

R-390 Reflector November '05 Edited

From paolo.gramigna at controllo.it Tue Nov 1 01:20:21 2005
Subject: [R-390] RadioMart story

Hi all,

I have been following the thread but i feel confused. I did a search on ebay for a seller named Radiomart but i got 0 result. Then i tried radio-mart, and i found what looks to be a succesfull seller with a rating of 3142, 97.4 positive. The winning bidders are a lot of people, not repeating so often, with fairly high ratings including K5SVC that i dealt with and has a rating of 3023, and leaved a good feedback. I can't find "gottahaveit1995" among his buyers.... I know i missed something, but i can't find where...

Cheers, Paolo

From r390a.urr at gmail.com Tue Nov 1 05:40:02 2005
Subject: [R-390] R390 PTO?

wrote: > I have a sealed foil-wrapped PTO (or at least it feels like one) bearing a small white tag with part number 5963-00327-4393 on it, given to me by Norm Litsche years before he died. Is this for an R390A?

Yes!

From tshoppa at wmata.com Tue Nov 1 07:50:08 2005
Subject: [R-390] Radio Mart does it agian/ More!!

> OK, I have him figured out. I have been watching some auctions lately and noticed the same buyer always wins. That's right. He has 2 identities. He buys with " gottahaveit1995 " and then re-sells the item under "Radiomart" . This is true. The R-390A he is selling now, with the crappy looking P/S and PTO was bought by gottahaveit1995 a couple of months ago. just FYI.

True, if you watch usenet ham/shortwave groups (esp rec.radio.shortwave) you can see his behavior (under even more E-bay identities) tracked over several years.

Even buying auction radios, painting front panels, and selling them high he probably isn't even making minimum wage, so don't get too riled up at his "greedy schemes" and "exaggerated claims". I occasionally get incensed about what I see at the E-place (particularly if it involves chopping up good radios similar to those from my boyhood...) but it isn't worth the effort. I've got better things to do with my time (like restoring the radios I've already got!) Tim.

From _dave.f at mail.com Tue Nov 1 08:52:09 2005
Subject: [R-390] RadioMart story

In my opinion a feedback rating of 97.4 is terrible. You are doing something wrong if it's more than 1% negative. In other categories you might run into a higher percentage of nut cases, but with boatanchors near perfect feedback is achievable, as demonstrated by a number of guys on this list. Dave, WW8S

From chacuff at cableone.net Tue Nov 1 09:12:25 2005
Subject: [R-390] RadioMart story

I agree with David. If you take the time to read the types of negatives he is getting there is a pattern and a pretty standard answer.

The only time I got slammed was by a lady in California who I sold a used piece of electronics gear to....she came back 3 months after receipt of the item and claimed it was defective and had Paypal reverse the charges and left me negative feedback. The item was sold with no warranty except that it was described correctly and would arrive non-DOA.

I've not had any problems with the customers of BA type radio's...they are by and large an honest group... Cecil....

From dhallam at rapidsys.com Tue Nov 1 09:31:35 2005
Subject: [R-390] GE Ham News

Does anyone know if the "GE Ham News" is archived anywhere? I am looking for the November/December 1950 issue? Specifically the article "SSB Jr.". David C. Hallam KC2JD

From beerbarrel at cox.net Tue Nov 1 09:58:23 2005
Subject: [R-390] RadioMart story

I'm at 98.7! I must be a terrible seller....I did always think that I was a jerk. Oh well... Tracy

From roy.morgan at nist.gov Tue Nov 1 10:28:59 2005
Subject: [R-390] GE Ham News

wrote: >Does anyone know if the "GE Ham News" is archived anywhere? I am looking >for the November/December 1950 issue? Specifically the article "SSB Jr."

David,

Among the modest number of them archived at BAMA is the one you want!
http://bama.sbc.edu/ge_ham_news.htm An additional list of them will be scanned and posted, the page says. Roy

From roy.morgan at nist.gov Tue Nov 1 10:41:45 2005
Subject: [R-390] GE Ham News

wrote: >Does anyone know if the "GE Ham News" is archived anywhere? I am looking >for the November/December 1950 issue? Specifically the article "SSB Jr."

David,

OOPS: I wrote: : "Among the modest number of them archived at BAMA is the one you want!"

http://bama.sbc.edu/ge_ham_news.htm"

But in fact the issue there about SSB is from 1957:

<<ftp://bama.sbc.edu/downloads/gehamnews/ge1206/GEHamNews-Vol12No6-NovDec1957.pdf>>

That is not the article you look for, sorry. (In addition, it's not scanned flat and the edges of some pages are missing. It may have been scanned from one of the fairly unusual bound volumes of the Ham News.)

An additional list of them will be scanned and posted, the page says, but does not include the 1950 issue.

Sorry for misleading anyone.. I may have the that issue at home. I'll check tonight. Roy

From jpl15 at panix.com Tue Nov 1 11:08:30 2005

Subject: [R-390] GE Ham News

wrote: > An additional list of them will be scanned and posted, the page says, but > does not include the 1950 issue. > > Sorry for misleading anyone.. I may have the that issue at home. I'll check > tonight.

Okay, that's IT, Morgan.... just what we've all been discussing, and now you pull this stunt! Where's that damn Negative Feedback Button at? Every maillist needs one... KB6SCO (100%) ps ;}

From crips01 at msn.com Tue Nov 1 11:11:08 2005

Subject: [R-390] GE Ham News

Check with the Library of Congress They should have it. <http://www.loc.gov/wiseguide/index-flash.html> Ken de W7ITC

From crips01 at msn.com Tue Nov 1 11:21:36 2005

Message-ID: <BAY107-DAV81271A70F9ED885FC63CABF6F0@phx.gbl>

I see BAMA (http://bama.sbc.edu/ge_ham_news.htm) has GE Ham News for many years available for download. But not the 1950 issue you are looking for, bummer. Ken de W7ITC

From crips01 at msn.com Tue Nov 1 11:26:46 2005

Subject: [R-390] GE Ham News

By the way, is the article you looking for about the Eldico SSB Jr? Ken de W7ITC

From mtallent at highstream.net Tue Nov 1 13:15:15 2005

Subject: [R-390] GE Ham News

I do not have the Nov 1950 issue, but I do have the spiral bound GE SSB Handbook, and there is a reprint of the SSB Jr from the Nov-Dec 1950 issued included. I can scan this if that would help. It is 12 pages. Mike Tallent W6MXV

From crips01 at msn.com Tue Nov 1 14:49:18 2005
Subject: [R-390] GE Ham News

Have you thought to have the originals rewound; Peter Dahl can do it for you. He does stock your main power transformer, at least the one for the HT-37 but is not cheap \$235 (!)
<http://www.pwdahl.com/dahlcatalog/hamtrans011404.html#H>

Here is another outfit that rewinds transformers.
<http://www.jenkins.com/jenkins/transformers/rewind.htm> Ken

From jamminpower at earthlink.net Tue Nov 1 15:44:55 2005
Subject: [R-390] Meter rewinding?

Does anybody know someone who rewinds meters? I have a number of original R-390A and SP-600 meters that have open windings. My eyes are not now and never have been good enough to do something that fine. James A. (Andy) Moorner www.jamminpower.com

From b_hagen at sbcglobal.net Tue Nov 1 16:07:20 2005
Subject: [R-390] Meter rewinding?

Andy:

Has to be somewhere. In Akron in the 50/60's there was a meter shop that did that but they are long gone. Seems digital meters don't need to be rewound. Bruce Hagen

From dathegene at hotmail.com Tue Nov 1 16:40:30 2005
Subject: [R-390] RadioMart story

The recent Ebay discussion reminds me of one I had recently at work. A couple of observations we arrived at:

1. Ebay cannot be used as a price guide. You are by definition dealing with the HIGHEST bidder. Searching completed results will give you an idea of the TOP dollar paid recently for any given item. What it may retail for on any given day will be MUCH less.
2. 100% feedback is impossible in the long run. If you think the Post Office can deliver 100 out of 100 packages with no damage, I have a NSA/CIA 390A for you... And that's just getting it to them. Add honest disagreement about what you stated in your auction. Nothing in the world is "mint", "looks like it's never been used", etc. It may look good to you but the buyer may have expected more from your glowing description. I know I've bought stuff that wasn't anywhere near what I expected, only to go back and read the ad and find out they did indeed describe it accurately...
3. There are crooks out there! Is it reasonable to expect 100 honest sellers for every 100 items you buy? Check the feedback. If "item did not match description" occurs more than once, be wary and expect the worst, and buy at last resort. The best indicator is "There was a problem with this item but seller worked with me to resolve". Nothing like good old fashioned customer service...

Too long already-73! Gene NAØG

From peuh8 at bellsouth.net Tue Nov 1 16:27:43 2005
Subject: [R-390] "radio Mart" vs "radiomart"

You need to try a dif. format in sch eng...You WILL!! find the one in question...boocos of comments..
JLAP

From DJED1 at aol.com Tue Nov 1 16:55:47 2005
Subject: [R-390] RadioMart story

It's true that it is difficult to be 100% perfect in describing and selling equipment, but it's also true that a lot of conflicts never make it into negative comments. I've not posted negative comments if the seller was willing to refund my money, even though the item was not fairly described, and I lost out on the shipping costs. Not good customer relations, but the threat of negative feedback in retaliation for my posting a negative has kept me from posting negatives on some ethically-challenged sellers. Ed

From crips01 at msn.com Tue Nov 1 17:14:37 2005
Subject: [R-390] Meter rewinding?

Well there is this ridiculous link posted on Google.

Sponsored Links

Meter Repair
New & used Meter Repair.
Check out the deals now!
www.ebay.com Ken

From dhamm at rapidsys.com Tue Nov 1 17:37:44 2005
Subject: [R-390] RadioMart story

I have seen sellers who state in their auction write up "if you give me negative feedback I will respond with negative feedback for you". This is contrary to eBay policy of non-intimidation and the seller reported to eBay. They will take action. David

From n4buq at aol.com Tue Nov 1 17:44:34 2005
Subject: [R-390] 9-Pin Tube Base Specifications

Can someone point me to the physical characteristics of a 9-pin tube base? I'm interested in the pin diameters and the pin-pattern's diameter. I think this is in the R390A CD, but not sure. I figure the specification is somewhere on the internet but I'm not finding it. Thanks, Barry - N4BUQ

From Flowertime01 at wmconnect.com Tue Nov 1 19:10:54 2005
Subject: [R-390] GE Ham News

Roy,

Thank you for the link to the GE PDF files. Some good reading for me. Thanks Roger KC6TRU

From shoppa_r390a at trailing-edge.com Tue Nov 1 19:31:42 2005
Subject: [R-390] 9-Pin Tube Base Specifications

wrote: > Can someone point me to the physical characteristics of a 9-pin tube base? I'm interested in the pin diameters and the pin-pattern's diameter. I think this is in the R390A CD, but not sure. I figure the specification is somewhere on the internet but I'm not finding it.

I don't know what the official spec is, but the pins of a 9-pin tube fit just perfectly into a 1/2" socket (square or hex). And the pins themselves are the same thickness as 18 gauge wire (0.040" diameter).

So the centers of all the pins are on a circle 0.460" diameter.

I have looked for an official spec on the web but never found it, never did find it in a tube handbook either.

Note that most PC mount tube sockets have a different pattern diameter (usually on the outside so larger). Tim.

From kc0lwn at yahoo.com Tue Nov 1 22:25:39 2005
Subject: [R-390] 6dc6 in r-390a

The collins tube & crystal list posted at <http://www.wa3key.com/tubes.html>

has one 6dc6 as part of the tube complement in the r-390a. The r-390a.net list makes no such mention, Is this a later modification?

From kc0lwn at yahoo.com Tue Nov 1 23:01:43 2005
Subject: [R-390] 6DC6

I was wrong found it in the Pearls section.

From kgordon at moscow.com Wed Nov 2 01:38:15 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390A/URR from an estate.

<http://www.mines.uidaho.edu/~kgordon/Images/R-390A/R390A.html> It also has the original top and bottom covers. The photos aren't the greatest, but they will do. I didn't take them. Ken W7EKB

From tshoppa at wmata.com Wed Nov 2 08:02:20 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390A/URR from an estate.

> <http://www.mines.uidaho.edu/~kgordon/Images/R-390A/R390A.html> > It also has the original top and bottom covers. > The photos aren't the greatest, but they will do. I didn't take them.

Not that I'm interested in buying (or is this not a forsale posting?), but what's where the rectifier tubes used to be on the PS?

Looks vaguely like a barrier strip. Or maybe those are shiny tube shields and the reflection of the flash causes my confusion. Tim.

From rbethman at comcast.net Wed Nov 2 10:01:40 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-390A/URR from an estate.

One of the later Mods done by the military replaced the rectifier tubes with diodes. Looks like someone simply did it a little differently. Bob - N0DGN

From roy.morgan at nist.gov Wed Nov 2 10:15:53 2005

Subject: [R-390] 9-Pin Tube Base Specifications

wrote: >Can someone point me to the physical characteristics of a 9-pin tube base?

All,

I have extracted the two pages from the RCA Handbook 3 on the 7- and 9-pin miniature tube bases, and made a small PDF file of them.

'Glad to email this to anyone interested, (or post it to my website if I get more than a few requests.) Roy

From jdkopke at cablespeed.com Tue Nov 1 12:48:27 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-390A /CV-157 /CV-591.

My son and I are both R-390a owners and enthusiasts. We were recently disappointed by an attempted E-bay purchase. Can anyone here suggest a way to find a CV-157 , or a CV-591 in good condition that is for sale? I am but a novice, but find this site interesting and informative. Thanks for any advice. Sincerely; john kopke

From DSCC at att.net Wed Nov 2 11:19:05 2005

Subject: [R-390] Vacuum Tubes

Hello,

Reading about tube needs, I decided to offer the following. I have collected a lot of tube over the years . Let me know your needs and I will let you have most for shipping. Please sends E-mails as Re 12AX7 so I know what its about. WA4NIZ (Don)

From federico at dottorbaldi.it Wed Nov 2 13:56:59 2005

Subject: [R-390] REQUEST OF HELP ABOUT COLLINS 851S-1

EXCUSE ME FOR THE OFF-TOPIC QUESTION

Hi to All my friends,

I have found here in Italy a Collins receiver type 851S-1 in quite good conditions, the receiver has some electrical problems so I'm searching the Technical Manual with schemes in original, copy or (better than copy) CD-ROM. Obviously I'll pay any reasonable price. 73 de Federico IZ1FID

From Flowertime01 at wmconnect.com Wed Nov 2 20:06:49 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-390A /CV-157 /CV-591.

John,

You ask if anyone here suggest a way to find a CV-157 , or a CV-591 cabinet.

The R390 and R390A mostly did not come in a table top cabinet like the ones you refer to. Mostly we were mounting them two or more in upright racks or side by side in a sloped front double wide cabinet.

The receiver has a standard 10 1/2 inch 6U high front panel. A "U" being 1 3/4 inches. I have no idea who standardized the U at 1.75 inches. and decided things should be in multiples of that unit.

Blank panels come in 1.75 high increments. And they are all 19" wide. 24" is also another standard width.

Finding a table top cabinet that is deep enough can be a problem.

HP put some signal generators in some standard cabinets with RETMA mountings. RETMA being the standard hole pattern that goes with the U panel heights.

Once you understand there is a method and pattern behind the madness you see the logic in the hole patterns along the sides of most military and heavy duty test equipment. Lots of it comes out of the little cabinets and get mounted in big racks in the shops and labs where it lives forever.

You can find short "table top" cabinets around. Watch your local swap meets. If you live near a big military contractor, watch for their surplus sales. These guys will some time put stuff out for sale. Hughes use to do employee preference sales on the first Saturday of the month in Fullerton California. Boeing did sales in Washington. Rockwell did sales in Los Angeles.

Any way there are commercial cabinets available as used equipment. If you find one a bit more than 6 U high, you can put the receiver in it and fill in the extra space with a blank panel of 1, 2, 3 or more U high.

Cabinets are listed new in catalogs but the price exceeds the price you pay for the radio. Shop around until you hit the \$40.00 range for a good looking used short rack.

Full "6 - 8 foot cabinets closed on sides with a back door can be had for \$80 - \$100 dollars. You can also find short 4 foot floor racks. some on casters. Lots of these were old computer cabinets and are floating around.

The rail pattern is a standard pattern in all these cabinets. Any of them with a rail set 19" wide will work. Some have threaded rails for 10 x 32 bolts. some have holes and use a tinner nut (cheep "yea cheep" not the cheap) nuts or a good nut with a retainer clip that go with the rails. There are also "nut bars" which are strips of metal with 2 or 4 tapped holes that fit the RETMA rail pattern. Any of this hardware will work.

Try not to hang your R390 by the front panel. The receiver weight is too much for the front panel to support. The panel bends and will not look so good. Just because you can do it does not imply you should do it. The cabinet should have some blocks put in the bottom to support the receiver. Some table top cabinets will have internal rails to support the receiver. Floor racks typically have a set of rail holes inside to mount rails on that support stuff bolted to the front panel. These side holes and rails are also a standard type item. The rails are usually a 2 inch by 2 inch chunk of angle iron. In floor racks the back rail set is adjustable to fit slides and mounting rails. For being a standard item the stuff I have seen inside floor cabinet has ranged all over the spectrum. But it will all bolt up a lot like an erector set.

I hope this opens up your search window and you find a nice cabinet for your receiver.

You would like to have your receiver in a cabinet. If you wind up with a floor cabinet someday, remember you want to keep it enclosed and grounded. The whole idea of using a steel cabinet with an R390 on a table top is to shield it. Shield also implies ground. The R390's (and A's) will pick up a lot of local signal that mixes to noise in the audio output. Placing your receiver in a cabinet helps. Consider that at 30 Mhz a 1/4 wave is still several feet long. So small slots are still effective shields. If the AM band 1/4 wave is very long, an open cabinet side is not a shield. There is some rational between slots and screens being OK in shields and real big openings being not so good. Roger KC6TRU

From n2fq at sbcglobal.net Wed Nov 2 21:30:15 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390A /CV-157 /CV-591.

Hello

I've been lingering in the background and wanted to say thanks for this tidbit. I have just installed my 390A in a 6ft rack and according to your comments, I can see why I had difficulty in lining up the holes.

Now I'm enlightened and thanks. Notice that I have some space between them that are not uniform but gets them off the floor. <http://pages.sbcglobal.net/n2fq/_images/r390arack.jpg> take care

From bipi at comcast.net Thu Nov 3 00:57:08 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390A /CV-157 /CV-591.

Very nice setup but why is it in the garage and not in the living room?????

From paolo.gramigna at controllo.it Thu Nov 3 01:13:04 2005
Message-ID: <200511030615.jA36FTL3002751@box.controllo.it>

Very nice setup but why is it in the garage and not in the living room?????

Hi, I know why it is in the garage. I have the same problem here, and it is called "wife".....

From jdkopke at cablespeed.com Thu Nov 3 09:07:10 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390A /CV-157 /CV-591.

Dear Sir;

With all due respect. Many of us will live out our lives longing for the equipment that you have in you're garage rack'.

When I was a single parent, I once put my spotless Triumph Hurricane in my living room, the comments, from female visitors were priceless, I wish that I could have recorded them. My commentary to their objections, was "you're right, Ill' move it to the bedroom".

It would be an honor to help you move this beautiful equipment, to your den, or bedroom, please advise me when you will be ready. Sincerely; john kopke

From radiohound2 at yahoo.com Thu Nov 3 10:25:11 2005
Subject: [R-390] CU-872 Multicoupler

Sorry for the repeat, first message did not come thru as hoped. Can someone help me with information on the Navy CU-872 Multicoupler? Purchased a new unit from Fair Radio (nice place, but purchased too much besides the coupler) Unit uses 20 6922 tubes and has manual dated in late 60's. 1 in and 8 out, 70 ohms. Wonder what system it was used in and if anyone has experience using it. Plan on using it with my R-390 and R-390A, etc. thanks Ward K8FD

From tshoppa at wmata.com Thu Nov 3 10:37:05 2005
Subject: [R-390] Added the IEC line filter

Background: a couple of weeks ago I added GFCI outlets in the basement, and discovered that indeed the stock R-390A line filter is guaranteed to trip them (leakage current of a properly functioning stock filter is >5mA so it has to trip the GFCI.)

After unsuccessfully looking for a "low-leakage" line filter with roughly the same terminal configuration as the stock unit, I took the common wisdom and added an IEC-jack-style line filter.

I got a Qualtek 3 amp filter from Mouser for circa \$6. A couple minutes with a nibbler and a file turned the 1" circular hole on the back (where the screw terminals for the original filter came out) into a rectangular hole for mounting the new filter in.

The filter I got had a metal kind-of-gasket on the back of the black plastic face that seats nicely against the remnants of the 1" circular hole. I'm not sure that all brands/models of IEC line filters have the nice metal gasket (I saw it on none of the engineering drawing PDF's the manufacturers have.)

Others here report putting the IEC filter inside (and not through) the back panel so they don't have to enlarge the circular hole but that seemed awkward to me.

The result is that it works just fine (leakage current under 1mA so no GFCI trips!) and looks great too. Will repeat the process for my other rigs in the near future.

From gwmoore at moorefelines.com Thu Nov 3 10:52:52 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390A /CV-157 /CV-591.

wrote: > Dear Sir; > With all due respect. > Many of us will live out our lives longing for the equipment that > you have in you're garage rack'.

Gentlemen:

As an "Ol Married Guy" of 36 years, I can only say "WOW". [Drooling with envy]. Now, having 2 R392's and 2 URA-17's , and being threatened with eviction by the XYL on a regular basis [that 'Junk' in the basement'] that pix of the rack with the R-390's, the CV-591, old friends all, was truly moving. 73 de Greg "GW" Moore WA3IVX/NNN0BVN

From wak9 at cornell.edu Thu Nov 3 12:44:58 2005

Subject: [R-390] Re: rack full of gear

I worked for a surplus store for a couple of years awhile back and managed to accumulate quite a bit of components and gear. Add to that the fact that (I think for the same usual reason) a local radio guy at the time was clearing out some of his gear and I gladly took what he would give me. Now I'm settled down with a lovely young thing who very matter-of-factly tells me that I'm hording way too much stuff and I need to have a yard sale. I'm not sure I understand what her problem is. She also would like to move me from the one room in the house I have set up as my shop (which doubles as the upstairs bathroom) out to the garage or up to the unfinished, non-insulated attic. I think there's something in the genetic makeup of the fairer sex that predisposes them to an inability to relate to what the rest of us take for granted. Go figure.

Just another poor guy who likes those glow-in-the-dark contraptions. Bill

From n2fq at sbcglobal.net Thu Nov 3 12:46:22 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-390A /CV-157 /CV-591.

Hello All.

Thanks to all who wrote, I didn't expect it.

I'll answer some questions here if I can.

I've had these radios now about four years. They where on the side of the garage waiting for my TLC. You see, I've been on the list for a bit but I'm a slow reader and learner. I bartered for the radios, drove over 1200 miles to pick them up, then purchased the SSB unit. As time marched on I was able to acquired the signal generator URD25 and a tube tester.

The reason they were in the garage (shame isn't it), they are too dirty to bring into the house. I don't have the support require in the house to put them on neither. However, (big plus here) the wife has always been supportive of the hobby. She loves the radios too. They look cool to her, yes!!

The rack was found during a conversation I had at Pacificon with another member on this list. The shelves are 1" aluminum angle stock. The whole thing is on casters but they don't have the brakes so I need to be careful that it doesn't creep over to the cars.

The radios:

The top two are EAC and have the etched panel. The bottom two are Collins, one has the etched panel and the bottom one has decals.

The top three work on the AM bands. I didn't try any other bands. The bottom one blows the fuse.

As one person mentioned to me, that this is a lot of radio , and I agree. I plan to keep just two along with the speaker and ssb unit.

So for now they'll be in the garage as I work on them, the weight alone is prohibitive to bring into the house (4 X 70lbs = 280 + 50lb rack + 40lb ssb = 370lb more or less)

I admire that Japanese ham who rebuild his on what looks like a kitchen table. Bravo!!

Finally, please don't take this as a guy showing off, I've had them awhile, been here the same amount of time and just love them, but was too overcome with relief after reading about the different hole patterns on the racks that I to express my gratitude to the list member. Finagling these heavy monsters up and down the rack was strenuous, to say the least.

Well, I would trade my first born for a TMC Rack I once saw at ARRL Headquarters, what a beautiful thing of knobs, meters, nice bright toggle switches..etc. Anyone here visited the ARRL back around the late 70's and see that thing? take care all and forgive the wordiness.

From n4buq at aol.com Thu Nov 3 12:48:04 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: rack full of gear

Can I come to the garage sale? :-) Barry - N4BUQ

From wak9 at cornell.edu Thu Nov 3 13:00:12 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: rack full of gear

I'll keep ya posted, Barry. If I had a garage or yard sale, the odds someone would come by and know what the heck that stuff was is pretty slim. But seriously, there is alot of stuff that I will never need. My plan is to "someday" go through and weed out the keepers and the expendible items, which will probably be made available through one of those darn online auction sites. "Someday" will come someday, sooner or later. Bill

From wak9 at cornell.edu Thu Nov 3 13:23:13 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: rack full of gear

Man, I'm tellin' ya, if it was for those bumpy curvy parts on the fairer sex, I'd almost consider an LTR...

From wli98122 at yahoo.com Thu Nov 3 14:41:04 2005
Subject: [R-390] re: added the IEC line filter

Tim:

I, too, have done the same power input addition on all three of my 390A's. It worked out swell for me, and I am very happy with both the electrical and cosmetic results.

Not having a long cord permanently attached to trip over is an added bonus when shifting gear around in the shop or rack.

Can not emphasize the importance of everything properly grounded in a crowded shack! W. Li Mercer Island, WA

From jdkopke at cablespeed.com Thu Nov 3 14:48:00 2005
Subject: [R-390] TD-687 URR

Gentlemen;

Would anyone know about a TD-687 URR, all of my internet searches have failed to reveal any information about this DOD device , (I am suspicious that it may be a SSB or RITTY accessory) . Any information would be appreciated. Thank You; Regards; john kopke

From lester.veenstra at lmco.com Thu Nov 3 14:10:04 2005
Subject: [R-390] RE: ARR-41 with mount FA post to R-390 group

He put it up again on another server <http://webpages.charter.net/muttman/misc/P3Vradio.pdf> Lester B Veenstra

From tshoppa at wmata.com Thu Nov 3 15:08:01 2005
Subject: [R-390] added the IEC line filter

> Can not emphasize the importance of everything > properly grounded in a crowded shack!

Yeah, I remember when I was a kid and my heathkit transceivers always gave me a pretty hefty tingle whenever I touched the chassis :-).

I've got a more serious ground system than a skinny wire to a water pipe now!

If I look at my non-R390A rigs (mostly dating from the 50's and 60's) I see they often have symmetrical line filters (and a few have symmetrical fusing, that is fusing both "hot" AND "neutral", that was popular for a couple of decades it seems.) But generally the AC hot-to-ground current through the filter cap is circa 1 or 2 mA so they do not trip the GFCI by themselves... but in concert they do! Tim.

From peuhls at bellsouth.net Thu Nov 3 15:40:10 2005
Subject: [R-390] Hurricane

John and other friends,

In my case I already have a hurricane in the living room!!.....But I will ad the Triumph type anytime..Period! JLAP

From leanne at islc.net Thu Nov 3 15:41:48 2005
Subject: [R-390] Slightly OT

I was cleaning up the shop and found this which was posted in a qual lab that I worked in many years ago.

How to Repair An Electronic Instrument

Step 1. Approach the ailing instrument in a confident manner. This will give the instrument the mistaken idea that you know something. It will also impress anyone who happens to be looking, and if the instrument should suddenly start working, you will be credited with it's repair. If this step fails to work, proceed to step 2.

Step 2. Wave the service manual at the instrument. This will make it assume that you are at least familiar with the source of knowledge. If this fail to work, proceed to step 3.

Step 3. In a forceful manner, recite Ohm's Law to the instrument. (caution: Before taking this step, refer to some reliable handbook to be sure of your knowledge of Ohm's Law.) This will prove to the instrument beyond of a shadow of a doubt that you know something. This is a drastic step and should be attempted only if the first two steps fail. If this step fails, proceed to step 4.

Step 4. Jar the instrument slightly. This may require anything from a three to six foot drop, preferably on a concrete floor. However, you must be careful with this step because while jarring is approved of repair, you must not mar the floor. Again, this is a drastic step. If it fails then proceed to step 5.

Step 5. Brandish a large screwdriver in a menacing manner. This will frighten the instrument and demonstrate you knowledge of the deadly short circuit technique. Proceed to step 6.

Step 6. Add a tube.... even if the instrument is solid state. This will prove that you are familiar with the instruments' design. This will confuse the instruments and thereby increase your advantage. If this doesn't work, proceed to the most drastic and dangerous step. It is seldom needed and is a final resort, if all else fails!!

Step 7THINK.....!!

From stevehobensack at hotmail.com Thu Nov 3 17:39:30 2005
Subject: [R-390] Garage

Hi, I have the same problem here, and it is called "the war department"

From: "paolo gramigna" <paolo.gramigna@controllo.it> Date: Thu, 3 Nov 2005 07:13:04 +0100
Subject: R: [R-390] R-390A /CV-157 /CV-591.

Hi, I know why it is in the garage. I have the same problem here, and it is called "wife".....

From K4HCA at alltel.net Thu Nov 3 18:55:32 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: rack full of gear

Hey, Todd;

You better hold on to that prize---I mean the girl friend/wife to-be, you may have the only one like her

in captivity!!!! Harold

From dsmamples at comcast.net Thu Nov 3 19:21:08 2005
Subject: [R-390] added the IEC line filter

All: I did the IEC thing when I went through the 390A several years ago. It just made sense; the previous owner had already substituted a garden-variety filter for the original. Dave WB4FUR

From Flowertime01 at wmconnect.com Thu Nov 3 20:53:28 2005
Subject: [R-390] CU-872 Multicoupler

Ward K8FD,

Would you like to part with the CU872 antenna coupler? Do you know if Fair Radio has any more?

The 6922 are industrial grade E88CC 6DJ8

1 in and 8 out, 70 ohms. Wonder what system it was used in and if anyone has experience using it. Plan on using it with my R-390 and R-390A, etc.

If you were ASA educated as a 33B20 Radio repair man you learned to service these items.

If you was an ASA educated 05H you had 1, 2 or maybe 3 of these between your antennas of choice and your receivers. 05H likely had 2 receivers and each receiver was on a different antenna. The place was called a field station. The antennas were called an antenna farm. 15 guys, 30 receivers, 15 mills were in a room called a bay.

In the corner of the bay was two racks filled with CU872 The racks had patch panels. The OP could pick a coupler output and patch it over to one of his two receivers. The guy may swap the patch 3 or four times in a 8 hour shift. Some guys had skeds that never needed to have an antenna swap.

Some where else was a room where all the antenna leads come into the building. Each antenna feed one CU872. The 8 outputs went down the cable ways to 8 different bays. into a CU872 in the rack in the corner. If more than 8 guys (very likely) wanted to use the same antenna in the bay then one CU872 output would be patched into a second CU872. That way 15 outputs would go to one of two receivers at the 15 operator positions. There were 7 positions down the side of the room that had the two CU872 racks. There were 8 positions down the other side of the room.

No one wanted to set the 15 position across from the coupler racks. The coupler racks had blowers and made it cold across from the rack. The racks were also next to the bay doors and you cough all the noise from the hall. At the other end of the room was a supervisor position on one side of the room with 2 more receivers. Across from the supervisor was the traffic analysis desk. Supervisors handed out sked. (your freq, antenna and time) while the analysis tried to make some sense out of who you were copying. Lots of 05 ops copied cut numbers. You hear ditty EISH5 and type 12345. you hear TMO 4 dah and 0 and you typed 67890.

Some ops had RTTY machines and some ops had AN/THN11 tape recorders.

So CU872 antenna couplers will work at least across the R390 spectrum. They will work up to 50 real

easy. Good tubes will get you above that. I never had receivers that went that there that I could patch into a CU872 to see how high it went. We had OPS that did this, but I was not allowed to just play with it to see what was what.

On the bottom end the CU872 has a filter in the bottom pan that cuts every thing under 2 MHz off. It got the AM broad cast band out of the noise mix. The filter has BNC input and output. you can use a barrel connector and by pass the filter and use the CU872 all the way down to at least the bottom of the AM band.

The CU872 is two sets of four amps. you can get inside and uncable one side of the amp and populate only half of the tubes. This will drive 4 outputs.

The CU872 was considered zero gain. One output had the same level as the input. As the output was fanned from 1 to 8 the gain was 8.

If you have several receivers a CU872 is nice to have as you can put 8 receivers on one antenna. The Army, Navy, Marines and Air force all used the CU872 antenna coupler in receiving sites. If you were a far end and all your antenna pointed to north America you likely had CU872s for the receivers. Then the transmitters had separate antenna. You likely looked at the propagation charts, clock on the wall and patched the RTTY tape to the correct transmitter.

You can get into the transformer outputs. By bringing the transformer output out without grounding one side (as is done with the N connectors) you can put the phase correct and drive the R390 balanced input from two coupler outputs and get a gain that way. Not something that one could do with military equipment in service. But owning one of your own opens lots of applications for you.

The circuits inside are very redundant. This will help you if you have had a tube go bad and have crispy things to repair. Finding 20 new tubes can be a bite in the pocket book.

I took care of these critters at several stations between 68 and 75. If you checked the tubes every 6 months you were OK. The front panel meter is a real nice 50 UA movement. I have two meters that I still use in home built volt meters. Roger KC6TRU

From hankarn at pacbell.net Thu Nov 3 23:14:47 2005
Subject: [R-390] CU-872 Multicoupler

Roger,

Great explanation of the couplers capabilities. I was in USAFSS Hdq. at Brooks AFB in 49/50 in OSD-1 as propagation tech and then antenna rigger. Long before the 872 came around. I have one in my rack along with a 16 output. Then went to ADC at McGuire AFB then Aviation Cadet Pilot Training. Then spent close to 35 years boring holes through the airspace as a pilot with over 20,000 hours of time with a lot of boredom with seconds of shear shark terror.

I still say the most dangerous part of flying is going to and from the airport. Hank KN6DI

From federico at dottorbaldi.it Fri Nov 4 02:39:14 2005
Subject: [R-390] CU-872 Multicoupler

Hi Roger,

very interesting explanation I owe from many years two CU-872 (see my webspace) with the first feeding the second so I have 15 receiver that get the same signal, this is very useful to test a receiver against another one. Some months ago I bought from Singer two Watkins-Johnson antenna coupler modules solid state (more or less 4 cigarette box each) but I still employ CU- 872.

73 de Federico IZ1FID

From roy.morgan at nist.gov Fri Nov 4 09:23:24 2005

References: <s36a27e5.008@wmata.com>

wrote: >If I look at my non-R390A rigs (mostly dating from the 50's and >60's) ...t generally the AC hot-to-ground current through the filter cap >is circa 1 or 2 mA so they do not trip the GFCI by themselves... but in >concert they do!

Tim and others,

The solution to this is to connect the line bypass caps as follows:

One from hot (black line cord wire) to neutral (white line cord wire) One from neutral to chassis.

This way,

- 1) the capacitive current is from line to neutral, and the current from neutral to chassis is *very* small.
- 2) Failure of any cap will result in a safe situation: a line to neutral short will either dis-assemble the cap (POW!), blow the fuse if the cap is after the fuse, or trip the house circuit breaker. A neutral to chassis short will do nearly nothing. Roy

From roy.morgan at nist.gov Fri Nov 4 09:38:40 2005

Subject: [R-390] Slightly OT

wrote: >How to Repair An Electronic Instrument

>Step 2. Wave the service manual at the instrument.

This reminds me of a frustrating experience had by a friend. He'd taken a TV to a shop to get "fixed". (This was many years ago when you could still do that.) The tv set owner is a PhD physicist who's worked with lab equipment a lot and knew his way around electronics a bit. The shop fellow did fix the thing, but at a surprisingly high fee. When questioned about the cost, the shop guy said: "This was a VERY difficult repair. I had to bring the oscilloscope up to it!"

The owner bit his tongue to avoid asking if the oscilloscope was any thing like the three he had at the lab or the one he had at home.

>... if all else fails!!

>Step 7THINK.....!!

I would add this step, which I used a number of times when working as final systems test engineer at

Teradyne, still a well known maker of automated test systems for the electronics industry:

Step 8

Humbly approach your most patient and understanding coworker. Ask him/her to just listen as you describe the problem. About half way through your explanation/frustrations you will stumble upon something quite obvious that you did not check or do and you'll feel quite embarrassed but have the clue to solve the problem.

In my case it was usually that I had not checked one low voltage supply fuse that would blow for no reason at all and create some non-obvious symptoms. Duhhh! Roy

From frolik at gulfel.com Fri Nov 4 10:54:32 2005

Subject: [R-390] Re: rack full of gear

Weeeel Todd "AIN'T" married "YET" Hehehe. Unfortunately I've seen other situations where the female is all "Cool" with the hobby until they get home after the wedding. Had a buddy that was into cars and a new wife that he thought was "Cool with Things". He swears that as they were leaving the church her exact words were it was time for him to "NOW" grow up and get rid of them. When he refused things hit the fan. Shortest marriage in history Hehehe. Hey at least he had the moxy to end it. I on the other hand am one of the very lucky ones. I was building big blocks f-bodies when I met my to be wife. I knew it was love when she suggested I snatch the 350 out of her firebird and drop in a 455. Be steady heart. She got use to having cast iron SHP heads, M21 trannies and 12 bolts in the living room Hi. She also learned to appreciate "Heavy Items". Got her ready when I went back to the boatanchor hobby. Fact she just got through unloading a trailer load of "Stuff" and the only question she asked while unloading a 250lb WE power transformer was did I want her to put it on blocks to keep the moisture off the floor from getting to it. Ya boy as they say she's a keeper. Still got most of her teeth and don't look half bad in the daylight. Skip

From vhfplus at bmg50.com Fri Nov 4 12:06:26 2005

Subject: [R-390] Re: rack full of gear

Mebbe the solution is to find a lady like I did. Her Dad was already an Amateur Radio operator, which is the only thing that kept me from being tossed out of the house the first time she brought me home :>)

As long as I keep the gear in my radio room (I always have) and pay some attention to her (except for Sweepstakes weekends) things have worked out well over the past 31 years.

I may be one of the lucky ones! 73, Jack, AE7DX

From Flowertime01 at wmconnect.com Fri Nov 4 16:31:02 2005

Subject: [R-390] Re: rack full of gear

Fellows,

I lucked out. The Army trained mine before I met her. She was making a living working with the R390A and understood they were useful items.

After 20 years in California garages. I am now limited to a walk in basement here in South Carolina. I

try to keep them out of the living room and off the kitchen table.

Sort of an adult approach to ones toys. Roger KC6TRU

From radiohound2 at yahoo.com Fri Nov 4 17:17:11 2005

Subject: [R-390] CU-52 Multicoupler

Can anyone tell me where the CU-52 multicoupler was used? Unit uses plug in coils and covers approximately 100KHZ - 22 MHZ. Uses 6BA6 tubes and has both balanced and unbalanced output (has at least 5 outputs - don't have in front of me right now). Came to me in heavy wooden box (should say boxes - have 4 units) and only a few of the plug in coils. The coils fit into a 5 pin socket and look easy to duplicate.

Any help would be appreciated thanks Ward K8FD

From future212 at comcast.net Fri Nov 4 19:19:16 2005

Subject: [R-390] Another 390A Carrier meter question

Hello,

I'm getting the last parts together and trying to finish up a couple of Blue-Strippers that I got from Fair Radio Sales. My question is about the carrier level meter. I have acquired the correct meter. My question is about the sensitivity of the meter. It reads around mid-scale with 0.1 mv/-73 dbm input on the balanced antenna. Does this sound about right. Most ham receivers are set up for S-9 readings with 50 uv signal. That is usually around 3/4 full scale. I don't think there is a problem with the overall sensitivity of the receiver, it is 1 uv or better. It takes a pretty strong station to get any readable meter movement.

Any ideas or suggestions will be greatly appreciated. 73's DW Holtman WB7SSN

From Flowertime01 at wmconnect.com Fri Nov 4 19:56:51 2005

Subject: [R-390] Another 390A Carrier meter question

DW Holtman, WB7SSN future212@comcast.net

writes: It takes a pretty strong station to get any readable meter movement. I have acquired the correct meter. My question is about the sensitivity of the meter. Any ideas or suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

DW,

Sad things I have to say. The R390 carrier level meter is un scaled to any standard. Never was. Never was taught in school to be related to any thing. It was just a nifty tuning indicator that let you sort of know when you had the signal in the band pass or the receiver.

The zero point was never an easy thing to set. It was the only specification for the meter circuit. We never tried to even get them to zero for the operators. We left them laying a bit off the left peg just so that what ever signal did come along was not lost before the needle got off the peg. Some of the guys have used 10 turn pots to get a better zero. Some have used 10 Ohm pots and made up the rest of the

resistance with fixed resistors to make the zero a little easier to set.

If you have a signal that puts the needle up about mid scale, you likely can bite down on a chewing gum wrapper and detect the signal in your mouth on one of your fillings. Sensitive the circuit is not. Calibrated is not used in reference to the meter circuit.

One side of the meter is set to a small positive voltage by the current drawn through R548. This is a 27 ohm cathode resistor for the AGC time constant tube. When you change the AGC speed. the change in voltage causes the meter to peg. This is all normal. The 5814 sections draws a little less current than the 6AK6 so its 27 ohm resistor balances some where with the resistance in the 6AK6 cathode circuit.

On the other side of the meter the stock 100 ohm resistor shorts a 22 ohm resistor. So the carried meter adjust varies from 0 to 18 ohms. The circuit is a voltage meter to measure the voltage drop across the bottom end of the 6AK6 fourth IF cathode resistor. The tube always conducts. There is always some voltage drop. Placing the other side of the meter against the AGC tube cathode resistor just offers a zero point for zero signal.

Once a signal hits the grid of the 6AK6, the tube conducts a bit harder. A little more voltage is developed across the metered section of cathode resistor and the meter will move up scale.

6AK6s will change in gain with any variable you would like to mention. A calibrated circuit it is not. No where is the developed signal in the receiver run across a fixed resistance and the magnitude of power metered. The line level output meter is as close as you get to a metered signal. This is just the audio level developed and has no calibrated relation to the RF signal strength. The meter is nice and it functions as designed. A S meter it was never intended to be. Roger KC6TRU

From DJED1 at aol.com Fri Nov 4 20:04:41 2005
Subject: [R-390] Another 390A Carrier meter question

In theory, according to my manual, 0 dB is 1 microvolt, so 20 dB is 10 and 40 dB is 100 microvolts. So I assume s9 is a bit less than the 40 dB mark. However, the scale is very dependent on the setting of the IF gain, so unless you calibrate the IF gain to the meter reading, you don't know what you've got. I checked mine and found that the meter was also rather non-linear, so I don't rely on it for accurate signal level measurements. Ed

From ba.williams at charter.net Fri Nov 4 20:53:07 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: rack full of gear

Seriously, women have their 'stuff' too. It's very different than our stuff, but they have it cleverly disguised all around the household. Next time something comes through the door- pay attention and take stock of what she is bringing home. After a while you start to notice their systems. Some women collect bath towels, some have loads of kitchen gadgets, and some have hundreds and hundreds of dollars in gardening equipment. Just take stock and start to equate their 'stuff' to your 'stuff'. Does she p&m about your having too many tools or tubes? Well, how does her kitchen gadget drawers look? Her spice racks? Does she sew? If she does, you are really in luck. A sewing machine with attachments is equal to freq generators, multimeters, and scopes. Ditto for her spools of every color thread known to man to your stash of vital tubes. If you really want to play dirty- open her closet and find a way to make her see the equality of her purse collections to your boatanchors.

She doesn't like the smaller radios around the house? Point out that they make nice music. If that doesn't work then maybe you should start complaining about those little things under lamps, knickknacks, and whatever other things they place around rooms. You know, the delicate little flowery things that cause a major war if you happen to break it. Take an aversion to flowers of any kind. Okay, that is a bit heavy handed but maybe you are getting an idea of how you have been brainwashed to accepting those awful things all of your life. I mean, would any of us buy chairs or sofa pillows with flowers on them if we were single or back in college? So, start a system of brainwashing on your terms. Get some small radios and start with reasons why then have to be here or there around the house. Light switch sticky or intermittent like mine in the bathroom? Shoot, just drag out a big test instrument and 'diagnose' the problem. Of course, you can't really do that without an instant fix for her amazement. Car low on gas and she wants you to take it to the station? Take out the scope for a few minutes and come back in to announce that you fixed the low fuel sensor and the car is good to go. Things like that go a long ways to balancing the power in a household.

If you really wanted a fight, suggest that her 'stuff' goes out to the garage along with your 'stuff'. The other other Barry

From shoppa_r390a at trailing-edge.com Fri Nov 4 21:12:19 2005
Subject: [R-390] Another Carrier Meter question

WB7SSN writes: > It takes a pretty strong station to get any readable meter movement.

Maybe it's a measure of noise in my neighborhood, but with any kind of antenna hooked up my R-390A's both register between 20 and 30dB on the carrier meter at 4kHz or 8kHz bandwidth. Big powerhouse SW stations (Deutsche Welle, RCI, etc.) come in between 60dB and 80dB.

I've never tweaked the meter or associated circuitry for any kind of calibration, I just adjust R523 for something near zero when there's no antenna hooked up. Tim.

From roy.morgan at nist.gov Fri Nov 4 22:04:55 2005
Subject: [R-390] Another 390A Carrier meter question

Quoting: ..It reads around mid-scale with 0.1 mv/-73 dbm input on the balanced antenna. Does this sound about right.

Nope. It does not. 0.1 millivolt is 100 microvolts. That might be the rf input voltage needed for mid-scale reading on the meter, but I don't remember the details. If the meter does not go pretty much way up on local broadcast stations using a moderate or longer antenna, it's not reading right.

> Any ideas or suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

- 1) Get a manual and read the alignment procedure.
- 2) Do the IF gain adjustment from Chuck Rippel's site before you do the carrier meter adjust.
- 3) Adjust the carrier meter by the book. Have some idea about your ACTUAL rf input voltage if you like, or just follow the book procedure if you don't need to understand what's really happening at the antenna input jack. Roy

From roy.morgan at nist.gov Fri Nov 4 22:23:12 2005
Subject: [R-390] Another 390A Carrier meter question

com: > Sad things I have to say. The R390 carrier level meter is un scaled to any > standard. Never was.

HAH! Thanks to Roger for setting us straight on this...

I assumed there was a calibration for the thing, and that was not a good assumption! (It's been a while since I had the manual open.)

> The zero point was never an easy thing to set. It was the only specification for the meter circuit.

True. Those of us who like to set things right and have them stay right are usually frustrated with the zero set. (I LOVE my General Radio stuff!)

> The meter is nice and it functions as designed. A S-meter it was never intended to be.

Oh KAY! Roy

From dathegene at hotmail.com Sat Nov 5 07:50:28 2005
Subject: [R-390] Another 390A Carrier meter question

Since the carrier meter is of limited utility, I suppose there is a mod out there to add a honest to God real S-meter to our rigs. Where can I find it? 73, Gene NAØG

From dhallam at rapidsys.com Sat Nov 5 08:08:26 2005
Subject: [R-390] Another 390A Carrier meter question

I always thought S-meters were nice to have but really of questionable utility. Most signal reports consist of "You're 20 over S-9 here OM, but could you repeat your call and I missed your QTH. On your next transmission would you spell your name phonetically, lots of QSB here." David KC2JD

From RLucch2098 at aol.com Sat Nov 5 10:54:38 2005
Subject: [R-390] Moving sale

Hi Everyone;

My XYL & myself have decided to move to florida. After 30+ years of collecting stuff, I cannot take it all with me, wish I could though so I am putting a lot of it up for sale here. The pictures are not the best as I have not attempted to move the items for a better view, also, I have not dusted or attempted to make them look better then they really are.

Because they are too heavy, they must be picked up on Long Island, NY. Here is a list with some pics:

1- DX-100 in shed, VFO dial mod, looks removeable, untested
\$100 <http://www.myradioroom.com/sheddx100.jpg>

- 2- Galaxy R-530 S/S Receiver, works, needs dial bulb, manual copy, cab was painted. \$400
- 3- EAC R-390A carcass w/RF deck, FP & Wiring w/supply module, dents in Xformer\$80.
<http://www.myradioroom.com/r390a1.jpg>
- 4- EAC R-390a as above, no supply module \$75<http://www.myradioroom.com/r390a2.jpg>
- 5- Heathkit Chippewa KL-1 with KS-1 supply, untested, very clean
\$1,000<http://www.myradioroom.com/chippewa.jpg>
- 6- National NCX-3 xcvr with national supply, untested, Good, untested
\$90<http://www.myradioroom.com/ncx3.jpg>
- 7- US Army R-17A rcvr with Supply & ac cable, worked great, just stopped, Supply cap or diode went I think, \$100.<http://www.myradioroom.com/mil-r17arcvr.jpg>
- 8- 2 B&W 6100 transmitters, extra clean, been in collection for years, never tested.\$600 ea. or B/O
- 9- 2 19" cabinets, 1 from a HQ-129X \$20 ea.
- 10- National NC-300 rcvr, worked nice last time tested, exc. condx
\$250<http://www.myradioroom.com/nc300.jpg>
- 11- National NC-303, wrong cabinet, nice shape, untested \$250
- 12- National RBH-1(cna-46188) rcvr .3-1.2mhz, 1.7 - 16mhz, untested, needs simple AC cable/plug, w/schematic, a rare one \$300, nice just needs a cleaning, inside nice also.<http://www.myradioroom.com/nationalrbh-1.jpg>
- 13- two(2) Drake MS-4 speakers, nice \$40 ea.
- 14- two(2) Drake PS-7 supplies, output connectors changed to be more universal(I think I tested these once), nice, not beat-up \$60 ea.
- 15- National NC-183 rcvr, tested a few years back, faint rub-scratches on top, vent grill added to top other wise nice, \$150.
- 16- Yaesu FT-101(has AM), original model, nice, untested \$150
- 17- Two SX-101A rcvrs, one tested, one not, both nice \$150 ea.
- 18- Hallicrafters SX-28, untested, needs restore but complete \$300.
- 19- R-390A EAC w/covers \$450, plays when last used.
- 20- Collins R-390 (not A) w/covers, complete, Never tested, told had no HV(?) \$400
- 21- Rtty Converter for R-390A, complete but no interconnect cables, nice
\$100<http://www.myradioroom.com/fskconverter1.jpg>
- 22- Motorola R-390A, was told it was working, nice with cover \$450

- 23- Collins 75A-4 with 3 filters, nice, untested \$1200 firm, spinner knob.
- 24- TMC GPR-90 receiver, cabinet repainted, super clean inside & FP, plays weak, will need repair etc!
\$500
- 25- ART-13 Transmitter(bomber), all original \$400
- 26- TWO Drake AC-4 supplies, some screws missing both ok, I used these for screw doners, hi! \$40 ea.
- 27- two EICO 720 transmitters, complete but untested, \$65 ea.
- 28- Hallicrafters SX-25 rcvr, untested, missing side vents, \$100.
- 29- Heathkit SB-220, needs clean & feet, untested \$400<http://www.myradioroom.com/sb220-gsb100.jpg>
- 30 Gonset GSB-100, extra clean, untested, only pic is back of unit:-
)<http://www.myradioroom.com/sb220-gsb100.jpg>
- 31- Drake L-4 amp with HB supply, meters changed out, why? anyway its complete but untested
\$300<http://www.myradioroom.com/tuner-L4.jpg>
- 32- HB high power tuner, 2 roller inductors, 2 military turns counters & big air cap
\$150<http://www.myradioroom.com/tuner-L4.jpg>
- 33- Another HB tuner & Various HB power amps, come see, make fair offer, parts alone are worth it if
you're a builder & build a supply!<http://www.myradioroom.com/shedtuner-amp.jpg>

So there you have it, a quick list. I do not have prices cut in stone but these seem fair so no redicluas
offers. There is other stuff too, am sure your trip will not go unrewarded, I have forgotten other stuff,
been years & some is covered up!tnx & 73..Rich WA2RQY

From mjmurphy45 at comcast.net Sat Nov 5 13:28:39 2005
Subject: [R-390] Another 390A Carrier meter question

Since the carrier meter is of limited utility, I suppose there is a mod out> there to add a honest to God
real S-meter to our rigs

. Hey, I think it is a pretty good signal strength indicator. It has plenty of utility even if it is not
"calibratable". It works like most S-meters that I have used. We need a sticker -

METER NOT FOR LABORATORY MEASUREMENT USE OR SAFETY OF LIFE

WARNING - METER MAY BE HARD TO ITERPRET FOR USERS 50 YEARS OLD AND
YOUNGER

CAUTION - R-390 -TRAINED OR AUTHORIZED USERS ONLY

Mike WU2D

From redmenaced at yahoo.com Sat Nov 5 19:19:43 2005
Subject: [R-390] Another 390A Carrier meter question

Well, if you put the age qualifier in there then it could also say:

WARNING: FOR USERS UNDER 30, NO USER SERVICABLE PARTS INSIDE.

or:

WARNING: FOR USERS UNDER 25, NO USER RECOGNIZABLE PARTS INSIDE

or:

WARNING: FOR USERS UNDER 20, GET SOMEONE TO READ THIS LABEL FOR YOU Joe

From barry at hausernet.com Sat Nov 5 20:02:21 2005
Subject: [R-390] test - ignore

Looks like one of my sendmail servers is blocked. Just checking alternative one. Barry

From schluensen at freenet.de Fri Nov 4 20:47:27 2005
Subject: [R-390] Tube Shields

Hi All,

looking for a complete Set of IERC or WRC Tube Shields for my R-390A. Someone knows a Source?
73, Frank, DK1LX

From kgordon at moscow.com Sat Nov 5 22:26:09 2005
Subject: [R-390] Tube Shields

> looking for a complete Set of IERC or WRC Tube Shields for my R-390A. Someone knows a Source?
Me too. Ken W7EKB

From r390a at bellsouth.net Sun Nov 6 01:22:56 2005
Subject: [R-390] RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

Looks like an ordinary R-392, radiation label on meter, a bit of stolen text in the description, but download the pics and blow them up a couple times and look in the bottom LH corner where the "Radiomart" logo is located. If you look at the logo, particularly in the last picture, it almost looks like there was another logo on the photo beforehand. Interesting. Wonder who the real manufacturer is? Looks way too new to be a real Collins.

The face of the receiver is dusty too. Item 5824261281 Tom NU4G

From shoppa_r390a at trailing-edge.com Sun Nov 6 06:39:49 2005
Subject: [R-390] Another 390A Carrier meter question

> It has plenty of utility even if not calibratable.

Very true. I have worked with radio equipment that was calibrated for measuring RF fields in terms of uV/meter, and it was an extremely convoluted and complex process that nobody would've ever paid for unless it was required by FCC certs :-).

I think I exaggerated there a bit, I think that calibrated receivers are used for direction finding etc., but it's worth pointing out that the ANTENNA has to be calibrated too! Not much point if just hooked to a random longwire... Tim.

From courir26 at yahoo.com Sun Nov 6 06:40:13 2005
Subject: [R-390] RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

It's remarkable that radio-mart, with all the volume it does, continues to improve his listing because they are mostly all *the best ever offered* or *mint.*

How is it that I have never even seen a mint radio (short of NIB) but other folks are so fortunate as to find them routinely? Tom

From odyslim at comcast.net Sun Nov 6 06:55:06 2005
Subject: [R-390] Tube Shields

Make that 3. Times 15 :-) Scott

From jamminpower at earthlink.net Sun Nov 6 08:00:23 2005
Subject: [R-390] Tube Shields

Gents, you can get all the IERC tube shields you need from Fair Radio www.fairradio.com

Don't believe the catalog - they have lots more stuff than is listed there, though they may have to dig for it. Send them an email. They have all but a few of the really, really scarce tube shields. James A. (Andy) Moorer www.jamminpower.com

From Radiograveyard at aol.com Sun Nov 6 09:38:34 2005
Subject: [R-390] Radiomart does it again R392

Check the pictures they are Martyns usual Red Carpet pictures. The carpet is in almost all of his listings. Pete

From mbalaw at optonline.net Sun Nov 6 09:58:23 2005
Subject: [R-390] Another R-390A Carrier Meter Question

The easiest way to hook up a "real" S-Meter for an R-390A or any other receiver for that matter is just to pick up the AVC bus and meter it with a very high impedance (preferably 10 Meg) meter. I did this with a GRR-5 and homebrewed a meter amplifier with an FET. It's even easier with an R-390 because the AVC voltage is available at the Diode Load pin on the back panel (or the front panel pin jack if it's a Navy modified unit). If you don't want to compromise your principles, you can build a genuine hollow state meter amplifier (VTVM) with a 12AU7 12AT7 or any other dual triode. Just see look at the print for a Heathkit or EICO VTVM or any tube era ARRL Handbook. Miles, K2CBY

From odyslim at comcast.net Sun Nov 6 10:36:59 2005
Subject: [R-390] Tube Shields/15 new 6015B's for trade

I have 15 brand new IERC 6015B's that I would like to trade for IERC 5020B's. New would be preferred but used will be fine. The 5020B is made to fit 5749size tubes

The 6015B will fit on a 12AU7 but is a little short to go all the way down the tube socket. Scott W3CV

From bipi at comcast.net Sun Nov 6 10:51:08 2005
Subject: [R-390] Another R-390A Carrier Meter Question

Hi Gang,

Guess I'm just lucky or something. I did the full IF/RF alignment of my R-390A per procedure then checked the carrier meter alignment using the little XG1 signal generator made by Elecraft (kit). The XG1 is a crystal controlled RF generator that supplies a precision 50uV signal (also 1uV switchable) on 7040 kc at 50 ohms. The carrier meter should read 40dB for an S-9 signal at 50uV per established guidelines. Well, that is exactly what the carrier meter reads. Checked a few other bands using my HP8640B for the signal source and they were right on the money too.

BTW, I replaced the carrier meter zero pot on the IF deck with a 10-turn precision pot as recommended by Chuck Rippel. That is a modification I would recommend to everyone. There is no issue with adjusting the carrier meter once that mod is made. The 10-turn pots are readily available from standard sources. Even saw some on the dreaded e-Bay for around \$5. I also did this modification on my Collins 51J4 with similar success. Just my 2-cents worth! 73 de Mike K7PI Mercer Island, WA

From DJED1 at aol.com Sun Nov 6 11:09:33 2005
Subject: [R-390] Radiomart does it again R392

Martyn is operating as usual. I was perusing his "like new, mint" R-390A until I got to the pictures and saw that the transformers on the PS and audio were all scratched and rusty. Makes you wonder just how diligent the refurbishment was. I suppose it's good he published the picture. Caveat emptor. Ed

From DJED1 at aol.com Sun Nov 6 11:24:16 2005
Subject: [R-390] Another R-390A Carrier Meter Question

I agree that the meter is pretty good for reading signal level- at least as good as most S-meters. But I've got to correct one thing- According to my TM 11-856A, which shows the meter reading vs signal level,

the meter in theory reads from 0 dB at one microvolt, and on up to 40 dB at 100 microvolts. So 50 microvolts (S-9) should be at 34 dB if the receiver gain is set for the most accurate meter reading. So now we've got three ways to set the IF gain: the manual way for a certain diode load voltage, the Chuck Rippel way to maximize sensitivity, and now the correct meter reading way. And I'll bet none are the same setting.

I checked my meter with a good signal generator, and found it off by about 10 dB at 30 dB, then pretty close as I went up towards 60 to 100 dB. When propagation was good a few years ago the strongest SW broadcast stations around 6 MHz could just hit 100 dB. Ed

From kc0lwn at yahoo.com Sun Nov 6 14:04:42 2005
Subject: [R-390] Tube heaters on DC

A friend of mine told me that if I run my tube heaters on regulated DC instead of AC I have to reduce the voltage by roughly .7 because of the duty cycle of the AC. He does that on tube amps claiming there is less inherent noise with the filaments being powered by regulated DC. Can any of you give me any advice on this?

From DJED1 at aol.com Sun Nov 6 14:15:46 2005
Subject: [R-390] Tube heaters on DC

No, you don't need to adjust the voltage for filament supplies. AC voltages are normally defined as RMS, which means it provides the same power as DC for the same voltage. So 12 VDC and 12VAC RMS will work the same. However, your 12VAC RMS has an instantaneous peak to peak voltage that is 2.8 times the RMS. Ed

From recycler at swbell.net Sun Nov 6 17:37:21 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

I have never dealt with radio-mart, what puts me off about similarly worded auctions in general are statements like these, which seem to give a lot of squirming room for the seller on weak pretense:

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"This is all done primarily to protect me from the people who buy working equipment, then remove parts and want to send it back to me as non-working and expect a refund."

-what? people do this? sounds like a fishy story to me.

]]]]

"Why Private? Well several winning bidders each week were being contacted after the sale ended and offered similar items by fraudulent sellers, to stop this practice, I decided to implement this feature so as to protect the identity of all bidders, not even I see who won until after the sale and I certainly cannot see who else had bid except for the winning bidder."

-It's for your protection.. er..., that is, the seller's protection more likely, to hide the identity of bidders from each other. Also makes it easier to have collusion or trickery by the seller during the bidding.

]]]]

"As e-Bay compresses my pictures, ..."

-umm.. get your good pics onto a server and link them like everyone else? There's no excuse for making excuses for images from a professional.

]]]]

"Collins R-392/URR in exceptional, Original Condition**"

--what's with the "**"? I saw no disclaimer, maybe it's hidden or I did not look well enough.

It could be something like: note: the equipment described in this text may or not be the equipment described in this text, may be inaccurately described, might be something else entirely, or the text description may be as full of **** as a thanksgiving turkey.

]]]]

anyway, these are red flags which pop up for me in ebay auctions. If the auction or seller seems questionable, the wisest thing to do is not bid. PJ

From redmenaced at yahoo.com Sun Nov 6 18:31:46 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

Is this guy working for Government Liquidation??

His posts sound kind of like theirs. "We don't care! Bid on whatever you see here, it may be like this, it may not. We reserve the right to send you anything we please and there is nothing we will do if you complain." Joe

From n6py at qnet.com Sun Nov 6 18:44:00 2005
Subject: [R-390] Another 390A Carrier meter question

Hi All

On my R-390 non-A receiver I've been having a good time working on and testing it but was a little confused as to the proper setting of the IF gain pot which really controls the accuracy and span of the carrier meter. The carrier meter pot only determines its zero setting.

I tried first setting the gain using my HP signal generator input to be 100uv, normally a S9 signal on most older Collins receivers, on 75 meters. I adjusted the IF gain pot for a reading of 60db at 100uv input after zeroing the meter with no antenna input. Then it was easy to give signal reports based on S units as 60db S9 and still had 40db above S9 on the meter for over S9 reports. I then had run some 3rd order intermod and noise floor tests on my receiver.

Later a friend more familiar with R-390's told me the best method of setting the pot was using the line audio meter. First set the pot for full IF gain with no antenna input and then setting the line audio meter for a db reading on the receiver's internal noise using the line audio control. Also the selectivity should be at 16kc during this procedure. Then to adjust the IF gain to drop the line audio meter reading 6db by

adjusting the IF gain pot for the proper adjustment.

I tried this method and then used my signal generator to determine the carrier meter reading for 100uv antenna input. It came out around 45db which makes some sense because 0db would be around a 1uv antenna input. After this adjustment of the IF gain pot I repeated my noise floor and intermod tests. I noticed a very slight but hard to detect lowering of the noise floor by only 2db to 3db but the two tone 3rd intermod floor didn't change from the previous test. So this method is slightly better for receiver noise floor performance. But I went back and set the IF gain for 40db with 100uv for easy S unit conversion since I'm a lazy guy.

But as Tim mentioned the R-390 to any old antenna is not a usable field strength measuring method since the antenna is not calibrated. But the meter does seem to be accurate in db by my testing it when changing my signal generator input, so the antenna/receiver system should be good for comparisons. I also found on my R-390 the sensitivity held fairly close after receiver alignment for the bands above 3mc. Collins sure did a nice design job on the R-390. Bill N6PY

From mhuss1 at bellatlantic.net Sun Nov 6 19:16:29 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-392 Power Supply

Finally satisfied with my R-392 Power supply. At first used a 28VDC, 4A supply that was handy, but it went into current limit when starting, and got too hot for my taste. I ordered two transformers, an LM317-based regulator kit, an 8Amp bridge rectifier, and heat sinks. Wired a 120 to 25VCT, 8 amp transformer to the 8 amp rectifier and used this to supply the filament current (J103-pin D). It only pulls about 2 amps normally, but pulls 8 amps for about ten seconds as the filaments heat up.

Heat-sink the rectifier. A second transformer 120 to 28V at 1.5 amps, supplies the LM317 Regulator kit. this supplies 32-33 VDC to the B+ input (J103-pin A). Added 100pF caps across all rectifier diodes to get rid of a little hash from turn-on spikes. Runs much cooler now. Before, the heat-sinks were setting at about 50C, now the rectifier heat sink is the hottest at 34C, the LM317 heat sink (admittedly large, since that is what I had) sits at 31C. It is disapatting only 2.5 watts peak, and about 2 Watts average. Switching between AC supply and DC Batteries shows no increase in noise. If anyone wants a parts list and schematic, e-mail me.

From wa4jqs at mikrotec.com Sun Nov 6 19:18:23 2005

Subject: {SPAMFILTER} Re: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

no he told me a few years back that he bought estates ?????? lives in Mt Sterling Ky if i recall. wanted to get some of an estate i bought in Northeastern Ky. Did not take long to figure out something was not on the up and up. 73 Tony

From Achro at aol.com Sun Nov 6 19:21:31 2005

Subject: [R-390] RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

The guy is a crook and should be removed from Ebay. It's as simple as that. Jan Sugalski KG4YRJ

From beerbarrel at cox.net Sun Nov 6 19:22:31 2005

Subject: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

You actually bought form gov liquidation without going to look at it? Hahaha...that is funny!

From DJED1 at aol.com Sun Nov 6 19:28:43 2005
Subject: [R-390] Another 390A Carrier meter question

I think your friend has an incorrect version of Chuck Rippel's procedure for setting the IF gain. I believe what it does is to set the gain lower in order to improve the sensitivity by reducing the IF noise contribution. The procedure is described on the R-390 FAQ page in the "pearls of wisdom". I don't know how the meter calibration winds up after doing Chuck's thing, but I'd be interested if you try the procedure out and then check the meter calibration. Ed

From w9ran at oneradio.net Sun Nov 6 19:38:59 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

wrote: >Is this guy working for Government Liquidation?? >His posts sound kind of like theirs. "We don't care!"

Yep, reminds me of the (in)famous Canadian surplus outfit that finally admitted to me that the phrase "fully checked out" really meant that the pilot lamp came on. (I also used their own eBay photo to prove that they shipped a damaged unit and finally did get a few bucks out of them). Caveat emptor applies, always! 73, Bob W9RAN

From jmiller1706 at cfl.rr.com Sun Nov 6 20:00:46 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

Is this fellow in Sadieville, Kentucky? I just sold a 312B3 speaker to a Martyn (first name) with an address there. Goes under the login name of "gottahaveit". He paid fast, I have no complaint with the transaction. Maybe he buys under that name and sells under another. Free enterprise.

From redmenaced at yahoo.com Sun Nov 6 20:01:43 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

wrote: > You actually bought form gov liquidation without going to look at it? Hahaha...that is funny!

+++++

Yes, I did as a matter of fact, several times even. 871978439 Not that I would recommend that anyone else do a crap shoot like that. Joe

From wa9vrh at mtco.com Sun Nov 6 20:07:09 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

wrote: Is this fellow in Sadieville, Kentucky? I just sold a 312B3 speaker That be him. You can bet you will see your speaker on radiomart at least three times the value and any nicks,scratches, dents etc. have all vanished. It will be CCA prefect, wonderful, and stupendious. Larry

From odyslim at comcast.net Sun Nov 6 20:18:03 2005
Subject: [R-390] critical location for triple mica tubes

I have just acquired a pretty sad R-390A at a hamfest last weekend. I also picked up some 5814A's with triple mica spacers. How lucky can one man be :-)) I wonder if there is any particular module in the R390A that would benefit from the triple mica 5814A? I am guessing the manual would have called for such a tube if it was critical.

I will probably use the radio for parts but I am still interested in any opinions.

I am just happy to get the needed meters and filters. I have never seen a radio in this condition. It must have been on the top of the pallet of blue stripers. Or possibly the bottom and all the crap from the others flowed down into it :-)) Still worth \$75.00 though! I should have taken pictures. Scott W3CV

From jmiller1706 at cfl.rr.com Sun Nov 6 20:28:55 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

Maybe I should try the red velvet in my photos next time.

From jmiller1706 at cfl.rr.com Sun Nov 6 20:36:11 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

The private listing thing is interesting. Create a few fake aliases and bid your item up with the false aliases, hoping for that occasional sucker to jump in.

From rbethman at comcast.net Sun Nov 6 20:39:53 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

Folks,

It is more than INTERESTING. I placed a bid on the signal tracer. It is AUTOMATICALLY out bid! This is ONE character that US - the consumer community NEED to convey to E-Bay. Bob - N0DGN

From rbethman at comcast.net Sun Nov 6 21:00:05 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

wrote: Being outbid immediately if someone else has a higher bid in the wings. It >happens all the time.

True!

BUT now he has canceled my bid - calls me a trouble maker! Go figure Bob - N?DGN

From dr7zyq at imbris.net Sun Nov 6 21:05:29 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

That is how eBay works. If someone places a bid that is higher than the highest bid already placed, then it only shows a bid one increment up for the highest bid showing. If someone else then comes in and bids, it will automatically up your bid by one increment, unless your bid is outbid, in which case the new, higher bid is shown. That specific aspect of the bidding is common to all auctions on eBay.

What isn't kosher is if he (or a buddy) places a high bid to begin with, such that every bid placed up to his highest bid is automatically outbid. If he is going to do that, he can place a reserve on the bidding which simply means that no matter how high the bidding goes, it won't be a sale unless the ending high bid is greater than the reserve.

Which isn't to say that I don't agree with everything that has been said about his advertising buckets of rust as mint and "fine cosmetic condition." What simply amazes me is that the bids on his stuff including the obviously puffed up descriptions are phenomenal. Obviously, there is more than one sucker born every minute. David, WA7ZYQ

From rbethman at comcast.net Sun Nov 6 21:21:08 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

Hello ALL,

I understand VERY well how auctions AND E-bay works. Been picking up items there for about five or more years.

What I especially found interesting is his canceling of a bid of mine AFTER commenting here! And his listed reason is: "Trouble maker". Now how does THIS sound? Bob - N0DGN

From hankarn at pacbell.net Sun Nov 6 21:37:50 2005
Subject: [R-390] Another 390A Carrier meter question

How very true. And you are armchair copy, say again your handle. Sorry for the QRM. Yeah sure BS from the start. Hank KN6DI

From dr7zyq at imbris.net Sun Nov 6 21:44:53 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

That sounds like a horse of a different color. David, WA7ZYQ

From beerbarrel at cox.net Sun Nov 6 22:20:49 2005
Subject: [R-390] radiomart

If it were me than was a blocked bidder of his, I would not worry about it. The only time that I look at his auctions is when someone on a forum points one out. After all the bad things that I have read about him, I would never bid on one of his auctions.

From chacuff at cableone.net Sun Nov 6 23:10:48 2005

Subject: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

I had thought about that....He listed his ****Mint**** R-390A with a mention of a high reserve in his description due to the small fortune he had in the restoration but the auction had no reserve... I can't believe that radio has gone to nearly \$900. Looking at the bottom tells a lot about the radio....It's missing a tube on the audio deck as well as one of the filter caps. Rusting scrapes on several of the transformers. Someone mentioned early in the week that they had seen this radio listed before. We may see it again... Cecil....

From chacuff at cableone.net Sun Nov 6 23:15:50 2005

Subject: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

I sent my sentiments to Ebay on his cut and paste of several statement from my description of the R-390 I had listed into his auction of his ****Mint**** R-390A. They didn't even give me the courtesy of a reply. I guess if I listed a hundred items a months I could do business anyway I wanted to as well. I'm not sure there is any way of shutting him down..... Cecil...

From jpl15 at panix.com Sun Nov 6 23:44:51 2005

Subject: [R-390] CV-116C

Anyone had any experience using a CV-116C/URR with the R-390A? It's got 40+ tubes in it, huge transformers - quite a bit to extract Baudot from FSK sigs...

Also any thoughts on a 'swapmeet' price for this beast? Thanks! Cheers John KB6SCO

From mikea at mikea.ath.cx Mon Nov 7 10:16:17 2005

Subject: [R-390] Another 390A Carrier meter question

wrote: > WARNING: FOR USERS UNDER 30, NO USER SERVICABLE PARTS
> INSIDE. > or: > WARNING: FOR USERS UNDER 25, NO USER RECOGNIZABLE PARTS
INSIDE or: WARNING: FOR USERS UNDER 20, GET SOMEONE TO READ THIS
> LABEL FOR YOU

I think all three are appropriate. I feel some graphics editing coming on, I do. Mike Andrews, W5EGO

From chacuff at cableone.net Mon Nov 7 10:52:04 2005

Subject: [R-390] Ebay and Radio Mart

Received an answer from Ebay this morning....that was a long 48 hours.

They didn't see any "Significant similarities" in the text of the listings so judged it to not be a "violation of Ebays image and text theft policy". They suggested I contact the seller if I am in disagreement with this judgment. HA! Cecil...

From crips01 at msn.com Mon Nov 7 10:57:57 2005

Subject: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

I don't know where Mr. Radiomart lives but how about turning him in to a local newspaper with the angle that E-bay does not care if crooks are using their service to defraud people. Ken

From roy.morgan at nist.gov Mon Nov 7 17:03:38 2005
Subject: [R-390] Another 390A Carrier meter question

wrote: >I think your friend has an incorrect version of Chuck Rippel's procedure for >setting the IF gain.

Ed and all,

I did not get the impression that "the friend" claimed it was "Chuck's Method": here is what the friend apparently suggested:

"Later a friend more familiar with R-390's told me the best method of setting the pot was using the line audio meter. First set the pot for full IF gain with no antenna input ..."

Perhaps he really meant "set the RF GAIN full on with the antenna terminated by a resistor."

Just for the record, here is the procedure from Chuck's site, with the comments in parentheses added by me..

<http://www.r390a.com/html/gain.html>

"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. 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 (with 50 Ohms to ground with one terminal of the balanced input grounded, or with 125 ohms across the balanced input.)
- 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
- 6- Peak the "ANTENNA TRIM" for maximum noise as indicated on the "LINE LEVEL" meter (Adjust the LINE GAIN control upwards to get a reading.)
- 7- Set "Line Meter" switch to -10db scale
- 8- Set "Line Gain" control to full CW or "10."
- 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
- 11- Set controls above for normal operation and reconnect antenna.

Discussion:

This will yield the best compromise on all bands. I usually "poll" those bands which I normally spec out. Then, using an HP signal generator set for internal modulation of 800 hz @ 30%, "massage" the

gain setting and even specific signal path tube selections for the best overall performance."

What this does is give you a modest amount of noise with the LINE GAIN and RF GAIN at full. Any signal at or above that level you probably will hear. But no stage in the radio is working harder than it needs to. The IF strip is contributing very little noise to the receiver output. The majority of the noise you hear is from the first RF stage, where it should come from. Adjusting the ANT TRIM for the noise peak assures that this is true. If you get no peak with the ANT TRIM control, you have other things to fix first.

> I believe what it does is to set the gain lower in >order to improve the sensitivity by reducing the IF noise contribution.

What it does is set the gain of the IF strip to be in balance with the gain of the other stages, and makes sure that the overall gain of the receiver, at full gain, is producing a modest amount of noise, mostly from the front end. Roy

From recycler at swbell.net Mon Nov 7 19:19:16 2005

Subject: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

Well, with all these comments about his method of operation, he's probably what we call around here a "COB". Crafty old Buzzard. And you just might "get the cob" if you deal with him, hehehe!!! It's funny to talk about anyway.

From beerbarrel at cox.net Mon Nov 7 20:08:32 2005

Subject: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

It is funny! I'm afraid there is little that you can do other than not buy from him and warn potential buyers. It would be a big profit loss for Ebay and he does get a good portion of positive feedback. Tracy

From chacuff at cableone.net Mon Nov 7 20:16:32 2005

Subject: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

His negative feedback rate is just under 3% which at the numbers he has is 150 people. If you look at them they have a lot in common....the complaints and his usual response.

That's a lot of folks not happy.... Cecil...

From beerbarrel at cox.net Mon Nov 7 20:19:59 2005

Subject: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

I'll be the first one to agree with you Cecil. Unfortunately, Ebay sees it differently from normal people. They talk in profit and he makes them profit. Tracy

From pomerol at mocha.ocn.ne.jp Mon Nov 7 20:23:37 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-390A is no more available at Fair Radio

Hello All,

The subject says it all. Go to their site and see what I mean. Of course miscellaneous parts for R-390A are still available but very sad thing..... Osamu Hazawa

From bipi at comcast.net Mon Nov 7 20:37:40 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390A is no more available at Fair Radio

While I agree it is sad to see a reliable R-390A source disappear, just think about all of those functioning R-390A's out there in the world receiving signals that otherwise would have gone (or went) and stayed in the scrap heap. Further, many of those receivers have been restored to top condition. Gotta love it!
73 de Mike K7PI Mercer Island, WA

From hankarn at pacbell.net Mon Nov 7 20:52:19 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390A is no more available at Fair Radio

Hi Osamu,

I have 35 or 40 R-390A's and tons of parts. plus about 350 other radios. Hank KN6DI

From chacuff at cableone.net Mon Nov 7 22:06:13 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390A is no more available at Fair Radio

I think you will see many others who have been sitting on a pile step up now....but I would imagine the price to be on the way up....

Makes you wonder where all the "St. Julians Creek" radios that Fair didn't buy went....There out there somewhere! Cecil...

From r390a at bellsouth.net Mon Nov 7 23:29:27 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390A is no more available at Fair Radio

Hopefully there are folks out there like Hank with complete and parts radios so we can keep our gear running for a while. I don't think the Dark Days have set in just yet! And Fair still has bits and pieces.

Those who haven't done so, take a look at the 1995 Fair Radio Nostalgia pics list at the url below. Back then there were stacks and stacks of radios. Then later on the \$180 St Julians Creek "repairable" radios.

Geesh, I'm starting to sound like one of the old timers pining for the days of \$5 Command Sets! Tom NU4G

From jlkolb at jlkolb.cts.com Tue Nov 8 00:53:04 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again, With An R-392

San Diego TV station just had a news segment about an eBay bully - a guy in Texas who made harassing and threatening phone calls to potential bidders that had the nerve to ask questions before bidding. John

From r390a at bellsouth.net Tue Nov 8 09:14:50 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390A is no more available at Fair Radio

I missed out on those "good old days" but then again, I should look at the average wages at the time and compare it to now.

I have some older Fair Radio catalogs back to the mid 60's and in today's dollerettes there seems to have been some bargains.

One of the bigger bargains of all appears to be the R-390 and 390A if you track their prices through the 70's to today adjusting for inflation. Of course, now that I've said that I can't find my old Fair Radio catalogs! Tom

From DJED1 at aol.com Tue Nov 8 09:48:01 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390A is no more available at Fair Radio

I missed out on the good old days too- I bought my R-390A just after they hit the surplus market in the early 70s. One place was selling refurbished units for as much as \$2000 then, and I got a very nice unit for only \$595, plus another \$100 for the CY979 cabinet. I figure in today's dollars that is about \$2500, so I'm still waiting to break even on the purchase. Fortunately, there still seem to be a few radios coming available each week. I saw a half dozen at Dayton this year, and see one or two on the e-place each week. It's a little riskier to buy from a private party than from Fair, but on the other hand most private radios have meters. Ed

From roy.morgan at nist.gov Tue Nov 8 11:16:28 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390A is no more available at Fair Radio

wrote: >Makes you wonder where all the "St. Julians Creek" radios that Fair didn't >buy went....There out there somewhere!

I seem to have one. It's got tiny remnants of blue paint on the panel. The previous owner got the thing running, though I have not done much with it since I bought it at a hamfest some time ago. Roy

From redmenaced at yahoo.com Tue Nov 8 11:22:39 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390A is no more available at Fair Radio

I don't know what everyone's whining about, they ran out of T-368s eons ago!

They don't even have many parts left. I dont' even have a spare 6000 tube for mine. On the good side, I got the last complete T-368 form them. hehehehehehahahaha,... (evil sneer) Joe

From DSCC at att.net Tue Nov 8 11:31:58 2005
Subject: [R-390] WA4NIZ Don's tubes

Hi Gang,

I am sorry that my note is late but this tube sorting is going but slow. I save all the emails asking about my tubes and answered all I think. I know for a fact I will not have all the tubes to refill a R-390. I have quite a few 6ak5 6ak6 12au7 12ax7 12at7 12ay7 . I have some 0a2 0b2 and some of the more exotic types ask about. Please be patient and I will get some together. All of you who have already emailed me will get the first shot OK. Don Humphrey WA4NIZ (proud owner of a R390a for 20years)

From crips01 at msn.com Tue Nov 8 14:06:00 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390A is no more available at Fair Radio

I am going to have to check out a local military surplus outfit here in Cheyenne. He isn't going to have R390's but he just might have racks, and cabinets he is a real packrat. When I get over to him I'll let everyone know what he might have. Ken de W7ITC

From danrae at verizon.net Tue Nov 8 14:18:51 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390 Coil Rack Springs?

Does anyone know what material was used for the springs that are between the adjusting screw and the core itself on the R-390? It looks like hard brass to me. I have one rack where all four are either broken or looking fragile and need to replace them all.

I was wondering if my son would notice if I stole one of his guitar strings, that looks as if it might make a good alternative. Dan ac6ao / g3ncr

From mbalaw at optonline.net Tue Nov 8 14:46:10 2005
Subject: [R-390] Coil rack springs

Whatever the material, they solder very easily. I have repaired a couple of broken ones just by soldering the ends together. Miles, K2CBY

From wa9msd at ggnet.net Tue Nov 8 14:51:33 2005
Subject: [R-390] FS: CY-979A/URR Case

Hi All,

Though I'd offer this here first, I have the proper CY-979A/URR case for the R-390A for sale. This is one of the NOS ones Mac was selling a few years back. It has the shock mounts and is in overall excellent condition having been used less than one year. Paint is shiny with a nick here and there. I have pictures I can send. I'm asking \$425, which is what I paid for this, plus shipping/packing from zip 46304. Joe, WA9MSD

From wa9msd at ggnet.net Tue Nov 8 18:06:09 2005
Subject: [R-390] SOLD FS: CY-979A/URR Case

Case has been sold. Thanks to all that replied, wish I had a dozen. Joe, WA9MSD

From k4kwm at hotmail.com Tue Nov 8 19:28:12 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: RadioMart Does It Again

Take a look at item # 5827539882. Read the discription. Doesnt that sound word for word like someone elses ad's that we have been discussing? It did to me. Either he has branched out or someone is copying him, which wouldnt be very smart. John John Page K4KWM Hollow State since 1953

From mikea at mikea.ath.cx Tue Nov 8 19:42:33 2005
Subject: [R-390] SOLD FS: CY-979A/URR Case

wrote: Case has been sold. Thanks to all that replied, wish I had a dozen.

So do we. Or so do I, anyway. I only need 3. Mike Andrews, W5EGO

From recycler at swbell.net Tue Nov 8 20:11:18 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390 repair services?

Esteemed list:

Is there a consensus here, will anyone name names, or vouch for, some people with a proven track record and references who can expertly align or repair an R-390A to specification?

I am not interested in cosmetic restoration or an antiseptic chassis, merely performance to specification at a reasonable cost. BR Patrick

From recycler at swbell.net Tue Nov 8 20:23:30 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390A is no more available at Fair Radio

One of many pleasant experiences with Fair Radio, in 1997 I asked them for a "checked, aligned, good-working R-392, which was pretty enough to please my girl friend".

The radio worked properly, had the 'correctly emissive' meter, and was pretty enough, although the YL was not so impressed as by rights she might have been.

("Oh look, [insert YL name here], what I just spent \$300 on.." -for some reason that seems to ruin it every time.)

It did impress everyone at work where I had it shipped to.. bunch of old men engineers.. they drooled and lusted, which brings me to the point that there is a terrible shortage of female engineers and radio geeks. PJ

From jgolden365 at aol.com Tue Nov 8 21:19:36 2005
Subject: [R-390] CU1638/GR multicoupler

I have one of these dandy CU1638/GR multicouplers, bought from Fair Radio years ago. It has unusual connectors (type N?), serves six receivers, is only about 3 inches high and fits nicely in an equipment rack. No tubes, all solid state. Does anyone have any experience with this gadget?

I also have an equipment rack on casters free for anyone who wants it.

From mikea at mikea.ath.cx Tue Nov 8 22:08:16 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390A is no more available at Fair Radio

wrote: > It did impress everyone at work where I had it shipped to.. bunch of old > men engineers.. they drooled and lusted, which brings me to the point that > there is a terrible shortage of female engineers and radio geeks.

You're right, there is. But we number Bobbie among our number, and we're the better for it. Yay, Bobbie! Mike Andrews, W5EGO

From mikea at mikea.ath.cx Tue Nov 8 22:10:41 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390 repair services?

wrote: > Is there a consensus here, will anyone name names, or vouch for, some > people with a proven track record and references who can expertly align or > repair an R-390A to specification?

Rick Mish can do anything from the basic alignment on up, and he'll do the cosmetics as well if you ask him to, Hank Arney will do that set of jobs, too.

My humble opinion, but I'd happily send any of my 390s to either.

Cecil Acuff, if he does 390s, is another I'd trust. I know he did very fine R-1051 work for a long time. Mike Andrews, W5EGO

From kgordon at moscow.com Tue Nov 8 23:37:51 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390 repair services?

wrote:> Is there a consensus here, will anyone name names, or vouch for, some > people with a proven track record and references who can expertly align or> repair an R-390A to specification?

Any of those below, in no particular order:

Hank Army, Rich Mish, Cecil Acuff (if he still does those). Take your pick: they ALL do superb work. There were a couple of others, but I think they may have retired from doing it. Oh...yes...Chuck Felton KD0ZS is another one. Ken W7EKB

From b_hagen at sbcglobal.net Wed Nov 9 01:12:47 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390 repair services?

You have a very good guy in Toledo, OH by the name of Rick Mish. I'm a retired Tech so I feel that I can make a good judgment. Rick is good, very good. Company name is Miltronics - do a google search and he'll pop up. Bruce Hagen

From hankarn at pacbell.net Wed Nov 9 09:01:04 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-390 repair services?

Matt Parkinson in Orange,CA does superb work also. Dave Medley has retired from doing the R-390.Hank KN6DI

From wa9msd at ggnet.net Wed Nov 9 10:30:29 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-390 repair services?

Chuck Rippel has to be high on the list (Chuck is top of my R-390A list and Rick Mish tops my R-390 list) of R-390A technicians and restorers. His Website is: <http://www.R390A.com>. Joe, WA9MSD

From richardlo at admin.athabasca.ca Wed Nov 9 12:18:06 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-390A is no more available at Fair Radio

wrote:> there is a terrible shortage of female engineers and radio geeks.

Yes there is and engineering societies have not found that actively recruiting women yields much in the way of results.

I am very cynical on the matter. I suspect that most female engineers would want to put a doily on top of their classic 28ASR. Richard Loken VE6BSV

From dhallam at rapidsys.com Wed Nov 9 13:32:16 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-390A is no more available at Fair Radio

There is no shortage of women engineers per se. There is a terrible shortage of engineers and scientists in the northern part of the western hemisphere. As much as it pains me to see the politically correct TV shows about science and space exploration where the majority of engineers and scientists are shown as women, we desperately need more engineers, scientists, and mathematicians of any variety if we want to keep our heritage and leaders and innovators in the technical world. David C. Hallam

From kgordon at moscow.com Wed Nov 9 14:49:09 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-390A is no more available at Fair Radio

wrote: > There is no shortage of women engineers per se. There is a terrible > shortage of engineers and scientists in the northern part of the > western hemisphere. As much as it pains me to see the politically > correct TV shows about science and space exploration where the > majority of engineers and scientists are shown as women, we > desperately need more engineers, scientists, and mathematicians of any > variety if we want to keep our heritage and leaders and innovators in > the technical world.

Tell that to all the US tech companies that are hiring Indians and other third world engineers because they cost so much less.

My second son is working on an Electrical Engineering degree, with essentially no prospects for interesting work in the US. I also know personally several engineers who are out of work because their jobs were moved overseas. Ken W7EKB

From odyslim at comcast.net Wed Nov 9 16:58:26 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390A on eBay. Warning!

This is just coming from some of my "not so delightful" eBay experiences. Item 5827806047, R390-A, there are no pics of the topside. IF, Slug rack, ect. I ask for more pics with no reply. After looking at his record of 50 negative feedbacks, I would not bid on this item. Just a bad hunch there may be something nasty lurking around in there. W3CV

From DK3SC at T-Online.de Wed Nov 9 17:29:40 2005
Subject: [R-390] Bulb Source f. R-390

Hello Friends;

I'm owning two R-390A/URR in fantastic condition. In one of the R-390A/URR is the bulb from the illumination of the frequency counter defect. It is a small bulb with 6 Volt.

Have somebody of the R-390 reflector a information about a source to get a new one (spare part). Many thanks for your support. Vy 73 Manfred (DK3SC)

From jdkopke at cablespeed.com Wed Nov 9 18:01:26 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390A on eBay. Warning!

Dear Scott,

I have also requested Pictures of the upper deck and Identification of all modules, so far more than 24 hrs no reply. I'd much rather buy from an enthusiast. Regards; john kopke

From mhuss1 at bellatlantic.net Wed Nov 9 18:07:05 2005
Subject: [R-390] R392 Power Supply Schematic

This is the schematic for the R392 Power Supply I made mainly from surplus parts from Fair Radio.. Parts list and notes on schematic. Good Luck.

From wli98122 at yahoo.com Wed Nov 9 18:25:35 2005
Date: Wed Nov 9 18:30:56 2005

I did not miss out on the good ol' days; back then I had a little cash from mowing lawns and newspaper delivery... went downtown to San Francisco's Market Street in the 50's where there were three surplus shops full of stuff to the ceiling! They had triple ARC-5 rec'r racks for a buck, and lots of ARC-5 cables and tuning boxes.... picked up a new-in-box BC-453 Q-5'er for \$15 and unfortunately did a hatchet job on it (I was 15). I still have it somewhere..... Of course there were no 390's on view... knowledge of their existence was strictly on a need to know basis...

Across the Bay just outside the Oakland Municipal Airport there were two Quonset huts with lots of component parts and more ARC-5's!

Two ham friends and I made the grand tour every Saturday for four years.... picking up small stuff each time (in a "hot" 48 Nash). All three of us got turned down for the Navy (hoping to become ET's) when we graduated in '57: two ended up in aerospace later on. Times do change, and I got in the USMC in '67 though... must have lowered the standards somewhere along the line. W. Li Mercer Island, WA

From DJED1 at aol.com Wed Nov 9 18:52:45 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390A on eBay. Warning!

There seems to be a common thread between buyer dissatisfaction and private listings. I suspect the seller has a lot of problems with potential buyers receiving e-mails from unhappy customers. Definitely a danger sign. Ed

From paul at pdq.com Wed Nov 9 19:49:08 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390A on eBay. Warning!

A number of people leaving negative feedback have good records, except for a single negative feedback - from gm-nos-guy (the R-390A seller). One guy went way out of his way to leave responses to the retaliatory negative from gm-nos-guy. See feedback for skylab_burrito, for example. That said, it looks like a fairly nice EAC. Paul

From Flowertime01 at wmconnect.com Wed Nov 9 20:01:04 2005
Subject: [R-390] Another 390A Carrier meter question

Mike,

I think you are on to something here. Could we get all this stenciled onto the top and bottom covers?
Roger

From Flowertime01 at wmconnect.com Wed Nov 9 20:09:45 2005
Subject: [R-390] Another 390A Carrier meter question

Tim,

We used the R390A with the R390 IF deck for DF. Also seen R392 used with loop antennas for field DF. And other radios used for field DF. They were not calibrated to any extra level. You use antenna position and relative dip of meter. An exact value was not required. Roger

From ba.williams at charter.net Wed Nov 9 20:33:53 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390A on eBay. Warning!

A lot of dissatisfied customers have a lot of transactions to their name. There are a lot of people calling him a thief too. A good guy to steer clear of. Thanks for the tip. Barry

From Flowertime01 at wmconnect.com Wed Nov 9 20:38:36 2005

Subject: [R-390] Tube heaters on DC

Fellows, kc0lwn@yahoo.com,

Once upon a time (1971) I seen some R390's in Korea that were running on the 24 volt DC truck generators. The Trucks were late 50 vintage and still had generators. We also had some stand alone 24 volt DC generators that when with the "Radio Trucks" so you did not have to keep the big truck engines running to power the equipment vans mounted on the truck chassis.

The R390 120/240 AC power supplies were replaced with a different module that had a vibrator type B+ transformer that ran off the 24 Volts. The power supply modules were pretty well filtered and there was not a lot of trouble with vibrator hash. The generators were well filtered by the power bus in the "radio van" there were very good filters that trapped every thing in the power source for the vans.

Any way 24 volts is like close to $13.8 \times 2 = 27.6$ volts. We never tried to adjust the voltage for overrun.

AC volts is RMS not peak to peak. So DC volts is OK.

Is DC volts more quite than AC volts. Maybe or maybe not. Depends on your source.

The tubes in an R390 or A are indirectly heated cathodes. So as long as the AC or DC is not coupling lots of RF into the tube it makes no difference from that point of view.

At 60 cycle or DC the tubes mostly have plenty of filtering for that noise.

Now back to the thermal noise of the tube. The heater heats the cathode. The cathode emits electrons. Electron emission is a very noisy process. This process cares not if it is AC or DC powered. Heat is heat and that's noise.

So the tubes will have the same thermal noise level from either a DC or AC filament voltage.

Once upon a time all tubes were DC filaments. IF AC filaments made tubes more noisy, someone would have retained DC filaments in the RF from end of at least some types of receivers. Aggravation of DC filaments is like to exceed your return on investment.

If you were home building a receiver, you mite consider a DC filament for the RF stage. But after that, there is no advantage realized from the filament noise aspect. Roger KC6TRU

From Flowertime01 at wmconnect.com Wed Nov 9 21:09:06 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-390 repair services?

writes: If you are near the North West Corner of South Carolina I can be of service to you.

Am army trained in 1968 and been working on some every since. Did it 8 hours a day for more than 6 years.

Any one else in the South East who needs some help may Email.

I will not ship one. You likely will need to drive it over. If you plan to come early and stay late you like

can take it back home with you and spend the time watching your receiver get PMed.

Roger L. Ruszkowski Westminster South Carolina.

From Flowertime01 at wmconnect.com Wed Nov 9 21:21:03 2005

Subject: [R-390] re: R-390A is no more available at Fair Radio

W. Li Mercer Island, WA I saw the San Francisco's Market Street in the '72 where there were three surplus shops full of stuff to the ceiling. Was coming home from Korea and brought my first TS352 there. By 1995 they were gone.

I did not get out to Oakland until about 1995 while working for Hughes. I think I was in the same two Quonset huts outside the Oakland Municipal Airport with lots of component parts.

The old market ain't what it use to be, what it use to be. Roger KC6TRU

From dsmaples at comcast.net Wed Nov 9 21:26:07 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-390A is no more available at Fair Radio

All: Unfortunately, things like "heritage" and "leaders and innovators in the technical world" don't fit in an Excel spreadsheet, or whatever other financial modeling tool that Wall Street uses. I'm as conservative as they come, but our financial systems have deteriorated insofar as long-range planning and goal-setting are concerned to the point that if it isn't going to turn a profit immediately, it's not done.

Consider: On the day that quarterly earnings are announced, my company has a certain number of assets, liabilities, staff, inventory, etc. At the end of that day all those numbers are essentially the same, but if we didn't meet our NUMBERS, we lose 10%-15% or more of our stock value. Nothing changed except that we didn't quite meet those numbers. What's wrong with this picture? Dave Maples

From jpl15 at panix.com Wed Nov 9 21:39:20 2005

Subject: [R-390] Surplus History

wrote: > I did not get out to Oakland until about 1995 while working for Hughes. > I think I was in the same two Quonset huts outside the Oakland Municipal > Airport with lots of component parts.

That would be Mike Quinn's - still in business, though not at that loacation for years now. I was in Mike's a few months ago. Also Wierdstuff in Sunnyvale can be a lot of fun.

But the days of "Surplus" are gone forever - and 'good' swapmeets are following, I'm afraid. Cheers
John KB6SCO

From future212 at comcast.net Wed Nov 9 22:52:42 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-390A on eBay. Warning!

Private Id's, 13 bids in the first two days? The description sounds like he took lessons from Radio-Mart's ads. Best, DW holtman WB7SSN

From r390a at bellsouth.net Thu Nov 10 11:03:21 2005
Subject: [R-390] OT - Bride of The Overpriced R-390

Actually a really nice looking BC-610. Ebay 5828844194 Starts at \$2k. Not offered by RadioMart.
Tom NU4G

From JMILLER1706 at cfl.rr.com Thu Nov 10 12:38:57 2005
Subject: [R-390] OT - Bride of The Overpriced R-390

Would you give up your 390's for this? <http://www.housewithbride.com/>

From r390a at bellsouth.net Thu Nov 10 12:41:56 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390A on eBay. Warning!

I emailed the guy and got a reply within an hour along with a link to a pic of the top of the radio. The top is as clean as the rest of the radio and looking at the sheet metal and the finish, the photo of the topside looks like it belongs to a late EAC. Is full of IERC shields too.

The guy does have a lot of negatives, apparently on his car part auctions. How that would relate to this auction, I dunno. Private auctions are STILL a Red Flag for me. YMMV Tom NU4G

From richardlo at admin.athabasca.ca Thu Nov 10 13:12:04 2005
Subject: [R-390] OT - Bride of The Overpriced R-390

wrote: > Would you give up your 390's for this? > <http://www.housewithbride.com/>

Yes, it just might be possible to talk me into that... Richard Loken VE6BSV

From barry at hausernet.com Thu Nov 10 13:45:47 2005
Subject: [R-390] OT - Bride of The Overpriced R-390

Looks like a good deal but a bit suspicious. House looks way too neat no room for boatanchors, so probably _would_ have to give 'em all up.

Hmmmm... contract date '57 that's 48 yrs old? Doesn't look it (more like 28 or less) how old are the photos? All original equipment? Matching modules or some repro/synthetics? (Maybe depot overhauls and high maintenance. A typical R-390A needs maybe \$50 worth of recapping, 10 cents worth of Mobil One every 20 years. This one might need Botox etc. every six months, couple of cruises I dunno. Hmmmm... 100% Norwegian is that real blond or a refinish job?)

Missing some info what about feedback? Private right? Also should indicate altitude as some might have difficulty breathing.

Seriously, though probably some kind of scam after the mark fills out the "bid" form. You'd be better off bidding on a radio that looks/sounds too good to be true potential damage is limited.

Of course, if it's the real deal, I'm outta here ... 'cept for the \$600 grand part... and I don't meet most of the specs. Nevermind, it's some kind of scam. Barry

From odyslim at comcast.net Thu Nov 10 14:07:11 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390A on eBay. Warning!

Well, I owe him an apology. I got my pic today as well. It is a fine looking radio and should bring him a very nice price. Scott W3CV

From redmenaced at yahoo.com Thu Nov 10 16:35:48 2005
Subject: [R-390] OT - Bride of The Overpriced R-390

wrote: > Would you give up your 390's for this? > <http://www.housewithbride.com/>

++++++

Not if I had to pull maintenance on that house!

1930's/40's, cheaply built, poor insulation, poor wiring, etc, expensive neighborhood, no ROOM, for anything inside or outside. There's GOTTA be a reason why she isn't married yet! Joe

From chacuff at cableone.net Thu Nov 10 17:10:23 2005
Subject: [R-390] OT - Bride of The Overpriced R-390

What overpriced R-390 would we be speaking of... Cecil Acuff

Seller of most recent R-390/URR (reasonably priced IMHO) on Ebay.....

From eldim at att.net Thu Nov 10 17:28:26 2005
Subject: [R-390] OT - Bride of The Overpriced R-390

COULD IT BE: 1. BLONDES ARE DANGEROUS!
2. SHE'S A PREACHER DAUGHTER?
3. SHE'S JUST AN ILLUSION?

Things are just to tidy. That in itself is scary! House is definitely to small. If you've got the runs, then the bathrooms are plentiful. NICE POOL TABLE COVER! Wonder what it look underneath. I mean the pool table! Get rid of the TV and junk in the corner and a T-368 with an R-390A on top would definitely up the anty. 73, Glen Galati, KA7BOJ

From shoppa_r390a at trailing-edge.com Thu Nov 10 19:53:43 2005
Subject: [R-390] Surplus history

> But the days of "Surplus" are gone forever - and 'good' swapmeets are following, I'm afraid.

When I got started in the hobby the old-timers were saying the same thing - but they were reminiscing about the days of spark gap transmitters, and they were lamenting how easy the young'uns had it with

cheap 1625's and Command Sets.

A little bit later VHF popularity took off incredibly based on surplus air radios and then later the Progress line stuff.

And then Microwave stuff etc. hit the surplus stream. (Still 1625's and Command Sets were on the market too!)

I don't know what is next, but I'm sure something is coming. Already the microwave stuff that hit the surplus stream in the 70's is completely passe compared to consumer stuff that's so much smaller and cheaper and vastly less power-hungry. Tim.

From w9ran at oneradio.net Thu Nov 10 21:50:24 2005
Subject: [R-390] OT - Bride of The Overpriced R-390

wrote: >There's GOTTA be a reason why she isn't married yet!

House and Owner both seem to be high maintenance items... 73, Bob W9RAN

From Flowertime01 at wmconnect.com Fri Nov 11 19:03:38 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390A is no more available at Fair Radio

Dave,

Do you for Raytheon also as I did until I retired, Or is there another big company that has the same perception problem. Roger KC6TRU

From recycler at swbell.net Fri Nov 11 19:17:45 2005
Subject: [R-390] OT - Bride of The Overpriced R-390

Would you give up your 390's for this? <http://www.housewithbride.com/>

Where is the radio room and the workshop? She must have forgotten those pictures, or just assumed the potential hubbie would assume they were there.. Unless the room with the big square table and square lights above it is for working on radios?

Honestly though she had done the house very beautifully. I would be proud to live there, but I'd have to have a radio shack of some kind..

From recycler at swbell.net Fri Nov 11 19:18:58 2005
Subject: [R-390] OT - Bride of The Overpriced R-390

Is that not a victrola in the first image?

From recycler at swbell.net Fri Nov 11 19:28:07 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390 repair services?

Thanks to all that responded! It's good to know so many accomplished and decent folks are on the list! If I can't get them running well, then I'll have to do something. BR, Patrick

From Flowertime01 at wmconnect.com Fri Nov 11 21:50:35 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390 repair services?

writes: If I can't get them running well, then I'll have to do something.

Patrick,

As you get into them and get specific questions, put them up here. Several fellows will likely jump in and offer you some idea on what needs exploring to get your receiver back into operation.

Good luck, actually we expect you to succeed and good luck is not in order. Should be happy days on the bench with your mechanical electrical puzzle. Roger KC6TRU

From Bonddaleena at aol.com Fri Nov 11 22:25:22 2005
Subject: [R-390] Y2K Manual

Thanks to the List Moderator, Don, for all his patience! AOL and HTML, blaaah!

It is said that third time is charm, so this attempt to post is VERY charmed.... If it is being seen more than once, please bear with me.

I have rejoined this List after several 'unexpected' moves. ha ha

I intend to start 'going through' my working and very mint '67 EAC. I have it in a Budd rack along with a nice CV-591A. I have the very nice Y2K Manual. I was just wondering if anyone has an 'erratta' list for the Manual. Just after getting the Manual, I remember some discussion concerning a mistake or two. I just want to prevent headaches down the road. I'm NOT complaining.

I do have a couple of questions on the 591A.....

1. For some bizzare reason, the USB and LSB positions appear to be reversed. I had to switch xtals to get it to detect the SSB signals as indicated on the front panel. According to the 591A Manual, the xtals were in the correct position, but I had to switch them, to get it to function correctly. Could the 390A be THAT far out of alignment? The audio sounds great with the xtal swap, but.....somethin' ain't right.

2. Never having used this combo before, I was VERY disappointed with the audio output of the 591A. I have to use an outboard audio amp to get decent volume. Tubes are good, been recapped, voltages normal etc. Any thoughts? I do have a junker 591A I picked up because the filter choke in mine was fried.

I don't mind using the outboard amp. In the same rack, is a 51J-3 with a solid state (Ron Hankins?) SSB adapter. Of course, this one absolutely needs an outboard amp. I just thought the 591 with it's 6AQ5 audio tube should provide as much volume as my other boatanchors which use the same tube..... thank you in advance!! ron N4UE

From mikea at mikea.ath.cx Sat Nov 12 13:46:26 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390 repair services?

wrote:: > If I can't get them running well, then I'll have to do something. writes As you get into them and get specific questions, put them up here

Exactly so. These rigs are designed and built to be worked on, not like modern sand-state use-and-toss rigs. Keep us posted, call for help when you have questions. -- Mike Andrews, W5EGO

From vk2abn at bigpond.net.au Sat Nov 12 18:57:46 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re O T Bride

I think that maybe the pics may not be the latest , For a 57 model,,,,, Wow or has Rick Mish been at work with a new front panel job !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

From fwbray at mminternet.com Sat Nov 12 21:43:12 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390 Shipping Container

Hi,

Does anyone out there have one of the special R-390A shipping containers they wish to sell? I am planning to buy an R-390A in the near future and would like to buy an appropriate box to insure it arrives in good shape. Many thanks. 73, Fred KE6CD

From ToddRoberts2001 at aol.com Sun Nov 13 20:37:06 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

All I can say is Wow! Is this a new record for an R-389? I think the most I have seen one go for in the past was about \$2200 - \$2500. 73 Todd WD4NGG

http://cgi.ebay.com/Collins-R-389-URR-VLF-Receiver_W0QQitemZ5827538496QQcategoryZ4673QQrdZ1QQcmdZViewItem Or by item number - 5827538496

From b_hagen at sbcglobal.net Sun Nov 13 20:43:57 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

So much for my thoughts of buying one just to have it along side of the 390! Wow! Bruce Hagen

From pwokoun at hotmail.com Sun Nov 13 20:44:21 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

Look at the action in the last 25 seconds.

From kgordon at moscow.com Sun Nov 13 20:53:57 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

> So much for my thoughts of buying one just to have it along side of the 390! Wow!

Sob! And I sold three of those a few years ago, better looking, better working, with a much more accurate write up, and got around \$1500 each.... What am I doing wrong? Ken W7EKB

From N4BUQ at aol.com Sun Nov 13 21:04:32 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

Ken,

Your mistake was having an appreciation for these wonderful machines and selling them anyway. I think it as something to do with going against your personal karma. Barry - N4BUQ

From ba.williams at charter.net Sun Nov 13 21:19:34 2005

Subject: [R-390] OT- Army training manuals online?

This is a little off topic, but I'm looking for a specific training manual in downloadable form. I think it was TM 1-151, Rotary Wing Aerodynamics. Maybe it was TM 1-51. It's been a long time and I've lost some good links to military publications. I'm hoping that somebody has the link to it, or links so that I can search around. Thanks in advance, Barry

From chacuff at cableone.net Sun Nov 13 21:33:48 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

Same guy that bought my R-390.....I'm not sure if he is a collector or a broker for far east purchasers...He sells nothing on Ebay..only buys!

From hankarn at pacbell.net Sun Nov 13 22:19:26 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

Gang, mine is for sale for the same amount plus I will provide the packing in my heavy duty R39XX container free with a return of the container, My unit is S/N 576 it is very clean and al of the functions are all operating normal. Has al covers and original manual. It is currently rack mounted above my two R-391's in my FRR-33 setup. This is working FB and requires no work. I will be out of town from 11/15 through 11/20 in Dallas.

It will be on the watery place on the east side when I come back

Will not be DOA and front panel has no blemishes except the mounting holes show very minor wear. I have had it for over 5 years and it is operated at least 2 or 3 times a month. Thanks, Hank KN6DI

From dpharr53 at swbell.net Sun Nov 13 22:22:47 2005

Subject: [R-390] OT- Army training manuals online?

The main link to LOGSA is:

<https://www.logsa.army.mil/etms/index.cfm?fuseaction=viewsearchform&CFID=5837289&CFTOKEN=352728d019d4aaad-8CC74C74-E746-5E20-560C487D7BAE5FA8>

Or try this one: <https://www.logsa.army.mil/etms/welcom1.htm>

From r390a at bellsouth.net Sun Nov 13 23:00:37 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

I always wanted an R-389 back before they became such sought after collectors items. Between those times most of the things I listened to on LF have gone away. It was one of those things that by the time I'd saved up enough money to afford one, I couldn't afford one any more. I'm like Yossarian in Catch-22 as far as saving dough for things like that. Now if I were to SELL a like item it would be worthless until next well, when it become ten times it's weight in gold. LOL

There's a nice Mercedes station wagon down the road for about the same price as that radio. Well taken care of, garaged, no rust, looks like new in and out, it's newer than that radio and a lot more practical. Since it's a diesel, it'll even run off used french fry grease. Can an R-389 run off french fry grease? I didn't think so. :-P Tom NU4G

From ezeran at ezeran.cnc.net Sun Nov 13 23:18:41 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on ePay Hank KN6DI

Hank,

Geeze LooooWeeeze! Did that Barnum guy do Military BoatAnchors??? Is it the R390/R90A/Collins thing, LF or what? Can't wait 'til the RAK gets up there. Anyway, Hank, what were you listening to on your '389? EdZ...headed for Reston manana...just back from fishing in Loreto, Baja.

From barry at hausernet.com Sun Nov 13 23:24:40 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

wrote: There's a nice Mercedes station wagon down the road for about the same price as that radio.

Yup, that's one radio missing from my pile too, and, at that price, I'll just make up a 19 X 11 inch photo and paste it up.

\$3,550 and it doesn't cover the whole AM BC band to boot.

Thing is, Tom, that Mercedes costs about the same and includes a radio -- No VLF or LF, but covers the whole AM BC band and FM too. Nope -- don't think an R-389 will run on french fry grease -- can be lubed with it, but the downside is it goes rancid and has to be cleaned out and replaced every couple of days, unless you store the radio in the fridge.

What the heck is there to listen to on VLF and LF anyway? Beacons? That's a taste I've yet to acquire.

Got other radios that go down that low -- OK, might not do it in quite the same style.

BTW -- do not use french fry grease in your Mercedes. You'll wind up with a caravan of traffic following loaded up with kids hollerin' "Are we at McDonalds yet? Smells like we're there!" Barry

From r390a at bellsouth.net Mon Nov 14 00:15:40 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

wrote: What the heck is there to listen to on VLF and LF anyway? > Beacons? That's a taste I've yet to acquire. > Got other radios that go down that low -- OK, might not do it in quite the same style.

That's about it. I've got a nice BC-342 that tunes beacons and is a wonderful AM broadcast receiver. An in the wagon I have a Becker radio that covers 40 and 30 meters, it's a shame it doesn't have a BFO. It'll get WWV at 10 Mhz-- can you imagine WWV as "driving music"???? [does it tune to 19 meters? I don't remember]

> BTW -- do not use french fry grease in your Mercedes. You'll wind > up with a caravan of traffic following loaded up with kids > hollerin' "Are we at McDonalds yet? Smells like we're there!"

Yea, it'll make 'em want to SuperSize everything, but now they won't be able to sue McDonalds, so they'll try to sue me for making them want to eat too much. LOL Tom

From UFP at optusnet.com.au Mon Nov 14 01:32:48 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

That's nothing I have Sony Car radio that I get 3 SW bands and no BFO! I listen to WWV and WWVH or 5 10 and 15mcs and I also get JJY. I get an idea if the band is open on 40 and 20m all I have is a standard car radio antenna nothing else and when the bands open WWV or WWVH comes in loud and clear. 73 Lee.

From jpl15 at panix.com Mon Nov 14 02:08:00 2005

Subject: [R-390] Band condx / MUF monitor

I latched onto a nice old Beckman WWV reciever - fixed-tune at 2.5 - 5 - 10 - 15 - 20 Mhtz. Sits in the rack on top of my 390A. I use it to get a quick idea of band conditions. And it's a tube device, thus reasonably on-topic.

The Johnson Ranger that just sold for US\$ 635.75 is OT, in fact - even if it was 'restored' and cosmetically an '9' - still - it didn't even have the PTT/ keyer assembly in it. But: damnnnnnn....!

Boatanchors = nesteggs??? Cheers John KB6SCO

From r390a.urr at gmail.com Mon Nov 14 05:12:01 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

> Same guy that bought my R-390.....I'm not sure if he is a collector or a > broker for far east

purchasers...He sells nothing on Ebay..only buys! > > Cecil....

Take a look at the completed auctions for t1384j - 129 in the last 30 days and he's the highest bidder on all. I counted 28 that were \$500 or more. Some deep pockets there.

From gwmoore at moorefelines.com Mon Nov 14 09:37:02 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

wrote: So much for my thoughts of buying one just to have it along side of the 390!

GM, Bruce,

As much as I believe in Free Enterprise, etc, etc, and do feel that if someone wants to sell an item, and someone else is willing to pay X number of dollars for it, regardless of how outrageous that X number of dollars might be, I feel that EBay has done one large disservice to the Amateur radio/Milspec collector/Greenkey groups as such.

There are a large percentage of sellers on there who are middlemen (middlepersons?) and nothing more, like a bunch of vulturous used car salesmen. They know nothing about equipment, the use thereof, or the value, but they know how to write a good story (The eternally reappearing black panel R-390 is a good example of the "good story")

The other problem is the "breakers", I have seen, as I know you all have, perfectly good pieces of equipment chopped and sold as parts. This, of course, always makes me wonder if, just like a chop shop for cars, the stuff is stolen, or obtained thru nefarious channels.

I also don't like the darn shill bidding that goes on, and the programs making automatic bidding possible... maybe I'm just a disillusioned dinosaur, but that's the way I feel. Of course, with the cost of shipping stuff nowadays, there just aren't any bargains... of course, this is just my IMHO.. 73 de Greg "GW" Moore WA3IVX/NNN0BVN

From roy.morgan at nist.gov Mon Nov 14 10:54:08 2005
Subject: [R-390] OT - Bride of The Overpriced R-390

wrote: >Actually a really nice looking BC-610. >Ebay 5828844194 >Starts at \$2k.

It appears from one questioners claim that this transmitter was sold at Gaithersburg fest this season. I was set up across the aisle from it if that is true. A nice example of a BC-610 for sure. But as another questioner mentions, he'd buy it if it were priced at \$700.

If I hoped to get two grand for a transmitter I would get out the paper towels and Windex and clean the dust off the visible chassis surfaces at least! Roy Who does not want a BC-610.

From tshoppa at wmata.com Mon Nov 14 10:57:31 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

> As much as I believe in Free Enterprise, etc, etc, and do feel that if > someone wants to sell an item, and someone else is willing to pay X > number of dollars for it, regardless of how outrageous that X

number of > dollars might be, I feel that EBay has done one large disservice to the > Amateur radio/Milspec collector/Greenkey groups as such.

I dunno. I've been having a lot of fun finding "old junker" transmitters and receivers on E-bay in the few \$ to a few tens of \$ range. These are things that I wanted when I was a kid getting started in ham radio but couldn't afford and are usually just as serviceable today as they were back then. A lot of this stuff stopped showing up at hamfests 20 or so years ago when (I guess) the sellers realized that they would only get a few bucks, assuming anyone wanted to buy it at all, and they were getting tired of hauling around the heavy stuff.

> There are a large percentage of sellers on there who are middlemen > (middlepersons?) and nothing more, like a bunch of vulturous used car > salesmen. They know nothing about equipment, the use thereof, or the > value, but they know how to write a good story.

Even when I was a kid, a certain fraction of hamfest sales was by those who bought up the estates of silent keys real cheap from the widows and peddled them. Some knew something about radio, but most didn't. From what I can tell E-bay is pretty much the same as the hamfests back then with regards to these sellers.

> The other problem is the "breakers", I have seen, as I know you all > have, perfectly good pieces of equipment chopped and sold as parts. > This, of course, always makes me wonder if, just like a chop shop for > cars, the stuff is stolen, or obtained thru nefarious channels.

It breaks my heart to see even a 60's or 70's era Heathkit (never mind the high-original-cost-milspec stuff) chopped up like this. But it's also possible/likely that it hasn't been anything but a "parts radio" for decades too, all it takes is one burnt-out part to turn a "perfectly good radio" into a "parts radio" in the mind of many hams today or a quarter-century ago. Tim.

From roy.morgan at nist.gov Mon Nov 14 11:24:13 2005
Subject: [R-390] Y2K Manual and CV-591

wrote: I intend to start 'going through' my working and very mint '67 EAC.

Ron,

Good for you. I also have a nice EAC-67 here. Mine is kaput, but I'll get it working nicely when I get to it.

>...I have the very nice Y2K Manual. I> was just wondering if anyone has an 'erratta' list for the Manual.

First, make sure you have the "Release 2" version. It is here: <http://www.r-390a.net/Y2K-R2/>

On that page is a set of errata for the Release 1, but as far as I know they have all been accounted for in Release 2.

There may well have been some errors detected in Release 2, but I don't know of a list of them.

> I do have a couple of questions on the 591A.....

>1. For some bizzare reason, the USB and LSB positions appear to be reversed.

This is an oddity but not unexpected. The thing can be used with receivers that either reverse the sideband sense or do not reverse it. This comes from the local oscillator being above or below the mixer input frequency. The manual for the 591 talks about this situation. You may have discovered that the way to "switch" the thing is to reverse the bulb covers on the two indicator lamps!

>I had to switch xtals to get it to detect the SSB signals as indicated on >the front panel. According to the 591A Manual, the xtals were in the correct >position, but I had to switch them, to get it to function correctly.

Good if it works for you, fine. The whole thing is a bit of a puzzle for me, at least, even though you'd think it was easy to understand and keep straight.

>Could the 390A be THAT far out of alignment? The audio sounds great with the >xtal swap, but.....somethin' ain't right.

I suggest you get a signal generator and do a little experimenting. Think slowly. Turn the knob slowly. Get clear in your head where the signal generator is with respect to the passband and the local oscillator(s)

For example: if you tune your signal generator from ABOVE the frequency the receiver is tuned to, and the first audio you hear it HIGH frequency (like 2-3 kc) and decreasing, then your signal generator signal is above the tuned frequency and you are in the upper sideband.

> 2. Never having used this combo before, I was VERY disappointed with the >audio output of the 591A.

I think you are not the only one. I suggest you make VERY sure that the coupling caps in the 591 are replaced: especially the ones in the audio section. ALL, repeat ALL EACH AND EVERY ONE of the coupling/bypass caps in my CV-591 are leaky. In the audio section, this causes excessive plate current in the audio output tube. In particular, C20 and C24, both 0.01 uF may be leaky. C24 especially may be leaking and driving the 6AQ5 plate current way up, causing lots of distortion and weak audio. Test also C25 and R24, cathode bypass and dropping resistor for the 6AQ5. Measure the cathode voltage to be sure nothing is amiss. replace all three of these caps, unless C25 is a paper oil (2 uF) and is not leaky or defunct. Try feeding audio into the thing at the appropriate place to see if the whole audio section is working. Modulated 455 kc from the signal generator will tell you a lot, too.

> I have to use an outboard audio amp to get decent volume.

Notice that the audio output section is configurable for "low level" output (150 mW) or "high level" (2 W) and also can drive 8 ohms or 600 ohms. Dope that out in your mind and get it set up straight. The switch that does this is on the chassis near the rear terminal strip, I think.

> Tubes are good, been recapped, voltages normal etc. Any thoughts? I do >have a junker 591A I picked up because the filter choke in mine was fried.

Of course you don't need the junker now, so send it to me.. thanks. (heheh)

> I don't mind using the outboard amp. In the same rack, is a 51J-3 with a >solid state (Ron Hankins?) SSB adapter. Of course, this one absolutely >needs an outboard amp.

You mean the 51J-3 absolutely needs an outboard amp, or the SSB adapter needs it? I have an R-388 that I have not yet got running, so that's why I ask.

> I just thought the 591 with it's 6AQ5 audio tube should provide as much > volume as my other boatanchors which use the same tube.....

That makes sense, but it may simply be lame by design. How does it sound with good earphones?? Roy

From chacuff at cableone.net Mon Nov 14 12:17:09 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

Hi Guys,

Well in the good ole days most of this stuff had to be sold off the back of the tailgate and at Hamfests which limited the market and exposure for potential sale of the item. (keeps prices low) I remember going to a local hamfest here on the coast and a local guy always could be depended on to have a pickup backed up inside the pavilion with R-390's stacked up on the back for sale. That was back when you couldn't give away tube gear. (late 70's early 80's) He went home with the stuff usually...we were all too busy drooling over the Kenwoods and Icoms...

He's still around and has a warehouse full of 390's and a nice KWS-1 that I foolishly traded him as a kid. (for an NC-183D my disease started early) He's just sitting on the stuff with no real interest in it but try to buy a piece and he wants the sun and the moon.(if he'll even talk to you) None of it's restored and been stored for the last 30+ years. He's said to have a couple hundred 3TF7's and probably as many 26Z5W's but he's unapproachable.

Back to my other thoughts about Ebay....

All Ebay has done is expand that exposure and marketplace globally which drives prices up. Are we to fault Ebay for putting a seller and a buyer together halfway around the world or across the country for that matter. Depends I guess whether you are a seller or a buyer of a particular piece of equipment. As a buyer I can find things that were not available to me in small town USA. As a seller I can find a buyer in small town USA that's looking for the widget I just happen to have.

An example....my wife has been buying China from a lady in N.J. through Ebay. (been married 25 yrs and have never bought China...it's a big deal to wives) It's expensive stuff normally but she is buying seconds that comes directly from the factory store in N.J. The lady she is buying from makes a trip to that store twice a week and picks over the pieces and buys what she thinks will sell...as well as things that are on my wife's needs list to finish her full 8 place settings. I'm delighted because she is buying this stuff at a fraction of the cost she would have paid from a retailer and we can't see anything flawed in any of the pieces. I'm sure the lady we are buying from is making 100+% profit but my wife would never have had that opportunity if it were not for her selling the stuff on Ebay. I think it's a great thing...and wish I had thought of it..(that and post-it notes)..I'd be rich.

Now that said I disagree sharply with Shill bidding practices and have protested to Ebay about their policing of that practice. I have mixed feelings about the folks that have made a business out of selling on Ebay. Especially those who look solely for amateur SK estate purchasing opportunities to be sold on Ebay. (radio-mart I suspect) Many of our widows don't have a clue what to do with all the junk we acquire over a lifetime and just want to see it gone when that time comes. There are folks that will help with that....I consider many of them to be opportunists preying on the unsuspecting for personal gain. (read cheats) Are they providing a service...I guess some would say so. I guess it depends on how fairly they deal with the Widows.

I enjoyed the good ole days too....I certainly felt great when I came home from the local hamfest 25 years ago with a complete Heathkit separates station for \$150 manuals included...still have the pictures of my 2 year old son sitting in my lap twisting on the knobs. I don't mind paying a fair price for electronics gear on Ebay. Which I have done in the past and will do in the future. I do have a problem with the guys that are selling things they know nothing about but are only offering it because of the profit potential. Good part is I don't have to buy from them....but somebody will....there's the rub. I think the market is fair in most cases....I sold two R-390's on Ebay. One went for \$860 the other for \$1525. Considering the condition of both radio's and what was included in each sale I think the market treated me fairly. Would I like to have sold the latest one for \$2500....sure wouldn't you. Would I have sold either one of them for half that at a Hamfest....no way! Too much work invested and they probably wouldn't have sold. Probably still a little high for the typical crowd looking for buys like in the ole days.

The hamfests I have attended in recent years have turned into mostly computer parts fests....a real disappointment. I personally think they should not be allowed to sell that type stuff at hamfests....

One last comment on Ebay....

The cost of tube radio gear may have gone up in price since Ebay came along but...you can't beat the price of nice high quality test equipment on Ebay. It's the place to buy test gear!

Just my \$0.02 worth....don't take any of it personal....I didn't intend it that way... Cecil...

From vhfplus at bmg50.com Mon Nov 14 12:27:16 2005

Subject: [R-390] NIB tubes

I hesitate to post this query to the list but I figure some of you may be able to help and/or might be interested...

I have come across a small quantity of NIB tubes that were part of stock from a '60's vintage RCA TV transmitter and would like to determine a *fair* price for these tubes. I would prefer to sell them to someone with a use for them in an R-390 or some other glowing gear rather than going to eBay! The tubes are listed below with number/manufacturer (quantity):

6AC7/National (5); 6AG7/National (2); 6AH6/GE (5); 6AK5/National (2); 6C4/GE (5); 6V6/RCA-JAN (4); 6V6/RCA (2); 5670/GE (5); 6146W/GE-JAN (2)

I have not crossed the 5670 so I don't know for sure what it is except that it is a short 9-pin miniature tube.

Any help in determining what the tubes are worth would be appreciated.

I am also in a position, financially, where I may have to sell the R-390A that I recently acquired and I would like determine a *fair* price for it...no, not an eBay-based price but one that would be paid by a real collector and not a "middleperson", although what I have seen in the recent thread here does make me drool ;>)

The receiver came in a case with the shock-mount base for mobile operation. The front name plate has been removed and the panel has silk-screened lettering which is all in very nice condition. The front panel is a bit dirty but not scratched or damaged to any significant degree, except for where rack screws were installed. Both line level and carrier level meters are in place and seem to work.

Inside the receiver is very clean on the underside and a little dirty on top, but not excessively so. The band change and tuning mechanisms obviously could use some TLC but they work fine. The old line cord was very brittle so I replaced it with another cord to verify that the receiver works...it does but needs alignment.

On the rear panel the unbalanced antenna input connector is damaged with half of the center-pin fingers missing. There are five empty holes on the rear panel...two are unmarked and just below the antenna connectors and a larger hole just below those two marked "Sync Xtal Osc" with two small holes just to the left of that legend.

That's as complete and honest a description as I can provide at this point.

Any suggestions as to the probable value of this receiver would be appreciated. I am going to try my best to keep the R-390A but only time will tell! 73, Jack, AE7DX

From g8jac at btinternet.com Mon Nov 14 12:58:26 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

Although I've used eBay for purchases - and sometimes got stuff for bargain prices, I have a fundamental gripe about the way that ebay operates.

In any conventional auction, the bidding proceeds until the final highest bid is placed. The auctioneer goes into the going-three-times routine, but if further last-minute bids are made, the auction continues. eBay's system of timed ending leaves everyone vulnerable to last-second sniping. The buyer who wants an item is denied further time to bid higher and the seller is denied further bids that may increase the price he gets. So, everybody loses. Even ebay loses extra commission that would come from an increased sale price.

Extending the running time for a couple of minutes after a late bid is received is not a huge problem in programming, so why won't ebay do it? Andy G8JAC

From robert.boyd at servicecanada.gc.ca Mon Nov 14 13:00:56 2005
Subject: [R-390] R390A/URM25 (*)

> Could anyone please let me know the differences between the URM-25D and URM-25E Signal Generator models? Anything significant? > Thanks & 73s Robert, VE3BE

From gwmoore at moorefelines.com Mon Nov 14 13:07:41 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

wrote: Well in the good ole days most of this stuff had to be sold off > the back of the tailgate and at Hamfests which limited the market and > exposure for potential sale of the item.

BRAVO ZULU!!! well written, and of course, I agree 100% with what you have to say.

That being said, I am the owner of 2 R392's, and am extremely happy with them, However, I seem to have waited too long for the R-390. Well, maybe next year I will make that a priority, grimace, and pay the freight. I had, previous to this year, planned to be in the position to be a volume purchaser, to restore the radio spaces of the USS America (CV/CVA-66) which our Foundation had hoped to secure as a Museum Ship. Sadly, we were unable to accomplish this fact, and she was sunk in live fire testing,

allegedly for proof of concept experimentation to assure increased survivability for those serving in the next class of carriers coming down the ways.

As a Aeronautical/Electrical engineer, as well as a commercial pilot, albeit retired disabled, I firmly see the necessity for such tests, but being a vet of said carrier, it was sad to see her leave on her last deployment.. The only good that came out of it for me personally, is now I have acquired a good deal of equipment which was to be used in the restoration, as I had started the ball rolling with my own funds, to attempt to generate interest in others to match funding/begin a donation program of their own, etc etc. I did wind up with a great pair of URA-17's, a pair of URA-8's, a couple of antenna multicouplers, but, alas, NO R-390s.....

I kind of see a point in the beginning of '06 where I will enjoy a spike of discretionary income ;-) and what could be better discretionary than an R-390 and a CV-591 [huge grin] having worked on these fine pieces of hollow state excellence for many many years, original condx really makes no never mind to me, except I wouldn't want a REAL "depot dawg" that was virtually unfixable....my only other desire would be to stumble upon a pair of for real (gasp, horror) radium filled meters, but anything that works would do.....

This is, of course, all in the future.....thanks much, however for a great reply about EBay and hamfests, I sure do miss the old ways...but then I miss the electronic store areas with helpful SK's on ships and shore stations as well ;-) fill out the 'ol IBM card, and 3TF7's miraculously appear on the shelf of the bottom half of the doof... ain't it wonnerful???? again tnx much de Greg

From chacuff at cableone.net Mon Nov 14 13:24:22 2005
Subject: [R-390] KWM2A

I know this is not that list but....

I am in contact with a fellow who is trying to sell off his fathers Ham radio gear. His parents are moving and he wants the stuff sold. If you are personally interested in any of this stuff drop me a note. I am not playing middle man in the sense that I am making a dime on it. Your interest will be passed along to him at a point where he asks for it and the sale of the items will be between you and him. All this stuff was bought by his father 20 years ago and has been in storage for the last 15 years. I have a few pictures I can pass along.

He's looking for a home for this stuff not someone who is looking to scoop it up and pop it on Ebay for a tidy profit. So if you are interested in owning a KWM2A, 516F-3, 312B-4 and 75S-3 station or a nice Drake TR-4/MS-4. This might be an opportunity to pick up a nice vintage station.

He also has a nice Heathkit SB-610 and SB-620 for sale as well. I don't think he is interested in breaking up the stations and would be interested in someone who wants to purchase all of it as a package. He hasn't priced any of it so I can't tell you what he is asking. His dad kinda knows what the stuff is worth now days but doesn't fool with selling stuff on the internet and has asked his son to handle it. It will probably go to Ebay at some point. Contact me off list please... Cecil Acuff
chacuff@cableone.net

From rbethman at comcast.net Mon Nov 14 13:29:41 2005
Subject: [R-390] NIB tubes

Jack,

I won't even try to give ideas to the tubes. BUT keep me in mind as to the 6V6s. My BC-610 uses them, and IF my brain hasn't TOTALLY gone South, the SP-600 I have uses one also. So a shot at four to six of them would be appreciated. I have a Hickok (sp?) 6000 series tube yester made for Western Electric. One DARN good tester!

I'd say that your R-390A, ESPECIALLY since it is in the cabinet meant for it, "SHOULD" go for around \$800 to a \$1000. This would depend on seeing some specs on the receiver as it currently is. IF an "honest" alignment is done - Definitely toward the higher side - MAYBE - more.

I paid \$800 for a 1967 EAC WITHOUT cabinet that was VERY clean, and WELL aligned. The cabinets on a re-run by a list member went for over \$500 each.

To everyone - I do NOT know Jack! I have NOT seen the radio. His and everyone else has mileage that MAY vary.

I'm trying to give him some ballpark idea as to value SHOULD he be forced to sell the radio.

I have NO intention of buying it! Just MY \$0.02 worth!

(Jack - let me know about the 6V6s! PLEASE. Some places are treating them as GOLD. Bob - N0DGN

From roy.morgan at nist.gov Mon Nov 14 13:57:05 2005
Subject: [R-390] R390A/URM25 (*)

wrote: > > Could anyone please let me know the differences between the URM-25D and > URM-25E
Signal Generator models? Anything significant?

Robert,

I am not all that sure, but I think that the E model was a different contract and the basic signal generator was very similar if not the same.

The F model, however, IS different. It uses the same basic circuit, but the mechanical arrangements and construction are different. Roy

From mikea at mikea.ath.cx Mon Nov 14 14:42:34 2005
Subject: [R-390] OT - Bride of The Overpriced R-390

wrote: Actually a really nice looking BC-610. Starts at \$2k. wrote: It appears from one questioners claim that this transmitter was sold at > Gaithersburg fest this season. I was set up across the aisle from it if that is true.

Oh, _NO_! That would ruin the patina. It's not worth nearly so much if you disturb the patina.

</Antiques Roadshow> Mike Andrews, W5EGO

From r390a at bellsouth.net Mon Nov 14 15:05:01 2005
Subject: [R-390] RE: r-389, etc typo correction

In the reply regarding the R-389 and low frequency coverage, I had typed BC-342 as the receiver I used for LF and broadcast. As some of you might have guessed, since the BC-312/342 has an entirely different frequency range, I had *meant* **BC-344**

I apologize for any slipped discs or traffic accidents caused by the error. LOL 73 Tom NU4G

From tubesareking at yahoo.ca Mon Nov 14 15:36:15 2005

Subject: [R-390] WTB R-390A KC/MC knobs

My KC knob has a broken shaft tab, just 3 rather than 4, and a bit of occasional slippage. Accordingly, I'm looking to buy one or two R-390A KC/MC knobs as spares/replacement.

Missing/flaked paint is not a problem for me, so long as the knob per se is in good shape.

A clamp or clamps to go with it would be great but not essential.

Also, I'm in the market for the crystal oven cover and sides - box. My R-390A is missing this, although works well without it. Many thanks! Phil

From tshoppa at wmata.com Mon Nov 14 15:46:27 2005

From: tshoppa at wmata.com (Tim Shoppa)

> My KC knob has a broken shaft tab, just 3 rather than 4, and a bit of occasional slippage.

My Blue Striper's big knobs had similar problems. My solution:

1. Drill out the knob body (be careful you don't go through the front!)
2. Use JB Weld to glue in a new slotted stainless tube.
3. Reattach knob. Tim.

From Bonddaleena at aol.com Mon Nov 14 17:40:44 2005

Subject: [R-390] WTB R-390A KC/MC knobs

writes: My KC knob has a broken shaft tab, just 3 rather than 4, and a bit of occasional slippage.

I can repair these for list members. I use a Bridgeport to ensure the repair is centered. I can also add a spinner knob. Don't help on the Mc knob, but it's great for the Kc knob.

Also, knobs glass beaded and refinished. I like to remove the 'parting line' on the knobs during the refinishing process..... Please reply off-line and photos are available. Thanks, ron

N4UE@arrl.net (mailto:N4UE@arrl.net) or _bonddaleena@aol.com_ (mailto:bonddaleena@aol.com)

From Bonddaleena at aol.com Mon Nov 14 18:01:40 2005

Subject: [R-390] Y2K Manual and CV-591

writes: wrote: I intend to start 'going through' my working and very mint '67 EAC.

Ron,

Good for you. I also have a nice EAC-67 here. Mine is kaput, but I'll get it working nicely when I get to it.

>...I have the very nice Y2K Manual. I was just wondering if anyone has an 'erratta' list for the Manual.

First, make sure you have the "Release 2" version. It is here: <http://www.r-390a.net/Y2K-R2/>

On that page is a set of errata for the Release 1, but as far as I know they have all been accounted for in Release 2.

There may well have been some errors detected in Release 2, but I don't know of a list of them.

> I do have a couple of questions on the 591A.....

>

>1. For some bizzare reason, the USB and LSB positions appear to be reversed.

This is an oddity but not unexpected. The thing can be used with receivers that either reverse the sideband sense or do not reverse it. This comes from the local oscillator being above or below the mixer input frequency. The manual for the 591 talks about this situation. You man have discovered that the way to "switch" the thing is to reverse the bulb covers on the two indicator lamps!

>I had to switch xtals to get it to detect the SSB signals as indicated on >the front panel. According to the 591A Manual, the xtals were in the correct >position, but I had to switch them, to get it to function correctly.

Good if it works for you, fine. The whole thing is a bit of a puzzle for me, at least, even though you'd think it was easy to understand and keep straight.

>Could the 390A be THAT far out of alignment? The audio sounds great with the >xtal swap, but.....somethin' ain't right.

I suggest you get a signal generator and do a little experimenting. Think slowly. Turn the knob slowly. Get clear in your head where the signal generator is with respect to the passband and the local oscillator(s)

For example: if you tune your signal generator from ABOVE the frequency the receiver is tuned to, and the first audio you hear it HIGH frequency (like 2-3 kc) and decreasing, then your signal generator signal is above the tuned frequency and you are in the upper sideband.

> 2. Never having used this combo before, I was VERY disappointed with the >audio output of the 591A.

I think you are not the only one. I suggest you make VERY sure that the coupling caps in the 591 are replaced: especially the ones in the audio section. ALL, repeat ALL EACH AND EVERY ONE of the coupling/bypass caps in my CV-591 are leaky. In the audio section, this causes excessive plate current in the audio output tube. In particular, C20 and C24, both 0.01 uF may be leaky. C24 especially may be leaking and driving the 6AQ5 plate current way up, causing lots of distortion and weak audio. Test also C25 and R24, cathode bypass and dropping resistor for the 6AQ5. Measure the cathode voltage to be sure nothing is amiss. replace all three of these caps, unless C25 is a paper oil (2 uF) and is not leaky or

defunct. Try feeding audio into the thing at the appropriate place to see if the whole audio section is working. Modulated 455 kc from the signal generator will tell you a lot, too.

> I have to use an outboard audio amp to get decent >volume.

Notice that the audio output section is configurable for "low level" output (150 mW) or "high level" (2 W) and also can drive 8 ohms or 600 ohms. Dope that out in your mind and get it set up straight. The switch that does this is on the chassis near the rear terminal strip, I think.

> Tubes are good, been recapped, voltages normal etc. Any thoughts? I do >have a junker 591A I picked up because the filter choke in mine was fried.

Of course you don't need the junker now, so send it to me.. thanks. (heheh)

> I don't mind using the outboard amp. In the same rack, is a 51J-3 with a >solid state (Ron Hankins?) SSB adapter. Of course, this one absolutely >needs an outboard amp.

You mean the 51J-3 absolutely needs an outboard amp, or the SSB adapter needs it? I have an R-388 that I have not yet got running, so that's why I ask.

> I just thought the 591 with it's 6AQ5 audio tube should provide as much > volume as my other boatanchors which use the same tube.....

That makes sense, but it may simply be lame by design. How does it sound with good earphones?? Roy

(<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/options/r-390>)

Hi Roy, good to hear from you again.... We corresponded a couple of years ago, when I was N4KCM. I always respected your answers.

I had a couple of R-388s and loved them. I eventually came across this mint 51J-3 so it became a 'keeper'. Sorry for the confusion about it's audio...

No, the radio has PLENTY of audio. Ron's adapter is plugged into the 500KHz out jack and it have virtually no audio, but a flea market audio amp works perfectly!

I poked around under the 61J-3 and lo and behold, no paper caps to change! They are all dogbones. The sensitivity even on 10M is amazing!!!

On the 591, I replaced every cap in there. It works great, except it has low audio.

I use Dr. Jerry's method of cap checking and it is fantastic! regards, ron N4UE

From mhuss1 at bellatlantic.net Mon Nov 14 18:26:16 2005

Subject: [R-390] R392 Power Supply Schematic

Mark Huss wrote: > This is the schematic for the R392 Power Supply I made mainly from > surplus parts from Fair Radio.. Parts list and notes on schematic. > Good Luck.

>

I think I got everybody who requested the schematic a copy. If I missed you, please write. Thank you for your interest. Note no pictures. I still haven't drilled the chassis, so it is spread out on the Kitchen Cabinet.:)

From Flowertime01 at wmconnect.com Mon Nov 14 18:57:27 2005
Subject: [R-390] R390A/URM25 (*)

writes: Could anyone please let me know the differences between the URM-25D and URM-25E Signal Generator models? Anything significant?

Robert,

Not really both are good RF signal generators.

The band switch drum is different. You cannot mix and match D and E mechanical parts. Tubes are tubes and caps are caps you can repair either if they ever need it. Accept what you can get. Do not pay a lot more for a "new" E than an older "D". Roger KC6TRU

From Bonddaleena at aol.com Mon Nov 14 19:13:23 2005
Subject: [R-390] R390A/URM25 (*)

writes: writes: Could anyone please let me know the differences between the URM-25D and URM-25E Signal Generator models? Anything significant?

Expect to recap it. My D model had several large micas cracked and leaking oil all over the inside. All that heat and nowhere to go. I made a ss replacement for the rectifier and it runs a lot cooler..... ron N4UE

From dathegene at hotmail.com Mon Nov 14 19:17:46 2005
Subject: [R-390] OA2 Rectifiers

A few weeks ago I posted one about why you would want to replace the OA2 rectifier; never goes out, never heard of anyone with a problem ,etc;...

---I stand corrected.---

Since that time I have replaced the 26Z5Ws and the OA2 in my R390A with Weber Copper Cap solid state rectifiers. I must say the difference in generated heat and power consumption is astounding. REALLY reduces heat. Of course I can't say much for the life of these devices. I can say that the Weber rectifiers are a worthwhile investment, considering heat and power savings. They are relatively expensive, but 26Z5W's are expensive too, at least on Ebay. As always, my comments must be judged if you are a "Practical User" vs. "Committed Collector". The collector will find the Weber rectifiers to be a quick and painless way to keep their vintage equipment operating. The practical types know the stock diode conversion is certainly acceptable. The Weber Copper Caps allow you to retain the look and feel of tubes... for SOME this will be a very agreeable modification... 73 de NAØG

From Flowertime01 at wmconnect.com Mon Nov 14 19:28:56 2005
Subject: [R-390] R390A/URM25 (*)

Ron, N4UE I made a ss replacement for the rectifier and it runs a lot cooler. All that heat and nowhere to go.

Like that Idea. I cannot believe I have never done it to either of my generators. Roger KC6TRU.

From Bonddaleena at aol.com Mon Nov 14 19:35:06 2005
Subject: [R-390] R390A/URM25 (*)

In a message dated 11/14/2005 7:29:25 PM Eastern Standard Time,
Flowertime01@wmconnect.com writes:
Ron, N4UE

I made a ss replacement for the rectifier and it runs a lot cooler. All that heat and nowhere to go.

Like that Idea. I cannot believe I have never done it to either of my generators. Roger KC6TRU.

(<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/options/r-390>)

Hi, if I'm not mistaken (it been a while...), the rectifier tube had a 9 pin base.

RF Parts sells these cool little 9 pin plugs as used on some imported radios. Put a couple of diodes in it, screw on the plastic cover. Perfect! ron

From kgordon at moscow.com Mon Nov 14 21:10:28 2005
Subject: [R-390] OA2 Rectifiers

> A few weeks ago I posted one about why you would want to replace the OA2 rectifier; never goes out, never heard of anyone with a problem ,etc;... > ---I stand corrected.--- > Since that time I have replaced the 26Z5Ws and the OA2 in my R390A with Weber Copper Cap solid state rectifiers.

I find that pretty interesting...since the OA2 isn't a rectifier...it is a regulator.

Are you perhaps implying that the Copper Cap guy makes a solid-state replacement for the OA2 REGULATOR, in addition to making solid-state replacements for the 26Z5W RECTIFIER? Ken W7EKB

From vhfplus at bmg50.com Mon Nov 14 21:15:13 2005
Subject: [R-390] NIB tubes FS

I've decided to sell the following tubes, all NIB:

- 1) 6AC7/National (5) \$2.25 each
- 2) 6AG7/National (2) \$4.00 each

3) 6AH6/GE (5) \$2.00 each

4) 6AK5/National (2) \$2.50 each

5) 6C4/GE (5) \$3.25 each

6) 5670/GE (5) \$2.75 each (AES shows these as a 2C41W dual triode)

These prices correspond to about 60-65% of the AES prices. Please add shipping (Priority mail most likely) to all prices.

I will probably have more tubes available in the next few weeks. 73, Jack, AE7DX

From kgordon at moscow.com Mon Nov 14 21:39:24 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

> Extending the running time for a couple of minutes after a late > bid is received is not a huge problem in programming, so why > won't ebay do it?

I'm just curious, Andy, how many late bids would you want them to allow extending the auction? If each late bid extended the auction by 5 minutes, and near the end of each extended auction, someone else bid late, extending the auction another 5 minutes, when would it stop? At an arbitrary time set by Ebay? Someone could take advantage of this and the auction would never end.

There is at least one seller on Ebay who ends his auctions at an arbitrary time set himself in order to discourage sniping. He says this in each auction. Apparently Ebay has never even questioned him about this. His feedback rating is quite high, and all are positive.

Personally, I find nothing wrong at all with sniping, neither from a seller's, nor a buyer's standpoint. Ken W7EKB

From hankarn at pacbell.net Mon Nov 14 22:32:31 2005

Subject: [R-390] OA2 Rectifiers

Ken, I thought maybe my mind got SS'ed. It was always my thinking that OA2's etc. were regulators. A big difference. 73 Hank KN6DI

From vhf plus at bmg50.com Mon Nov 14 22:56:08 2005

Subject: [R-390] NIB tubes FS

The 6C4's are sold... 5) 6C4/GE (5) \$3.25 each 73, Jack, AE7DX

From vhfplus at bmg50.com Mon Nov 14 23:39:37 2005

Subject: [R-390] FS CY-979A case

I have gotten enough input to offer the CY-979A case for sale. I have positively identified it based on

information and a jpg file sent by one of the list members. Basically the case can be described as I did to another list member:

> The case has paint chipped off in various places especially the > corners, edges and where the radio has slid in and out. It appears to > be in very good condition with no major scratches or dents/dings. The > vibration dampers seem to be in good shape and the little spring > loaded grounding tabs and louver screens are intact. The > identification tag that used to be on top of the case has been removed.

I have been advised to ask more, but I am going to try to get the best offer over \$250.00 for the case, including shipping to the lower 48 from 89429 via FedEx ground, insured. I have three jpg files of views of the front, rear and side of the case if anyone is interested. Shipping to other locations would have to be determined.

Thanks for all the help from list members on the case, the R-390A and finding price information on the tubes. I really appreciate that! Jack, AE7DX

From Radiograveyard at aol.com Mon Nov 14 23:57:00 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

Check Government Liquidation they do the extend by five minutes. Some Auctions that end at 5:00 PM go on till 9:00 pm and later. They go to get the last \$\$\$ out of the bidders. Pete

From future212 at comcast.net Tue Nov 15 01:40:07 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

E-Pay is in business to make money. They do very well, their business model is outstanding. If people are looking at an item, they know when the item closes and the time limit to place a bid.

I'm not always happy with the prices, and the morals of many sellers, however, it is my option not to bid. But, living in Salt Lake City I can get a hold of a lot of equipment and parts that other wise would be unavailable. If I buy something from someone that is running a 99% favorable feedback, that is pretty good. I think that the return rate on new consumer electronics would be higher than 1%. However, many sellers now do not post positive feedback when they receive money, they wait for positive feedback to come their way. That kind of puts a gun to the buyers head and probably distorts the feedback system. Best, D Holtman WB7SSN

From 2002tii at softhome.net Tue Nov 15 01:48:39 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

wrote: > I have a fundamental gripe about the way > that ebay operates. > In any conventional auction, the bidding proceeds until the final > highest bid is placed. The auctioneer goes into the > going-three-times routine, but if further last-minute bids are > made, the auction continues. eBay's system of timed ending > leaves everyone vulnerable to last-second sniping.

Yes, BUT.... This wouldn't be true if the early bidders all bid the highest amount they were willing to pay, which is how a BLIND auction is supposed to work. Either they will win even though bidders in the "lightning round" raise the price, or the item will go to someone who is willing to pay more. In other words, it's not really fair for an early bidder to blame the person who wins with a last-minute bid if the

early bidder didn't bid what he was willing to pay. Don't think of eBay as a live auction -- it's not. In some ways, it's more like submitting sealed bids. Remember, the current "bid price" is not the actual high bid -- it's one bid increment over the second-highest bid.

Now, this "bid the maximum you would be willing to pay" thing is contrary to human psychology. We are not by nature rationally-self-interested beings, we are emotional. Just as a two-year-old has no interest in a toy truck until another kid starts playing with it, what we are willing to pay can be influenced by what someone else is willing to pay. And this is the very reason some of us snipe!

Let's say an early bidder has bid \$200 on an item with a \$99 opening bid, so the bid price is at \$99 but it will take a bid of over \$200 to be high bidder. If, apart from other bidders, I am willing to pay up to \$500 for the item, but no more (i.e., if it were in a store with a \$500 or lower price tag I'd buy it, but I'd walk away if the tag said \$515), and another bidder is willing to pay \$350, but no more, then regardless of when we bid I SHOULD win the item for one bid increment over \$350. However, in reality, if I put my \$500 bid in with 3 days left, the other bidder will see a \$200 bid price and put in his \$350 bid, but he won't become the high bidder -- he will have bumped my bid to one increment over \$350 and will be staring at the dreaded red X that means "you have been outbid." Psychologically, people don't like being denied, so even though the item was really only worth \$350 to him -- that is, if it were in a store with a \$365 price tag he would have walked away -- he may well bid \$375, then \$400, then \$425 before he gives up, forcing me to pay one increment over \$425 instead of one increment over \$350. As I see it, this is an artificially high price brought about by human nature and the auction format.

On the other hand, if I don't bid, the other bidder will put in his \$350 bid and be winning the auction at one increment over \$200, so he will stop bidding. I can then drop in at the last minute (when nobody has a chance to react to my bid) with my \$500 bid and win the item for one increment over what the item was REALLY worth to the next-highest bidder, not what he thought it was worth to him in the heat of competition. In my view, sniping is the only thing that makes eBay work the way it claims to work (i.e., the winning bidder pays one increment over what the next-highest bidder is willing to pay).

So: If you always bid the maximum you would be willing to pay, it doesn't matter when you or anybody else bids -- you will either win the item for a price you are willing to pay, or lose it to someone who is willing to pay more. However, if you bid early, you may end up paying more than you otherwise would have had to pay.

FWIW, I just lost an auction tonight where all 14 bids were placed in the last 15 seconds. The item had a \$250 opening bid and went for nearly \$750. But I bid what I was willing to pay, so I have no regrets. Best regards, Charles

From ToddRoberts2001 at aol.com Tue Nov 15 02:24:51 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

writes: So: If you always bid the maximum you would be willing to pay, it doesn't matter when you or anybody else bids -- you will either win the item for a price you are willing to pay, or lose it to someone who is willing to pay more. However, if you bid early, you may end up paying more than you otherwise would have had to pay.

Great explanation, Charles. What it all comes down to is if you bid early on an item then you are just inviting someone else to bid against you. Nothing more maddening than if you bid early on something and someone else comes along and just diddles up the price \$10 or \$15 dollars at a time until he exceeds your bid! Only reason I can think of why some people still bid early is they hope no one else will come

along and they can get something at a bargain price. But that hardly ever happens on eBay. It just brings more attention to the item. Also I have seen many items with a very reasonable buy-it-now price and someone bids on the starting price and it deletes the buy-it-now offer. Then the item soars way above the buy-it-now price. I saw an item with a buy-it-now price of \$450 sell for over \$800 because of this. 73 Todd WD4NGG

From tshoppa at wmata.com Tue Nov 15 08:11:05 2005
Subject: [R-390] OA2 Rectifiers

wrote: OA2's etc. were regulators. A big difference.

Well, both regulators and rectifiers are diodes (two-terminal devices).

Some people call anything with two terminals a "diode", others call them a "rectifier".

Others say "diode rectifier" or "rectifier diode" :-). (You do occasionally see spare triodes turned into rectifiers...) (And real rectifiers often have three pins, funny thing about the way heaters work you have two wires going to the same element, but not the same potential at each end!)

Don't get me started about "ATM machines"! Tim.

From chacuff at cableone.net Tue Nov 15 08:40:57 2005
Subject: [R-390] OT. KWM2A Seller

For those who expressed interest in the list of gear I was contacted about it looks like the seller has jumped the fence and listed the stuff on ebay without warning. He didn't answer my emails yesterday about pricing so I guess he has decided to let the market decide.

Sorry...I tried to plug him into members of this list but it didn't happen...I also encouraged him to keep the station together as well...

If interested search on KWM2A and then check the sellers other items...It's all there! Anyway... Cecil...

From gregorymengell at comcast.net Tue Nov 15 12:10:34 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

wrote: writes: So: If you always bid the maximum you would be willing to pay, it doesn't >matter when you or anybody else bids -- you will either win the item for a >price you are willing to pay, or lose it to someone who is willing to pay >more.

Radio Mart has posted a R 390A for \$2555.00. 73 Gregory

From DSCC at att.net Tue Nov 15 12:51:39 2005
Subject: [R-390] OA2 Rectifiers

Hi Gang,

0a2 is just a zener diode in glass clothing. Don

From richardlo at admin.athabasca.ca Tue Nov 15 13:04:51 2005
Subject: [R-390] OA2 Rectifiers

wrote: > 0a2 is just a zener diode in glass clothing.

Yes but it is a quiet zener with a greater tolerance of abuse. Richard Loken VE6BSV,

From jpl15 at panix.com Tue Nov 15 13:12:19 2005
Subject: [R-390] OA2 Rectifiers

wrote: wrote: > > 0a2 is just a zener diode in glass clothing. > > Yes but it is a quiet zener with a greater tolerance of abuse.

And much prettier to look at than your average Zener, IMHO... 866s - OA2s - 833 filaments and radiation-cooled final plates - the Art of the Boatanchor, no? Cheers John KB6SCO

From future212 at comcast.net Tue Nov 15 17:10:05 2005
Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

Hello,

Does anyone know where I might buy a Selenium Rectifier for the chassis of a R-390A, CR-102. I have replaced it with a solid state bridge for now, but would very much like to get something more original in the chassis. I could not figure out a clever way to hide the diodes inside the selenium fins.

Thank you for your time. 73's DW Holtman WB7SSN Selenium

From barry at hausernet.com Tue Nov 15 17:28:16 2005
Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

Hi DW

All you'll find are NOS or pulls from chassis and it's best not to rely on them. I think most would agree, it's OK if the SS bridge is visible -- you have to peek down the back with the cover off -- and that's downright nosey. Even if seen, it shows you care. ;-)

I haven't had any seleniums fail lately, but one did when I was merely a child back in the late 50's -- in a Motorola TV. The smoke and acrid stink left quite an impression. (If I think about it real hard, I could make myself choke.) When my uncle visited, he replaced it with the latest thing -- a tiny, shiney, "top hat" silicon rectifier.

It's customary to leave the Se rectifier in place and mount the solid state replacement nearby. SOP around here. They're still pretty, brightly colored and be-finned, yet safe if not in the circuit. Barry

From frolik at gulftel.com Tue Nov 15 17:02:58 2005
Subject: [R-390] OT. KWM2A Seller

Hehehe

Hey Cecil,

Looks like it was all about the money anyway. Did he get a tear in his eye when he said he only wanted to find someone that "Cared" about his dad's gear. Some of these guys are quite good. Take care and keep thinking "2006 NO HURRICANES" Skip

From dhallam at rapidsys.com Tue Nov 15 17:48:06 2005
Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

I agree. Selenium rectifiers are one replacement part we are better off without. As soon as silicon diode rectifier design became available, parts manufacturers dumped selenium rectifiers and for good reason. David KC2JD

From n4buq at aol.com Tue Nov 15 17:57:44 2005
Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

B-b-but, the bridge is a solid-state device, and, and, and it's noisy, and, and, and it's not a tube, and, and, and....? Barry - N4BUQ (the other, other Barry)

From chacuff at cableone.net Tue Nov 15 18:03:37 2005
Subject: [R-390] OT. KWM2A Seller

No he actually apologized. He made the listing between two notes I had sent him...one recommending he keep some of the gear together and a general idea of what it looked like the stuff was worth and one with the info about several folks that were interested from the list. He admitted he jumped the gun. He appears to be in a hurry to move the stuff but wants to try and get a fair price for his Dad....I guess he decided Ebay was the best shot he had...before he found out there was interest elsewhere. He said the stuff had been listed somewhere else and he had several offers but all seemed to be way below what he perceived as market. He didn't tell me what those offers were. My opinion from looking at the pictures was that the whole package was probably worth \$2500.00. I expect the reserves are somewhere near that if you add them all up. All he said was that they were all reasonable.

Seems like a straight up guy....no experience with radio gear so none of the stuff will be tested so bid accordingly is all I can recommend.

Skip I guess you still got barn loads of neat stuff out your way....when you going to turn loose of some of that stuff? Cecil....

From rbethman at comcast.net Tue Nov 15 18:23:09 2005
Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

So go ahead and make a bunch of phony fins, attach them to the diode, and make it LOOK real.

I've had ENOUGH selenium #@*% go south on me over the years. The one that REALLY got myself and crew was a couple of them in the late '70s, almost 1980. The damnable things were internal to a 750KW 2400/4160VAC generator. They were used for field excitation.

We had excitement alright! While under full power the bloody %@#\$& things let go. Had 4160VAC arcs dancing all over the switchgear. And we were out in the Middle East, in the desert, no replacements anywhere.

I ran like mad for the front of the Gen. package, hit the EMERGENCY shutdown so hard the handle came off in my hand. The rest of the crew had ran out the door into the sands.

That kind of uncaged, unleashed power at THAT voltage, is pure deadly!

I absolutely NEVER want anything remotely like that in my life again!

Just make a "dummy" with a SS replacement inside. Live a LOT safer. Those fumes can kill. Bob - N0DGN

From barry at hausernet.com Tue Nov 15 19:04:44 2005
Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

wrote: <snipped>> Just make a "dummy" with a SS replacement inside. Live a LOT safer. Those fumes can kill.

Sure smell like they can! But, then again, why in heck does my bottle of "One-a-Day High Potency Multivitamin/Multimineral Supplement" contain --in each whompin' <ghaaack, choke> tablet - 105 mgs, 150% of the "daily value" of Selenium? Not to mention 94 mcg's (125%) of molybdenum, and finally, 180 mcg's of chromium (150%).

Not to question the risk of selenium rectifiers, but what's the deal on the (poisonous) nutrients. I suppose someday, there will be a super-vitamin/mineral supplement which includes meter-phosphor-radium and/or MFP. Barry

From jpl15 at panix.com Tue Nov 15 19:27:56 2005
Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

wrote: Does anyone know where I might buy a Selenium Rectifier for the chassis of a R-390A, CR-102.

It was common some years back to mount rectifier diodes in a finned assembly like a selenium. The diodes (the stud-mounted kind) were affixed to on of the fins, and the diode body protruded upward through holes in the adjacent fins (for clearance). The top lead of the diode was then attached to whatever fin it was closest to. The fin that the diode mounted on had a solder tab, and the fin the anode lead mounted to had a tab.

I have several of these assemblies with 4 and 8 diodes per "stack". You might be able to disassemble the original selenium stack - they were either bolted or riveted - and then using a Whitney hand punch - punch, or drill, holes in the fins sufficient to mount the diodes. Actually if you used small epoxy radial diodes, the holes could be quite small in the fins - then just bring out leads or make solder tabs, insulated

with teflon washers. Just an Idea.... Cheers John KB6SCO

From jpl15 at panix.com Tue Nov 15 19:35:41 2005
Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

wrote: > Sure smell like they can! But, then again, why in heck does my bottle of > "One-a-Day High Potency Multivitamin/Multimineral Supplement" contain --in > each whompin' <ghaaack, choke> tablet - 105 mgs, 150% of the "daily value" > of Selineum? Not to mention 94 mcg's (125%) of molybdenum, and finally, 180 > mcg's of chromium (150%).

Actually metallic selenium, or some salts thereof - ain't bad. But: when a selenium rectifier goes casters-up - it emits Hydrogen Sulphide gas - which is very, very much not good for you - and also the main component in what makes rotten eggs smell like rotten eggs.

Been there, done that - used to fix old TVs and radios as a kid - had a big one in my room that made 28VDC for my Command Set collection in Jr. High - it let go one evening - we had a swamp cooler then - it was on - I lost most of my Points with the rest of the family.... Cheers John KB6SCO

From sletz at msn.com Tue Nov 15 19:34:12 2005
Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

Actually it emits hydrogene selenide gas which as about 100 times stronger smell than hydrogen sulphide. Hydrogen telluride gas is even 100 times smellier than hydrogen selenide- once these compounds get into your body it can give you VERY BAD B.O. and halitosis- tellerium miners in colorado were know far and wide for their very bad BO! Just my 2 cents. Sam

I bought a huge 6 Meter amp back in the 80s. In the PS, there were 4 of these 'stacks'. Each leg had about 50 diodes! At first, I thought they were selenium, then I realized the previous owner had used metal diodes, fitted to those cooling fins, then he painted the whole thing red. Each diode has an equalizing resistor and cap across it. It must have taken weeks to build it....Looked cool.

I later swapped it for 4 of those K2AW potted rectifiers. I don't see any difference. ron N4UE

From r390a at bellsouth.net Tue Nov 15 20:53:31 2005
Subject: [R-390] RadioMarts Does It To Chuck

Item 5829231808

Says it's a Chuck Rippel Restored Radio. He also calls it a KWM-2A in the header.... hahahahaha73 all Tom NU4G

From future212 at comcast.net Tue Nov 15 21:16:09 2005
Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

Hello,

Thanks to all for the very informative answers on the selenium question. I will do as recommended,

leave the old fins in place and hide the solid state bridge as well as possible. Best, Dw holtman
WB7SSN

From jmiller1706 at cfl.rr.com Tue Nov 15 21:17:29 2005
Subject: [R-390] RadioMarts Does It To Chuck

And he is selling the 312B-3 (SN 324) I sold to him last week describing it as coming from an estate. Funny, I still feel alive, no estates here! And it's "RARE" to boot.

Here's his ad: http://cgi.ebay.com/Collins-312B-3-WE-Speaker-Original-Look_W0QQitemZ5829231096QQcategoryZ4673QQrdZ1QQcmdZViewItem

Here's the one I sold him <http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=5823339379>

Look similar?

Ah well let's see if goes for more than I got for it.

From bipi at comcast.net Tue Nov 15 21:18:39 2005
Subject: [R-390] HP Manual Help

Is there a place on the Web to download manuals for old HP gear. I have a HP 435A power meter and I'd like to find some information on it. I know I don't mention my R-390A in this post (there, I did it!) but you guys are a pretty knowledgeable bunch so thought I'd give it a shot. Thanks! de Mike K7PI

From bipi at comcast.net Tue Nov 15 21:22:57 2005
Subject: [R-390] RadioMarts Does It To Chuck

Wow, he must have replaced the speaker with a couple of solid bars of lead...he wants \$26 to ship it...the 312B3 weighs practically nothing! de Mike K7PI

From leslocklear at cableone.net Tue Nov 15 21:39:35 2005
Subject: [R-390] RadioMarts Does It To Chuck

Yeah, But he spells his name wrong, Ripple. I sent Chuck a heads up on Martyn. Les Locklear

The two most common elements in the universe are Hydrogen and stupidity. Harlan Ellison (1934-

From Bonddaleena at aol.com Tue Nov 15 22:08:08 2005
Subject: [R-390] RadioMarts Does It To Chuck

writes: Yeah, But he spells his name wrong, Ripple.

Hey, I've been to this guy's (Radiomart, "LOOK, MINT", ad neausium), house. What cracks me up, are his statements "from my own personal collection". BS! His 'shack' is a room about 6' x 10' with a

couple of radios on a piece of plywood. His 'antenna farm', is a dipole, with the center about 12' off the ground.

A couple of rooms filled with crummy looking stuff.

I bought a Yaesu transverter from him (advertised as 'fully checked out'). Well, the cable he supplied didn't even go with the unit. Of course, it didn't work.....

I also knew him when he was "Multicom2000". When his ebay negatives get too high, he just switches IDs.... ron N4UE

From jmiller1706 at cfl.rr.com Tue Nov 15 22:25:09 2005

Subject: [R-390] RadioMarts Does It To Chuck

Be careful guys, I apparently got bumped from the Collins.qth.net list when I tried to post this to that list.

From BarryG at visi.net Tue Nov 15 22:47:53 2005

Subject: [R-390] RadioMarts Does It To Chuck

>Be careful guys, I apparently got bumped from the Collins.qth.net list when >I tried to post this to that list.

wrote: I rejected your post because it is OBVIOUSLY off topic for the Collins list. Why you decided to send it to the list I do not know. Evidently, you have a problem with following the rules of the list.

The Collins list isn't subject to the type of stupidity you have tried to perpetrate because I take the time to filter idiots like yourself.

You have not been "bumped" from the list. Admin

From bipi at comcast.net Tue Nov 15 22:53:01 2005

Subject: [R-390] HP Manual Help

Thanks Sam...found the 435A on the Agilent.com site....now, why didn't I try that first....sorry for the bandwidth and thank you very much! 73 de Mike K7PI

From chacuff at cableone.net Tue Nov 15 23:24:21 2005

Subject: [R-390] RadioMarts Does It To Chuck

Sounds a little stuffy over there.....as I expected! Tactful admin as well! Cecil....

From jmiller1706 at cfl.rr.com Wed Nov 16 01:57:35 2005

Subject: [R-390] RadioMarts Does It To Chuck

How can any discussion of buying and selling activities, as it relates to Collins equipment, be considered off topic to the Collins list? And may I remind you sir that name calling (stupid, idiot, etc) could be seen

as "not following the rules." From your "list rules"

"Be courteous to other list members. If you disagree with them, fine, just don't resort to personal insults."

"If you feel the need to flame, send hate mail, or otherwise reprimand another list member, do it off-list."

"DON'T USE ALL CAPS !!!! In today's Internet all caps is considered "SHOUTING.""

You may wish to consider your own behavior in that regard. Have a nice day.

From shoppa_r390a at trailing-edge.com Wed Nov 16 04:07:28 2005

Subject: [R-390] RadioMart and mailing lists

While the subject of RadioMart and his ebay shennanigans is undoubtedly a subject of morbid curiosity for me and others, if we post every stupid Ebay seller and/or auction to this list then we end up with 99% ebay stuff and maybe 1% actual discussion.

Perhaps there ought to be a new list ("Martyn-pseudonyms@lists.qth.net") discussing RadioMart (or is it Radio-Mart?, oh well his Ebay pseudonym will change many times in the future) so that all this can be directed there, and those who do want to vent/read/discuss can do it there.

While the Collins list moderator might have seemed a little heavy-handed he did have a point, a list that talks mostly about bad E-bay traders really isn't doing the majority of the readers a lot of good (although it really does give a heads up to be careful on the E-place!) And Martyn is far from the worst crook to ever come along (even if, as it seems, he is shill-bidding up many of his own auctions - that's more foolish than evil. I've been to plenty of real live auctions where a lot more outright illegal stuff goes on.) Tim.

From lester.veenstra at lmco.com Wed Nov 16 07:10:04 2005

Subject: [R-390] HP Manual Help

Mike: Please contact off net. Les K1YCM/3

From beerbarrel at cox.net Wed Nov 16 09:09:44 2005

Subject: [R-390] RadioMarts Does It To Chuck

I wonder why he had to come here to explain it? Tracy

From barryg at visi.net Wed Nov 16 10:04:57 2005

Subject: [R-390] RadioMarts Does It To Chuck

For some reason, Mr. Miller decided to take the topic of Radio-Mart and post it to the Collins list.....Mr.Miller ADDED the Collins list address to his post..The thread was on the R390 reflector ALONE until Mr. Miller decided to post it to Collins@qth.net.

I assume that he thought everyone on the Internet needed to know that Martyn is a crook....fair enough, however it is OFF TOPIC for the Collins list, so I rejected his post...the canned message that Mr. Miller received when I rejected his post basically states that the admin finds that the message is not appropriate

to the list.

Thats it, I did not take Mr. Miller off the list, just rejected his off topic post.

Then Mr. Miller feels offended that his post hit the bitbucket so he posts to the R390 list that we should all "be careful" because he was "bumped" from the Collins list.

Be careful of what? I didn't like the fact that Mr. Miller inferred that there was something wrong with the Collins list so I felt compelled to respond.

I would not have worded the post quite the way I did except Mr. Miller has done similar in the past and since Mr. Miller has actually contributed in a positive way to the Collins list at one time I had hoped that a word to the wise would be sufficient.

Obviously, I was wrong. That is why.

Please, if anyone cares to respond, send your opinions directly to me and not the list, I can promise I will respond in kind. Barry (just another in a long and distinguished line ;-)

From DJED1 at aol.com Wed Nov 16 10:07:13 2005
Subject: [R-390] Banned List Topics and Radio-Mart

Too bad that the Collins list administrator has (selectively?) enforced the list rules. I checked the qth.net rules, which also ban postings which criticize anyone. While such topics can degenerate into endless name calling, I think some negative feedback is a useful source of information for the list members. We discuss good sources of supply for radios, parts, and restoration, why not discuss bad sources as well?

I subscribe to several message boards for my other interests, and all allow negative feedback for vendors who have taken advantage of consumers. Sometimes the comments are disputed by other list members, and after a few postings you get a pretty good feel for whether the vendor is someone you want to do business with. And I've seen VERY few occasions where the discourse has gotten so heated that the administrator has had to shut down the topic. For me, an early warning about Radio-mart would have saved me some aggravation. Ed

From w9ya at arrl.net Wed Nov 16 10:13:42 2005
Subject: [R-390] RadioMarts Does It To Chuck

> I wonder why he had to come here to explain it? > Tracy

One Possible explanation: (And assuming he did not tell "his" list the same silly explanation-) If he told his own people, they might see it for what it is: heavyhanded. And people, as a rule, do not like to be "overlorded" in such a fashion. Well most people I know; YMMV !! Vy 73; Bob w9ya

From w9ya at arrl.net Wed Nov 16 10:24:20 2005
Subject: [R-390] RadioMarts Does It To Chuck

Three simple comments:

1 - I am keeping this on this list because the Collins's list admin chose to respond here already. It is not for you to decide it should not be further explored here. i.e. You are not this list's admin.

2 - Calling people "idiots", is also arrogant. It very much diminished any discussion about how civil someone is when they choose to use such grade-school silliness in such a mean manner.

3 - I have now posted more messages, two, on this topic than I have altogether in the past six months. That should serve as some indication about how (some) people can feel about the care exercised by the collins' list admin. i.e. Not good. If you do not understand this, please feel free to go back and re-read the first two items above. Vy 73; Bob w9ya

From vhfplus at bmg50.com Wed Nov 16 10:27:48 2005
Subject: [R-390] FS CY-979A case

The CY-979A case has been sold. Thanks to everyone for their input! Jack, AE7DX

From flood at Krohne.com Wed Nov 16 11:02:18 2005
Subject: [R-390] Yikes

Greetings,

If the only thing bad that that I had to deal with during the day was that someone call me an "Idiot" I'd be delighted. Now with that said, lets restart the ballast tube thread. <ducking and running for cover>

From mikea at mikea.ath.cx Wed Nov 16 11:10:00 2005
Subject: [R-390] Yikes

wrote: > If the only thing bad that that I had to deal with during the day was that > someone call me an "Idiot" I'd be delighted. Now with that said, lets > restart the ballast tube thread.

Ukkumpuckey! Mike Andrews, W5EGO

From barry at hausernet.com Wed Nov 16 11:13:27 2005
Subject: [R-390] Yikes

wrote: > If the only thing bad that that I had to deal with during the day was that > someone call me an "Idiot" I'd be delighted. Now with that said, lets > restart the ballast tube thread.

Me too.

Yesssss... Once more into the breach -- back to the ballast-trades! I think last time we left off with kielbasa Barry

From flood at Krohne.com Wed Nov 16 12:40:49 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: 12AX7'S

On a more serious note, I was going to get a count of how many "NOS MILL SURPLUS" "RARE" "LOOK" 12AX7's I had available. I remember Roy was interested in some along with at least one other list member. I lost the messages in a flurry of email purging to keep the IT Goddess from hurting me as I was well over half a gig in my office email account. Would the parties involved please contact me off list. Tubedepot.com is robbing people at \$11.95 for used USA made ones. If I recall these are RCA, new in the MIL box and are \$5.00 each (tested just to be sure), If you question the MFG I'll know you are an audiophool. Then I'll put them in the freezer for a day and then the toaster oven for a few hours and the price is then \$50.00. I'll also wonder what planet you came from that grows ears so sensitive that they can tell the difference.

For \$9.95 additional you can have a photocopy of the tag from the surplus auction and get a free Ginsu knife. And for \$19.95, if you order before midnight tonight I'll include an 8 track tape recording of me reading the details on the tube from the RCA tube handbook. John Flood

From r390a.urr at gmail.com Wed Nov 16 10:29:24 2005
Subject: [R-390] RadioMart and mailing lists

> Perhaps there ought to be a new list ("Martyn-pseudonyms@lists.qth.net") > discussing RadioMart (or is it Radio-Mart?, oh well his Ebay pseudonym > will change many times in the future) so that all this can be directed there, > and those who do want to vent/read/discuss can do it there.

Actually there is a little-known list that provides a such a forum: ebay-fs@mailman.qth.net

About EBay-FS EBay-FS is a mailing list (reflector) open to all radio amateurs for discussion of Amateur Radio items on EBay.

From richardlo at admin.athabascau.ca Wed Nov 16 14:32:33 2005
Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

I am surprised at the amount of traffic that this subject has inspired.

Lessee now, I have an R-390 and my fingers have never come within many yards of an R-390A so my knowledge is limited but... aren't the only seleniums in the R-390 family used to rectify low voltage and low current to drive the antenna relay? There are no seleniums doing anything else in there are there? I will be glad to be corrected if I am wrong.

Sneaking a few rectifiers in there should be pretty easy and neither your wife nor Art Collins ever need know.

I was surprised to find there were any seleniums at all, I thought they were copper oxide but apparantly not. Richard Loken VE6BSV,

From richardlo at admin.athabascau.ca Wed Nov 16 14:37:00 2005
Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

wrote: > Sure smell like they can! But, then again, why in heck does my bottle of > "One-a-Day High Potency Multivitamin/Multimineral Supplement" contain --in > each whommpin' <ghaaack, choke> tablet - 105 mgs, 150% of the "daily value" > of Selinium? Not to mention 94 mcg's (125%) of

molybdenum, and finally, 180 > mcg's of chromium (150%).

Thats easy. The selenium is to rectify any digestion problems that you have, the molybdenum helps the pill slide down your throat, and the chromium makes the pill bright and attractive. I'm surprised that you had to ask! -- Richard Loken VE6BSV,

From n4buq at aol.com Wed Nov 16 15:00:07 2005

Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

Anyone know how much current K101A and K101B pull? That specification is not listed in the Y2K manual. If not that, what is the max current the selenium rectifier is capable of supplying. Looking for a suitable silicon replacement bridge. RatShack has a 50PRV version and I like the mounting/connecting configuration, but would like something with just a tad more than 50PRV (yes, I know that's nearly double the voltage it needs to handle, but I like a large safety factor). They have another model (400PRV), but I don't like it's packaging as well (and I don't think it handles as much current as the other one). Thanks! Barry - N4BUQ

From barry at hausernet.com Wed Nov 16 15:56:00 2005

Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

wrote: > Thats easy. The selenium is to rectify any digestion problems that you > have, > the molybdenum helps the pill slide down your throat, and the chromium > makes > the pill bright and attractive.

> I'm surprised that you had to ask!

That's what I thought -- but was afraid to ask ;-)

From uheckjk at yahoo.com Wed Nov 16 16:56:06 2005

Subject: [R-390] Manual Help Needed

Folks,

I picked up a very nice HP low frequency signal generator at Dayton a few years ago. It is actually bigger and heavier than an R-390A! It is very clean, complete with all accessories, and looks hardly used. It is a TS-535 A/U, all tube. I have had it on my counter all afternoon and it is very stable on all bands, and still in fine alignment. I have looked everywhere I know to look for a manual, including Agilent's site, but no luck. Can anyone point me in the direction of a manual for this instrument? Thanks very much! John, KC8ETS

From r390a at bellsouth.net Wed Nov 16 17:24:55 2005

Subject: [R-390] Yikes

wrote: > Ukkumpuckey!

Kielbasa!! Tom NU4G

From w5or at comcast.net Wed Nov 16 17:34:38 2005

Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

I don't recall anyone ever reporting a catastrophic failure of this rectifier. Anyone?

About two years listmember K2CBY posted this:

----- I had the selenium rectifier fail one leg to open on my Motorola Contract 363-PH-54 chassis about 10 years ago. No short, no smoke, no smell. The symptom was a very loud buzz from the antenna relay and a failure to pull in completely when the FUNCTION was switched to CAL. I assume the same symptom would appear if BREAK IN was enabled and the ptt line grounded. The symptoms of a failed selenium rectifier are so obvious and it is so easy to get to that I wouldn't bother with pre-emptive replacement. Miles, K2CBY, Sag Harbor, NY

Anyway, along with not eating R-390 meters (ala Roy Morgan), you shouldn't be grinding up used selenium rectifiers as dietary supplements (ala Barry Hauser). Don

From barry at hausernet.com Wed Nov 16 18:23:29 2005

Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

Hi Don & gang

Seems to be general knowledge, perhaps peppered with some urban (plus suburban and rural) legend, that selenium rectifiers often fail. Some of this, no doubt is because the last ones were made sooooo long ago. Failure modes include sudden death with acrid, noxious fumes, or slow deterioration, and I suppose, going open as K2CBY reported. For example, it's SOP to bypass them with an individual rectifier and dropping resistor in tube Transoceanics. In those radios, they tend to develop higher resistance with age and affect performance, well before they go up in smoke. (That said, most of my T/O's are running on the finned wonders, but I don't run them unattended.) There are a couple of non-finned ones in AN/GRR-5's which tend to fail, including the one built into the cabinet, though I think that's a copper oxide rectifier.

The thing is -- with so much pre-emptive replacement, it throws the stats off, so we will never know just how many fail in what mode by when. And as far as those that fail in catastrophic noxious gas mode ... have we heard from K2CBY .. lately? ;-)

Only the Shadow knows ... Barry

From dsmaples at comcast.net Wed Nov 16 19:49:10 2005

Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

Boy howdy, I sure agree with getting rid of these things.

If you really want to use the selenium rectifier, maybe you grind it up and put it in hair soap and call it SelSun BLEW (snicker). Dave Maples

From barpilot13 at hotmail.com Wed Nov 16 19:54:24 2005

Subject: [R-390] RE: R-390 Digest, Vol 19, Issue 36

For the lad looking for a HP-435A pwer meter manual, as a part of an estate our group is helping settle, we have originals of the HP-432A and HP-436A power meters to dispose of if that will help. If interested get in touch weith me here. 73 Walt (N4GL) --- pendragon@netsignia.net

From glennmaillist at bellsouth.net Wed Nov 16 19:51:09 2005
Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

When you remove them from the equipment, disassemble the stack. Plates the plates in lacquer thinner. Remove the paint then attach a wire to both sides (one wire per side). Use tape or conductive epoxy. You now have a photo cell. 73 Glenn WB4UIV

From r390a at bellsouth.net Wed Nov 16 20:10:10 2005
Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

Not sure I've seen a catastrophic failure in *most* of the equipment I've had that had selenium rectifiers. When they've died, they've just... opened up or become a resistor. I count myself lucky, I think. Tom "No Keilbasa Ballasts"

From shoppa_r390a at trailing-edge.com Thu Nov 17 06:19:12 2005
Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

Barry asks: > Anyone know how much current K101A and K101B pull?

The two windings in parallel are about 100 ohms.

They're fed with pulsating $25.6 \times 1.4 = 35\text{VDC}$ peak DC (minus selenium rectifier losses) which would mean maybe 200mA current if driven by pure DC. But I suspect inductive impedance means that actual current draw is much much less when fed with pulsating DC, my gut feeling just looking at the selenium rectifier and size of the relay coils that it's like 40 or 50mA.

Yeah, I know, you asked for a real measurement, not a gut feeling :-).

If you can wait until this weekend I can put a resistor in series with the selenium bridge and see what the actual current draw is (my blue striper had a smashed-up selenium bridge I gotta replace too!) Tim.

From n4buq at aol.com Thu Nov 17 09:26:09 2005
Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

Tim,

That's close enough. I figured an amp or two would be a sufficient rating for a replacement rectifier. K101A and K101B are all that's powered by the rectifier, right? I'm not looking at the schematic, but does anyone know if the break-in relay is also powered from this rectifier? I don't recall seeing it in this line, but it would seem it needs DC from somewhere... Thanks! Barry - N4BUQ

From roy.morgan at nist.gov Thu Nov 17 09:41:50 2005
Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

wrote: I figured an amp or two would be a sufficient rating >for a replacement rectifier. does anyone know if the break-in relay is also powered from this rectifier?

Yes someone knows: Me.

The break-in relay is powered by the 6.3 volt filament supply. It's coil carries about 40 ma of ac current if the "Break-in" switch is ON and the rear panel terminal is grounded. The break-in relay in turn grounds the audio input to the audio amplifier and operates the antenna relay.

This means that you can't operate the break-in function with a simple transistor switch from the ricebox transmitter or transceiver you have. It needs either a simple contact closure, or some sort of bridge-fed opto-isolated solly state switch. Roy

From tshoppa at wmata.com Thu Nov 17 09:51:49 2005
Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

> I figured an amp or two would be a sufficient rating for a replacement rectifier.

Oh, yeah, definitely. A 1 Amp selenium stack (even low voltage) would be physically much larger. And the 25.2VAC winding in the transformer is only rated at 1.2A.

I see the smallest Radio Shack bridge rectifier is 1.4A 100PIV.

> K101A and K101B are all that's powered by the rectifier, right? I'm > not looking at the schematic, but does anyone know if > the break-in relay is also powered from this rectifier?

The break-in relay coil is 6.3VAC from the filament winding. The ground return of the selenium bridge goes through one set of the break-in relay's contacts, but that's not really "power", just completing the ground return.

> I don't recall > seeing it in this line, but it would seem it needs DC from somewhere...

My reading of the schematics is that the break-in relay coil is AC, not DC. I never liked AC coil relays but if the alternative is a bunch of selenium rectifiers...! Tim.

From n4buq at aol.com Thu Nov 17 10:08:14 2005
Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

Actually, I was looking at one of the physically larger rectifiers (P/N 276-1185, but it's PIV is "only" 50V. It is larger than needed (25A capacity), but has solder tabs instead of just leads.

I suppose I'd opt for P/N 276-1181 (200PIV, 6A), though. It doesn't have solder tabs, but it is easy enough to solder to the large diameter leads. Thanks! Barry - N4BUQ

From rdavis7 at comcast.net Thu Nov 17 10:23:29 2005

Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390 Digest, Vol 19, Issue 39

Selenium failure---Yep, for sure. I have one right now in my R 390. Antenna relay sounds like a door buzzer. Receiver hasn't been used for 15 years and this happened after I replaced the caps for initial start-up. Anybody want the culprit to play with? First reply gets the prize! Rick K8PJQ

From n4buq at aol.com Thu Nov 17 10:44:12 2005

Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier

BTW, my reasoning for getting the large bridges is I plan to unbolt the old rectifier from its bracket and bolt the new on in its place. It should make for a very neat replacement. Barry - N4BUQ

From rdavis7 at comcast.net Thu Nov 17 11:44:29 2005

Subject: [R-390] Re: R-390 Digest, Vol 19, Issue 39

Selenium failure R-390. Sold! That lasted five minutes on this reflector. I have other 390 and 390a's I'll be offering soon to the list members. Rick K8PJQ

From gregorymengell at comcast.net Thu Nov 17 18:00:32 2005

Subject: [R-390] R 392

Hi ,Fair Radio has just recieved a shipment of R 392 recievers. They will be sold Checked complete with substitute meters for \$500.00. 73 Gregory

From frledda at verizon.net Fri Nov 18 08:23:58 2005

Subject: [R-390] R1230

Hi Greg,

Did you get my last email? I finally found the manual of the R1230/FLR. I scanned it, and I can mail you a CD.

What about those blisters? Did you guys make a decision?

Please, let me know. Regards, Francesco

From lester.veenstra at lmco.com Fri Nov 18 09:29:59 2005

Subject: [R-390] R1230

Having spent a significant part of my first live repairing R-1230's would love to get a copy of that scanned manual. Les K1YCM/3 K1YCM/6Y5 CTM1

From DSCC at att.net Fri Nov 18 12:06:08 2005

Subject: [R-390] WA4NIZ TUBES

Please see attached for list

Don

----- next part -----

Hi,

Here is my first tube list. There will be more. I need a five tube minimum order \$1 dollar each. Please include \$5 shipping. Send me your mailing address to DSCC@att.net. I will send your order to you with my address and you can mail me a check back.

Thanks for giving my tubes a good home Don Humphrey

Tube list 1

6AS6 6CG7
6AN5 6AF4
6AG5 6BC8
6AH6 6EJ7
6AK6 6CS7
6AV6 6CY5
6AU6 6BC5
6C4 6BA6
6CL6 6EM5
6AQ6 6GK5
6CB6 6DK6
6AS5 6AQ5
6J6 6HA5
6J4 6BK7
6T8 6BE6
6X4 6BR8
6X8 6BY8
6AL5 6BF6
6AB4 6DS5
6AW8 6BJ6
6AS5 6AS6
6EW6 6CL8
6CU5 6BK5
6DR7

Tube list

12BH7 3DT6
12AV6 3BN6
12AV7 3S4
12AF3 3BC5
12DZ6 3CY5
12B4 4BC8
12AU6 4BN6
12FR8 2BN4A
12FX8 5EU8
12AL5 2CY5
12AT6

12BA6
12X4

Change

From barry at hausernet.com Fri Nov 18 12:44:31 2005
Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question

I generally make it a policy not to comment on e-pay doings, if I can help myself, but ...

What was particularly special about 5827806047 that it finaled at \$2,011? Yeah, it looks like a very clean EAC '67 or so, but what am I missing? The description is very positive, but brief -- nothing very special there. Photos look fine, but none of the top.

Something to do with Fair no longer offering R-390A's, perhaps?

Difficult to analyze the bidding history for possible two-way bidding war as the ID's were private on this one. Barry

From leslocklear at cableone.net Fri Nov 18 13:36:11 2005
Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question

Absolutely amazing.....P. T. Barnum was a very astute man it seems.

Hard to believe that went for more than a Mish or Rippel restored R-390A, and more than A R-390/URR restored in a cabinet went for a few weeks ago.

The R-390/URR (that would be the Non-A for the learning disabled) is imho the better receiver.

Ya pays your money and ya takes your chances..... Les Locklear Gulfport, MS.

Reminds me of my safari in Africa. Somebody forgot the corkscrew and for several days we had to live on nothing but food and water. W.C. Fields (1880-1946)

From robert.boyd at servicecanada.gc.ca Fri Nov 18 13:50:50 2005
Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question

You should have forced the cork into the bottle with a pointed object:))

From ea2ig at euskalnet.net Fri Nov 18 13:52:33 2005
Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question

Sure Fair no longer had any more Bluestripper. WTB Fair has the very rare Twinax to UHF adapter. I bough a month ago a nice R-390A EAC 67 in Europ for \$660 Best Regards from Spain Pedro EA2IG

From ToddRoberts2001 at aol.com Fri Nov 18 14:09:33 2005
Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question

writes: I generally make it a policy not to comment on e-pay doings, if I can help myself, but ...

What was particularly special about 5827806047 that it finaled at \$2,011? Yeah, it looks like a very clean EAC '67 or so, but what am I missing? The description is very positive, but brief -- nothing very special there. Photos look fine, but none of the top.

Something to do with Fair no longer offering R-390A's, perhaps?

Difficult to analyze the bidding history for possible two-way bidding war as the ID's were private on this one. Barry

The R-390A did look exceptionally clean. I wonder if maybe the "audio" people are now discovering the R-390A? Maybe they are getting tired of looking at their \$5000 - 15 watt per channel 6B4 triode audio amplifiers and decided they can do better with their money on a top-of-the-line vacuum tube receiver? What's next, \$250 double-shielded oxygen-free copper linecords for the R-390A? 73 - Todd WD4NGG

From r390a at bellsouth.net Fri Nov 18 14:19:29 2005
Subject: [R-390] RadioMart and mailing lists

It's little known because no one posts on it, either that or no one posts on it because it's little known. There's only been one post this year, the last post was August of 2004! Tom

From ToddRoberts2001 at aol.com Fri Nov 18 14:55:58 2005
Subject: [R-390] Shady Lane

There is a pretty good forum for eBay fraud, negative feedbacks, phishing emails and other not-so-good things that can happen to someone buying or selling stuff on eBay. Looks like it would be just as useful to someone interesting in buying or selling R-390A/R-390 radios as well as audio stuff. Go to audioasylum.com and look up the forum Shady Lane. 73 - Todd WD4NGG

From r390a.urr at gmail.com Fri Nov 18 15:44:03 2005
Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question

> Something to do with Fair no longer offering R-390A's, perhaps?

That and the 'chatter' on the list about this specific auction raised its awareness.

I have a receipt from Slep Electronics (remember him?) dated 6/28/72 for "1 ea. R-390A Receiver with manual..... \$750". It's a Motorola in very nice shape, BTW.

According to the BLS CPI calculator, that's \$3,574.16 in 2005 dollars.

From leslocklear at cableone.net Fri Nov 18 15:55:42 2005
Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question

The prices in the early 70's were high compared to the 80's and 90's. E-Bay isn't an indicator at all imho, the prices are up one week, down the next. YMMV. Bill Slep if I remember correctly. He was a good guy. Les Locklear

From barry at hausernet.com Fri Nov 18 16:20:51 2005
Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question

Hi Dave & gang...

wrote: >> Something to do with Fair no longer offering R-390A's, perhaps? wrote: >That and the 'chatter' on the list about this specific auction raised its >awareness.

I didn't notice any chatter about this particular auction -- and purposely didn't post about it until _after_ it ended.

I know what you mean about the impact of chatter -- and tend to groan when someone does us all a "favor" by posting something like "Hey look guys, there's a very nice Zorchmeister 3000 with cabinet up you know where and it's only at \$225 now -- in case anyone is interested. (yup -- with 4 days, 7 hrs to go, right).

>I have a receipt from Slep Electronics (remember him?) dated 6/28/72 for "1 >ea. R-390A Receiver with manual..... \$750". It's a Motorola in >very nice shape, BTW.

I just picked up a very nice EAC (or is it a Dittmore-Freimuth?) '68 contract for \$450. Wrong tag though.

Very definitely a YMMV situation. 390 pricing isn't a suitable belwether for predicting whatever's gonna happen next - like hemlines or whatever. Then there are the stories about the '390's for \$50-if-you-wait-for-the-end-of-the-hamfest-when-the-sellers-don't-want-to-lug-them-home price. Heck, there was just a recount of \$150 pricing some time back.

>According the the BLS CPI calculator, that's \$3,574.16 in 2005 dollars.

Yeah, these 2005 dollars don't go as far. I'll pass the \$500 R-392's for now, even though they're a steal at \$104.92 in 1972 dollars.

ring, ring -- "Hellooo Fair Radio Sales!" ... "Hi, do you take 1972 dollars?" ;-) Barry runnin' whilst duckin'

From r390a.urr at gmail.com Fri Nov 18 16:41:47 2005
Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question

wrote: > >That and the 'chatter' on the list about this specific auction raised its > >awareness.

The thread title was "R-390A on eBay. Warning!"

> I know what you mean about the impact of chatter -- and tend to groan when > someone does us all a "favor" by posting something like "Hey look guys, > there's a very nice Zorchmeister 3000 with cabinet up you know where and > it's only at \$225 now -- in case anyone is interested. (yup -- with 4 days, > 7

hrs to go, right).

My feelings too, although I confess I have given the occasional 'heads-up'. But I think the best policy is to sit on our hands until it's over.

From chacuff at cableone.net Fri Nov 18 17:04:22 2005
Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question

It's still perplexing to me how the Ebay market reacts to things that are sold there.

It's a little discouraging to see what I would consider a clean but surplus condition R-390A with little said about it's functionality, being sold buy a guy who appears to have little knowledge or background in tube radio gear and worse feedback ratings than Martyn, sell for more than those restored by folks who apply their talents and pour a good bit of time and effort into one. Not to mention the detailed auction listing....

I guess it's the patina thing...I don't know. The last one Chuck sold on Ebay went for \$1700....

I also feel these auctions with private bidder lists are not to be trusted.... Cecil....

From greybeard5150 at sbcglobal.net Fri Nov 18 18:48:41 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: Pricing & 'O' Free 'Cu' wire...

snip What's next, \$250 double-shielded oxygen-free copper linecords for the R-390A? 73 - Todd WD4NGG

Probably.....you really MUST checkout the self-described system?specifications at the "Audio Asylum" site that was mentioned earlier. These audiophile guys are going through more heavy metal than North Korean physicists on crack...

Go to the 'Inmate Systems' section at: <http://cgi.audioasylum.com/scripts/system.pl> Quig

From odyslim at comcast.net Fri Nov 18 18:55:18 2005
Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question

I believe "that" radio will probably going to Japan or elsewhere overseas.

While we are on the subject, I wonder how many people on this list are bidding against one another? As a group, it could be "us" that is hiking up the price of these radios. I am sure there are people on this list that do not own an 390-A or R390 that are just waiting for the chance to get a good one. The private listing will keep them from being ribbed for paying way too much for the radio while the seller keeps upping the bid.

About Cecil's radio. I thought it was going to sell for over \$3000 so I did not bid. That radio was a real Gem. Now I wish that I had thrown in a bid just for grins. I would be proud to own such a fine example. Just my thought, Scott W3CV

From odyslim at comcast.net Fri Nov 18 18:58:48 2005
Subject: [R-390] off topic/ tube tester

Does anybody know the actual difference between the Heath TT-1 and the TT-1A tube tester? Is the addition of the newer sockets in the lid the only difference? Thanks, Scott W3CV

From ba.williams at charter.net Fri Nov 18 21:06:51 2005
Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question

> I have a receipt from Slep Electronics (remember him?) dated 6/28/72 for > "1 ea. R-390A Receiver with manual..... \$750". It's a Motorola in > very nice shape, BTW. > According the the BLS CPI calculator, that's \$3,574.16 in 2005 dollars.

I don't have a receipt from the Dayton fest in 1994, but I have a mint looking 67 EAC bought for \$365. It came with the Utah plate, and top/bottom covers too. I don't think the radio ever saw service and was probably on a shelf the whole time.

Somebody on this list found one in a dumpster. I can't remember who that was or if he is still around. Quite a few guys have had one given to them. The other other other Barry

From bill at iaxs.net Fri Nov 18 23:01:18 2005
Subject: [R-390] off topic/ tube tester

Does anybody know the actual difference between the Heath TT-1 and the TT-1A tube tester?

The TT-1 was the heavier, overdesigned model.

The TT-1/A was the cost-reduced version, and a better compromise between what the military wanted and what the taxpayers could afford.

This opinion is worth what you paid for it. Bill Hawkins

From mikea at mikea.ath.cx Fri Nov 18 23:02:44 2005
Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question

wrote: > I don't have a receipt from the Dayton fest in 1994, but I have a mint > looking 67 EAC bought for \$365. It came with the Utah plate, and top/bottom > covers too. I don't think the radio ever saw service and was probably on a > shelf the whole time. > > Somebody on this list found one in a dumpster. I can't remember who that was > or if he is still around. Quite a few guys have had one given to them.

I've had 3 R-390A given to me: an EAC, a Stewart-Warner, and an Amelco. I bought an R-390 from Rick Mish, and it's a lovely piece of work.

When I was TDY to Osan AB, ROK, I saw all the R-390 (or R-390A) rigs in the MARS shack being tossed into a dumpster, and couldn't rescue any for myself because I was leaving the next day and my hold baggage had already gone out. That *hurt*. Mike Andrews, W5EGO

From chacuff at cableone.net Fri Nov 18 23:51:11 2005
Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question

Well that brings me to my story which I have never told here, of how I got my first R-390A. I had been looking for one for quite a while...I didn't at that point have any boatanchor radio's...I was active on the ham bands chasing DX on a Yaesu FT-1000D. (long since gone..sold it and bought my wife a computerized sewing machine...ain't love grand.)

Anyway I had been talking to a local guy, I have spoken of before, about buying one from him since he had a pile of them. We could never get together...mostly because he would never commit. I decided to call an elderly Amateur Radio friend who is now SK...his call was KB5QBU. I called and asked Fred if he had or knew anyone that had an R-390 for sale. His response was...."Funny you should call...I just went and retrieved one from a fellows home that I had lent to him a few months back...he died in a plane crash and it's in the trunk of my car and I was dreading having to get it out. If you will come get it out it's yours." Of course it didn't take me but a few minutes to get over there and get it out for him. Turns out he was a member of MARS and had signed the thing out many years earlier. He did some paperwork to have it retired or decommissioned or whatever it is one does to get it off the books. It's a very clean Motorola..with all Motorola modules. Original meters and all covers. He gave me a binder with some manuals in it and they turned out to be for the R-391 which I traded to our list admin for a correct original R-390A manual many years ago.

My only regret looking back now is that the same day Fred offered a very nice looking old National receiver...a VLF as I remember it...probably an RBL or some such and I didn't take it. (I had what I had come for...couldn't imagine me needing another old tube radio..HA) He was cleaning out...worried about what his wife was going to do with all the stuff if he passed on. I'm sure it went in the trash....

Turns out as I later found out...his wife died a few years later and he moved out west to live with his son where he died just a few years ago.

One thing for sure....I was bit hard by a bug that day...I didn't see the symptoms until much later. I have the incurable disease now. Probably no less than 20 boatanchors reside in the shop now....along with an Icom 756 Pro II just to keep things balanced!

Where does it end? I find myself driving down the road looking at trash piles in front of homes folks have moved out of or cleaned out, hoping to spot a discarded boatanchor....haven't yet but I can only imagine how many have gone to the landfill undetected..... Cecil...

From misheb at execpc.com Sat Nov 19 01:08:36 2005
Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question - First R-390A

Acquired my first R-390A (a complete Stewart-Warner) in 1973 for \$300 from a local ham. Sounds cheap today, but on a salary of \$10K per year with a wife and baby it was a MAJOR expense. Much subsequent niceness to spouse required. Saw my second R-390A under a table at a local swapfest in 1996. A dirty but complete EAC. Seller wanted \$150, but I tried to beat him down to \$125. He wouldn't budget so I walked away from the table. What the heck I figured, I had one R-390A why would I ever need two! I guess the boatanchor virus had not totally infected my system. 73, Gary W9OAK

From galpinp at absamail.co.za Sat Nov 19 04:33:49 2005
Subject: [R-390] RE: R-390 Digest, Vol 19, Issue 42

Quote I've had 3 R-390A given to me: an EAC, a Stewart-Warner, and an Amelco. I bought an R-390

from Rick Mish, and it's a lovely piece of work.

Spare a thought for all us around the other side of the world where R390s are as rare as hen's teeth! Generally, statesiders aren't willing to crate stuff for international travel, and we can't afford your prices anyway.

But if anyone's got to find a good home for a workable 390, then send it here! Paul Galpin ZS2PG South Africa

From kf4yio at charter.net Sat Nov 19 08:35:45 2005
Subject: [R-390] Oldham Coupler parts

Hi Everyone.

Not too long ago, someone posted some information about getting Oldham Coupler parts for the R390's. I seemed to have lost that post. Could that person please re-post that information or e-mail me direct?

Thanks in advance Jack KF4YIO KF4YIO@charter.net

From ba.williams at charter.net Sat Nov 19 09:04:32 2005
Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question

Cecil,

I do the same thing- look over trash piles on the street, etc, wishing for the same things. One reason is that I was talking to one of the known bs-ers at work one day and he mentioned radio frequencies for a job. I mentioned something, and he asked if I knew about radios. He said that was too bad because he had just put a big, heavy, gray Hammarlund on the street the week before. Then, he asked if I was alright because I looked suddenly very sick. Honest, that's what he said to my reaction. To think I was that close!

I've had a lot of radio gear given to me. I've gotten a like new Transoceanic that is sand state. I got a real fixer upper tube model for around \$40. I haven't gotten any boat anchors yet, but I've been given several thousand tubes NIB. I've collected several tube amplifiers, most for free. I did pay a little for a very nice Bogen 120 amp that I recapped and it works fine. I run free wanted ads in a local rag that has all of the ads in it and sells at the gas-quick shops around here. You would be surprised at the things people have and are willing to either give away, or let go for a small price. People have stuff lying around. You just have to reach them somehow. I'll begin the ads again after the first of the year, and I think I'll begin some serious collecting around here.

My PH-56 Motorola was my first boat anchor. I paid \$300 for that from the same guy who later snagged my EAC at Dayton. He gave me a SP-600 Bud cabinet with it and apologized for it being the wrong cabinet. I was bitten by the bug from a Kenwood R-2000 that I had bought over Fidonet from a guy in California for \$280. I sold that over Fidonet to get the Motorola as I had heard of the virtues of the R-390A. Barry

From chg111 at hotmail.com Sat Nov 19 09:28:22 2005
Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question

I bought a RatShak DX-440 & a PopCom one bright day in 1990, & kept hearing stories of this marvellous radio, an "R-398". Soon figured out it was an "R-390A", called Rick Mish, bought a Dittmore-Friemuth from him, & it's been downhill ever since...2 R-390s, 2 R-390As, R-388, R-389, R-391, R-392, SP-600, SX-28, SX-25, NC-183D, HRO-50T1, Scott SLRM, RBO-2, EK-07D, & of course, a couple of mighty, mighty SW-54s...<grin>-Sandy G. C.H.(Sandy)Geiger III

From tfrobase at kitparts.com Sat Nov 19 10:04:17 2005

Subject: [R-390] Cleaning Gears & Cams

Several years ago, while living in eastern Pennsylvania, I found an industrial ultrasonic cleaner at one of my favorite scrap yards. It has become invaluable in the restoration of r-390a's.

I have been fully immersing the detached gear assembly and the inductor racks, with the inductors removed. I use a solution of water based degreaser in fairly high concentration. It takes about 3 - 5 minutes to complete the job. After the ultrasonic cleaning I thoroughly rinse the assembly in hot water and dry. I then apply heavy oil lubrication with a hypodermic. My experience has been excellent, tuning has been smooth as silk ... Tom, N3LLL

Take a look <http://www.kitparts.com/misc/390-gears.jpg> Thomas L. Frobase, N3LLL

From w9ran at oneradio.net Sat Nov 19 10:10:03 2005

Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question

wrote: > I find myself driving down the road looking at trash piles in front of > homes folks have moved out of or cleaned out, hoping to spot a > discarded boatanchor....haven't yet but I can only imagine how many > have gone to the landfill undetected.....

I'm sure it's happened - a buddy of mine rescued not one, but TWO Hallicrafters SX-73s from the curb. And another found an R-390A (which he kept) and a "rare" B&W 6100 transmitter (which he gave to me) at a garage sale by an ex-CBer. So it never pays to look! 73, Bob W9RAN

PS: Although in this day when people get big bucks selling funny-shaped potato chips on eBay, it probably happens a lot less often ;-)

From richy2 at mindspring.com Sat Nov 19 10:25:02 2005

Subject: [R-390] radios at trash sites

I'll share a true story with you guys, in the late 70's I had a hammerlund HQ215, solid state rx and sold it around 1980, my neighbor who collects old records goes to grage sales every saturday, about 5 years ago he came home and told me about a couple of ham radios he seen at a grage sale and since it was not too far I decided to go look, you gussed it there was my HQ215 in nice condition and with a price tag of \$25.00. It came home with me, you never know... Joe W2DBO

From DJED1 at aol.com Sat Nov 19 10:47:03 2005

Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question - First R-390A

I still have some of the ads from my first search for a R-390A. My first introduction was an ad by

Herbert W Gordon in CQ in 1967. He was offering "remanufactured" R-390s for only \$1985! Figure what that is in today's dollars. A column in CQ magazine in 1971 introduced me to the details of the radios, and by then the offering price by R.E Goodheart was only \$995. I bought one the next year from Ted Dames in NJ for a mere \$595, with a CY979 for another \$100. It's an Amelco. I've yet to break even on what I paid, but its been a great relationship. It's still all original, except for the power microswitch, a couple of tubes, and the PTO. Ed

From chacuff at cableone.net Sat Nov 19 12:05:14 2005
Subject: [R-390] Cleaning Gears & Cams

Ultrasonic cleaning is a good way to go if you have one big enough to fit something as large as the gear train in. I wish I did....

I guess it gets the gunk in between the split gears..have you ever pulled a pair apart after a cleaning to see what is left between them? Cecil...

From mjmurphy45 at comcast.net Sat Nov 19 12:17:36 2005
Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question - First R-390A

I got sucked into the R390 fun in 1988 at the Deerfield Hamfest. I was not really interested or knowledgeable about the radio at all except for reputation. I paid way too much, \$75 for a Stewart Warner R390A as an end of the day deal. Then they started showing up bang bang, I got a Motorola R390 (non A) for \$75 that needed a lot of work along with some parts and in 1992 got two nice EAC's and CV-591 and a complete TCS setup and an ARC-2A from an estate sale for \$150 take all. I sold the Motorola for \$125 and the EACs for \$125 each just to get them out of the shack. I kept only the old Stewart Warner, the TMC and the TCS. I also sold an ARC-2A for \$100 in 1993. Them days is over folks. Mike WU2D

From chacuff at cableone.net Sat Nov 19 12:18:34 2005
Subject: [R-390] radios at trash sites

My brother was telling me a story a while back about a fellow he worked with that found an old wood console radio out at the street. He stopped by and pulled the guts out of the thing and carried it into work. My brother looked at it and was amazed...it was an all chrome chassis and was beautiful....problem was the speaker was still in the cabinet and it was not the permanent magnet type. The power supply filter choke was the electromagnet for the speaker plus my brother asked what kind of shape the cabinet was in and the guy responded it was in great shape I just didn't know where I was going to put it. After a little research on the web they found it was a fairly expensive set and he rushed back to try and get the cabinet and it was gone so he went to the door and asked the folks that lived in the house. Their reply was "yea we saw you pull some of the stuff out and figured you would come back for the rest so we put it in the garage" They agreed on \$50 and he picked up the rest...turned out to be a very nice radio.....seems I remember it was an old Scott. Cecil...

From shoppa_r390a at trailing-edge.com Sat Nov 19 12:29:53 2005
Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question - First R-390A

My first acquaintance with the R-390A was when I went to college in the 80's. There was a club station there, mostly the used equipment was a bunch of modern digital-display ICOM's and Yaesu's, but back

in the corner was a bunch of disused stuff, older Heath's, Drake Twins, some assorted mil-surplus VHF stuff (heavily modified already) and a pristine R-390A that I was told had been given to the station for MARS use in the 60's but had hardly ever been used. I tried to power it up, ran into some problems, called the folks at Fair Radio (whose dymo-labeled catalogs had been the source of much desire on my part for years) who got me some needed parts (including some parts that I had lost, like the Oldham coupler and some springs!) and I got the radio fired up again.

Then I got sucked into computers for about 20 years. Finally in the past year or so my ham interest has been re-invigorated and to my amazement I've come into possession of two R-390A's of my own. After cleaning out all the computer junk I'm getting things cleaned up for radio again here :-). Most of the equipment is the stuff that I desired in the 70's after first getting my license (with the exception that nothing digital is gonna come in!) Tim.

From vhfplus at bmg50.com Sat Nov 19 13:22:57 2005
Subject: [R-390] radios at trash sites

A friend of my wife's was an in-home nurse and when an older lady that she was caring for passed away the lady's family took everything they wanted out of the house and we had a chance to choose from what remained. One of the items was a Scott receiver that had been sitting in the same place in the house since it was bought new in 1948 and, except for some dried-out caps, was in superb condition...we even had the original sales receipt! I had no place to keep it so it now resides in the Virginia City (NV) Radio Museum for visitors to enjoy. Jack, AE7DX

From leslocklear at cableone.net Sat Nov 19 13:46:13 2005
Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question - First R-390A

Two pallets of R-390A's back in the late 70's for the princely sum of \$50.00 at Keesler A.F.B. Total of 34 receivers, 33 R-390A's and one R-390 (non A for the learning disabled)

Yup, those days are waaaaaay behind us. Les Locklear Gulfport, MS.

From AdamAnt316 at comcast.net Sat Nov 19 14:19:09 2005
Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question - First R-390A

I'm sure some of you have heard this before, I'll add my story to this growing pile of R-390A acquisition stories. About six years ago, while attending a technical high school, I happened upon a big grey radio in the back room of the electronics shop (where I was taking a course). I was intrigued by the digital-mechanical dial, as well as the multitude of tubes and knobs. Also back there was a smaller green set which looked to be similar to the grey one. I looked up the model numbers of the two sets (R-390A and R-392, of course) on the internet, and was astounded at the amount of information out there. At the time, I was rather new to the tube game, having built a small tube amplifier for a science project, and just beginning to collect smaller tube radios. I knew very little about them, except what I read on the websites. My instructor told me that they were not working, and that I couldn't try them. Disappointed, I left them alone.

About three years later, during a renovation of the shop, I remarked to a friend about the radios I had seen. He told me to go back there ASAP, and ask about them, so I did. As soon as I entered the shop, my old instructor said, "Hey, would you like these old radios?" I immediately parked my 1991 Dodge

Spirit behind the shop, and hauled them into the back seat. I was relieved that they hadn't been junked or salvaged, like so many other pieces of vintage gear which have inhabited said shop (the only things missing from the R-390A were a pair of 5814s). Once I replaced the ballast tube, and pre-emptively replaced the usual problem parts, the R-390A immediately came to life, and I've been hooked ever since. The R-392 is still awaiting restoration. Had I not found them there, I wouldn't have been able to afford them otherwise, and definitely wouldn't be able to now. I'd probably still be using my lowly Hallicrafters S-118 to cruise the ionosphere... -Adam

From Bonddaleena at aol.com Sat Nov 19 15:48:46 2005
Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question - First R-390A

writes: I got sucked into the R390 fun in 1988 at the Deerfield Hamfest. I was not really interested or knowledgeable about the radio at all except for reputation. I paid way too much, \$75 for a Stewart Warner R390A as an end of the day deal. Then they started showing up bang bang, I got a Motorola R390 (non A) for \$75 that needed a lot of work along with some parts and in 1992 got two nice EAC's and CV-591 and a complete TCS setup and an ARC-2A from an estate sale for \$150 take all. I sold the Motorola for \$125 and the EACs for \$125 each just to get them out of the shack. I kept only the old Stewart Warner, the TMC and the TCS. I also sold an ARC-2A for \$100 in 1993.

Them days is over folks. Mike WU2D

From r390a at bellsouth.net Sat Nov 19 16:04:24 2005
Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question

I've had at least 1 390 given to me and several bartered in the past few years. I have paid for several.

I've bought several blue stripers and r/r'd them and sent them on their way either on ebay or as barter gear bait when they could be gotten for \$180 each and were a New Thing at Fair. These were the decent ones that I was able to pick out myself on a trip up there.

Guess I've been lucky. All this after getting rid of all my stuff years ago and having to restock my decent tube gear. Glad I didn't wait too long.

And, Yea, I miss Bill Slep too. Always had interesting things. And bought things. Some things I foolishly sold. We went go there though. Tom one of several, but I'm not sure which one

From Bonddaleena at aol.com Sat Nov 19 16:05:41 2005
Subject: [R-390] RE: R-390 Digest, Vol 19, Issue 42

writes: Quote I've had 3 R-390A given to me: an EAC, a Stewart-Warner, and an Amelco. I bought an R-390 from Rick Mish, and it's a lovely piece of work. When I was TDY to Osan AB, ROK, I saw all the R-390 (or R-390A) rigs in the MARS shack being tossed into a dumpster, and couldn't rescue any for myself because I was leaving the next day and my hold baggage had already gone out. That *hurt*. End quote!

Spare a thought for all us around the other side of the world where R390s are as rare as hen's teeth! Generally, statesiders aren't willing to crate stuff for international travel, and we can't afford your prices anyway. But if anyone's got to find a good home for a workable 390, then send it here! Paul Galpin

I was looking on Yahoo Groups the other day, and there is actually a Group called Dumpster Diving!

Two quick things:

1. Back in the 80s when I worked for IBM, one of our sister departments was in the process of 'upgrading' their test equipment. On my way out to lunch, I realized that they had pitched about 40 large Tek mainframe 'scopes into a LARGE industrial dumpster. Plug ins and all.

Dumpster diving was against IBM policy and I couldn't get back there at night, because this contraption had a locking cover! Made me sick for years....

2. Where I live now (north central FL, there is a 'recycling center' about 1 mile from my house. In the last month alone, I have found 6 perfectly good color TVs (one large screen). 4 VCRs. (one brand new, with the remote, which never had batteries installed). Microwave ovens (for parts), are there every day. Lots of PCs. Electric fans for my shop, etc. Our theory is that there are a LOT of older folk here and when they pass, the 'kids', just clean out the house.....

Yes, I AM a packrat. I keep hoping for an SX-88.....you never know... ron N4UE

From tfrobase at kitparts.com Sat Nov 19 17:48:40 2005

Subject: [R-390] Cleaning Gears & Cams

Grew up in Lima, OH, spent 20 years in Allentown PA. A great junk place in Reading, PA is LB Metals, only open Friday and Saturday. An amateur is the store manager, Lou, W3LOU, great call. An unbelievable amount of hardware and stuff all sold by the pound! The same outfit has a scrap yard southeast of Reading, that is where I found the ultrasonic cleaner. It came off of a conveyer and it was not heated.

As for repair, I started my career in the early 70's running a service shop in Lima, doing most anything to make a living, mostly industrial gear. Fixed 390's and 392's part time for a local company in Lima (guess who) the owner is one of my closest friends!

About a year ago I got the bug to restore a few radios again, started out with a few BC-348's, but when I completed them they were still a BC-348's. I ended up purchasing several R-390A's, a real radio!!, keeping the very best for myself and moving the others along.

An additional explanation of my RF deck cleaning procedure is as follows:

I disassemble the mechanical section from the electronics chassis, Jan Skirrow has this procedure documented on his web site. Once the separation is complete, I remove all of the RF inductors from the chassis opening and cleaning each can and trimmer. With the base chassis clear I clean the chassis with spray cleaner on a rag, following up with alcohol and anti-ox on the sockets. Once that is complete I test the tubes, reassemble the electronics deck and clean the mechanics as stated earlier.

My day job is managing people, my lifelong love is fixing and restoring electronics, I would be interested in doing this for others, please contact me offline, as this is not the scope of this forum and I hope I have not over stepped my bounds ... tom, N3LLL

From: ampop@comcast.net [mailto:ampop@comcast.net]
Subject: Re: [R-390] Cleaning Gears & Cams

Hi Tom, Sounds great - I was raised in Pittston - between Scranton and Wilkes Barre - course we always referred to it as northeastern, Penna. Where are you living now and are you going to go into the business??? Based on the photo - I would think you would do rather well. BobW

From ToddRoberts2001 at aol.com Sat Nov 19 18:33:40 2005
Subject: [R-390] Cleaning Gears & Cams

writes: Ultrasonic cleaning is a good way to go if you have one big enough to fit something as large as the gear train in. I wish I did.... I guess it gets the gunk in between the split gears..have you ever pulled a pair apart after a cleaning to see what is left between them?
Cecil

I have been doing some research on ultrasonic cleaners. It seems they can damage aluminum parts in a process called "embrittlement". A standard test for ultrasonic cleaners is to immerse a piece of aluminum foil in the tank for a few minutes - the foil will be peppered with pin-prick holes that were blasted into the aluminum. If you leave the aluminum foil in the tank for 30 minutes it will be pulverized. Also have read it will strip the anodizing right off of aluminum. Supposed to be okay for steel parts though. Also read that ultrasonic cleaners will dull threads and dull the edges of sharp tools like scissors. Not sure if it's worth the risk? Maybe safe if used for just a few minutes? Sounds like a great way to clean an R-390A geartrain but don't want to risk damaging parts. Guess I will stick with using a kerosene soak and bath for now until I know more. 73 Todd - WD4NGG

From ba.williams at charter.net Sat Nov 19 19:37:04 2005
Subject: [R-390] radios at trash sites

I also got a very nice Sparton AM/FM console from a guy in Montgomery for free. It is in about 90% condition with a huge speaker. Grille cloth is in excellent condition. I replaced the rectifier 5U4 but I'm sure there is a bad cap somewhere. I'll pull the chassis after the holidays and go over it to recap and rewire everything. The schematics came with the console. It looks pretty nice and I'm sure the sound is going to be quite good. I've turned down several consoles due to a lack of space at the moment.

Well, speaking of trash, I got a pretty nice sand state combo unit, probably for camping. It has a small B&W screen for TV, AM/FM, CB, aviation bands, etc. Works fine. The swivel antenna was snapped off, so they tossed it on the street. I have plenty of those already. Barry

From tfrobase at kitparts.com Sat Nov 19 20:58:43 2005
Subject: [R-390] Cleaning Gears & Cams

The mass incorporated in the mechanical mechanism of an R-390 is rather large to be effected in an ultrasonic bath for the period of 3-5 minutes.

The goal is to leave it in just enough time for the detergent, excited by the ultrasonic waves, to soften and remove the old grease and dirt without effecting the paint and other markings. As for stripping the anodizing off, I am not sure, other than maybe couple of the gears that there is any. The major aluminum components in the R-390A use an iridite yellow chromate finish which is conductive, unlike

anodizing oxide which is an insulator. Maybe it could strip the iridite off, but I have seen no indication. I'll try your aluminum foil test and give you a report ... Tom, N3LLL

From chacuff at cableone.net Sat Nov 19 21:23:35 2005
Subject: [R-390] Bob Camp

Sorry for the strange post but has anybody spoken to or heard from Bob Camp in the last few weeks. I need to get in touch with him and he is not answering emails....hope all is well! Cecil...

From recycler at swbell.net Sat Nov 19 23:39:06 2005
Subject: [R-390] RadioMarts Does It To Chuck
From: "Tracy Fort" <beerbarrel@cox.net> I wonder why he had to come here to explain it? Tracy

"the guilty dog barks first"
"he who smelt it dealt it"

From courir26 at yahoo.com Sun Nov 20 08:12:29 2005
Subject: [R-390] Typo in Fowler Lettering

Who cudda seen this coming . .

When Fowler made their five 390A's there was a typo on the back panel. Check yours!

Note the typo, SYWC XTAL OSC instead of SYNC XTAL OSC
<http://www.geocities.com/courir26/Fowlertypo.jpg>

(please don't write to tell me the link is broken. If you overload the link Yahoo cuts it off temporarily. Try later). Tom N5OFF

From dhallam at rapidsys.com Sun Nov 20 08:39:22 2005
Subject: [R-390] Cleaning Gears & Cams

As long as you use a non-alkaline cleaner, ultrasonic cleaning is perfectly safe for aluminum. Alkaline cleaners that contain sodium hydroxide or sodium carbonate will attack aluminum although they are safe for steel or brass. Use a solvent base cleaner for aluminum.

We used ultrasonic cleaners for years to clean precision parts of dies and never experienced any damage from the cleaning.

Properly applied anodizing or other bonded coatings, not paint, will not be affected by ultrasonic cleaning. David KC2JD

From ToddRoberts2001 at aol.com Sun Nov 20 09:43:05 2005
Subject: [R-390] Cleaning Gears & Cams

writes: As long as you use a non-alkaline cleaner, ultrasonic cleaning is perfectly safe for aluminum.

Alkaline cleaners that contain sodium hydroxide or sodium carbonate will attack aluminum although they are safe for steel or brass. Use a solvent base cleaner for aluminum.

Hi Dave, thanks for the info on the ultrasonic cleaners. Can you recommend a safe cleaning solution for aluminum parts? I know that sodium hydroxide will attack aluminum. I think I read that it is also the water itself in the cleaning tank that is harmful to aluminum - something about the hydrogen in the water that "embrittles" the aluminum - is that why you recommend using a solvent cleaner? A non-water-based solvent cleaner for aluminum? I have heard using kerosene in a USC works great but you need to be careful with it? Thanks for any further tips or suggestions. 73 - Todd WD4NGG.

From ai2q at adelphia.net Sun Nov 20 12:01:54 2005
Subject: [R-390] radios at trash sites

Just pulled a 1931 Philco cathedral from the trash. It restored nicely and is playing in my office as I type this. Also got a TS-520S. A friend got to the same dumpster a day before I did and he pulled a 75A2, and NC-98, and a Globe Scout 680 from it! Vy 73, AI2Q, Alex in Maine

From dsmaples at comcast.net Sun Nov 20 14:39:36 2005
Subject: [R-390] radios at trash sites

All: All I want to know is what trash bins you guys frequent. I never see anything like that in the dumpster, but maybe I'm not looking closely enough.

At our landfill we have a "Too Good to Throw Away" spot that gets furniture, computers, etc., and I have made very good use of this in the past. Never did see any vintage gear show up in it, though. Dave WB4FUR

From odyslim at comcast.net Sun Nov 20 16:41:24 2005
Subject: [R-390] rebuilding caps

Somebody has a nice web page with detailed instructions for rebuilding c603 and c609. I looked on the Pearls page and it seems to be down. Couldn't find it on Chucks page either.

Does anybody have the link handy? Thanks, Scott

From hankarn at pacbell.net Sun Nov 20 16:45:24 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

I think snipers are like sneaky snakes. Hank KN6DI

From dparr53 at swbell.net Sun Nov 20 17:17:19 2005
Subject: [R-390] rebuilding caps

Scott:

The power supply filter cap rebuild is outlined on KK4DF's web page at: <http://r-390a.us/> Specifically:

http://r-390a.us/filter_capacitors.htm

From courir26 at yahoo.com Sun Nov 20 18:48:44 2005
Subject: [R-390] 390s in "I Walk the Line"

Just saw the movie about Johnny Cash. In a brief scene one can spot at least two of the R-390 family. Did someone on this list furnish the radios to the film company? :-) 73 Tom

From ba.williams at charter.net Sun Nov 20 20:18:01 2005
Subject: [R-390] rebuilding caps

Did he spell " ukumpucky " right?

From odyslim at comcast.net Sun Nov 20 20:18:21 2005
Subject: [R-390] rebuilding caps

Thanks Dennis. That was a big help. I really appreciate it :-) Scott

From shoppa_r390a at trailing-edge.com Sun Nov 20 20:38:55 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

wrote: > I think snipers are like sneaky snakes.

Did you want to pay more than that for one? If not, just let it go...

Remember, you DO NOT WIN AN AUCTION BY PAYING MORE THAN YOU WANTED TO PAY.

Do not get sucked into the "must win this auction" mentality! Just bid your max and let the fool snipers do what they want. Tim.

From chacuff at cableone.net Mon Nov 21 00:08:58 2005
Subject: [R-390] 390s in "I Walk the Line"

Hi Tom and group...

Yes they were leased to the production company for the filming by a couple of collectors in Memphis and then sold to Les and myself. We made a road trip up a year or so back and picked them up. They now reside in my shop awaiting restoration.

I haven't seen the film but plan to so I can catch a glimpse of them....had hoped they would have been on the screen a good bit...

Can't let these fall into RadioMarts hands....HA! Cecil....

From barry at hausernet.com Mon Nov 21 00:15:32 2005

Subject: [R-390] 390s in "I Walk the Line"

Hi Guys....

Haven't seen the movie and probably won't until it goes on cable or DVD. In what context/situation do the R-390's appear -- when he was in the service? Barry

From leslocklear at cableone.net Mon Nov 21 00:50:52 2005

Subject: [R-390] 390s in

He was a high speed morse intercept operator in the Air Force. I believe he was stationed at Chicksands. Les

From mhuss1 at bellatlantic.net Mon Nov 21 06:45:36 2005

Subject: [R-390] R392 Tube Pullers.

These look just like the R-392 Tube Pullers for those that are missing them. ebay 5832943099

From lester.veenstra at lmco.com Mon Nov 21 07:26:33 2005

Subject: [R-390] Pricing Question - First R-390A

And back in that period I was working up on Woodchuck Hill, for Herb (W1IBY), and around many other things, working on SP-600, 51J and R-390's. 73 Les K1YCM/3 K1YCM/6Y5 (x CTM1)

From dhallam at rapidsys.com Mon Nov 21 08:59:05 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

There are two bidding strategies for eBay that work in all cases and are unaffected by any last minute bidding.

The first and best is to decide the maximum amount you are willing to pay for an item and submit that as your bid. Under eBay's proxy bidding system, the bidding will start at the item's opening bid price and increase as additional bidders place their bids. If the auction is over before your maximum bid is reached, you win the item. If not, you were trying to get the item below its market value and didn't want to pay that much anyway. So called bid sniping only works because the sniper is willing to pay more than some one else. Placing a low bid in the beginning and then increasing it as the auction progresses and you are out bid is simply a modified form of bid sniping.

The people selling bid snipers promote their product saying that you can win an auction for a lower bid price by placing a last second bid which is not true. When the final bids were placed has no effect on the winning price.

The second strategy is when you want the item regardless of what you have to pay for it. You bid a ridiculously high price and sit back and wait for the auction to be over with you winning. David KC2JD

From courir26 at yahoo.com Mon Nov 21 10:51:14 2005

Subject: [R-390] 390s in "I Walk the Line"

The context of the shot was Johnny in the Air Force, that's it. The movie did not show him in radio action, however, but many years ago I heard that the man in black was a top notch CW copier and had the best CW ear around. I think he was assigned to copy East Bloc traffic (but the movie does not go into any of this).

Additional benefit, Witherspoon makes for a hot June Carter! Tom

From beerbarrel at cox.net Mon Nov 21 10:52:23 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

David,

I would like to respectfully disagree with you on one point.

"The people selling bid snipers promote their product saying that you can win an auction for a lower bid price by placing a last second bid which is not true. When the final bids were placed has no affect on the winning price."

You are less likely to drive up the final price if no one knows you are bidding. If you hide a 50 dollar bid with a sniper versus a proxy then nobody can bid up to your max. I think that it does give you an edge. Tracy

From kgordon at moscow.com Mon Nov 21 11:25:06 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

wrote: > I would like to respectfully disagree with you on one point.

>

> "The people selling bid snipers promote their product saying that you can > win an auction for a lower bid price by placing a last second bid which is > not true. When the final bids were placed has no affect on the winning > price."

This is true.

> You are less likely to drive up the final price if no one knows you are > bidding. If you hide a 50 dollar bid with a sniper versus a proxy then > nobody can bid up to your max. I think that it does give you an edge.

There is definitely that aspect of sniping that is advantageous for the bidder. However, the main reasons I use auctions sniper are two fold: 1) it keeps me from having to be personally at the close of every auction, most of which I forget until it is too late, and 2) more importantly, it prevents me from getting into an emotional bidding war and end up paying more than I would if I were thinking instead of feeling.

It has been a valuable tool for me. Ken W7EKB

From jamminpower at earthlink.net Mon Nov 21 11:45:59 2005

Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

Sure, but . . .

By sniping, you are assuming that people are going to get into an emotional bidding war and you want to defeat that particular form of interaction.

By not sniping, you are allowing people to get into an emotional bidding war. The only result this can have is that people will bid more than they should.

Sniping helps keep the prices down by avoiding emotional bidding wars (spoken by a non-sniper).

As noted, if you assume everybody is rational, then sniping and bidding your max right up front would produce the same results. The fact that they don't means that somebody is not bidding entirely rationally.

I personally always bid my max immediately. Sometimes I win something at the price I want to pay. Most of the time, I don't. Who cares? One less thing I have to find a place for.

If I really need it, I put in a "crusher" bid, although that has its problems as well - I have had some jerk get into some competitive thing and overbid me, then retract the bid only to put in a new bid \$1 less than my max that he discovered, just to force me to pay the max. I accused the gent of being a "shill" bidder, which is against eBay rules, but it turned out he was just a jerk. This has happened to me twice. Grumble. James A. (Andy) Moorner www.jamminpower.com

From roy.morgan at nist.gov Mon Nov 21 14:54:12 2005

Subject: [R-390] radios at trash sites

wrote: >... found an old wood console radio out at the street. ...it was an all >chrome chassis and was beautiful.....seems I remember it was an old Scott.

Typical values for such old Chrome Scott consoles in more-or-less complete condition start at \$500.
Roy

From roy.morgan at nist.gov Mon Nov 21 15:08:52 2005

Subject: [R-390] 390s in "I Walk the Line"

wrote: >He was a high speed morse intercept operator in the Air Force. I believe >he was stationed at Chicksands.

Interesting. The most capable CW operator/contester that I know is a member of the U.S. Navy Band - he plays trombone and similar. 'Seems as if musicians have a knack for the code. Roy

From brookbank at triad.rr.com Mon Nov 21 15:12:20 2005

Subject: [R-390] radios at trash sites

When I was in the USAF (about 1963) and stationed at the 649th Radar Squadron (ADC) I found at the base dump a R-390A, after a lot of work I got it to work and put it on my night table, a few days later, the AP's came and told me that if I did not return the receiver to the dump I would be charged with stealing goverment property. So since those squadrons have long been deactivated, maybe is still there along with a lot of other treasures (the entire MARS station and thousands of crystals as an example). If you feel lucky, it is located on the Blue Ridge Parkway about 9 miles

**north of the Peaks of Otter Lodge. The only thing there now is a search radar maned by the FFA.
Pat /mailman/options/r-390**

From leslocklear at cableone.net Mon Nov 21 15:14:36 2005
Subject: [R-390] 390s in "I Walk the Line"

Roy & group,

A lot of people liken cw morse to music. It has a certain musical quality to it. Les Locklear

My wife has a slight impediment in her speech. Every now and then she stops to breathe. - Jimmy Durante

From jpl15 at panix.com Mon Nov 21 15:28:34 2005
Subject: [R-390] 390s in "I Walk the Line"

wrote: wrote: >> He was a high speed morse intercept operator in the Air Force. I believe he was stationed at Chicksands. Interesting. The most capable CW operator/contester that I know is a member of the U.S. Navy Band - he plays trombone and similar. 'Seems as if musicians have a knack for the code.

Waaalll - I started piano when I was six, pipe organ at 12, picked up violin and viola in high school and college - at one point I intended to become a concert pianist - but that's a particularly rare gift and if you ain't got them chops... anyway in Jr. High my Parallel Passion of electronics took over and I got my degree in that, but I've been a semi-pro musician all this time, owned a couple of studios, composed for films and shows, have a few CDs, etc.

All That Being Said - it was nearly impossible for me to get to 13 WPM to pass my General - it took months of very frustrating study-grind, and I forgot the stuff about 45 seconds after I passed the exam - several times I've thought to just pick it up so I could at least carry on a QSO - had many tapes, CDs and several computer programs (including a WWII Instructograph) - all to no avail. The effort of learning Code for me is much greater than the possible returns... a shame too, because I like the old boatanchor stuff - but, that's just the way it is.

So the "musician = easy code" axiom doesn't hold for me... (damn!) Cheers John KB6SCO

From r390a.urr at gmail.com Mon Nov 21 15:48:59 2005
Subject: [R-390] 390s in "I Walk the Line"

wrote: > Additional benefit, Witherspoon makes for a hot June Carter!

Helena Rubenstein is the only historical female appropriate for discussion on this list.

From DJED1 at aol.com Mon Nov 21 16:39:16 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-389 Sold For \$3550.00 on eBay

I decided, after losing a couple of items to snipers, that I would just play the game. Although I follow the conventional wisdom of putting in my best offer, I wait until the last few seconds to place the bid.

That way, there is little opportunity for others to determine my max bid and exceed it by a dollar. Sometimes I lose, and sometimes I get the item for significantly less than my maximum. Works for me.
Ed

From redmenaced at yahoo.com Mon Nov 21 18:26:12 2005
Subject: [R-390] radios at trash sites

wrote: I found at the base dump a R-390A, after a lot of work I got it to work and put it on my night table, a few days later, the AP's came and told me that if I did not return the receiver to the dump I would be charged with stealing government property.

Oh, yeah!?!? What are they looking for? Low flying pigs? Joe

From stevehobensack at hotmail.com Mon Nov 21 19:05:36 2005
Subject: [R-390] 390s in "I Walk the Line"

I was a cw op in the Navy in Germany in the late sixties. There was a copying contest on typewriters for good military cw ops across Europe. (I was not a competitor) Seems the fastest man copied around 58 groups (5 letter random) per minute. Did you see the cw ability contest in QST magazine, nov. pg57? Young Eastern European ladies and girl hams did better than the men. Winning speed 147 wpm. Unbelievable !Steve...N8YE

From: Roy Morgan <roy.morgan@nist.gov> 21 Nov 2005 15:08:52 -0500
Subject: Re: [R-390] 390s in "I Walk the Line"

wrote: >He was a high speed morse intercept operator in the Air Force. I believe >he was stationed at Chicksands.

Interesting. The most capable CW operator/contester that I know is a member of the U.S. Navy Band - he plays trombone and similar. 'Seems as if musicians have a knack for the code. Roy

From stevehobensack at hotmail.com Mon Nov 21 19:23:11 2005
Subject: [R-390] Ebay bidding

John Smith bids early with \$25. Bill Jones bids after that at \$30 dollars. John Smith immediately gets an Email from Ebay that he has been outbid. and bids \$35 dollars, and so it goes. By holding your bid until the last ten seconds, those Ebay emails don't get sent. Ebay loves bidding wars. I guess the opinion will vary as to if one is the buyer or seller. My 2¢ ...Steve...N8YE

From ba.williams at charter.net Mon Nov 21 20:28:17 2005
Subject: [R-390] 390s in "I Walk the Line"

>> Interesting. The most capable CW operator/contester that I know is a member of the U.S. Navy Band - he plays trombone and similar. 'Seems as if musicians have a knack for the code.

Being a pilot in the Army, we had to keep the station ID in CW up all the time in case of losing the

station for some reason. That sometimes meant flying and listening to CW for hours. It did become musical and reassuring. We sometimes tracked 2 beacons and had both turned up and that was more enjoyable. Weird now that someone mentions it.

Maybe that is why I enjoy Dxing beacons on VLF. It is relaxing if the static crashes aren't bad. Barry

From ba.williams at charter.net Mon Nov 21 20:29:14 2005

Subject: [R-390] 390s in "I Walk the Line"

wrote: >> Additional benefit, Witherspoon makes for a hot June Carter! >> > Helena Rubenstein is the only historical female appropriate for> discussion on this list.

We can discuss Hooters girls any time you wish!

From kgordon at moscow.com Mon Nov 21 20:56:32 2005

Subject: [R-390] 390s in "I Walk the Line"

wrote: > Interesting. The most capable CW operator/contester that I know is a > member of the U.S. Navy Band - he plays trombone and similar. 'Seems as if > musicians have a knack for the code.

That has definitely been my experience too.

I knew one fellow, Lee Pratt, whose fist literally sounded like he was sending to music. He was left-handed but taught himself to use his bug with his right hand so he could write in his log, etc., while sending.

He had the easiest to copy fist I have ever heard. Ken W7EKB

From jlkolb at jlkolb.cts.com Mon Nov 21 23:30:39 2005

Subject: [R-390] 390s in "I Walk the Line"

Strange, didn't seem to work for me - but then I wasn't much of a musician either :) John KK6IL

From glwebb at gundluth.org Tue Nov 22 10:05:05 2005

Subject: [R-390] 390s in "I Walk the Line"

I was stationed with some pretty good CW ops during my time in the Navy. One of them could copy 40 wpm with his "cans" hanging around his neck while talking to you and sipping his coffee. He said the code went in his ears and out his fingers without stopping in his brain. I never even came close to that level. But I did get to where I could "poke" out short messages on a model 28 set for 60 wpm as fast as it would let me. Once in a while even the 100 wpm machines were pushed. Gary L. Webb NI9V
CBET

From robert.boyd at servicecanada.gc.ca Tue Nov 22 10:23:36 2005

Subject: [R-390] R392 Tube Pullers.

Look at the last bid-with 5 days to go \$36.00 for a pair of tube pullers, Nuts!

From barry at hausernet.com Tue Nov 22 12:07:14 2005
Subject: [R-390] radios at trash sites

Yeah but the question was/is -- why was a piece of then-current, serviceable equipment placed in the dump?

Is it possible you unknowingly glommed a piece of gear someone else was in the process of purloining? Was it still at the dump a few days after you put it back?

Sounds like a job for a congressional committee investigation -- or maybe even the Spanish Inquisition!

Seriously though, what was it doing in the dump -- in 1963. They were still making them and yet another major contract on the way in '67. Barry

From b_hagen at sbcglobal.net Tue Nov 22 12:08:05 2005
Subject: [R-390] radios at trash sites

Yep, that's the Army. In 1951 I was stationed at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in MD. We found a new gun barrel at the dump and brought it back in. What a mistake and we took it back to the dump. No paperwork, no barrel. Bruce

From barry at hausernet.com Tue Nov 22 12:13:39 2005
Subject: [R-390] R392 Tube Pullers.

I've got tube pullers for only \$5 a pair. Different design. Looks like four pieces of duct tape. Just attach two pieces to opposite sides of the tube. Stick free ends together and pull up on the tab.

(For another buck, I'll throw in the whole roll - shipping extra ;-) Runnin' & simultaneously duckin' Barry
Look at the last bid-with 5 days to go \$36.00 for a pair of tube pullers, Nuts!

From tshoppa at wmata.com Tue Nov 22 12:26:20 2005
Subject: [R-390] radios at trash sites

asked: > Yeah but the question was/is -- why was a piece of then-current, serviceable equipment placed in the dump? Is it possible you unknowingly glommed a piece of gear someone else was in the process of purloining?

While this certainly is a possible explanation, it's also possible that due to beauracratc SNAFU the radio was outside the military property system. I hate to say it, but often it's easier to just junk these outsiders rather than put them into the system!

I know little about how the MARS radios were accounted for, for example.

There are certainly (bringing it back to Johnny Cash) stories of "I built it one piece at a time and it didn't

cost me a dime" creations in the military. Sometimes these get almost-found-out and the quick way to dispose of the evidence is to toss it. I thought the traditional way to do this was to mail all the pieces home to your folks' and assemble the Jeep there :-). Tim.

From kgordon at moscow.com Tue Nov 22 12:43:41 2005
Subject: [R-390] Military trash sites

When I was still serving the remainder of my reserve duty, I was OD one time at the Montana National Guard's summer camp in Helena, Montana.

That night, while I was on duty in the guard shack, my first sergeant and a bunch of the other guys all started walking past my shack with shovels on their shoulders. I walked to the door and asked them what was going on. Sgt Sanford, my immediate boss, handed me a shovel and said, you have my permission to lock the door and come with us for an hour.

After a 5 minute walk, we ended up at the base dump and everyone started digging.

Within minutes, I found a brand new engine for one of our trucks, several .50 M2 machine gun barrels, still covered with cosmoline and tinsel paper, and some brand new, still wrapped small first aid kits. I don't know for sure what the other guys found, but they all seemed pleased.

We didn't find any radio gear, although I was looking for it. The only thing I took was one of the first aid kits. I used it hunting for many years after that, refilling it when necessary.

That base was quite old and had been deactivated at least 5 years before we used it for NG summer camp.

Our outfit was a service battery for a SP howitzer battalion. I remember the guys were VERY happy to find the engine, still sealed in a crate. They also found another engine there later: a huge Ford V-8 for one of the Sherman based SP howitzers which we still used at that time. One of those had blown an engine and we used this one to replace it with. Incredible. Ken W7EKB

From brookbank at triad.rr.com Tue Nov 22 14:22:22 2005
Subject: [R-390] radios at trash sites

Have no idea why the R-390a was at the dump, but I know it was there for some time due to its condition (muddy and wet) I also know the R-390A was still in service at that time since I was trained on it at Keesler AFB Biloxi Miss. it was as part of the teletype reception 2 R-390 in diversity mode. No I did not go back to the dump, it may still be there. Pat

From JMILLER1706 at cfl.rr.com Tue Nov 22 14:27:45 2005
Subject: [R-390] Military trash sites

Then there's the story about the pallets of NIB Collins radios and maybe 390s hurriedly buried in trenches in Viet Nam during the final days. Are they still there?

From normn3ykf at stny.rr.com Tue Nov 22 18:13:14 2005
Subject: [R-390] R392 Tube Pullers.

Fair has them. No 390 pto's tho. 73 es be good, n3ykf

From ba.williams at charter.net Tue Nov 22 20:04:27 2005

Subject: [R-390] radios at trash sites

I remember when they found a tank in a lake in Korea. A perfectly good tank. It was excess and not on the books, and had to be dumped before the Inspector General team arrived to inspect and inventory the unit. I was in a few motor pools my first few years and we always had excess equipment that we had to hide during IG inspections. Normally, we would dispatch a truck with the worst of it to be gone all day. We got caught a few times. Barry

From mhuss1 at bellatlantic.net Wed Nov 23 16:37:00 2005

Subject: [R-390] R392 Tube Pullers.

Oooh, never thought of that! That is a good idea! Only mentioned the E-Bay tube pullers because someone asked me if I knew where to get them. I said to check Fair, but never heard back.

From leslocklear at cableone.net Wed Nov 23 16:54:38 2005

Subject: [R-390] 390s in "I Walk the Line"

As a young teenager living in England, (dad was a teletype/crypto tech) I visited menwith Hill, Chicksands and Bletchley Park many times in the time frame (1954-1957) I saw many young GI's sitting talking, drinking coffee, smoking cigarettes and typing and copying without missing a beat.....different times, different people. Les Locklear Gulfport, MS.

'Twas a woman who drove me to drink, and I never had the courtesy to thank her for it. W.C. Fields (1880-1946)

From leslocklear at cableone.net Wed Nov 23 16:55:22 2005

Subject: [R-390] R392 Tube Pullers.

I usually use my fingers, didn'y cost me anything.....YMMV. Les Locklear

My wife has a slight impediment in her speech. Every now and then she stops to breathe. - Jimmy Durante

From leslocklear at cableone.net Wed Nov 23 17:04:37 2005

Subject: [R-390] radios at trash sites

My story circa 1958:

We were living in Madrid, Spain. Dad was stationed at Torrejon A.F.B. as a teletype/crypto tech. One evening he came home and announced to me be ready to get up early tomorrow morning, we have to go pick up your radio.

The next morning, we drove out to the base and proceeded to the base dump, We went over to an area where he had "hidden" a radio receiver the day before. We lifted up some cardboard boxes and there say the biggest radio I had ver seen! It turned out to be a Hammarlund AACS (tuned 300 kc to 10 mc), and the power supply. I asked why it was in the dump. He said they were getting rid of "these" because the Collins radios are the latest receivers. As we got ready to leave, the bulldozers were covering up a bunch of radios, turned out to be SP-600's. That is the way business was done in those days. Turned out that all the Hammarlund needed was three tubes, so much for government waste in those days of damn it all defense spending. I listened to KABC in New York and the New York Yankees and Milwaukee Braves in the World Series that year on mw from Spain!!! Had an approximately 165 ft. longwire strung out. Les Locklear Gulfport, MS.

From barry at hausernet.com Wed Nov 23 17:36:06 2005
Subject: [R-390] R392 Tube Pullers.

wrote: >I usually use my fingers, didn'y cost me anything.....YMMV.

Yeah, sure -- easy for you -- ol' Stickyfingers Locklear, heh heh. Barry

From N4BUQ at aol.com Wed Nov 23 21:52:29 2005
Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier Redeux

Another question about the selenium rectifiers. Is it possible that the failure rate of the this component is due to the relatively low voltage applied to it? I don't know what these are rated, but I'm thinking they are probably good for 100VAC or more. With only 28VAC applied, perhaps this doesn't stress these very much.

Also, with the low voltage in this case, if the rectifier should fail, is it likely to go out in a blaze of glory? Just wondering... Barry - N4BUQ

From shoppa_r390a at trailing-edge.com Thu Nov 24 02:54:48 2005
Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier Redeux

wrote:> Another question about the selenium rectifiers. Is it possible that the > failure rate of the this component is due to the relatively low voltage > applied to it? I don't know what these are rated, but I'm thinking they are > probably good for 100VAC or more. With only 28VAC applied, perhaps this > doesn't stress these very much. >> Also, with the low voltage in this case, if the rectifier should fail, is it > likely to go out in a blaze of glory? >> Just wondering... >> Barry - N4BUQ

My impression with Selenium rectifiers in consumer equipment is that the top causes of selenium-stink-failure were:

1. Audio output stage drawing too much current (usually due to leaky coupling caps)

and

2. Failed-shortened electrolytic filter caps on the outputs of the selenium rectifiers.

In other words, yeah selenium rectifiers burned up, but it was due to the load being higher than their

rated current. The burnt-up rectifier isn't the cause of the failure just a symptom. Although they were so stinky that they were often blamed as the cause.

The load in the case of a R-390A are some very simple very well defined relay coils. I'm not going to say that they never ever fail shorted and take out the rectifier, but that isn't going to be a real common failure mode.

Certainly the low PIV doesn't hurt selenium rectifier life either! Tim.

From barpilot13 at hotmail.com Thu Nov 24 09:36:04 2005
Subject: [R-390] Trash Dump Radios

I got my R-390A by finding one that was off the records and carrying it home in my lunch box, one subassembly at a time. Then hunting down the RMC in charge and asking him what he wanted to do with the stripped chasis and front panel and a few parts and cabling. Was told that since it was no good, to toss it (right into the trunk of my car). Hence it was reassembled at home and its still sitting here, putting out like a victory-girl. 73 Walt (N4GL) (USN Retired CPO)

From greybeard5150 at sbcglobal.net Thu Nov 24 15:55:51 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: Trash Dump Radios

wrote: "I got my R-390A by finding one that was off the records and carrying it home in my lunch box, one subassembly at a time."

Ssssssshh! (looking over shoulder) THEY may be listening...

From dhallam at rapidsys.com Thu Nov 24 16:06:10 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: Trash Dump Radios

Speaking of trash dump radios; there was a Johnson Viking Invader 2000 without the power supply rescued from the trash dump and just sold as is on eBay for \$409. David KC2JD

From chg111 at hotmail.com Thu Nov 24 17:06:39 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: Trash Dump Radios

This reminds me of that Johnny Cash song "One Piece at a Time"<grin>-Sandy G. C.H.(Sandy)Geiger III

From mjmurphy45 at comcast.net Thu Nov 24 21:18:45 2005
Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier Redeux

Selenium Rectifiers being in the "dry disk" family of rectifiers do seem to be prone to failure due to contamination by water. They must have been cheaper and more reliable than the device that they replaced, namely the vacuum tube rectifier! Radios and TV's from the 1950's through the 1960's seem to be full of them. Mike Murphy WU2D

From rdavis7 at comcast.net Fri Nov 25 10:27:45 2005
Subject: [R-390] New Player on e-Place

Guess who's looking for R-390A receivers "perfect or parts" on QTH.com? Yeah ,our favorite seller is entering the 390 marketplace-might be the time to unload your real trash and describe it as "the best ever offered" to him. Hmmm real possibilities there. Rick K8PJQ

From k4kwm at hotmail.com Fri Nov 25 17:34:55 2005
Subject: [R-390] New Player on e-Place

Yes, but he would just "dust it off" and say it was a Rick Mish rebuild. John John Page K4KWM

From kc0lwn at yahoo.com Fri Nov 25 21:10:53 2005
Subject: [R-390] Tube longevity

To prolong tube longevity which is better: 1) keep the set on with the volume and rf gain turned down
2) Install a B+ switch and keep the palte voltage off with the heaters on until the set is used? Thanks

From kc0lwn at yahoo.com Fri Nov 25 21:15:17 2005
Subject: [R-390] Using R-390a in cold weather

I have an unheated GI sheeting metal hut here in North Dakota where I get to keep my radios. All it does is keep the wind out basically. How do I safely turn on my set in subzero weather without fracturing my tubes. Also once on I'm mostly sure best thing is not to turn the set off till spring. Thanks george

From jpl15 at panix.com Fri Nov 25 21:21:37 2005
Subject: [R-390] Using R-390a in cold weather

A lot (most?) of these radios had heaters in the crystal can - but you could mount the radio in an enclosed rack and then us a 50W lamp - or maybe those heating strips made for melting the snow out of gutters and roof parapets.. I use these on my satellite dishes, and never have problems in the winter...

They were designed to run 24/7/365 in all climates from arctic to tropical, so keeping them on shouldn't be a problem - IIRC there are several ListMembers who haven't turned their 390s off in years.

Unheated Quonset hut in NoDak in winter = Devotion to Hobby!! Cheers John KB6SCO in relatively balmy Carson City....

From kc0lwn at yahoo.com Fri Nov 25 21:45:08 2005
Subject: [R-390] Using R-390a in cold weather

Only way I get to have radio equipment is outside of the house per my loving spouse. Also all my antennas and wires are hidden from view form the house. Also I don't have to drill holes in teh house which is also prohibited.

From mhuss1 at bellatlantic.net Fri Nov 25 22:28:30 2005
Subject: [R-390] Tube longevity

Time for my two cents. (1) is best, though with mil-spec tubes, heater failure from start-up current is rare, or so the old manuals said. (2) the Stand-By position turns off the B+, but is very bad if you have done a solid-state mod to the Power supply rectifiers. If you do not have the 26Z5 tubes in the power supply, turning off the plate voltage by switching to stand-by will cause the plate voltage to raise excessively, and can cause some caps to blow. Never use stand-by. Probably the best thing to do is to add a CL-80 surge suppressor in series with the 2 Amp fuse in back. Personally, I don't think tube life is reduced significantly by turning the receiver on and off. I suppose you will get a few hundred hours more from a tube that is about to loose it's heater if you leave it on continuously. The exception is the Ballast Tube. That is rated in cycles (about 2000-5000). On-Off cycles will definitely affect the life of that tube.

From 2002tii at soffhome.net Sat Nov 26 01:00:26 2005
Subject: [R-390] Tube longevity

wrote: > To prolong tube longevity which is better: > 1) keep the set on with the volume and rf gain turned > down > @0 Install a B+ switch and keep the palte voltage off > with the heaters on until the set is used?

Military BAs generally don't beat their tubes (unlike a lot of home hi-fi equipment), so leaving them on is generally OK. Some oxide-cathode tubes don't like having no B+ for long periods -- this may argue against the second option. Best regards, Charles

From shoppa_r390a at trailing-edge.com Sat Nov 26 07:14:55 2005
Subject: [R-390] Tube longevity

> turning off the plate voltage by switching to stand-by will cause the plate voltage to raise excessively, and can cause some caps to blow.

In some industries part of regular maintenance is to "margin" the power supplies up and down just to find (and in some cases blow up) the weak parts.

Blowing the weak parts up is an added bonus - it makes sure that nobody will try to re-use them!

I'm thinking mainly of the original electrolytics and black beauties, although I'm sure some of the metal-can Westcaps/Vitamin Q's and yellow Aerovox-type caps will blow too. Some of us hate old crappy caps with a vengeance. (Or not-so-crappy-originally-but-now-50-years-later....)

We're probably the same guys who stuck electrolytics across 120VAC to watch them blow and now hold titles like "Director of Destructive Testing"! Tim.

From chacuff at cableone.net Sat Nov 26 12:20:09 2005
Subject: [R-390] Using R-390a in cold weather

And the violation of any of these rules results in???

Sometimes you have to push the limits to find out what works for everybody.....it's give and take!
Cecil....

From jmiller1706 at cfl.rr.com Sat Nov 26 12:50:56 2005
Subject: [R-390] HP-410C VTVM FS

Selling my HP-410C Vacuum Tube Voltmeter with working RF probe and original manual. High impedance RF probe is good for tube circuits. Appears to work OK, but sold as-is....I have used it on my R-390a, such as to peak the Xtal oscillator test point. I can send pics if desired. \$85 plus S&H or best offer. Jim N4BE

From redmenaced at yahoo.com Sat Nov 26 16:17:54 2005
Subject: [R-390] Using R-390a in cold weather

wrote:> And the violation of any of these rules results in???
+++++++
Mmm,....

One of those people who lives in the south.

If you drill holes in the house in the northern climes this time of year you get large piles of snow on the floor. Joe we've got about 10" so far.

From chg111 at hotmail.com Sat Nov 26 17:21:54 2005
Subject: [R-390] Using R-390a in cold weather

N'yuk,N'yuk,N'yuk...it was 60 here today...Shirtsleeve weather. Just thought all you Yankees & Canadians oughta know that...Actually, a little snow wouldn't be so bad..VERY dry here...We're about 9-10" below normal. -Sandy G. C.H.(Sandy)Geiger III

From dhallam at rapidsys.com Sat Nov 26 17:41:46 2005
Subject: [R-390] Using R-390a in cold weather

Shirtsleeve weather? When it get to 60 degrees here in Tampa we are in sweatshirts and jackets!!! David KC2JD

From chacuff at cableone.net Sat Nov 26 17:57:38 2005
Subject: [R-390] Using R-390a in cold weather

I was more speaking of the rules imposed by the wife of no radio's in the house and no wires visible from the house etc...as opposed to the common laws of physics.... Cecil....

From chacuff at cableone.net Sat Nov 26 18:08:54 2005
Subject: [R-390] Using R-390a in cold weather

OH and as a follow-up to the "One of those people who lives in the south" thing....I'd take some of that

snow....

I'm currently living under a blue FEMA tarp with about 15 squares of roofing missing, 2 sheets of decking broken and a broken roof truss. A 3'X5' hole in the master bedroom ceiling with about half the rest sagging badly. Carpet in about half the house removed because of water that entered through the hole where the chimney once was and about 1/3 of the insulation removed from the attic removed due to being waterlogged. Also about 1/3 of the roofing on the shop blown off as well.

All complements of a lady (I'll be nice) named Katrina....so I've paid my dues!

Good news....a \$40K check showed up in the mail today....hope I can get it fixed for that. Bad news is it is made out to me and the mortgage company....we'll see how that goes! Cecil... Gulfport MS

From leslocklear at cableone.net Sat Nov 26 18:51:46 2005
Subject: [R-390] Using R-390a in cold weather

Joe doesn't have those "wife" problems.....heh...heh. Smart man. Les

From ba.williams at charter.net Sat Nov 26 19:59:41 2005
Subject: [R-390] Using R-390a in cold weather

> And the violation of any of these rules results in???

I'm confused. Did someone order you to not have radios in your own home? Do you live with neighborhood covenants banning outside antennas? Barry

From ba.williams at charter.net Sat Nov 26 20:01:16 2005
Subject: [R-390] Using R-390a in cold weather

> OH and as a follow-up to the "One of those people who lives in the south" thing....

Cecil,

That is a lot of roofing area to have missing. Hope you get it all taken care of soon. Sorry to hear what happened. Keep us updated. Barry

From hankarn at pacbell.net Sat Nov 26 20:19:26 2005
Subject: [R-390] Using R-390a in cold weather

Cecil & Joe, I commented to him as to who wore the pants in his house and I got 4 missives back from him. Oh well. Different strokes for different folks . Hank KN6DI

From hankarn at pacbell.net Sat Nov 26 20:36:45 2005
Subject: [R-390] Using R-390a in cold weather

70 plus here today now cooling off with Santa Anna's whipping up as the Sun goes into hiding. Hank

KN6DI Working on my MONSTER Steppir.

From dhallam at rapidsys.com Sun Nov 27 08:52:53 2005
Subject: [R-390] Using R-390a in cold weather

We certainly hope that the damages from the recent hurricanes are repaired as quickly as possible and Cecil along with everyone affected by the hurricanes can get on with normal lives again. We have been fortunate here in the Tampa Bay area that the past two years worth of hurricanes have gone north and south of us. We were right in the path of the eye of a couple of them before they veered.

However, all of this has not changed the destruction of our area. Developers are tearing down everything in sight to build high rise condos with selling prices starting at about 3/4 of a million per unit. They are selling as fast as they are built.

You have to hunt for a beach access road and don't cross the high water mark where private property starts because you will be told to leave. The water may be public but the beaches sure as h*** aren't. The developers have to provide public access to the water, but they surely provide the minimum allowed.

Hurricanes may be destructive but they haven't slowed the migration to costal areas. I heard on the news a few days ago that 2000 people per day are moving into the southern costal areas of the US. David

Hi David, the situation is similar here in north-central Florida. 2 years ago, you could buy (we did) a beautiful 5 acre parcel in an 'upscale' (blaaah!) neighborhood for < 40K. Today, they are about 100K. (IF you can find one!)

The past hurricane season was been very mild. Being equidistant from both coasts, we have had NO winds, and only 1 day of gentle rain from the hurricanes. Lots of people are moving up here, just to get away from the wx problems down south.

I love it here, but I sure wish we would get a LITTLE rain! Very, very dry.... ron N4UE

From mjmurphy45 at comcast.net Sun Nov 27 10:46:15 2005
Subject: [R-390] Using R-390a in cold weather

New Hampshire Report - 4 inches of powder on the ground, 260 feet of wire in the air and all is right for some nice winter ops in my heated shack.

P.S. the R390 does not produce enough heat on its own to heat the shack. Mike

From glennmaillist at bellsouth.net Sun Nov 27 13:22:02 2005
Subject: [R-390] Incomplete IF module

Some years ago I bought an incomplete IF module from a surplus house. In cleaning this weekend, I uncovered it.

The module is marked
SM-C-343621
I.F. FINAL ASS'Y

FR-11-C22-C-4-26418(E)

SER. NO. 0294

The module has the tube sockets, RF connectors, T5-1-T503, Z501, C506, TB501 and some small parts mounted. Very little has solder on it.

Is this a rare find? Why would it have the serial number assigned before completion? Thanks 73 Glenn WB4UIV

From shoppa_r390a at trailing-edge.com Sun Nov 27 13:55:53 2005

Subject: [R-390] Incomplete IF module

wrote:> Some years ago I bought an incomplete IF module from a surplus house. In cleaning this weekend, I uncovered it.

Is it possible this was not a "half-built" module but a "built, torn down for spare parts, and the begun to be rebuilt" module?

For reasons that I do not fully comprehend I've seen lots of stripped-down IF modules over the years, almost always missing the BFO and often missing some other parts. Tim.

From chacuff at cableone.net Sun Nov 27 14:30:55 2005

Subject: [R-390] Using R-390a in cold weather

I'm moving out of here by retirement.....I hope.

I've been here for the past 37 years and have had enough of the high humidity and temps in the summer months and the hurricane threat. Down side is the next 10 years are forecast to be bad ones and I have that many to retirement... Cecil...

From kc0lwn at yahoo.com Sun Nov 27 14:48:01 2005

Subject: [R-390] Re: Using R-390a in cold weather (Sandy Geiger)

Actully if your bundle up in a the proper layers 28 degrees is comfortable. After that it gets somewhat noticably chilly. Last year lowest I ventured out was -5 for a couple of hours. Antenna input? I removed a window and replaced it with a plexiglas sheet, dirllled holes and calked them with clear silicone. Actully attaching a wire to the structure itself makes a great aperiodic antenna.

From jonklinkhamer at comcast.net Sun Nov 27 16:12:07 2005

Subject: [R-390] RF Gear Question

Hi Folks,

Happy Holidays!! I have a question concerning a particular gear in the RF deck. The gear is the one with the clutch for zero adjustment. I noticed when I calibrated the root meter to +/- 35 above and below. While turning thru the range the nipples would move to the end of their range resulting in misalignment. If I have this gear in my hand, I am able to turn the gear and its secondary gear by hand,

which results in realignment of the three nipples. My thinking is that I should not be able to turn the two gears at all unless I press very hard against the three nipples and turn at the same time. Does anyone have any experience in dealing with this and how would one correct this. Thanks. Jon, KB1DC

From iangallimore at rogers.com Sun Nov 27 16:16:54 2005
Subject: [R-390] Using R-390a in cold weather

Hi, Cecil,

Why not consider moving up here to Toronto, Canada? Our hurricanes are few and far between, fortunately, and you can still have lots of heat and high humidity in the summer. On the other hand, our (cold and dry) winters nicely offset the hot summers, so, on average, you will be quite comfortable! Also, it would be neat to have an R-390 restorer/supplier here in Canada! 73 Ian Gallimore

From glennmaillist at bellsouth.net Sun Nov 27 16:26:34 2005
Subject: [R-390] Incomplete IF module

Tim and the group,

From what I can see, this is a module that was never completed. The filters appear to have been installed and removed. T503 was never installed (I mentioned T503 as installed earlier, this is Z503). J512, R519 and R523 were never installed. The standoff insulators are installed, but have never had components soldered to them.

There are no marks on the chassis to indicate that the missing parts were ever installed. 73 Glenn WB4UIV

From redmenaced at yahoo.com Sun Nov 27 17:25:09 2005
Subject: [R-390] Incomplete IF module

Possibly a demonstration module showing assembly technique or proper parts location? Joe

From leslocklear at cableone.net Sun Nov 27 17:47:28 2005
Subject: [R-390] Incomplete IF module

Lots of those surfaced in the late 80's. In fact, many were marked with an EAC spare parts contract number. Clavier (who was originally Capehart then finally Fowler) made some of them also. Tom Marcotte has the list. I'm at work and don't have that list available. Les Locklear

From b_hagen at sbcglobal.net Sun Nov 27 18:39:24 2005
Subject: [R-390] Incomplete IF module

Greeting all:

I have no knowledge about military surplus stuff but in the 50's, 60's & 70's you could walk into places like Edlie Electronics in NYC (Radio Row before WTC) and Midwest on S. Archer in Chicago as

examples and buy all kinds of radio/tv parts, sub assy. etc. for pennies on the dollar. So I guess I'm not surprise about the 390 stuff. Bruce Hagen

From courir26 at yahoo.com Sun Nov 27 18:45:55 2005
Subject: [R-390] Comm Systems Corp, was Incomplete IF module

Glenn,

Your incomplete IF module is from Comm Systems Corp of Morton Grove, IL, run by a fellow name HM Harper. They "attempted" to make R-390A's from tooling bought from Stewart Warner, but the tools were in poor condition and the company never was able to produce full sets that met satisfaction of the inspectors.

The company eventually argued that R-390A's could not be made to specification (huh?) and that the contract be terminated. The govt took all the stuff and Comm Systems quit the R-390A business. Hope this helps. 73 Tom N5OFF

From N4BUQ at aol.com Sun Nov 27 19:51:08 2005
Subject: [R-390] RF Gear Question

Jon,

Sounds like your clutch is slipping when it should not be. Perhaps the internal springs are missing/broken? Maybe some of the clutch disks are missing? At any rate, it should not do that.

I've worked on a couple of these things and they are pretty straight-forward. Properly cleaned and assembled, they don't slip and do indeed require significant pressure on the "nipples" to disengage the clutch disks. Good luck, Barry - N4BUQ

From barry at hausernet.com Sun Nov 27 20:10:05 2005
Subject: [R-390] Edlie Electronics (was Incomplete IF module)

Hi Bruce & gang

Funny you should mention Edlie's -- you force me to reminisce ... involuntarily .. and also provide an update.

The owner, Ed, inherited the business from his father. not sure how long it was located on Courtland Street (part of Radio Row downtown). It was there until the early 70's when the whole area was razed to make way for the World Trade Center. Ed then moved to Levittown LI, NY where he bought a one-block section of a strip mall on Hempstead Tpke. Rented out the stores but had one for Edlie Electronics and nearly the entire basement for surplus inventory.

I moonlighted there on and off on several "tours" in the 70's and early 80's. While I was there primarily at first to help computerize his mailing lists (converting to a Data General Novus from Address-o-Graph plates), I often pitched in behind the counter. I recall the last days of domestic tube manufacturing. One by one the major brands dropped out. Every week we would get a new price list with higher prices. Finally, only "International" was left. I digress.

When I was there, both working or visiting to pick up something, Ed mostly had new merchandise and commercial surplus -- not much if any mil surplus at the time. In the old days, he used to run ads in Radio Electronics, etc. listing lots of tested and untested tubes. I don't think he had any tubes at all last time I saw him -- about 10 months ago. The store was in operation until about two years ago and then he finally rented it out. He moved the main operation to his home nearby, but still has the bulkier surplus stuff in the basement of the strip mall which, last time I checked, he still owns. He continues to publish and mail a catalog and has a web site <http://www.edlieelectronics.com/>

An interesting tid-bit: His son Larry used to work there until. He is married to Jerry Seinfeld's sister. Jerry's father owned a sign-making business and built the "Edlie Electronics" sign that was on the storefront in Levittown for 30 years. Some time after Seinfeld hit it big, he hired his sister, Larry's wife, as his business manager and Larry left the electronics biz.

Another tidbit -- I got my brother-in-law, Tom, a job there. Later on, he started his own business with a partner -- electronics parts brokering -- mostly chips.

I'll have to give Ed a call, see if all is well. Barry

From Flowertime01 at wmconnect.com Mon Nov 28 18:27:07 2005
Subject: [R-390] Selenium Rectifier Redeux

Barry,

I agree with Tim on this also. Roger KC6TRU

From Flowertime01 at wmconnect.com Mon Nov 28 19:01:17 2005
Subject: [R-390] Incomplete IF module

Fellows,

The question was why do we find serial numbers affixed to modules before the guts get soldered into the subassembly?

We need to go back to the manufacturing process. As one is building items during the day, something must be done to track productivity to keep modules from getting shuffled and counted as production.

The sheet metal was often stenciled and varnished before assembly stated.

That way new people had some clues by looking at the chassis silk screen where they were supposed to install their quota of parts. As long as you have the critter getting silk screened and drying, adding a serial number was just part of the same process.

This also let management track production. In the days before copy machines and office printers, paper work was much different.

You got a sheet of paper numbered from 000 to 999. You put your name and date on the paper. You put a job code number on the paper. As you built items you filled in the digits for the serial number in

front of the 000 to 999 that went with the item you completed.

You were expected to complete so many assemblies per day for the job code. At the end of the day you counted how many serial numbers you completed on the page.

Management had a page with numbers and job codes. They placed a date after the serial number to track production. If a serial number come up on the same job code from two different days, Management would first track back through the paper and then through the employees and find out who was padding their production count.

Amazing what one learns in college classes. Roger KC6TRU

From Flowertime01 at wmconnect.com Mon Nov 28 19:03:46 2005
Subject: [R-390] Incomplete IF module

writes: > Possibly a demonstration module showing assembly technique or proper parts location?

Very well could be. If so some one has a real chunk of history. We will likely never be able to prove it, but it sure is a real possibility. Roger KC6TRU

From redmenaced at yahoo.com Mon Nov 28 19:25:11 2005
Subject: [R-390] Incomplete IF module

Management had a page with numbers and job codes. They placed a date after the serial number to track production. If a serial number come up on the same job code from two different days, Management would first track back through the paper and then through the employees and find out who was padding their production count.

++++++

Just as importantly, they had a record to use in finding the screw-ups! Joe

From Flowertime01 at wmconnect.com Mon Nov 28 20:10:18 2005
Subject: [R-390] Tube longevity (summary)

asked, To prolong tube longevity is it better to keep the set on with the volume and RF gain turned down or use the standby position on the function switch?

replied that, Military BAs generally don't beat their tubes (unlike a lot of home hi-fi equipment), so leaving them on is generally OK.

replied further, Some oxide-cathode tubes don't like having no B+ for long periods.

replied, With mil-spec tubes, heater failure from startup current is rare, though the old manuals said it better to keep the set on with the volume and RF gain turned down.

further replied, If you have done a solid-state mod to the Power supply rectifiers do not use the Standby position. If you do not have the 26Z5 tubes in the power supply, turning off the plate voltage by switching to standby will cause the plate voltage to raise excessively, and can cause some caps to blow.

Never use standby.

recommends, Probably the best thing to do is to add a CL-80 surge suppressor in series with the 2 Amp fuse in back.

point to the counter issue: The exception is the Ballast Tube. That is rated in cycles (about 2000-5000). On-Off cycles will definitely affect the life of that tube.

adds, However if the ballast tube has been sand stated or replaced with a tube filament this limitation becomes a non-issue.

offers, Personally, I don't think tube life is reduced significantly by turning the receiver on and off. I suppose you will get a few hundred hours more from a tube that is about to loose it's heater if you leave it on continuously.

offers, In some industries part of regular maintenance is to "margin" the power supplies up and down just to find (and in some cases blow up) the weak parts. Thus, turning off the plate voltage by switching to standby will cause the plate voltage to raise excessively, and can cause some caps to blow. Blowing the weak parts up is an added bonus - it makes sure that nobody will try to reuse them! I'm thinking mainly of the original electrolytics and black beauties, although I'm sure some of the metal-can Westcaps/Vitamin Q's and yellow Aerovox-type caps will blow too. Some of us hate old crappy caps with a vengeance. (Or not-so-crappy-originally-but-now-50-years-later....) We're probably the same guys who stuck electrolytics across 120VAC to watch them blow and now hold titles like "Director of Destructive Testing"!

offers, It was published R390 standard practice in the ASA to never park an R390 (or its newer version for clarity R390/A) in the standby mode.

So what's a body to do? How many hours are you going to listen to the receiver and how many hours is it going to just sit idle waiting for use? The military run them 24 x 7 for years. They got turned off twice a year for the semi annual maintenance. A technician would likely turn it on and off 4 or five times while doing the maintenance. Once the receiver went back in the rack, it was just left on until some maintenance guy come along again to do service.

If you only use your receiver once or twice a week, you may as well turn it off when not in use. If you are going to listen to it every day, even if only for an hour or so, you should leave it on. If you are going to do a week end event, turn the receiver on several hours early to let it warm up and stabilize. Then leave it on for the duration.

A tube has a working life. The military used them 24 x 7 until beyond acceptable noise performance. At six month intervals, the receiver was tested for signal to noise performance. Tubes were tested for shorts and put back into the receivers. The test set up was performed. Maintenance would try to get a 20:1 signal to noise performance out of the receiver. Noisy tubes would be replaced until the ratio was achieved. The receiver then went back into service for the next six months at 24 hours a day. 4380 hours. Unless the receiver died, it received no additional tube changes for about six months. Over this time the new and old tubes would "age" and get more noisy. Hopefully the signal to noise ratio would stay above the required 10:1 noise level. Most receivers did make the cut of 10:1 after six months use.

>From this we can conclude that tubes will make at least 4380 hours of good quiet life. Hours on a tube with no ears to listen is wasted tube life.

One trade is receiver stability and warm up time. Most R390 receivers will drift some as they warm up. But are you using the receiver in a mode that exact frequency is critical? Even if you have to ride the knob to keep a SSB signal in the band pass, the drift of the receiver is not that much.

Most of us have solid stated the rectifiers and the replaced the ballast tube, so the issue is cold filament surge failure against time on a tube until its emissions noise gets excessive. Life cycles on a ballast tube has a high end of 5000 cycles. A tube will likely do as many cycles.

So do not leave the receiver on more than twice as long as you are going to listen to it. Turn it on and off 5000 times and enjoy 5000 hours of low noise reception. If you use it for more than an hour at a time, you will then likely get more than 5000 hours of use with good noise performance, before you have a tube filament fail. If you leave the receiver on for 5000 hours the tubes will start to get noisy and performance will suffer. You age the tubes and get no return.

For the casual user, the analysis is to turn the receiver off if it will not be used in the next 6 hours. The exception would be, to leave the receiver on for the duration of an event to avoid a failure at power on and have a temperature stabilized receiver for use during the event.

From greybeard5150 at sbcglobal.net Mon Nov 28 22:03:52 2005
Subject: [R-390] Re: Tube longevity (summary)

And in conclusion G. Kwitka summarizes: "So what's a body to do?".....

Thanks George! I like your linear-type thinking. I was hoping that someone vastly more qualified than myself would conclude the thread in this manner. Quig

From greybeard5150 at sbcglobal.net Tue Nov 29 20:49:45 2005
Subject: [R-390] For R-390 owners too?

Saw this on another list and HAD to share. I was laughing so hard I almost lost my lunch. Will Martyn have these soon?? Available at the 'e' place ... 5835640003

From r390a at bellsouth.net Tue Nov 29 21:15:37 2005
Subject: [R-390] For R-390 owners too?

snort

With all my talk about listing packages of Art's toenail clippings, I knew I couldn't have been the only one thinking of such foolishness.

That listing gets a 10+, even from the East German Judge. IMHO, of course. Tom

From b_hagen at sbcglobal.net Tue Nov 29 21:46:39 2005
Subject: [R-390] For R-390 owners too?

Do I read a message here? Bruce

From r390a at bellsouth.net Wed Nov 30 01:24:23 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390 Winter Projects?

What are folks working on over the winter radio-wise?

Here is some of my potential work. Not shown is the T-368, the rebuilt rack and assorted things. The R-390A needs an "as received" check, the 2 R-390's have some odd problems to repair and the R-392 needs it's periodic alignment. This isn't counting several construction projects I've been meaning to get around to. The pics -- http://www.fernblatt.net/_radio/winter_projects.jpg

Mind you, who knows how *many* winters it'll take to get around to finishing the projects. 73 all Tom NU4G

From jupete at bigpond.net.au Wed Nov 30 06:28:35 2005
Subject: [R-390] L 601 wanted.

My R-390A is too hot to handle-- well the filter L601 on the AF module is too hot to touch after 1/2 hour running so I suspect a shorted turn or two. I've never felt it before but reckon it shouldn't get that warm. Any one got a spare they care to part with? Thanks Pete VK 3 IZ Pete D . Williams METUNG 3904 Australia jupete@bigpond.net.au

From roy.morgan at nist.gov Wed Nov 30 09:03:18 2005
Subject: [R-390] R-390 Winter Projects?

wrote: >What are folks working on over the winter radio-wise?

- 1) Move a Valiant into operating location, hook it up with the 75A-4 for a working station
- 2) Make room for the KWS-1 and move it into location, hook it up with the 75A-4.
- 3) Install and hook up a teletype converter with the Model 15, get on the air with the Gold Dust Twins on RTTY
- 4) Re-string the 105 foot Zepp back up into the trees from it's present sloping location, and re-install the multi-band dipole.
- 5) Start restoration of the TMC GPT-750.

Ok, That's enuff. Roy

From odyslim at comcast.net Wed Nov 30 13:22:08 2005
Subject: [R-390] R390-A to trade

I am looking for a nice CV-1758 SSB adaptor and an HF multi-coupler. both in good working/cosmetic condition,

To trade, I have a very nice, clean and fully functional R-390A.

I will offer more details and photos to any interested person with the SSB adaptor and multi-coupler to offer in trade Regards, Scott W3CV.

From 2002tii at softhome.net Wed Nov 30 17:14:00 2005

Subject: [R-390] OT: Need manual for Racal

I've tried almost everything I can think of, including calling the manufacturer, but still no joy, so I thought I'd ask this august list for help.

I have a "B" version of the Racal RA6790/GM (i.e., not the standard R-2174(P)/URR version -- it is an R-2174B(P)/URR). This version has LF and VLF receive capabilities, and includes a number of modules that are not documented in the manual I downloaded from BAMA (specifically, modules A14, A15, A23, A24, and A25). Some operational characteristics may be different, including the BITE setup procedures and error messages.

Does anyone here have a "B" manual?

I recall downloading a couple of manuals from one or two US military sites, but I have lost the URLs. If anyone can refresh my recollection, I'll try those for the R-2174B(P)/URR.

Thanks for any help, Don Charles

ps. When I tracked down the manufacturer, Racal Communications of Rockville, MD, now Thales Communications in Clarksburg, MD, I was told that all stock, parts, manuals, and design data were consigned to the dumpster following the merger and relocation. Progress.