



DX MONITOR

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International Radio Club of America

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IRCA welcomes: **John Glass** in Saratoga CA (rejoin) and **David Lang** in Groton CT. No tips were received for the August Verification Signers column, next deadline is **September 24 1500 ELT**. Send your tips to Steve Howe – showe@albany.edu. Next **Seattle** deadline (V56_N04) **Monday 9/24/18 4 PM PLT** – pb.

Pacific Asian Log Updated

I just completed another update to the Pacific Asian Log. The September 2018 version has been posted on the Radioheritage website: <http://www.radioheritage.net/>. You'll need to go through a couple of the site's internal links to get to the proper page, but when you get there you'll be able to download the PDF version and use the interactive version. If you have problems finding it, let me know and I'll send a copy directly.

There were many Chinese changes this time, as well as updates for stations in other countries. I'll issue another update in a couple of months.

Corrections and updates from users are always welcome and can be sent to bportzer@comcast.net or portzerbt@gmail.com.

First issued in 2001, The PAL lists medium wave and domestic shortwave broadcasting stations in southern and eastern Asia and the Pacific. It includes about 5000 stations in over 50 countries, with frequencies, call signs, locations, power, networks, schedules, languages, formats, networks and other information. **Bruce Portzer**

NRC Antenna Pattern Book 8th edition

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Bill Hale has finished the book and it is at the printers.... It is available for sale now at the NRC website <http://www.nationalradioclub.org>. Click on Publication Center and click the link to Books.

73, **Wayne Heinen**

Updated IRCA TIS/HAR LIST (Summer 2018)

The **IRCA TIS/HAR LIST** lists all US and Canadian TIS/HAR stations, by frequency, including call letters, state (province,) city, county, licensee, address. Updated through June 6 2018.

The 2018 IRCA TIS/HAR LIST is posted on the IRCA website for all to download. The link is: http://www.ircaonline.org/editor_upload/File/TIS_2018.pdf

For those preferring a hard copy, one can be ordered from the IRCA.

Prices: **IRCA/NRC members** – \$9.50 (US), \$11.00 (Canada) \$12.50 (México), \$14.00 (rest of the world). **Non-IRCA/NRC members** – add \$2.00.

To order from the IRCA, send the correct amount (in US funds payable to **Phil Bytheway**) to: **IRCA, 9705 MARY NW, SEATTLE WA 98117-2334**. Or, order through PayPal to email: phil_tekno@yahoo.com (Phil Bytheway). Please state club affiliation when ordering.



BROADCASTING INFORMATION – Robert J Wien – 14051 Belle Chasse Blvd #415 – Laurel MD 20707
E-mail: wienbob@aol.com Phone: 301-477-3733 Column Deadlines: Saturdays

DATE OF COLUMN: September 08 2018 **Column data span:** August 25-September 08 2018, Data courtesy of **Stationintel.com**, FCC database and member contributions.

CALL CHANGES

FREQ	OLD CALL	CITY OF LICENSE	NEW CALL
1410	KNVR	San Saba, TX	KROY
1450	WUWN	Highland Springs, VA	WBTL
1540	WBTL	Sandston, VA	WULT

FORMAT, SLOGAN AND SILENT STATUS CHANGES

FREQ	CALL	CITY OF LICENSE	NEW INFORMATION
540	KYAH	Delta, UT	old slogan: "Yah Radio 540", new: "Utah's Talk Authority"
590	WWLX	Lawrenceburg, TN	was country, now adult hits, old slogan: "The Superstation", new: "106.1 The X"
630	WREY	St Paul, MN	old slogan: "Radio Rey", new: "El Rey 94.9"
810	WRSO	Orlovista, FL	was ethnic, now Spanish news-talk, old slogan: "Your Brazilian Radio In Orlando", new: "Accion 97.9"
860	KNUJ	New Ulm, MN	old slogan: "KNUJ AM 860", new: "KNUJ AM 860=97.3" (= is correct-ye ed)
900	WNMB	North Myrtle Beach, SC	now silent
910	WOLI	Spartanburg, SC	was Spanish sports, now regional Mexican, old slogan: "Univision Deportes", new: "Activa"
	WFJX	Roanoke, VA	adds sports and CBS Sports Radio as secondary format
930	WFXJ	Jacksonville, FL	old slogan: "SportsRadio 930", new: "930 The Game"
	WMGR	Bainbridge, GA	was contemporary Christian, now country
1060	WHFB	Benton Harbor, MI	changes secondary format from adult standards to R&B oldies
1090	WUVI	Charlotte Amalie, VI	was silent, now variety, adds slogan: "The Voice Of the University – WUVI"
1120	WHOG	Hobson City, AL	was urban contemporary, now urban adult contemporary
1180	WVLZ	Knoxville, TN	was silent, now oldies, adds slogan: "Mid Century Radio 1180"
1230	WEEX	Easton, PA	was ESPN Radio Network, now Fox Sports Radio, old slogan: "ESPN 101.3", new: "101.3 The Game"
1240	KBEL	Idabel, OK	was news/talk, now Westwood One Nash Icon country, old slogan: "Talk 1240", new: "Idabel's First 96.7 FM KBEL"
1250	WLRT	Nicholasville, KY	old slogan: "La Poderosa", new: "Poder"
	WDVA	Danville, VA	old slogan: "Your Gospel Station", new: "Danville's Christian Choice"
1270	WRJC	Mauston, WI	old slogan: "Smash Country", new: "Smash Country 92.9"
1320	KSDT	Hemet, CA	was unknown format, now ranchera, adds slogan: "La Ranchera"
	WTKZ	Allentown, PA	was ESPN Radio Network, now Fox Sports Radio, old slogan: "ESPN Radio 1230", new: "1230 and 1320 AM Fox Sports Radio"
1340	WFEB	Sylacauga, AL	was talk, now adult contemporary
	WHAT	Philadelphia, PA	old slogan: "El Zol 1340/99.9", new: "Z 99.9"
	WYCK	Plains, PA	old slogan: "104.9 The River", new: "The River 105 and 103.5"
1380	KZTS	North Little Rock, AR	was urban contemporary, now urban gospel, old slogan: "Streetz 105.5", new: "Rejoice 105.5"
1400	WICK	Scranton, PA	old slogan: "The Game", new: "1400 The Game"

1410	WZBR	Dedham, MA	old slogan: "The Bass Of Boston", new: "98.1 The Urban Heat"
	WBBX	Kingston, TN	was unknown format, now CHR, adds slogan: "The Vibe"
1430	KEZW	Aurora, CO	old slogan: "Cruisin' 1430", new: "EZ 1430"
1440	WC DL	Carbondale, PA	old slogan: "The Game", new: "1400 The Game"
1490	WOMI	Owensboro, KY	old slogan: "NewsTalk 1490", new: "NewsTalk 1490-99.1 FM"
1500	WSEM	Donalsonville, GA	was contemporary Christian, now country
1510	WYEC	Macomb, IL	was talk, now classic country, changes secondary format from sports to farm
1540	WKVQ	Eatonton, GA	was religious teaching, now urban gospel
	WXEX	Exeter, NH	was classic rock, now classic hits, old slogan: "Classic Rock 92.1", new: "Seacoast Oldies"
	WBTL	Sandston, VA	changes city of license from Richmond to Sandston
1550	KCOM	Comanche, TX	was news/talk, now classic country, old slogan: "KCOM News Talk 1550 AM", new: "Comanche Country 1550-100.1"
1560	WMBH	Joplin, MO	was ESPN Radio Network, now Fox Sports Radio, old slogan: "ESPN 1560", new: "Fox Sports 1560"
1570	WLRS	New Albany, IN	old slogan: "La Poderosa", new: "Poder"
1590	KVTR	Victorville, CA	old slogan: "K-Buena", new: "Que Buena"
1600	WKYI	Eminence, KY	old slogan: "La Poderosa", new: "Poder"

Well, the IRCA convention in Missouri has come and gone this weekend, hope everyone that attended had a good time. I'm due to go to one, haven't since 2011's Colorado Springs CO convention Mike Sanburn and I hosted when I still lived there. We've been getting lots of rain the past few days but it finally cooled off, we lost our air conditioning in my condo for almost a week but was fixed this past Friday 9/7. My back and knee are getting better but I've been told to stay home from work still until 9/30. I had an MRI done in Baltimore on both areas on 9/4, still awaiting the official results. In the meanwhile, been DXing at home and sending tips to Eric for EDXR, really getting familiar with my dial out here now. Hope you all do the same, report any new tips to your respective columns or to here, as we're getting into fall now and DX should be radically improving. Hope everyone had a great Labor Day weekend and have a great September! 73's. Bob Wien



CANADIAN RADIO NEWS – Dan Sys
E-mail: sysdan@gmail.com

For August 2018, compiled September 1.

BRANDING

960 ON Mississauga CKNT Becomes SAUGA 960 AM.

TECHNICAL CHANGE GRANTED

600 BC Vancouver CHOF-cp Increase power from 10,000 to 50,000 watts (days)/10,000 to 20,000 watts (nights). Relocate transmitter.

CONSTRUCTION PERMIT EXTENSION GRANTED

1490 ON Mississauga CHTO-1 Canadian Hellenic Radio has until September 1 2019 to get this new 770 watt Greek language rebroadcaster of CHTO 1690 Toronto on the air.

OFF THE AIR

1340 BC Vanderhoof CIVH License surrendered after tower was accidentally destroyed by a snow plow this past March. The repairs would have been too costly. The country format from CIVH has now moved to CIRX-1 95.9 in Vanderhoof.

PROPOSED OWNERSHIP CHANGE

750 SK Melfort CKJH From Fabmar Communications to the Jim Pattison Broadcast Group.



WESTERN DX ROUNDUP – Nancy Johnson – 2922 S Olivewood – Mesa AZ 85212-2923
E-mail: NancyJohnson@prodigy.net

WDXR DEADLINES: September 21, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, Oct. 12, Oct. 19, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, Nov. 9 and Nov. 16. Please use Eastern Local Time.

REPORTERS FOR THIS ISSUE:

- (RB) **Rick Barton**-PO Box 5503-Peoria AZ 85385 desertmoon_dxshack@inbox.com
Grundig Satellit 250(T.5000) with internal loop, RS SW-2000629, and inductively coupled Terk loop, barefoot ATS-909X
- (JP) **Jon Pearkins**-Edmonton AB jon@pearkins.com
Sangean PR-D15 with internal 200 mm ferrite bar
- (NP) **Nigel Pimblett**-331 5th Street-Dunmore AB T1J 0B9 nige2730@telus.net
Perseus SDR and Wellbrook Phased Array

- *****
- 550 KFYI **AZ**, Phoenix 8/27 2300 heard "Newstalk 550 KFYI" ID by man. Not much interference, but weak signals under auroral conditions. (NP-AB)
 - 570 KLAC **CA**, Los Angeles 8/24 0200 ID and sports update by man, heard on loop null of KNRS. (RB-AZ)
 - 580 KUBC **CO**, Montrose 8/29 0130 local ad spots, "Here in Montrose," ID by man and local weather returning to Coast to Coast. Good with SW-2000629 and Terk loop. (RB-AZ)
 - 640 KFI **CA**, Los Angeles 9/7 0140 strongest signal ever, with no trace of local CHED-630 splatter in most directions. (JP-AB)
 - 650 KMTI **UT**, Manti 8/24 2340 just concluding a live play-by-play broadcast with many references to Central Utah high school football, local ad spot, station ID and by 2342 going to usual country format from this station, excellent reception over thunderstorm static. (RB-AZ)
 - 710 KFIA **CA**, Carmichael 8/27 2258 ad for air conditioning special, ID "KFIA Carmichael-Sacramento, 710 AM The Word," then into Turning Point program. (NP-AB)
 - WA**, Seattle 9/7 0155 barely audible and easy to null, but no sign of hoped-for KSPN or anything else on a strange DX night that favoured Southern California but was terrible for Seattle stations. (JP-AB)
 - 780 KKOH **NV**, Reno 8/24 0830 news tag team of three, with time check "KOH news time five thirty seven" by unmistakable voice of Ross Mitchell (Mitchell is the voice of Tony the Tiger, the Jolly Green Giant, and does the intro to Red Eye Radio). (RB-AZ)
 - 800 KPDQ **OR**, Portland 9/3 1559 on top of the frequency with talk about Elijah, then jingle ID "...True Talk 800, KPDQ." (NP-AB)
 - 860 KNAI **AZ**, Phoenix 8/27 2300 Mexican music, ID by man "KNAI 860 AM and K270BZ 101.9 FM." (NP-AB)
 - 890 KDXU **UT**, St George 8/24 2320 live p-b-p ("The Rams on the move"), break and to local spots and ID at 2324. Highland HS Rams (Salt Lake) vs Pine View Panthers. Completely dominating channel with high signal level on Satellit 205 oriented for receiving N/S. (RB-AZ)
 - 990 KRKS **CO**, Denver 8/25 0430 religious lecture two male announcers and ID "Denver's all new Christian station on AM-9-90, The Word" followed by SRN news and another religious program. Very good and burying XECL. (RB-AZ)
 - 1070 KNX **CA**, Los Angeles 9/7 0145-0150 traffic report mentioning Long Beach. All alone with no sign of normally dominant CFX or occasional visitor KSKK. (JP-AB)
 - 1090 XEPRS **BCN**, Rosarito 9/7 0153 long promo with many mentions of "The Mighty 10-90" and San Diego. Dominant and clear, rather usual fluttery quality to signal, with only occasional signs of usual powerhouse KFNQ. (JP-AB)
 - 1110 KBND **OR**, Bend 9/7 0100 man with ID "Depend on us, KBND" on the hour and over KRDC, which I was hearing by nulling KFAB with a loop. Fox News, local Oregon news by man, then intro to Coast to Coast. New one for me. (RB-AZ)
 - 1140 KGEM **ID**, Boise 8/24 2315 "Bishop Kelly" HS up 30-20. ID at 2320, good over the channel rumble on ATS-909X oriented for N/S reception. (RB-AZ)
 - 1170 KYET **AZ**, Golden Valley 8/28 2115 long string of country songs, ID by man at 2115, 2120 and at 2133. Near Arizona borders with both CA and NV, enhanced with nearing sunset. Heard with Terk loop, inductively coupled to SW-2000629. (RB-AZ)

- 1210 KHKR **UT**, Washington 8/31 2125 it is Desert Hills HS vs "Hawaii." The latter turned out to be Kealakehe High School, from Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, who traveled all the way to St George UT to play this game! I was tuning the bands, pre-sunset, looking for DX from Guymon OK to find this. I was surprised to find the station coming in best with the 909X's antenna re-aligned for NW/SE and thought maybe this was coming from Tucson to the SE (but no Desert Hills HS there). Reception strong and steady, with no sign of the expected KGYN. (RB-AZ)
- 1300 KACI **OR**, The Dalles 9/3 0800 ID as "This is KACI-AM, The Dalles the gorge's Newsradio 1300 AM and 103.9 FM," then into news. (NP-AB)
- 1310 KFKA **CO**, Greeley 8/24 0115 male announcer "News, sports and talk in Colorado, KFKA." Solid, no sign of local KHP. Heard as soon as I twisted the dial to the frequency. (RB-AZ)
- WIBA **WI**, Madison 9/4 0000 ID at the hour "...this is Newstalk 1310 WIBA Madison..." poked through another station with baseball coverage. (NP-AB)
- 1330 KGAK **NM**, Gallup 8/24 2240 male announcer in Navajo with a few English words mixed in, doing live HSF6 p-b-p, Fort Wingate vs Window Rock. (RB-AZ)
- 1350 KLHC **CA**, Bakersfield 8/27 2259 Indian music, dead air at 2304 (where ID should have been?), then more Indian music and talk by man in Asian language, with mentions of Yuba City and Sacramento. //much weaker 1470. (NP-AB)
- 1390 KENN **NM**, Farmington 8/24 2230 pre-game warmup, very good on Panasonic RF-2200 with loop set for NE/SW. Noted quite a bit of thunderstorm static crashes. (RB-AZ)
- 1580 KDOM **MN**, Windom 9/4 0001 caught most of the ID just after the hour "...Radio, AM 1580 KDOM Windom," then ABC news. First time heard in several years. (NP-AB)
- 1590 KELP **TX**, El Paso 9/6 0830 suddenly came up out of the rumble with local traffic report "I-10 and Highway 54," to station jingle with female vocalists. Very good on SW-2000629 and Terk loop. (RB-AZ)
- 1700 XEPE **BCN**, Tecate 9/7 0135 little or no sign of them, despite best signal ever from XEPRS-1090 in strange DX conditions. (JP-AB)

Thank you to our WDXR reporters Rick, Jon and Nigel for sending me your reports. – Nancy 9/7 1900



CENTRAL DX ROUNDUP – John C Johnson – 2922 S Olivewood – Mesa AZ 85212-2923

E-mail: John_Johnson@prodigy.net

CDXR reports ONLY: cdxr@ircaonline.org

RIDING GAIN

- [EB-MO] **Eric Bueneman**, Hazelwood MO N0UIHEric@gmail.com
CountyComm GP-5/SSB Ultralight receiver, Grundig AN-200 tunable loop, Yaesu FRG-7, Worcester Space Magnet II
- [PL-OK] **Peter Laws**, OK plaws0@gmail.com
Sangean HDR-16

DOWN THE DIAL

- 640 KWPB **OK**, Moore. 8/30 at 2230 noted station is not transmitting in HD. [PL-OK]
- 930 KSEV **TN**, Sevierville. 9/4 fair to poor signal, mixing with WBEN, WTAD. 0525 noted with Oldies format, "AM Nine-30 and FM 104-point-One, more of your favorites" slogan. [EB-MO]
- 950 KXJK **AR**, Forrest City. 9/4 fair signal over WAKM, WOR, WWJ. 0559 with local spots, "Nine-50 KXJK, Hometown Radio" ID into ABC News. [EB-MO]
- 970 WWRK **SC**, Florence. 8/31 fair to poor signal, mixing with WGTK, WMAY. 0530 noted with "Rock 97-Nine" ID into Classic Rock format. Last heard as WJMX in 1989 from Woodstock GA. [EB-MO]
- 980 KOKA **LA**, Shreveport. 9/4 fair to poor signal, mixing with KSGM, WYFN. 0532 noted with Urban Gospel format, "The Light, Nine-80 AM and 93-point-Three FM" ID. [EB-MO]
- 1000 KTOK **OK**, Moore. 8/30 at 2230 noted station is not transmitting in HD at this time despite what HDradio.com claims. [PL-OK]
- 1060 WLNO **LA**, New Orleans. 9/5 fair to poor signal over KYW. 0555 noted with Urban Gospel format and a quick "WLNO" ID. [EB-MO]
- 1070 WAPI **AL**, Birmingham. 9/5 fair over KHMO, WDIA, WFNI. 0558 with national spots, "Where Birmingham comes to talk, WZRR, WAPI" ID. [EB-MO]
- 1080 KRLD **TX**, Dallas. 8/30 strong enough to decode HD1 on peaks. 2230 My first AM HD logging. Station is transmitting in HD (icon flashing). [PL-OK]
- 1170 KFAQ **OK**, Tulsa. 8/30 not strong enough to decode HD. 2230 noted HD icon flashing. [PL-OK]
- 1250 KCFI **IA**, Cedar Falls. 9/3 fair to poor signal, mixing with KYYS, WSSP. 0518 with Oldies Format and a mention of "The True Oldies Channel". [EB-MO]
- 1330 WNTA **IL**, Rockford. 8/25 fair to poor signal, mixing with KNSS, WRAM. 0451 noted with promo mentioning a phone number in Area Code 815, "Sports Fan 13-30" ID into Fox Sports Radio. [EB-MO]
- 1370 WLTH **IN**, Gary. 9/3 fair to poor signal over KDTH, ACI from KXFN 1380. 0532 noted with R&B Oldies format, "13-70 WLTH" ID. [EB-MO]
- 1410 WHLN **KY**, Harlan. 8/26 fair to poor over WING. 0615 with Gold-based Adult Contemporary format, PSA, "14-10 WHLN" ID and local spots. [EB-MO]
- 1590 WCGO **IL**, Evanston. 8/25 fair to poor signal, mixing with WAIK. 0357 noted with C2C, local spots, legal ID into Westwood One News. [EB-MO]
- 1600 WUCT **TN**, Algood. 9/4 fair to poor signal, mixing with KATZ, WAAM, WAOS. 0500 noted with "WUCT, where the news comes first" mention, weather forecast, local headlines into CBS News. [EB-MO]

FLASHBACK

50 Years Ago – September 7 1968 issue of "DX Monitor" ...Numerous discussions concerning when KRVN would move from 1010 to 880 ... Don McNeill's "Breakfast Club" on ABC would go off the air after 35 years ... **Bill Nittler** of Englewood CO talked about his new VW camper-bus and a planned Labor Day weekend to the mountains ... The NRC convention proposed a merger with the IRCA due to publishing problems at the Boston headquarters of the NRC. // **25 Years Ago – September 4 1993** issue of "DX Monitor" ...**Larry Godwin** of Missoula MT mentioned visiting with **Stan Weisbeck** and **Don Kaskey**. He also told us he bought a Kiwa Loop ... **Gary Siegel** of Toledo OH commented on WTOD 1560 format change to simulcast with WRED FM.

OPEN MIKE

CDXR welcomes Peter Laws. Thanks to Eric and Peter we have a column this week. This column was typed 9-7-18. 73, John



EASTERN DX ROUNDUP – Eric Bueneman (N0UIH) – 631 Coachway Lane – Hazelwood MO 63042-1347

E-mail: n0uiheric@gmail.com

DEADLINE: Wednesday 9/5 2359 ELT

TUNING THE DIALS THIS ISSUE:

- (RW-MD) **Robert Wien** (KG6RJW/3), Laurel MD wienbob@aol.com
CCrane CCRadio-2 receiver

ACROSS THE DIAL

- 590 WMBS **PA**, Uniontown – 8/24 0428 noted with Adult Standards format, "590 AM, 101.1 FM WMBS" ID, local spot and weather forecast for southwestern Pennsylvania. The signal faded up nicely over rumbly interference. (RW-MD) (101.1 refers to W266DB Uniontown PA – eb)
- 620 WHEN **NY**, Syracuse – 8/25 0540 noted with Urban Adult Contemporary format, promos for iHeart Radio, and a local spot mentioning Area Code 315 (Syracuse). A strong signal was noted, briefly on top before fading to an unidentified News/Talk station. (RW-MD)
- 640 WHLO **OH**, Akron – 8/25 0506 noted with "WHLO" ID, ad for the Akron Rubber Ducks minor league baseball team, weather forecast for Akron. A good signal was noted atop CFMJ in various station nulls; mixing with CFMJ later. (RW-MD)
- 960 WFIR **VA**, Roanoke – 8/24 0530 noted with weather forecast for Roanoke followed by ID. A good signal on top of other stations before fading into the mess. (RW-MD)
- 1270 WQTT **OH**, Marysville – 8/25 0455 noted with Oldies format, mention of "Red Country" (don't you mean "Cutie"? – eb), good "True Oldies 96.7, Your Oldies Station, Marysville" ID at 0500 before fading out. The signal mixed with an unidentified News/Talk station in a null of other stations. (RW-MD) (Radio Locator lists the FM relay's call as W283AJ – eb)
- 1350 WGPL **VA**, Portsmouth – 8/24 0609 noted with spot mentioning "Follow us on Christian Broadcasting Company-dot-com, and like us on Facebook and Twitter. The Web site mentioned WGPL and sister station WPCE 1400; my guess is that I had WGPL! Noted briefly over the rumble. (RW-MD)
- 1370 WSHV **VA**, South Hill – 8/24 0626 noted with Contemporary Christian format, "96.7 Shine FM, WSHV" ID before fading out. Noted briefly over several other stations. (RW-MD) (96.7 refers to W244CP South Hill VA – eb)

- 1460 WTKT **PA**, Harrisburg – 8/24 0600 noted with “Fox Sports 1460 WTKT Harrisburg” legal ID. Good signal atop other stations before fading out. (RW-MD)
 1470 WQXL **SC**, Columbia – 8/24 0607 noted with a newscast from the South Carolina News Network, promo for The *Dave Ramsey Show*, “Columbia’s the Point, WQXL” ID. Noted after the frequency. (RW-MD)
 WBTX **VA**, Broadway/Timbreville – 8/24 0655 noted with an ad for an ice cream parlor on Coop Drive in Timbreville, “WBTX” ID, mention of Harrisonburg. Weather forecast at 0705 into Southern Gospel format. On top of the mess on 1470 before fading out. (RW-MD)

UNIDENTIFIED

- 1470 UnID 8/24 0650 noted with “Real Radio 1470” ID into *America’s First News*. I didn’t find anything matching. Looping east-west, mixing with WBTX. (RW-MD) (WMBD Peoria IL is known on the air as “News Radio 1470” – eb)

EDITOR’S NOTES

Thanks to Bob for his logs in this edition. I hope everyone had a great time in Saint Charles! 73 and good DX from NØUIH, the Florissant Valley Dial Twister.



DX WORLDWIDE/TROPICAL BAND DX – Brandon Jordan – PO Box 338 – Rossville TN 38066
 E-mail: dxwww.irca@gmail.com all times UTC

Deadline – Sunday Midnight Central Time.

*** TRANS-ATLANTIC DX ***

- 153 **ROMANIA** Antena Satelor/Romania Actualitati, Brasov Bod. AUG 24 0100 – Antena Satelor ID, folk female vocal; noisy. [MC*Y-MA]
 162 **FRANCE** France-Inter, Allouis. AUG 24 0100 – Apparent blank carrier; fair. [MC*Y-MA]
 171 **MOROCCO** Radio Mediterranee Internationale, Nador. AUG 24 0100 – Arabic male vocal, percussion then woman with Medi Un ID; good. [MC*Y-MA]
 183 **GERMANY** Europe No 1, Felsberg. AUG 24 0100 – Six chimes, ID “Vous ecoutez Europe Un, il est trois heures”; good. [MC*Y-MA]
 189 **ICELAND** RUV Rás, Gufuskálar. AUG 24 0100 – Electronic interval signal, woman in Icelandic with “Ruv” mention; fair. [MC*Y-MA]
 198 **UNITED KINGDOM** BBC Radio4, Droitwich et al. AUG 24 0100 – ID “BBC World Service, the World’s Radio Station”, 5+1 pips, news; to good peak. [MC*Y-MA]
 225 **POLAND** Polskie Radio, Konstancin. AUG 24 0100 – Radiotelewisie Polska ID, 5+1 pips, fanfare music, news by man and woman; fair. [MC*Y-MA]
 234 **LUXEMBOURG** RTL, Junglinster. AUG 24 0100 – French news by woman; fair. [MC*Y-MA]
 252 **ALGERIA** Radio Algerienne, Tipaza. AUG 24 0100 – 5+1 pips (last higher pitch), news by woman in French; well over Ireland. [MC*Y-MA]
 531 **ALGERIA** Jil FM, F’kirina Wilaya d’Oum El Bouaghi. AUG 23 2359 – English language boy band vocal //549; fair. [MC*Y-MA]
 549 **ALGERIA** Jil FM, Les Trembles. AUG 24 0000 – //531 with pop vocal, several Jil FM ID’s; fair on LSB to dodge WDEV slop. [MC*Y-MA]
 585 **SPAIN** RNE1, Madrid. AUG 24 0100 – ID “Radio Nacional de Espana, servicios informativos”; fair in slop. [MC*Y-MA]
 621 **CANARY ISLANDS/SPAIN** RNE1 synchros. AUG 24 0000 – Radio Nacional de Espana ID; poor in WZON slop. [MC*Y-MA]
 657 **SPAIN** RNE5, Madrid. AUG 24 0001 – Spanish news by man; to fair peak. [MC*Y-MA]
 738 **SPAIN** RNE1, Barcelona. AUG 24 0000 – Pips, fanfare music, RNE ID; poor in CHCM splatter. [MC*Y-MA]
 774 **SPAIN** RNE1 synchros. AUG 24 0000 – News //738; fair over Egypt 774.25 growl. [MC*Y-MA]
 837 **SPAIN** COPE synchros. AUG 24 0000 – Pop vocal, 5+1 pips, news in Spanish; fair to good. [MC*Y-MA]
 855 **SPAIN** RNE1, Murcia et al. AUG 24 0000 – //774 with slow male vocal, pips, RNE news intro; to good peak. [MC*Y-MA]
 864 **SPAIN** RNE Radio Nacional Cast. La Mancha, Socuélamos. AUG 24 0100 – RNE news intro; dominant. [MC*Y-MA]
 909 **UNITED KINGDOM** BBC Radio 5 synchros. AUG 24 0100 – BBC Five Live news; in WABK slop. [MC*Y-MA]
 936 **MOROCCO** SNRT, Agadir. AUG 24 0100 – Likely this with Arabic vocal, strings across top of hour. [MC*Y-MA]
 954 **SPAIN** Onda Cero, Madrid. AUG 24 0100 – Pips, woman in Spanish; in WROL slop. [MC*Y-MA]
 999 **SPAIN** COPE, Madrid. AUG 24 0102 – News by woman in Spanish; briefly over bad WINS IBOC hash. [MC*Y-MA]
 1017 **SPAIN** RNE5, Burgos/Granada. AUG 24 0000 – //855 with fanfare, RNE news intro; fair. [MC*Y-MA]
 1044 **SPAIN** SER, San Sebastian/Valladolid. AUG 24 0000 – Orchestral music, 5+1 pips, “Cadena SER, servicios informativos”; good. [MC*Y-MA]
 1080 **SPAIN** SER synchros. AUG 24 0000 – At about 0000:20 WTIC’s carrier cut for two seconds revealing two stations in Spanish, one with news by woman //1044 (so SER net), other news by man (UnID, possibly Cuba). [MC*Y-MA]
 1089 **UNITED KINGDOM** TalkSport synchros. AUG 24 0059 – Advert; echoey, poor in slop. [MC*Y-MA]
 1098 **SPAIN** RNE5 synchros. AUG 24 0000 – //1107 with slow vocal, pips, RNE news; poor. [MC*Y-MA]
 1107 **SPAIN** RNE5 synchros. AUG 24 0000 – //1098 with slow vocal, pips, RNE news; to fair peak. [MC*Y-MA]
 1125 **SPAIN** RNE5 synchros. AUG 24 0100 – RNE news intro through WBBR slop. [MC*Y-MA]
 1179 **CANARY ISLANDS/SPAIN** SER synchros. AUG 24 0000 – //1044 with Spanish news by woman; to fair peak. [MC*Y-MA]
 1386 **LITHUANIA** Radio Baltic Waves/Radio Liberty, Viesintos. AUG 24 0100 – Russian talk, Svoboda mention; poor. [MC*Y-MA]
 1413 **SPAIN** RNE5 synchros. AUG 24 0000 – //1107 with slow vocal, 5+1 pips, fanfare music, RNE news; to fair peak. [MC*Y-MA]
 1422 **ALGERIA** Radio Algérienne, Algiers. AUG 24 0000 – Arabic group vocal; poor to fair. +AUG 24 0101 – Koran; to fair peak. [MC*Y-MA]
 1530 **SAO TOME E PRINCIPE** VOA, Pinheira. AUG 27 0259 – Yankee Doodle march, man “This is the Voice of America, Washington, DC, signing on”, more Yankee Doodle; to good peak, dominant. {A} [MC*Y-MA]
 1539 **SPAIN** SER synchros. AUG 24 0100 – News by man in Spanish; poor through CHIN slop. [MC*Y-MA]
 1575 **IRAN** Qeshm. AUG 24 0000 – Buzz-jammer; over Spain. [MC*Y-MA]
 1584 **SPAIN** SER synchros. AUG 24 0000 – //1044 with music, pips, news; poor. [MC*Y-MA]

*** PAN-AMERICAN DX ***

- 580 **PUERTO RICO** WKAQ, San Juan. AUG 24 0000 – WKAQ ID, affiliates list; over WTAG. +AUG 27 0000 – WKAQ (Doble-oo kah ah coo) Cinco Ochenta ID, advert by man; good. {A} [MC*Y-MA]
 600 **PUERTO RICO** WYEL, Mayaguez. AUG 28 0100 – WKAQ network ID and affiliates list //580, TMobile tweety-bird sound effect; largely over Cuba/HJHJ scrum. {A} [MC*Y-MA]
 610 **BRAZIL** ZYL268, Radio Itatiaia, Belo Horizonte. AUG 24 0001 – Woman in Portuguese; mixed with WGIR. +AUG 27 0301 – Fast Portuguese talk by man with phone number in advert, jingle; good. {A} [MC*Y-MA]
 630 **PUERTO RICO** WUNO, Radio Uno, San Juan. AUG 23 2359 – ID “Notiuno seis treinta”; atop WPRO. [MC*Y-MA]
 700 **BRAZIL** ZYK686, Nossa Radio, São Paulo. AUG 27 0259 – Man in Portuguese with preaching; dominant, pips from Argentina and music from Colombia way under. {A} [MC*Y-MA]
 720 **COLOMBIA** HJAN, Emisoras Unidas, Barranquilla. AUG 29 0000 – Emisoras Unidas ID; noisy. [MC*Y-MA]
 740 **CUBA** Radio Angulo, Sagua de Tánamo. AUG 27 0001 – Woman and man with Cuba mentions, jingle, 6-note Angulo chimes, fair/dominant. [MC*Y-MA]
 750 **VENEZUELA** YVKS, RCR, Caracas. AUG 24 0000 – RCR siete cientos cincuenta AM ID; mixed with CBGY. +AUG 28 0100 – RCR ID in Spanish talk by man; over CBGY, Cuba, WSB. {A} [MC*Y-MA]
 760 **BRAZIL** ZYH588, Radio Uirapuru, Fortaleza. AUG 27 0000 – Man with Uirapuru ID, Portuguese religious talk; to fair peak. [MC*Y-MA]
 770 **COLOMBIA** HJAJ, RCN Radio, Barranquilla. AUG 29 0000 – Fast 4 note attention signal, RCN La Radio ID, 5+1 pips; over Brazil, WORA. {A} [MC*Y-MA]
 770 **CUBA** Radio Rebelde, Victoria de las Tunas. AUG 27 0001 – Usual spooky organ music, ID by man “Rebelde, la Habana, Emisora de la Revolucion”; alone on channel with WABC in deep antenna null. {A} [MC*Y-MA]
 800 **BONAIRE** PJB, TransWorld Radio, Kralendijk. AUG 24 0000 – Piano music, woman “Muy buenas noches, Radio Transmundial...” atop jumble. [MC*Y-MA]
 810 **COLOMBIA** HJCY, Caracol Radio, Bogotá. AUG 24 0000 – Caracol ID popped out of stew with WGY, WKVM, Brazil, and probable Bahamas and Cuba. [MC*Y-MA]
 840 **CUBA** CMHW, DobleVé, Santa Clara. AUG 24 0000 – Talk “transmitiendo desde Santa Clara”; slightly atop pile-up. [MC*Y-MA]
HAITI Radio-Télé 4VEH, Cap Haitien-Petite Anse. AUG 29 0000 – Dashing Through the Snow interval signal; in jumble. [MC*Y-MA]
 860 **ST KITTS & NEVIS** Voice of Nevis, Bath Village. AUG 29 0100 – Caribbean-accent local talkshow, mentions of criminal activities, death penalty; over jumble with Reloj, others. [MC*Y-MA]
 870 **CUBA** Radio Reloj synchros. AUG 27 0000 – Reloj program clobbering WLVP. [MC*Y-MA]

- 910 **CUBA** Radio Cadena Agramonte, Camaguey. AUG 27 0001 – Four ascending doorbell chimes, fanfare music, man "Transmite Radio Cadena Agramonte, Camaguey, Cuba"; good peak though audio was excessively compressed/somewhat mushy. {A} [MC*Y-MA]
 940 **PUERTO RICO** WIPR, San Juan. AUG 29 0001 – Woman with "WIPR nueve cuarenta San Juan" ID; dominant. [MC*Y-MA]
 950 **CUBA** Radio Reloj, Arroyo Arenas/Camagüey-Isábel Hortensia. AUG 29 0000 – Wobbler under WROL. [MC*Y-MA]
 1000 **BRAZIL** ZYK522, Radio Record, São Paulo. AUG 28 0000 – Portuguese talk by man, "A Voz do Brasil" intro; fair over hiss from WINS IBOC. {A} [MC*Y-MA]
 1040 **COLOMBIA** HJAI, Radio Tropical, Barranquilla. AUG 28 0000 – Electronic sounder, man with Radio Tropical ID, another sounder; fair, dominant. {A} [MC*Y-MA]

*** TROPICAL BAND DX ***

- 2850 **DPR KOREA** KCBS, Pyongyang. SEP 6 1118 – quavery soprano vocalist. Good over t-storm static crashes. [RB-AZ]
 3925 **JAPAN** Radio Nikkei 1, Chiba-Nagara. AUG 30 1200 – Man in Japanese and program with chamber music. Good. [RB-AZ]
 3930 **SOUTH KOREA** Voice of the People, Kyonggi-do Koyang. AUG 29 1115 – Monologue with man in Korean and over DPRK jammers. Good. [RB-AZ]
 3945 **JAPAN** Radio Nikkei 2, Chiba-Nagara. AUG 30 1230 – Pop music, man in Japanese. Good. [RB-AZ]
 4055 **GUATEMALA** Radio Verdad, Chiquimula. SEP 6 1130 – Woman vocalist, religious music. Near armchair reception, very good. [RB-AZ]
 4940 **CHINA** Voice of the Strait, Fuzhou. SEP 2 1220 – Woman in Chinese, Chinese pop music. Good. [RB-AZ]

CONTRIBUTORS

- RB-AZ **RICK BARTON**, Peoria AZ
 RS SW-2000629, Satellit 750 with various outdoor wires, World Traveler Longines Symphonette 4597 portable with Terk advantage loop
 County Comm GP-5/SSB Gen 3 Ultralight receiver, County Comm high sensitivity AM (LW/MW) antenna
 MC*Y-MA **MARK CONNELLY**, WA1ION, South Yarmouth, Cape Cod MA (GC= 41.6931 N/70.1912 W) (grid FN41vq)
 NOTE: {A} in entry indicates that audio can be accessed from link on the following page: http://www.qsl.net/wa1ion/doc1/audio_2018.htm
 Receiver: Microtelecom Perseus
 Antenna 1: Cardioid-pattern SuperLoop: 10m vertical by 11m horizontal (peak 165 degrees, null 345 degrees)
 Antenna 2: Cardioid-pattern SuperLoop: 9m vertical by 20m horizontal (peak 90 degrees, null 270 degrees)

I hope everyone had a good time at the Convention. I am very disappointed that I had to cancel at the last minute and had to miss out. Hopefully every arrived and made it back home safely. Fingers crossed for next year! 73 and Good DX – Brandon



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

Deadlines: 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5 and 11/12

Tim Noonan, 801 East Park Boulevard, Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

The Madison-Milwaukee Get Together had its 25th anniversary event on Saturday, August 18, at Lake Farm County Park in Madison. It's a beautiful spot, with plenty of space for erecting antennas, as some did and offering a beautiful view of Lake Waubesa. It turned out to be a beautiful day and our hosts, Bill Dvorak and Mark Taylor, along with lots of help from Bill's wife Nina, did an amazing job of organizing and managing the get-together. Ken Hawkins, host of this year's big even in St Charles MO, was there, and offered information on the convention. Universal Radio generously donated the door prizes, and we enjoyed a wonderful catered dinner. It was the second highest attendance in the history of the event, with 47 radio hobbyists present along with 10 spouses, family members, etc. My family and I will host as the event moves back to the Milwaukee area next year at our place in Oak Creek. Mark your calendar: it's on Saturday August 17 2019. And have a great 18-19 DX season! 73, Tim

Jon Pearkins, Edmonton, Alberta jon@pearkins.com

In my urban environment, nearby 50KW transmitters all have directional patterns that send the equivalent of 75-100KW in my direction, so it is hard to find a DX radio. Nearly all are plagued by local mixing products and Bleed is also a problem. In my previous house, exactly 3 miles east of the transmitter, CFRN-1260 could be heard continuously all the way up to 1480. So far, in my current location, the only radios that I have found without these problems are a couple of Sangean models, the HDR-18 and PR-D5. Both originally had PLL Synth design receivers, which had scared me away from other types. A couple of weeks back, I learned that the PR-D5 switched to a DSP receiver in 2012, so obviously DSP can work here too which has prompted me to order a PR-D15, the so-called next generation PR-D5, with the same 200mm (nearly 8 inch) ferrite rod internal antenna. Another recent realization is that frequencies that seem quiet with the volume turned up to the max on modern portable radios may not be an RF Sensitivity issue, but an Audio Amplification limitation. I'll be experimenting with external amplifiers this DX season. A long-time DXer recently challenged my belief that Summer is a waste of time to DX. Skeptical, I checked at 11 pm in mid-July and it was pretty lousy. But, the next night, I woke up around 2:30 AM and the dial was actually fairly interesting. Most notably, WBZ-1030 Boston, which I can only hear about one in three nights in the winter behind the best null I can do of KTWO Casper, Wyoming. Amazing given my inability to hear anything on a much tighter null of KTWO in Vancouver in the late 1960s. I realize now that, this far night, I have to wait several hours after twilight has ended for DX conditions to improve. In closing, I'd like to wish everyone a productive DX season. (Good to hear from you, Jon. Please keep the reports coming – rce)

Art Peterson, 8531 31st Street, Richmond, California 94804 Awpetersonrpf@att.net

Recently I was reminiscing about DXing in the 60s, noting that I listened to WLS-890 for entertainment. Then I mentally cruised down the dial just from memory: 880 WCBS, 870 WWL, 860 KONO, 850 KOA and KICY and KHLO, 840 WHAS, 834 Belize, 830 WCCO, and KHVH and JOBB, 740 CBL, 730 CKLG, 725 Surinam, 720 KDWN, 700 WLW, 690 CBU and XETRA, 670 WMAQ and HRN, 660 WNBC and KFAR, 655 YSS and North Korea, 650 WSM and KORL, 540 CBK, not to speak of KDKA, WBZ, WHO, CBA, WBT, WRVA, WWVA, WHAM, WOAI, KSTP, and the classic XERF with Wolfman Jack. Even though more than 50 years have passed, it amazes me how many old call letters I can recall from memory. Guided by an article in Popular Electronics that listed MW targets for each continent, on September 6 1963, I was tuned just below 1180 and was hearing an Asian language. Then at 0500 local, I about jumped out of my chair when I heard "This is the Voice of America from Okinawa". It was my very first TP! I started adding to my TP logs slowly until I joined IRCA 6 months later. Then my totals really started to climb thanks to the tips of fellow IRCAans. I learned a lot of geography through DXing and learned proper pronunciations of many cities. On a family vacation in Canada, I was really jolted when I heard my dad refer to CalGARY! Of course, I was able to correct him. Even now, as I manage without eyesight, DXing is still enriching my life since it is based on hearing rather than sight. Hope your upcoming DX season continues to enrich your life. 73 de AWP

Richard Evans, 3908 Grand Oak Avenue, #4, Indianapolis, Indiana 46237

My apologies for not being at the St Charles convention this past weekend. I wound up with some heart problems and the doctor told me it would be best if I didn't travel. She was afraid I would wind up in an ER there. She thought that "convention" meant I would be wondering thru a real big convention building until I told her otherwise. I spent the time resting and going thru my logs from when I lived up in Gary from 1966-1978. I discovered I had heard a total of 27 countries. I hope everyone had a fun time and I will be looking forward to seeing where it will be next year.0



**Supercharging the XHDATA D-808
 Installation of High Performance AM and LW Loopsticks**
 By Gary DeBock, Puyallup WA, USA September 2018



Introduction: As a stock receiver the Chinese-made D-808 AM-LW-FM-SW-AIR portable is a very capable performer, with AM reception superior to that of any current Ultralight model, and impressive FM reception as well. The radio was certainly “inspired” (to use a generous term) by the CCrane Skywave SSB model, which coincidentally was manufactured in the same part of China by CCrane’s Redsun partner – with the first units going out the door a few months before the D-808 came into existence.

Because foreign intellectual property is routinely copied in China with no punishment from the government, XHDATA essentially had the chance to copy all the good points in the Skywave SSB design and improve upon its weak points as well. The only precaution that XHDATA took after this wholesale design appropriation was to forbid direct shipments of the D-808 from China to North America – presumably to avoid a copyright lawsuit by CCrane. As such, the first D-808 models were sold to the rest of the world around January of 2018 at a price about half that of the Skywave SSB, while North American DXers were told that since the model couldn’t be shipped to the USA or Canada, they were out of luck.

Of course some D-808 models did make it into North America, where it was found to be a very capable portable with astonishing value for the price. Finally around March, an enterprising Chinese eBay seller came up with a plan to ship the model to North America through Israel, thereby skirting around XHDATA’s direct shipment prohibition. As of late August this eBay seller (harelan ecommerce) has already sold 62 of the D-808 models this way, even though he charges a premium for shipment to North America. Whether this single supply source will continue to serve North American customers is currently unknown, but out of the 7 models that I have purchased from him there hasn’t been a single D-808 model with any issues-- despite the apparent lack of any manufacturer’s warranty offered on the radio.



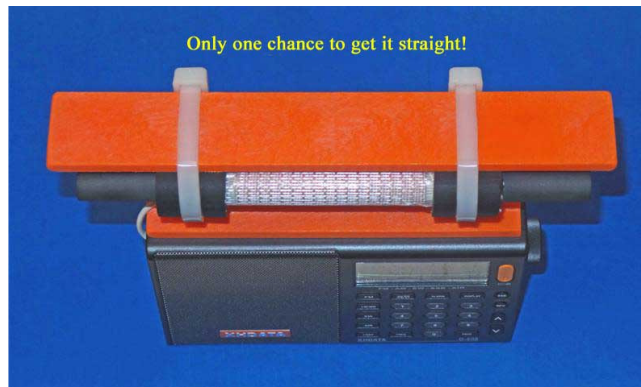
Despite the D-808’s rather dubious design pedigree there is no doubt that the Chinese engineers (or reverse engineers?) did a superb job in creating an awesome radio for the money. Besides directly copying the Skywave’s SSB design and controls, XHDATA also made significant improvements, including a longer loopstick (providing clearly superior AM sensitivity), a much more powerful audio amplifier (correcting a serious shortcoming in the Skywave SSB) and a much lower price (about half that of the \$169.99 Skywave SSB, for models shipped outside North America). Another great advantage for someone wishing to perform this loopstick upgrade are the perfectly located, highly accessible Litz wire connections on the RF circuit board – apparently used by the Chinese engineers to conveniently test out various loopsticks, and retained in the final product. The radio’s high quality construction and survivability in adverse conditions were proven repeatedly over the summer here, with the model surviving accidental exposure to a 104 degree (43 degrees C) car trunk temperature, exposure to moderate rain, repeated travel bumps, and use as the main receiver during a 9-day DXpedition to a plunging ocean side cliff in Oregon state. The 3.7v lithium-ion rechargeable battery provides superior run time for extended DXing sessions, and is included in the D-808 shipping package, along with a USB cord to charge the battery, a plug-in wire antenna (for FM, SW and AIR), a vinyl carrying case, and a pretty basic English instruction manual.

One thing you will NOT find supplied with the D-808 is a warranty card – either in the shipping box, or online. This is pretty standard practice in China, incidentally, where concepts like refunds and warranties aren't generally part of customers' expectations. This doesn't necessarily mean that XHDATA won't repair obvious problems in a new D-808, but it does mean that they aren't assuming the obligation to do so. I have heard from one North American purchaser who received a new D-808 with a defective speaker, and he is still waiting for the model to be repaired (after paying the shipping charge to send it back to China). Each individual purchaser must decide whether or not this lack of any warranty is a deal breaker. But if you are looking for a final reason to perform this loopstick transplant, why not consider the fact that you will not be violating any manufacturer's warranty by doing so? ©

Realistic Expectations: Although this 7.5" loopstick upgrade will certainly make your D-808 far more sensitive than the stock model on Medium Wave or Longwave, it is not designed to compete with large (2' sided or larger) inductively coupled box loops, or any of the new FSL antennas. The sensitivity upgrade will boost the D-808's MW band weak-signal performance up to the level of classic portables like the ICF-2010 and RF-2200; however, and since the D-808's DSP-enhanced selectivity will generally exceed that offered by these classic portables, the overall DXing capability in the AM mode could be considered slightly greater. The D-808 does have SSB capability, although it lacks the SSB tuning convenience offered by the ICF-2010 and RF-2200. It also lacks the ICF-2010's superb Synch detector, a big advantage in weak signal DXing. But in portability, versatility and DXing value for the price, the "Supercharged" D-808 is a real winner.

Project Overview: This construction article will provide the builder with step-by-step instructions to upgrade the XHDATA D-808's loopstick to a much more sensitive, externally-mounted 7.5" Medium Wave or Longwave loopstick replacement. Both the Medium Wave and Longwave 7.5" loopstick designs have been thoroughly tested and proven effective in actual DXing by hobbyists other than the author, and as long as the instructions are followed carefully, this relatively inexpensive modification will provide a major improvement in the D-808's weak-signal reception capability.

This modification project involves close-order soldering on the D-808's circuit board, and should only be attempted by builders with reasonably good eyesight, good hand coordination and soldering experience. The project also calls for the use of a precut plastic loopstick frame to attach the antenna to the top of the D-808's top back cabinet surface, and the construction of this precut plastic frame requires either the use of a 12" (or larger) power miter saw, or some rather lengthy cutting with a hacksaw. Use of a power miter saw SHOULD NOT be attempted by those without serious power tool experience! The author assumes that only qualified power tool operators will attempt to use a 12" miter saw to cut these frames quickly, and that other builders who wish to construct them will use a hacksaw. As such, only basic cutting instructions are provided for the 12" power miter saw users, while detailed instructions are provided for the hacksaw users. To assist builders who are not qualified to use power tools, the author has prepared a LIMITED number of these precut plastic loopstick frames on a power miter saw, which will be offered at cost to these builders on a first come, first served basis.



A final warning is in order concerning the step of gluing the precut plastic loopstick frame to the D-808's top back cabinet surface. Although this step is not dangerous, it is pretty tricky. Since the superglue "grips" very rapidly, you will only get one chance to ensure that the frame is straight, and centered on the D-808's top cabinet surface. Do yourself a favor, and make multiple "dry runs" to practice this important step before applying the glue! Failure to take this step seriously will probably result in a crooked loopstick frame – which will hold the antenna just fine for DXing purposes, but which will be an eternal reminder to the DXer (and everyone else) of the hazards of haste.



Construction Parts Required: This 7.5" loopstick D-808 construction article will guide you through the assembly of either a 7.5" Medium Wave loopstick D-808 or a 7.5" Longwave loopstick D-808, so make sure that you order the parts necessary for construction of your chosen model. The picture above shows the parts that will be necessary for construction of either model, but the Litz wire and 7.5" ferrite rod components differ according to whether you are building the Medium Wave or Longwave model.

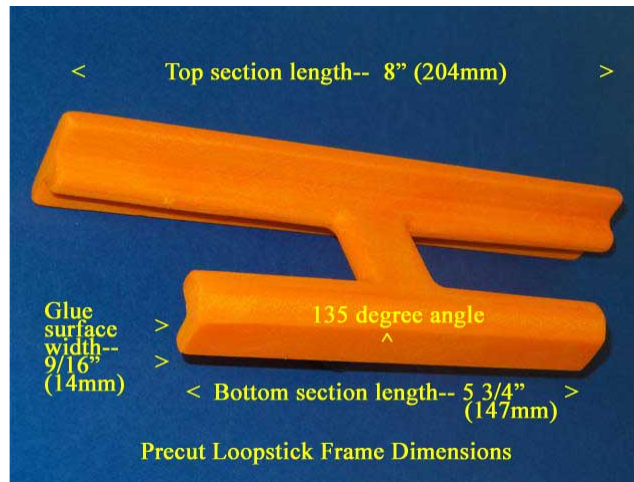
- A) XHDATA D-808 Receiver, currently available to North American purchasers (for \$112.87 + \$10 shipping) at <https://www.ebay.com/itm/XHDATA-D-808-Portable-Digital-Radio-FM-stereo-SW-MW-LW-SSB-RDS-Air-Band-LCD/263589135532?hash=item3d5f2304ac:g:gzGAASwCBFxd8G>
- B) Scotch brand "Extreme" strapping tape (any size roll)
- C) 15 feet (4.6 meters) of 250/46 Litz wire (Medium Wave model) http://www.ebay.com/itm/Litz-wire-250-46-0-04-mm-for-crystal-radio-coil-Loop-antenna-100-/160804560511?pt=LH_DefaultDomain_0&hash=item2570b2de7f OR 25 feet (7.7 meters) of 100/44 Litz wire (Longwave model) http://www.ebay.com/itm/Litz-wire-100-44-for-crystal-set-coil-Single-layer-100-/150624865811?pt=LH_DefaultDomain_0&hash=item2311f10e13; from eBay seller "Mkmak222"
- D) Two 120 lb test plastic tie wraps (any length over 6")

- E) Johnson Level and Tool Mfg Co, Inc 48" orange plastic carpenter's level, part # 7748-O (provides enough plastic for two loopstick frames)
 - F) Two 3/4" lengths of 1/2" ID clear vinyl hose
 - G) Two 1" lengths of 5/8" ID rubber hose
 - H) Roll of 2" Johnson and Johnson waterproof (medical) tape OR roll of 1" Rite-Aid waterproof tape
 - I) Amidon 7.5" x 0.5" ferrite rod, part no R61-050-750 (MW model) OR part no R33-050-750 (LW Model), available at <http://www.amidoncorp.com/rods-and-tiles/>
 - J) 6" of 1/16" shrink tubing
- Miscellaneous: One packet of Duro Super Glue (.07 ounce size), solder, 25w (low heat) soldering iron, hacksaw (or power miter saw), screwdriver set, sandpaper, needle nose pliers, diagonal cutters

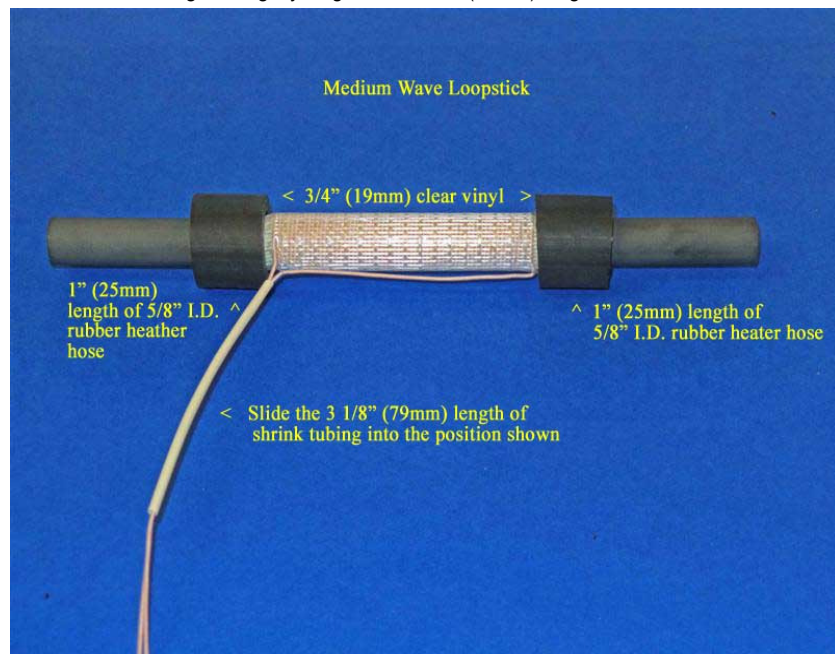
D-808 Radio Preparation: Before starting the modification give the radio a thorough test on all bands, ensuring that all the stock model functions work properly, and that there are no issues with the display, speaker, headphone jack, battery or charging system. It's also a good idea to run a daytime DX band scan on the AM or Longwave band (for whichever band you plan to construct an upgrade loopstick) and document the results – to use as a benchmark for the upgrade loopstick's performance.

STEP-BY-STEP CONSTRUCTION – Antenna Frame and 7.5 inch Loopstick Preparation

- 1) Refer to the photo below. Using the "Supercharging the Tecsun PL-380" article (posted at <http://www.mediafire.com/file/du3sr5cd9thqvau/7.5inch-LS-PL380.doc/file> or available directly from the author) carefully prepare the orange loopstick antenna frame according to construction steps 1-9, EXCEPT note that the lower (glue surface) edge of the antenna frame should be cut to a length of 5 3/4" (147mm), NOT 5" (127mm) as described in the PL-380 transplant article. Pay close attention to the safety precautions concerning power tool usage, and DO NOT attempt to use a power miter saw unless you have SERIOUS power tool experience!

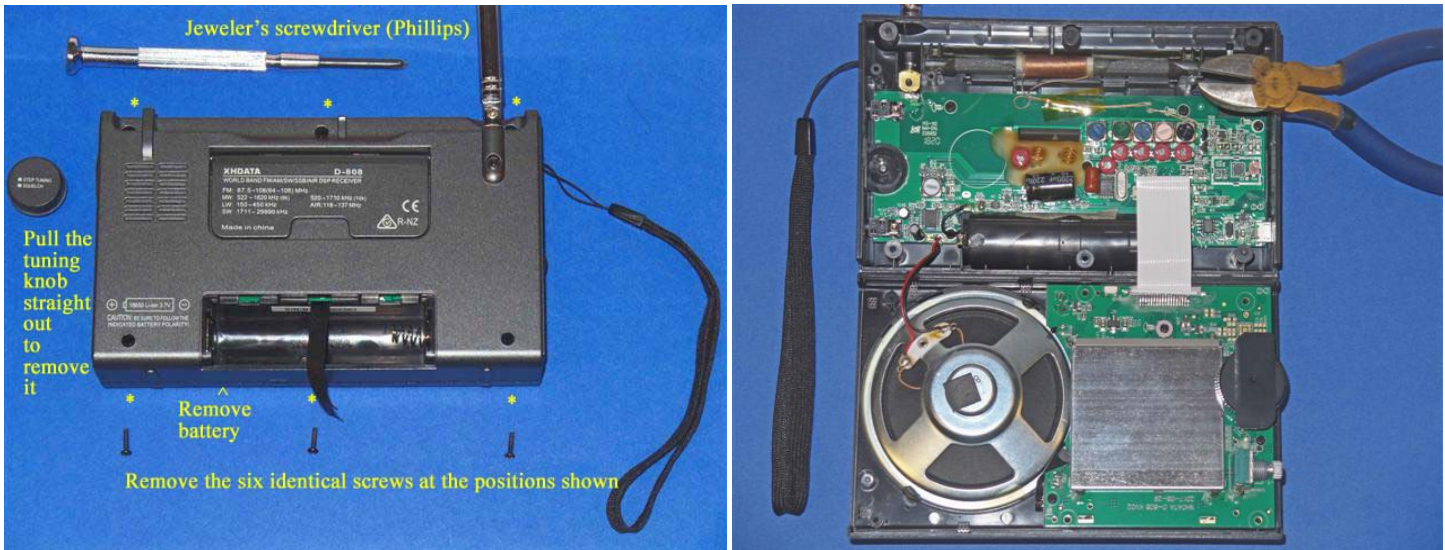


- 2) If you are constructing an AM (Medium Wave) loopstick, follow construction steps 10-16 in the PL-380 transplant article to construct the antenna. If you are constructing a Longwave loopstick, follow construction steps 10a-16a in the PL-380 transplant article to construct the antenna. If you are constructing both loopsticks, MAKE SURE that the ferrite rod and Litz wire are only used in the antennas for which they were designed. Mixing up these items is very easy, and such a mistake will make both loopsticks perform like clunkers.
- 3) After construction of either the AM or Longwave loopstick, follow the instructions in steps 29 and 30 of the PL-380 transplant article to install a piece of 3 1/8" (79mm) shrink tubing, EXCEPT note that this length is slightly longer than the 3" (76mm) length called for in the PL-380 article.



- 4) Refer to the photo above for the following three steps. [NOTE: Although this photo shows the AM (Medium Wave) loopstick, the procedures in this step are the same for the Longwave loopstick, although the position of the rubber hose lengths and clear vinyl inserts will be closer to the ends of the ferrite rod]. Carefully slide the length of 3 1/8" shrink tubing into the position shown, ensuring that there are no Litz wire kinks or bends inside the shrink tubing.
- 5) Take the two 3/4" (19mm) clear vinyl inserts and slide them onto the ferrite rod ends, twisting them up against the border of the Scotch "Extreme" tape ends to lock the tape in place under the vinyl inserts. Ensure that the clear vinyl inserts do not touch any Litz wire leads or coil turns.
- 6) Slide the 1" (25mm) lengths of rubber heater hose over the clear vinyl inserts until the appearance of the loopstick resembles the above photo. Ensure that the rubber hose sections also do not touch either the Litz wire leads or any coil turns. Finally, place the completed loopstick in a safe place until it is called for in Step.

Radio Disassembly



- 7) Refer to the photo above for this step. Remove the battery from the radio, and using a Jeweler's Phillips screwdriver of the correct size, remove the six identical screws in the positions shown (NOTE: These screws have a tendency to stick inside their slots, even when the slots are turned upside down. If you cannot remove all six screws it's not a major problem, but at least ensure that the screws are completely loose in their slots, and that you don't lose any of them during the remaining steps). Grasp the tuning knob, and pull it out horizontally in a completely straight manner to remove it from the radio. Ensure that the battery, tuning knob and all removed screws are placed in a safe place until the radio is reassembled.
- 8) Carefully separate the front and back cabinet sections and place them down in the position shown in the photo above. Note that the front and back sections of the radio are connected by a ribbon wire plug-in system – ensure that this plug remains securely inside its slot at all times, and that no great stress is placed on the speaker wires.



- 9) Refer to the above close up photo, and note the position of the two Litz wire soldering points on the circuit board (in the lower right corner of the photo). Using diagonal cutters, cut the two Litz wire leads at the position shown, UNLESS you wish to salvage this stock loopstick for other projects – In which case you should desolder the entire lengths of the Litz wire leads from the circuit board at the positions shown in the lower right corner (NOTE: The stock loopstick is of a fairly good design, and has an inductance that would be compatible with any DSP-chip Ultralight radio, providing an AM sensitivity boost in the process).

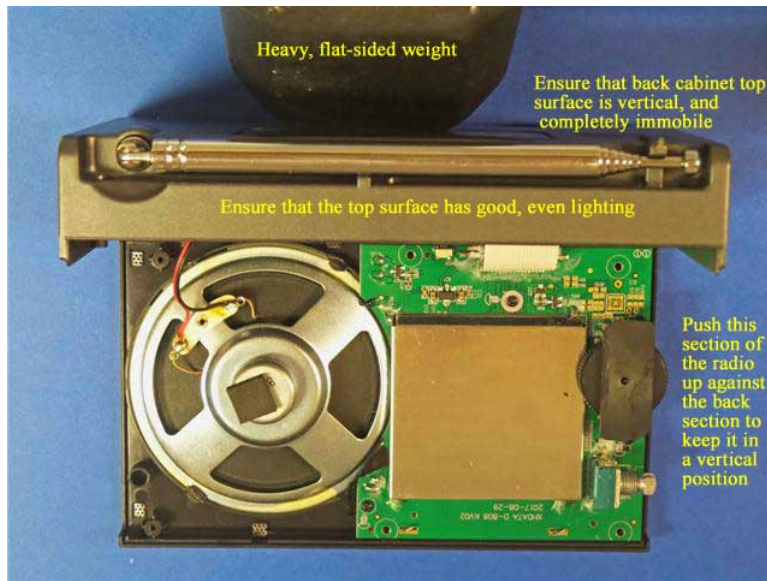


- 10) Refer to the photo above. Using a flat Jeweler's screwdriver with a 1/16" blade, carefully probe around all four sides of the stock loopstick to break all of the glue bonds. Work slowly and carefully around the perimeter of the ferrite rod, including the plastic covers on each end. Once most of the glue bonds have been broken the ferrite rod will begin to shift around as you break up the few remaining bonds, but until this point work slowly and patiently to break up the glue.



Pry the ferrite rod up on one end, then grasp it with your fingers and pull it out of the radio with a slight twisting motion

- 11) Refer to the photo above. Using the flat Jeweler's screwdriver, once all of the glue bonds have been broken and the ferrite rod is loose in its slot, lift the ferrite rod out of its slot on one side by prying up under the plastic cover on the end of the ferrite rod. Ensure that the Litz wire leads have either been cut or desoldered from the circuit board, then grasp the ferrite rod with your fingers and pull it completely out of the slot with a slight twisting motion.



Heavy, flat-sided weight

Ensure that back cabinet top surface is vertical, and completely immobile

Ensure that the top surface has good, even lighting

Push this section of the radio up against the back section to keep it in a vertical position

- 12) Remove the wrist strap, and refer to the photo above. Carefully pick up the two sides of the radio and place the back section in a vertical position as shown, with a heavy flat weight (barbell, or other heavy flat item) pressing up against the back cabinet section to keep it in a vertical position. Ensure that there is adequate, even lighting on the top cabinet section for the gluing process in the next step, and that the back cabinet surface will not shift around as you make the gluing "dry runs," and perform the actual gluing of the loopstick frame to the top of the cabinet.



> 1/16" of space from edge of the frame to edge of the cabinet

^ 1/16" overhang past the edge of the cabinet

< 1/16" of space from edge of the frame to edge of the cabinet

- 13) Take the previously prepared orange plastic loopstick frame, and ensure that its bottom glue surface is completely smooth and flat, with no uneven ridges on the edges of the glue surface (remove these with fine sandpaper, but ONLY on the ridges, and not on the rest of the flat glue surface). Using a damp paper towel, wipe the top cabinet glue surface and the loopstick frame glue surface to remove any dust or debris, then wipe them again with a dry, clean paper towel to ensure that they are both completely dry. Take the loopstick frame and gently slide the frame over the top cabinet surface to ensure that both surfaces are smooth and flat. Refer to the photo above. Ensure that there is even, bright lighting on the top cabinet surface, and make several "dry runs" to place the loopstick frame in the exact center of the top cabinet surface (with 1/16", or 1.5mm of space between the frame ends to the cabinet ends), and also 1/16" (1.5mm) of overhang above the front edge of the cabinet's glue surface (NOTE: if you wish to simplify the process by lining up the front edge of the loopstick frame with the front edge of the cabinet's glue surface it will still provide an acceptable result, but you will need to do some minor sanding of the whip antenna's plastic slot post, as shown in the photo below. In either case, make repeated "dry runs" with the loopstick frame to practice placing it in the exact center of the top cabinet's glue surface, since you will only get one chance to place it in the proper center position once the superglue is applied.

NOTE: The back of the loopstick frame has a beveled surface to permit full operation of the radio's whip antenna after the frame is glued on the top of the cabinet surface. If the loopstick frame is glued with a 1/16" (1.5mm) overhang in front of the front edge of the cabinet surface then the whip antenna should have enough space for free operation. The alternative is to glue the two front edges lined up with each other to simplify the gluing process, in which case minor sanding may be required on the whip antenna slot post, as shown in the photo below.

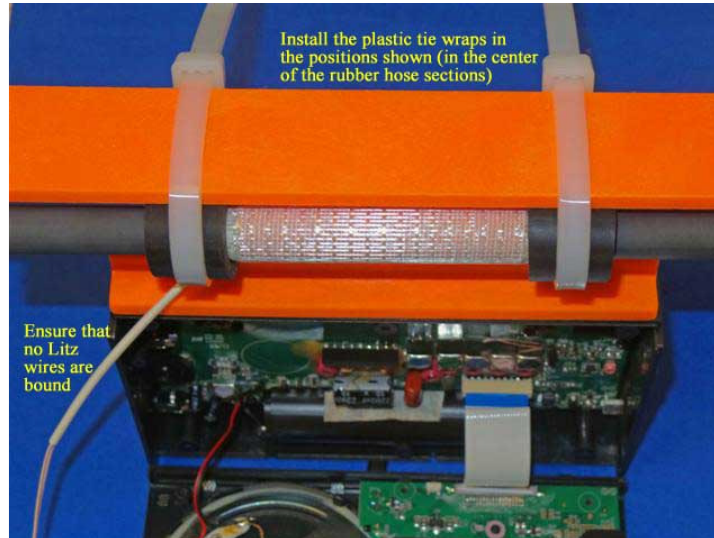


- 14) After making multiple "dry runs" and becoming familiar with accurate placement of the loopstick frame on top of the cabinet, refer to the photo at the **top** of the next page. After once again ensuring that the back cabinet section will not shift around during the gluing process, take the Duro superglue packet and apply a thin (1/8", or 3mm) bead of glue along the center of the cabinet's glue surface, extending it 5 1/4" (133mm) long, with equal spaces on both ends (as shown). While sighting the two sides place the loopstick frame carefully down in the correct center position as practiced previously, with the 1/16" overhang if desired. If satisfied with the position, press down on the 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 superglue, so use this brief time to 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 (regardless, it will still hold the loopstick just fine, for DXing purposes).



- 15) After the loopstick frame is securely placed and locked on top of the D-808's cabinet surface, place downward pressure on the loopstick frame along its length in order to ensure a tight glue bond throughout the entire top cabinet surface. Continue this process for about one minute, and sight both ends of the loopstick frame to ensure that they are both completely flat against the D-808 cabinet.
- 16) Inspect the front and back edges of the loopstick frame's border with the D-808 cabinet for any glue seepage, and if any is found, remove it promptly with the 1/16" flat Jeweler's screwdriver blade. Glue should not be allowed to run past the frame edges. This completes the process of gluing the frame to the D-808 cabinet.

7.5" Loopstick Installation



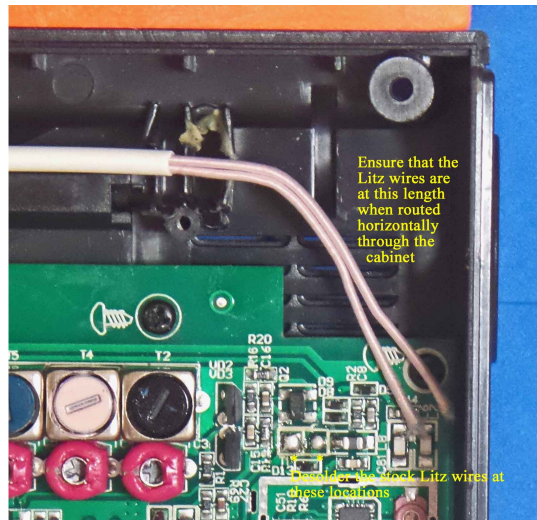
- 17) [NOTE: The installation procedures of the Medium Wave (AM) and Longwave loopsticks are identical, except that the plastic tie wraps and rubber hose sections are closer to the ends of the ferrite rod in the Longwave version. The following photos are for the Medium Wave (AM) version, but Longwave loopstick builders should follow the same steps, while referring to the Longwave model photo in the "Operation" section as a guide] Refer to the photo above. Carefully take the previously prepared 7.5" loopstick and hold it in the position shown – in its slot, centered in the middle of the orange antenna frame, with the shrink tubing and Litz wire leads running down to the left. Take the two plastic tie wraps and install them in the position shown, centered over the rubber hose sections on the loopstick, while ensuring that no Litz wires or shrink tubing is bound under the plastic tie wraps.



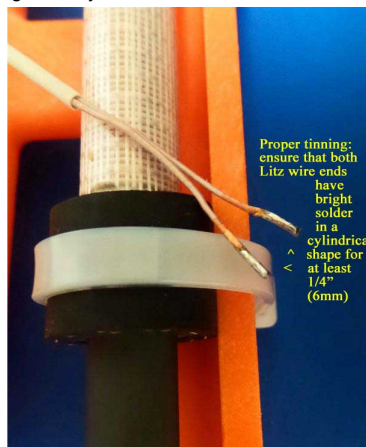
- 18) Refer to the photo above. Lay the two cabinet sections down flat as shown, ensuring that the Litz wire shrink tubing is in the exact position shown (if it isn't, carefully slide it along both Litz wires until it is in this exact position). Carefully thread one Litz wire end through the empty wrist strap hole, then thread the other Litz wire end through the hole, as shown. Finally pull on the two Litz wires together from the right while guiding the end of the shrink tubing into the empty wrist strap hole, and pull a short section of the shrink tubing through the hole (as shown) to protect the Litz wire insulation from friction damage.



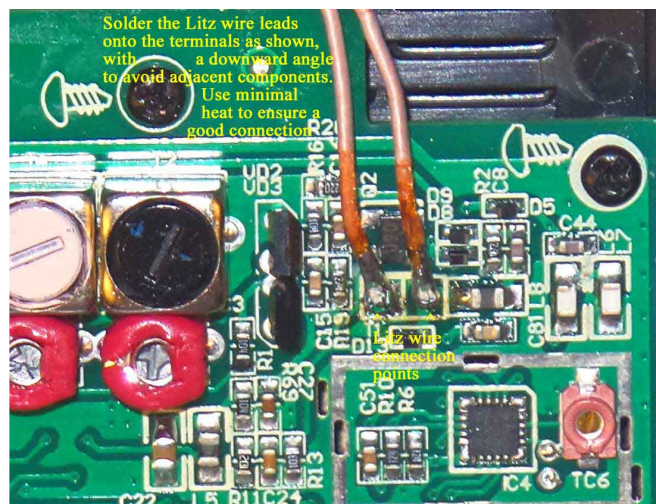
- 19) Refer to the photo above. Using the previous procedure to install shrink tubing (which is described in the PL-380 transplant article) install a 2.5" (63mm) length of shrink tubing over the two Litz wire ends, and shift the shrink tubing into the position shown in the photo. After this is done cut the two Litz wire leads to the lengths shown in the photo (NOTE: make sure that the ends of both Litz wires are cleanly cut, not frayed and at the minimum diameter before attempting to insert them into the shrink tubing. The process is much easier when the Litz wires pass smoothly through the shrink tubing).



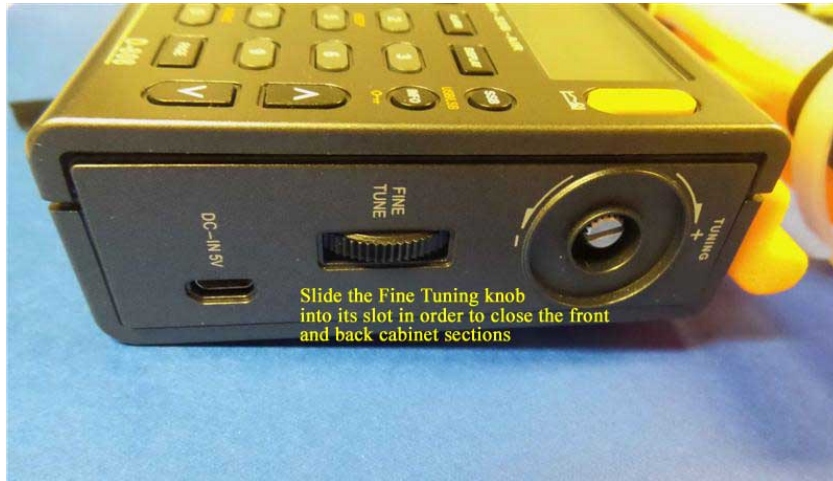
- 20) Refer to the close up photo above. Using a low heat (25w) pencil-type soldering iron, remove the two stock Litz wire leads at the positions shown, taking care not to use excessive heat, or touch the adjacent components. Ensure that the new Litz wire leads are at the length shown when the leads are in a horizontal position throughout the cabinet, and cut them to this length if they are not.



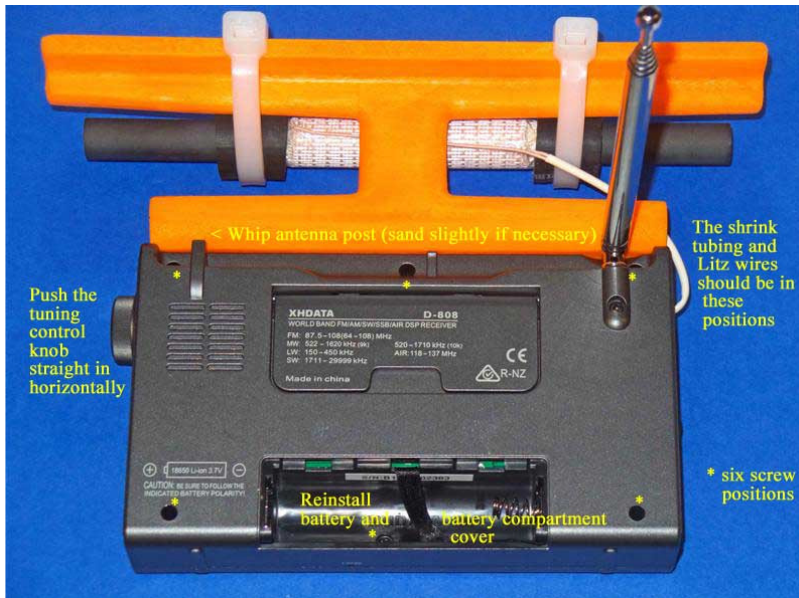
- 21) [NOTE: When tinning the 250/46 Litz wire it is essential that all of the individual Litz wire strands be completely soldered together for a length of at least 1/4" (6mm), with bright, shiny solder around the circumference of the Litz wire ends for this minimum (1/4") length. The Litz wire must be heated with a clean, hot soldering iron around its circumference in order to melt the solder properly for this step] Refer to the photo above. Pull the Litz wires up out of the previous position, and place a clean rag underneath them (on top of the circuit board) to completely protect the circuit board from any solder which might accidentally drop down during the tinning process. Using your hot 25w soldering iron melt a generous amount of solder on its tip, and work the soldering iron tip slowly and patiently around the circumference of each Litz wire end until there is a bright, shiny solder length of at least 1/4" (6mm) in a cylindrical pattern at the end of each Litz wire. When doing this, take great care not to allow any solder to drip down onto the circuit board below (ie, make sure that your rag completely covers the circuit board). The final appearance of your Litz wire lead ends should resemble those in the photo above.
- 22) When your Litz wire lead ends resemble the photo above, cut the soldered portion down to a length of 3/16" (5mm) and observe the appearance of the end of the Litz wire. It should have a bright, solid circular shape, with no gaps or individual Litz wires showing. If not, reheat the end of the Litz wire while adding some solder, and repeat this step.



- 23) [NOTE: The Litz wire connection points on the circuit board are surrounded by other important components. It is important to avoid solder drips on these components, or solder bridges to their leads. Solder the Litz wire leads down at an angle to avoid these surrounding components, and use the minimum amount of heat and solder to ensure good electrical connections) Refer to the close up photo above. Following the precautions described, solder the two Litz wire leads down onto the circuit board at an angle, as shown in the photo. After soldering, make a close visual inspection to ensure that there are no solder bridges across the Litz wire connections, or nearby components. The remaining length of the Litz wire leads should be routed in a horizontal manner to the wrist strap hole.



- 24) Carefully pick up the front and back cabinet sections, and hold the back cabinet section fairly close to the front section (as the radio would normally be oriented, when assembled). Refer to the photo above, and carefully insert the "Fine Tuning" control thumbwheel from the front cabinet section into its slot on the back cabinet section in a sideways movement. This will allow you to fully close the front and back cabinet sections in the next step.



- 25) Refer to the photo above. Pick up the two cabinet halves and carefully snap them together (this action should not require any great force). Place the radio face down in the position shown (with a soft surface underneath, for protection), and using the Jewelers Phillips screwdriver of the correct size, carefully screw in the six screws that were loosened previously, starting with the screw near the whip antenna post (you should pick up the radio temporarily and hold the two cabinet sections together tightly at this corner, as you do this). After all six screws have been retightened take the Tuning control knob and press it back onto its shaft in a straight horizontal motion. Finally, reinstall the battery and battery compartment cover to finish up the reassembly.

TESTING AND OPERATION-- MEDIUM WAVE MODEL



This 7.5" transplant loopstick is designed to provide a major boost in sensitivity from 530-1700 kHz, and if the antenna is working properly both the weak signal reception and the radio's nulling capability should be greatly enhanced. It is normal for the antenna to receive more background noise on the low band frequencies, although the sensitivity boost should be substantial across the band.

The construction design of the orange antenna frame allows full usage of the whip antenna for checking SW parallels of MW-DX stations, although if you chose to glue the antenna frame flush with the front of the back cabinet surface to simplify the gluing process, you may need to sand the whip antenna slot post slightly to allow free movement of the whip antenna (see step #13).


In the photo **above**, some of the important controls for Medium DXing are highlighted. The AM Bandwidth control allows you to choose multiple DSP filtering selections to enhance selectivity as desired, with the narrowest filtering (1 kHz) providing both the sharpest selectivity and the best weak-signal sensitivity. However this 1 kHz setting also has the poorest audio fidelity, with the higher audio frequencies typically cut off by the DSP filtering. As such, for regular DXing far away from strong local pests, the other AM Bandwidth settings may be more suitable. The Direct Frequency Entry key allows you to manual enter in any MW frequency, to which the radio will shift once the numbers are pressed on the keypad. The Tuning knob has three different modes, which can be toggled by pressing the knob horizontally. The first mode is tuning in either 9 kHz or 10 kHz steps (depending on which of these step you have selected), while the second mode is tuning in 1 kHz steps. The third mode is to lock the frequency in place. Pressing the knob again will return the tuning to 9 or 10 kHz steps.

The XHDATA D-808 has multiple display functions, which can be toggled by the indicated key. The first option is the temperature in either Centigrade or Fahrenheit (depending on your pre-set preference), while the second option is the alarm time. The third option is the current time (which you need to set according whether you prefer UTC or local time), while the fourth option is the received signal strength in both dBu and dB.

The supplied 3.7v lithium ion battery has superior run time, and may be easily charged using the supplied USB cable to either a computer or AC outlet (with the appropriate adapter). As reported in various posts throughout this year, the D-808 model has rugged construction with an excellent record of survival under tough conditions, including hot summer days, moderate rain exposure and extended usage as the main receiver during a 9-day ocean cliff DXpedition in Oregon – performing flawlessly at all times.

CONCLUSION: It is the author's sincere hope that this "Supercharged" D-808 model will bring you a lot of DXing fun during travel, as well as at other times. When conditions are good you should never underestimate this enhanced model's potential of receiving awesome DX beyond your expectations – as an example, here is the stand-alone performance of a 7.5" loopstick D-808 in receiving 1017-A3Z in Nuku'alofa, Tonga (10 kW at 5,632 miles/ 9,063 km) on the ocean cliff near Manzanita, Oregon at 1301 UTC on August 8th of this year <https://dreamcrafts.box.com/s/tp3i89vky6p7hbylgkk1bp4pa5nvnuku>. Not only Tonga is received, but even the Australian horse racing station 1017-2KY in Sydney (5 kW at 7,630 miles/12,280 km) is received as a weak co-channel in the middle of the recording. My hope is that you all will be so lucky with your new Supercharged D-808!

73 and Good DX, **Gary DeBock** (in Puyallup WA, USA)



GEOMAGNETIC INDICES – Compiled by: Phil Bytheway
E-mail: DXM.EiC@gmail.com

Geomagnetic Summary August 1 2018 through August 31 2018

Tabulated from WWV on-line status daily (K @ 0000 UTC).

Date	Flux	A	K	Space Wx										
8/ 1	70	6	3	no storms	8/12	68	5	2	no storms	8/23	70	5	1	no storms
2	70	6	1	no storms	13	68	5	1	no storms	24	72	5	1	no storms
3	70	6	1	no storms	14	69	4	2	no storms	25	72	11	4	no storms
4	70	6	2	no storms	15	69	14	4	no storms	26	70	76	3	strong, G3
5	69	4	1	no storms	16	68	11	3	no storms	27	70	26	3	moderate, G2
6	69	4	1	no storms	17	67	13	3	no storms	28	70	10	1	no storms
7	79	10	2	no storms	18	67	12	2	no storms	29	71	6	2	no storms
8	70	5	1	no storms	19	67	8	2	no storms	30	68	4	2	no storms
9	70	4	1	no storms	20	68	14	2	no storms	8/31	68	5	1	no storms
10	70	4	1	no storms	21	68	7	2	no storms					
8/11	67	10	4	no storms	8/22	67	6	2	no storms					

Gx – Geomagnetic Storm Level

Rx – Radio Blackouts Level

Sx – Solar Radiation Storm Level

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.) **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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