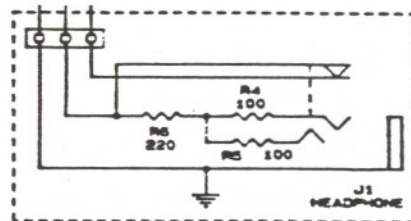


M71-1-1

Drake R8: Low Headphone Volume And Broken Feet

Dallas Lankford, 7 V 93

I doubt I am the first R8 owner to be annoyed by the low headphone volume. I use Radio Shack lightweight mono headphones, #20-210A, rewired to a standard stereo plug. The mono headphones are rated 16 ohms, and, presumably, rewired in series each earphone is 32 ohms. So 8 ohm headphone users must get even lower headphone volume than I got. I removed the R8 front panel (1.5 mm and 2 mm Allen metric hex wrenches required), removed the nut which secures the R8 headphone jack and small attached PC board, unplugged the small PC board, and "Chinese puzzled" it out of the R8. Then I desoldered and removed R4, R5, and R6. Use ChemWick Lite 0.100 desoldering braid, the only desoldering braid which works. I replaced R6 with 47 ohms and R4 and R5 with 10 ohm, 1/4 watt resistors (Radio Shack). Depending on the type of headphones you use, some other resistor values may be optimal for you.



And I doubt I am the first R8 owner to have the tilt feet crack or break. Mine cracked as shown below. Getting a new pair of feet did not seem like a practical solution because they would probably crack too after a few months of use. So I tried filling the hollow space in the long "neck" with J B Weld, which is available at many discount stores. I mixed about 1/3 of each of the two 1 ounce tubes ("STEEL" and "HARDENER") to have plenty of excess, and filled up the hollow spaces in the "necks" of the feet using a toothpick to dab in the thick mixture. If you put the mixture in the feet as soon as you mix it, the mixture will "flow" a little and will mostly level out, except at the edges where surface tension draws it up. I did not fill the spaces completely, maybe within about 1/32 inch of full. Any excess I got on the sides of the feet was easy to remove with toothpicks. When dry, the J B Weld shrunk a little, which is good, because the back sides of the "necks" must clear the mounting screws. I let the J B Weld harden for about 2 days before reinstalling the feet. So far, so good. Whether this is a long term fix remains to be seen.

