

2014 Dayton Hamvention Drake Forum





Drake Equipment's Legacy and Performance: Keeping Them Alive Is Fun!

Agenda

Recently Purchased Drake Linears: What to Check Before Power Is Applied, and After

Technical Advances and Innovations Pioneered by Drake

Performance Curves for Drake and Inrad Filters

FREE prize drawing including Drake memorabilia

Ask the Experts: Questions and Answers



Prize Donator

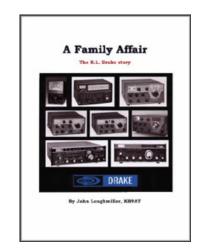
Drake Forum Committee

K9SQG – Evan Rolek WB0IQK – Mark Gilger W4WTO – Bob Harman WA8SAJ – Jeff Covelli WB4HFN – Ron Baker W9DCQ – Doug Ward



Resources

Drake Technical Net: Sunday, 7238 kc @ 4:00 PM Eastern Drake & Antique Tube Gear Net: Tue. 3865 +/- kc @ 8 pm Eastern Drake Family Affair Book by John Loughmiller, KB9AT





Recently Purchased Drake Linears: What to Check Before Power Is Applied, and After

Evan, K9SQG K9SQG@ARRL.net



* Outside *RF Deck *Power Supply

* Inside * RF Deck * Power Supply

- * Operational Checks* Static* Dynamic
- * Logging Findings



My Approach Using L4B as an Example Cosmetics Mechanical Electrical

People have asked, "What should I do?"

Amplifiers serviced have had a wide range of issues.

I know what I do; you probably have more or better ideas.



Safety is #1.

Very familiar with high voltage, fragile vacuum tubes??? Now is <u>NOT</u> the time to be self-taught! A needed mentor...at all times!

Wear safety glasses!

* Glass shards, solder blobs, flying pieces of solid wire from diagonal cutters, etc. are not your friends!

* You can chew with false teeth, walk with an artificial leg, but you can't see with an artificial eye!

Resist the urge to "see if it plays"; rushing in can have disastrous consequences.

Review available documentation: modifications, repairs, receipts, etc.

Properly operating, the L4B is close to legal limit. But save the tubes...







External Cosmetics--General Things to Look for

Dents (especially near plastic feet)

Discoloration, soot

Pits, cracks, rust

Scrapes and gouges

Worn cabinet screws

Etc., etc., etc.

Anything that hints of misuse, shipping damage, modifications, etc.



RF Deck—front

Mechanical zero for both meters

Bandswitch force needed

Pointer calibration for plate tuning, smoothness of vernier drive

Pointer/knob calibration for load capacitor

"Feel" of on/off and CW/SSB switches

ALC pot/switch







RF Deck—back

Blower impeller moves freely, cracks near hub?

Dirty pins, pits, arcs on Jones power connector

Integrity of Millen HV connector

Arcs, soot, corrosion on coax connectors







Power Supply—external

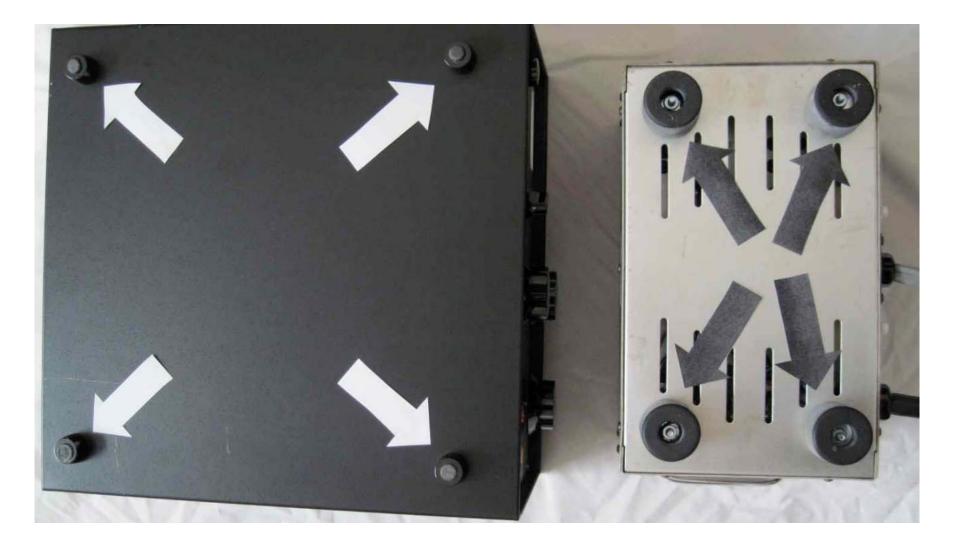
Integrity of Millen HV connector

Exposed wires on Jones power plug, insulation cracks or scrapes

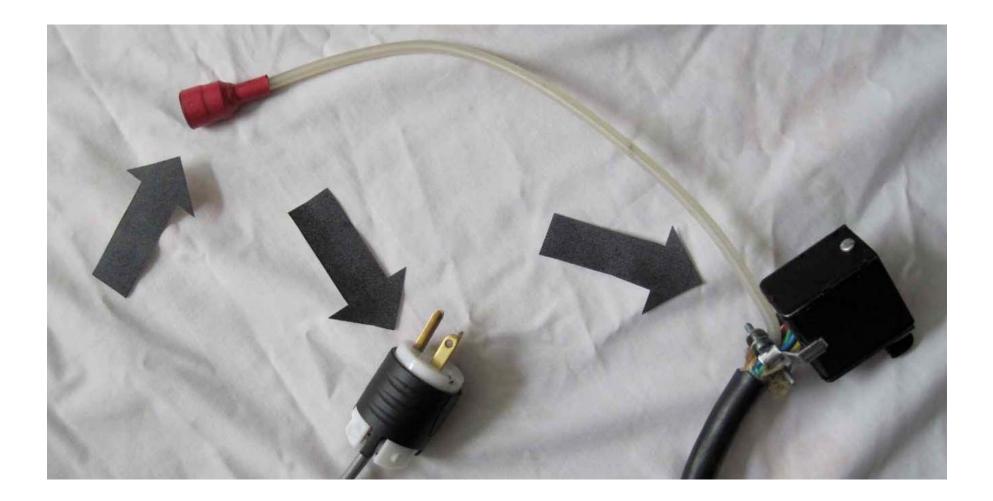
Integrity of power plug for wall outlet, proper pin configuration, strain relief

Deformed bottom near plastic feet











Power Supply--inside cosmetics & mechanical

Loose parts, pieces of wire, screws and nuts, washers, signs of arcing, smoke residue, small solder blobs on chassis or other parts, etc.

Non-original parts, parts with wrong values, etc.

Discolored parts like resistors, signs of heating, etc.



RF Deck—top

Interlock

Cracked insulators, missing screws, glued parts, etc.

Switch contacts: output bandswitch, multimeter

Plate RF choke

Plate caps, parasitic chokes

Chimneys

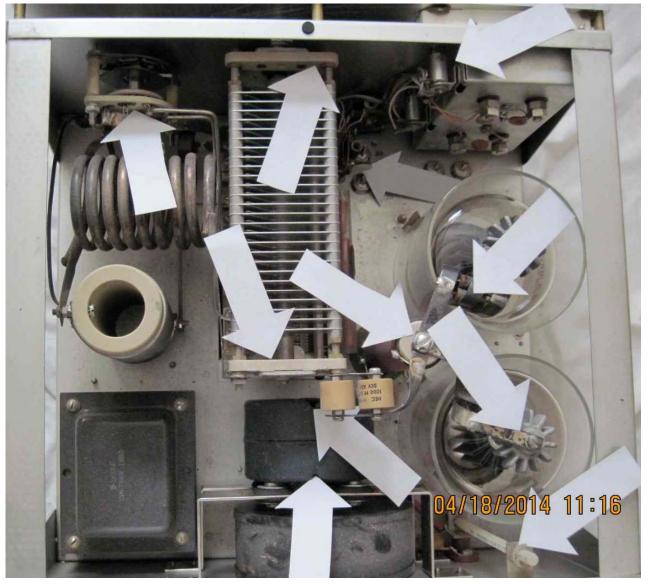
Tube color

Meter bulbs, replace them now?

Oil the blower now?

Meter calibration for grid current (adjustable) and plate voltage (wattmeter?) M.V.G. May 2014











RF Deck—bottom

Plenum gasket (on bottom cover)

Interlock

Wired for 220 or 110?

Relay contacts

Tube pins, sockets

Grid grounding RF chokes, protection choke (output lead)

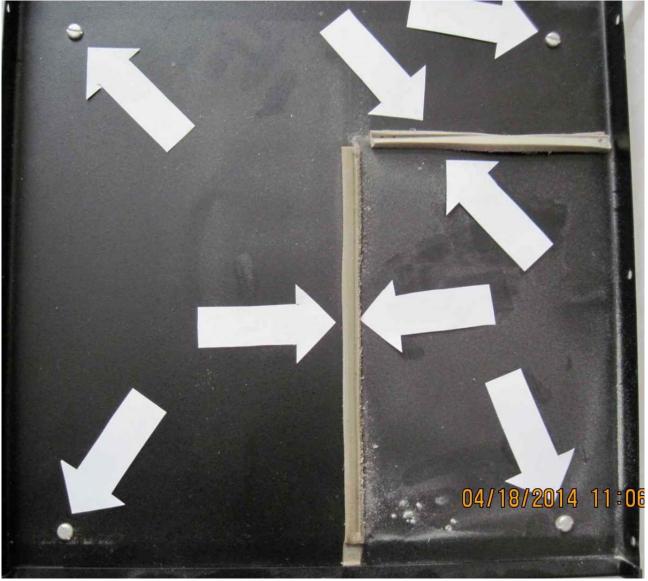
Plastic clamps for input balun

Power switch continuity

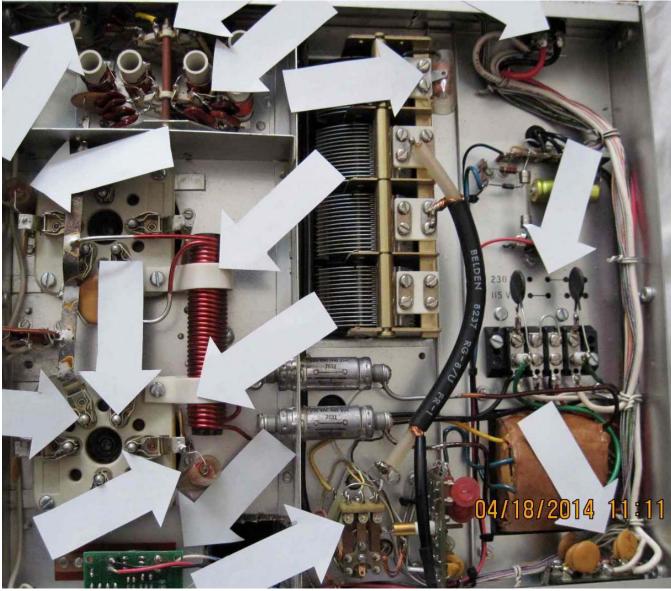
Input bandswitch

ALC pot taper (HV?) and standby switch















Power Supply—top

Venting electrolytics

Diodes of marginal ratings

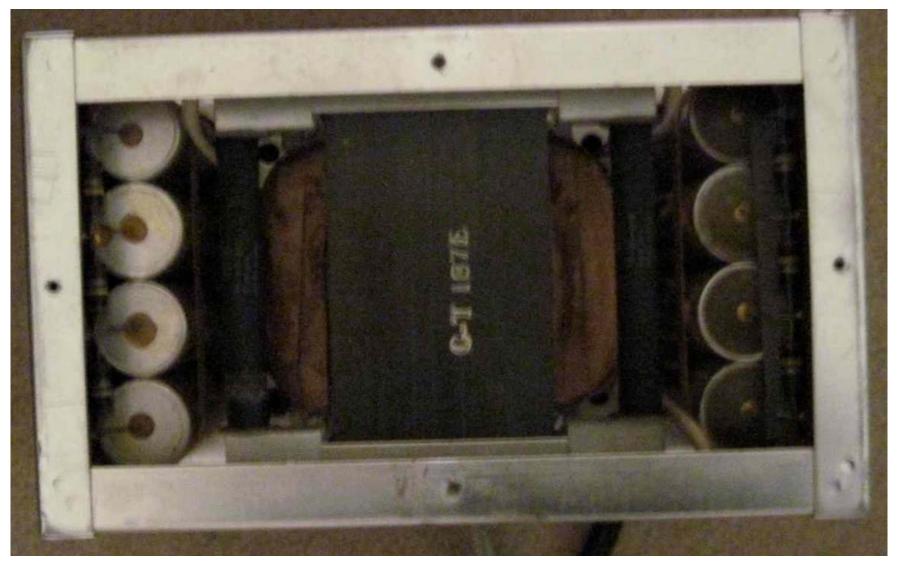
Different styles of capacitors, diodes

Fusible resistor (0.82 ohm)

50K 50 watt bleeders discolored, or open

HV wiring integrity















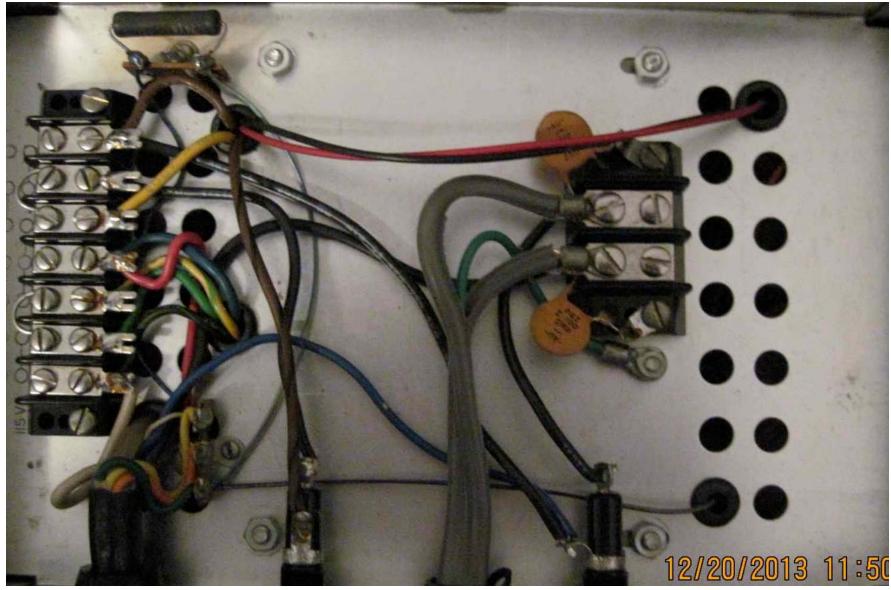
Power Supply—bottom

Wired for 220 or 110?

5K 7 watt resistor for ALC circuit

Circuit breakers or fuses?!







Electrical Checks—static

One hand on master power switch

Assuming HV meter is calibrated

Bring up slowly via Variac, monitor voltage AND current

Take voltage readings in CW (~1800) and SSB (~2500)

Ensure both tubes light

Listen, watch (with safety glasses), smell



Electrical Checks—dynamic

Start with an adequately rated dummy load

Measure plate voltage in standby, transmit with no drive, and full drive

Monitor drive power continuously along with grid current, start low

Ensure bandswitch and plate tuning are set for band of interest

Tune up ~ per manual

Input coil SWR, center of each band

Measure input and output power on all bands



L4B Linear Amplifier Test: after power supply rebuild

RF Deck SN: XXXX

L4PS Power Supply SN: XXXX

		Drive					
			Grid	Plate	Input Power	DC Output	
	Frequency	Power	Current	Current	at 2425 vdc	Power	
Band	(kc)	(watts)	(ma)	(ma)	(watts)	(watts)	Efficiency (%)
160	1900						
80	3750	50	175	550	1334	975	73%
40	7150	55	180	575	1394	940	67%
20	14175	60	200	580	1407	970	69%
15	21225	65	225	580	1407	950	68%
10	28850	55	200	550	1334	775	58%
Notes:							
Plate vo	oltmeter is out	of calibra	tion. SSB=	=2375 vdc	indicated is act	ually 2425.	
Grid cu	urrent meter ci	rcuit calibr	ration was r	ight on and	l needed no rec	alibration.	
Tuned	approx. for ma	ax output	power per i	max grid cu	irrent or max p	late current pe	r manual.
Calcula	ations above b	ased upor	a 2425 vdc	loaded plat	te voltage.		
No loa	d to full load c	aused 4%	drop in pla	ate voltage.			
Load w	vas B&W moo	del 374A	dummy loa	d and wattr	neter.		
Drake	W4 wattmeter	used for	measuring o	output pow	er.		
Power	input measure	d on TR-'	7A meter k	nown to be	e accurate with	Autek WM-1	, etc.
Tubes (equal. Equal r	ed during	key down	test.			
-	will be higher		11	- 14 · · · ·	1		



1 or 2 quick questions?



Drake Innovations - "The Early Days In History" & Troubleshooting Easy Fixes



Repair And Restoration

Email: wb4hfn@wb4hfn.com Website: www.wb4hfn.com



In The Beginning

The R.L. Drake Company started with building pass band filters in 1943-44 for the government during WW2. They were used for jamming and decoding radio transmissions. Bob Drake developed a good reputation around his products which led him to building his first receiver for the military.

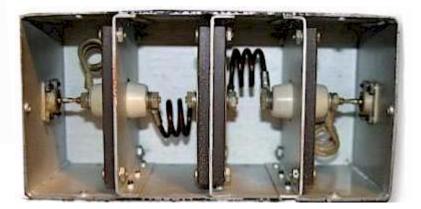
During the lean times Bob Drake built anything to keep his employees busy. This included making spring contacts for GE, coils and chokes for Delco Electric and table lamps for S.S Kresage.



The Drake Pass Band Filters, F-14/U and the F-15U were designed and built in 1943 and 1944.







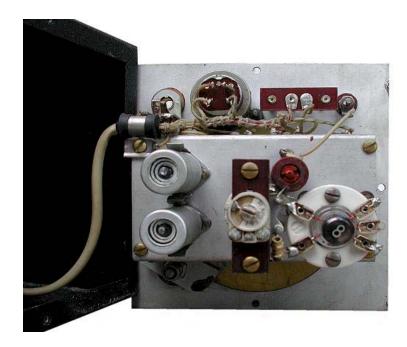


The <u>FIRST</u> Drake built receiver was the BC-1255A for the military in 1944. Today it is considered the rarest of all radios manufactured by the Drake Company.



• BC-1255A Signal Corps U.S. Army VHF monitor

- Manufactured by R.L. DRAKE COMPANY-1944
- 3 tubes: 2 x VT-212 (858) 1 x VT-172 (1S5)
- Frequency coverage: 70-150 MHz
- battery Powered: Two 45 Volts and One1.5 Volt
- Dimensions: 6" x 6" x 6"





The first Drake receiver designed for Amateur Radio was the Model 1-A



Around this time in history most receivers were big and heavy and mainly designed for AM reception. Bob Drake was first to introduce a new trend, in 1957, a receiver with a small foot print, light weight and designed to support the new and upcoming mode of communications called Single Sideband. The radio resembled a rural mail box and sold new for \$259.00.





Drake's First Transceiver The TR-3 Was Introduced in 1963

Bob Drake wanted a radio with both the receiver and transmitter in the same box and what if they could share some of the same circuits. Bob Drake and Milt Sullivan, his Chief Engineer, set to work and the TR-3 emerged. The TR-3 became



the hallmark of the company, robust and overdesigned, that happily married the engineer's goals with the user's dreams of the perfect radio.

Even now, 47 years later, you can find the TR-3 still working. Finding one in a flea market or set aside for decades, chances are with a little TLC it will still work fine today.



Drake's First Transceiver The TR-3 Was Introduced in 1963

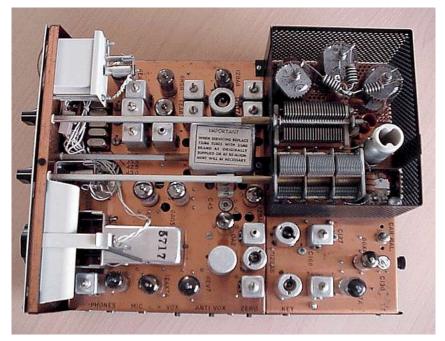


ARTY A

11. V. O. 110 Y 2017

The TR-3 had 20 tubes, generated 300 watts PEP, and covered all the HF ham bands with a 600Khz tuning range.

Before going with the copper plated chassis the first five TR-3's built had a chrome plated chassis, which is now considered the rarest of all Drake radios made for Amateur Radio.





Drake's First All Solid State Transceiver, <u>The TR-7</u> in 1977

The development of the TR-7 transceiver was the first attempt of the Drake engineers, basically tube guys, switching to all solid state, went through a lot of pain-taking trial and errors. Drake convinced a young engineer, Mike Elliott, to come to work for Drake to help with the TR-7 design. At that time Mike worked for Heathkit and was the designer of the Heathkit SB-104, the first all solid state transceiver ever built.



Mike Elliott's engineering and design background was very instrumental it the design of the TR-7 radio. The most unusual design innovation of the TR-7 was the use of a very high IF frequency. Using 48.05 Mhz IF frequency eliminated most the birdies, whistles and squawks that popped up on the tuning dials commonly found in most radios of that era.



Troubleshooting "Hits and Kinks"

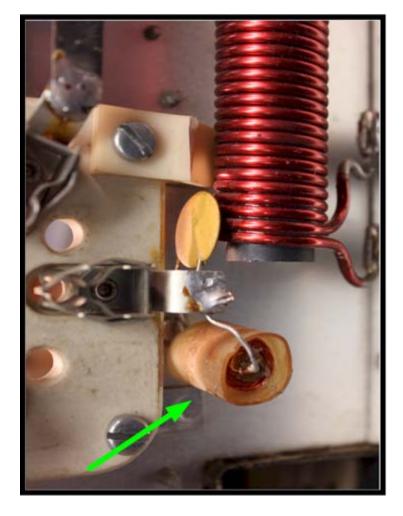


Repair And Restoration

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The Drake L-4, L4-B, L-7 and L-75 Amplifiers



The amplifier tube appears to be working normal, possibly with less power out than normal at first, but continues to get hotter and glows much brighter than the other tube the longer it is keyed. Finally draws to much current then, blows the circuit breaker and possibly arc's internally.

What Is Happening ????

At some point the tube high voltage arced from plate to grid which burns open the tube grid choke. The tube grid is no longer grounded causing the tube to go into thermal run-away.



The Drake L-4, L4-B, L-7 and L-75 Amplifiers



The amplifier works fine, possibly with a little less power output than normal, but still draws current during standby. You checked the relay contacts and those are switching properly.

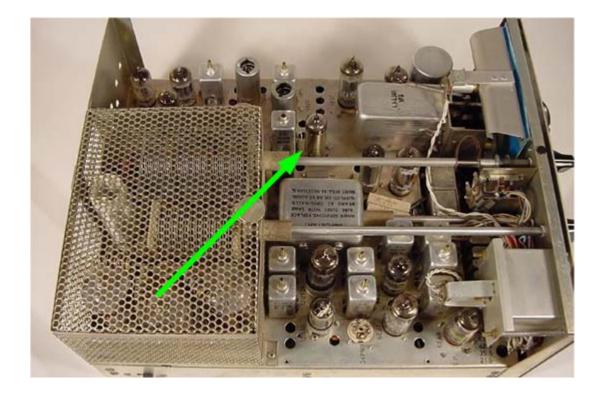
What Is Happening ????

One of the final tubes has a filament to grid short. The grid being normally grounded is putting the filament/input circuit to ground causing both tubes to conduct during standby. You have a bad tube.

Cost wise: OUCH !!!



Drake TR-4, TR-4C, TR-4CW, TR-4CW/RIT Transceivers



The transceiver side tone operates normal in transmit mode, but you can still hear the side tone coming out the speaker during receive.

What Is Happening ????

The OB2 regulator tube is bad, not regulating the 150VDC supply voltage. That excessive voltage is causing the tone oscillator to not full cut-off during the receive mode.



Drake R-4B Receiver



The R4B calibrator does not work or has 60 cycle hum in the tone produced in the receiver.

What Is Happening ????

The 1000MF / 25VDC filter capacitor is open, not filtering the +12VDC supply voltage to the crystal calibrator.



Drake R-4B Receiver



The R4B does not mute properly, S-Meter adjustment does not work or is significantly off or just pegged.

What Is Happening ????

The 10MF / 150VDC filter capacitor in the negative voltage supply is leaking or open. The is very little to no negative voltage being produced.



QUESTIONS ???



Email: wb4hfn@wb4hfn.com Website: www.wb4hfn.com



DRAKE 2014 FORUM





Sweeping I.F. L/C and Crystal Filters Using A Tracking Generator, Spectrum Analyzer & Audio Sweep Generator

Jeff, WA8SAJ wa8saj@ncweb.com

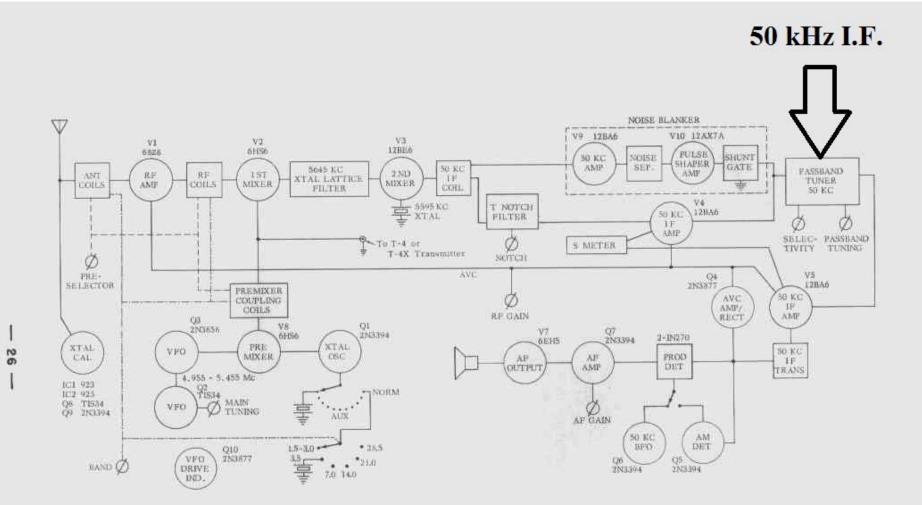


Drake R-4B Receiver



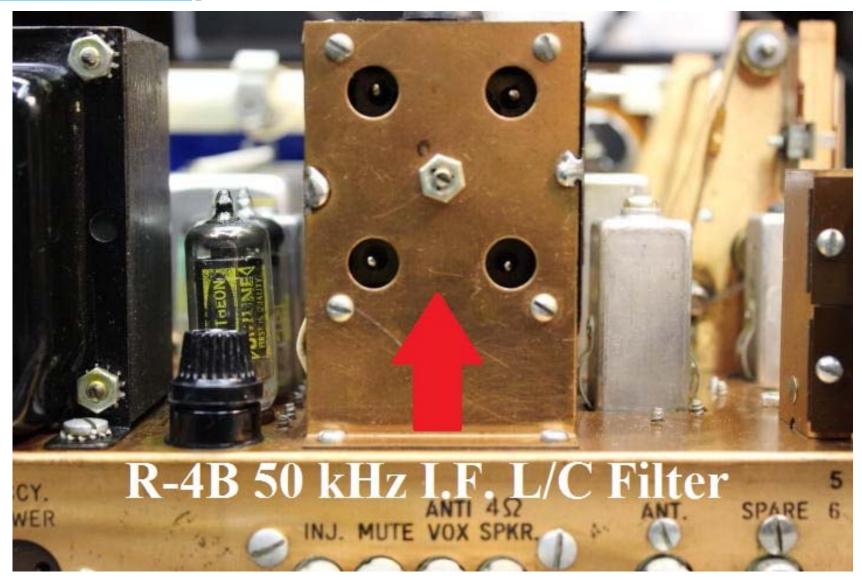


R-4B Receiver Last 50 kHz I.F.



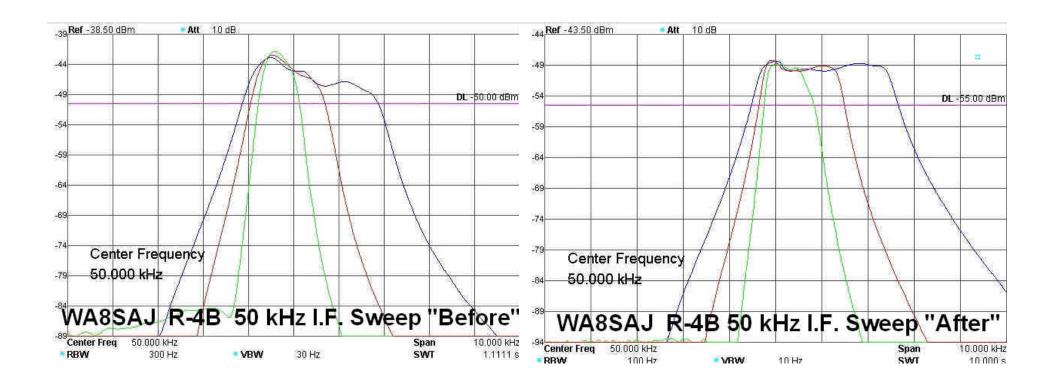


50 kHz Pass-Band Tuning



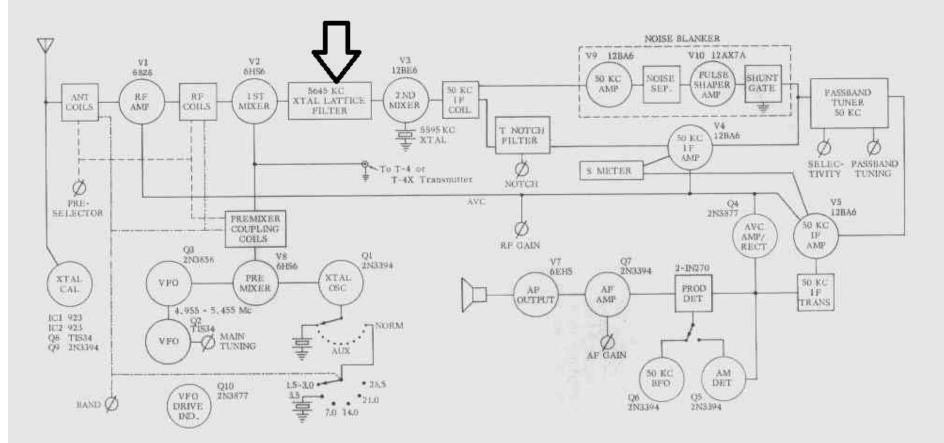


R-4B Sweeps 400 Hz 1.2 kHz 2.4 kHz



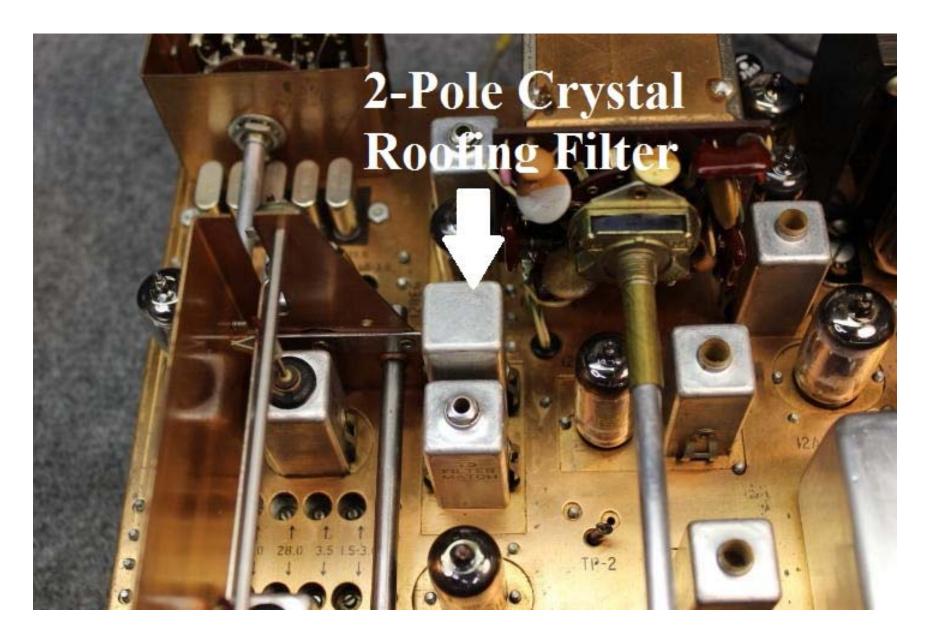


5646 2-Pole Roofing Filter



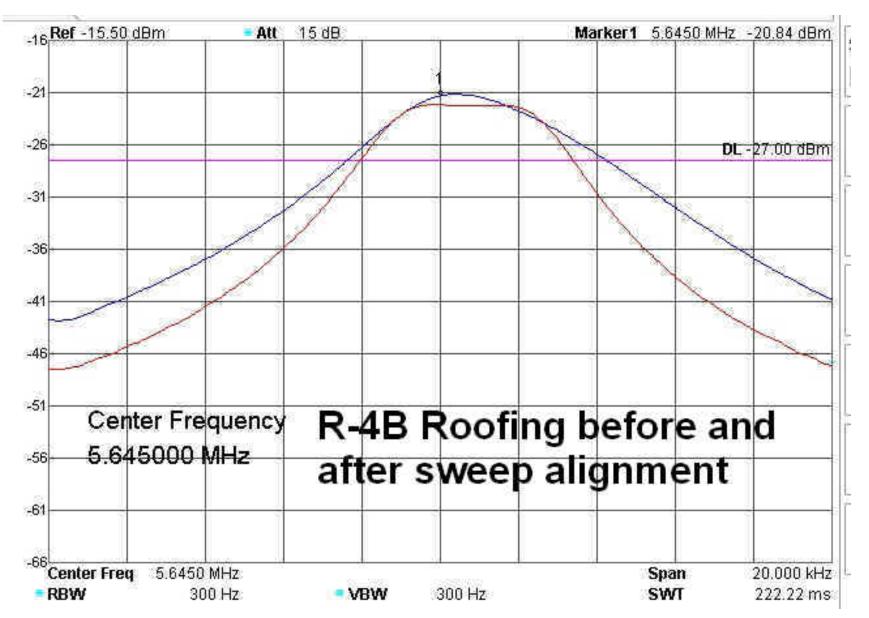


R-4B 2-Pole Crystal Filter





R-4B Sweep at 5645 kHz

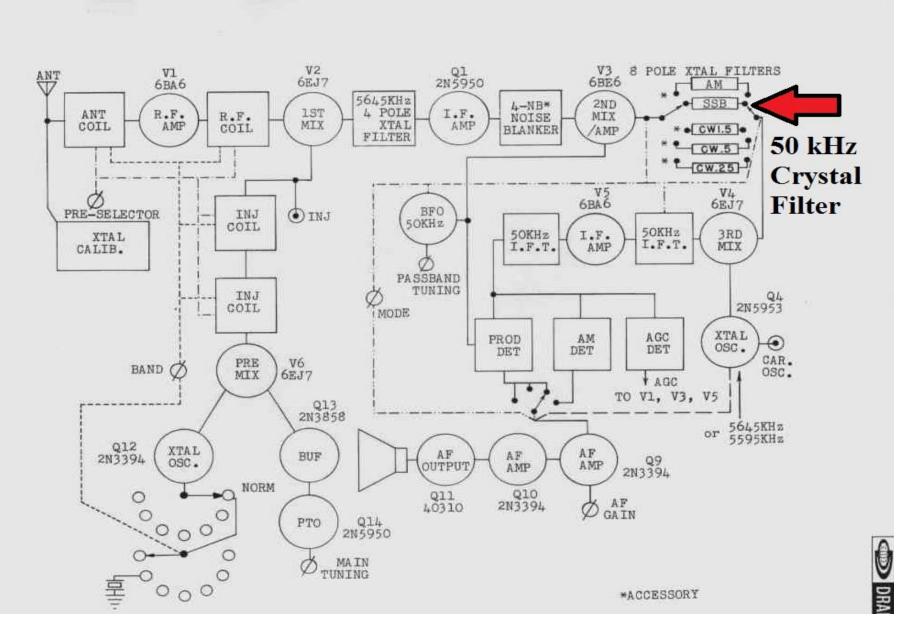


Drake R-4C 50 kHz I.F. Using Crystal Filters





R-4C 50 kHz I.F.





R-4C Crystal Filter 50 kHz



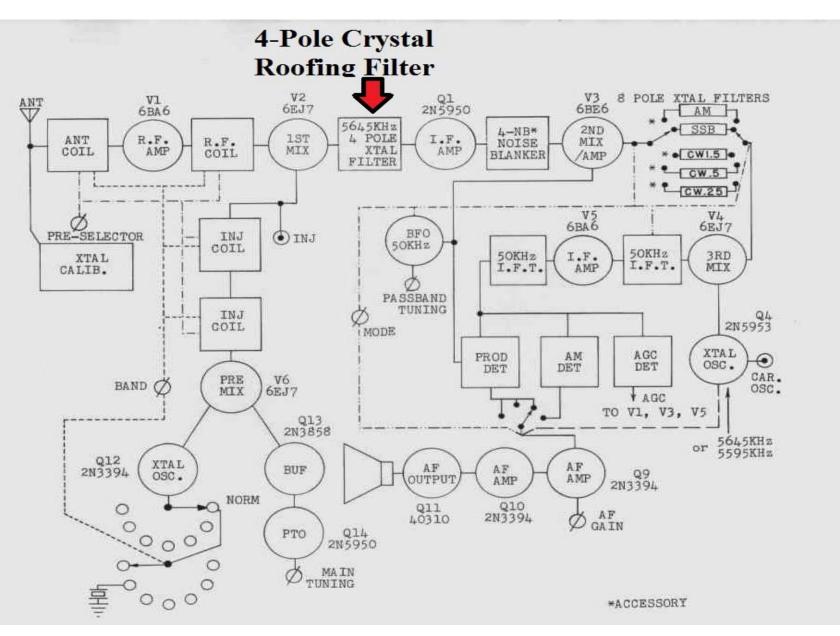


L / C vs. Crystal in the Last I.F.



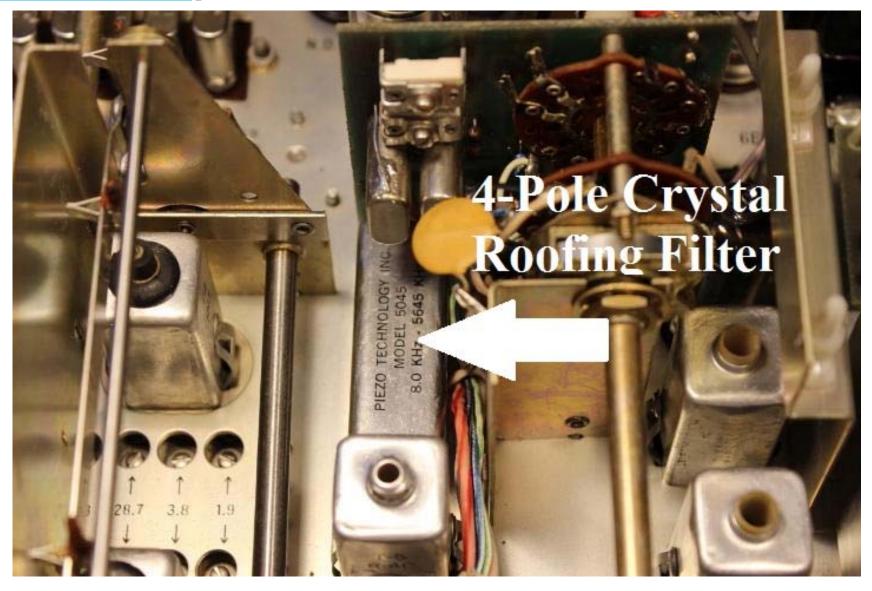


R-4C 4-Pole Roofing Crystal Filter





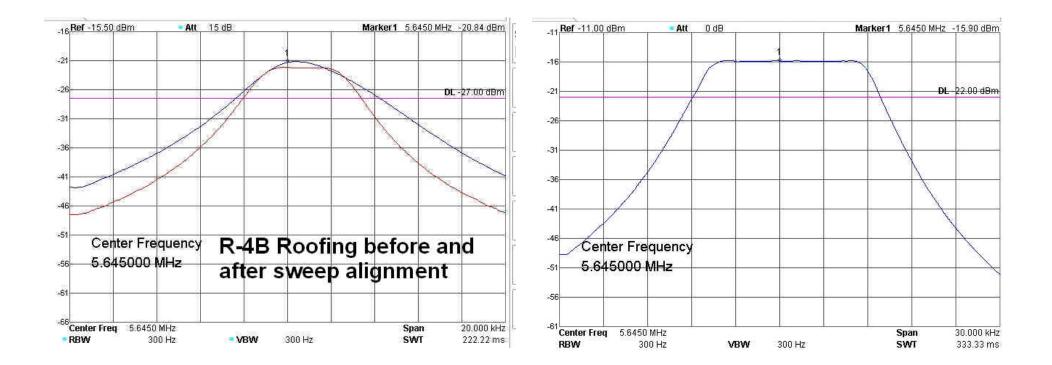
R-4C Roofing Filter





2-Pole Crystal Roofing Filter

4-Pole Crystal Roofing Filter

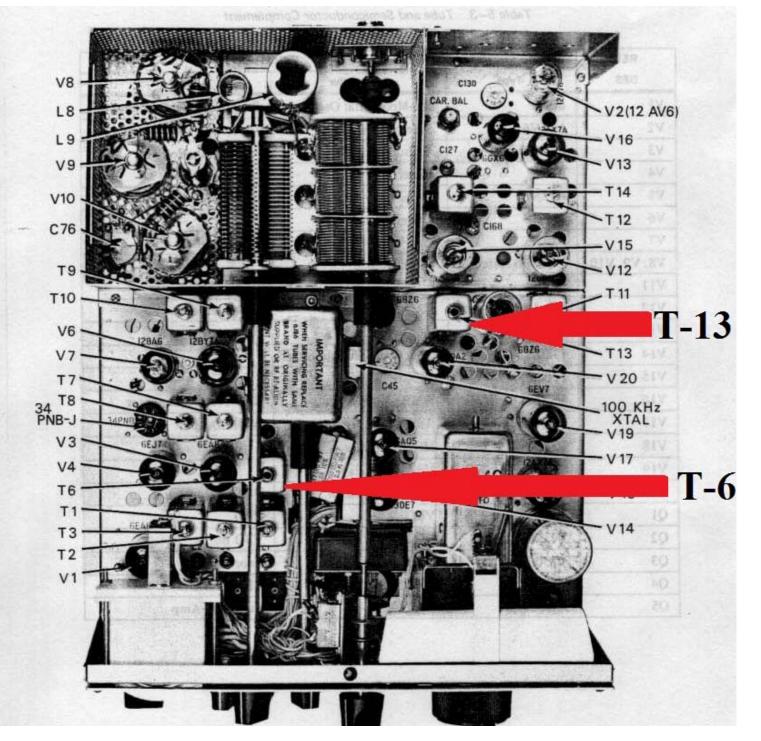




Drake TR-4CW / R.I.T. Filter Alignment

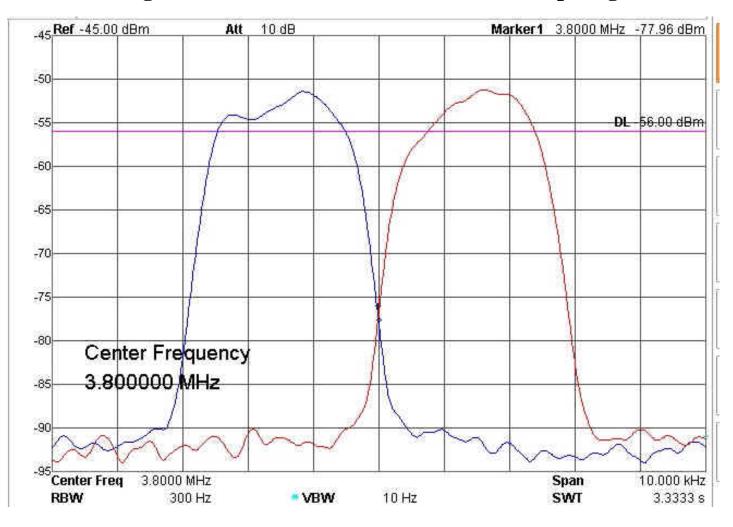






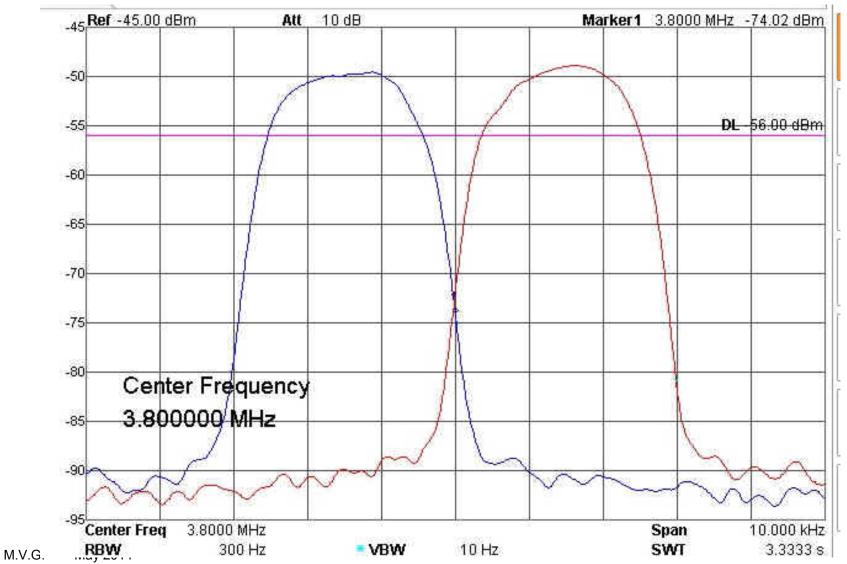


TR-4C Alignment of Matching Transformers T-6 & T-13 Before Sweep Alignment



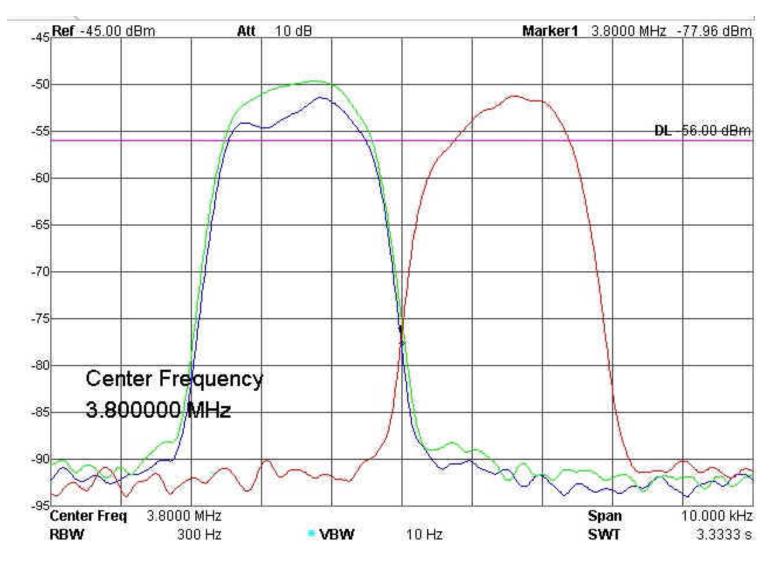


TR-4C After Alignment Both Correct



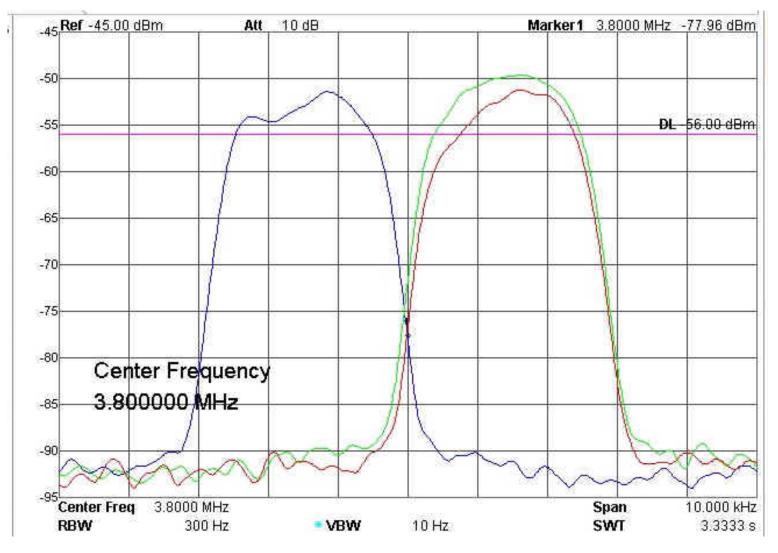


LSB Before & After Alignment





USB Before & After Alignment





TR-4CW Stock 2.1 kHz Wide SSB Crystal Filters vs. INRAD 2.5 kHz Wide

SSB Crystal Filters



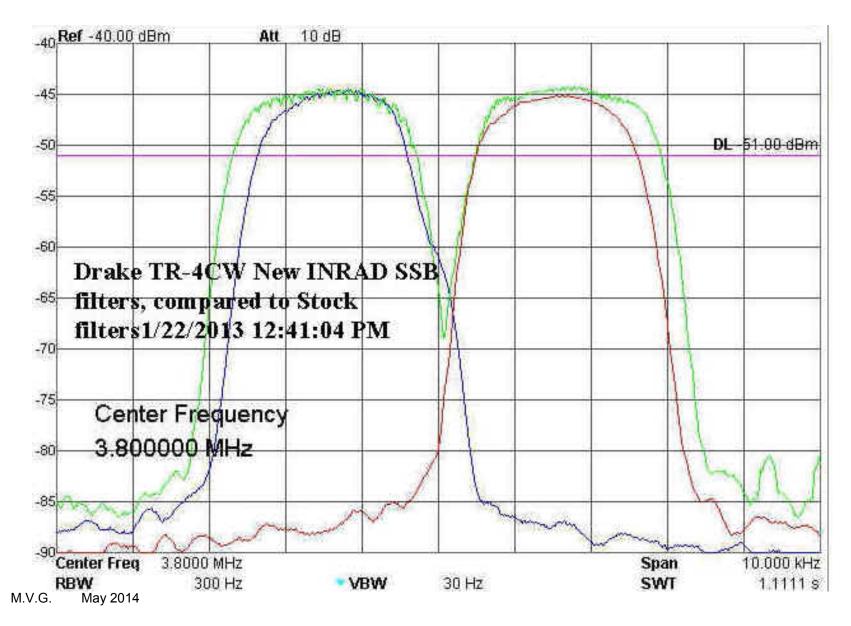
TR-4 INRAD Filters



Comparison of the old and new filters



TR-4C Filter Comparison





Drake TR-7A





TR-7 Stock 2.1 kHz Wide Filter

VS.

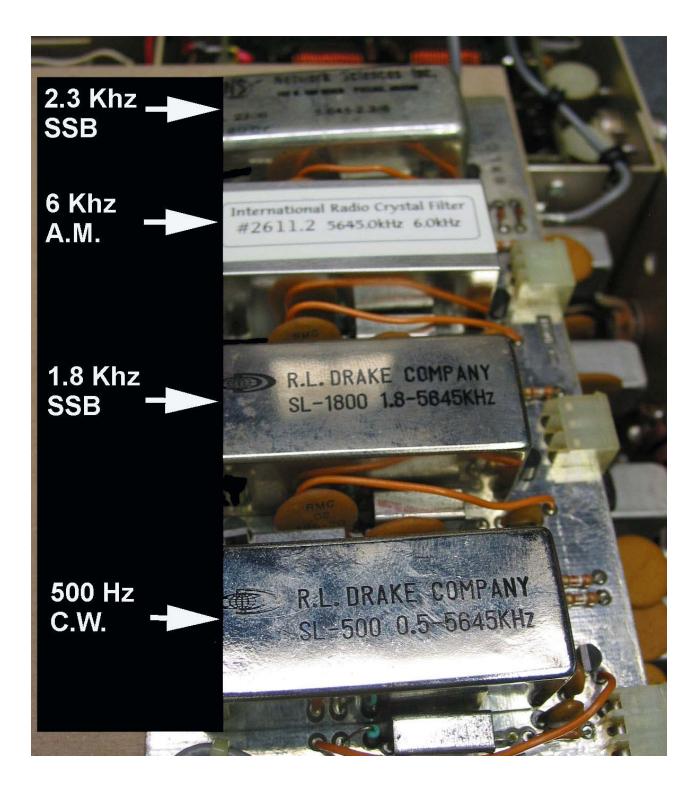
INRAD 2.8 kHz Wide Filter



Stock 2.3 kHz Filter

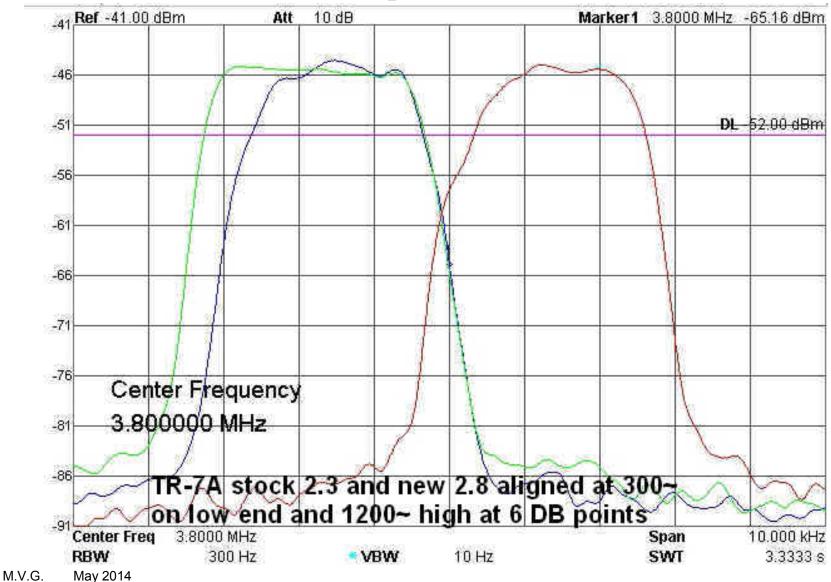
Replaced by

2.8 kHz Filter



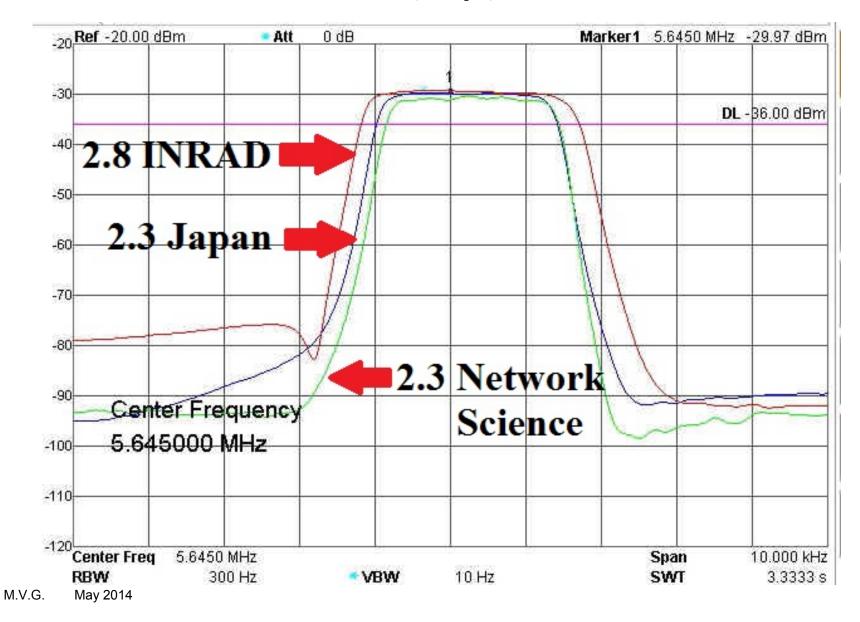


INRAD Compared to Stock LSB





TR-7 Filters 2.3 Network Science, 2.3 Japan, 2.8 INRAD

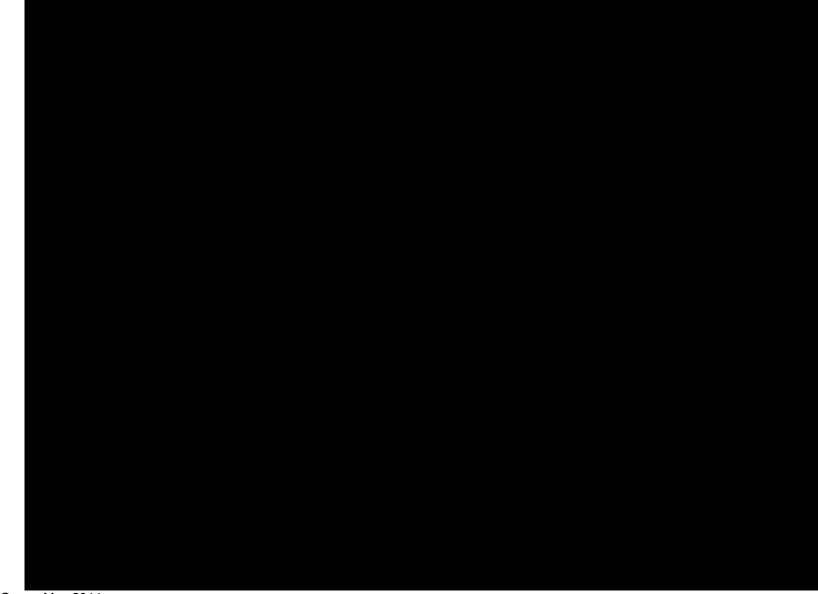




TR-4C

"Filter Matching" Using a Audio Sweep Generator and Spectrum Analyzer







Thank You For Watching



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Jeff Weinberg – W8CQ – **HAMVENTION BOOTH** www.harbachelectronics.com 2208, 2209, 2010 & 2211



ES4AC-4 AC-4 Power **Supply Rebuild Kit**

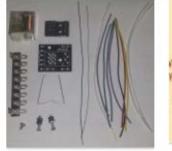


PM-400 Replacement **Power Supply Module**

CUMITS.

(SAJSORX

14000 Q



RA-T4X/B Plug-In Relay Adapter Kit

SW-400 Power & **CW/SSB Rocker Switch Rebuild Kit**



ES4AC-3 AC-3 Power

Supply Rebuild Kit

Adapter Kit

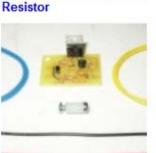




RES-400 5-Pack of HV **Safety Resistors**



RY-TR4C/T4XC Replacement T/R Relay



RES-402 50KQ 50W Bias

SK-401 Soft-Key Keying Interface



SRB-400 AC Power Cord Strain Relief



RES-407 5KQ 10W Resistor





SS-400 Soft-Start Module



SRB-401 Remote Cable Strain Relief



RY-L4B Replacement T/R Relay M.V.G. May 2014



Prize Donator

Donnie Garrett, WA9TGT





Prize Donator

Ron Baker, WB4HFN

Welcome to the

WB4HFN Amateur Radio Website



This section is dedicated to the vintage radio equipment from the R.L. Drake Company. Life before solid state devices, tubes were the hot ticket items. Featuring radio equipment from the 1960's and 70's era.

Heathkit Home Page

Kenwood Net Home Page



Collins Amateur Radio Equipment

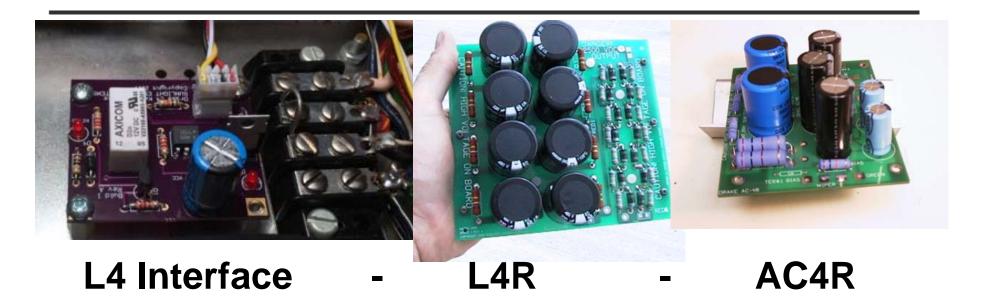
This section is dedicated to the vintage radio equipment from the Collins Radio Company. Featuring the "S" Line radio equipment from the 1960's and 70's era.

Radio Document Resource Home Page Radio Modifications Home Page



Prize Donator Mike Bryce, WB8VGE





Flea Market Space #FW509-FW510



K4QU, John March mikek4qu@gmail.com

Prize Donator



HAMVENTION BOOTH 3421

Custom Made Parts





R8 Tuning Knob Insert

Custom machined aluminum \$20.00 ea



TR-7 End Panels

Custom machined textured ABS plastic \$10.00 / set (L&R) Other sizes available



73CNC.COM

Prize Donator



NORTH HALL Space # 220 and # 221

A new weighted spinner knob designed for the Drake 4 Line Radios.

Fits all 3 and 4 Line models.

Weighted Spinner type VFO Knob for all R.L. Drake Radios including the: Drake: R-4, R-4A, R-4B, R-4C R-7, & R-7A Ham Receivers T-4X, T-4XB, T-4XC Transmitters, TR-3, TR-4, TR-5, TR-7 TR-7A Transceivers

These 3-500Z High Performance Plate Caps are precision machined from Billet 6061 Aircraft Grade Aluminum. They are designed to maximize the heat dissipation from the plate (anode) pin and keep the Plate Pin Seal well below the maximum operating temperature specified by Eimac even under high duty cycle use. With over 3 times the surface area of the original Eimac plate cap and DIRECT contact with the Plate Pin generous amounts of heat are removed.







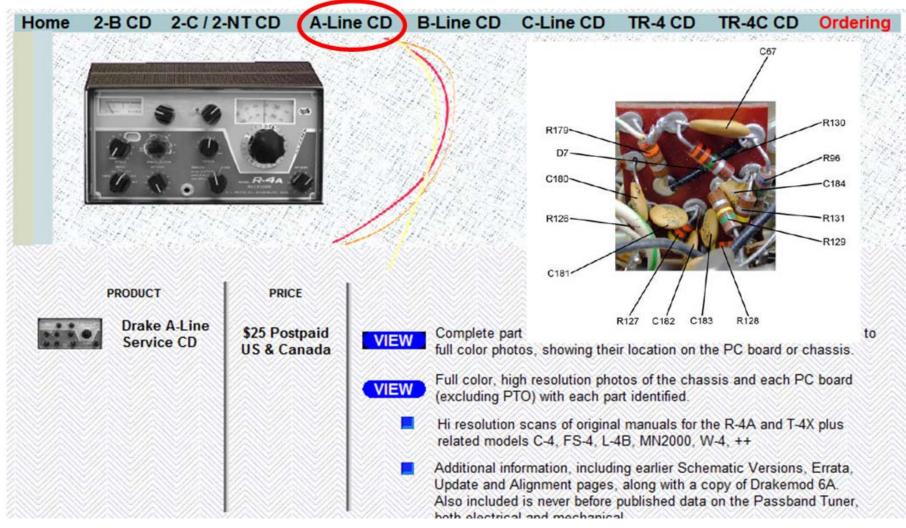
http://www.sherwood-engineering.com

http://www.NC0B.com



Prize Donator

K4OAH Drake Parts Locator CD's





Prize Donator

UKA-3 Universal Keying Adapter



http://www.hamgadgets.com/

HAMVENTION INSIDE BOOTH BA482

MK-1 Master Keyer



Low Power lambic Keyer Kit









Welcome to my Amateur Radio Store! Nationwide Radio & Eq. Sales LLC Featuring Amateur Radio & Surplus Electronic Gear

Ke9pq.com

Mark Olson Phone (920) 434-8097 Email: <u>ke9pq@new.rr.com</u> Web Site: ke9pq.com





AC-4 Upgrade http://www.hayseedhamfest.com/

- Rebuild kits for:
- AC3-AC4
- 1-A Receiver
- 2-A Receiver
- 2-B Receiver
- 2-C Receiver
- 2-NT Transmitter
- R-4 Receiver
- R-4A Receiver
- R-4B Receiver
- R-4C Receiver
- T-4/T4X/B/C Transmitter
- TR-3 Tranceiver
- TR-4 Tranceiver
- TR-4C Tranceiver
- TR-6 Tranceiver



Flea Market Space #FW1737-FW1738



Alan Phillips , KC9YS, 630-879-1132

Previous Menu Drake Home Page

Drake B-Line Chrome Center Replacements

E-Mail Me For More Details To Purchase

Spun aluminum inserts for the Drake "B" Line radios and TR4 transceiver. Listed below are a series of pictures of the new inserts and shows how their installed. To make a purchase on any product, or for further information please e-mail or call 630-879-1132. Thanks, Alan / KC9YS

Spun Aluminum B-Line Knob Inserts - \$6.50 Each

Drake "B" Line Complete Knob & Chrome Insert - \$20.00

Shipping Cost not Included

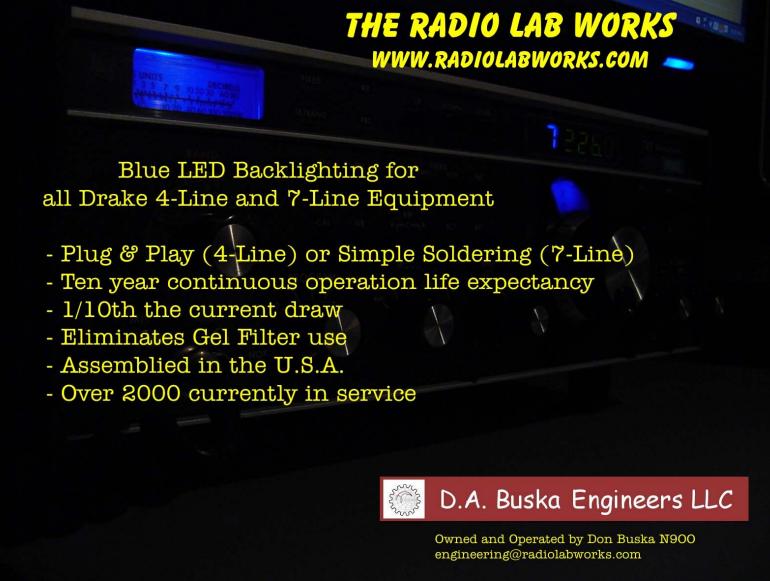






New B-Line And TR4 Spun Inserts





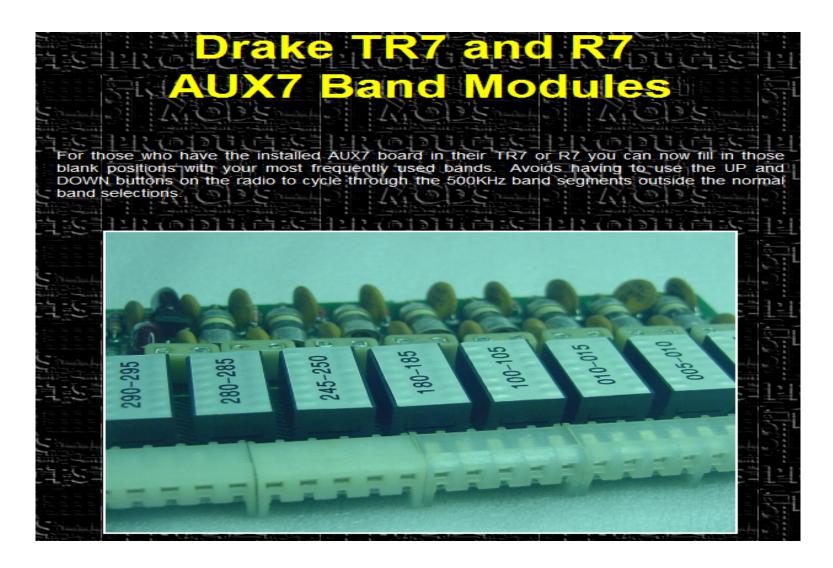


www. Radiolabworks.com





http://www.radiolabworks.com





LA6OP, Sindre Torp: <u>http://home.online.no/~sindtorp/</u>

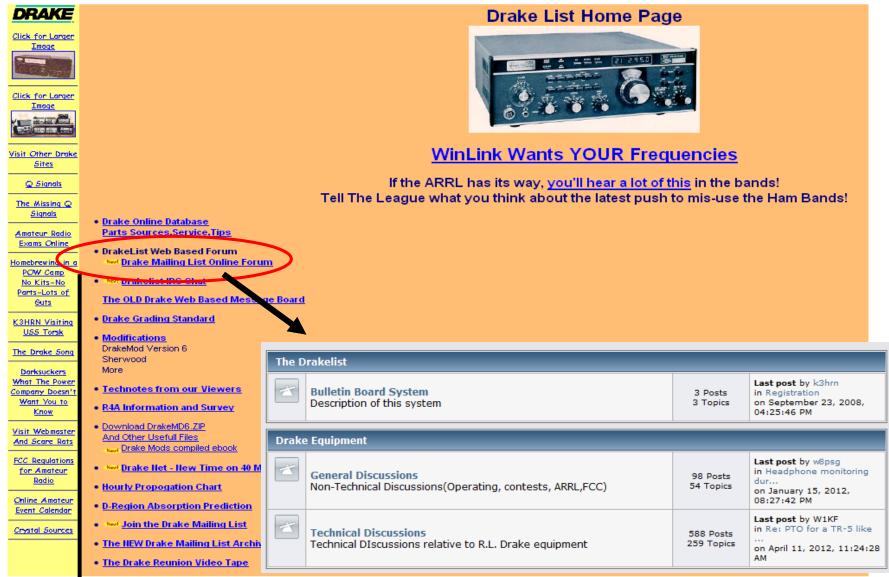
Drake Museum

Main **LAGOP** SINDRE TORP NORWAY Welcome to my homepage, and the World's largest collection of equipment made Speaker at The Dayton by Hamvention 1999, 2000, 2002 and 2004; Moderator of The Drake Forum 2001 E-mail Drake equipment list Drake wanted Service equipment wanted Drake links Some pictures There will come more here with detailed pictures of rare units! 90 :0000





K3HRN, Thom LaCosta: http://www.zerobeat.net/drakelist/





Bob Magee , W7AWK 509-750-7589





Other resources documented on WB4HFN.COM

- KC9YS TR-4 Knobs and Inserts, Space #2328 2330
- W2ENY Drake Web Page
- Charlie Talbott TR-4 Main tuning knob inserts
- Allen Martin / W7APM Cabinet screws, <u>w7apm@mtaonline.net</u>



PRIZE DRAWING

Goal was to make time for presentations.

Tickets were pre-drawn in the presence of honest witnesses. Stubs handed out randomly as you entered.

Only 1 prize per person.

Please claim your prizes in the hall after we dismiss.

The winning ticket numbers are.....



Questions & Answers Evan, K9SQG Jeff, WA8SAJ Gary, W8PU Ron, WB4HFN Mark, WB0IQK



The Path Ahead...



