



the irca technical column

Ask and Ye Shall Receive Dept. ----

An enquiry concerning replacement of the 3TF7 ballast tube in the R-390A resulted in not one but three replies.

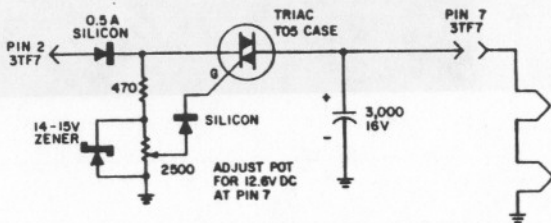
Ralph Sanserino says he used a 50 ohm, 10 watt resistor plugged into the tube socket.

Charles Taylor suggested contacting Don Roller, 3983 Pine View Lane, Greenwood, IN 46142 to see if he has any 3HTF4 ballast tubes which are a direct replacement for the 3TF7.

And Dick Truax found the following info from a MARS bulletin inside an R-390A manual. He printed it in DX News, Vol. 47, #29---so here it is for those who didn't see it there;

Three Methods of Replacing the 3TF7 in the R390 and R390A Receivers

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| <p>R390</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Replace V508 and V701 (PTO and BFO tubes) with 12BA6's. Short pins 2 and 7 on 3TF7 tube socket with a short piece of wire. 2. Leave 6BA6's in PTO and BFO sockets and put a 42 ohm resistor (5 watt) across pins 2 and 7 on the 3TF7. 3. Below is a Triac regulator circuit which can be plugged into pins 2 and 7 on the 3TF7 socket. Ground to one of tube mounting screws. | <p>R390A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Replace V505 and V701 PTO and BFO tubes with 12BA6's and short pins 2 and 7 on 3TF7 socket 2. Same as 2 for R390 3. Same as 3 for R390 |
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---Further info on the 3TF7 ballast tube for the R390 and R390A, this time from Jim Herkimer. He quotes east coast receiver expert Steve Bohac---"I do not recommend replacing this component with a resistor. The ballast tube is an automatic rheostat which keeps the current constant to receiver circuitry despite the current/voltage surge when the equipment is first turned on. The resistance of the ballast increases as the supply voltage increases, or if there is a sudden surge. Unfortunately, a resistor will not perform this function....The company which produces the 3TF7 is located near me and when I checked a few months ago, they had 10,000 type 3TF7's in stock."---they now cost \$15 (no tube is cheap anymore). Write Steve Bohac, P.O. Box 421, Fairview, NJ 07022. Thanks Jim for the info, and thanks to Ralph Sanserino, Charlie Taylor and Dick Truax who also responded to the call for info on the 3TF7. It's your enthusiasm that keeps this column worthwhile.