

R-390 Reflector Dec 2001 Edited

From WB7DYW@ev1.net Fri Dec 21 03:20:01 2001
Subject: [R-390] CV-591A/URR

I have a CV-591A\URR SSB adapter that is excess to my needs for sale or trade. Thanks & 73's Dutch

From r-390@mailman.qth.net Thu Dec 27 04:28:56 2001
Subject: [R-390] help

Art Waller just changed the mailing list software to something new. It will take a while to get it all sorted out. Joe

From r-390@mailman.qth.net Thu Dec 27 04:44:47 2001
Subject: [R-390] Re: [R-390] help

Its getting better, now they sent me Dave email and password. What a mess, I was getting all kinds of crazy so I un-installed Outlook Express 5.5 thinking it was corrupt. Now Im back to OE 4 What the hell is the correct address r-390+AEA-mailman.qth.net Yes ? and settings to post here., I have Outlook Express 4 And what should my setting be, under plane text I have more +ACE-

These are my choices: MIME (checked), 8 bit in headers (unchecked) encode using (none) ?

OR the Uuencode settings EEK, Im getting a headache Joe

From r-390@mailman.qth.net Thu Dec 27 13:02:16 2001
Subject: [R-390] switch contact cleaning question

> The 100% DeOxit is still available. You can get it from RadioShack.com.

Got the RS part number handy? And maybe it is even available in store? Mike.

From r-390@mailman.qth.net Thu Dec 27 14:27:19 2001
Date: Thu, 27 Dec 2001 10:14:43 -0500
Subject: [R-390] switch contact cleaning question

wrote: Don't do it! TarnX is very harsh stuff with sulphur (dioxide?) content.

I'll second this one!

From kurt.brandstetter@teleweb.at Sat Dec 29 02:03:48 2001
Subject: [R-390] Again Testing - Please ignore - I get no emails

Since 2 days I get no postings from this list ????? 73 de Kurt OE 1002419 ICQ-UIN 43074273

From gwmoore@moorefelines.com Sat Dec 29 02:22:55 2001
Subject: [R-390] Part(s) wanted (twin electrolytic filter cap)

As most of you know. I am restoring 2 Eico 753 Xcvrs. I am, however in need of a couple of electrolytic r caps, axial leads, twin section 2x8uf @450VDC,

I haven't been able to find an 8 uf in that value, let alone a twin section. The only reason I am putting this out on the boards, is that this is a space-critical item in this unit. I need 2 of them. If anyone can help me out here, please let me know. Otherwise, I will just put 2 single section in as a replacement. 73 es tnx de Greg WA3IVX

From billsmith@ispwest.com Sat Dec 29 03:41:33 2001
Subject: [R-390] Part(s) wanted (twin electrolytic filter cap)

Try "Bob's Antique Radios" for great boatanchor replacement caps and electrolytics.

<http://www.radioantiques.com/supplies.html>

10uf caps @ 450VDC are fine as tolerance is very wide on these parts.

I have rebuilt electrolytic cans by slicing them apart just above the base with a Dremel tool and cutting wheel, gutting the contents, then fitting the void with new electrolytic caps. I then fit the cut tube over the old base (the end of the aluminum shell can be expanded by reaming it with a closed set of pipe pliers or similar) and glue it back together with super-glue.

Most of the time there is plenty of space to hold the new caps inside the aluminum can. 73 de Bill

From Barry Hauser <barry@hausernet.com> Sat Dec 29 12:51:41 2001
Subject: [R-390] Again Testing - Please ignore - I get no emails

Hi Kurt --

I know you said to ignore it, but here's a reply anyway. You should get two copies of this one -- one from the new "mailman" reflector and one from me directly.

Traffic has been light on the list -- maybe time of year, but also possibly due to the new list software. Perhaps not everyone is aware that the address of the r-390 list changed to r-390@mailman.qth.net .

I'm not sure what happens if you leave out the "mailman" part. The post might disappear into

hyperspace. ;-) Barry

From hankarn@pacbell.net Sat Dec 29 13:36:19 2001
Subject: [R-390] Again Testing - Please ignore - I get no emails

This is a test to see if I make the loop??? Hank KN6DI

From kurt.brandstetter@teleweb.at Sat Dec 29 14:00:29 2001
Subject: [R-390] Again Testing - Thanks for help

Hello Barry !

Thank you for helping !

Yes I got this file 2x. I found the source why I didn't get any emails and could not post: I unsubscribed from the R-390 list and subscribed to the new server. As I got no emails, I subscribed at Majordomo again. Yesterday I talked with Alan Waller on the phone and he said me, that the server denies any posting and does not work if you are subscribed to both (the new and old server). It was my mistake, the moving from Majordomo to Mailman goes automatically, but only if you are subscribed to the old server.

I think you should receive also 2 copies of this email.

Happy New Year !

Also a Happy New Year to the other subscribers of this fine list ! Its one of the most important email lists I'm subscribed to. And one of the best (or the best).

Good luck and thanks for all who helped me finding the problem. Kurt.

BTW if you go to my webpage, you can find some new pictures of the Telefunken E-1501 I got for Christmas. Look at <http://www.swl.net/oe1002419> under "Receivers" => Telefunken E-1501 if you are interested. Barry Hauser schrieb:

From Barry Hauser <barry@hausernet.com> Sat Dec 29 14:28:07 2001
Subject: [R-390] Again Testing - Thanks for help

Hi Kurt again--

Now I'm confused. My reply to you both posted to the list and got to you directly -- that's good. I also received a copy of my post -- that's good. However, I also received a bounce message from something called postmaster@ithink.com which seems as though it came from the list server. Makes no sense. I sent that reply to just you and the list. Both worked. Anyone else getting that? Barry

From ba.williams@charter.net Sat Dec 29 17:11:35 2001

Subject: [R-390] Audio resistors?

Jerry, Those guys are nuts. Barry

From ba.williams@charter.net Sun Dec 30 02:11:03 2001

Subject: [R-390] Audio resistors?

> OH boy - I'll bet you've opened a can of worms here.

Al,

It has been rather quiet so far. Some folks are saying metal film and some are saying carbon. Glad I didn't mention a thing about what I read about these test or maintenance CDs for audiophiles. It is supposed to bombard the stereo gear with a lot of noise all across the spectrum so that the caps don't form badly from routine music sources.

My personal favorite can of worms on the list is the cat urine thread, which also includes cats sleeping on warm radios. I don't think we ever determined the best lubricant for RF deck gears or if Simple Green is okay to use for cleaning. Barry

From w7itc@hotmail.com Sun Dec 30 02:37:17 2001

Subject: [R-390] Re: My R390A

The most delicious thing about the transmitters of the 50's is the feeling you have when you tune them up for the first few times. On the one hand you have a feeling you are messing with a bomb ready to detonate at the first mistake made in the tune-up, on the other is the exhilaration you feel when you key it on the air for the first time and watch as the needle on rf watt meter climbs to 200, 300, 400, 1000 watts. What a tingly feeling! Ken

From Joe" <joe.amp@verizon.net Sat Dec 29 15:27:23 2001

Subject: [R-390] Audio resistors?

I read some off the threads here and find them funny. Audiophiles guys are the worst ! One guy around here pays \$300 for "Golden Dragon" (Sino Chinese) 12AX7 for his tube mic's, I can get them bulk boxed without the fancy silk-screening and screening for \$60 a dozen but usually have to throw away half My main gig is working on guitar amps that have many stages of soaring gain. Go with regular carbon and double the MFD use polypro orange drops for the coupling. If you want to get into it you can look for a strong Mullard "pull" 12AU7 with matching triodes. That "WILL" sound great audio especially in the non A. If you one of the guys with SS diodes and 200 ohm resistor replacing the 26Z5: Cranking the audio loud with a strong 12A*7's in the audio section the set's PTO may frequency modulate to the audio. Use a Variac and no resistor with diodes jOE

From billsmith@ispwest.com Sun Dec 30 07:07:47 2001

Subject: [R-390] My R390A lives again!!!

Both V508 (next to the ballast tube) and the PTO (V701) tube should be 12 v tubes. The filament

supply voltage is 25 volts. V508 and V701 can be lowly 12BA6's.

Has been running here this way since I put tubes in the R390 when it was obtained. Pins 2 and 7 of the ballast tube socket are jumpered.

Thanks to Gerald, K6QY for help setting up this one. 73 de Bill, AB6MT billsmith@ispwest.com

From tetrode@worldnet.att.net Sat Dec 29 16:31:29 2001

Subject: [R-390] testing mailman.....ignore

Happy New Year to All John

From ko6bb@elite.net Sat Dec 29 17:11:34 2001

Subject: [R-390] Again Testing - Please ignore - I get no emails

> I'm not sure what happens if you leave out the "mailman" part. The post > might disappear into hyperspace. ;-)

It'll bounce like a check with insufficient funds. I know, it happened here. 73 de Phil KO6BB

From Joe" <joe.amp@verizon.net Sat Dec 29 19:52:29 2001

Subject: Autoreply: Re: [R-390] Again Testing

Dear joe.amp@verizon.net,

Your message addressed to an iThink user does not have an account. If this in error please check your addressed email and try again, otherwise please remove the address from your mailing list. If you have questions please contact support@ithink.com.

From wewilson@knology.net Sun Dec 30 19:43:47 2001

Subject: [R-390] Simple Green and best RF deck lube (was Audio resistors?)

>> OH boy - I'll bet you've opened a can of worms here. <snip>

Now you really have opened a can of worms. But just to get the can open and spread out a bit, let's start with this:

1. Simple Green is great for cleaning purposes, but only if you're washing it off afterwards with a water hose. Don't spray it on and rub off with a paper towel. It has a funny smell if you leave some behind, and the long-term effects on the aluminum surface has been questioned. Yes it cleans well, but get it off the aluminum afterwards.

2. Best RF gear lube? There may be several brands here that will serve equally well, but here's the best I've found so far. a) For the slug rack bearings and anything needing "oil", I use a 50:50 mix of Marvel Mystery Oil (penetrating oil) and Mobil 1 synthetic. The penetrating oil seems to help the Mobil 1 get to where it needs to be. b) For the items needing heavier grease (detent wheel, bearing slides, slug rack

sliding plates, camshaft surfaces) I have settled on Phil Wood waterproof grease, which is made for the bikes. After a recent experience where I had tried several greases (Lubriplate plus other stuff lying around), another list member recommended the Phil Wood grease. I was amazed at the difference this seemed to make. I'm sure there are lots of other "can of worms" topics out there. Best primer for aluminum before painting? Whether the antenna balance adjustment makes any difference? [it does ;-)] Is it best to leave the power on 24x7? (where's Nolan) Walter Wilson - KK4DF

From w7itc@hotmail.com Sun Dec 30 00:29:08 2001
Subject: [R-390] Re: My R390A

If you'll remember in the early 70's AM transmitters of any make were largely considered junk by the ham community. At that time a KW-1 was hardly worth the price it would bring for scrape metal. To this day you can find Collins broadcast band transmitters sitting outside in the bone pile of radio stations around the country. They weight about 1100 pounds, if the power supply is there.

I can remember as a kid in the early 60's My dad was one of the engineer/DJ's for the radio station KTHE 1240 (it's still in business)in Thermopolis, Wyoming. I remember two things clearly about the station. One was the occasional blue coronas that would appear on the transmitting tower. I wanted to go outside to look at this but My dad knowing the danger during such conditions only let me watch through the windows. The other was at sign-off. Dad would give the; "This is KTHE is closing it's broadcast day, we will be back on the air at 6:00AM. Dad would then play the National Anthem. When that finished Dad would turn around and open a glass door on the transmitter, hit a switch and I would watch as two gigantic transmitting tubes would dim, and listen to the cooling fans shi to a stop. What is sad is I could have had that transmitter several years ago for the hauling if I had found out about it earlier, it was hauled off to a scrape yard. Ken

From w7itc@hotmail.com Sun Dec 30 02:45:57 2001
Subject: [R-390] My turn to test

If you are reading this on the r390 list is worked.

From R390rcvr@aol.com Mon Dec 31 12:17:29 2001
Subject: [R-390] Test on AOL 4.0

My submissions on AOL 7.0 keep getting intercepted, will try on the old AOL in the shack. Happy New Years Randy

From **Thu Dec 27 03:16:34 2001**
Subject: [R-390] Software upgrade and address change

List Members, As you know, all email lists at QTH.NET are currently being run on a program called Majordomo. Since this program was written there have been many changes in list management software. We had hoped that Majordomo would continue to update as time went by, but sadly it hasn't. To that end QTH.NET will be changing some of the lists to a more user-friendly package called Mailman.

This list is one of those that has been moved.

Mailman allows you to manage your subscriptions on the web. You can subscribe, un-subscribe, put your subscription on hold, change from normal to digest mode and much more. You can still manage your subscription via email, but the GUI is much easier.

What do you have to do when we change? Pretty much nothing! When the list is moved, you will receive a welcome message. You should save this as it contains the address you are subscribed under as well as a password (which you can change). You'll need the password to make any changes in your subscriptions. You will also receive the new list posting address along with links to the list info page, subscription management page and more. While I don't expect any problems with the transfer, please be patient if problems do arise and be confident that we will be working to solve them as quickly as possible. 73, AI QTH.NET

From Thu Dec 27 04:05:11 2001 From: (Joe)
Subject: [R-390] switch contact cleaning question

I don't know if this was a good idea but it was the only thing that worked after several people trying. It's almost almost impossible to get to R-390 XTAL k switches without major surgery. I also made a steel hook tool and a 1/4 access hole to retention both wiper contacts at the bottom. After that: I cleaned off all the spray and silicone from past attempts and brushed in a past Oxy clean. Scrubbed with pipe cleaner, rotating. Rinsed with distilled water followed by gas line antifreeze (Alcohol) let dry. Then used 50-50% Cramalon Blue and red. It's been 10 years and no more needing to jiggle, the contacts still look good after inspection last month. The 2-1oz's of Caig Labs <http://www.caig.com/distrib.htm> pure Cramalon Blue and red cost me more than the radio at the time. I don't see the pure 1 oz 100% DeOxit viles anymore, that was good stuff! Joe

From Thu Dec 27 04:20:29 2001
Subject: [R-390] Re: +AFs-R-390+AF0- help

Joe --

I posted a reply to Dave Metz's post a while ago, and it hasn't +ACI-reflected+ACI- yet. I went on the qth site to see if it got onto the list and a funny thing happened -- the list wasn't there+ACE- Should be listed right under the R-1051.

Nada ...

Maybe because they're still in the middle of converting over from majordomo to mailman? Barry

From Thu Dec 27 04:15:15 2001
Subject: [R-390] switch contact cleaning question

I don't know if this was a good idea but it was the only thing that worked after several people trying. It's almost almost impossible to get to the R-390 XTAL rotary switches without major surgery.

I also made a steel hook tool and a 1/4 access hole to retention both wiper contacts at the bottom. After that: I cleaned off all the spray and silicone from past attempts and brushed in a past of Oxy clean. Scrubbed with pipe cleaner, rotating Rinsed with distilled water followed by gas line antifreeze (Alcohol) let dry Then used 50-50% Cramalon Blue and red. Its been 10 years and no more needing to jiggle, the contacts still look good after inspection last month. The 2-1oz's of Caig Labs <http://www.caig.com/distrib.htm> pure Cramalon Blue and red cost me more than the radio at the time. I dont see the pure 1 oz 100% DeOxit viles anymore,that was good stuff! Joe

From: (Barry Hauser)

Date: Wed, 26 Dec 2001 23:27:09 -0500

Subject: [R-390] switch contact cleaning question

Dave!

Don't do it! TarnX is very harsh stuff with sulphur (dioxide?) content. It is said to take some of the plating with the oxide. There may not be much plating left where the contacts rub on the rotors to begin with.

Lately, I haven't had a single rx come in here that wasn't partially deaf due to oxidized switches, particularly the bandswitch. However, with a good deal of patience, DeOxit will work. It would probably work faster if I broke down and bought the liquid form in the very small and pricey bottle. It's supposed to be concentrated, so they tell me.

What I do is take a wood swab, remove some of the cotton, saturate it with DeOxit from the nozzle of the spray can and re-twirl the cotton so it doesn't get caught in the works. Then wet the rotors and contacts and work the switch back and forth through it's travel. If you can see the rotor(s) -- the metal disk that runs through the clip contacts -- then rotate the switch so you can reach a section and rub the swab on it. Keep re-wetting the swab because the DeOxit evaporates quickly.

It will look like nothing is happening on the blackened rotors and contacts. Forget about making the outside surfaces of the contacts shiny -- doesn't count anyway. You should notice the black coming off on the swab, even though the switch rotor is still black. It is also not necessary to remove all the black oxide, but after several passes you'll see some shiney metal. The main thing is to cut through the oxide with the swab and switch to the point where you can see a shiney fine line through it around the rotor metal. Sometimes, after the swab has had it, I break the end off at an angle and use it as a burnishing tool -- scrubbing the rotors with the stick soaked in more DeOxit. Not abrasive enough to do any damage, but be careful not to slip and bend the contacts.

Go easy on the DeOxit on the switch wafers -- don't spray them if you can help it. Probably posted this a dozen times by now, but DeOxit can swell up the phenolic and that may cause close-fitting rotors to bind. Probably not a big deal on a single or two-wafer switch, but could be bad news on a bandswitch. Frankly though, there have been times when I let fly with the stuff. Recently I had an SP-600 turret and RF strip that refused to work on all bands until I blasted it. Then there are some switch arrangements with wafers so close that you can't get in there with a swab. Also, leave the rotors wet, come back a while later and do it again. Sometimes with DeOxit I've found that it works after a wait and things suddenly brighten up.

Forget about TarnX. They also say that anything cleaned with it oxidizes much quicker -- and worse --

afterwards. You just have to thin the oxide down enough so the contacts can wipe down to the metal. Last treatment with DeOxit should leave the stuff wet and allow to air dry as the cleaner leaves a protective residue. Hope this helps Barry

From: (Kurt Brandstetter) Date: Thu, 27 Dec 2001 07:34:59 +0100
Subject: [R-390] Test only please ignore

Sorry for that ! Season's greetings from Vienna ! --

From: (Walter Wilson) Date: Thu, 27 Dec 2001 07:08:02 -0500
Subject: [R-390] switch contact cleaning question

<snip> > I dont see the pure 1 oz 100% DeOxit viles anymore,t hat was good stuff !

The 100% DeOxit is still available. Mine is in a little bottle with a brush applicator. You can get it from Caig or even from RadioShack.com. I like this version instead of the "spray it all over the radio" variety. I also recommend the ProGold in the same size bottle once the black tarnish is gone. Walter Wilson - KK4DF

Date: Thu, 27 Dec 2001 13:02:16 -0000
Subject: [R-390] switch contact cleaning question

> RadioShack.com. Got the RS part number handy? And maybe it is even available in store? Mike.

From: (Walter Wilson) Date: Thu, 27 Dec 2001 09:27:19 -0500
Subject: [R-390] switch contact cleaning question

> Got the RS part number handy? And maybe it is even available in store? >> Mike.

R/S product ID for the 100% DeOxit is 910-3883. It matches Caig product D100L-2DB. R/S product ID for ProGold is 910-3878. It matches Caig product G100L-2DB.

Both of these are 7.4 ml bottles of 100% with a brush applicator. They are only available on the web, not in R/S stores. R/S prices seem to be discounted from Caig list prices. Walter Wilson - KK4DF

From gwmoore@moorefelines.com Sat Dec 29 02:22:55 2001
Subject: [R-390] Part(s) wanted (twin electrolytic filter cap)

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I have rebuilt electrolytic cans by slicing them apart just above the base with a Dremel tool and cutting wheel, gutting the contents, then fitting the void with new electrolytic caps. I then fit the cut tube over the old base (the end of the aluminum shell can be expanded by reaming it with a closed set of pipe pliers or similar) and glue it back together with super-glue.

Most of the time there is plenty of space to hold the new caps inside the aluminum can. 73 de Bill,
AB6MT billsmith@ispwest.com

From ba.williams@charter.net Sat Dec 29 04:59:48 2001
Subject: [R-390] Audio resistors?

What are the quietest or best resistors for pure audio use? I need to replace some in an amplifier and also in an AF deck that has problems. I may as well do the problem resistors while in there recapping it.
Barry

From ba.williams@charter.net Sat Dec 29 04:57:55 2001
Subject: [R-390] Part(s) wanted (twin electrolytic filter cap)

Bill, Good idea with the reaming or resizing the tube bases. I have also cut a few electrolytic cans open with my Dremel. I have a large box of new ones that was given to me, so I have enough practice cans to play around with. Some can be spread open from the base carefully. You can reseal those bases back like they were originally by curling the metal rim back down flat on the base. One other good alternative to super glue is Liquid Solder. That stuff is putty like and dries very very hard. You can shape it nicely with your fingers or a tool. I just read somewhere that gasoline dissolves the dreaded black unkumpuky.

I'm wondering if cooling holes should be drilled in those electrolytic cans once the caps are replaced. Would trapped heat be a problem? Barry

From kurt.brandstetter@teleweb.at Sat Dec 29 02:03:48 2001
Subject: [R-390] Again Testing - Please ignore - I get no emails

Since 2 days I get no postings from this list ?????

From w5kp@swbell.net Sat Dec 29 14:07:52 2001
Subject: [R-390] Audio resistors?

<http://www.angela.com/catalog/resistors/Resistors.html> has some really nice tantalum film jobs for \$8 to \$10 each, Barry. The golden audio guys are snapping them up, so you'd best order soon. Stay away from those cheap \$3 jobs, they are of inferior sound quality, I understand. 73, Jerry W5KP

From anchor@ec.rr.com Sat Dec 29 12:14:36 2001
Subject: [R-390] Audio resistors?

OH boy - I'll bet you've opened a can of worms here. 73, Al, W8UT

From anchor@ec.rr.com Sat Dec 29 12:18:59 2001
Subject: [R-390] Part(s) wanted (twin electrolytic filter cap)

Good AM Barry, The caps won't generate enough heat to worry about, unless they're awful leaky, which your replacements shouldn't be for many years. 73, Al, W8UT

From Barry Hauser <barry@hausernet.com> Sat Dec 29 12:51:41 2001
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Also a Happy New Year to the other subscribers of this fine list ! Its one of the most important email lists I'm subscribed to. And one of the best (or the best). Good luck and thanks for all who helped me

finding the problem. Kurt.

BTW if you go to my webpage, you can find some new pictures of the Telefunken E-1501 I got for Christmas. Look at <http://www.swl.net/oe1002419> under "Receivers" => Telefunken E-1501 if you are interested.

From Barry Hauser <barry@hausernet.com> Sat Dec 29 14:28:07 2001
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From Joe" <joe.amp@verizon.net Sat Dec 29 16:20:41 2001
Subject: [R-390] Again Testing - Please ignore - I get no emails

I posted, got another message saying I wasn't a member. Saw some posts this morning replied to on the Audio Resistor thread.....nothing I posted last week just fine last week must be them Gremlins again Joe :)

From ba.williams@charter.net Sat Dec 29 16:52:16 2001
Subject: [R-390] Part(s) wanted (twin electrolytic filter cap)

> The caps won't generate enough heat to worry about, unless they're > awful leaky Al,

Thanks. I haven't stuffed a can with new caps yet, but I have an AF deck waiting for repairs and doing C603 and C606 under the chassis is very tight. I didn't know how much heat would build up. I've read in the old electronic books where heat under the chassis is one reason for going to cans up on top. Barry

From buzz@softcom.net Sat Dec 29 17:46:00 2001
Subject: [R-390] Audio resistors?

Don't forget to connect your speakers with the, "Monster Speaker Cables" with the gold plated connectors. Buzz

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Sat Dec 29 19:14:58 2001
Subject: [R-390] Re: My R390A

Hello Ken and group -

Thought I'd toss in a bit more about the KW-1 and Johnson Desk KW:

6' tall, 675 lbs. Runs a pair of 4-250s (can be swapped with 4-400s) modulated by a pair of 810s. 150 production models and two prototypes(both of which still existed last I knew). New price in 1952 was

\$3850. They started out as a CW/AM/NBFM transmitter, but apparently sold only as CW/AM (although Collins later offered a factory modification to the RF deck allowing it to be used as a linear amplifier). ER put out an interesting KW-1 issue some years back, with a very interesting story in it about the development of this transmitter and how one was rushed to Art's house for a contest and the fellows finished building/assembling it there for a weekend contest. Indeed a sight to behold, built at least to broadcast industry-standards, a lot of extra shielding for TVI, including feedthrough caps for any wires passing through the RF deck to the outside and a hefty lowpass filter for the feedline. As their ads state, the KW-1 'tunes as easily as the 32V transmitter'.

Desk Kilowatt was built later(late 50s/early 60s) - Johnson's response to the KW-1, basically. Shares a very similar design (4-250s modulated by 810s) but is an amplifier only. Even uses the same mod. transformer. Not a surprise, considering some parts in the Collins transmitters like variable caps are made by Johnson. I think UTC made the iron. Something like 400 units produced, not sure about prototypes. Pedestal(amp) alone weighs in at 403 lbs, desk at 151 lbs, for a combined weight of 554 lbs.

Both unit are rated for 1000w input. Both are superior in one way over the other as well as lacking the opposite. KW-1 is a complete bandswitching transmitter, Desk KW is capable of SSB linear amplification stock. Both are built like the proverbial battleship and are very enjoyable to either use or service(plenty of space to work inside). The Desk KW even rolls out of the pedestal for easy service. Both give the term 'boatanchor' an entirely new meaning!

Belated Christmas wishes and all the best for a Happy New Year - de Todd/'Boomer' KA1KAQ

Kenneth Crips wrote: > RE: KW-1 >> I have actually had My hands on one. They where shipped in three > sections, power supply, Finals deck, and exciter/modulator deck. > They look just like a Collins AM broadcast band transmitter of the time > except they where tunable. I understand they where build so Mr. Collins > himself would have the king AM signal on the air. As good as a KW-1 is, I > still think the Johnson Desk Kilowatt was the most interesting. I have > always thought the best looking equipment from Collins was the 51J/75A.... > receivers, the 32V../KWM-1 transmitters. >> Ken

From pbealo@mediaone.net Sat Dec 29 19:10:38 2001
Subject: [R-390] Delta HFAS-9 remote antenna tuner

**Howdy all, Not that it matters in the scheme of things...but would it be inappropriate, historically speaking, to use a Delta HFAS-9 shipboard remote antenna tuner with an R-390? The tuner dates from the late '60s - early '70s (manual is dated 1968 with a 1975 addendum). Its really quite nice, I've used it for years as my HF long wire tuner with an Icom HF radio. It is designed for use with up to 1KW transmitter and a 35' mast, but works nicely with a 100' longwire. Peter Bealo
WB2MJG**

From ELDIM@WORLDNET.ATT.NET Sat Dec 29 20:36:02 2001
Subject: [R-390] Re: My R390A

YOU SAY "KW-1"? My heart sinks and I cry each night knowing I was part of a small team that was told to "DISMANTLE" one of these COLLINS TREASURES of the GOLDEN PAST. That was in Germany in the very early 70's when I was a radio maintenance technician. I still remember the GRID COORDINATES of that location. This was "ONE CLEAN-GOOD LOOKING TRANSMITTER"! However, we had to make room for the new "GATEWAY TO EUROPE" RTTY NET STATION, and

were receiving surplus transmitters to recondition for that project. The T-368 Series transmitters. We received eight units and managed to place in-service 3 T-368C/GRT TRANSMITTERS with MD-239A/GR RADIO MODULATORS. Besides the painful memories I was fortunate to acquire ONLY the LOW PASS FILTER from the GREAT TRANSMITTER. "HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL" 73, Glen Galati KA7BOJ, ex WBOAXK, DL4GG, HL9WA TACOMA, WA.

From gwmoore@moorefelines.com Sat Dec 29 22:08:40 2001
Subject: [R-390] Part(s) wanted (twin electrolytic filter cap)

Thanks Bill, I hope this gets through to you, because I seem to have a list problem. My first message posted, but then I got a weird message from a list server, but the msg posted. I hope this one does.. 73 es
tnx de Greg WA3IVX

From cbscott@ingr.com Thu Dec 27 23:03:19 2001
Subject: [R-390] switch contact cleaning question

According to the RS pages, it appears you CA residents shouldn't be drinking the Caig products... ;) Barry - N4BUQ

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Sun Dec 30 00:12:17 2001
Subject: [R-390] Re: My R390A

GLEN GALATI wrote: > YOU SAY "KW-1"? My heart sinks and I cry each night knowing I was part of a > small team that was told to "DISMANTLE"

GASP! Dismantled?? Hmm.....a few individuals keep track of the serial number list and I do recall hearing that several had been reduced to parts. Perhaps this is one?

Another good story is the one about one or two KW-1s left behind in Cuba by the CIA when ol' Fidel took power. Rumor has it that they were pressed into broadcast service and who knows - maybe they're still purring away?

Only as time passes do we have the hindsight to see the value of such things(I don't think this applies to the gov't, though - I site the great R-390 massacre as proof). I'm fortunate in that when I'm called to account for my radio sins I'll only have to explain a couple of old floor model radios I dismantled, a BC-455A that I modified in college, and a few old tube-type CBs I tore apart. The good side is that it gave me a deep appreciation for all old gear, so I search it out and restore/use/preserve it for the future, now. I do miss the days of \$2 NIB ARC 5 radio gear, though...

I can't imagine what I'd have done with an R-390 back then. I probably would've squirreled it away until later if it didn't work. Some things are just too beautiful to tear apart. 73, Boomer

From tetrode@worldnet.att.net Sun Dec 30 00:40:34 2001
Subject: [R-390] Audio resistors?

OK, guess I'll try a real post now that I saw my second test come through. But I got a very strange

autoreply message with it from postmaster@ithink.com though, what's up with that?

> What are the quietest or best resistors for pure audio use? I need to > replace some in an amplifier and also in an AF deck that has problems. I may > as well do the problem resistors while in there recapping it. Barry

Barry, 1% metal films are usually used in low noise low level equipment; they are not expensive and have excellent performance. Not really worth using in a 390 however, you'd never hear the difference between them and a carbon film or carbon comp.

>From the chuckles department, an actual quote from a post I read in the rec.audio.tubes newsgroup.....
" I don't like metal film resistors, they sound bright and analytical." Hmmm, :^) John

From ba.williams@charter.net Sun Dec 30 01:12:32 2001
Subject: [R-390] Audio resistors?

> Don't forget to connect your speakers with the, "Monster Speaker Cables" with > the gold plated > connectors. > Buzz

Buzz, I'm sure that you meant the oxygen free cables. Barry

From w7itc@hotmail.com Sun Dec 30 02:24:06 2001
Subject: [R-390] My R390A lives again!!!

Well My 67 EAC R390 lives again. The Ballast tube was bad. I replaced it using a 12BH7 as suggested here and nicely documented in A.J. Carmody's(AAR2QR/W2LE) excellent "The R390 Cookbook". It turned out I had more then one problem. There was a bad 6C4 in the RF deck. I have a ample supply of brand new JAN 6C4's in their original packaging so I replaced all of them. The radio would now play for a few seconds and then go away to white noise. I noted an interesting thing, V505 (5749) did not light because the 3TF7 was bad, with the change out to the 12BH7 it lit up but it seemed to be too bright. I decided at this point to change out the tube on the PTO V701(5749)(Cosmos). This time when I turned on the unit V505 lit up at what I would consider a normal brightness, and the R390 worked. I haven't taken a look at the schematics, but it would seem at this point if V505 is overly bright it might indicate a problem with V701.

Thanks Hank, and company, I could not have done this without the "MANUAL". Ken

From ba.williams@charter.net Sun Dec 30 02:11:03 2001
Subject: [R-390] Audio resistors?

> OH boy - I'll bet you've opened a can of worms here. > 73, > Al, W8UT Al,

It has been rather quiet so far. Some folks are saying metal film and some are saying carbon.Glad I didn't mention a thing about what I read about these test or maintenance CDs for audiophiles. It is supposed to bombard the stereo gear with a lot of noise all across the spectrum so that the caps don't form badly from routine music sources.

My personal favorite can of worms on the list is the cat urine thread, which also includes cats sleeping on warm radios. I don't think we ever determined the best lubricant for RF deck gears or if Simple Green is okay to use for cleaning. Barry

From w7itc@hotmail.com Sun Dec 30 02:37:17 2001
Subject: [R-390] Re: My R390A

The most delicious thing about the transmitters of the 50's is the feeling you have when you tune them up for the first few times. On the one hand you have a feeling you are messing with a bomb ready to detonate at the first mistake made in the tune-up, on the other is the exhilaration you feel when you key it on the air for the first time and watch as the needle on rf watt meter climbs to 200, 300, 400, 1000 watts. What a tingly feeling! Ken

From Joe" <joe.amp@verizon.net Sat Dec 29 15:27:23 2001
Subject: [R-390] Audio resistors?

I read some off the threads here and find them funny. Audiophiles guys are the worst ! One guy around here pays \$300 for "Golden Dragon" (Sino Chinese) 12AX7 for his tube mic's, I can get them bulk boxed without the fancy silk-screening and screening for \$60 a dozen but usually have to throw away half My main gig is working on guitar amps that have many stages of soaring gain. Go with regular carbon and double the MFD use polypro orange drops for the coupling. If you want to get into it you can look for a strong Mullard "pull" 12AU7 with matching triodes. That "WILL" sound great audio especially in the non A. If you one of the guys with SS diodes and 200 ohm resistor replacing the 26Z5: Cranking the audio loud with a strong 12A*7's in the audio section the set's PTO may frequency modulate to the audio. Use a Variac and no resistor with diodes jOE

From w7itc@hotmail.com Sat Dec 29 16:13:33 2001
Subject: [R-390] that should do it

As sit here digging through box after box of tubes I wonder does anyone know if there is inventory software that can be used to short tubes and such. Wondering where My box of 6C4's are Ken

From billsmith@ispwest.com Sun Dec 30 07:07:47 2001
Subject: [R-390] My R390A lives again!!!

Both V508 (next to the ballast tube) and the PTO (V701) tube should be 12 v tubes. The filament supply voltage is 25 volts. V508 and V701 can be lowly 12BA6's.

Has been running here this way since I put tubes in the R390 when it was obtained. Pins 2 and 7 of the ballast tube socket are jumpered. Thanks to Gerald, K6QY for help setting up this one. 73 de Bill, AB6MT

From tetrode@worldnet.att.net Sat Dec 29 16:31:29 2001
Subject: [R-390] testing mailman.....ignore

Happy New Year to All John

From ba.williams@charter.net Sat Dec 29 17:06:18 2001
Subject: [R-390] Audio resistors?

Joe,

Those audiophile guys don't have boatanchors, so they get into this stuff. I guess if I had a bunch of Mullards, Golden Dragons, etc I would be interested in picking the brands with the best specs on noise, etc. It is sort of like picking the right combination of mixer tubes until you get the best gain and least noise. Same thing to me but I'm not that into tube design, manufacturing tolerances, specs, etc like the audio crowd. The thing I am against are the prices those guys jack up on tubes.

The reason I'm wondering about resistors for audio is that I had to replace one of 8 resistors coming off of the power tubes in my amplifier. There are 8 of them going from the tube to the transformer, so I'll replace all of them. The only 2 watt ones I found in the Mouser catalog were carbon types. I replaced the burned one but haven't done the other 7 yet. I'll go back and check all of the resistors and do them all at one time.

There is hiss in the amp without any audio from the radios. I'm interested in reducing it if I can, but I'm not going to be obsessed with the project. Less hiss means less noise with the R-390A and SP added when trying to dig out the weak signals. It's not all that much hiss, but it does contribute to the total noise factor. Increasing treble also increases hiss. It is noticeable with headphones.

I have a JPS NIR-12 for noise and static, but I prefer bypassing that when I can for the all tube audio. The NIR-12 is a champ for bad conditions or as a last resort for digging out a station, but it isn't hollow state gear. Barry

From jam@sonic.com Sat Dec 29 18:02:28 2001
Subject: [R-390] History of SP-600

Folks, I am contemplating doing a book (or pamphlet or website or something) about the history and care of the SP-600. To do that, I have to get a lot more history than I have right now. Can anyone help?

(1) There is this list of dates and designations floating around that purports to be from "the original manufacturing records." Who has these records? How can I take a look at them?

(2) It seems to me that some of the original engineers should still be around. Anyone know who they are or how to contact them?

(3) Anyone know any other ways to get at SP-600 history? Any help is appreciated. Thanks in advance.-- James A. (Andy) Moorer

From kb6lwn@qsl.net Sun Dec 30 08:49:52 2001
Subject: [R-390] Re: My R390A

Kenneth Crips wrote: you key it on the air for the first time and watch as the needle on rf watt > meter

climbs to 200, 300, 400, 1000 watts. What a tingly feeling!

Ken! Better check your connectors! Sounds like stray RF you're feeling ;) 73 - Bruce

From gwmoore@moorefelines.com Sat Dec 29 19:10:52 2001

Subject: [R-390] Again Testing - Thanks for help

Barry, I got one from that postmaster@ithink.com on my "filter caps" post.. It did, however to the reflector. 73 de Greg WA3IVX

From ELDIM@WORLDNET.ATT.NET Sat Dec 29 20:40:39 2001

Subject: [R-390] Delta HFAS-9 remote antenna tuner

Hello Peter, Do you have a picture of this Antenna tuner that you can post to the net. 73, Glen Galati KA7BOJ

From hankarn@pacbell.net Sun Dec 30 11:52:49 2001

Subject: [R-390] that should do it

Ken, Someone on the list had an EXCEL spreadsheet for tube inventory that was good and you could change it to suit your needs. I lost it due to having to reformat to kill a worm. Would sure love to find it again. Happy New Year, Hank KN6DI

From hankarn@pacbell.net Sun Dec 30 12:00:20 2001

Subject: [R-390] History of SP-600

Try Les Locklear who is on this list (R-390) Hank KN6DI I have 7 of them. Just sold 1 and it is being re-capped and restored presently

From courir26@yahoo.com Sun Dec 30 13:10:02 2001

Subject: [R-390] History of SP-600

James and group, Les Locklear is your guy regarding production numbers and such.

Some of the old original resources are Norman Kjeldsen at Cardwell Condensor or Hammarlund Capacitor Co., and Robert Edwards from EAC. Norman's company is in the phone book. Edwards resides in Rumson NJ. You can reach him via the Rumson China and Glass Shop. Norman owns the rights to many of the old brands, like Hammarlund, RME, Lionel Train, Fowler, Capehart, etc. Cardwell builds and maintains large transmitters. Edwards started EAC and eventually bought out Hammarlund.

You might also look up WA2ZYE, Ray Blackford. He worked for EAC at the end and knows some stuff. 73, Bonne Chance! Tom N5OFF

From courir26@yahoo.com Sun Dec 30 13:29:16 2001
Subject: [R-390] Cosmos PTO Endpoint Drift

Here is a datapoint, I set one of my Cosmos PTO's four years ago. It drifted long 1 kcs in that time. I got in there yesterday and gave it a turn, leading the drift by about 1/2 kcs short. Now I'm set for a few years. This is not as bad as my R-388 which goes about 1 kcs per year. 73 Toim N5OFF

From jjackso3@san.rr.com Sun Dec 30 14:00:18 2001
Subject: [R-390] that should do it

I set up an Excel spread sheet to keep track of a couple of hundred tubes I have around here. Now all I have to do is remember to change the spreadsheet when I use a tube. Also leave a copy printout in the box with the tubes, so I know what is in each box. John Jackson

From wli@u.washington.edu Sun Dec 30 14:48:04 2001
Subject: [R-390] Re: new formats

Guys: Guess I was lucky, got switched over with no problems. One observation: seems to be a lot more extraneous text in the headers... more work to distill out the "pearls".

W. Li (2) R390A's, (1) R392, and (1) TenTec 320

From gunsrus@optonline.net Sun Dec 30 15:40:18 2001
Subject: [R-390] that should do it

The biggest problem I came up with is how to do the sort function. There seems to be so many variables that it became cumbersome. Any suggestions or downloadable files available?? Tom Nicholson

From bill@iaxs.net Sun Dec 30 16:33:39 2001
Subject: [R-390] Audio resistors?

Resistors make noise because their atomic particles are dancing in the heat above absolute zero. The noise voltage is in the range of 1 to 100 microvolts. Looking in Henney's "Radio Engineering Handbook" under "Resistor Noise Characteristics" it says that carbon composition resistors also have microphonic noise because they are made from grains of carbon suspended in a binder so that only points of the grains touch. "The noise level increases with increasing voltage, increasing resistance, and decreasing [physical] size." The section ends with:

"Most composition-resistor manufacturers [ca. 1959] are reducing the noise level of their resistors, and most are so low that the microphonic noise cannot be detected in any but highly specialized amplifiers."

Also noted for variable carbon track resistors is that the microphonic noise is greater, and worse if the track carries DC.

It seems unlikely that you would ever hear any fixed resistor noise in the audio section of an R-390 class

receiver, unless the resistor was faulty. Tube noise seems a lot more likely, but the only way to reduce it is to lower the heater temperature.

It's fascinating what you can learn when you turn away from the shared ignorance on the 'net and open a book. Better yet, do some experiments to locate the noise, measure it, and see how it changes (or not) with the price of the resistor. Happy New Year, Bill Hawkins

From ba.williams@charter.net Sun Dec 30 16:53:56 2001
Subject: [R-390] that should do it

> Ken, > Someone on the list had an EXCEL spreadsheet for tube inventory Hank,

You know, a spreadsheet would be better than a database now that you mention it. I had a few databases I started when I first started collecting tubes. But, if a spreadsheet were used to calculate primary tubes and subs you could have a cell with a total count of usable tubes for each radio. I guess you could link the subs in the cells for a search function too. I think I smell a spreadsheet project looming.

I have Lotus 123 and not Excel. The new Excel formats are very hard to import to Lotus or Works.
Barry

From ko6bb@elite.net Sun Dec 30 16:56:30 2001
Subject: [R-390] FS or Swap: URM-25D

Hello All, I have a URM-25D that is excess to my needs (I have a nice Solid State Sig-Gen I prefer to use). Anyway, since there are some other things I need around the Shack much more I thought I'd offer it up for sale/swap.

Description: URM-25D Sig Gen with all accessories in the lid. Tunes 10kc to 50mc. Both the 400 and 1000 cps modulators work (I replaced the bad caps) and the unit appears to work 100% though I won't certify it's calibration. (Freq dial seems accurate).

Things I will take:

1. 80.00 plus shipping.
2. MFJ 949E antenna tuner (or possibly other cross needle tuner) plus shipping.
3. Timewave DSP9+ or DSP59+ plus shipping.
4. ?? plus shipping.

NOTE: In every case the unit is plus shipping as it weighed about 40 lbs on the bathroom scale (and I don't have funds to ship). Allow for UPS shipping of 45 lbs, give me your zipcode and I'll tell you about what shipping would be.

NOTE 2: PRIORITY will be given to offers to pick up here in Merced California! 73 de Phil KO6BB

From courir26@yahoo.com Sun Dec 30 13:18:06 2001
Subject: [R-390] Audio Caps

If you are squeemish about cutting into those cap cans, simply wire the new caps under the deck. it is a

tight fit but even I can do it. Looks neater than the cluster-foxtrot created by skipping the cans and installing new caps on top. 73 Tom N5OFF

From kd9kc@elp.rr.com Sun Dec 30 13:56:08 2001
Subject: [R-390] that should do it Mike. U.S. Army Retired.

Freedom is expensive. Those who are not willing to pay the price ultimately lose everything.

From wewilson@knology.net Sun Dec 30 14:17:56 2001
Subject: [R-390] Simple Green and best RF deck lube (was Audio resistors?)

Now you really have opened a can of worms. But just to get the can open and spread out a bit, let's start with this:

1. Simple Green is great for cleaning purposes, but only if you're washing it off afterwards with a water hose. Don't spray it on and rub off with a paper towel. It has a funny smell if you leave some behind, and the long-term effects on the aluminum surface has been questioned. Yes it cleans well, but get it off the aluminum afterwards.

2. Best RF gear lube? There may be several brands here that will serve equally well, but here's the best I've found so far. a) For the slug rack bearings and anything needing "oil", I use a 50:50 mix of Marvel Mystery Oil (penetrating oil) and Mobil 1 synthetic. The penetrating oil seems to help the Mobil 1 get to where it needs to be. b) For the items needing heavier grease (detent wheel, bearing slides, slug rack sliding plates, camshaft surfaces) I have settled on Phil Wood waterproof grease, which is made for the bikes. After a recent experience where I had tried several greases (Lubriplate plus other stuff lying around), another list member recommended the Phil Wood grease. I was amazed at the difference this seemed to make.

I'm sure there are lots of other "can of worms" topics out there. Best primer for aluminum before painting? Whether the antenna balance adjustment makes any difference? [it does ;-)] Is it best to leave the power on 24x7? (where's Nolan) Walter Wilson - KK4DF

From howard@cconnect.net Sun Dec 30 14:48:09 2001
Subject: [R-390] that should do it

Hey John & group, I did exactly the same thing with my tube collection a few months ago. It was an eye-opening experience, I had never realized how many tubes I had and how many of the different types! I was immediately aware of a few shortages and so ordered some more spares. I also tagged my tubes as to which radio they are used in. No more digging thru a mountain of tubes, a quick glance at my list is all it takes. I highly recommend this to anyone with more than a dozen tubes ;-). Howard

From cbscott@ingr.com Sun Dec 30 21:30:28 2001
Subject: [R-390] Audio Caps

One nice solution I saw someone do (he used to subscribe to this list but I can't recall his name at the moment) is to feed the positive leads through the sockets and solder them underneath. Take the negative

leads, solder them together into a single solder lug (one with a hole large enough for the screw that fits into the post that sticks up beside the original caps) and secure the negative ends to the post. The positive ends of the caps were flush down to the sockets so no HV was exposed. Looked neat enough to me. Barry - N4BUQ

From JamesMiller20@worldnet.att.net Sun Dec 30 23:21:21 2001
Subject: [R-390] Audio resistors?

The oxygen free cable, gold plated connector crowd is the victim of a continuing scam that never ceases to amaze me. Like the cell phone range extenders, instant fat reducers, electro-shock muscle exercisers, and no-oil engine lubes. Assuming no damage to the inactive components of a circuit, the majority of noise is generated in the tubes or other active devices themselves. If you really want to reduce noise, save your money on the monster cables, and go solid state and add cryogenic cooling. The lower the temperature, the lower the noise. Same principle as is used for cryogenic cooled low noise amplifiers in satellite equipment.

From Llgpt@aol.com Sun Dec 30 15:55:46 2001
Subject: [R-390] History of SP-600

This information is on several websites and is in the back of the Ostermann book (Shortwave Receivers, Past & Present), with credit to Les. >>Also in Hollow State Newsletter and Electric Radio Magazine.

The history is not all that sequential by model number. A number of them were produced at the same time and it seems that some number differences just correlate to contract - which gov't. buyer, etc. A lot of them just came out with "JX-blank" on the tags.

>>That is very true, for example a JX-4 may have a higher serial number than say, a JX-17. The very early ones had a "plain" JX suffix, usually found with a 26XX or lower serial number.

I would suggest that you coordinate with Les on this endeavor. Les was expecting to update his work, but I'm not sure where he's at with it.

>>No updates at all, what has been published is it, nothing new has surfaced.

If you do get something going, please consider first writing it as a feature article for The Hollow State Newsletter. (I'm the editor -- desperate for material and loaded for bear, tho' mostly "bare" right now.)

(Hey, Les, why don't you get together with Jim, here?)

>>Doin' it now.....<grin>

This reply may cover question #1 and #3 -- dunno about #2 -- where the original engineers are. I'd guess the main body of development for the SP-600 was done over 50 years ago, as they started coming out in about '52, I think. Might be somebody still around. best of luck Barry

>>I'm sure theyre are a number of them still around. I spoke at length with Stuart Meyer W2GHK (now a silent key) several years ago and gained a great de qal of info regarding the SP-600 series and Hammarlund in general.

>>Hi James, I have them filed away somewhere, I'll have to see if I can round them up. There wasn't a great deal of information on those "Engineering Change Orders", just what has been published.

I originally started out to find out why other publications stated that the production of the SP-600's ended with the JX-26. I knew that was wrong as I had in my possession at that time a SP-600JX-35. So my quest to set the record straight was started and ended a few years ago. The only suffix number that was not produced in sequence was the rare JX-21A which was the last of the Sp-600 series to be produced. The information from Stuart was that they were produced in 1972 or 1973. That would have been just before they closed the doors at Mars Hill.

The differences in the standard SP-600JX's is miniscule, wiring, capacitors, resistors.

Approximately 25,000 were built.

Serial numbers after approximately 175XX had ceramic discs instead of the infamous black tubulars.

I've had 18 of these legendary receivers pass through my hands over the years, and have enjoyed every one of them.

At present I have another John R. Leary re-manufactured black faced SP-600 in my possession, it is an extremely fine example of the SP-600 series. Les Locklear

From Barry Hauser <barry@hausernet.com> Sun Dec 30 16:35:17 2001
Subject: [R-390] that should do it

John wrote: > I set up an Excel spread sheet to keep track of a couple of hundred tubes I > have around here. Now all I have to do is remember to change the > spreadsheet when I use a tube. >> Also leave a copy printout in the box with the tubes, so I know what is in > each box.

Good idea! Probably even better to get one of those PDA's or old Casios or Sharp Wizards we never used for what we bought 'em for and Velcro one to a tube caddy. Might even dedicate an otherwise obsolete ol' notebook computer, but you'd need an awful lot of Velcro ;-)

Some other ideas -- Certain tubes may be borderline, but perfectly OK for certain applications. Kenneth Crips (see below) mentions his 6C4's -- BTW, Kenneth, your 6C4's are probably buried in the same place as mine, so when you find yours, let me know. I seem to recall having a box of 30 or so of them. Are they the same as 6100's?

Actually, I think they recommend using a not-so-strong, well broken in tube for the PTO, so adding a field for the quality reading may be a good thing, if you set the sheet up for individual tubes, or columns for NOS, used, used weak, with the quantities filled in. Also, if you set up a set of "yes/no" fields to indicate what gear the tubes go to -- i.e. columns labeled "R-390", "R-390A", "R-392", "SP-600", "RA17", "HQ-180", etc. AND put in the tube tester setting for your favorite tester, you can sort & print to have a large custom printout of the tube chart just for a particular piece of gear when you're testing.

Another thing that equipment fields let you do is figure the potential need by tube number across all "equipments". In other words, how many 6C4, or 5814, or 6AK6, etc. "slots" or sockets do you have? You can use that to figure whether it pays to bulk up on some tube orders. Of course, that doesn't

account for variations in failure rate, so if you really want to get scientific Well maybe that's going too far. "Shoot, seems to be an awful lot of key-entry required in the boatanchor hobby these days <groan>" ;-)

BTW -- if you're using a TV-2, -3, -7, etc., you can copy 'n paste the setups from Nolan Lee's downloadable Excel spreadsheets.

I'm an ol' time "spreadsheet jockey", so maybe when I get some time I'll put together what we used to call a "shell" -- a pre-structured and semi-preloaded spreadsheet -- and put it up on my website for download. Barry

From w7itc@hotmail.com Sun Dec 30 16:42:27 2001
Subject: [R-390] History of SP-600

Rather than write up a history of the SP-600 why not expand it to include the whole Hammarlund Super Pro series, SP-200, SP-400, and SP-600. There has been fair amount written about the SP-600's, JX-1 through JX-26. Very little has been written about the the other two models. I have a SP-600 JX-17 made in 1953. I sincerely hope the engineer that designed the band switch on the SP600 is still alive I would love to ask him the question; Why in God name did you design it like that? Of course this is the fun of technological history studies, getting inside the heads of such people to find out these questions. Ken de W7ITC

From w7itc@hotmail.com Sun Dec 30 17:14:41 2001
Subject: [R-390] that should do it

I would be nice to be able to download such a inventory to a PDA. you could then make you entries and deletions with the PDA, for uploading to your PC later. Ken

From ko6bb@elite.net Sun Dec 30 17:18:59 2001
Subject: [R-390] Audio resistors?

> There is hiss in the amp without any audio from the radios. I'm interested > in reducing it if I can, but I'm not going to be obsessed with the project. > Less hiss means less noise with the R-390A and SP added when trying to dig > out the weak signals. It's not all that much hiss, but it does contribute to > the total noise factor. Increasing treble also increases hiss. It is > noticeable with headphones.

Barry Here is a guaranteed way to totally eliminate the hiss. You gently pull each tube out of it's socket, with a small pair of dikes you snip one filament pin off. Gently re-insert the tubes and turn the receiver on. Voila!!! No Hiss.... Runnin' and Duckin' in central California Phil KO6BB

From davidmed@sbcglobal.net Sun Dec 30 17:07:06 2001
Subject: [R-390] Genuine EAC R-390A plate for swap only

I have a genuine original EAC R-390A nameplate which I don't need. I will exchange it for an R-390 power cable or perhaps any other R-390 parts. Dave

From billsmith@ispwest.com Sun Dec 30 19:24:02 2001
Subject: [R-390] that should do it

If you can drag the mouse around to highlight the data, Tom, it isn't too hard to sort it. There are also means to predefine sort areas. But I know what you mean if you feel the program seems to run away from you. Keep in mind the "undo" option.

Overall, though, Excel seems to be a great design. Can't say the same about Microsoft Word.

> The biggest problem I came up with is how to do the sort function. There seems > to be so many variables that it became cumbersome. Any suggestions or > downlaodeable files available?? > > Tom Nicholson

From tbigelow@pop.state.vt.us Sun Dec 30 20:13:58 2001
Subject: [R-390] Re: My R390A

Indeed - it still happens with me, probably conditioning from all the OT's telling me about caps going south like a shotgun or arcing that took out the power, etc. I always get a little nervous towards the end of the peaking/dipping cycle as to whether or not something will let go.

Still, it's great to watch as the meter(s) rise and fall in response to the tuning procedure, and feeling the satisfaction of transmitting when everything works right. 73, Boomer KA1KAQ

From bratcher@pdq.net Sat Dec 29 23:50:36 2001
Subject: [R-390] Re: My R390A

wrote: >Hello Ken and group - > >Thought I'd toss in a bit more about the KW-1 and Johnson Desk KW: > >6' tall, 675 lbs. Runs a pair of 4-250s(can be swapped with 4-400s) modulated >by a pair of 810s. I wonder if the 4-400's give a little more power out.

1KW input. Wonder what the output was? Something between 700 & 800w?

>150 production models and two prototypes(both of which still >existed last I knew). New price in 1952 was \$3850. They started out as a >CW/AM/NBFM transmitter, but apparently sold only as CW/AM(although Collins >later offered a factory modification to the RF deck allowing it to be used >as a >linear amplifier). ER put out an interesting KW-1 issue some years back, >with a >very interesting story in it about the development of this transmitter and how >one was rushed to Art's house for a contest and the fellows finished >building/assembling it there for a weekend contest. Indeed a sight to behold, >built at least to broadcast industry-standards, a lot of extra shielding for >TVI, including feedthrough caps for any wires passing through the RF deck to >the outside and a hefty lowpass filter for the feedline. As their ads state, >the KW-1 'tunes as easily as the 32V transmitter'.

I've got a KWS-1 here. Always wanted a KW-1. Never saw one offered for sale. Perhaps I should try Ebay?

From w7itc@hotmail.com Sun Dec 30 00:28:46 2001

Subject: [R-390] Re: My R390A

If you'll remember in the early 70's AM transmitters of any make were largely considered junk by the ham community. At that time a KW-1 was hardly worth the price it would bring for scrape metal. To this day you can find Collins broadcast band transmitters sitting outside in the bone pile of radio stations around the country. They weight about 1100 pounds, if the power supply is there.

I can remember as a kid in the early 60's My dad was one of the engineer/DJ's for the radio station KTHE 1240 (it's still in business)in Thermopolis, Wyoming. I remember two things clearly about the station. One was the occasional blue coronas that would appear on the transmitting tower.I wanted to go outside to look at this but My dad knowing the danger during such conditions only let me watch through the windows. The other was at sign-off. Dad would give the; "This is KTHE is closing it's broadcast day, we will be back on the air at 6:00AM. Dad would then play the National Anthem. When that finished Dad would turn around and open a glass door on the transmitter, hit a switch and I would watch as two gigantic transmitting tubes would dim, and listen to the cooling fans shi to a stop. What is sad is I could have had that transmitter several years ago for the hauling if I had found out about it earlier, it was hauled off the a scrape yard. Ken

From Joe" <joe.amp@verizon.net Sun Dec 30 03:54:59 2001
Subject: [R-390] Audio resistors?

Yea, Lot's a worms these past several days Lets see if this post works: Wonder if there are any Audiophiles guys lurking One guy around here pays \$300 ea. for "Golden Dragon" (Sino Chinese) 12AX7's for his tube mic's, I can get them bulk boxed without the fancy silk-screening and screening for \$60 a dozen but usually have to throw away half they are so bad, the EI's are even worse ! My main gig is working on guitars and guitar amps that have many stages of soaring gain. Go with regular carbon and double the MFD (use polypro orange drops for the stage coupling).

Then look for a NOS or strong *Mullard* or Telefunkan "pull" 12AU7 with matching triodes. That "WILL" sound great, especially in the non A. That will get you a nice bold "grunt" out of the radio
Note: If you one of the guys with SS diodes and 200 ohm resistor replacing the 26Z5: Cranking the audio loud with a strong 12A*7's in the audio section the PTO can modulate to the audio. Use a Variac and no resistor with diodes jOE

From Barry Hauser <barry@hausernet.com> Sun Dec 30 04:54:38 2001
Subject: [R-390] Audio resistors?

One of the Barrys wrote: >> It has been rather quiet so far. Some folks are saying metal film and some are saying carbon.

Either one, just clip those cheap leads off close as you can to the resistor bodies and wire up with low oxygen monster cable. It's a little difficult to work with, especially around the tube socket terminals, but, y'know, hey

..
Glad I didn't mention a thing about what I read about > these test or maintenance CDs for audiophiles. It is supposed to bombard the > stereo gear with a lot of noise all across the spectrum so that the caps > don't form badly from routine music sources.

Excellent idea. Some music in particular can make the caps electrically "lumpy". Also, periodically, large speaker drivers should be rotated 180 degrees to minimize cone sag which can result in the voice coil rubbing.

Similarly, tubular caps should be rotated every 200 hrs. or so to balance wear and electron flow. Eventually, from doing this important maintenance, the leads will break off near the bodies. No problemo -- simply splice on some more of that monster cable, which, BTW, should be stored in a sealed plastic bag with some dessicant and stowed in the freezer, but not too close to the flashlight batteries. A little pyramid couldn't hurt either.

> > My personal favorite can of worms on the list is the cat urine thread, which > also includes cats sleeping on warm radios.

Ahhhh yessss ... the ol' cat urine thing. Related to that, and this is a true story (as distinct from the pack 'o lies I just told, except about speaker drivers): Way back a long time ago, I had (still have) a pair of Altec Voice of the Theater systems. (Don't ask me why.) These were the true, gray four-and-a-half foot high cabinets with the big decals on the side. For convenience sake, and breaking the bass-reflex acoustic rules, I parked the big horns in the bottom of the cabinets, slightly tilted up. They're supposed to go on top of the cabinets, not blocking the port. Meanwhile, we had this tomcat -- unfixed and partial to marking his territory, which would have covered the entire North American continent if we let him. One night, I noticed the left side Altec was lacking the highs, and the midrange for that matter. Well, to make a long story a bit shorter, those horns are like funnels. The grill cloth I had in front of them was of no help. Fortunately, they're also modular and the drivers come off and you can replace the voice coil -- which I did, as the original was mostly green and eaten away. The aluminum/alloy around it wasn't too pretty either. Let me put it this way -- if you could somehow put tomcat squirt in a pen, you could etch your own panels.

I don't think we ever determined > the best lubricant for RF deck gears or if Simple Green is okay to use for > cleaning.

Don't remember a consensus on that -- it was split mostly over three choices -- either Mobil One 10W-30 oil, the 75W Mobil One gear oil, or a high grade of grease found in better gun shops, but I forgot the name Carl recommended. Nolan Lee stressed that Mobil One oil was the best thing and not to use the gear oil as it's hypoidal -- with sulphur compounds (and may be even some tomcat squirt) in it. But we haven't heard from Nolan in a long time. He told us about his cat that likes warm radios. There may have been a fur-ball issue with that. (Sorry gang, it's getting to Auld Lang Sein time and I'm getting a bit nostalgic for the good ol' prewar days on the reflector.)

As for Simple Green -- the conclusion was that it's very good and very bad, depending. Those who use it say that it's great -- they spray all over the modules, blast 'em with the garden hose, throw 'em in the dishwasher, bake 'em in the oven or the hot Arizona, California, etc. sun. Dave Medley says he rinses with distilled water. On the other hand, there's that thing about ionizing cleaners (like SG, 409, etc.) and deposits of salt compounds in phenolic and ceramic insulators, which makes them conduct/arc at high voltages. Sooo, other Barry, you were probably just kidding, but the answer to the SG question is probably the same as the answer to the classic Dirty Harry question: "Do you feel lucky?" And, of course, the eternal, ultimate truth of the universe -- your mileage may vary. Barry

From w7itc@hotmail.com Mon Dec 31 08:17:38 2001
Subject: [R-390] History of SP-600

re: JX-- to jx+++

Somewhere I remember looking at the list of SP-600 models. And it was rather confusing. My JX-17 was made in 1953. At the same time other JX models were in production. Not only that but some were constructed in fits and starts. As I sit here I can look across the room at the SP 600, which in its case weighs just about 100 pounds and realize that everything that big honk'n thing does can now be done on a device the size of a postage stamp. Ken

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From ba.williams@charter.net Sat Dec 29 04:59:48 2001
Subject: [R-390] Audio resistors?

What are the quietest or best resistors for pure audio use? I need to replace some in an amplifier and also in an AF deck that has problems. I may as well do the problem resistors while in there recapping it. Barry

From ba.williams@charter.net Sat Dec 29 04:57:55 2001
Subject: [R-390] Part(s) wanted (twin electrolytic filter cap)

Bill,

Good idea with the reaming or resizing the tube bases. I have also cut a few electrolytic cans open with my Dremel. I have a large box of new ones that was given to me, so I have enough practice cans to play around with. Some can be spread open from the base carefully. You can reseal those bases back like they were originally by curling the metal rim back down flat on the base. One other good alternative to super glue is Liquid Solder. That stuff is putty like and dries very very hard. You can shape it nicely with your fingers or a tool. I just read somewhere that gasoline dissolves the dreaded black unkumpuky.

I'm wondering if cooling holes should be drilled in those electrolytic cans once the caps are replaced. Would trapped heat be a problem? Barry

From w5kp@swbell.net Sat Dec 29 14:07:52 2001

Subject: [R-390] Audio resistors?

<http://www.angela.com/catalog/resistors/Resistors.html> has some really nice tantalum film jobs for \$8 to \$10 each, Barry. The golden audio guys are snapping them up, so you'd best order soon. Stay away from those cheap \$3 jobs, they are of inferior sound quality, I understand. 73, Jerry W5KP

From anchor@ec.rr.com Sat Dec 29 12:14:36 2001

Subject: [R-390] Audio resistors?

OH boy - I'll bet you've opened a can of worms here. 73, Al, W8UT

From anchor@ec.rr.com Sat Dec 29 12:18:59 2001

Subject: [R-390] Part(s) wanted (twin electrolytic filter cap)

Good AM Barry,

The caps won't generate enough heat to worry about, unless they're awful leaky, which your replacements shouldn't be for many years. 73, Al, W8UT

30 From R390rcvr@aol.com Sun Dec 30 19:06:23 2001
Subject: [R-390] K9AY Loop - any experience

Dear list mavens: Has anyone on the list had experience with the K9AY loop? It sounds very good. If so, did you build it or buy it? Happy New Year to all. Randy

From mikobrien@att.net Sun Dec 30 22:36:03 2001

Subject: [R-390] reforming capcitors on heath c-3

Hi All, I just recently bought a heathkit c-3 capcitor checker and it works very well. How would use a checker of this type to reform old capcitors. Thanks Mike mikobrien@att.net

From ko6bb@elite.net Sun Dec 30 22:33:51 2001

Subject: [R-390] URM-25 spoken for

The title says it all. Gee, wish I had several to sell :) 73 de Phil KO6BB

From lexa@mail.island.net Sun Dec 30 22:27:38 2001

Subject: [R-390] Audio resistors?

>I'm sure that you meant the oxygen free cables. >>>Barry

Hi, Is that so the cables don't get the bends? :-) Leo QCI

From hankarn@pacbell.net Sun Dec 30 04:53:04 2001

Subject: [R-390] Audio resistors?

Most of the Golden Audio fools blew the audiograms results away by the time they were 18 now adays. In a chamber they would be very lucky to come out at 500/17,000 if more than 25 years old and less if they have been listening to th O2 free gold monster plated cables for a few months or so. They are out of it. They only hear noise not MUSIC. Hank KN6DI