is that a roughed surface would hold the primer and paint better. I used to sand-tex metal for painting, such as motorcycle frames/gas tanks, cars, wrought iron, etc. Same principle. Sand-texing is what you see on the nonglare parts of rifle receiver sections.

the other other Barry, or the non-(III)

From gwmoore@moorefelines.com Sat Sep 6 03:30:58 2003
Subject: [R-390] Knob painting question

GE, All

Many years ago, back in the mid-70's, I happened to have the fortune to do some engineering for a subcontractor to Boeing. Now, I believe all on this list are familiar with the standard Green Zinc Chromate primer which is used on most interior metal surfaces of aircraft. Well, Boeing went a step further, and prescribed a 2-part Epoxy version of the same dull green (actually, it turned out semi gloss, but they didn't care). Once you had baked that paint for an hour at 80C (176F) but a few degrees won't matter if the components can handle it (we were producing instruments and control surface position transducers, with the electronics already sealed within, so when a finish was specified, you had to be real sure that the cure temp wasn't a destruct temp--hi--. That being said, once that was baked on for an hour, well, it JUST WOULDN'T COME OFF!!!. Even Epcostrip, which from personal experience can remove skin from your legs easily (neutralize with a drench shower and vinegar, followed by a 100+ MPH trip to the hospital in a police car (hey, the police officer had a grin ear to ear, who was I to keep him from enjoying himself), and I had some weird looking legs for a while --hi--... (some idjit had left a pan in a walk in paint booth, and I had gone down to the paint shop after hours to do some "government work", on (what else, the front panel of an R390A, as well as changing the color of a M28ASR teletype from WU livery to Navy livery.) the light switch was inside the booth, and I didn't see the pan....lesson well learned....

To put it mildly, even Epcostrip won't budge that Boeing Green Epoxy Primer (I don't remember the mfg P/N, nor the Randolph P/N but unless environmental controls have changed all that significantly, it still should be available. I would recommend a light bottom coat of that, baked on, and then use Dulac Semi-Gloss lacquer (27038 per Fed-Std 595) OPNOTE: This is kind of simple, 17038 = gloss black 27038=semi-gloss black 37038 =flat black. or Wornow Cat-L-Ink screen printing epoxy ink, which many companies will produce to the Fed-Std color of your desire... if you want to start with gloss black, they also make a "flattening agent" which is a white silica powder which you mix thoroughly with the thinned mix. The only couple of things which are important with Epoxy paints are first, mix them in a METAL container (I have caught too many idiots trying to mix the base and hardener in wax cups, ordinary paper cups, and all sorts of other porous materials). Second, follow the manufacturers directions exactly (some call for mix by weight, and some by volume). Third, allow to react for at least 1/2 hour before using reducer or thinner. Fourth, insure that the reducer or thinner you are using is compatible with the environmental conditions in which you will apply the finish. Fifth, cure exactly according to the mfg's instructions, or to a time determined by previous experimentation. Lastly, don't try and stretch the work time. These finishes all have a definite pot life. This does not mean that they turn into gel either, they may look just fine, but won't apply or cure worth a counterfeit 3 dollar bill.

This is not to be considered definitive, I just happened to work designing and specifying finishing and marking materials for a variety of aircraft instrument dials, scales, pointers, etc, as well as the cases in which they were housed, as well as a lot of equipment destined for the Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Army, as well as NASA and a lot of Commercial Aviation, so I developed a pretty good handle on this stuff. This was additional assignments besides designing and building the "innards" for the prototype stuff, so I wound up with a fairly balanced education about finishes, as well as electronics, and complex analog displays.

More info: Randolph Products, Inc. <http://www.randolphproducts.com/index.htm>

You can get copies of Federal Standard 595 (the standard color chips for all milspec products) by FAXING (Phonecalls don't work) to: DODSSP (Dept. of Defense Single Stock Point) in Philadelphia, PA. The number is (215) 697-1462. Just fax a sheet of paper with your name and mailing address on it, and state that you want a copy of Federal Standard 595.

Wornow Cat-L-Ink, fine mesh screens, etc: Podgor Joseph E Co Inc 609-663-7878 7550 Central Hwy Pennsauken NJ 08109

OK, I will now end this long, obtuse screed concerning paints and finishes, I'm sure that every member of this list has their own pet suppliers, and coating methods, but it really helped my mind to come up with these from when I was actively involved in specification writing and one-off prototyping. 73 es tnx de Greg WA3IVX /NNN0BVN

From dwade@pacbell.net Sat Sep 6 21:38:33 2003
Subject: [R-390] Stripped Knob Screw

Good afternoon, Decided to drop the front panel on my A unit to get better access to the SSB unit behind the panel. Turns out the head on the megacycle knob has been pretty well stripped. The other knobs show signs of abuse in that the heads are not in very good shape. What's the best way to proceed without doing damage? Suggestions welcomed... Dennis

From wli@u.washington.edu Sun Sep 7 18:42:00 2003
Subject: [R-390] Re: Stripped knob screw

Sounds like your options are to recut stripped threads, press in another insert, or get another knob. To avoid similar events on less abused knobs, is to wrap a small piece of sandpaper around the shaft, rough side in, and slide the knob over it. Now the threaded insert can "grip" the shaft more firmly. W. Li Mercer Island, WA

From cbscott@ngr.com Mon Sep 8 21:33:49 2003
Subject: [R-390] Lacquer Stick/Pen

Can someone tell me a good source for the lacquer sticks (pens?) used for filling in the engravings and knob stripes? Thanks, Barry - N4BUQ

From roy.morgan@nist.gov Mon Sep 8 21:38:28 2003
Subject: [R-390] Lacquer Stick/Pen

wrote: >Can someone tell me a good source for the lacquer sticks (pens?) used for >filling in the engravings and knob stripes?

AES www.tubesandmore.com Roy

From cbscott@ngr.com Mon Sep 8 21:39:45 2003
Subject: [R-390] Lacquer Stick/Pen

The first place I looked and I didn't see them. Did I just miss them?? Thanks, Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From cbscott@ngr.com Mon Sep 8 21:42:05 2003
Subject: [R-390] Lacquer Stick/Pen

Let me retract my reply. I *did* find a lacquer pen, but I wasn't sure it was the kind I've heard discussed. I was thinking the pens were more of a fine-tipped instrument and these appeared to be a rather large, crayon-like, tip. Is this what is commonly used? Thanks again, Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From roy.morgan@nist.gov Mon Sep 8 21:45:37 2003
Subject: [R-390] Lacquer Stick/Pen

wrote:

>Let me retract my reply. I *did* find a lacquer pen,

That's them.. You rub the waxy stuff into the line groove on the knob or panel, remove any over-rub with a cloth, let it dry and presto ... all done. Roy

From cbscott@ngr.com Mon Sep 8 22:03:46 2003
Subject: [R-390] Lacquer Stick/Pen

Okay, thanks. Someone said they thought they sold the pens at HobbyLobby, but no one there seemed to know what I was asking for. They did have some nice, sharp-pointed, paint pens, but I wasn't sure what kind of "paint" was in them. Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Mon Sep 8 22:13:17 2003
Subject: [R-390] Lacquer Stick/Pen

I found them at a hardware store that carries such items as "upside-down paint" for marking construction sites, flagging tape for surveyors, and those little twirly things that tie the wires that hold re-bar together.

Ya' just can't pour cement without one of those!! Joe

From barry@hausernet.com Mon Sep 8 22:22:45 2003
Subject: [R-390] Lacquer Stick/Pen

It's the crayon-like thing. It's a gooey lacquer inside a wax covering. You cut the end to start using it.

You can find them at specialty paint stores and possibly also at an art supply place like "Pearl" -- don't know how widespread a chain that is.

You might also consider acrylic paint or even wite-out. The laquer stick takes a long time to dry and doesn't seem to completely harden. The acrylic has the advantage of cleanup with water. You may have to use some solvent to clean up the residue of the laquer stick, in which case you have to be careful of the panel or knob paint. Barry

From ba.williams@charter.net Tue Sep 9 00:55:53 2003
Subject: [R-390] Lacquer Stick/Pen

>Okay, thanks. Someone said they thought they sold the pens at HobbyLobby, >but no one there seemed to know what I was asking for. They did have some >nice, sharp-pointed, paint pens, but I wasn't sure what kind of "paint" was >in them. >>Barry(III) - N4BUQ >

Normally, laquer.

From terryo@wort-fm.terracom.net Tue Sep 9 01:20:33 2003
Subject: [R-390] Re: Lacquer Stick/Pen

I found them in the veterinary section of the local farm supply store "Farm and Fleet." They were sold as cattle markers and look identical to some I got from Antique Electronic Supply a few years ago. I only bought black and white but they had a wider range of colors than AES. 73 Terry O' WB9GVB

From pwokoun@hotmail.com Tue Sep 9 08:13:08 2003
Subject: [R-390] Lacquer Stick/Pen

I have had good results with the Liquid Paper 'all purpose' Correction Pen available almost everywhere. Don't laugh if you haven't tried them. It's some kind of lacquer base (quick drying). Try a little on the back side of knobs to make sure it doesn't attack plastic knobs before drying. I haven't had any problem with phenolic type knobs. You have to wipe any excess off quickly but what's left is hard and white. It flows nicely as you squeeze the tube for the amount you need. Practice with a couple old knobs and you might be pleasantly surprised.

My experience with the lacquer sticks is they take a long time to harden up good; probably better if you work slowly. pete, KH6GRT

From jbrannig@optonline.net Tue Sep 9 12:35:19 2003
Subject: [R-390] Lacquer Stick/Pen

I use whatever white household acrylic paint is on the shelf. Paint on and wipe clean with a damp paper towel. No problems and it looks good. Jim

From roy.morgan@nist.gov Tue Sep 9 15:30:55 2003
Subject: [R-390] Re: Lacquer Stick/Pen

wrote: >I found them in the veterinary section of the local farm supply store >"Farm and Fleet." They were sold as cattle markers and look identical to >some I got from Antique Electronic Supply a few years ago.

Just how do you mark a cow or steer with a lacquer stick? And why? Enquiring minds want to know.
(And I bet they cost less at the farm store!) Roy

From cbscott@ngr.com Tue Sep 9 16:56:06 2003

Subject: [R-390] Re: Lacquer Stick/Pen

> Just how do you mark a cow or steer with a lacquer stick?

Would it depend on whether the cows are stamped or engraved?

> And why? > Enquiring minds want to know. > (And I bet they cost less at the farm store!)

I didn't know they sold minds at the farm store... Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From jbrannig@optonline.net Tue Sep 9 17:03:31 2003

Subject: [R-390] Re: Lacquer Stick/Pen

I've seen farmers paint their cows with large orange letters "COW" in a effort to discourage deer hunters from shooting them. Perhaps it is also written in small letters for the nearsighted hunters.....

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Tue Sep 9 22:31:55 2003

Subject: [R-390] Back!

Greetings to the list -

The trip to the Pacific NW was great, had a lot of fun, met two list members, got to see some nice radio and test gear, and found a few goodies to haul home. Ate well, slept late, and played a lot. Does vacation get any better than that??

Spent most of the first Saturday with Randy Zelick, visiting surplus stores and viewing his collection of 'stuff'. Went to three places, 2 of which were excellent sources of old pieces and gear, the other was....well...interesting? Ended up with a Rider's volume X, some pilot light lenses (green, 2/25¢), rubber feet(4/50¢), Jones/Cinch plugs(can't remember, but cheap) and nice old Peerless cathedral-shaped wooden accessory speaker(only \$10!). Randy is a great fellow with a lot of nifty gear, some of which he is currently disposing of. Got to see his really clean EAC R-390A, looks like it just left the factory. Also got my mitts on the mysterious EK-07. Not my cup of tea (looks more like a piece of medical or lab equipment than radio gear to me), but it certainly fits the category of 'boatanchor' - you could put a pair of R-390s inside, and it certainly meets the weight requirement. Muckled onto it with both hands and had all I could do to lift it aside so I could get behind it. It's nearly the size of a dishwasher! Puts the R-390 series to shame in the 'easy-to-read meters' department, though. This thing has 'METERS'!

Spent last Saturday afternoon at Bob Tetrault's place. Bob also has a nice R-390A (can't recall the manufacturer's tag name) which I thought looked new or, at the very least, a low-hours rig. Bob pointed out to me that it was one of Fair Radio's examples from 'the pile' and sure enough, if you looked across the top edge of the panel it indeed had a slight bend to it just like he said. However, the paint, lettering, and knobs looked excellent, as did the internal workings. It's amazing how good this receiver looks, despite what it had been through over the years. Smooth dial spinnage, too. Looks so nice that I didn't even notice the ballast tube 'witch' mod at first. Nice IERC shields on the tubes. Also saw some very nice and extremely high-quality test equipment, some of which Bob used in the past for designing aircraft lighting, others he picked up surplus or at flea markets because the stuff is just so nice. Great - now I have something *else* to look for - more and better test gear. We then retired to the backyard for some hard cider and conversation. The really humorous part of visiting Bob was that he was right in my town just a few weeks ago for a family gathering, but wasn't able to wiggle free and come over for some

radiotime. From left coast to right coast, back to left coast ending back on right coast. Just goes to show what us radio-types will go through for an eyeball.

Was also lucky enough to visit a couple of aviation museums while there, Pearson in Vancouver Washington and Evergreen Aviation in McMinnville, Oregon. Pearson is restored to an early 1900s (1920s?) airfield appearance with a restoration hangar attached. Both were well stocked with excellent examples of aircraft, Evergreen having the Hughes H-4 (often referred to as the "Spruce Goose"). They were even having a 'members only' grand opening of the restored cargo deck on the evening of the 4th while I was still there. My friend/tour guide/chauffeur/minder was not only tolerant of meeting some R-390 radioheads and talking radio, she also likes warbirds and aircraft in general, so she bought a corporate membership through her consulting business and added me to the list so we could both return for the event. These 'independent women' aren't so bad! Anyhow, if you're out around the Portland Oregon/Vancouver Washington area, be sure to visit these museums if you like aircraft. The H-4 is just amazing, I'll eventually get the pictures posted online.

So, while there may not be a lot of R-390 or even 'radio-specific' places out there, you can certainly enjoy some interesting places, find a few goodies, and meet some good people from the list. That's one thing about R-390s and real radios in general: it's a universal affliction knowing no geographic bounds.
de Todd/'Boomer' KA1KAQ

From flood@Krohne.com Wed Sep 10 16:14:42 2003
Subject: [R-390] NH Hosstraders Oct 3-4

Greetings fellow radio fans with back pain!

It's almost time again to get rained (or snowed) on again at Hosstraders in Hopkinton, NH. Just wondering who will attend. Boomer made mention early summer about a meeting of the listmember there this fall. Perhaps we could have some sort of memorial service to all of the mechanical filters that have "gone to a better place". Or maybe sacrifice a pto in some sort of pagan ritual filled with fire and of course distilled and fermented beverages. On a serious note Just to get a chance to put a face to the names is good to do. Also who will be bringing heavy metal or parts looking for a new home? Perhaps a "preview" listed here for list members before the unclean hoard gets to take them away would be in order? As well, listing something here that you may not normally want to take up with you, on the fear if not sold or traded, having to bring it back past the incoming inspection of "Homeland Security", a.k.a. XYL, could bring out a confirmed deal ahead of the meet. Just a few thoughts from a fellow pacrat. John Flood (KB1FQG)

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Wed Sep 10 19:01:35 2003
Subject: [R-390] NH Hosstraders Oct 3-4

wrote: >Greetings fellow radio fans with back pain! >>It's almost time again to get rained (or snowed) on again at Hosstraders in

>

The AM crowd has us beat hands down for rituals. Last one I (clearly) recall was a B&W SSB add-on accessory being taken to the top of the bleachers at Deerfield and hurled off to its doom - several times. Many a Yaecomwood and such have met a similar fate as a sacrifice to Zap, the Radio God. I think a more respectful view is now held of all vintage (read 'tube') gear, but riceboxes are still fair game. SS gear in general, really. I figure with the 'recyclability' of the R-390 family of radios, we should save all the PTOs, filters (good or bad) and everything else for later use, experimentation, or investigation. Maybe we could find one of those RatShack DX-301 boxes or something similar? They're mostly

plastic, so it should make a nice pyrotechnics display. How about one of those JRC N(e)RD gadgets? Plenty-o-plastic there!*ducking*

> On a serious note Just to get a chance to put a face to the >names is good to do. Also who will be bringing heavy metal or parts >looking for a new home? Perhaps a "preview" listed here for list members >before the unclean hoard gets to take them away would be in order?

>

Just a note to the wise: be sure if you haul anything big for someone to pick up from you there that they will indeed follow through. I had the misfortune of taking a Heath HX-10 Marauder to a previous 'fest' for a listmember (not this list) who insisted he wanted it. Held it all weekend for him after he told me he'd pay me then, but would rather wait until the end of the 'fest' after he'd sold more stuff. I agreed (the ol' "Trust your fellow ham/listmember" routine) and ended up getting stuck with taking it back home. Wouldn't have been so annoyed if not for the 3 offers I turned down on it - one for more than I'd "sold" it to him for! I stopped selling as a result, just left a bad taste in my mouth.

Other side of the coin is the R-390 I told a listmember I'd sell to him but had already promised to George Rancourt (hadn't heard back so I assumed he didn't want it). George was there, still wanted the rig, so I sold it to him as promised. They were both present when the deal was concluded, so no harm or malice involved. Luckily Fair had some R-390s in stock, so John (#1?) was able to pick one up while visiting them. I'm a whole lot more careful about it now (it's true what they say - never ASSUME anything!), and John still has first dibs on the next whateveritmightbe I part with that he's looking for.

>As >well, listing something here that you may not normally want to take up with >you, on the fear if not sold or traded, having to bring it back past the >incoming inspection of "Homeland Security", a.k.a. XYL, could bring out a >confirmed deal ahead of the meet. Just a few thoughts from a fellow >pacrat.

And mighty fine thoughts they are. You'll make a First Class Packrat someday. Even if you already are, you can use the 'in training' bit as an excuse to accumulate more 'stuff'. There used to be a guy who came *every* year with a pile of R-390s and -As, usually missing meters and stacked in nice rows. Wasn't so long ago, either - mid 90s? Even if you (we) have stuff to peddle other than R-390 stuff, it's always nice to give friends first crack at it. Then you know it found a good home and you can feel better about giving someone a better price without the concern that they just want to turn it around the next week on ebay for twice what they paid you. Trading is always fun, too. Everyone comes out with what they want and little or no cash exchanges hands.

I'm not sure if I'll be there Friday night or Saturday morning. A friend drives over with his motorhome and wife (she watches the table, he prowls for more 'stuff' - now *that* is true love) and has offered to let me crash there on Friday night. If the offer still holds, I'm there! My tent-pitching days aren't over, but they're certainly limited in number and reserved for special occasions. Perhaps as the day draws closer, we can get an idea of how many will be there and plan on a time and place to gather. Larry, NE1X was there last year as well as Alex, AI2Q(?). I think Bob Camp traveled down Friday but returned home due to the weather. Mr. Mike W1RC is always there, he was with me when I ran into Alex in front of your nice R-390A. BTW, did you ever manage to move that fine receiver? Looking forward to it, as always.... ~ Boomer, KA1KAQ

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Thu Sep 11 01:20:20 2003
Subject: [R-390] Pacific NW

Todd, Thanks for the neat travelogue..Enjoyed it. Often go that way, but don't write as interestingly as

you.. Regards, John (JLAP)

From sparks@codepoets.com Thu Sep 11 02:15:45 2003
Subject: [R-390] Wanted Tube Puller for R-390

All you R-390 fans out there, does anyone have the large 9 pin tube puller that mounts on the upper left/rear corner of the R-390 series? I have a nice spare 7 pin available to trade or? Thanks 73 Tom K4NCG

From flood@Krohne.com Thu Sep 11 17:26:32 2003
Subject: [R-390] NH Hosstraders Oct 3-4

Hi Todd et all,

Ah yes Zap, I pay homage to Pfizz the smoke Goddess. Good advice there it is best to be open and not leave anyone hanging. If you want to wait you need to take the risk that someone else may beat you to the prize unless other terms are agreed on in advance by both parties. Sorry you don't sell there anymore but as well, other sellers prefer to use *bay to get more \$.

I have also heard from Roy Morgan who will make a pilgrimage up from MD for the first time. Bring a rain coat Roy!

My Amelco found a new owner about a month ago and now there is a hole in the rack under the EAC and it is getting lonely.

About the only thing of value I'm selling may be a Drake R8 receiver. If anyone going to Hosstraders is interested in 390(X), SP600, BA trades for it let me know as I need to fill the gap in the rack!

That's all for now before I get OT flamed John Flood(KB1FQG)

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Fri Sep 12 00:23:55 2003
Subject: [R-390] FR dx 400

Hello again, John

Well, they called this afternoon, right after 12, and it had been put aside to find the owner..(You didn't have my P.O. box number, and they don't think that way when a package has a street address, and the street address has no rural box.. I may have forgotten to give you my P.O. box #...sorry..) Doesn't matter now, the rural carrier did me a favor, and brought it by even tho' the route had already been run..Guess they still do favors for people sometimes...(They can't leave a package where there is no "box on a pole.." ..so to speak..)

It is working on all bands..(a few xtals had dirty feet..). Actually it seems quite sen. to my ear..I am going to enjoy it for a while.. But.. I agree., the VHF bands seem so far to be pretty useless.. will work on them for awhile and see if I can get more results..

Now all I have to do is get used again, to adding and subtracting freq., until I get used to the readout..I am old, and I keep forgetting the coverage of each band.....

In any event, I wanted to let you know, and thank you again for your kindness.. My Best Regards, John

From bernice@videotron.ca Fri Sep 12 01:31:01 2003
Subject: [R-390] 9-11, My Great Shame

To All, I have been mulling over if It would be appropriate to offer my condolences to the citizens of the United States and to the families of those that perished in that great tragedy of two years ago today.

I have great shame this day. The Prime Minister of Canada did not participate in not one of the many 9-11 ceremonies that were held across this country of mine. He saw fit to send the Deputy Prime Minister to a Ceremony at the North Dakota/Manitoba border. This was a joint U.S. Canadian event. In our Nations capital various ceremonies were held. The only Canadian Government presence were Government Ministers. Our Prime Minister expressed his condolences via a press release that I heard on one of our local talk radio shows. The host was berating the Prime Minister for his total lack of care. I suppose the families of the 24 Canadians that perished were impressed by the press release. BTW the Prime Minister does have good speech writers.

What I am trying to get across is that myself and the vast majority Canadians are ashamed. Will the U.S. citizen again be disappointed by it's northern neighbour's continued lack of support. I have a son that lives in Pennsylvania who is in the process of becoming a U.S. citizen, first cousins that were born in California, Aunts and Uncles who have lived in your country for 65 years. Two great, great Uncles fought in your Civil War and remained in the U.S. My wife has Aunts and Uncles in the states also. My family like many other Canadians have very close ties to the United States. I hope that you can appreciate our regrets over the insensitivity of our Prime Minister. Thank the powers that be that by the end of this year he will no longer be our leader.

I decided this evening that I, as patriotic and caring Canadian, must offer my condolences to all Americans in their time of grief. Remember that good shall prevail. May the families of those that perished be strong and may their grief be handled with dignity and courage. May the those that caused all those deaths see the insanity of their actions and that their goals will not be achieved with the sword. The word is the true strength in mankind, but this must not be seen as a sign of weakness. Those that do be aware. May the families of the 24 Canadians who perished accept these words also. Al VE2TAS PS: Don't let the b.....ds get you/us down.

From gwmoore@moorefelines.com Fri Sep 12 03:52:17 2003
Subject: [R-390] 9-11, My Great Shame

GE, Bernice and Al,

Thanks so much for your eloquent words on the second anniversary of the worst attack on American or Canadian soil since 7 Dec 1941. Rest assured that this ham and Navy Mars Op appreciates the sacrifices that Canadians have made in all the major conflicts which have occurred in the last Century.

I know that there is some internal turmoil existing today in the Canadian Government, and that a lot of law-abiding Canadian citizens are now technically criminals for attempting to exercise a right which we have enjoyed since our founders wrote the Second Amendment to our Constitution. We are still not out of danger in regards to that issue, nor are we out of danger regarding the ongoing assault on all items of military origin, including our humble R-390's. There are those who would enjoy confiscating

ANYTHING of military origin, and reducing same to managable scrap. Each year, when the Defense Appropriation Bills are introduced into our House of Representatives, and Senate (Equivalent to your Parliament), we have to work quickly and determinedly to get the destructive language removed from these bills.

Some months ago, I had opportunity to go aboard, one last time, my last ship, the best Carrier ever to sail the 7 Seas, the USS America (CV-66/CVA-66). I have had the pleasure of serving on her as both an enlisted man (RM2) and later as an Officer. I naturally gravitated immediately to main comm, radio central, and also prowled the various other radio spaces, admittedly with larcenous intent --hi--... Unfortunately, due to certain executive orders by a former president, whose name I will not type, for he does not deserve one iota of respect or memory, having brought shame on the Office by certain assignations conducted in the "holy of holies", the Oval Office. ('nuff said, I think you can figure this out).

Anyway, when entering main comm, I was greeted by the sight of 3 R-1051's which had been reduced to mangled aluminum and dangling wire by means of a fire axe. All the front panel knobs were broken off, and the point of the fire axe had been strongly inserted in each of the frequency readout windows. Under these destroyed R-1051's, there were 3 AN/URA-17's which had been similarly destroyed, with the first axe blow thru the CRT. Without going into detail, there were also some M28 teletypes destroyed, but the worst, which brought rather misty vision to this R390 lunatic, was a once pristine 390, reduced to almost unrecognizability by the same fire axes, the modules chopped free of the chassis, and destroyed. The Veeder-Root counter had been subjected to a particulary vicious attack, again with the pick end of a fire axe. There was absolutely nothing to be saved, or preserved, from any of the units I have spoken about.

I feel proud when I see the web site of the HMCS Haida, which is being restored to her former glory, with a complete and operational radio suite. At least, I felt, our Canadian brothers care about their history. FWIW, I served 2 1/2 years at NAVCOMMSTA Argentia, Nfld. Those years were among the most enjoyable in my life, including the crazy 90 mile runs up the (then) dirt road to the TCH, at breakneck speeds, in any weather, helped somewhat by the judicious use of spirits --hi--.

I managed to visit the St. Johns location where the first tenative "S" was recieved by Marconi himself, as well as Cape Race, Gander, and other sites of historic importance.

Please accept my thanks for your caring and outpouring of feeling on this day, when the unthinkable, and totally improbable by the standards of several years ago, did indeed prove not only thinkable, and probable, but were carried out with an eerie precision and hatred which could only be compared to the Kamakaze attacks in the final days of WWII.

Forget what your Prime Minister did, or didn't do. The "prepared statements" which ooze out of every politicians office, regardless of their Country, Position, or Party, mean exactly 0.000 . What is important is the feelings of the RESIDENTS of the country, and you have shown exactly what one would expect, an outpouring of condolences. Again, Thanks Much for your elequent statement. Your Country has suffered some major problems itself, this year, with the SARS epidemic, but in true Canadian fashion, you carried on, and saved the day (I would expect nothing less).

Don't be discouraged by what any government official spouts, they do have well paid speechwriters to churn out the propaganda, and the 'handlers" and "Damage Controllers" to pour oil on the occasional scandal until, like in Orwell's 1984, the news disappears, and the persons become doubleplusungood unpersons--hi--

At any rate, thanks much, you have at least one person "down south" who appreciates your sentiments.
73 es God Bless de Greg Moore WA3IVX /NNN0BVN Upper Darby, PA USA

PS... your statement should be written "non illegiti carborundum" --hi--- and you don't have to * anything out

From jlkolb@cts.com Fri Sep 12 07:47:12 2003
Subject: [R-390] FR dx 400

Hi John, Glad it got there in one piece.

Think you gave me the PO Box # as well as the address, but warned me not to ship it to the PO box # as they would just ship it back to me. I would have thought I could ship to PO boxes and they would just put a slip of paper in the box saying to come to the counter to pick up a package - same slip of paper I get for packages to my rural mailbox, as they seldom drive the 300 yards down our dirt road from the mailbox to the house for a delivery,

Thanks for the order.

I noticed there was a frdx400 on ebay - bid was at \$25 about the time I shipped - I never got back to see what it ended at. There's one there now, "about MINT" \$100 starting, buy it now \$350. Sounds a little optamistic to me. John

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Fri Sep 12 16:17:05 2003
Subject: [R-390] 9-11, My Great Shame

Bernice & Al wrote:

Thank you very much for relaying these words and thoughts to us. It is very much appreciated. Please know that the vast majority of Americans understand that the vast majority of Canadians feel as you do, despite the lack of leadership. Keep in mind that we, too, suffered through a similar situation for 8 years here. What's worse is that our 'poor excuse' was so busy trying to cover his ass for the lies he was telling the country and the world that he let the criminals who perpetrated this mass murder simply walk away after they were offered to him on a silver platter by Sudan. As Greg pointed out, he did do *some* things - like ordering the destruction of old radios like R-390s as well as M-1 Garrand rifles to 'prevent them being used against this country by our enemies' or such.

The most important thing we can all do is become more involved and more active in determining who represents us and how our states and countries are run. Rather than taking the view of some who simply claim "There's nothing I can do so I don't vote", we can instead try our best to change things for the better. The threats to us are far greater now than simply losing our beloved R-390s, SP-600s, or anything else. We need to see these things for what they are and deal with them, as well as the future we face together as free peoples in free countries. Hopefully your new leader will tighten up immigration regulations, something we need to do as well. Hopefully your new leader will do what is best for the people and not simply use his position to please and better his own postion. This contrast is clear between our previous and current administrations. We now have a leader who will take the bull by the horns, despite what the nay-sayers and certain 'allies' in Europe think, and do what is best for national secuirty and freedom in general. We must keep in mind that WE are the government though, and not just sit back and expect things to be done for us. Some are content to let policies be made to destroy old radios and rifles, I see it more as an erosion of our freedoms. Far more than the Patriot Act where laws previously applied to drug dealers can now be legally applied to terrorism suspects as well.

Thanks again for voicing your thoughts and feelings to us, Al - it is deeply appreciated and respected. It's reassuring to know that our neighbors to the north share not only our love of fine old radio gear, but also a love of true freedom and common sense. Too bad 'common sense' is less common these days.... 73
de Todd/'Boomer' KA1KAQ

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Fri Sep 12 16:26:07 2003
Subject: [R-390] Mistake

Friends, My apology for wasting the lists' time with personal material.. I will be sure it isn't repeated..
Forgive me on this, if you noticed it. Regards, John (JLAP)

From rbethman@comcast.net Fri Sep 12 16:39:54 2003
Subject: [R-390] Mistake

John, No harm, NO foul! Bob - N0DGN

From r.tetrault@comcast.net Fri Sep 12 18:44:03 2003
Subject: [R-390] Back!

That too is the way I remember it... ;-) Seriously, we only had tee martoonis. Err, one cider.

From wb5tcd@sbcglobal.net Sat Sep 13 01:13:27 2003
Subject: [R-390] need 4-8Mc coil for r-390

I need one of the rf coils for the 4-8mc band for a r-390. Let me know if you have a spare and the cost.
thanks Wayne

From Jhowings@aol.com Sat Sep 13 03:08:53 2003
Subject: [R-390] R-1051C

Anyone familiar with the R-1051C HF RX ?

From Llgpt@aol.com Sat Sep 13 03:22:28 2003
Subject: [R-390] R-1051C

writes: Anyone familiar with the R-1051C HF RX ? The same as the R-1051B with the exception of a black faced front panel. Used by the U.S.A.F. Les Locklear

From mikea@mikea.ath.cx Sat Sep 13 18:31:24 2003
Subject: [R-390] R-1051C

wrote: > Anyone familiar with the R-1051C HF RX ?

Yep. It's the R-1051B, with a different front panel. I have an R-1051B here, as well as an R-1051H and numerous boatanchors.

There is an R-1051 mailing list; the submission address is <r-1051@mailman.qth.net>. You can subscribe from the webpage at <<http://www.qth.net>>, and the archives are available from that page, too.
-- Mike Andrews

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Mon Sep 15 19:42:36 2003
Subject: [R-390] Hosstraders hamfest/gear clamps?

Okay, would any of you would-be attendees for Hosstraders happen to have a couple spare gear clamps? I'm going to try to catch up with George Rancourt to see if he'll bring a few up, but if not, I'd be willing to pay whatever fair-market price is for a few of them. I know Fair sells them, but I can barely find time to mail my bills, muchless get organized enough to place an order for parts. Maybe after the firewood is Here's who I know will be attending so far:

John Flood
Roy Morgan
Mike Crestohl
Dave Roscoe (from the BA list, not sure if he's on here) myself

I would expect to see John Kay, KA1XC there as well. Carl Huether KM1H might be there too, I gave him a head's up on the dates. He goes to a lot of car meets so if there's a show or meet, he'll be there instead. Carl worked for National for years, even worked on the HRO-500 IIRC. Larry, NE1S will probably be there.

In recent years there haven't been as many R-390 type radios there, but usually at least 2-3. We got spoiled by the guy who used to bring a truckload every time. Last year I saw John's Amelco, plus a pair offered by another guy as 'parts or restore' (\$250 for the pair, not bad), and a fairly clean (but overpriced) example sitting on the back of someone's vehicle. Might see it back there again. Then there was the pile of scruffy rackmount RA-17s for \$500 each, but that was 2 years ago. ~ Boomer, KA1KAQ

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Sep 15 19:53:35 2003
Subject: [R-390] Hosstraders hamfest/gear clamps?

Wasn't Carl a subscriber to this list at one time? Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From Michael Melland, W9WIS" <w9wis@charter.net> Mon Sep 15 20:03:32 2003
Subject: [R-390] Hosstraders hamfest/gear clamps?

While you are at the hamfest looking at stuff..... I need the tuning dial window for a Navy RBK-16 27.8 MHz to 143 MHz receiver (1952). Not the round metal dial cover... just the plastic window inside. RBK-16 is about the same as the earlier RBK-12 all offshoots of the Hallicrafters SX-36(A). Also two 956 acorn tubes.

The 16 is undergoing some restoration ... it's in great shape ... almost like new in/out except for UPS breaking the dial window <grin>. Nice old receiver.... teflon wiring and no black beauties in this late version... a couple oil filled and most of the rest are ceramic or mica. The cabinet with shock mounts is about 1/4" steel and HEAVY. Mike, W9WIS

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Mon Sep 15 20:16:18 2003
Subject: [R-390] Hosstraders hamfest/gear clamps?

Okay, I realize this is a bit off-topic but I'm posting it back to the list because someone was actually making these new windows and I can't recall who. Anyone remember? I picked up a decent S-27 there two years back for \$25 as a parts donor, but it's too nice to part out. Missing some tubes, the cabinet, tuning knob and a few other small things but otherwise in good shape. Unfortunately I think the window is slightly different in the -27, but maybe it's the dial I'm thinking of? Different frequency coverage, slightly. I have a -12 or -15, can't recall which. I'd like to find the navy gray version of the -16 with the smooth black metal dial escutcheon, no 'S-36A' stamped into it. Seen a few, never bothered to grab one.

Check around, I think you'll find that someone had those dial windows reproduced. I need one for my AR88LF if anyone stumbles across one. ~ Boomer, KA1KAQ

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Sep 15 20:27:27 2003
Subject: [R-390] Hosstraders hamfest/gear clamps?

You might try dials@juno.com. RockSeaEnterprises does repro scales, but I think they are primarily for the antique radio buffs (old RCAs, etc.). Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Sep 15 20:36:18 2003
Subject: [R-390] Hosstraders hamfest/gear clamps?

Oops. dials@juno.com and RockSeaEnterprises are one and the same. I didn't realize that. I had correspondence from both entities and I thought they were separate.
Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From cbscott@ingr.com Mon Sep 15 20:40:08 2003
Subject: [R-390] Hosstraders hamfest/gear clamps?

www.radiodaze.com is the other one I was thinking about. They don't list the SX-36A, but they may either have it or be able to make one. Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From ba.williams@charter.net Tue Sep 16 01:28:00 2003
Subject: [R-390] Hosstraders hamfest/gear clamps?

>Wasn't Carl a subscriber to this list at one time? >Barry(III) - N4BUQ

Yep. He was the Simple Green instigator. I wrote him a few times about 6 months ago. the other other Barry

From ba.williams@charter.net Tue Sep 16 01:34:47 2003
Subject: [R-390] Hosstraders hamfest/gear clamps?

Well, if you are writing these important requests down and stuffing it in your wallet, here is a big one for me: The large tuning/bandspread knob for a lowly S-38B. That is all I need to have mine in top condition and they are impossible to find. the other other Barry

From ba.williams@charter.net Tue Sep 16 01:48:30 2003
Date: Mon, 15 Sep 2003 19:48:30 -0500

> Yep. He was the Simple Green instigator. I wrote him a few times

Nope. Maybe you were snoozing during that thread. Or, was it the cat urine one? Barry

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Tue Sep 16 16:02:39 2003
Subject: [R-390] Hosstraders hamfest/gear clamps?

b w wrote: > The large tuning/bandspread knob for a lowly S-38B.

#2 (what a nickname!) Non-Hauser -

Refresh my memory please - isn't this just the same knob used on the S-40* and others? If so, they are pretty common. I gave a couple to a fellow for an SX-62 last year. These had little chrome cones inside the face of the knob, though. Do the 'B' (Non-A?) knobs have these, the little trim ring around the edge, or are they completely black? Heh, there ya go - S-38B Non-A!

I didn't hear anything back from any R-390-types attending Hosstraders about having a surplus of gear clamps to bring along, so I'll take that as a resounding 'nope'. I do have a couple more 'possible attendees', though - Merle W1GZS frome Maine (a-yup) and Bruce MacLellan, who will be attempting to make it up while visiting south of Beantown. The list continues to grow.

Here's a link to the fairgrounds from I-89, scale is only a few miles:

http://www.hopkintonnh.us/information/hop_fair_intro.htm

Now, if we get as many R-390s to turn out for the 'fester, we'll be set. Instead of a chicken in every pot, we'll have an R-390 in every trunk, back seat, or pickup bed. That's what I call 'freedom and prosperity'!
~ Boomer KA1KAQ

From wa9msd@ggnet.net Tue Sep 16 16:43:40 2003
Subject: [R-390] Radio Expo Hamfest -- Grayslake IL

Anyone planning on attending with interesting items for sale?? Joe, WA9MSD Joseph Grossbauer

From tetrode@comcast.net Tue Sep 16 16:53:32 2003
Subject: [R-390] Hosstraders hamfest/gear clamps?

Hi Todd, yes I will be at Fall Hosstraders too....just barely. My YL's sister picked that Saturday to get married, the NERVE of her!!! So I'll be there Friday, but only because I'm eeking out of the wedding party (which I'm not in) rehearsal and dinner. Fortunately, its's OK with the YL as she is very 390 and radio friendly, and it looks like we'll be setting our own date in October 2004, and yes I've already

"reserved" the first two weekends to keep them clear for Hosstraders. I'll keep an eye out for you guys and an ear too on 146.445. :^) John

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Tue Sep 16 17:08:23 2003
Subject: [R-390] Hosstraders hamfest/gear clamps?

wrote: >My YL's sister picked that Saturday to get married, the NERVE of her!!! So I'll be there Friday
Now there's a dedicated man....gotta respect someone deeply who can wiggle free of such things in order to attend the REAL event of importance.

>Fortunately, its's OK with the YL as she is very 390 and radio friendly, and >it looks like we'll be setting our own date in October 2004, and yes I've

Hey, congrats on the event, John! And she's radio-friendly too! We'll have to be sure next October is a real celebration (more than usual, even) to give you a proper send off. Will you be registered at Fair Radio? (o:

>I'll keep an eye out for you guys and an ear too on 146.445.

Get's busy on there at times, so just keep trying. John Flood had a table there last time where most of us seemed to accumulate. As it gets closer, we'll firm things up moreso. If this keeps up I'm gonna be the last single guy on here before much longer.... ~ Boomer KA1KAQ

From jlap1939@yahoo.com Tue Sep 16 17:10:51 2003
Subject: [R-390] Barry (s)

Les, Thats pass the Barry's, don't you mean.. John (JLAP)

From dps4@juno.com Tue Sep 16 17:10:00 2003
Subject: [R-390] Wanted Tube Puller for R-390

Tom, Fair Radio has them, at least they did a couple of years ago. I bought 2 of each size, they were around \$2.00 each. I keep one of each on the radio and one of each on the bench for use. 73's David

From terryo@wort-fm.terracom.net Tue Sep 16 20:36:19 2003
Subject: [R-390] Radio Expo Hamfest -- Grayslake IL

I'll be there and I'm cleaning out a big chunk of my BA stuff. I'm hoping for good weather, should be there both days, with a replenished load on Sunday.

So far: A couple of nice, untouched R-392s, gathering dust since they came from the DOD. Some other green boxes. Misc R-390 parts and accessories. Lots of BA parts and test equipment. I'll have a huge trailer full. I'll try to park near boatanchor row but it often fills up early. Silver Taurus with ham plates.

Please don't take up list bandwidth asking about specifics. No prior sales, nothing held in advance. I won't even reply to inquiries. Just show up and help the club make money with your admission fee. Let's keep hamfests alive. 73 Terry O' WB9GVB

From ba.williams@charter.net Wed Sep 17 01:18:50 2003
Subject: [R-390] Hosstraders hamfest/gear clamps?

Todd, I don't know about the size of the S-38B and S-40. The 38B knob is plain bakelite, or plastic. No decorative center disk or trim ring. The only thing that I do know is that the small knobs match the 5R10A, and I can swap small ones for one large knob. This S-38B was given to me from the family of the original owner and is in excellent condition. It seems a shame to not finish up the radio completely. I'm kind of surprised at how well it receives. Barry non Hauser

From Llgpt@aol.com Tue Sep 16 01:32:20 2003
Subject: [R-390] Hosstraders hamfest/gear clamps?

writes: Wasn't Carl a subscriber to this list at one time? >Barry(III) - N4BUQ

Yep. He was the Simple Green instigator. I wrote him a few times about 6 months ago. the other other Barry

Trying to pass the buck huh? Les Locklear

From billsmith@ispwest.com Wed Sep 17 08:56:51 2003
Subject: [R-390] Hosstraders hamfest/gear clamps?

IHMO, the S-38B was the best performer of the lot and seems to have withstood the abuses of time better than many of the other models. Does anyone have a SR-75 they'd like to move along? I grew up with one, but stupidly took it apart when I completed a Heathkit AR-3. R-390's were only rumors in those days, complete with complaints of how much they cost the government. A year's salary of a very well-paid employee. 73 de Bill, AB6MT billsmith@ispwest.com

From scr287@sbcglobal.net Wed Sep 17 23:02:19 2003
Subject: [R-390] Slaving a pair of R-390As

Hi all, Has anyone done any work on slaving a pair of R-390A's? By that I mean running two receivers from the VFO and crystal oscillator in one, thereby insuring that both are tuned to the exact same frequency. Would not need the BFO slaved, but figuring that out would be an interesting excercise. 73 Jack Antonio WA7DIA scr287@sbcglobal.net

From cbscott@ingr.com Wed Sep 17 23:07:39 2003
Subject: [R-390] Slaving a pair of R-390As

It would seem the electrical "slaving" would be the easier part. I would think the mechanical aspect would be the harder task. Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From scr287@sbcglobal.net Thu Sep 18 00:00:55 2003
Subject: [R-390] Slaving a pair of R-390As

Hi Barry(III) et al, Mechanical slaving would not be an issue, as only spot frequencies are involved.
"Band Cruising" is not a requirement. Jack

From n4xy@earthlink.net Thu Sep 18 00:24:22 2003
Subject: [R-390] Website repairs/add.

If you have looked at my website recently, there may have been photos missing-especially the R-390-A's <http://www.qsl.net/n4xy/rcvr_MIL_r-390-a.html> . I used FrontPage to supposedly reroute the paths to many of my website images, and it only did about 1/2. The rest have required finding and manually redoing their path. Should you find any that don't load, please let me know!!!

I have obtained through Don, W4BWS; and Mike, ZF1MW; several short articles on NC-300 improvements, converted them to PDF format, and made them available on my National page <http://www.qsl.net/n4xy/rcvr_national.html> . These are in addition to the 16 National FSN's already there. I would greatly appreciate any similar additions you could make to either the FSNs or the NC-300 et al, articles.

Also, I have made a VR tube table that can be reached from either my Boatanchors page <<http://www.qsl.net/n4xy/boatanchors.html>> or the aforementioned R-390-A page. If you know of any others (like the Tek 5951/61/???) that need adding, or spot a mistake, please let me know. 73 Ed Tanton N4XY <n4xy@earthlink.net>

From scr287@sbcglobal.net Thu Sep 18 01:16:46 2003
Subject: [R-390] Slaving R-390s again

Hi all, To answer one of the replies, my goal here is not diversity reception, but the phase relationship between the 455 kc outputs from the two receivers. Thus the using of common oscillators between the two receivers.

Another question, not really R-390 related, but it's the reason behind the original question.

Lets say we are receiving a signal on 4550 kc. The frequency is not really important, I just chose it because it is 10 times 455 kc. If the input signal undergoes a 90 degree phase shift, what phase shift does the 455 kc if undergo?

Would the 455kc phase shift be related to the time difference of 90 degrees at 4.55 mc? In which case I would expect to see a 9 degree shift at 455 kc. Or does the heterodyne process mask any phase shift?

So there is the basis of the experiment, using two R-390A's, both driven from the same oscillators, and using one receiver as the reference, then varying the phase of the input signal into the other, and seeing what happens at the IF output jacks. Jack Antonio WA7DIA scr287@sbcglobal.net

From chacuff@cableone.net Thu Sep 18 02:09:10 2003
Subject: [R-390] Slaving R-390s again

Hi Jack and Group, I may be wrong but I think your phase shift experiment would be shipwrecked because of the mechanical filters...my understanding is that the military experienced the problems with

the phase shift problems related to the mechanical filters in the R-390A when used in DF setups and ordered a variant that put an R-390\URR type filter scheme in the R-390A to get around this. (L-C filters) There are others that know much more about this than I on this list...and will probably add to my comments. Cecil...

From hankarn@pacbell.net Thu Sep 18 04:02:12 2003
Subject: [R-390] Slaving R-390s again

Jack, Just being my standard smart a--. Seems like we are working real hard to get the fly specks out of the black pepper. Without using lab standard equipment, how are you going to discern the difference?
Hank KN6DI

From llgpt@aol.com Fri Sep 19 01:12:09 2003
Subject: [R-390] Hurricane Isabel

Just got off the phone with Chuck Rippel. As many of you know, he lives in Chesapeake, Va. He has a lot of trees down, shingles torn off the roof and siding damage. The good news is he has a generator and they have electricity and were getting ready to eat a hot meal. Having endured many, many hurricanes down here, I can understand what he has gone through. Les Locklear Gulfport, Ms.

From tetrode@comcast.net Thu Sep 18 16:19:44 2003
Subject: [R-390] Slaving R-390s again

Hi Jack, no need to perform this very complex R390 experiment.

The heterodyne process is transparent to all phase/frequency/amplitude components in a signal, that is, the relationship is 1 to 1. The only changes that can occur are from the hardware itself, either by design or mistuning. Also, if the LO is on the high side of the incoming signal, then the phase/freq components will be inverted 180 degrees, but they will still be in 1 to 1 relationship with each other with respect to the original signal.

Now frequency multiplication and division is totally different; phase/frequency characteristics are multiplied or divided by whatever the factor is. For example, a 7 Mc CW signal multiplied by 4 to 28 Mc will have 4x the chirp, 4x the drift, 4x the phase noise,etc. John

From eldim@worldnet.att.net Fri Sep 19 08:36:47 2003
Subject: [R-390] Hurricane Isabel, Where's Nolan, TV-7's, and Searchlights

Hello Les, Thanks for the update on Chuck's status. I always loved those candle-lit dinners. Very Romantic! Been saying lots of prayers that that storm would dissipate. By the way, does anyone know the status of Nolan Ryan? I sure do miss his down-home "redneck" liveliness to the group, not to mention his valuable contributions to the group. On the subject of tube testers, is there anyone on the list that has a good working knowledge of the inside electronics? I'd also like to discuss the 31P Change Notice to the SET-UP T.O. 33AA21-5-31 (TB 11-6625-274-1. I have EB5AGV's TV-7 Voltage Alignment Instruction. Also, does anyone have DAN NELSON's or BILL WATERS email, Tel#, or Address? These fine gentlemen are resident guru's on tube testers. Last but not least, is there anyone who has any experience with SEARCHLIGHTS, especially smaller ones used by the NAVY? Thanks to

all who can take a moment to reply. Best Regards, Glen Galati, KA7BOJ

From hbreuer@debitel.net Fri Sep 19 11:32:31 2003
Subject: [R-390] Hurricane Isabel, Where's Nolan, TV-7's, and Searchlights

Hi Glen, you are talking about Nolan LEE. He obviously left the group but his website is still up. I tried to contact him earlier this year but did not get any reply. <http://www.acadiacom.net/nlee/> Dan Nelson's email is <djn@ieee.org> 73 from Germany Heinz DH2FA, KM5VT PS: I visited your store in early August.

From mikea@mikea.ath.cx Fri Sep 19 13:56:49 2003
Subject: [R-390] Hurricane Isabel

wrote: Chuck Rippel. As many of you know, he lives in > Chesapeake, Va. He has a lot of trees down, shingles torn off the roof and > siding damage.

As can I, for the same reason. I'm glad to hear this news, and expect that many others feel the same way. If you get another chance to talk with him, please tell him so. Sorry for his losses, but glad he and his are doing as well as they are. -- Mike Andrews

From llgpt@aol.com Fri Sep 19 11:34:20 2003
Subject: [R-390] Hurricane Isabel, Where's Nolan, TV-7's, and Searchlights

writes: By the way, does anyone know the status of Nolan Ryan? I sure do miss his down-home "redneck" liveliness to the group, not to mention his valuable contributions to the group. His webpage has been updated regularly, but no answers to e-mail or snail mail from me.

He is probably lurking and will show up one day. Les

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Fri Sep 19 16:28:45 2003
Subject: [R-390] Hurricane Isabel

wrote: >Just got off the phone with Chuck Rippel.

I'm kinda wondering about Al Parker. He's in New Burn, NC which is pretty close to the impact area. I think he has a boat in the bay there, too. Hopefully he's in a safe place like his radio room, held in place by R-390s and SP-600s. ~ Boomer

From courir26@yahoo.com Fri Sep 19 21:31:01 2003
Subject: [R-390] Hurricane Isabel

I'm not surprised at all that Chuck has a gen set to fire up. Probably steam.

They need some Cajun cooking to help with the whole hurricane ambiance! Tom N5OFF Lafayette, LA

From llgpt@aol.com Fri Sep 19 18:17:31 2003

Subject: [R-390] Hurricane Isabel

wrote: I'm kinda wondering about Al Parker.

Hi Boomer, I heard from Al Parker, all is well with him, the house and boat. I was glad to hear that. Les

From ba.williams@charter.net Sat Sep 20 03:01:52 2003

Subject: [R-390] Hurricane Isabel

heard from Al Parker, all is well with him, the house and boat.

That is good news. I was worried about him too. He lives in an inlet off of the beach. I knew he was going to worry about his boat. Barry non-Hauser

From ghayward@uoguelph.ca Mon Sep 22 12:51:45 2003

Subject: [R-390] RE: Slaving R-30s again

Jack, the experiment sounds neat.

I run the IF from my 390A into two product detectors fed with a local oscillator with two phase shift networks at +/- 45 degrees, thus the outputs are 0 and 90 degrees from an arbitrary reference. These go to right and left headphones and the effect on SSB is spectacular. Noise goes from a hiss to a panoramic waterfall while the station stays put in front of me. The noise is almost pleasant to listen to. There's more on this on the amfone.net website in terms of a synchronous detector which can be adapted to quadrature detection. I'm designing a quadrature ISB detector for AM which might be interesting, but mostly because its a neat idea to play with.

Since the 390 is triple conversion on the lower bands, you would need to have all 3 oscillators fed from the master receiver and as Cecil mentioned the mech filters are possibly a problem, but if they are the same (gross assumption here) then they would add a common phase shift to both and thus cancel as I guess its the phase difference you're after. 73 de Gord, VE3EOS.

From cbscott@ngr.com Tue Sep 23 14:11:38 2003

Subject: [R-390] OT: Tubes needed for TEK561A

I dragged the scope out for something this past weekend and the vertical amp has developed problems. I checked the tubes and both 6DJ8s (EC88?) are very weak. Just my luck -- these are apparently popular with the audiophile gang and, thus, they can be pretty expensive. Anyone have any good suggestions on an inexpensive source for these?

Hopefully the problem is with these tubes. I have zero experience troubleshooting scopes. Fortunately, the module is not complex so it might be a simple case of finding a bad component and replacing it (of course using the appropriate silver solder (which I will also need...sigh)). Thanks, Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From dwade@pacbell.net Tue Sep 23 15:46:03 2003

Subject: [R-390] OT: Tubes needed for TEK561A

Hi Barry (III), If you haven't found it already, you might try the "TekScopes" list on Yahoogroups. There are some true experts hanging out there. I have a 545A and a 531...but no spare tubes. Luckily, I haven't needed them yet. These scopes just keep going, and going, and going..... Good luck...pass on any sources you might dig up. Dennis

From cbscott@ingr.com Tue Sep 23 15:51:52 2003
Subject: [R-390] OT: Tubes needed for TEK561A

Dennis, I'll probably have to join that group (if they'll have me).

This group, though, is pretty amazing. Within 45 minutes of posting, I have two businesses with the tubes for \$8 each as well as some "I have some tubes I'd be glad to send you". My initial search turned up some of the more expensive European brands at \$20+ each and that's what I was trying to avoid. Thanks guys! Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From rbethman@comcast.net Tue Sep 23 17:29:43 2003
Subject: [R-390] Radio Shack Impedance Matching Transformer

Okay, maybe I'm dense. I picked up a few of those Cat# 32-1031 70 Volt 10 Watt PA System Line Transformers.

First reason: One of my R-390As was converted by its previous owner to an 8 ohm audio output.

I want to use one of these outboard to take the 8 ohm to the 600 ohm input to an Hallicrafter's R-42 Reproducer.

Can someone provide me with guidance to connect which tabs to connect the line to the R-42? It IS clear which to connect the 8 ohm input. Thanks in advance! Bob - N0DGN

From cbscott@ingr.com Tue Sep 23 17:42:01 2003
Subject: [R-390] Radio Shack Impedance Matching Transformer

Bob, I found this from an older post from Don Reaves.

Radio Shack has these specifications listed for that transformer on their web site. This must be a sample of 5 units.

10 Watt 70 Volt Audio Transformer 320-1031 Specifications 320-1031) Specifications Faxback Doc. # 9663 Transformer

Dimension measurements are within specification.

Primary Impedance (at 400 Hz 5V):

Secondary Loading	Primary Range	Watts No.1	No.2	No.3	No.4	No.5
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4 Ohm 10 W 535 535 540 547 525
5 W 1025 1060 1040 1035 950
2.5 W 2020 2000 2105 2010 1900
1.25W 3905 4035 4050 4050 3850
0.62 7120 7365 7205 7200 6855

8 Ohm 10 W 570 595 585 590 595
5 W 1110 1115 1150 1130 1135
2.5 W 2050 2090 2245 2240 2240
1.25W 4205 4100 4150 4305 4100
0.62 7650 7400 7750 7605 7350

16 Ohm 10W 555 565 565 555 550
5 W 1070 1070 1090 1085 1020
2.5 W 2105 2100 2200 2190 2050
1.25 W 4070 4050 4100 4130 3960
0.62 W 7405 7395 7400 7410 7150

Primary Inductance: 7.5 H 7.2 H 7.4 H 7.4 H 7.3 H

Primary Resistance: 198 201 202 197 200

Secondary DC Resistance (Ohm): 0.888 0.892 0.886 0.898 0.917

Insulation Resistance:.....100 Meg Min. at 500 VDC

Hi-Pot Test:.....1000 VAC 60 Hz for 1 minute without breakdown

Impregnation:.....Varnish Impregnated

Frequency Response.....100 Hz to 10 kHz

Specifications are typical; individual units might vary. Specifications are subject to change without notice. (IR-04/12/95) Don W5OR

It appears you want to use the 10W tap but not sure. Hope this helps. Barry(III) - N4BUQ

From Llgpt@aol.com Tue Sep 23 21:06:37 2003

Subject: [R-390] Radio Shack Impedance Matching Transformer

writes: I picked up a few of those Cat# 32-1031 70 Volt 10 Watt PA System Line Transformers.

Use the 10 watt tap and the common of course. Les Locklear

From K3PID@comcast.net Fri Sep 26 22:08:50 2003

Subject: [R-390] Covers & Cabinet

When the R-390/URR is installed in the cabinet does it normally have the top and bottom covers attached? Is there a cooling issue with both? Tnx K3PID - Ron H.

From roy.morgan@nist.gov Fri Sep 26 22:34:01 2003

Subject: [R-390] Covers & Cabinet

wrote: >When the R-390/URR is installed in the cabinet does it normally have the >top and bottom covers attached?

NO

>Is there a cooling issue with both?

YES.

Many cabinets will not accept the radio with the bottom cover attached. Leave them off. Roy

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Fri Sep 26 22:34:09 2003
Subject: [R-390] Covers & Cabinet

wrote: >When the R-390/URR is installed in the cabinet does it normally have the top and bottom covers attached? Is there a cooling issue with both?

Covers are meant only for rack use, Ron - to keep out dust, crud, and potential interference from unshielded areas within the rack. Put 'em in the closet. ~ Boomer KA1KAQ

From barry@hausernet.com Fri Sep 26 22:53:21 2003
Subject: [R-390] Covers & Cabinet

Hi Ron & Crew, Conventional wisdom is to remove both top and bottom covers when installing in a cabinet. Also in the "official" instructions. Probably better to leave the RF deck cover (AKA "Utah cover") in place if you have it. Helps to keep dust out of the coils and mechanism.

If this is an R-390/URR exactly -- meaning a "non-A", there are additional heat issues, particularly the 6082's which are upside down on the audio chassis. The heat rises and cooks the works. It's a good idea to position a muffin fan opposite the holes in the side panel to draw the heat out. Hopefully your cabinet has louvres on the left side that more or less line up on the 6082's. At least don't position the cabinet such that the left side is blocked. You might want to see if any of the components in the audio chassis have been "pre-cooked". Dave Medley advises replacing the (2-watt, I think) 47 ohm resistors with 5-watt. Barry

From barry@hausernet.com Sat Sep 27 01:13:57 2003
Subject: [R-390] Covers & Cabinet

Correction -- if it's a non-A, it doesn't have a "Utah cover" -- more like a "Colorado" cover (rectangular)
Or, I suppose, it may have an invisible, zero mass cover. Barry

From BENZONR@ntsb.gov Sat Sep 27 20:54:27 2003
Subject: [R-390] (no subject)

Gents: I am a new proud owner of a decent Motorola R-390A without covers of any kind except the sheet aluminum closest to the electronics, and would like to construct a wood cabinet for it. Has anyone out there done this? How much space around the aluminum do you folks recommend? And, what kind of

forced-air cooling system would be involved? I am a user of this radio and not a technician, but could wire up external biscuit fans, I believe. This wood cabinet would be a tabletop type, to sit on the specially reinforced table I had to build for the thing when I got it. Boy, is it heavy. Thanks, in advance, for the advice. Bob Benzon

From ba.williams@charter.net Sun Sep 28 01:46:30 2003
Subject: [R-390] (no subject)

Bob, Welcome to the list. My first one was a long haired blonde, who had....wait a minute....okay- first time with R-390As. Got you. I lugged my first one, a Motorola too, into the bedroom and set it up on a somewhat sturdy night table. It was in a SP-600 Bud cabinet too, so the weight was quite a lot more.

Fans certainly don't hurt things, but they aren't absolutely necessary unless you are going to have the top of the cabinet right down on the chassis. Maybe some kind of fan setup would be desirable then. Barry, who is not the other 2 Barrys on this list

From ka6uup@pacbell.net Sun Sep 28 04:51:17 2003
Subject: [R-390] R390A Popping

Guys, My R390A has recently developed a problem. During ordinary listening conditions in either AM or SSB, it pops at regular intervals. The signal strength meter jumps when this occurs. But, the pops are not always the same amplitude on the meter. The popping seems to respond to a change in agc settings. At first I thought it was external interference as it quits when the antenna was disconnected. However, after comparing other receivers in the shack and hearing nothing, I came to the conclusion it is internal. Before tearing into the radio I thought I would ask the group for ideas and suggestions TIA Chuck

From Russell Barber" <rfidman@pacbell.net Sun Sep 28 05:28:44 2003
Subject: [R-390] R390A Popping

Dear Chuck, I also have a R-390A and am hearing a popping sound. In my case however I am hearing it on my R8500 as well. I had to use the wide Am bandwidth setting and turn the noise blunker off. I never heard this popping until I moved out to California. I have heard this popping at a different QTH in town so I know it is not local to my house. The limiter on the R-390A does eliminate the popping but at the expence of some fidelity. Best regards Russ

From redmenaced@yahoo.com Sun Sep 28 05:22:38 2003
Subject: [R-390] R390A Popping

That sounds like an electric cattle/horse fence in the area. Joe

From Dave_Faria@hotmail.com Sun Sep 28 16:04:56 2003
Subject: [R-390] R390A Popping

GM Chuck. I have had a similar problem but, its been a few years and I don't remember if the "pop" occurred at regular intervals. If u have use of an o-scope and tube extenders look at the trace around the tubes and see if that gives u any clues. What I have had on two 390 non "a" radios is a failure of the coil

just after the final mixer. I think its t-207 on the 390 non "a" and it might be t-208 on the 390a. One of my coils was in the process of failing open and was causing the same popping sound. The 390 manuals give a dc resistance for the winding of each coil so pop the coil cover and check. Incidentally for those who are interested I sub'ed a 390a mixer coil into the 390 non"a" and it works fine to this day. Dave

From djmerz@3-cities.com Sun Sep 28 17:37:24 2003

Subject: [R-390] (no subject)

Bob, since nobody jumped in on this one - here are my thoughts - I have experience with wood cabinets only to the extent that I built one for a communications radio because I thought it would be "cheaper" than finding a metal cabinet and because I like woodworking. However, I abandoned the cabinet entirely eventually because it looked like it didn't belong. I converted this cabinet to another use. I operated my 390a quite a while without any cabinet setting on my working table with 1 x 2 boards under each side to raise the front panel for clearance. The one negative to this was dust that would fall in on the gear train so I covered that area when not operating the set. Eventually I modified a nice metal cabinet to fit it (shortened the depth). I think if I were to build a wood cabinet again, it would be out of good quality thin plywood, not over 3/8, or possibly 1/2 inch, and I would paint it gray for a 390a. 1/2 inch may be preferred because I can use biscuit joints with that thickness. I'm sure you could take care of the cooling with fans and some convection holes in the upper sides with the fan taking air across the bottom where the power supply is - but I haven't given much thought to this, as the idea of a wooden cabinet doesn't appeal to me. I probably haven't helped much but I don't think it would take too much air movement to cool the radio but with a wooden cabinet it may be a good idea because of the poor heat conduction of wood. The only negative I think of with fans is the amount of dust that gets hauled in and deposited - I was amazed when I opened my wife's computer after 3 years of service - there was a lot of deposited material everywhere. Not much of a filter used I guess. The metal cabinet I have has an opening of about 2 in. across the front below the 390a front panel and I leave the blank panel that fits here off to let some air move in across the bottom through to the back. The upper part of the chassis is only open at the back. This seems adequate, though I rarely leave the set on more than 12 hours at a time when I use it. Dan

From federico@dottorbaldi.it Sun Sep 28 18:41:19 2003

Subject: [R-390] Photo of R-389/URR S/N 148 restored by Rick Mish

Hi Friends, I have uploaded on my webspace some photos of the R-389/URR S/N 148 that I bought from Don Reaves W5OR and that Rick Mish re-built for me. Hope that this message is of some interest for you.

Can we begin to register the S/N of the surviving R-389/URR, I believe that no more than 700-1000 were ever built. If the owner of surviving R-389/URR shall send me the data of their R-389/URR I shall collect. 73 de Federico IZ1FID

Visit my webspace voted to military surplus radio : www.dottorbaldi.it/militaryradio See also : <http://www.geocities.com/pa0jta2/hamshacks.html>

From jamesmiller20@att.net Sun Sep 28 06:04:37 2003

Subject: [R-390] R390A Popping

I had the same problem. Unfortunately it turned out to be a break down in the center insulation of the mini-coax cables carrying the diode load signal from the IF module, to the rear terminal strips, up to the front panel, etc. After tediously replacing these coaxes the problem went away. I was put onto this by another on the list several years ago who had experienced the same thing. I forgot who. Popping will tend to be more noticeable when the diode load voltages go higher due to the breakdown in the coaxes. Strange but true. Of course it could be otherthings too, like bad caps, a bad tube, etc. Good luck.

From hankarn@pacbell.net Sun Sep 28 14:47:18 2003
Subject: [R-390] WTD: HRO -500 parts

I am in need of T-303 National part number B51379 the IF output transformer for an HRO-500 series 75. Will consider a parts rig at less than the federal deficit. So stir up your parts bin, junque box etc and dig out this small IF. TIA Hank KN6DI

From jbrannig@optonline.net Sun Sep 28 19:51:37 2003
Subject: [R-390] (no subject)

My station shelves are 3/4 inch birch veneer plywood, 12 inches deep . The entire assembly is a large box that sits on top of a 7 foot operating table. All the joints are rabbitted, screwed and glued. 1X2's, on edge are used to support the long edge of the shelves. Molding was applied to all ends and it is finished with stain and polyurethane.

At one end I built a rack "box" for the R-390A, CV-591 and a few small pieces. 3/4 inch angle iron is recessed in the vertical sides of the rack box. The angle iron is drilled and tapped for standard rack screws. The R-390A sits on the bottom and it is "shimmed" level with wood spacers covered with flat aluminum stock. The back is open. The shack is air conditioned during the summer and I never saw the need to install fans. The rest of the shelves are used for HF and VHF equipment. Jim

From Spencer Carter <spencex43@earthlink.net> Mon Sep 29 19:44:55 2003
Subject: [R-390] FS: R-390a covers

Hello list members, I recently acquired an EAC R-390a including a cabinet and the two original covers. I don't anticipate ever needing the covers so if anyone is interested in buying them, please contact me off list: spencex43@earthlink.net

This is the same type of receiver I used in Phubai, Vietnam circa 1967. Then I had two of them, one for each ear, as I was a morse intercept operator in the Marines. I was stationed on an Army base working with other Marines and Naval Security Group personnel.

While I was there, I was also a MARS operator for a while, but for the life of me I couldn't tell you what kind of equipment we were using. However, it was certainly satisfying being able to phone patch military folk with their loved ones back home--except on the rare occasion when the reception from the "sweetheart" back home was chilly.

Anyway, the R-390a--which was restored by Phil Atchley--is a nice addition to my shack. I just hope I don't get a hernia when I have to move it! Spence Carter N. Hollywood, CA