

December 21, 2013 – Volume 51, Number 15 – Edition 1616 – ISSN 899-9733

Merry Christmas from DX Monitor!

In This Issue:

Broadcasting Information...	2
Western DX Roundup...	4
Central DX Roundup...	5
Eastern DX Roundup...	5
DX Worldwide West...	7
DX Forum...	9
IRCA Technical Column...	9
IRCA Golden 50 Contest...	22

FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With Christmas just a few short days away, it's never too early to plan ahead. Have you begun planning for the 2014 Golden Anniversary IRCA Convention yet? Details on the upcoming Convention, hosted by John and Nancy Johnson, appear below. Billings, MT is the host city for this milestone event. Speaking of the Convention, the nominations for the Ted Vasilopoulos and Ric Heald Awards are now open. The nomination period is open until February 1, 2014. Check DXM 51-13 and 51-14 for more details. IRCA welcomes William E. Bowers of Stafford, TX, who has paid for three years of DX Monitor. Report your DX often to the appropriate editors, and feel

free to submit a Forum to Rick Evans. Merry Christmas...and may Santa bring you some good DX!

2014 IRCA 50th ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION – BILLINGS, MONTANA

The 2014 IRCA 50th Anniversary Convention will be held in Billings, Montana on September 19th and 20th. John and Nancy Johnson are your convention hosts. The convention will be held at the Lexington Inn & Suites by Vantage located at 3040 King Avenue West. IRCA members are eligible to receive a special room rate of \$95.00(US) per night plus 7% Lodging Tax & \$1.00(US) TBID fees. A limited block of rooms have been set aside so you will want to make your reservations early. Please mention "IRCA-International Radio Club of America" when making your reservation for the special IRCA member's rate. You may call them directly at 406-294-9090 or toll-free 1-877-488-4649. You will need to give them a credit card number and check-in and check-out dates. They do offer an airport shuttle. The parking area is quite large.

With this rate you will enjoy the following COMPLIMENTARY top quality amenities to enhance your stay

- A 100% SMOKE-FREE and PET FREE to ensure a healthy environment,
- Guest rooms featuring beautiful furniture, sitting areas, spacious bright bathrooms, pillow-top mattresses, upgraded bed and bath linens and exceptionally quiet rooms,
- New Panasonic flat-screen TVs, iHome radios
- Comfortable and well-lit workspaces with secure high-speed internet desk access,
- Voice mail and free local calls within the (406) area code,
- Free Internet – wired and wireless
- Indoor swimming pool with hot tub, changing room and outdoor patio, fitness center
- Hot continental breakfast. Some gluten ideas available for purchase.

For more information about Lexington Inn & Suites by Vantage go to LexingtonBillings.com Registration for club* members is just \$35.00(US) (Does NOT include the banquet – details of the banquet will be announced later). Non-club member's registration is \$50.00(US) which includes a one year membership in the IRCA. (Hint: Save money, a one year membership in the IRCA is less than the increased registration fee for non-members. Join the IRCA now.) You may pay in advance by check or PayPal. If paying by PayPal, please add \$1.00(US) to the \$1.34(US) additional charges added on by PayPal. Use this PayPal address: john@johninmontana.com and include a message that the money is for the IRCA convention registration. If paying via check, make that out to John C. Johnson and mail to 265 Waterton Way, Billings, Montana 59102-7755. *club membership in IRCA, NRC, and WTFDA qualifies for the \$35.00(US) registration fee. Non club members are encouraged to join the IRCA.

More details about the convention will be announced later. Check out the IRCA Facebook site too! If you have any questions please contact John Johnson at john@johninmontana.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT (Phil Bytheway)

We are currently looking for a volunteer for **DX TEST (CPC) Chairman**. Helps arrange DX tests from stations and communicate with the various radio clubs/eGroups. In addition, we are seeking a volunteer to compile the **IRCA Slogans List**.

Contact me if interested in either position or have concerns about IRCA. pb

BROADCASTING INFORMATION

Robert J. Wien (KG6RJW/3) - 902 Hall Station Drive #104 - Bowie, MD 20721
E-mail: wienbob@aol.com Column Deadlines: Saturdays

DATE OF COLUMN: DECEMBER 14, 2013

Column data span: November 30, 2013-December 14, 2013

Data courtesy of Stationintel.com, FCC database and member contributions
COLUMN DEADLINES: SATURDAYS

Please send your tips to the Email address above only and no other.
Deadlines for column will be Saturdays. Thank you.

CALL CHANGES

FREQ	OLD CALL	CITY OF LICENSE	NEW CALL
790	WQSV	Ashland City, TN	WJNA
1080	KUDO	Anchorage, AK	KOAN
1180	WSFM	Carolina Beach, NC	WLTT
1180	WCRI	Hope Valley, RI	WSKP
1270	WRJM	Charleston, IL	WEIC

FORMAT, SLOGAN AND SILENT STATUS CHANGES

FREQ	CALL	CITY OF LICENSE	NEW INFORMATION
730	WTNT	Alexandria, VA	old slogan: "730 The Truth", new: "La Capital 730"
730	WTNT	Alexandria, VA	was Talk, now Spanish Hits
930	WPKX	Rochester, NH	old slogan: "The Sports Animal", new: "Fox Sports 930"
930	WPKX	Rochester, NH	was ESPN Radio, now Fox Sports Radio network
1180	KXIQ	Turrell, AR	was Classic Country, now News/Talk
1180	WSKP	Hope Valley, RI	was Classical, now Oldies
1180	WSKP	Hope Valley, RI	adds slogan "Kool 1180"
1210	WPHT	Philadelphia, PA	adds unknown network
1220	WCPH	Etowah, TN	adds slogan: "Homegrown 1220"
1220	WCPH	Etowah, TN	was Southern Gospel, now Oldies
1220	WFWL	Camden, TN	was Cumulus Real Country, now WW1 Hot Country
1220	WFWL	Camden, TN	new: "The Catfish"
1220	WFWL	Camden, TN	old slogan: "The Station You Grew Up With"
1220	WLPO	La Salle, IL	adds additional unknown network
1230	WCBT	Roanoke Rapids, NC	was sports, now Urban Gospel, R&B Oldies
1260	WHYM	Lake City, SC	adds slogan "97.9 FM Classic Hits"
1260	WHYM	Lake City, SC	was Salem Solid Gospel, now Cumulus Classic Hits
1310	WDTW	Dearborn, MI	was silent, now new unknown format
1340	KJMU	Sand Springs, OK	was silent, now new unknown format
1340	KOLE	Port Arthur, TX	was silent, now new unknown format
1350	WRWR	Warner Robins, GA	was News, now R&B Oldies
1370	KTPA	Prescott, AR	now silent
1380	WMYF	Portsmouth, NH	old slogan: "The Sports Animal"
1380	WMYF	Portsmouth, NH	new: "America's Best Music 1380"
1380	WMYF	Portsmouth, NH	was Sports, now Adult Standards
1380	WNRN	North Augusta, SC	was silent, now Urban Gospel
1400	WSMY	Weldon, NC	old slogan: "Rejoice 1400", new: "1400 The Score"
1400	WSMY	Weldon, NC	was Urban Gospel, now ESPN Sports Radio
1410	WENU	South Glenn Falls, NY	adds slogan: "1410 CBS Sports"
1410	WENU	South Glenn Falls, NY	was WW1 Classic Country, now CBS Sports
1410	WZBR	Dedham, MA	changes city of license from Brockton to Dedham
1410	WZBR	Dedham, MA	was silent, now new unknown format

1420	WRSB	St. Albans, VT	was silent, now Oldies, adds slogan: "Cruisin' 93.7"
1430	KVVN	Santa Clara, CA	new: "The Voice ff Vietnam"
1430	KVVN	Santa Clara, CA	old slogan: "San Jose's New Asian Voice"
1430	WPNI	Amherst, MA	now silent
1490	WFAD	Middlebury, VT	was silent, now Oldies, add slogan: "Cruisin' 93.7"
1490	WTVL	Waterville, ME	now silent
1530	KXTD	Wagoner, OK	old slogan: "La Luz AM 1530", new: "Qué Buena"
1530	KXTD	Wagoner, OK	was Spanish Christian, now Regional Mexican
1530	WLWB	New Holstein, WI	was Regional Mexican, now new unknown format
1550	WAZX	Smyrna, GA	was silent, now new unknown format
1550	WHIT	Madison, WI	new: "Country Legends HANK AM 1550"
1550	WHIT	Madison, WI	old slogan: "Hit Radio 1550"
1550	WHIT	Madison, WI	was Oldies, now Classic Country
1570	KZLI	Catoosa, OK	old slogan: "Mega 1570", new: "La Luz 1570"
1570	KZLI	Catoosa, OK	was Spanish CHR, now Spanish Contemporary Christian

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Dale Park of (unknown city) California sends along the following from the San Francisco, CA Examiner, sent 12/10/13:

Bay Area gets back an hour of Armstrong and Getty

Fans of the Armstrong and Getty radio show got some good news this week. Clear Channel Media and Entertainment San Francisco announced Thursday that the popular show hosted by Jack Armstrong and Joe Getty will return to its full four hour 6-10 a.m. time slot in the Bay Area next month.

As previously reported, in Jan. 2012, Rush Limbaugh moved from KSFO to News Talk 910 (KKSF), taking over the 9 a.m. to noon slot and bumping off the last hour of the A&G show in the Bay Area. The show's flagship station, KSTE, continued to broadcast the full four hours of the show in Sacramento.

Starting Jan. 1, 2014, The Rush Limbaugh Show will move down the dial in the Bay Area to KNEW 960 AM in its usual 9 a.m. to noon slot.

Vice President of Programming for Clear Channel San Francisco, Don Parker, stated in a press release, "We are excited to continue to grow the live and local programming on Talk 910 with the expansion of the Armstrong & Getty show. We're also thrilled to welcome the Bay's leading midday Talk personality, Randi Rhodes, to Talk 910. With these adjustments, our already impressive growth will only be enhanced in 2014. At the same time, the new line-up on 960 KNEW will be a destination for conservative listeners who follow America's top personalities – all in one place."

The Armstrong and Getty show got another big boost in June when San Diego station KFMB began airing the show. KFMB runs A&G 6-9 a.m. with the last hour lopped off to give the Mike Slater show a full three hours.

Earlier this year, Armstrong and Getty changed their voter registration affiliation to the Libertarian Party. If you are not familiar with the duos' political philosophy, a speech they gave before the Conservative Forum in Dec. 2012 is posted above.

Here's the new KNEW and KKSF lineup effective January 1, 2014:

Talk 910 (910 AM, KKSF) Weekday Programming Line-Up:

6 – 10 a.m. Armstrong & Getty
 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Frosty
 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Randi Rhodes
 3 – 7 p.m. Gil Gross

960 KNEW (960 AM) Weekday Programming Line-Up:

6 – 9 a.m. Glenn Beck
 9 a.m. – noon Rush Limbaugh
 Noon – 3 p.m. Sean Hannity
 3 - 6 p.m. Andy Dean

Dennis Gibson of Santa Barbara, CA also sent along some FCC call letter changes. Thanks, Dennis!

11 days till Xmas, hope all of you get the radio or antenna you are wishing for and report the DX you hear with it to your respective column or changes to my column. Happy 2014! 73's. Bob Wien



WESTERN DX ROUNDUP

Nancy Johnson – 265 Waterton Way – Billings MT 59102-7755

E-mail: NancyJohnson@prodigy.net

WDXR DEADLINES: Dec. 20, Dec. 27, Jan. 3, Jan. 17, Jan. 24, Jan. 31. Please use Eastern Time.

REPORTERS FOR THIS ISSUE:

- (RB) **Rick Barton**-El Mirage, AZ desertmoon_dxshack@inbox.com
Barefoot Panasonic RF-2200, Grundig Satellit 750, Hammarlund HQ-180A, indoor loop and outdoor Slinky
- (BB) **Bill Block**-7716 E. Thelma Drive-Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 billblock@cableone.net
Drake R8

- 570 KNRS UT, Salt Lake City 12/8 2245 break form "Bill Cunningham Show" to major account spots, back to some sort of over the air town hall type meeting. Very good. (RB-AZ)
- 580 KMJ CA, Fresno 12/8 2305 "right here in Fresno...in the local area...Fresno." (RB-AZ)
- 670 KLTT CO, Commerce City 12/8 2250 religious lecture to promotional announcements, woman & man both with ID "On the Mighty 6-70, KLT." Is actually KLTT, but it sounded like they were actually saying KLT. Very good with some splashover from adjacent channel. (RB-AZ)
- 760 KFMB CA, San Diego 12/10 2105 "Follow us on 7-60 KFMB dot com." Good. (RB-AZ)
- 780 KKOH NV, Reno 12/10 0850 Ross Mitchell on Christmas shopping, break to Kommando "digital minute." Weak with deep long fades. (RB-AZ)
- 790 KABC CA, Los Angeles 12/10 0915 morning program with "L.A. city watchdog," sketchy reception here with rising sun. (RB-AZ)
- 930 KSEI ID, Pocatello 12/10 1926 "Sports Talk KSEI." (BB-AZ)
- 960 KNEW CA, Oakland 12/8 0854 heard with "960 KNEW." (BB-AZ)
- 1040 WHO IA, Des Moines 12/8 2330 "on news radio 10-40 WHO" by male, repeated by woman with news briefs & reference to brutal winter weather in Iowa at the moment. (RB-AZ)
- 1070 KNX CA, Los Angeles 12/8 1035 woman with local area traffic report, said further information available "KNX 10-70 dot com." Fair, alone on the channel, a few deep fades after local sunrise. (RB-AZ)
- 1140 KGEM ID, Boise 12/11 0530 repetitive responsive readings, religious program, "Salt and Light" slogan. Weak but clear. (RB-AZ)
- 1150 KTLK CA, Los Angeles 12/13 0545 "America in the Morning" to break and spots, market report. Male with ToH ID "KTLK Los Angeles," and slogan that was lost in a fadedown. Ranging from good to poor with deep fades. (RB-AZ)
- 1190 KEX OR, Portland 12/13 0902 traffic report and weather. (BB-AZ)
- 1210 KHKR UT, Washington 12/8 0900 break from country music to ID by male that failed to even mention the AM frequency or call ("Big Classic Country ninety seven point seven"). A disturbing new trend, with a number of stations, when only the VHF frequency is acknowledged. (RB-AZ)
- 1250 KNEU UT, Roosevelt 12/7 1928 with "Real Country KNEU 1250." (BB-AZ)
- 1560 KNZR CA, Bakersfield 12/7 1915 monologue that sounded like Glenn Beck, maybe a rebroadcast tape. Good pre-sunset, with a few deep fades. (RB-AZ)
- 1620 KSMH CA, Sacramento 12/10 0855 Catholic mass suddenly wiped out by rock music and intro to fundraising program. ID by male at ToH "Immaculate Heart Radio KSMH West Sacramento." Good. (RB-AZ)
- 1690 KDDZ CO, Arvada 12/11 1025 female pop vocals, heard well after local sunrise at after 8 in local morning. Fair, suddenly covering KFSG (California). (RB-AZ)

UNID

- 1640 UNID 12/8 2218 USA national anthem heard just under KDIA and man with religious lecture. Sporting event (?) I don't have a sports station listed for here. Daytime only? Didn't have that listed either, but the Anthem quite clear. (RB-AZ)

Thank you to Rick and Bill for their WDXR reports this week. It's another "All Arizona" column. Nancy 12/13 2100



CENTRAL DX ROUNDUP

John C Johnson – 265 Waterton Way – Billings MT 59102-7755
E-mail: John_Johnson@prodigy.net CDXR reports ONLY: cdxr@ircaonline.org

RIDING GAIN

[EB-MO] Eric Bueneman, Hazelwood, MO NOUIHEric@aol.com
GE Superadio III, Yaesu FRG-7, Worcester Space Magnet II.
[TMJ-IL] Tom Jasinski, Joliet, IL amdixer@core.com
Drake R8A and Quantum QX Pro V2.0 Loop antenna.

DOWN THE DIAL

730 WZGV NC, Cramerton. 12/10, 16:45 to 17:10, on SSS, "ESPN 730", frequent mentions of Charlotte and NC sports, several local spots followed by complete ID at 17:05, all alone on the channel. The city of Cramerton does not show up on my well used 1979 Rand McNally Road Atlas, found them on MapQuest! [TMJ-IL]
910 KVIS OK, Miami. 12/10, 22:15 to 23:00, heard EWTN Catholic radio and later "KSIV 910 the Kings Vision" ID, mixing with WSUI. Checked EWTN website going thru all the states and no EWTN shows up on 910kHz! Suspect this is KVIS. [TMJ-IL] (The calls on this one are KVIS...KSIV is on 1320 kHz in Clayton, MO-EiC)
1150 WJBO LA, Baton Rouge. 12/11 fair to poor signal, mixing with CKOC, KNED. 03:36 noted with "News radio 11-50 WJBO" ID into C2C. [EB-MO]
WONG MS, Canton 12/11 fair to poor signal, mixing with CKOC, WJBO, KNED. 03:40 noted with Urban Gospel format, "11-50 Gospel" mention and call letters. [EB-MO]
1550 CBEF ON, Windsor 12/10 fair to poor signal, mixing with KESJ. 17:50 noted with interview in French. [EB-MO]

25 YEARS AGO

December 17, 1988 issue of IRCA's "DX Monitor" ... Tom Laskowski of South Bend, IN managed to log four New Jersey stations in a week, WNJR, WWBZ, WXMC, and WFPG ... Randy Tomer of Eureka, CA celebrated his 40th birthday buying a Sony SRF-M40W ... New members included Nigel Pimblett of Medicine Hat, AB.

OPEN MIKE

Nancy and I hope you have a Merry Christmas and that Santa brings you something special. It's still early enough to join this year's DX contest, and not too early to start planning that vacation to Montana to attend the 2014 IRCA 50th Anniversary Convention. This column was typed 12-12-13. 73, John

EASTERN DX ROUNDUP

Eric Bueneman (NØUIH) – 631 Coachway Lane – Hazelwood, MO 63042-1347
E-mail: n0uiheric@aol.com DEADLINES: Thursday 2000 ELT

TUNING THE DIALS THIS ISSUE:

(KK-VA) Kraig Krist (KG4LAC), Manassas, VA
Winradio G33DDC software defined receiver, Wellbrook ALA1530S+ Imperium loop
(RW-MD) Robert Wien (KG6RJW/3), Bowie, MD
C. Crane CCRadio, Worcester Space Magnet II

ACROSS THE DIAL

1090 WKTE NC King – 12/8 1702 noted with "You're listening to *Fueling the Faith* right here on WKTE 1090" mention by male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with WBAL, WTSB, and stations carrying Christian teaching (probably KAAV-eb), Christian music, French and Spanish language programming. (KK-VA)
1090 WTSB NC Selma – 12/8 1656 noted with *Carolina Newsmakers* program, "Classic Country and Bluegrass WTSB 1090" mention by male announcer. "Your source for the best local news, weather, sports and events, AM 1090 WTSB Selma, Smithfield, North Carolina" legal ID by another male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with WBAL, WKTE and unidentified stations carrying Christian teaching (probably KAAV-eb), Christian music, French and Spanish language programming. (KK-VA)
1100 WWWE GA Hapeville – 12/8 1703 noted with "...listening to AM 1100...WWWE...wherever you go, download the app...WWWE Hapeville" legal ID by male announcer coming out of presumed Dave Ramsey. The signal was noted mixing with WTAM and unidentified station carrying music and Spanish language

programming. I find this very interesting as WTAM used to be WWWE (3-W-E). (KK-VA)

1150 WBAG NC Burlington – 12/7 0055 noted with "We're Your Hometown Radio Station, AM 1150 WBAG" ID by male announcer. The signal noted mixing with WAVO and an unidentified music station (probably CKOC-eb). (KK-VA)
1160 WCVX KY Florence – 12/7 0159 noted with "...here on Christian Talk 1160 WCVX Florence..." legal ID into SRN News. The signal was noted mixing with WYLL, WTEL, and an unidentified Oldies station. (KK-VA)
1160 WTEL NC Red Springs – 12/7 0118 noted with "Bringing you this spiritual and Gospel recording...this is The Power House, WTEL Red Springs, North Carolina. A...broadcast station" ID by male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with WYLL, WCVX and an unidentified Oldies station. (KK-VA)
1390 WKPA VA Lynchburg – 12/1 1700 noted with "WKBA Vinton/Roanoke, WKPA Lynchburg, FM 106.7, worldwide at WKBA Radio-dot-com and on your Smart Phone..." legal ID. The FM might refer to WKVK Semora, NC. The signal was noted mixing with WZHF, WSPO, WFBL and unidentified stations with an Oldies format and Fox Sports Radio. (KK-VA)
1480 WSDS MI Salem Township – 12/1 1630 noted with "La hora...quarto...presentación...la hora cinta...quarto" mention in Spanish, "La Explosiva" ID by male announcer. An ad for a real estate firm in Detroit noted at 1633 by male announcer in Spanish. The signal was noted mixing with WTOX, WYRN, WCNS, WTOY and unidentified stations carrying talk, Jazz, Christian teaching, sports talk, Oldies and what sounded like Chinese. (The station in Chinese is WZRC New York, which actually broadcasts in Cantonese-eb) (KK-VA)
1480 WYRN NC Louisburg – 12/1 1707 noted with "You're getting your Blues on WYRN AM 1480" ID by male announcer, Blues music. "Walking heavy and hitting hard, WYRN AM 1480" ID by male announcer at 1733. The signal was noted mixing with WSDS, WTOX, WCNS, WTOY, WZRC and unidentified stations carrying talk, Jazz, Christian teaching, sports talk and Oldies. (KK-VA)
1480 WCNS PA Latrobe – 12/1 1706 noted with "America's Best Music, 1480 WCNS" ID by male announcer into Christmas song. The signal was noted mixing with WSDS, WTOX, WTOY, WYRN, WZRC, and unidentified stations carrying talk, Jazz, Christian teaching, sports talk and Oldies. (KK-VA)
1480 WTOX VA Glen Allen – 12/1 1635 noted with "La Gran D" ID in Spanish by female announcer. The signal was noted mixing with WSDS, WCNS, WTOY, WYRN, WZRC and unidentified stations carrying talk, Jazz, Christian teaching, sports talk and Oldies. (KK-VA)
1480 WTOY VA Salem – 12/1 1715 noted with "WTOY 1480 AM Salem/Roanoke, Virginia ...WTOY" ID by male announcer into Christian music selection. The signal was noted mixing with WSDS, WTOX, WCNS, WYRN, WZRC, and unidentified stations carrying talk, Jazz, Christian music, sports talk and Oldies. (KK-VA)
1490 WNTJ PA Johnstown – 12/1 1656 noted with "Your talker in the Laurel Highlands, News/Talk 1490 WNTJ" ID by male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with unidentified stations carrying sports and music. (KK-VA)
1510 WWBC FL Cocoa – 12/1 1700 noted with "You're listening to WWBC...W264AS...bringing The Word" ID. The signal was noted mixing with WLAC, WWBC, WUFC, WPGR, and an unidentified station carrying Spanish (either WRRD Waukesha, WI or WQQW Highland, IL-eb). (KK-VA)
1510 WUFC MA Boston – 12/1 1800 noted with "Beantown sports fans now have sports' best one-two punch, NBC and Yahoo! Sports Radio, WUFC Boston" legal ID by male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with WLAC, WLKR, WWBC, WPGR and unidentified stations carrying Spanish and sports talk. (KK-VA)
1510 WLKR OH Norwalk – 12/1 1629 noted with "Pure Gold, WLKR" jingle. The signal was noted mixing with WLAC, WWBC, WUFC, WPGR and unidentified stations carrying Spanish and sports talk. (KK-VA)
1510 WPGR PA Monroeville – 12/1 1659 noted with "We're One Body...WAOB-FM 106.7 Beaver Falls, WAOB (860 AM) Millvale, WPGR 1510 AM Monroeville" legal ID by male announcer. The signal was noted mixing with WLAC, WWBC, WUFC, WLKR and unidentified stations carrying Spanish and sports talk. (KK-VA)

DX TESTS

1450 ?WKAL? NY Rome – 12/15 0101-0103, 0133-1037 TENTATIVE both times with apparent Morse Code ID fading up over the mess, but not really discernible enough to make out the letters. I thought I heard a "-.", then a "-." at 0137 which would correspond to "NY" but not definitive. Did the code run well past 0130 on the half hour during this portion? The one at the top of the hour did stop pretty clearly about 0103, there was also a station weak in there playing Christmas

music, and a sports talk station, but nothing else; a real graveyard but relatively clear. The code on 1450 peaked out pretty nice at 0201, but what I heard didn't seem to sound right: "QDEWKILI"?? This one probably had some characters off. I'm sure it was them...it was definitely Morse Code. I'm not that good at it though; wish I could have recorded it but couldn't with what I have. (RW-MD)

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thanks to Bob Carter of Mid-Atlantic Engineering for putting on the WKAL 1450 test! With 1450 revealing an occasional KOKO, KMRY or WGNS in my area, it would be a difficult catch. I hope some of us heard the WCIT 940 test from Lima, OH. Thanks to Fred Vobbe (W8HDU) for arranging this test!

Trivia time: Kraig mentioned WWWE earlier; when I started in this hobby over 30 years ago, the calls were assigned to what is now WTAM in Cleveland, OH. When I had this station verified in 1982 as WWWE, the station was known as "Country 11" with a Country format. The station also held the calls KYW and WKYC over the years. KYW is, of course, on 1060 kHz in Philadelphia; WKYC remains in Cleveland as a digital TV station on RF Channel 17 (virtual Channel 3). The 1100 assignment was originally in Carrollton, GA (in Carroll County) as WLBB...the calls moved to 1330 kHz (ex-WPPI) when the 1100 frequency was sold and moved across the county line to Hapeville (in Fulton County), near Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta. When Cleveland dropped the WWWE call, the owners of the Hapeville station snapped up the call sign.

DX Worldwide East is taking a holiday break.

73 and good DX from NØUIH

DX WORLDWIDE – WEST / TROPICAL BAND DX

Patrick Martin – PO Box 843 – Seaside OR 97138
E-mail: mwdxer@webtv.net all times UTC

Deadlines Monday noon PLT.

TRANS PACIFIC DX ROUNDUP

- 153 **RUSSIA**, Komsomolsk, Radio Rossii. 1425 12/12 fair signal with man in Russian. Active whip. (DV-WA)
- 279 **RUSSIA**, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Radio Rossii. 1427 12/12 good signal with man in Russian. NW ewe. (DV-WA)
- 594 **JAPAN**, JOAK, Tokyo, NHK1. 1429 12/12 very weak signal with man in Japanese. NW ewe. (DV-WA)
- + 1534 12/15 weak signal and Japanese talk. NW ewe. (DV-WA)
- 603 **REP KOREA**, HLSA, Seoul. 1457 12/12 poor signal. 1507 very weak signal with woman in Korean, NW ewe. (DV-WA)
- 693 **JAPAN**, JOAB, Tokyo, NHK2. Very poor w/final tone of the time pips 1300 12/12, bits of male talk 1304. (bp-WA)
- 747 **JAPAN**, JOIB, Tokyo, NHK2. Man & woman 1256 12/9, sounded like language lesson, pips at ToH. (bp-WA)
- + 1333 Chinese lessons, 1400 12/12 time pips then fanfare and Japanese talk. (bp-WA)
- + 1442 12/12 weak signal with man in Japanese. Heavy splatter. NW ewe. (DV-WA)
- + English lessons 1253 12/13, time pips 1300. (bp-WA)
- 774 **JAPAN**, JOUB, Akita, NHK2. Weak male talk 1307 12/9. (bp-WA)
- + 1320 12/12, end of weather report, then local ID and start of English lesson. (bp-WA)
- + 1443 12/12 very weak signal with man in Japanese, NW ewe. (DV-WA)
- + Weather report 1319 12/13, local ID 1320, then start of English lesson. (bp-WA)
- 828 **JAPAN**, JOBB, Osaka, NHK2. Talk poor in KGNW splatter 1340 12/9. (bp-WA)
- + Time pips 1400 12/12, otherwise just traces of audio. (bp-WA)
- + English lesson //747 1253 12/13. (bp-WA)
- 972 **REP KOREA**, HLCA, Dangjin, KBS. Woman in Korean 1355 12/12. (bp-WA)
- + 1430 12/12 fair signal with man/woman in Korean. Moderate splatter. NW ewe. (DV-WA)
- + Weak male talk 1507 12/13. (bp-WA)
- 1044 **CHINA**, Changzhou, CRI. 1435 12/12 weak signal with woman in Japanese followed by music. NW ewe. (DV-WA)
- 1170 **REP KOREA**, HLSR, Gimje, KBS. Time pips 1400 12/12 during well-timed 2 second pause in KPUG audio. (bp-WA)
- 1206 **CHINA**, Yanbian. 1515 12/12 traces of talk on 1205.96. (bp-WA)
- 1287 **JAPAN**, JOHR, Sapporo, HBC. 1523-1540 12/11 Japanese discussion good on peaks but sometimes faded into the splatter. (bp-WA)
- 1314 **JAPAN**, JOUF, Osaka, OBC. Japanese talk & short bits of music, sounded like a series of ads 1529 12/11. (bp-WA)

- 1323 **UnID**. Woman talking in what sounded like Russian 1536 12/11, which would make it CRI. Good carrier but shallow modulation. (bp-WA)
- 1386 **JAPAN**, NHK2 synchros. Woman very poor //1602 1531 12/11, amid KRKO IBOC QRM. (bp-WA)
- 1413 **UnID**. Weak male talk 1534 12/11. (bp-WA)
- 1422 **JAPAN**, JORF, Yokohama, RF Radio Nippon. Weak Japanese talk 1531 12/11 in 1420 splatter. (bp-WA)
- + 1502 12/12 very weak signal with man in Japanese. NW ewe. (DV-WA)
- + Music 1536 12/13, probably JORF. (bp-WA)
- 1440 **JAPAN**, JOWF, Sapporo, STV. Animated Japanese woman overpowering the domestics 1530 12/11. (bp-WA)
- 1467 **UnID**. What sounded like woman talking 1532 12/11, way too much KGAA-1460 splatter to tell anything further. (bp-WA)
- 1476 **UnID**. Weak music 1533 12/11 in heavy domestic splatter. (bp-WA)
- 1494 **UnID**. Japanese talk fading above the noise at times 1526-1534 12/11. (bp-WA)
- 1503 **JAPAN**, JOUK, Akita, NHK1. Men in Japanese fading in & out 1531-35 12/11, sounded like phone interview. (bp-WA)
- + 1504 12/12 very weak signal with man in Japanese. NW ewe. (DV-WA)
- + Male talk 1534 12/13. Japanese-like inflections. (bp-WA)
- + 1504 12/15 very weak signal with music. NW ewe. (DV-WA)
- 1503 **NEW ZEALAND**, Sport Radio. 1531 12/15 assuming the station with weak signal with man in English over JOUK music. NW ewe. (DV-WA)
- 1557 **TAIWAN**, Kouhu, Music Interactive Network. Mellow Chinese talk 1528 12/9, then pop music 1530. (bp-WA)
- + Woman in Chinese poor in heavy splatter 1538 12/13, presumably Taiwan. (bp-WA)
- + 1527 12/15 weak signal with music. NW ewe. (DV-WA)
- 1566 **REP KOREA**, HLAZ, Cheju, FEBC. Chinese talk & music 1530 12/9. (bp-WA)
- + Two Chinese women talking and occasionally laughing 1531 12/11. (bp-WA)
- + Peaked early today w/usual assortment of Japanese talks, 1250-1330 12/12, much weaker after that. (bp-WA)
- + 1437 12/12 fair signal with woman in Chinese. NW ewe. (DV-WA)
- + Man & woman in Chinese 1541 12/13. (bp-WA)
- + 1525 12/15 fair signal with man in Chinese. NW ewe. (DV-WA)
- 1575 **THAILAND**, Rasom, VOA. Weak music, possibly nonstop, sounding like US pop music 1526-1540+ 12/11, maybe occasional short announcements consistent with DJ talking between songs. AFN most likely but way too weak to say for sure. No sign of normal VOA programming. (bp-WA)
- + 1438 12/12 weak signal with woman in Asian language. NW ewe. (DV-WA)
- + Bits of what sounded like rock music 1534 12/13, probably AFN. (bp-WA)
- + 1526 12/15 weak signal with man in Asian language. NW ewe. (DV-WA)
- 1593 **CHINA**, Changzhou, CNR1. A few syllables now & then in the KLFE-1590 splash 1525 12/9. (bp-WA)
- + Occasional syllables poking through the splatter from "Freedom-1590" 1528 12/11. Not sure if it was China or Japan. (bp-WA)
- + Man and woman in Chinese 1320 12/12. KLFE-1590 splatter a bit less than normal at the time. (bp-WA)
- + 1447 12/12 weak signal with man in Chinese. NW ewe. Good at 1505. Heavy KOHI splatter. (DV-WA)
- + Woman in heavy 1590 splatter, cadence consistent with CNR1 1535 12/13. (bp-WA)
- + 1539 12/15 assuming the weak signal with music. NW ewe. Heavy KOHI splatter. (DV-WA)
- 1602 **JAPAN**, NHK2 synchros. Woman in Japanese 1529 12/11. (bp-WA)
- + NHK2 partial time pips 1300 12/12. (bp-WA)
- + Sign-off with faint strains of Japanese NA 1540 12/13, then music box IS 1541, poor in 1600 splatter. (bp-WA)

PAN AMERICAN DX ROUNDUP

- 730 **MÉXICO**, XEHB, Hidalgo del Parral, Chih. 0704 12/11, Chihuahua state song, 0705 Ke Buena full ID starting with XEHB-FM, Grupo RadioRama, Hidalgo del Parral (really XEHB is the FM 107.1 call per Cantú.) (GH-OK)
- 770 **UnID**. 1316 12/8, mentions "La T Norteña," loops SW. Could have been some other rhyming letter, not necessarily a slogan ID, and none such listed. Thanks to KKOB, only northern XEs on 770 are XEACH Monterrey, and XEREV Los Mochis, which are Fórmula and 40 Principales respectively. Google search finds no such slogan on 770, but helpfully suggests "La Fe Norteña," apparently a musical reference. (GH-OK)
- 860 **UnID**. 1313 12/8, Spanish song looping WSW, no problem from KKOW KS in opposite direction. There are six possibilities in NW Mexico, closest being XEZOL in Juárez, but per 2012 IRCA Log, its format is news. (GH-OK)

THANKS TO THESE REPORTERS

bp-WA **BRUCE PORTZER**, Seattle WA
Winradio Excalibur, K9AY antenna
DV-WA **DENNIS VROOM**, Kalama WA
JRC NRD 545, NW ewe + sky wire loop 880', High Performance Active Whip (HPAW),
Palstar Tuner MW550P
GH-OK **GLENN HAUSER**, Enid OK
Mostly DX-398 with internal antenna only or Sony SRF-59

DX FORUM

Richard C Evans – 3908 Grand Oak Ave Apt 4 – Indianapolis IN 46237
E-mail: REvans5435@yahoo.com DEADLINES: Saturdays

Deadlines: 12/28 1/4 1/11 1/18 1/25 2/1 2/8 2/15 2/20 3/15--Anniversary Issue 3/28 4/13 4/27 5/10 5/24 6/7 6/21 7/5 7/19 8/16

Glenn Hauser, P O Box 1684, Enid OK 73702

Greetings. As a long-time IRCA member, former BOD member, and active domestic MW DXer, I am eager to participate in DX Monitor. Unfortunately, my method of reporting logs is incompatible with the desires of the current CDXR editor to make them as concise and formatted as possible. So I have given up sending my logs there. I spend a lot of time researching and writing my logs, each one a potential learning experience, and what I hear or find may also lead to the expression of an opinion. Just-the-facts 1 or 2-liners I find rather boring. If anyone would like to read my original logs (which are all in UT, not the imaginary and shiftable ``ELT``), please bookmark these sources. I compile them weekly.

In the IRCA mailing list, archived here with open access:
<http://www.mail-archive.com/irca@hard-core-dx.com/maillist.html>
or subscribe and participate if you are not doing so already.

The corresponding domestic DX column in NRC DX News publishes my logs with much less condensing.

All my MW DX reports starting August 2011 are archived in this forum with open access:
<http://forums.wtfdm.org/showthread.php?6543-MW-DX-from-Enid-OK-by-Glenn-Hauser/page15>

MW logs are included in my daily all-band reports:
<http://www.hard-core-dx.com/index.php?topic=Hauser>

And compiled weekly along with extensive SW, MW and other DX news from many other individuals and publications in DX LISTENING DIGEST:
<http://www.worldofradio.com/dxldmid.html>
73, Glenn

Richard Evans, Apt. 4, 3908 Grand Oak Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46237-4694

I just want to take a quick moment to wish everyone a blessed holiday and best wishes for the new year to come. 73.

IRCA TECHNICAL COLUMN

Nick Hall-Patch – 1538 Amphion St – Victoria BC Canada V8R 4Z6
E-mail: nhp@ieee.org

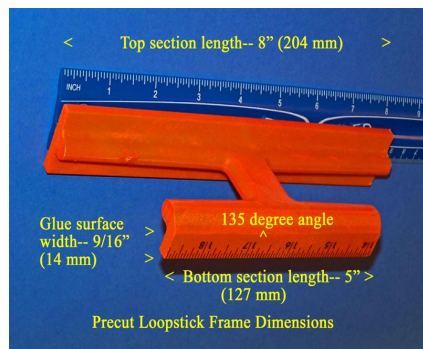


Figure 1

7.5" Loopstick Tecsun PL-380 Model
Transform Your Tiny Tecsun Into a World-Class MW or LW-DXing Portable, part 2
By Gary DeBock

(Errata from part 1: "Miscellaneous: 3" of 3/16" shrink tubing" on the final page of part 1 should read "Miscellaneous: 6" of 1/16" shrink tubing". If a builder attempts to use 3/16" shrink tubing in the model it will not be a major mistake, but the too-large tubing will slide up and down the Litz wires, and probably not fit through the wrist strap routing hole. ---gdb)

Loopstick Plastic Frame Preparation WARNING: The use of power tools should NOT be attempted by inexperienced users! Instructions are given for the use of a hacksaw, as well as a power miter saw.

Do NOT attempt to cut the frames with a power miter saw unless you have serious power tool experience. Proceed at your own risk. NOTE: Each Ace Hardware 48" level provides enough material to construct two plastic loopstick frames. The spare material can either be used for a second 7.5" loopstick PL-380 project (such a Longwave-optimized model), or as extra material for the future.

NOTE: When cutting the plastic loopstick frames with a power miter saw, some hot plastic debris will typically form along the cut lines. This debris should be promptly removed with a rag before continuing.

1) Remove the Ace Hardware tag from the plastic level, and place the level on a flat surface, with the labeled (ruler surface) in front, as shown in Figure 2. Locate the two vertical sections of plastic resembling those in the Figure 1 (at the 16" and 32" points on the ruler scale), and at either vertical section (or at both, if you wish to construct two loopstick frames), mark the exact center line of the vertical section with a pencil, as shown in Figure 2. Extend the line to the top and bottom sections of the plastic level, as shown.

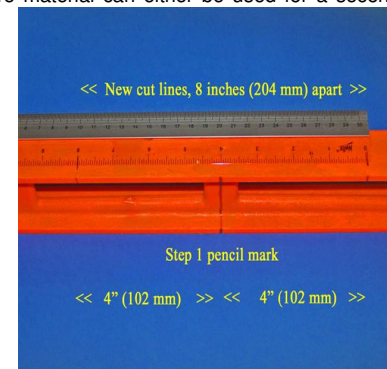


Figure 2

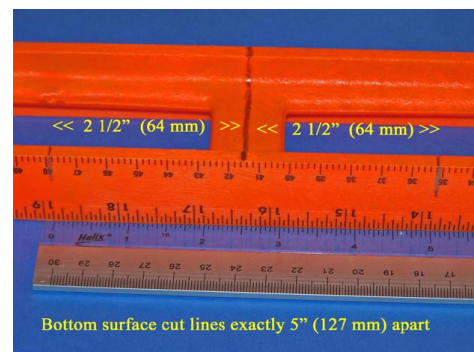


Figure 3

Ensure that these two new pencil marks are exactly 5" (127 mm) apart, then carefully extend these pencil marks onto bottom (labeled) surface of the plastic level, as shown in Figure 3. Ensure that these two new marks are parallel to each other, and exactly 5" (127 mm) apart throughout their length on the bottom (labeled) surface of the plastic level.

4) Using a hacksaw or power miter saw, carefully cut the top and bottom sections of the plastic level at the pencil mark cut lines previously drawn in the last two steps. When cutting along these lines, take care to cut along the exact center of each line, so that the final frame width will be exactly as specified (8" or 204 mm for the top section, and 5" or 127 mm for the bottom section). Cut the top (wider) section of the frame first, to ensure that the frame is not accidentally cut short, and that no damage is made to the frame by stray saw marks. When using a power miter saw, carefully and promptly remove all hot plastic debris along the cut lines with a rag before the plastic debris has time to harden along the edges. Ensure that all the cut lines are straight and parallel before proceeding. The appearance of the loopstick frame should now resemble Figure 1, with the exception of the angled cut through the bottom section.

6) Refer to Figure 4. Turn the loopstick frame over so that the bottom (labeled) section is facing up, as shown. Using a ruler, carefully mark points along the bottom flat surface that are exactly 9/16" (14

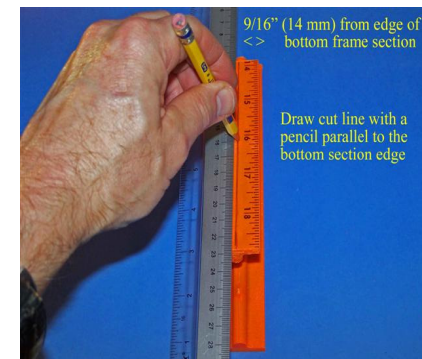


Figure 4

mm) from one edge of the bottom flat surface, then use a straightedge to connect these points with a pencil, drawing a straight line parallel with (and exactly 9/16" / 14 mm from) the edge of the bottom section.

7) Refer to Figure 5. On the short edges of the bottom (labeled) section, draw short cut lines at a 45 degree angle to the flat surface of the bottom section, with the new cut lines meeting the lengthwise cut line drawn in the previous step. Draw these short cut lines on both edges of the bottom (labeled) section, ensuring that both short cut lines are going in the same direction.

NOTE: If you lack power tool experience, DO NOT attempt to use a power miter saw to perform the next step! Use a hacksaw instead.

8) Refer to Figure 5. Using a hacksaw, start cutting along the length of the bottom (labeled) section, ensuring that the cut line is at a 45 degree angle to the flat surface of the bottom section, and that the cut line is along the pencil line drawn in Step 6 above. Ensure that the bottom cut line (on the side opposite the flat surface) does not drift, and stays parallel with the lengthwise edge. Periodically check this bottom cut line to ensure that it is not drifting in or out from the edge (NOTE: this step is easiest to accomplish by cutting half of the section from one side, and the other half from the other side). After the entire length has been cut, use 150 grade sandpaper (if necessary) to smooth out any rough edges made during the cutting of this line. Do not,

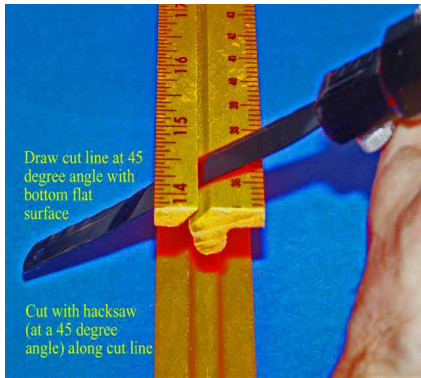


Figure 6

however, use any sandpaper on the flat (gluing) surface of the bottom section (that has the ruler labeling).

8a) If you have SERIOUS power tool experience, you may perform this step on a power miter saw. Refer to Figure 6. Using a power miter saw with at least a 12" diameter blade, set the miter angle at 45 degrees to the left, and lock the table securely in place. Position the plastic frame's upper (unlabeled) section short edge flat on the table with the upper flat surface flush against the fence, as shown in Figure 6. Move the plastic frame along the fence to the point where the saw's blade will exactly intersect the previously drawn cut lines as it is lowered, as shown. Use a C-clamp to SECURELY attach the plastic frame to the fence at this point, using a flat rubber insert to protect the surface of the plastic if desired. Ensure that the plastic frame will not move during the cutting, and ensure that the saw's cutting motion is stopped before any part of the saw (except for the blade) touches the plastic frame. Turn on the saw, and SLOWLY move the blade down through the plastic frame's cut line, constantly ensuring that the plastic frame remains securely attached to the saw's fence. With a 12" saw blade, the miter saw can cut through almost all of the plastic frame's bottom section length, although it will leave a gap of about 1" (as the cut is stopped before the saw blade's mounting hardware bumps up against the plastic frame). Using a rag, remove all hot plastic debris from the cut line immediately after cutting.

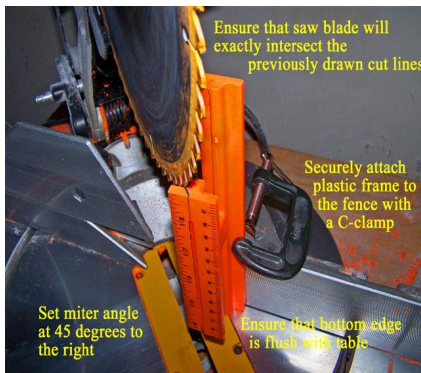


Figure 7

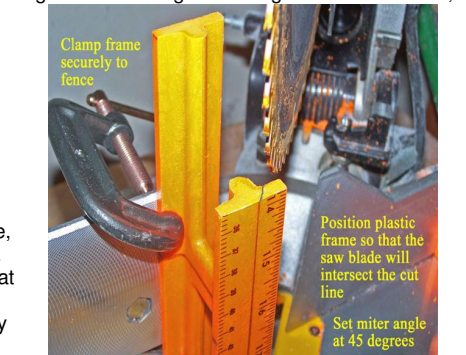


Figure 5

8b) Remove all plastic debris from the miter saw table and fence. Set the saw's miter angle at 45 degrees to the right, and lock the table firmly in place. Refer to Figure 7, and position the plastic frame's upper (unlabeled) section short edge flat on the table with the upper flat surface flush against the fence, as shown in Figure 7. Move the plastic

frame along the fence to the point where the saw's blade will exactly intersect the previously drawn cut lines as it is lowered, as shown. Use a C-clamp to SECURELY attach the plastic frame to the fence at this point, using a flat rubber insert to protect the surface of the plastic if desired. Ensure that the plastic frame will not move during the cutting, and ensure that the saw's cutting motion is stopped before any part of the saw (except for the blade) touches the plastic frame. Turn on the saw, and SLOWLY move the blade down through the plastic frame's cut line, constantly ensuring that the plastic frame remains securely attached to the saw's fence. With a 12" saw blade, the miter saw can cut through almost all of the plastic frame's bottom section length, although it will leave a gap of about 1" (as the cut is stopped before the saw blade's mounting hardware bumps up against the plastic frame). Using a rag, remove all hot plastic debris from the cut line immediately after cutting.

frame along the fence to the point where the saw's blade will exactly intersect the previously drawn cut lines as it is lowered, as shown. Use a C-clamp to SECURELY attach the plastic frame to the fence at this point, using a flat rubber insert to protect the surface of the plastic, if desired. Ensure that the plastic frame will not move during the cutting, and ensure that the saw's cutting motion is stopped before any part of the saw (except for the blade) touches the plastic frame. Turn on the saw, and SLOWLY move the blade down through the short length remaining in the plastic frame's cut line, ensuring that the plastic frame remains securely attached to the fence. Using a rag, remove all hot plastic debris from the cut line immediately after the cut is finished. If desired, use 150 grade sandpaper to smooth out any rough edges made during the cutting of this line. Do not, however, use any sandpaper on the flat (gluing) surface of the bottom section (that has the ruler labeling).

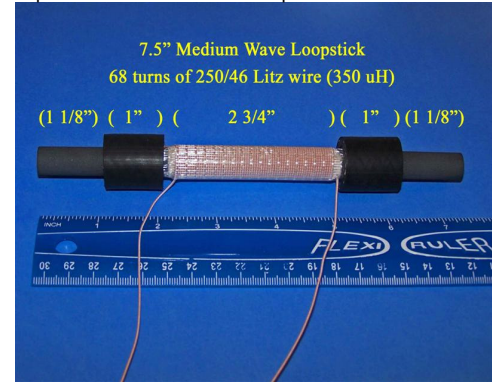


Figure 8

9) Optional-- Use 150 grade sandpaper to smooth out the upper surfaces of the plastic frame as desired, for a finished appearance. DO NOT, however, use any sandpaper on the flat (gluing) surface of the bottom section (that has the ruler labeling).

Medium Wave Loopstick Preparation

NOTE: If you are building both the Medium Wave and Longwave models, ensure that the correct ferrite rod and Litz wire is used for each band. The MW model uses a Type 61 ferrite rod, and 250/46 Litz wire. Keep the Longwave loopstick material (Type 33 ferrite rod and 100/44 Litz wire) well out of the work area until you begin to construct the Longwave model! Mixing up these items is extremely easy to do, and will cause both loopsticks to seriously underperform.

10) NOTE: If you are using the Johnson & Johnson 2" waterproof tape, cut a 3" (76 mm) strip, place it adhesive side up on a flat surface and proceed to Step 11 below (the remainder of this step is for the users of the Rite-Aid 1" tape). Refer to Figure 9. Take the Rite-Aid 1" waterproof tape and cut two 3" (76 mm) strips, placing the tape on a flat surface, adhesive side up. Carefully lift one 3" (76 mm) tape strip and overlap the other 3" (76 mm) strip along its top edge for a length of 1/8" (3 mm), as shown in Figure 9. Ensure that all the tape strip edges are parallel, then press the tape down at the overlapping section to secure both tape strips together.

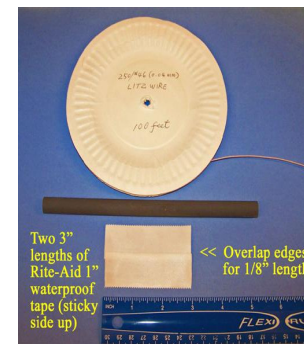


Figure 9

12) Refer to Figure 10. Take the 250/46 Litz wire, and measure off a 12" (31 cm) length. Start the first Litz wire turn 1/8" (3 mm) from the end of the tape as shown, with the 12" (31 cm) length of Litz wire extending from the point of the first turn, as shown (to be used as a connecting lead later). Press the first Litz wire turn down tightly over the adhesive tape.

11) Refer to Figure 10. Take the prepared 3" (76 mm) tape and place it over the Type 61 ferrite rod, adhesive side up. Carefully wrap the tape around the ferrite rod until the tape edges begin to overlap, with the tape centered on the ferrite rod. Carefully pull all the slack out of the tape along its length, and once this is done, begin pressing the tape down at the overlapping section on one side, ensuring that there are no wrinkles on that side before the tape is pressed down. Work slowly from one side to the other until the entire tape is tightly overlapped and pressed down, free of wrinkles, and centered on the ferrite rod 2 1/4" (57 mm) from each end. Place the rod on two side supports (as shown in Figure 10) to protect the adhesive.



Figure 9

13) Refer to Figure 11. Begin winding the 68 turns of 250/46 Litz wire over the adhesive tape in a tight coil, ensuring that no spaces or kinks are in the Litz wire. When the 68 turns are tightly wound over the adhesive tape, the Litz wire coil will have a length of approximately 2 3/4" (70 cm). After 68 turns of the Litz wire have been tightly wound in a coil, again measure off an extra 12" (31 cm) length of Litz wire extending past the last turn in the coil, to be used as a connecting lead. Cut the Litz wire at this point, 12" (31 cm) after the last turn in the Litz wire coil.

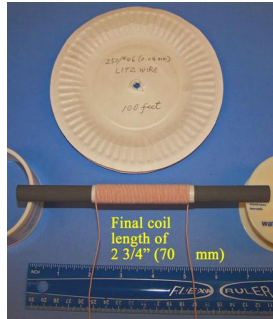


Figure 11

tape strip (as shown in Figure 13). Position the ferrite rod so that the Litz wire lead on the left side of the coil is in the position shown (extending toward the front of Figure 13) Take the tape strip and carefully position it so that the short notch holds the left side Litz wire lead in place, with the tape parallel with the ferrite rod (as shown). Ensuring that the tape strips remain parallel and that the left Litz wire lead comes out of the coil in a straight manner (with no severe bends or kinks), carefully overlap the lower edge of the first tape strip (secured in the previous step) for a length of 1/8" (3 mm), then slowly press the tape strip down over the coil, finally overlapping the upper edge of the first tape strip to completely cover the coil with a waterproof surface.

16) Refer to Figure 8 for the following steps. Cut two 1" (25 mm) sections of the 5/8" I.D. rubber hose, and also two 3/4" (19 mm) sections of the 1/2" I.D. clear vinyl hose. Insert the clear vinyl hose sections into the rubber hose sections, centering them in the holes. Place these prepared rubber hose/ clear vinyl sections on the sides of the ferrite rod as shown in Figure 8, with the outer edges of the rubber hose sections 1 1/8" (28 mm) from the edges of the ferrite rod. This completes the preparation of the Medium Wave loopstick—place it in a secure location until it is called for later.

Longwave Loopstick Preparation NOTE: This Longwave loopstick was especially designed for the Tecsun DSP portables, and was chosen after very extensive experimentation with five different test models. The details of this experimentation (conducted in early 2011) are posted at <http://www.mediafire.com/view/845snah2h4ek9z9/7.5inLWLS.doc>. The project was essentially a

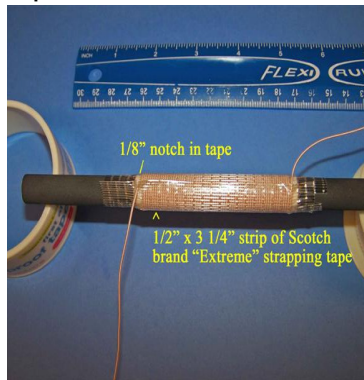


Figure 13

14) Refer to Figure 12. Cut off a 3 1/4" (83 mm) strip of Scotch brand "Extreme" strapping tape, and temporarily place the strip down on a table, adhesive side up. Using sharp, clean scissors, cut a 1/2" (13 mm) wide strip along the length of this 3 1/4" (83 mm) wide strip, resulting in two 3 1/4" (83 mm) long strips—one of them 1 1/2" (38 mm) wide, and the other one 1/2" (13 mm) wide. As shown in Figure 12, place the 1 1/2" (38 mm) wide strip down over the Litz wire coil, centered on both sides, in the position shown over the two Litz wire ends. Press the tape down firmly over the coil, working slowly and carefully around the circumference of the ferrite rod to ensure that the tape is flat and wrinkle-free around the coil (although some minor wrinkles on the end sections, where the tape touches the ferrite rod, are normal).

15) Refer to Figure 13. Take the remaining 1/2" (13 mm) wide strip of "Extreme" tape and with the adhesive side facing down, cut a 1/8" (3 mm) notch into the top edge 1/2" (13 mm) from the left edge of the

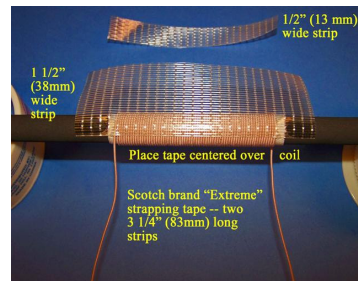


Figure 12

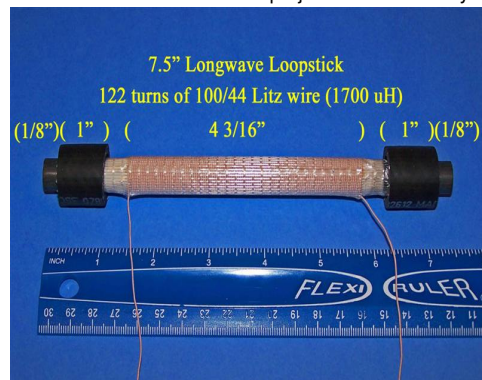


Figure 14

13

rare chance to design something that no commercial company would ever have interest in creating—a hard-wired loopstick optimized strictly for Longwave band performance.

NOTE: Before beginning construction of this Longwave loopstick, make sure that you are using the correct material for this lower frequency range (a type 33 Amidon ferrite rod, and 100/44 Litz wire). If you are also building a Medium Wave loopstick, keep the MW loopstick and Litz wire well out of the work area until you have completely finished building the Longwave loopstick!

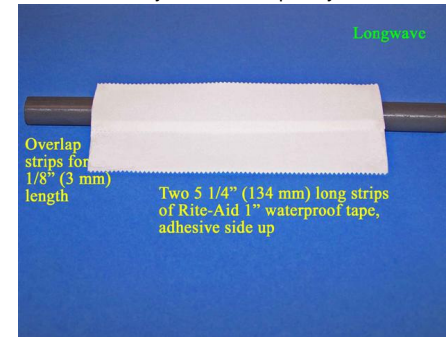


Figure 15

both tape strips together.

11a) Refer to Figure 16. Take the prepared 5 1/4" (134 mm) tape and place it over the Type 33 ferrite rod, adhesive side up.

Carefully wrap the tape around the ferrite rod until the tape edges begin to overlap, with the tape centered on the ferrite rod. Carefully pull all the slack out of the tape along its length, and once this is done, begin pressing the tape down at the overlapping section on one side, ensuring that there are no wrinkles on that side before the tape is pressed down. Work slowly from one side to the other until the entire tape is tightly overlapped and pressed down, free of wrinkles, and centered on the ferrite rod 1 1/8" (28 mm) from each end. Place the rod on two side supports (as shown in Figure 16) to protect the adhesive.

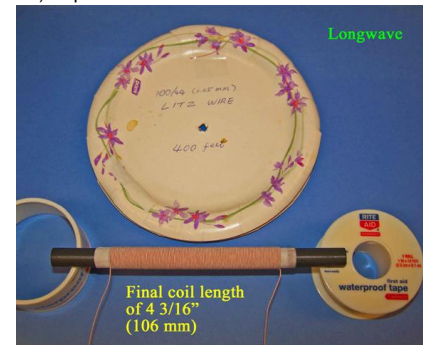


Figure 16

be used as a connecting lead. Cut the Litz wire at this point, 12" (31 cm) after the last turn in the Litz wire coil.

14a) Refer to Figure 18. Cut off a 5 3/4" (146 mm) strip of Scotch brand "Extreme" strapping tape, and temporarily place the strip down on a table, adhesive side up. Using sharp, clean scissors, cut a 1/2" (13 mm) wide strip along the length of this 5 3/4" (146 mm) wide strip, resulting in two 5 3/4" (146 mm) long strips—one of them 1 1/2" (38 mm) wide, and the other one 1/2" (13 mm) wide. As shown in Figure 18, place the 1 1/2" (38 mm) wide strip down over the Litz wire coil, centered on both sides, in

10a) NOTE: If you are using the Johnson & Johnson 2" waterproof tape, cut a 5 1/4" (134 mm) strip, place it adhesive side up on a flat surface and proceed to Step 11a below (the remainder of this step is for the users of the Rite-Aid 1" tape). Refer to Figure 15. Take the Rite-Aid 1" waterproof tape and cut two 5 1/4" (134 mm) strips, placing the tape on a flat surface, adhesive side up. Carefully lift one 5 1/4" (134 mm) long strip and overlap the other 5 1/4" (134 mm) strip along its top edge for a length of 1/8" (3 mm), as shown in Figure 15. Ensure that all the tape strip edges are parallel, then press the tape down at the overlapping section to secure



Figure 17

12a) Refer to Figure 16. Take the 100/44 Litz wire and measure off a 12" (31 cm) length. Start the first Litz wire turn 1/2" (13 mm) from the end of the tape as shown, with the 12" (31 cm) length of Litz wire extending from the point of the first turn, as shown (to be used as a connecting lead later). Press the first Litz wire turn down tightly over the adhesive tape.

13a) Refer to Figure 17. Begin winding the 122 turns of 100/44 Litz wire over the adhesive tape in a tight coil, ensuring that no spaces or kinks are in the Litz wire. When the 122 turns are tightly wound over the adhesive tape, the Litz wire coil will have a length of approximately 4 3/16" (106 mm). After 122 turns of the Litz wire have been tightly wound in a coil, again measure off an extra 12" (31 cm) length of Litz wire extending past the last turn in the coil, to

14

the position shown over the two Litz wire ends. Press the tape down firmly over the coil, working slowly and carefully around the circumference of the ferrite rod to ensure that the tape is flat and wrinkle-free around the coil (although some minor wrinkles on the end sections, where the tape touches the ferrite rod, are normal).

15a) Refer to Figure 19. Take the remaining 1/2" (13 mm) wide strip of "Extreme" tape and with the adhesive side facing down, cut a 1/8" (3 mm) notch into the bottom edge 3/4" (19 mm) from the right edge of the tape strip (as shown in Figure 19).

Position the ferrite rod so that the Litz wire lead on the right side of the coil is in the position shown (extending toward the front of Figure 19). Take the tape strip and carefully position it so that the short notch is lined up with the right side Litz wire lead, with the tape parallel with the ferrite rod (as shown). Carefully overlap the lower edge of the first tape strip (secured in the previous step) for a length of 1/8" (3 mm), then slowly press the tape strip down over the coil, finally securing the right side

Figure 18

Litz wire lead inside the previously cut 1/8" (3 mm) slot. Ensuring that the tape strips remain parallel and that the right side Litz wire lead comes out of the coil in a straight manner (with no severe bends or kinks), carefully overlap the upper edge of the first tape strip (secured in the previous step) to completely cover the coil with a waterproof surface.

16a) Refer to Figure 15 for the following steps. Cut two 1" (25 mm) sections of the 5/8" I.D. rubber hose, and also two 3/4" (19 mm) sections of the 1/2" I.D. clear vinyl hose. Insert the clear vinyl hose sections into the rubber hose sections, centering them in the holes. Place these prepared rubber hose/ clear vinyl sections on the sides of the ferrite rod as shown in Figure 15, with the outer edges of the rubber hose sections 1/8" (3 mm) from the edges of the ferrite rod. This completes the preparation of the Longwave loopstick—place it in a secure location until it is called for later.

PL-380 Preparation for Loopstick Transplant

NOTE: As mentioned previously, before voiding the warranty on your new PL-380, make sure that the model is functioning properly on all bands and modes, and that you will not require warranty service (last chance).

17) Refer to Figure 20. Place the PL-380 face down on a flat surface, with a soft cloth protecting the radio's front surface. Remove the battery access cover from the back cabinet, and remove all batteries from the radio. Place the whip antenna in the vertical position, as shown. Using a jeweler's screwdriver, remove the 5 screws at the points indicated, and place them in a safe place away from the work area.

18) Refer to Figure 21. Pick up the PL-380 in the position shown, with the left side of the radio facing up. Grasp the whip antenna (and the rest of the back cabinet) with one hand, and the front cabinet



Figure 13



Figure 14

section with the other hand. Slowly and gently pull the two cabinet sections apart, starting at the radio's left side (as shown). Separate the two sections

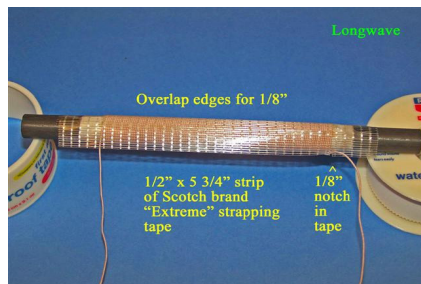


Figure 19

Figure 18

slowly until they are completely apart (except for the whip antenna connecting lead). Take care not to pull on the whip antenna connecting lead, which runs from the circuit board to the back cabinet section.



Figure 22

and "AN2" connection points on the circuit board (as shown on Figure 22). If you do not wish to salvage the stock loopstick, simply cut these two Litz wire leads halfway along their length, in preparation for removal of the stock loopstick from the radio in the next few steps. The "AN1" and "AN2" circuit board connections are relatively small, so avoid any mechanical stress to these connections when cutting the Litz wires.

21) Refer to Figure 23. Using a small, flat jeweler's screwdriver, begin probing around the slots adjacent to the stock loopstick to carefully and gently pry it out of its slot. Depending upon how much glue the Chinese factory used to secure your PL-380's loopstick, this process may be either quick or tedious. In most cases the factories use a minimum of glue, and the loopstick can be pried out within a couple of minutes (although there are tedious exceptions).



Figure 23

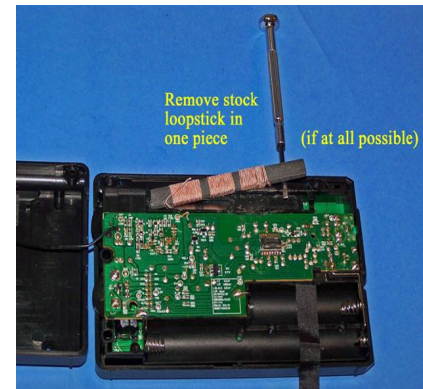


Figure 24

discover the glue points. Continue working patiently until the loopstick (in one piece) responds to your prying by coming out of its slot. In tedious cases, resist the temptation to grab needle-nose pliers and



Figure 25

Insert the flat part of the screwdriver all around the adjacent slots and gently work it down and under the flat loopstick, prying it gently upwards to

pull the stupid thing out of its slot, since it will probably retaliate by breaking up into multiple pieces and falling into tiny holes throughout the cabinet sections.

22) Refer to Figure 24. Once the stock loopstick has been pried up and out of its slot, grasp the loopstick and gently twist it, working back and forth until the remaining glue spots are clearly seen. Using needle nose pliers on the remaining glue spots (only), pull on the glue spots until all the glue comes up out of the loopstick slot. In some rare removal cases there may be some pieces of Litz wire and/ or loopstick pieces left in the slot after the antenna has been pulled out, which should be removed either by using needle-nose pliers, or by turning the slot upside down and shaking out the debris (while holding on to both of the separated cabinet sections). Ensure that the loopstick slot is clean and free of debris before continuing, since this slot will be used to route the new 7.5" loopstick Litz wires after they pass through the hole left by removal of the wrist strap. NOTE: The process of removing the stock loopstick may cause some minor dust or debris to drop down to the inner surface of the front panel display window, and/ or LCD display. If this happens, follow the next three steps to remove such dust or debris, and restore these windows to a pristine state. If you have successfully removed the stock loopstick without having any dust or debris fall onto these surfaces, skip the next three steps, and proceed to Step 23.

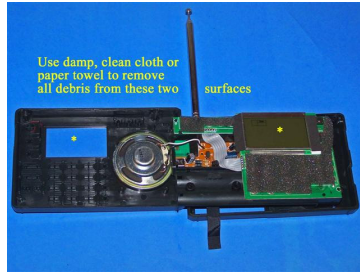


Figure 15

22a) Refer to Figure 25. Using a jeweler's screwdriver, remove the screw at the position shown, and place it in a safe place away from the work area. While holding onto the front cabinet face, carefully pull the circuit board assembly up at the right side, and like turning a page, gently place it on top of the back panel section. Rotate the front panel and circuit board assemblies until they resemble Figure 26.

22b) Refer to Figure 26. Using a damp, clean cloth or paper towel, carefully remove all dust or debris which has fallen onto the inner surface of the front panel display window, or the LCD display. After removal of such dust or debris, ensure that these surfaces are dry and clean before continuing.

22c) Reversing the procedure followed in Step 22a above, return the circuit board assembly to the position shown in Figure 25, and re-install the screw at the lower left position in Figure 25.



Figure 16

section, and ensure that this surface is clean and dry before continuing. In a similar way, carefully remove all dust and debris from the orange plastic loopstick frame, especially from the bottom (gluing) surface that will mate with the PL-380's gluing surface. Ensure that the loopstick frame's gluing surface is also completely clean and dry before continuing.

25) Refer to Figure 28 for the following step. Take the orange loopstick frame and practice placing it on top of the PL-380's gluing surface in exactly the position shown, paying special attention to the beveled surface on the PL-380 shown in Figure 28 (which is the key to accurate placement). Ensure that the loopstick frame's gluing surface is completely flat by sliding it along the PL-380's gluing surface, which should be a smooth ride along its length (if not, check the edges of the loopstick frame's gluing surface and sand the protruding edges (ONLY) with 150 grade sandpaper, taking care to clean the frame's glue surface again, as in Step 24 above). Ensure that your work area has

sufficient lighting on this special beveled surface of the PL-380 shown in Figure 28, and make several "dry runs" with the loopstick frame, practicing an accurate frame placement (centered on the PL-380's glue surface, and straight along the beveled surface). Observe the boundaries of the PL-380's glue surface, and make sure that you know exactly where to place the frame when glue is applied to the PL-380 for a permanent bond.



Figure 17

promptly shift the frame to a straight position if necessary. After a couple of seconds, though, you will need to be satisfied with whatever position the frame has ended up with (it will still hold the loopstick just fine, for DXing purposes).

27) After the loopstick frame is placed securely on the super glue and locked in place on the PL-380's glue surface, within a few seconds gently pick up the PL-380's front cabinet section and place one hand on the bottom surface of this section. Gently squeeze the loopstick frame against the PL-380's glue section for about a minute until all the glue is completely dry and secure.

28) Refer to Figure 30. Observe the borders of the loopstick frame with the PL-380 on both the front and back of the radio, and promptly and carefully remove any excess glue debris with a flat jeweler's screwdriver, scraping the glue away from the border areas. This is especially important for the back border area, since too much excess glue debris can make it difficult to close the back cabinet section.

Preparation for Loopstick Installation

NOTE: The installation procedures for the Medium Wave and Longwave loopsticks are almost identical, except that the rubber air hose sections are clamped to the loopstick frame in different positions.

29) Refer to Figure 31. Place the loopstick (either Medium Wave or Longwave) on a flat table, as shown. Cut a 3" (76 mm) length of the 3/16" shrink tubing and insert one of the loopstick's Litz wire leads through it, as shown in Figure 31. Check the other Litz wire lead's end surface, and ensure that it is cut cleanly, without fraying or kinks (if necessary, cut a very short length off of the Litz wire to ensure that it has a cleanly cut end section).

30) Refer to Figure 32. Insert the loose end of the second Litz wire lead through the upper hole of the shrink tubing, as shown. Follow the procedure shown in Figure 32 to slowly shift the shrink tubing over the end of the second Litz wire, ensuring that the second Litz wire has no bends or kinks as it enters the shrink tubing. Continue shifting the shrink tubing to the left until the end of the second Litz wire comes out of the shrink tubing on the right side. This will be a fairly tight fit with the Medium Wave loopstick, but a fairly loose fit with the Longwave loopstick.

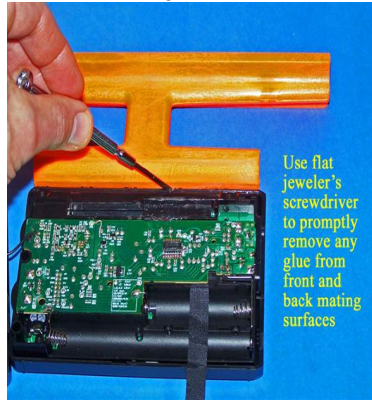
31) (Medium Wave Loopstick) Refer to Figure 33. Taking care to keep the Litz wires parallel (without any sharp bends or kinks), shift the shrink tubing along the Litz wires until it is in the position shown in Figure 33, very close to the loopstick. Place the loopstick in the position shown under the loopstick frame, and install two plastic tie wraps loosely around the centers of the rubber air hose sections (in

26) Refer to Figure 29. After making multiple dry runs (and after ensuring that the PL-380's front cabinet section will not shift around during the glue procedure), take the Duro super glue packet and apply a thin (1/8", or 3 mm) bead of glue along the center of the PL-380's glue surface, extending it 4 1/2" (114 mm) long (with equal spaces on both ends). While sighting the PL-380's beveled surface, place the loopstick frame carefully down in the correct position, with the frame centered on the glue surface and lined up straight with the beveled edge (as shown in Figure 28. If satisfied with the position, press down on the loopstick frame to lock the two surfaces together securely. Usually the frame may be shifted around slightly within 1 or 2 seconds of placing it on the super glue, so use this brief time to



Figure 18

the positions shown). When you are sure that the plastic tie wraps are in the exact centers of the rubber air hose sections and that the loopstick is centered on the loopstick frame (with equal lengths of the frame extending past the ends of the ferrite rod), tighten the plastic tie wraps securely and cut off the excess lengths. Position the Litz wires as shown in Figure 33.



Use flat jeweler's screwdriver to promptly remove any glue from front and back mating surfaces

Figure 19

(38 mm) length of the shrink tubing and install it over the ends of the two Litz wires, following the procedure detailed in Step 30. Slide this length of shrink tubing over the Litz wires until it is at the position shown in Figure 35, and push it into the clamp as shown to lock it into place. 33) Refer to Figure 35. Using a low-wattage (25w or less) soldering iron and minimum heat, carefully desolder the loose Litz wire connections on the "AN1" and "AN2" terminals (if you have not yet done this). NOTE: Always avoid severe heat and mechanical stress on these two Litz wire connection points.

34) Refer to Figure 36 for the next few steps. Note the position of the "AN1" and "AN2" Litz wire connection terminals, and temporarily place the loose Litz wire leads

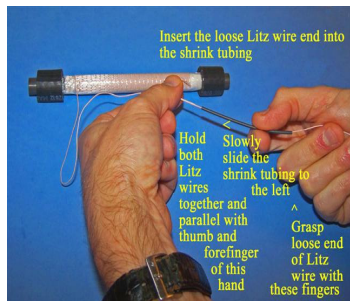


Figure 21

mm). When preparing the ends of the Litz wires in the next step, ensure that the ends are tinned in this manner before continuing.

35) Temporarily remove the Litz wires (and 1 1/2" shrink tubing) from the clamp on the circuit board, ensuring that the 1" shrink tubing does not fall off of the longer Litz wire lead. Temporarily place the ends of these Litz wires outside of the radio on the right side, and carefully tin the ends of both Litz wires in the manner described above, working around the circumference of the Litz wire ends with

31a) (Longwave loopstick) Refer to Figure 34. Taking care to keep the Litz wires parallel (without any sharp bends or kinks), shift the shrink tubing along the Litz wires until it is in the position shown in Figure 34, very close to the loopstick. Place the loopstick in the position shown under the loopstick frame, and install two plastic tie wraps loosely around the centers of the rubber air hose sections (in the positions shown). When you are sure that the plastic tie wraps are in the exact centers of the rubber air hose sections and that the loopstick is centered on the loopstick frame (with equal lengths of the frame extending past the ends of the ferrite rod), tighten the plastic tie wraps securely and cut off the excess lengths. Position the Litz wires as shown in Figure 33 (from now on, the Medium Wave and Longwave loopstick directions will be identical).

32) Refer to Figure 35. Cut a 1 1/2"

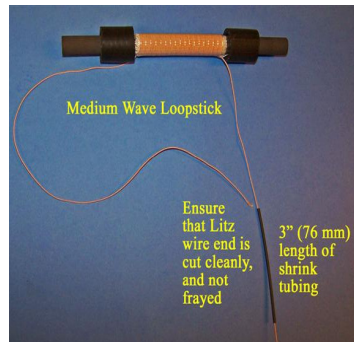


Figure 20

adjacent to them. Measuring about 1" (25 mm) past the Litz wire lengths necessary to reach these two terminals when routed as shown in Figure 36, cut off the excess Litz wire lengths (in a clean manner). Cut a 1" (25 mm) length of shrink tubing and install it over the longer Litz wire lead (only), temporarily placing it as far away as possible from the end of the Litz wire.

NOTE: The procedure of tinning the ends of the Litz wires requires that all of the individual Litz wire strands be soldered together at the ends. This requires a clean, shiny solder connection all around the circumference of the Litz wire ends for at least 1/8" (3

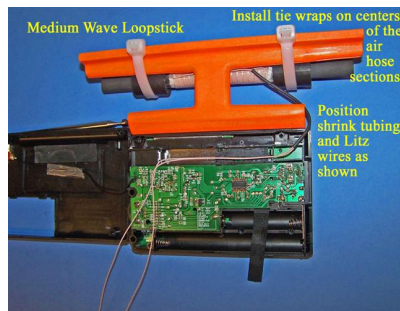


Figure 33

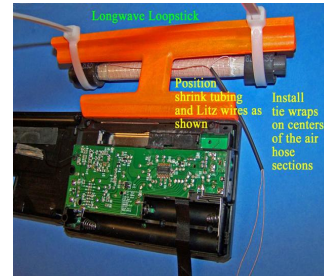


Figure 34

both Litz wires, and that the tinned ends of these Litz wires are in a narrow, cylindrical shape (with no globs of solder). Before soldering to the AN1 and AN2 terminals, do your best to form the Litz wires into the positions that they will be after soldering, so that you will not need to put mechanical stress on these connecting points after soldering. Also, ensure that both the AN1 and AN2 connecting points still have a small amount of solder on them, so that you will not need to add more solder when connecting the Litz wires. Carefully solder both tinned Litz wires to their AN1

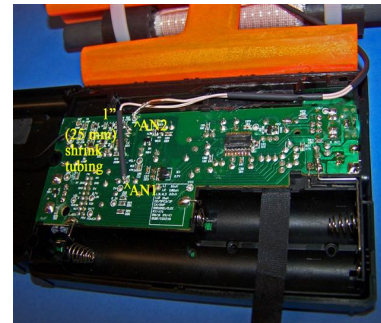


Figure 36

and AN2 connecting points using a minimum of heat, and ensure that the Litz wires are soldered in a flat position (shown above), so that you will not need to bend them down to close the back cabinet. After soldering the AN1 Litz wire, shift the position of the 1" shrink tubing as shown, to protect the circuit board connections. After soldering, if you find it necessary to shift the position of these Litz wires, ALWAYS use needle nose pliers to hold the tinned ends securely during such movement, to avoid putting mechanical stress on the small AN1 and AN2 circuit board connections. 37) Refer to Figure 37. Carefully place the back panel back over the rest of the radio, ensuring that the long section of shrink tubing is centered in the wrist strap routing slot (as shown), and that it is not pinched or bent. Very carefully lower the back panel down over the radio from the top left corner to the top right corner, and pull the battery compartment ribbon out before finally snapping the back panel into place at the lower right corner. After raising the whip antenna to a vertical position and ensuring that the Litz wire shrink tubing is still centered in the wrist strap mounting hole, reinstall the screws removed in Step 17, starting with the screw next to the wrist strap routing slot (near the whip antenna), then proceeding to the upper left and lower left screws. Finally, reinstall the two battery compartment screws (and the batteries) to finish the modification process.

Testing and Operation

NOTE: Initial testing of either the Medium Wave or Longwave model should always be performed in a completely clean RF environment, free of noise and hash from computers, plasma TV's and similar sources of RF pollution. This is especially important in the case of the Longwave model. Initial testing should be performed outdoors for either model, if at all possible.

Medium Wave Model Refer to Figure 38. Turn on the radio, and begin checking the reception of fringe AM stations on the low band. As long as both the PL-380 and the new 7.5" loopstick are working properly, there should be a MAJOR increase in both the strength and quantity of fringe AM stations received

a clean soldering iron for at least 1/4" (6 mm). After doing this, cut off the tinned section on both ends to a length of 1/8" (3 mm). When viewing the ends of the Litz wires after tinning, the entire 1/8" (3 mm) length should be bright and shiny all around its circumference (as in the AN2 terminal photo in Figure 36).

36) Refer to Figure 36. Reinstall the 1 1/2" (38 mm) section of shrink tubing in the clamp as shown, with the two Litz wires running to their applicable AN1 and AN2 connection points (and the 1" length of shrink tubing still on the longer lead, as far as possible from the end). Ensure that only 1/8" (3 mm) of tinned solder is on the ends of

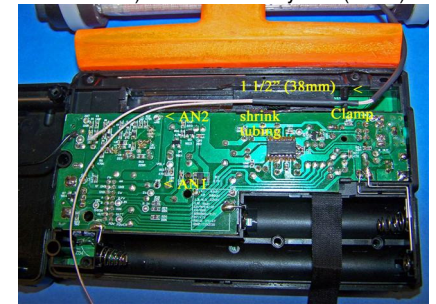


Figure 22

and AN2 connecting points using a minimum of heat, and ensure that the Litz wires are soldered in a flat position (shown above), so that you will not need to bend them down to close the back cabinet. After soldering the AN1 Litz wire, shift the position of the 1" shrink tubing as shown, to protect the circuit board connections. After soldering, if you find it necessary to shift the position of these Litz wires, ALWAYS use needle nose pliers to hold the tinned ends securely during such movement, to avoid putting mechanical stress on the small AN1 and AN2 circuit board connections.

37) Refer to Figure 37. Carefully place the back panel back over the rest of the radio, ensuring that the long section of shrink tubing is centered in the wrist strap routing slot (as shown), and that it is not pinched or bent. Very carefully lower the back panel down over the radio from the top left corner to the top right corner, and pull the battery compartment ribbon out before finally snapping the back panel into place at the lower right corner. After raising the whip antenna to a vertical position and ensuring that the Litz wire shrink tubing is still centered in the wrist strap mounting hole, reinstall the screws removed in Step 17, starting with the screw next to the wrist strap routing slot (near the whip antenna), then proceeding to the upper left and lower left screws. Finally, reinstall the two battery compartment screws (and the batteries) to finish the modification process.

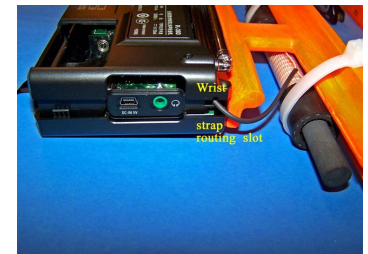


Figure 23

across the band (relative to the stock PL-380 model). The new loopstick should also provide a major boost in the capability to null pest stations, due to its external mounting in a clean RF environment.



Figure 24

discover that your newly installed 7.5" Medium Wave loopstick is FAR more sensitive on the Longwave band than the stock PL-380 loopstick (for example, Rob Ross of London, Ontario managed to receive over 200 Longwave NDB stations with his 7.5" Medium Wave loopstick PL-380). Finally, the Display switch offers you multiple options while chasing transoceanic DX—you can have a 24 hour clock display, a display of the alarm time set in the radio, a constantly changing readout of DX signal strength and S/N ratio, or a temperature display (in either Celsius or Fahrenheit). In general, this "supercharged" PL-380 model's sensitivity and selectivity will allow you to experience some of the most exciting AM-DXing fun that a portable can offer—and do so at an unbeatable price.

Longwave Model NOTE: Best results when using the Longwave model will always be obtained outdoors, far away from any RF noise sources. This is particularly true for the Longwave model, which has only the loopstick antenna for weak-signal reception, and no internal shielding for noise protection. Household RF noise pollution typically hits the Longwave frequencies more severely, and portables operated within this noisy environment pay the price.

Refer to Figure 39. Turn on the radio (in an outdoor environment), and begin checking for fringe NDB station reception (or in Europe, for fringe Longwave broadcast station reception). The PL-380 stock loopstick is almost useless on Longwave, so you should immediately notice a huge boost in both the quantity and signal strength of Longwave stations received on the 7.5" loopstick. At night in either North America or Europe, the model should receive multiple NDB stations, with Longwave sensitivity superior to that of any stock portable (ICF-2010, E1, etc.).

The PL-380 has many digital search functions and advanced capabilities for a pocket radio, but some of the functions of particular interest to the Longwave DXer are described here. The "AM bandwidth" switch allows you to choose different levels of DSP filtering to limit splatter from domestic pests, although the narrowest filtering option (1 kHz) reduces the high frequency audio of the received DX station somewhat. For Longwave broadcast station DXing the setting of this switch is probably not so critical, but for NDB-DXing the switch is almost always left in the 1 kHz position to limit splatter from off-frequency beacons. The increased Longwave sensitivity from the 7.5" loopstick usually results in a very crowded NDB band in North America at night, and the 1 kHz DSP option is usually mandatory for any type of DXing success. The Display switch offers you multiple options while chasing transoceanic DX—you can have a 24 hour clock display, a display of the alarm time set in the radio, a constantly changing readout of DX signal strength and S/N ratio, or a temperature display (in either Celsius or Fahrenheit).

North American DXers living near an ocean beach have an excellent chance to receive transoceanic Longwave DX with one of these 7.5" loopsticks-- which have been successfully used to



Figure 25

The PL-380 has many digital search functions and advanced capabilities for a pocket radio, but some of the functions of particular interest to the transoceanic DXer are described here. The "AM bandwidth" switch allows you to choose different levels of DSP filtering to limit splatter from domestic pests, and is usually left in the 1 kHz position for the narrowest filtering while chasing transoceanic DX (although this position does cut off some of the high frequency audio from the desired DX station). The 9/10 kHz switch allows you to change the tuning steps of the radio from the North American (10 kHz) band system to those of the European/ African/ Asian/ Pacific band system (9 kHz), depending upon your preferred DX targets. The MW / LW switch allows you to switch over to Longwave DXing—and you will be pleasantly surprised to

receive European and African broadcast stations as far west as the state of Oklahoma. In general the Longwave model will provide you with sensitivity superior to that of any stock portable, and enough Longwave broadcast and NDB-DXing fun to last all winter long. Once you really become "hooked" on NDB-DXing with one of these models, though, be prepared to face the outdoor cold along with the rest of us...in order to escape any trace of household RF noise, there is a good reason why we have become known as the "frozen-fingered fraternity." ©

SUMMARY It is the author's sincere hope that these modification instructions will guide you successfully through the loopstick transplant procedure, and that the "supercharged" PL-380 model will provide you with a new level of exciting new DX for years to come. If you have any issues or questions about the procedure, please feel free to contact me. After having constructed about 15 of these models, I have seen almost every possible case of bizarre results—including ferrite rods incorrectly labeled and sold by Amidon, multiple PL-380's dropped by DXers (during which the frames break off, but both the loopsticks and PL-380's always survive with no issues) and a DXpedition PL-380 which somehow survived being frozen, drenched by rain and smashed up against a car during a windstorm. My sincere hope is that your modified PL-380 will have none of these issues... and that your newly modified Tecsun will exceed your DX-pectations!

2013-2014 IRCA Golden 50 DX CONTEST

Manager: Nancy Johnson – 265 Waterton Way – Billings MT 59102-7755

E-mail: NancyJohnson@prodigy.net

December 15, 2013 update

1. Tim Noonan 36
2. Greg Hall 18
3. Dennis Vroom 17
4. Eric Bueneman 13
5. Martin Foltz 10
6. Nigel Pimblett 2

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A compilation of 17 articles on antennas, phasing impedance matching, and RF amplification for medium wave DX'ers, some of the articles were published in DX News between 1999 and 2004. 8 1/2" X 11" bound book format. IRCA/NRC member price: \$11.95; non-member price \$16.95; overseas customers, please contact us for exact price. Order from: NRC Publications – PO Box 473251 – Aurora CO 80047-3251 (CO residents, please add 3.5% sales tax). Please state your IRCA membership affiliation when you order.

The County Cross Reference

What a time-saver! A complete list of counties, parishes, and similar political divisions in the U. S. and Canada. Two lists are included: alpha by county, and by state. Compiled by Bill Hale and designed and produced by Wayne and Joan Heinen. \$8.95 for IRCA/NRC members, \$11.95, non-members; overseas customers, please contact us for exact price. Order from: NRC Publications – PO Box 473251 – Aurora CO 80047-3251 (CO residents, please add 3.5% sales tax). Please state your IRCA membership affiliation when you order.

IRCA Mexican Log, 18th Edition (Winter 2013)

The **IRCA MEXICAN LOG** lists all AM stations in Mexico by frequency, including call letters, state, city, day/night power, slogans, schedule in UTC/GMT, formats, networks and notes. The call letter index gives call, frequency, city and state. The city index (listed by state, then city) includes frequency, call and day/night power. The transmitter site index (listed by state, then city) tabulates the latitude and longitude of transmitter sites. This is an indispensable reference for anyone who hears Mexican radio stations. Size is 8 1/2" x 11".

Prices: IRCA/NRC members – \$9.50 (US), \$10.50 (Canada), \$12.00 (México), \$13.00 (rest of the world). Non-IRCA/NRC members – add \$2.00.

To order from the IRCA Bookstore, send the correct amount to: **IRCA BOOKSTORE**, 9705 MARY NW, SEATTLE WA 98117-2334 (PayPal [add \$1.00] email: phil_tekno@yahoo.com). Please state club affiliation when ordering.

Sunrise/Sunset Maps

12 maps showing 15 minute sunset and sunrise times for the US and 12 maps showing hourly sunset and sunrise times for the World. Explanation includes use of the maps and examples of DX made possible by knowledge of SR/SS times.

Prices: **IRCA members** – \$2.25 (US/Canada/Mexico/sea mail), \$3.00 (rest of the Americas/Europe airmail), \$4.00 (Australia/New Zealand airmail). Non-IRCA members – add \$1.00.

An Introduction to Broadcast Band DXing

This tri-folded brochure is ideal for explaining the Broadcast Band DXing hobby and the IRCA. It can be included with reception reports and given to other interested folks. Sub topics include: What is DXing?, Broadcasting's early years, The first DXers, Clubs helped listeners share, Our hobby today and DX clubs still unite listeners. It is two color printed on heavy stock. Price is \$0.35/brochure (US and Canada), \$1.00 (rest of the world). Minimum order is 10.

To order any of the above items from the **IRCA Bookstore**, send the correct amount (in US funds payable to **Phil Bytheway** – which will be returned if not made out to **Phil Bytheway**) to: **IRCA BOOKSTORE**, 9705 MARY NW, SEATTLE WA 98117-2334 (email: phil_tekno@yahoo.com)

IRCA Reprints

The IRCA maintains a large file of articles that have appeared in past issues of **DX Monitor**. These articles cover a wide variety of topics, including: antenna theory and construction, tips for the foreign BCB DXer, how to improve your DXing skills, history of DXing and broadcasting, lists of stations by subject, construction projects and receiver modification, receiver reviews, medium wave propagation, and more. Copies are available for a nominal charge. Price for the complete list is \$1.00.

New from the IRCA reprint service. "IRCA REPRINTS ON CD"!!! 648 Reprints. The entire set, now on one CD. Only \$10.00 (US/Canadian IRCA members, overseas contact Phil.) Categories include: Antennas, Domestic, Foreign, History, DX Lists, Receivers and Receiver Modifications, and Technical.

For a complete list of reprints, or to purchase the CD send to: **IRCA Reprints, c/o Phil Bytheway**, 9715 Mary NW, Seattle, WA 98117-2334. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. (Make all checks and money orders out to **Phil Bytheway**)

Pay electronically with PayPal-add \$1 to all prices above. Go to www.PayPal.com, then send your funds to phil_tekno@yahoo.com (Phil Bytheway).

ARRL Hamfest Calendar

As you may know (and I can say this from experience-EiC), a Hamfest is a great place to find good deals on new and used receivers, wires and cables for antenna projects, and other hobby-related needs. The American Radio Relay League has a Web page to help you find a Hamfest near your home QTH or while you're traveling to other parts of the country. You can search by Zip Code, select from Hamfests within 25, 50, 100 and 250 miles of your home QTH, as well as city and state. (Searching by ARRL division and section is only for the Ham-savvy, hi.) To find a Hamfest in near your home QTH, visit <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar> and plug in your location or Zip Code. You'll be able to find upcoming Hamfests in your local area.

IRCA Facebook Page

The IRCA's Facebook page is now online! This is a new feature of IRCA, featuring photos of transmitter sites (many of which provided by CDXR Editor John C. Johnson), members' shacks (your Editor-in-Chief included) and plenty of information. If you have a Facebook page, enter "International Radio Club of America" into your Facebook search engine, then click the "Like" icon. Many thanks to Mike Sanburn (KG6LJU) and John C. Johnson for setting this page up.

The **IRCA** is a non-profit organization devoted to the hobby of hearing distant stations on the Broadcast Band (510-1720 kHz). **DX Monitor**, the official publication of the IRCA, is published in "soft" form 35 times a year (weekly from November through March, twice monthly from April to November) and in printed form 30 times a year (weekly November through March, monthly April to November). **DX Monitor** contains members' loggings, articles on radio stations, receiver reviews, technical articles, DX tips, and other material of interest to Broadcast Band DX hobbyists.



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MEMBERSHIP DUES

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USA	\$10
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Rest of world (group 5)	\$10

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Pay electronically with PayPal – add \$1 to all prices above. Go to www.paypal.com, then send your dues to ircamember@ircaonline.org – contact Lynn Hollerman for more information.

Sample copies of DX Monitor are unavailable at the present time. Stay tuned to this space for further developments.

For information on **subscribing to the IRCA mailing list** at Hard-Core-DX, a group e-mail service, contact the moderator, Lynn Hollerman at lynnhollerman@yahoo.com.

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