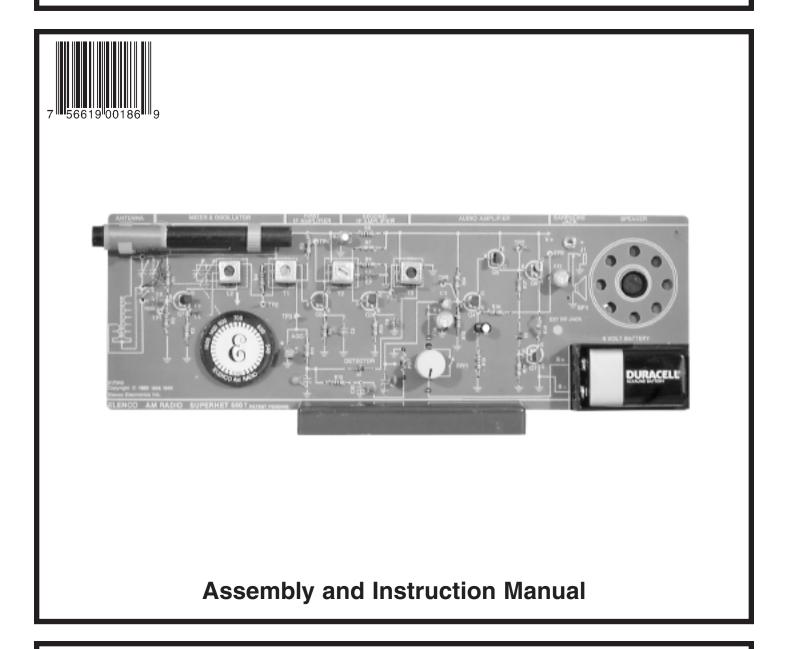
# AM RADIO KIT

# MODEL SUPERHET AM-550TK 7 TRANSISTORS



# Elenco<sup>™</sup> Electronics, Inc.

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Revised 2003 REV-D

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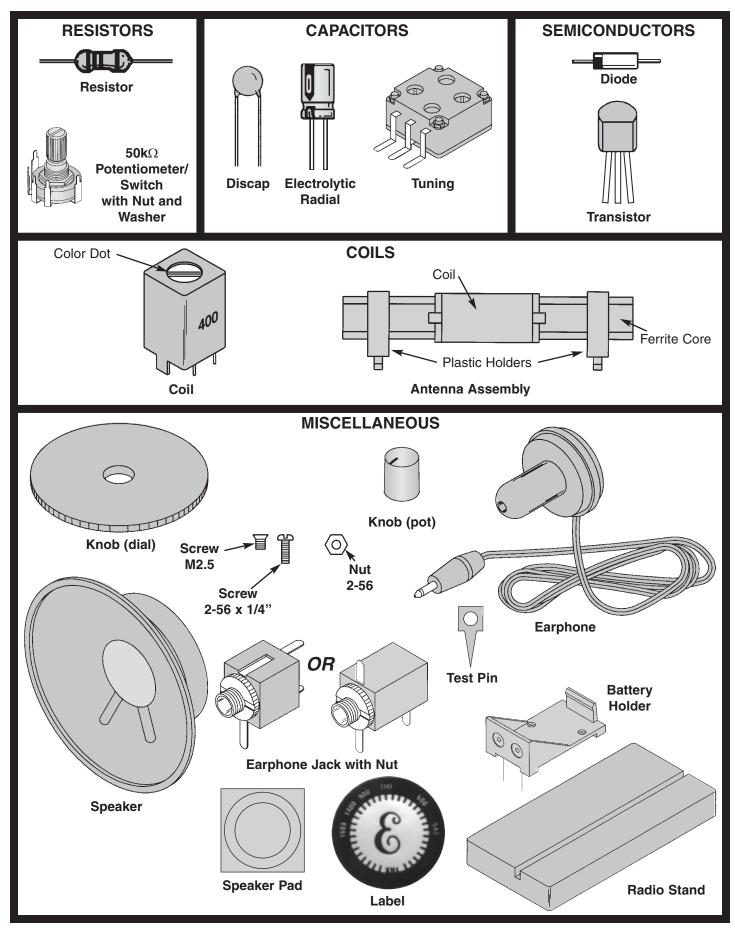
# PARTS LIST

If you are a student, and any parts are missing or damaged, please see instructor or bookstore. If you purchased this AM radio kit from a distributor, catalog, etc., please contact Elenco<sup>™</sup> Electronics (address/phone/e-mail is at the back of this manual) for additional assistance, if needed.

RESISTORS					
<b>Qty.</b> 1 3 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 1 1 1	Symbol R19 R8, R15, R17 R10 R18 R6, R16 R12 R3, R11 R9 R2 R5 R7 R14 R1 R13 R4 Pot/SW1	Value $1\Omega$ 1/4W 5% $100\Omega$ 1/4W 5% $470\Omega$ 1/4W 5% $820\Omega$ 1/4W 5% $820\Omega$ 1/4W 5% $2.2k\Omega$ 1/4W 5% $2.2k\Omega$ 1/4W 5% $10k\Omega$ 1/4W 5% $12k\Omega$ 1/4W 5% $27k\Omega$ 1/4W 5% $27k\Omega$ 1/4W 5% $39k\Omega$ 1/4W 5% $56k\Omega$ 1/4W 5% $56k\Omega$ 1/4W 5% $56k\Omega$ 1/4W 5% $50k\Omega$ 1/4W 5% $50k\Omega$ 1/4W 5%	Color Code brown-black-gold-gold brown-black-brown-gold yellow-violet-brown-gold gray-red-brown-gold brown-black-red-gold red-red-red-gold orange-orange-red-gold brown-black-orange-gold brown-red-orange-gold orange-white-orange-gold orange-white-orange-gold green-blue-orange-gold gray-red-orange-gold brown-black-green-gold Pot/SW with Nut and Washer	Part # 111000 131000 134700 138200 141000 142200 143300 151200 151200 152700 153900 154700 155600 158200 171000 192522	
		CA	PACITORS		
Qty. 1 1 2 5 2 1 1 2 2	Symbol C1 C15 C3, C10 C2, C5, C7, C8, C9 C4, C11 C12 C6 C13, C14	<b>Value</b> Variable .001μF .01μF .02μF or .022μF 10μF 47μF 100μF 470μF	Description Tuning Discap (102) Discap (103) Discap (203) or (223) Electrolytic Electrolytic Electrolytic Electrolytic Electrolytic	Part # 211677 231036 241031 242010 271045 274742 281044 284743	
		•	CONDUCTORS		
<b>Qty.</b> 2 4 1 1 1 1 1 1	<b>Symbol</b> D1, D2 Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4 Q5 Q6 Q7	Description 1N4148 Diode 2N3904 Transistor NPN 2N3906 Transistor PNF MPS6560 or 8050 Tran MPS6562 or 8550 Tran	N S Insistor NPN	<b>Part #</b> 314148 323904 323906 328050 328550	
COILS					
<b>Qty.</b> 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	<b>Symbol</b> L2 T1 T2 T3 L1	<b>Value</b> Oscillator IF IF Detector Antenna	Description (red dot) (yellow dot) (white dot) (black dot) with holders	<b>Part #</b> 430057 430260 430262 430264 484004	
		MISC	ELLANEOUS		
<b>Qty.</b> 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Description PC Board Battery Holder Speaker Speaker Pad Knob (pot) Knob (dial) Earphone Jack w/ Nut Radio Stand	Part # 517040 590096 590102 780128 622017 622030 622130 or 622131 626100	Qty.Description1Earphone3Screw 2-56 x 1/4"3Screw M2.53Nut 2-568Test Pin1Label, Dial Knob1Wire 4"1Solder	Part # 629250 641230 641310 644201 665008 720421 814920 9ST4	

\*\*\*\* SAVE THE BOX THAT THIS KIT CAME IN. IT WILL BE USED ON PAGE 25. \*\*\*\*

# PARTS IDENTIFICATION



# **IDENTIFYING RESISTOR VALUES**

Use the following information as a guide in properly identifying the value of resistors.

BANI	D 1	BAND 2		
1st D	igit	2nd Digit		
Color	Digit	Color	Digit	
Black	0	Black	0	
Brown	1	Brown	1	
Red	2	Red	2	
Orange	3	Orange	3	
Yellow	4	Yellow	4	
Green	5	Green	5	
Blue	6	Blue	6	
Violet	7	Violet	7	
Gray	8	Gray	8	
White	9	White	9	

Mul	tiplier		stance rance
Color	Multiplier	Color	Tolera
Black	1	Silver	<u>+</u> 1
Brown	10	Gold	<u>+</u>
Red	100	Brown	<u>+</u>
Orange	1,000	Red	<u>+</u>
Yellow	10,000	Orange	<u>+</u>
Green	100,000	Green	<u>+</u> .
Blue	1,000,000	Blue	<u>+</u> .2
Silver	0.01	Violet	±.
Gold	0.1		

Tolerance

<u>+</u>10%

<u>+</u>5%

<u>+</u>1%

<u>+</u>2%

<u>+</u>3%

<u>+</u>.5%

<u>+</u>.25%

<u>+</u>.1%

BANDS	
Multiplier	Tolerance

# **IDENTIFYING CAPACITOR VALUES**

Capacitors will be identified by their capacitance value in pF (picofarads), nF (nanofarads), or µF (microfarads). Most capacitors will have their actual value printed on them. Some capacitors may have their value printed in the following manner. The maximum operating voltage may also be printed on the capacitor.

Multiplier	For the No.	0	1	2	3	4	5	8	9
wuttplier	Multiply By	1	10	100	1k	10k	100k	.01	0.1

Note: The letter "R" may be used at times First Digit to signify a decimal point; as in 3R3 = 3.3 Second Digit Multiplier Tolerance The letter M indicates a tolerance of ±20% ЗK The letter K indicates a tolerance of +10% The letter J indicates a tolerance of  $\pm 5\%$ Maximum Working Voltage

The value is 10 x 1,000 = 10,000pF or .01µF 100V

# INTRODUCTION

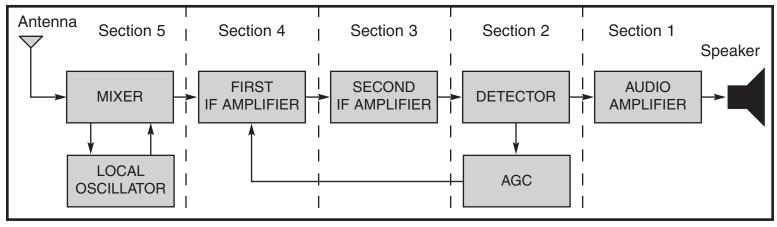
The Elenco Superhet 550T AM Radio is a "superheterodyne" receiver of the standard AM (amplitude modulated) broadcast frequencies. The unique design of the Superhet 550T allows you to place the parts over its corresponding symbol in the schematic drawing on the surface of the printed circuit board during assembly. This technique maximizes the learning process while keeping the chances of an assembly error at a minimum. It is very important, however, that good soldering practices are used to prevent bad connections. The Soldering Guide should be reviewed before any assembly is attempted.

The actual assembly is broken down into five sections. The theory of operation for each section, or

stage, should be read before the assembly is started. This will provide the student with an understanding of what that stage has been designed to accomplish, and how it actually works. After each assembly, you will be instructed to make certain tests and measurements to prove that each section is functioning properly. If a test fails to produce the proper results, a troubleshooting guide is provided to help you correct the problem. If test equipment is available, further measurements and calculations are demonstrated to allow each student to verify that each stage meets the engineering specifications. After all of the stages have been built and tested, a final alignment procedure is provided to peak the performance of the receiver and maximize the Superhet 550T's reception capabilities.

# **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

The Superhet 550T can best be understood by analysis of the block diagram shown in Figure 1. The purpose of section 1, the Audio Amplifier Stage, is to increase the power of the audio signal received from the detector to a power level capable of driving the speaker. Section 2 includes the detector circuit and the AGC (automatic gain control) circuit. The detector converts the amplitude modulated IF (intermediate frequency) signal to a low level audio signal. The AGC stage feeds back a DC voltage to the first IF amplifier in order to maintain a near constant level of audio at the detector. Section 3 is the second IF amplifier. The second IF amplifier is tuned to 455kHz (Kilohertz) and has a fixed gain at this frequency of 100. The 3dB bandwidth of this stage should be approximately 6kHz. Section 4 is the first IF amplifier which has a variable gain that depends on the AGC voltage received from the AGC stage. The first IF amplifier is also tuned to 455kHz and has a 3dB bandwidth of approximately 6kHz. Section 5 includes the mixer, oscillator and antenna stages. When the radio wave passes through the antenna, it induces a small voltage across the antenna coil. This voltage is coupled to the mixer, or converter, stage to be changed to a frequency of 455kHz. This change is accomplished by mixing (heterodyning) the radio frequency signal with the Each of these blocks will be oscillator signal. explained in detail in the Theory of Operation given before the assembly instructions for that stage.



# CONSTRUCTION

#### Introduction

The most important factor in assembling your Elenco Superhet 550T AM Transistor Radio Kit is good soldering techniques. Using the proper soldering iron is of prime importance. A small pencil type soldering iron of 25 - 40 watts is recommended. **The tip of the iron must be kept clean at all times and well tinned.** 

#### **Safety Procedures**

- Wear eye protection when soldering.
- Locate soldering iron in an area where you do not have to go around it or reach over it.
- **Do not hold solder in your mouth.** Solder contains lead and is a toxic substance. Wash your hands thoroughly after handling solder.
- Be sure that there is adequate ventilation present.

#### **Assemble Components**

In all of the following assembly steps, the components must be installed on the top side of the PC board unless otherwise indicated. The top legend shows where each component goes. The leads pass through the corresponding holes in the board and are soldered on the foil side.

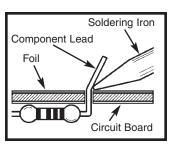
Use only rosin core solder of 63/37 alloy.

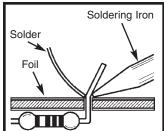
#### DO NOT USE ACID CORE SOLDER!

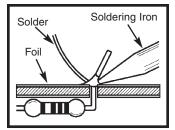
#### What Good Soldering Looks Like

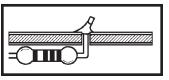
A good solder connection should be bright, shiny, smooth, and uniformly flowed over all surfaces.

- Solder all components from the copper foil side only. Push the soldering iron tip against both the lead and the circuit board foil.
- Apply a small amount of solder to the iron tip. This allows the heat to leave the iron and onto the foil. Immediately apply solder to the opposite side of the connection, away from the iron. Allow the heated component and the circuit foil to melt the solder.
- Allow the solder to flow around the connection. Then, remove the solder and the iron and let the connection cool. The solder should have flowed smoothly and not lump around the wire lead.
- 4. Here is what a good solder connection looks like.





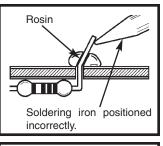


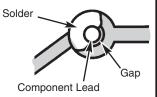


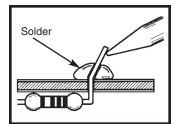


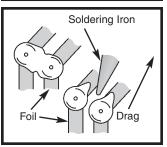
#### **Types of Poor Soldering Connections**

- 1. **Insufficient heat** the solder will not flow onto the lead as shown.
- 2. **Insufficient solder** let the solder flow over the connection until it is covered. Use just enough solder to cover the connection.
- Excessive solder could make connections that you did not intend to between adjacent foil areas or terminals.
- Solder bridges occur when solder runs between circuit paths and creates a short circuit. This is usually caused by using too much solder. To correct this, simply drag your soldering iron across the solder bridge as shown.









# SEMICONDUCTOR PARTS FAMILIARIZATION

This section will familiarize you with the proper method used to test the transistors and the diode.

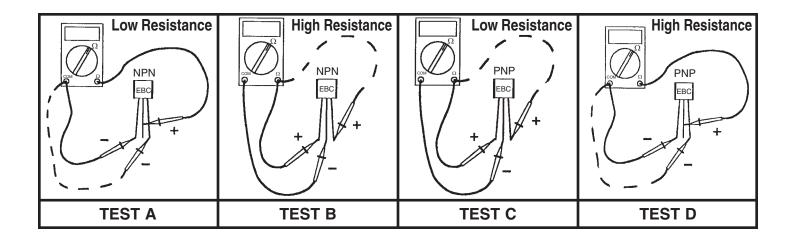
#### TRANSISTOR TEST

Refer to the parts list and find a NPN transistor. Refer the Figure C (page 8) for locating the Emitter, Base and Collector. Using an Ohmmeter, connect the transistor as shown in Test A. Your meter should be reading a low resistance. Switch the lead from the Emitter to the Collector. Your meter should again be reading a low resistance.

Using an Ohmmeter, connect the transistor as shown in Test B. Your meter should be reading a high resistance. Switch the lead from the Emitter to the Collector. Your meter should again be reading a high resistance. Typical results read approximately  $1M\Omega$  to infinity.

Refer to parts list and find a PNP transistor, refer to Figure D (page 8) for locating the Emitter, Base and Collector. Using an Ohmmeter, connect the transistor as shown in Test C. Your meter should be reading a low resistance. Switch the lead from the Emitter to the Collector. Your meter should again be reading a low resistance.

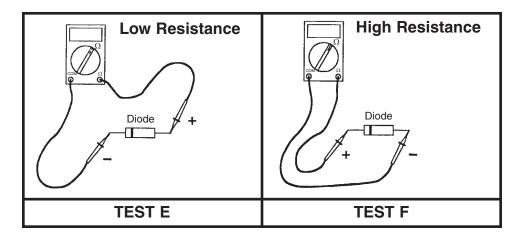
Using an Ohmmeter, connect the transistor as shown in Test D. Your meter should be reading a high resistance. Switch the lead from the Emitter to the Collector. Your meter should again be reading a high resistance.



#### **DIODE TEST**

Refer to the parts list and find a diode. Refer to Figure E (page 8) for locating the Cathode and Anode. The end with the band is the cathode. Using an Ohmmeter, connect the diode as shown in Test E. Your meter should be reading a low resistance. Using an

Ohmmeter, connect the diode as shown in Test F. Your meter should be reading a high resistance. Typical results read approximately  $1M\Omega$  to infinity for silicon diodes (1N4148).

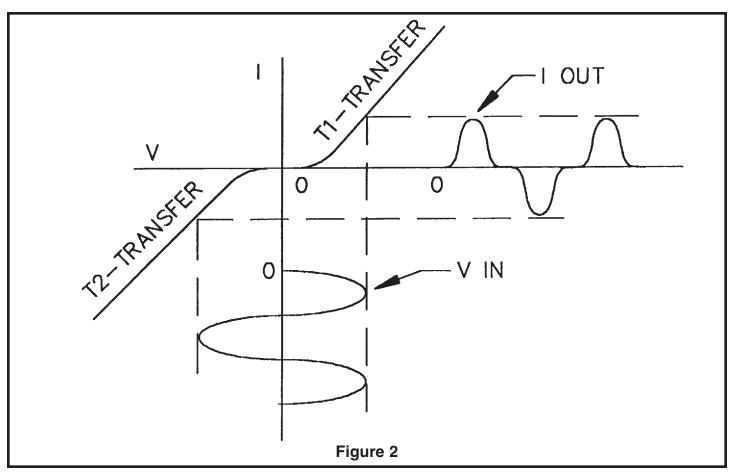


# AUDIO AMPLIFIER

Theory of Operation - The purpose of the Audio Amplifier is to increase the audio power to a level sufficient to drive an 8 ohm speaker. To do this, DC (direct current) from the battery is converted by the amplifier to an AC (alternating current) in the speaker. The ratio of the power delivered to the speaker and the power taken from the battery is the efficiency of the amplifier. In a Class A amplifier (transistor on over entire cycle) the maximum theoretical efficiency is .5 or 50%, but in a Class B amplifier (transistor on for 1/2 cycle) the maximum theoretical efficiency is .785 or 78.5%. Since transistor characteristics are not ideal, in a pure Class B amplifier, the transistors will introduce crossover distortion. This is due to the non-linear transfer curve near zero current or cutoff. This type distortion is shown in Figure 2.

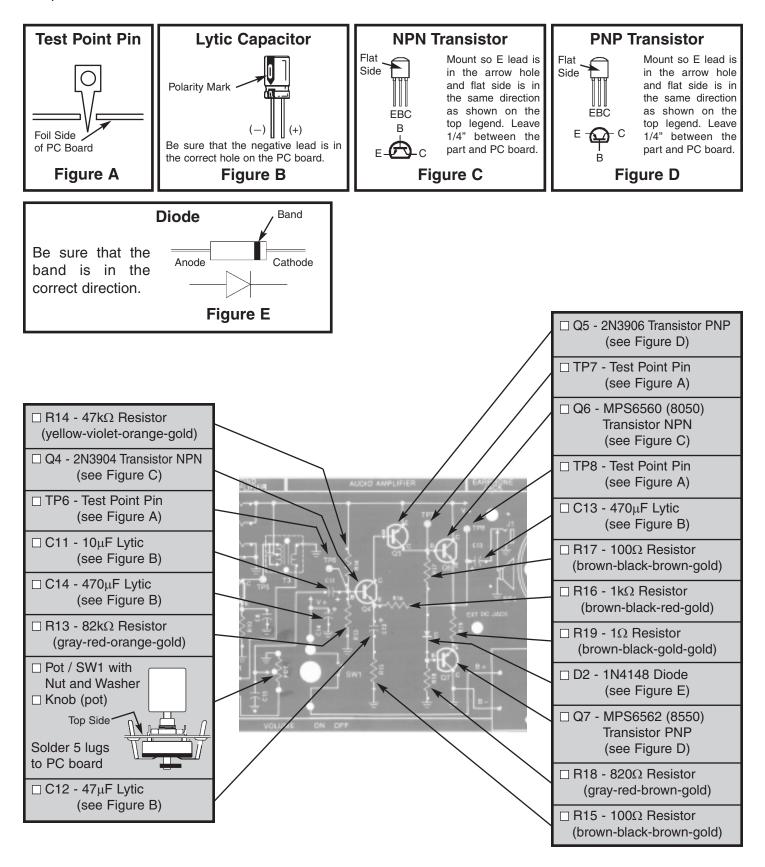
In order to eliminate crossover distortion and maximize efficiency, the transistors (Q6 and Q7) of the audio amplifier circuit are biased on for slightly more than 1/2 of the cycle, Class AB. In other words, the transistors are working as Class A amplifiers for very small levels of power to the speaker, but they slide toward Class B operation at larger power levels.

Transistor Q4 is a Class A amplifier that drives the base of transistor Q5 directly. Q5 is a current amplifier that multiplies the collector current of Q4 by the beta (current gain, B) of Q5. The current from Q5 drives the output transistors Q6 and Q7 through the bias string R17, D2 and R18. Bias stability is achieved by using 100% DC feedback from the output stage to the emitter of Q4 through resistor R16. This gives the Audio Amplifier a DC gain of one. The AC gain is set by resistors R16, R15 and capacitor C12. In this circuit, the value of R16 is 1000 ohms and R15 is 100 ohms. Their ratio is 10 to 1, therefore the AC gain of the amplifier is 10 times. Resistors R13 and R14 set the DC voltage at the base of Q4 to approximately 5.2V. The emitter of Q4 is set at 4.5V, which is the same voltage at this output to the speaker. Note that this voltage is 1/2 the battery voltage. Capacitor C11 AC couples the audio signal from the volume control to the input of the Audio Amplifier. Capacitor C13 blocks the DC to the speaker, while allowing the AC to pass.

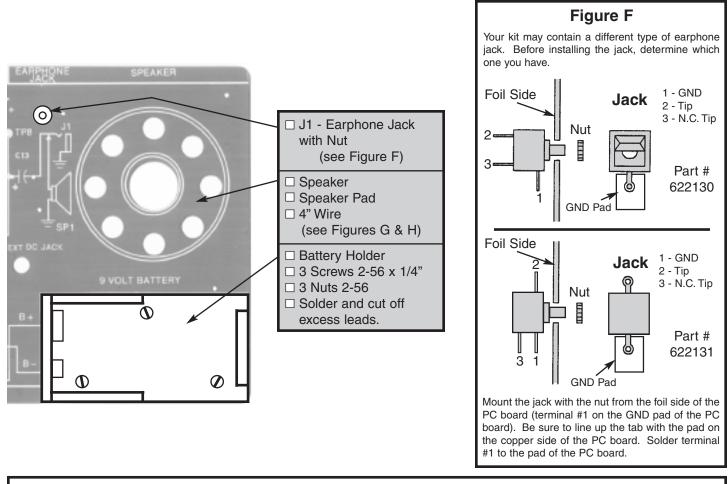


# **ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS - AUDIO AMPLIFIER**

We will begin by installing resistor R14. Identify the resistor by its color code and install as shown on page 3. Be careful to properly mount and solder all components. Diodes, transistors and electrolytic capacitors are polarized, be sure to follow the instructions carefully so that they are not mounted backwards. Check the box when you have completed each installation.



# **ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS**

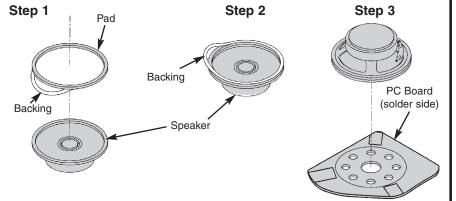


#### Figure G

**Step 1:** If the speaker pad has center and outside pieces, then remove them. Peel the backing off of one side of the speaker pad and stick the pad onto the speaker.

**Step 2:** Remove the other backing from the speaker pad.

**Step 3:** Stick the speaker onto the solder side of the PC board.



#### Figure H Cut two 1 1/2" wires and one 1" wire and strip 1/4" of insulation off of both ends. Solder the wires in the locations shown. From Terminal 3 From Terminal 3 Trom Terminal 3 Tro

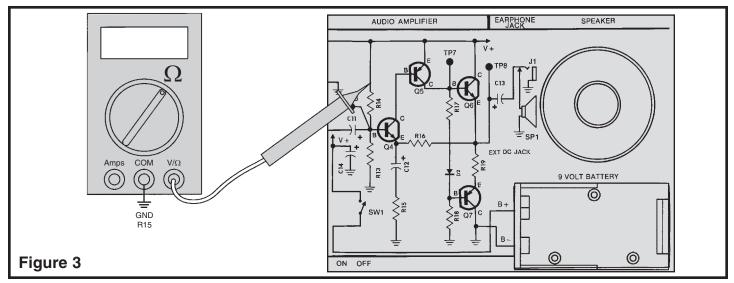
You have completed wiring the Audio Amplifier. We shall proceed in testing this circuit. You will need a Volt-Ohm-Milliammeter, preferably a digital type.

# STATIC MEASUREMENTS

#### **RESISTANCE TEST**

Adjust the Volt-Ohm-Milliammeter (VOM) to the highest resistance scale available. Connect the VOM to the circuit as shown in Figure 3. Do not connect the battery. The VOM should indicate a low resistance first and then as C14 charges, resistance should rise to approximately  $100k\Omega$ . If you get a lower reading,

reverse multimeter leads. If you get a reading lower than  $20k\Omega$ , check the circuit for shorts or parts inserted incorrectly. Check C14 to see if it's leaky or inserted backwards. If you get a reading higher than  $150k\Omega$ , check for open copper or bad solder connections on resistors R13 and R14.

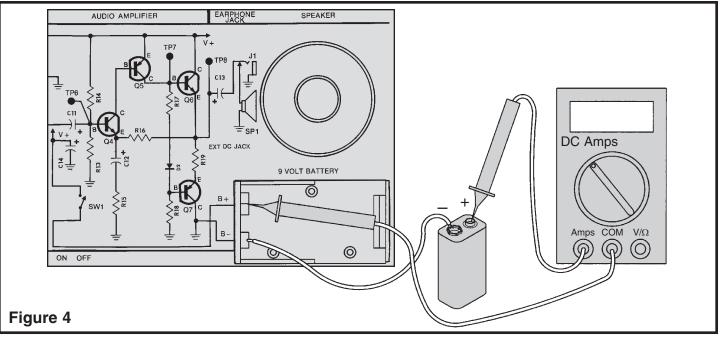


### **POWER UP TEST**

Set your VOM to read the highest possible current. Connect the meter to the circuit as shown in Figure 4. Make sure that the On/Off switch (SW1) is in the OFF position.

While watching your VOM, flip switch SW1 to the ON position. The VOM should indicate a very low current.

Adjust your meter for a more accurate reading if necessary. If the current is greater than 25 milliamps, immediately turn the power off. The current should be between 5 and 15 milliamps. If you circuit fails this test, check that all parts have been installed correctly and check for shorts or poor solder connections. Turn OFF SW1.

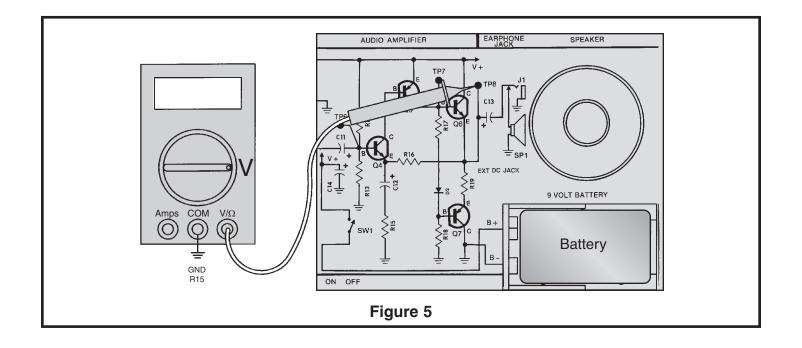


#### **OUTPUT BIAS TEST**

Adjust your VOM to read 9 volts and connect it to test point 8 (TP8) as shown in Figure 5.

Make sure that the battery, or a 9 volt power supply (if available), is properly connected and turn the power ON. The voltage at TP8 should be between 4 to 5 volts. If you get this reading, go on to the next test. If your

circuit fails this test, turn the power OFF and check that all of the transistors are correctly inserted in the correct locations. The E on the transistor indicates the emitter lead and should always be in the hole with the arrow. Check that resistors R13 and R14 are the correct values and not interchanged.



#### TRANSISTOR BIAS TEST

Move the positive lead of your VOM to test point 7 (TP7). Make sure that the power is ON. The voltage should be between .5 and .8V higher than the voltage at TP8. All silicon transistors biased for conduction will

have approximately .7V from the base to the emitter. If your circuit fails this test, turn off the power and check that Q6 is properly inserted into the circuit board.

#### **INPUT BIAS**

Move the positive lead of the VOM to test point 6 (TP6). Make sure that the power is ON. The voltage at TP6 should be very close to the voltage at TP7. This is true because very little DC current flows through resistor R16 making the voltage at the emitter of Q4 very close to the voltage at the emitter of Q5. If your circuit passes this test, leave the VOM connected and go to test 1 in the Dynamic Measurements Section. If your circuit fails this test, turn the power OFF and check transistors Q4, Q7 and resistor R16. All static tests must pass before proceeding to the Dynamic Tests or the next section.

# DYNAMIC MEASUREMENTS

#### DC GAIN

Adjust your VOM to read 9 volts DC. Connect the positive lead of the VOM to TP6 and the negative lead to any ground. Turn the power ON and record the voltage at TP6 here:

V1=\_\_\_\_\_ volts.

Place resistor R4 across resistor R13 as shown in Figure 6.

The voltage at TP6 should drop to a lower value. Record that lower voltage here:

V2=\_\_\_\_\_ volts.

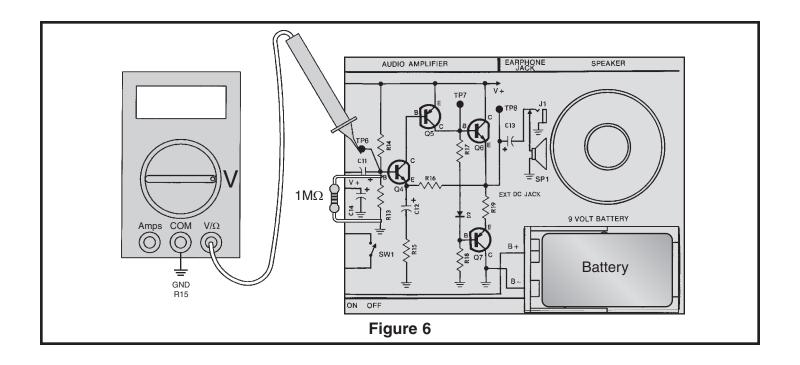
Remove R4 from the circuit and move the positive lead of the VOM to TP8. Record the voltage at TP8 here:

V3=\_\_\_\_\_ volts.

Once again, parallel resistor R13 with resistor R4 as shown in Figure 6. The voltage at TP8 should also drop to a lower voltage. Record the new reading at TP8 here:

V4=\_\_\_\_\_ volts.

Remove R4 from the circuit but leave your VOM connected to TP8 for the next test. Turn the power OFF. Since the DC GAIN equals the DC change at the output divided by the DC change at the input, the DC gain of this amplifier is (V1-V2)/(V3-V4). Your calculated answer should be very close to 1.



If you do not have a generator, skip the following test and go directly to Section 2.

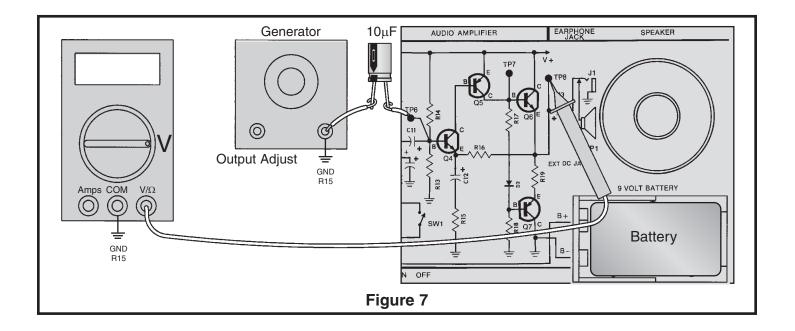
#### AC GAIN

Connect the VOM and generator to TP6 as shown in Figure 7.

Turn the power ON. Normally the AC gain is measured at a frequency of 1 kilohertz (kHz). Your VOM, however, may not be able to accurately read AC voltages at this frequency. It is recommended, therefore, that this test be performed at 400Hz. Set the generator at 400Hz and minimum voltage output. Set your VOM to read an AC voltage of 1 volt at the output of your Audio Amplifier. Slowly increase the output of the generator until the VOM reads 1 volt AC. Leave the audio at this setting and move the positive lead of your VOM to TP6. Record the AC voltage input to the amplifier here:

Vin=\_\_\_\_\_ volts.

You may have to change scales on your VOM for the most accurate reading. Turn the power OFF. The AC voltage gain of your Audio Amplifier is equal to the AC output voltage divided by the AC input voltage, or 1/Vin. Your calculated AC Gain should be approximately 10.



#### If an oscilloscope is not available, skip the following test and go directly to Section 2.

#### AC BANDWIDTH

Connect the oscilloscope and generator to your circuit as shown in Figure 8.

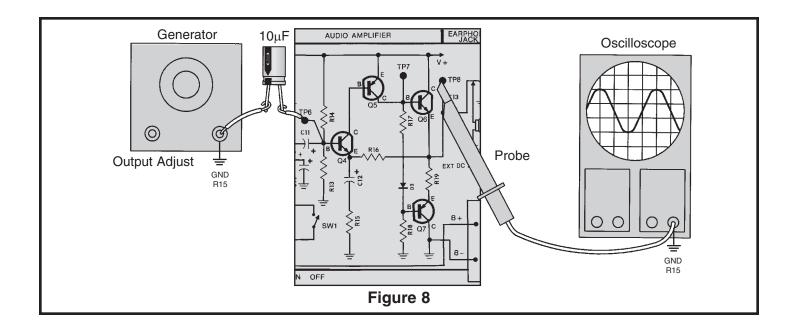
Set the generator for a frequency of 1kHz and minimum voltage output. Set the oscilloscope to read .5 volts per division. Turn the power ON and slowly increase the generator output until the oscilloscope displays 2 volts peak to peak (Vpp) at TP8. Move the oscilloscope probe to TP6 and record the input voltage here:



(at this point you may want to verify the AC Gain).

Move the oscilloscope probe back to TP8 and slowly increase the frequency from the generator until the waveform on the oscilloscope drops to .7 of its original reading, 1.4 Vpp or 2.8 divisions. Use the oscilloscope probe to check TP6 to make sure the input voltage did not change. The frequency of the generator when the output drops to .7 of its original value is called the high frequency 3 decibel (dB) corner.

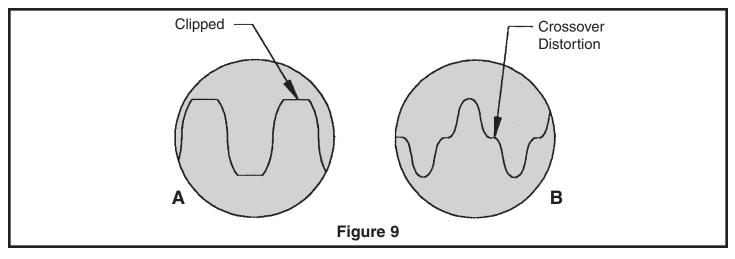
Repeat this procedure by lowering the frequency from the generator to obtain the low frequency 3dB corner. Leave the oscilloscope connected to TP8 and turn the power OFF. By subtracting the frequency of the low corner from the frequency of the high corner, you calculate the bandwidth of the Audio Amplifier. Your bandwidth should be greater than 100kHz.



#### DISTORTION

Connect the generator and oscilloscope as shown in Figure 8. Set the generator at a frequency of 1kHz, turn the power ON and adjust the generator output until the

peaks of the sinewave at TP8 are clipped as shown in Figure 9A.

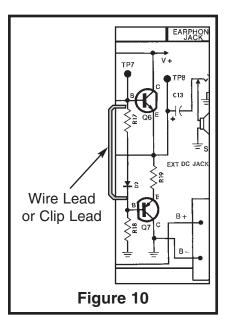


Measure the maximum voltage peak to peak when clipping first occurs and record that value here:

Vclp = \_\_\_\_\_ Vpp.

Using a wire short out resistor R17 and diode D2 as shown in Figure 10.

The waveform on your oscilloscope should resemble Figure 9B. The "flat spots" near the center of each sinewave demonstrate what is called crossover distortion. This distortion should disappear when you remove the shorting lead. Turn the power OFF



#### MAXIMUM POWER OUTPUT

The maximum power output before distortion due to "clipping" can be calculated using the voltage Vclp obtained in step 4 as follows:

Vpeak (Vp) = Vclp/2

Vroot mean squared (Vrms) = Vp x .7

Max power out =  $(Vrms)^2/8$  ohms =  $(Vclp x .35)^2/8$ Maximum power output should be greater than 200 milliwatts.

#### EFFICIENCY

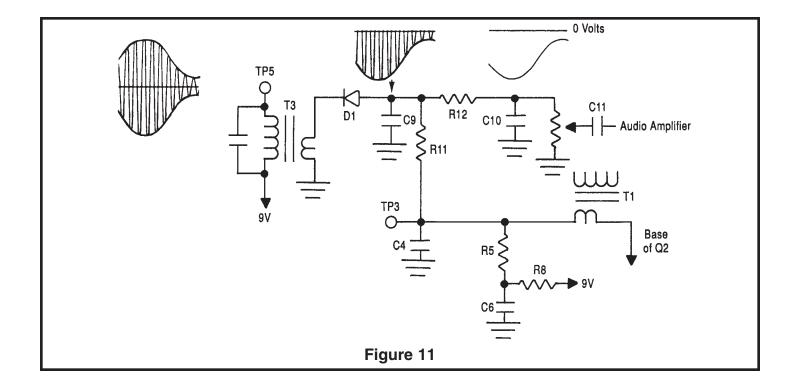
By measuring the DC power taken from the battery at the maximum power output level, the efficiency to the Audio Amplifier can be calculated. Power from the battery is equal to the current taken from the battery times the voltage of the battery during maximum power output. It is best to use a power supply to prevent battery voltage from changing during this measurement. Efficiency can then be calculated as follows: Eff = Max audio power/Battery Power.

# AM DETECTOR AND AGC STAGES

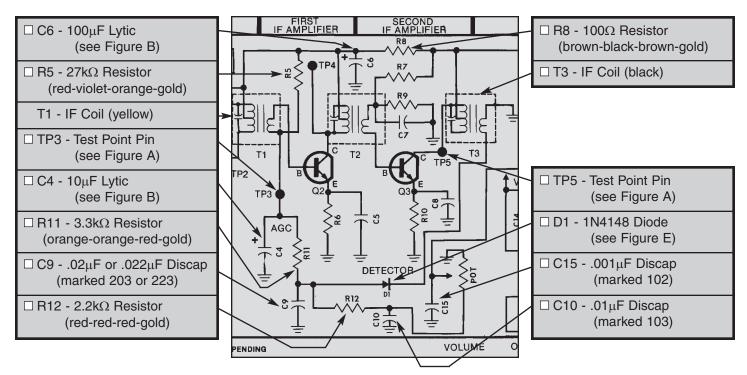
# THEORY OF OPERATION

The purpose of the detector is to change the amplitude modulated IF signal back to an audio signal. This is accomplished by a process called detection or demodulation. First, the amplitude modulated IF signal is applied to a diode in such a way as to leave only the negative portion of that signal (see Figure 11). The diode acts like an electronic check valve that only lets current pass in the same direction as the arrow (in the diode symbol) points. When the diode is in conduction (On Condition), it will force capacitors C9 and C10 to charge to approximately the same voltage as the negative peak of the IF signal. After conduction stops in the diode (Off Condition), the capacitors will discharge through resistors R11, R12 and the volume control. The discharge time constant for this circuit must be small enough to follow the audio signal or high frequency audio distortion will occur. The discharge time constant must be large enough, however, to remove the intermediate frequency (455kHz) and leave only the audio at the volume control as shown in Figure 11. The purpose of the automatic gain control (AGC) circuit

is to maintain a constant audio level at the detector, regardless of the strength of the incoming signal. Without AGC, the volume control would have to be adjusted for each station and even moderately strong stations would clip in the final IF amplifier causing audio distortion. AGC is accomplished by adjusting the DC bias of the first IF amplifier to lower its gain as the signal strength increases. Figure 11 shows that the audio at the top of the volume control is actually "riding" on a negative DC voltage when strong signals are This negative DC component encountered. corresponds to the strength of the incoming signal. The larger the signal, the more negative the component. At test point three (TP3), the audio is removed by a low pass filter, R11 and C4, leaving only the DC component. Resistor R5 is used to shift the voltage at TP3 high enough to bias the base of transistor Q2 to the full gain position when no signal is present. Resistors R5 and R11 also forward bias diode D1 just enough to minimize "On Condition" threshold voltage.



# **ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS - DETECTOR**

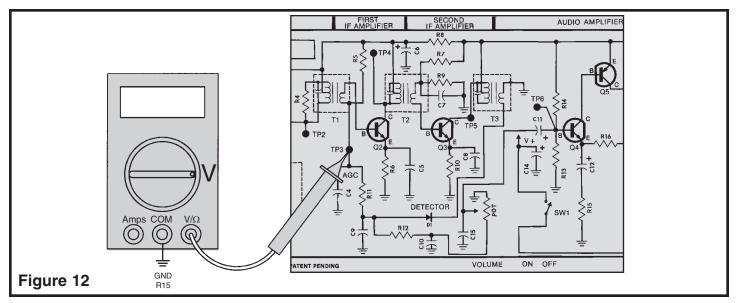


# STATIC MEASUREMENTS AGC ZERO SIGNAL BIAS

With the power turned OFF, connect the VOM to test point three (TP3) as shown in Figure 12.

Check that the VOM is adjusted to read 9 volts DC and turn the power ON. The voltmeter should read

approximately 1.5 volts DC. If your reading varies more than .5 volts from this value, turn the power OFF and check the polarity of D1, and resistors R11 and R5. Also check that transformer T1 is properly installed.



# T3 TEST

With the power turned OFF, connect the positive lead of the VOM to TP5 and the negative lead to any ground. Make sure that the VOM is set to read 9 volts DC and turn the power ON. The voltage on the VOM should be

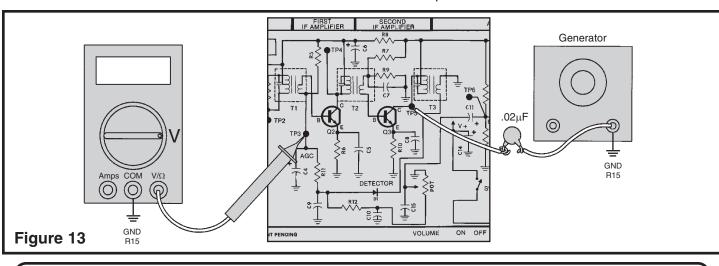
the same as your battery voltage or power supply voltage. If not, turn OFF the power and check that T3 is properly installed.

If you do not have an RF generator, go to Section 3.

# DYNAMIC MEASUREMENTS DETECTOR AND ACG TEST

Turn the power OFF and connect the VOM and RF generator as shown in Figure 13. Set the VOM to accurately read 2 volts DC and set the output of the RF generator for 455kHz, no modulaton, and minimum amplitude. Turn the power ON and slowly increase the amplitude of the 455kHz signal from the RF generator

until the voltage at TP3 just starts to drop. This point is called the AGC threshold with no IF gain. Make a note of the amplitude setting on the RF generator here:

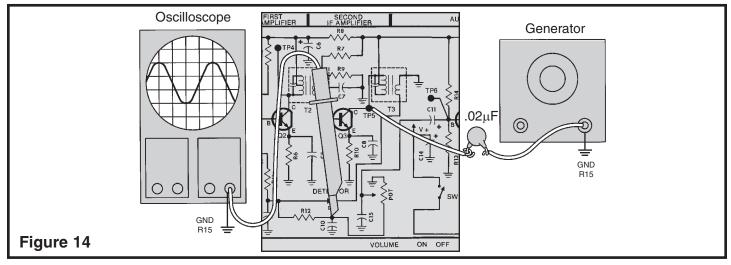


Turn the power OFF.

(If your RF generator does not have amplitude modulation or you do not have an oscilloscope, go to Section 3.)

### SYSTEM CHECK

Connect equipment as shown in Figure 14. Set the RF generator at 455kHz, 1kHz at 80% modulation and minimum output. Turn the power ON and put the volume control at full clockwise position. Slowly adjust the amplitude of the RF generator output until you hear the 1kHz on the speaker. If this test fails, turn the power OFF and check C11, R12, volume control, D1 and TP3.



#### DETECTOR BANDWIDTH TEST

Connect equipment as shown in Figure 14. Set the RF generator at 455kHz with 80% modulation at a modulation frequency of 1kHz. Set the oscilloscope to read .1 volts per division. Turn the power ON and put the volume control at minimum. Increase the amplitude of the RF generator until the signal on the oscilloscope is 4 divisions peak to peak. Check the signal to make sure it is free of all distortion. Leave the

frequency of the RF output at 455kHz, but increase the modulation frequency until the output drops to 0.28 Vpp. Record the modulation frequency on the RF generator here:

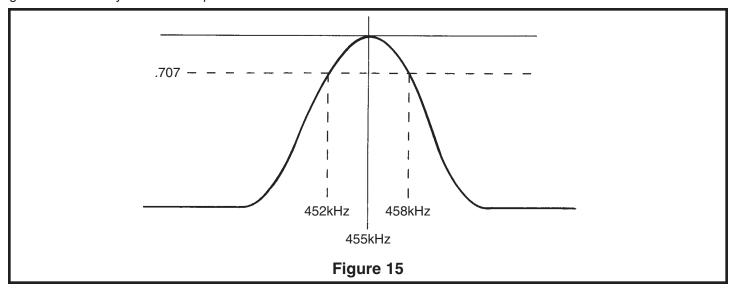
This frequency should be greater than 5kHz. Turn the power OFF.

# SECOND IF AMPLIFIER

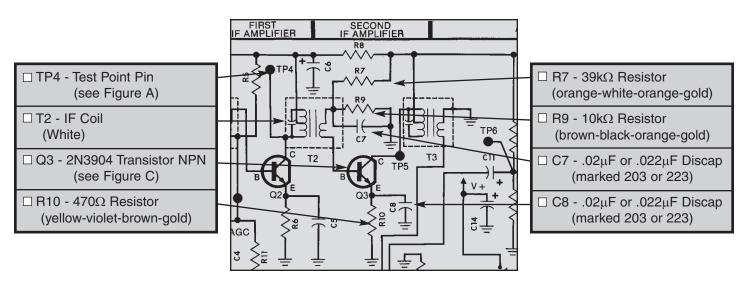
# THEORY OF OPERATION

The purpose of the SECOND IF AMPLIFIER is to increase the amplitude of the intermediate frequency (IF) and at the same time provide SELECTIVITY. Selectivity is the ability to "pick out" one radio station while rejecting all others. The second IF transformer (T3) acts as a bandpass filter with a 3dB bandwidth of approximately 6kHz. The amplitude versus frequency response of the second IF amplifier is shown in Figure 15.

Both IF amplifiers are tuned to a frequency of 455kHz and only need to be aligned once when the radio is assembled. These amplifiers provide the majority of the gain and selectivity needed to separate the radio stations. The gain at 455kHz in the second IF amplifier is fixed by the AC impedance of the primary side of transformer T3, and the DC current in Q3. The current in Q3 is set by resistors R7, R9 and R10. Both C7 and C8 bypass the 455kHz signal to ground, making Q3 a common emitter amplifier. The signal is coupled from the first IF amplifier to the second IF amplifier through transformer T2. The IF transformers not only supply coupling and selectivity, they also provide an impedance match between the collector of one stage and the base of the next stage. This match allows maximum power to transfer from one stage to the next.



# ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS - SECOND IF AMPLIFIER

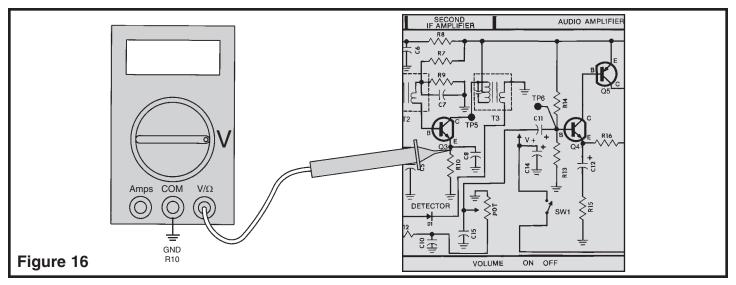


# STATIC MEASUREMENTS

#### Q3 BIAS

With the power OFF, connect the negative lead of your VOM to any ground and the positive lead to the emitter of Q3 as shown in Figure 16. Set the VOM to read 9 volts DC and turn ON the power. The voltage at the

emitter of Q3 should be approximately 1 volt. If your reading is different by more than 0.5 volts, turn off the power and check your battery of power supply voltage. Also check components R7, R9, R10 and Q3.



If you do not have an RF generator or oscilloscope, skip the following test and go to Section 4.

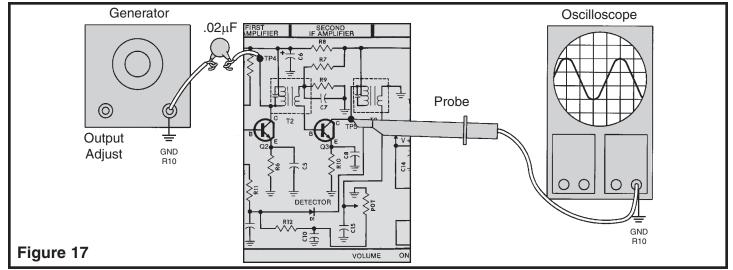
# **DYNAMIC MEASUREMENTS**

#### AC GAIN

With the power turned OFF, connect the oscilloscope and the RF generator to the circuit as shown in Figure 17. Set the RF generator at a frequency of 455kHz, no modulation and minimum amplitude output. Set the oscilloscope vertical sensitivity at 1 volt/division. The scope probe must have an input capacitance of less than 50pF or it will detune transformer T3. Turn the power ON and slowly increase the amplitude of the RF signal until you have 4 volts peak to peak on the oscilloscope. Tune transformer T3 for a maximum output while readjusting the RF generator amplitude to keep 4Vpp at the oscilloscope. After T3 is aligned, move the scope probe tip to the base of Q3 and record the peak to peak amplitude of the signal here:

Vb=\_\_\_\_Vpp.

Turn the power OFF. The AC gain of the second IF amplifier at 455kHz is equal to 4/Vb, and should be greater than 100. If your gain is less than 100, check components C7, C8, R7, R9 and R10. Also, make sure that transistor Q3 is properly installed.

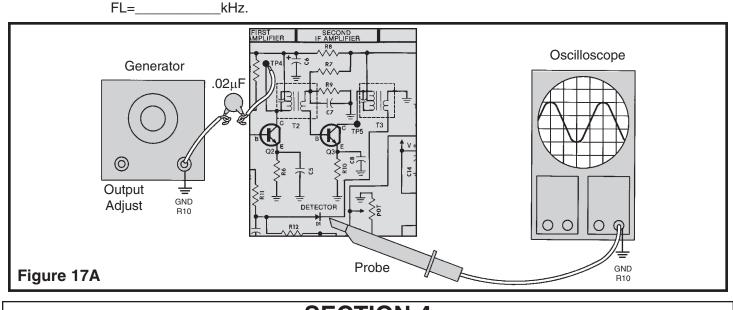


#### **BANDWIDTH TEST**

With the power OFF, connect your equipment as shown in Figure 17A. Turn the power ON and adjust the RF generator for .4Vpp at the cathode of D1. If necessary, realign transformer T3 for maximum output while adjusting the output of the RF generator to maintain .4Vpp. Slowly decrease the frequency of the RF generator until the signal drops to .707 of its peaked value or .28Vpp. Record the frequency of the RF generator here: Now increase the frequency of the RF generator past the peak to a point where the signal drops to .707 of its peak value. Record that frequency point here:

FH=\_\_\_\_kHz.

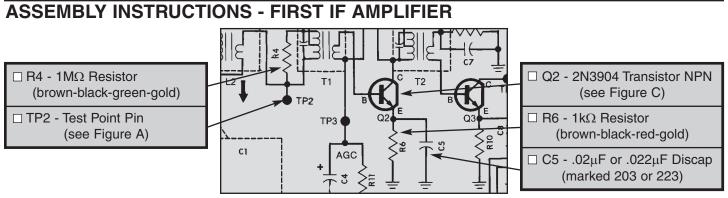
By subtracting the frequency of the lower 3dB corner from the frequency of the higher 3dB corner you get the BANDWIDTH of the second IF amplifier. Your results should be similar to the values shown in Figure 15.



# **SECTION 4**

# FIRST IF AMPLIFIER THEORY OF OPERATION

The operation of the first IF amplifier is the same as for the second IF amplifier with one important difference. The gain of the first IF amplifier decreases after the AGC threshold is passed to keep the audio output constant at the detector and prevent overload of the second IF amplifier. This is accomplished by making the voltage on the base of transistor Q2, lower as the signal strength increases. Since the voltage from base to emitter is fairly constant, the drop in voltage at the base produces a similar drop in voltage at the emitter of Q2. This drop lowers the voltage across R6 and thus reduces the DC current through R6. Since all of the DC current from the emitter of Q2 must go through R6, the DC current in Q2 is therefore lowered. When the DC current in a transistor is lowered, its effective emitter resistance increases. The AC gain of transistor Q2 is equal to the AC collector load of Q2 divided by its effective emitter resistance. Raising the value of the effective emitter resistance thus lowers the AC gain of Q2.



# STATIC MEASUREMENTS

#### **Q2 BASE BIAS**

With the power turned OFF, reconnect your VOM to test point 3 (TP3) as shown in Figure 12. Set the VOM to read 2 volts DC accurately and turn the power ON. The voltage

#### **Q2 CURRENT**

With the power turned OFF, connect the positive lead of the VOM to the emitter of Q2. Connect the negative lead of the VOM to any DC ground and turn the power should be approximately 1.5 volts. If your circuit fails this test, turn the power OFF and check Q2 and R6.

ON. The voltage should be approximately .8 volts. Since the current in Q2 is equal to the current in R6, I(Q2)=.8/R6 or approximately .8 milliamps.

If you do not have an RF generator or oscilloscope, skip the following test and go to Section 5.

# DYNAMIC MEASUREMENTS

#### AC GAIN

With the power turned OFF, connect the RF generator and the oscilloscope to your circuit as shown in Figure 18. Using a clip lead, short TP5 to R8 as shown in Figure 18. This short prevents the AGC from lowering the gain of the first IF ampifier. Set the RF generator to 455kHz, no modulation, and minimum amplitude output. Set the oscilloscope for a vertical sensitivity of 1 volt/division and turn the power ON. Increase the amplitude output from the RF generator until approximately 4Vpp registers on the oscilloscope. Tune the IF transformer (T2) to maximize the 455kHz at TP4.

AGC ACTION

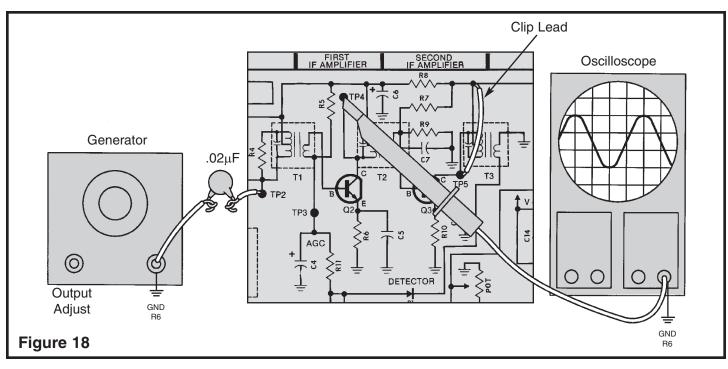
Move the oscilloscope probe back to TP4 and adjust the RF generator for 4Vpp if necessary. Remove the clip

After tuning T2, adjust the RF generator amplitude in order to keep 4Vpp at TP4. Now move the oscilloscope probe to the base of Q2 and record the peak to peak level of the 455kHz signal here:

Vb=\_\_\_\_Vpp.

The AC gain of the first IF amplifier is equal to 4/Vb. The AC gain of this amplifier should be greater than 100. DO NOT TURN THE POWER OFF. GO TO THE NEXT TEST.

lead shorting TP5 to R8. The AGC should reduce the signal level at TP4 to approximately .8 volts.



# MIXER AND OSCILLATOR

#### THEORY OF OPERATION

In a superheterodyne type receiver the radio wave at the antenna is amplified and then mixed with the local oscillator to produce the intermediate frequency (IF). Transistor Q1 not only amplifies the RF signal but also simultaneously oscillates at a frequency 455kHz above the desired radio station frequency. Positive feedback from the collector to the emitter of Q1 is provided by coil L2 and capacitor C3. During the heterodyne process, the following four frequencies are present at the collector of Q1.

- 1. The local oscillator frequency, LO.
- 2. The RF carrier or radio station frequency.
- 3. The sum of these two frequencies, LO + RF.
- 4. The difference of these two frequencies, LO RF.

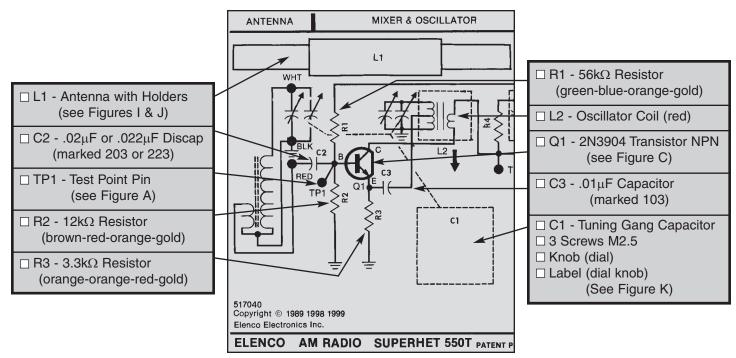
The "difference frequency" is used as the intermediate frequency in AM radios. The collector of Q1 also contains an IF transformer (T1) tuned only to the difference frequency. This transformer rejects all

frequencies except those near 455kHz. T1 also couples the 455kHz signal to the base of Q2 to be processed by the IF amplifiers.

The antenna and the oscillator coils are the only two resonant circuits that change when the radio is tuned for different stations. Since a radio station may exist 455kHz above the oscillator frequency, it is important that the antenna rejects this station and selects only the station 455kHz below the oscillator frequency. The frequency of the undesired station 455kHz above the oscillator is called the image frequency. If the selectivity of the antenna (Q factor) is high, the image will be reduced sufficiently.

The oscillator circuit must also change when the radio is tuned in order to remain 455kHz above the tuning of the desired radio station. The degree of accuracy in keeping the oscillator frequency exactly 455kHz above the tuning of the antenna is called tracking accuracy.

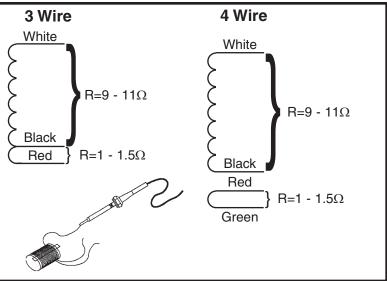
# **ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS - ANTENNA, MIXER AND OSCILLATOR**



#### Figure I

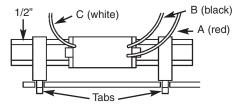
Determine if you have a three wire or four wire coil. Resistance measurements will be used to check the configuration of the coil. Slide one holder off the ferrite core of the antenna assembly. Then slide the coil off the the ferrite core. Measure the resistance of the coil. Your readings should match the approximate values as shown.

**Note:** If the end of a wire from the antenna should break off, strip the insulation off the end with a hot soldering iron. Lay the wire down on a hard surface and stroke the wire with your iron. The insulation should come off very easily. **CAUTION:** The soldering iron will burn the hard surface that you are working on.

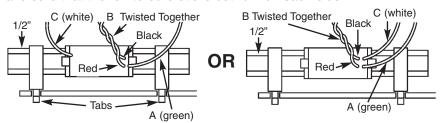


**IMPORTANT:** Before installing the antenna coil, determine if you have a 3 wire coil or a 4 wire coil. Assemble it to the PC board as shown below. Mount the antenna assembly to the PC board.

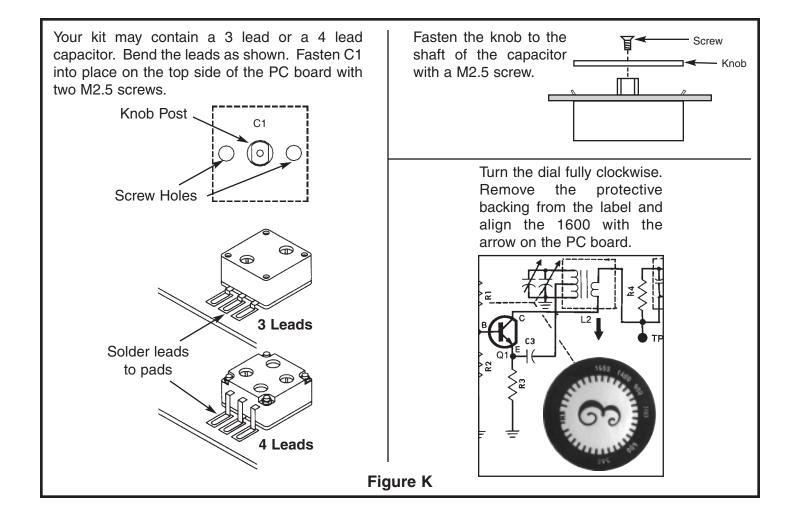
- $\Box$  Put the tab of the first holder into the right hole and twist the tab 90°.
- $\hfill\square$  Slide the ferrite core through the antenna coil and the holder. Cut the second holder as shown.
- $\square$  Put the tab of the second holder into the left hole and twist the tab 90°.
- $\square$  Slide the ferrite core through the holder. Make sure that the ferrite core sticks out 1/2" on each side.

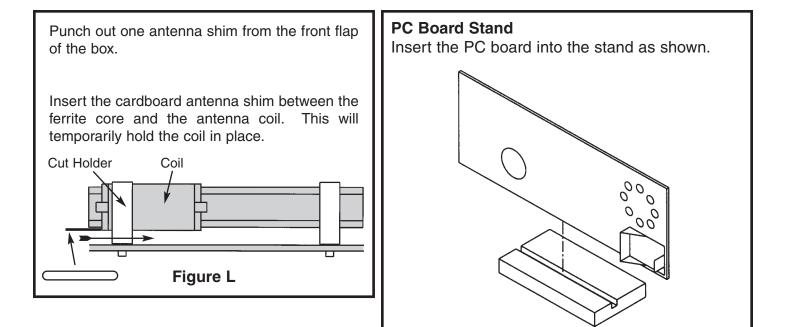


**3 Wire Type Antenna:** Solder the 3 colored wires to the PC board:  $\Box$  Wire A (red) to the hole marked "RED",  $\Box$  Wire B (black) to the hole marked "BLK" and  $\Box$  Wire C (white) to the hole marked "WHT".



**4 Wire Type Antenna:** Solder the 4 colored wires to the PC board: □Wire A (green) to the hole marked "RED", □Wire B (red and black twisted together) to the hole marked "BLK" and □Wire C (white) to the hole marked "WHT". **Figure J** 



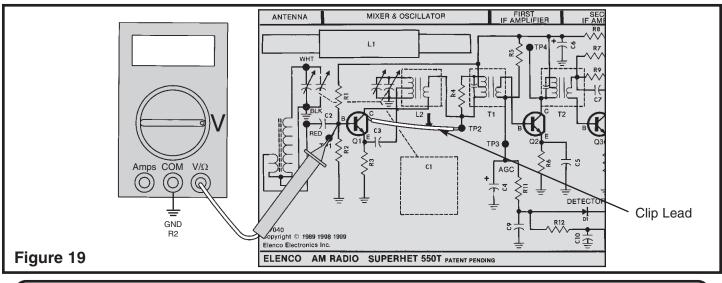


# STATIC MEASUREMENTS

# Q1 BIAS

With the power turned OFF, connect the VOM to your circuit as shown in Figure 19. Connect a clip lead from test point two (TP2) to the collector of Q1. This short prevents Q1 from oscillating. Set the VOM to read 2 volts DC accurately and turn the power ON. The DC voltage

at TP1 should be 1.6 volts. If the voltage in your circuit differs by more than 0.5 volts, leave the power ON and check the battery voltage. If the battery voltage is greater than 8.5 volts, turn the power OFF and check components R1, R2, R3 and Q1.

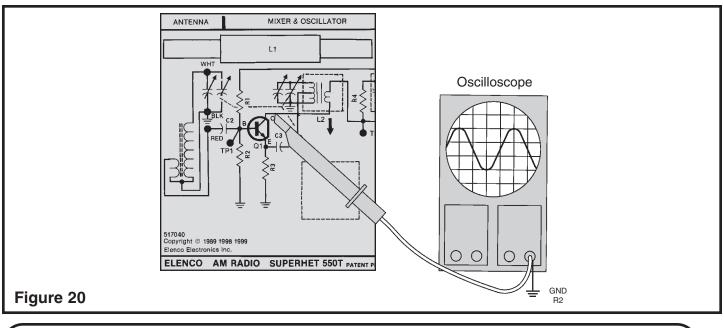


If you do not have an oscilloscope, go to the Final Alignments With No Test Equipment Section.

# DYNAMIC MEASUREMENTS

### **OSCILLATOR CIRCUIT**

With the power turned OFF, connect the oscilloscope to the circuit as shown in Figure 20. Set the oscilloscope for a vertical sensitivity of 1 volt/division and turn the power ON. The oscilloscope should display a low voltage sine wave. The frequency of the sine wave should change when capacitor C1 is turned. If your circuit fails this test, turn the power OFF and check components Q1, C1, C2, C3, L1 and L2.



# FINAL ALIGNMENTS

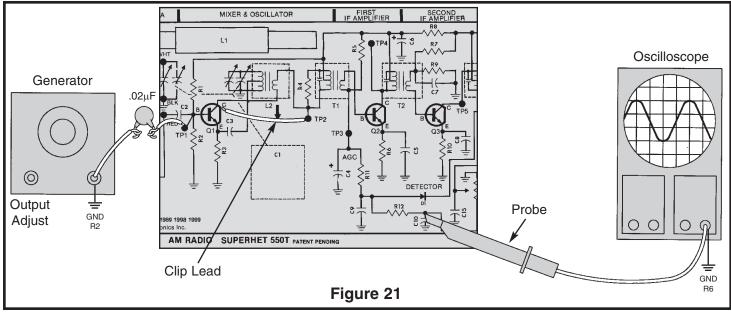
With the power turned OFF, connect the RF generator and the oscilloscope to your circuit as shown in Figure 21. Short TP2 to the collector of Q1 with a clip lead to "kill" the local oscillator. Set the RF generator at a frequency of 455kHz, modulation of 400Hz 80%, minimum amplitude output. Set the oscilloscope to read 0.1Vpp and turn the power ON. Increase the amplitude of the RF signal until the oscilloscope registers 0.5Vpp. Align transformers T3, T2 and T1 for the maximum AC reading on the oscilloscope. Decrease the amplitude of the signal from the RF generator to restore 0.5Vpp on the oscilloscope. Repeat the last two steps until no change in the peak at the oscilloscope is noticed. After IF alignment, lower the frequency from the RF generator until the reading on the VOM drops to 0.707 of its peaked value. Record the frequency of this lower 3dB corner here:

Fl=\_\_\_\_\_kHz.

Increase the RF generator frequency past the peak to the upper 3dB corner and record that frequency here:

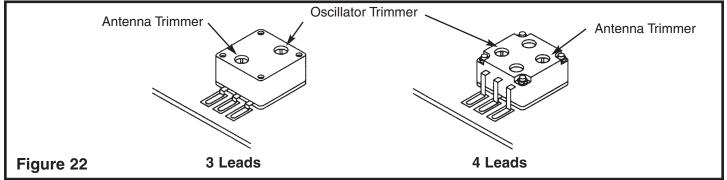
Fh=\_\_\_\_kHz.

The bandwidth of the IF amplifiers is BW=Fh - Fl. IF bandwidth should be between 1 to 2kHz. This bandwidth will widen as the AGC is approached.



#### SETTING OSCILLATOR RANGE

With the power turned OFF, connect the equipment to the circuit as shown in Figure 21. DO NOT connect the clip lead from TP2 to Q1. Set the RF generator at 540kHz, 400Hz 80% modulation, and a low level of output. Turn the tuning capacitor fully counterclockwise. Turn the power ON and a 400Hz tone should be heard coming from the speaker. Tune the oscillator coil (L2) for a peak on the oscilloscope. Adjust the RF generator output during this process to maintain a peak at 0.5Vpp or less. After peaking L2, set the RF generator frequency to 1600kHz and turn the tuning capacitor (C1) fully clockwise. A 400Hz tone should be heard coming from the speaker. Tune the oscillator trimmer capacitor on the back of C1 for a peak on the oscilloscope (see Figure 22).

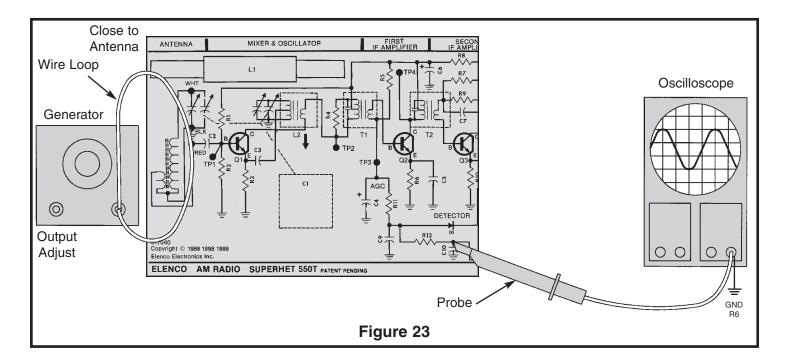


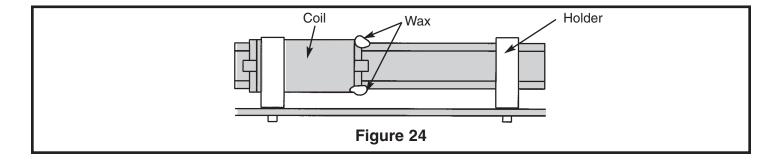
After peaking the oscillator trimmer capacitor, return the RF generator to 540kHz, and capacitor C1 to the fully counter-clockwise position and readjust L2. Repeat the last few steps until both settings of the oscillator are correct. This process sets the oscillator range at 995kHz to 2055kHz. If a frequency counter is available,

#### ANTENNA ALIGNMENT

With the power turned OFF, connect test equipment to your circuit as shown in Figure 23. Set the RF generator at 600kHz, 400Hz 80% modulation, moderate signal strength. Set the oscilloscope to read .5Vpp and turn the power ON. Turn C1 fully counter-clockwise, then slowly turn C1 clockwise until a 400Hz tone can be heard coming from the speaker. Slowly slide the antenna coil back and forth on the ferrite rod to obtain a peak on the oscilloscope. For maximum signal, your location of the antenna coil may have to be on the end of the ferrite rod (as shown in Figure 24). Change the frequency of the RF you may verify this alignment by measuring the frequency at the emitter of Q1 for both ends of the tuning capacitor (C1). Be careful not to mistune the oscillator during this measurement. A coupling capacitor of 82 picofarads or less to the frequency counter is recommended.

generator to 1400kHz and adjust C1 until a 400Hz tone can be heard coming from the speaker. Carefully peak the reading on the oscilloscope by adjusting the frequency of the RF generator. Now tune the antenna coil to this frequency by adjusting the antenna trimmer on the back of C1 (see Figure 22). This process should be repeated until both settings of the antenna track the oscillator tuning. Once the antenna is properly aligned, carefully apply candle wax or glue to the antenna coil and ferrite rod (as shown in Figure 24).





# AM ALIGNMENT WITH NO TEST EQUIPMENT

It is best to use an earphone for this alignment procedure. Rotate the tuning knob fully counterclockwise and place the label on the knob with the white arrow pointing at the 540kHz marking.

With an alignment tool or screwdriver, turn coils L2, T1, T2 and T3 fully counter-clockwise until they stop. DO NOT FORCE THE COILS ANY FURTHER. Turn each coil in about 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 turns. Set the antenna coil about 1/8" from the end of its ferrite rod. Refer to Figure J on page 24.

Turn the power ON and adjust the volume to a comfortable level. Tune the dial until a weak station is heard. If no stations are present, carefully slide the antenna back and forth on its ferrite rod and retune the dial if necessary. With an alignment tool or screwdriver, adjust T1 until the station is at its loudest. Reduce the volume control if necessary. Adjust T2 until the station is at its loudest and reduce the volume control if necessary. Adjust T3 until the station is at its loudest and reduce the volume the radio for another weak station and repeat this procedure until there is no more improvement noticed on the weakest possible station. This procedure peaked the IF amplifiers to their maximum gain.

Tune the radio until a known station around 600kHz is found. It may be necessary to listen to the station until

their broadcast frequency is announced. If no stations are present at the low side of the AM band, adjust L2 until a station is heard. Once a station is found and its broadcast frequency is known, rotate the dial until the white pointer is aligned with that station's frequency marking on the dial. Adjust L2 until the station is heard. Tune the radio until a station around 1400kHz is heard. It may be necessary to listen to the station until their broadcast frequency is announced. If no stations are present at the high end of the AM band, adjust the oscillator trimmer on the back of the gang. Once a station is found and its broadcast frequency is known, rotate the dial until the white pointer is aligned with that station's frequency marking on the dial. Adjust the oscillator trimmer located on the back of the gang until a station is heard. Repeat these steps until the oscillator alignment is optimized. This procedure set the oscillator range at 995kHz to 2055kHz.

Tune the radio for a station around 600kHz. Carefully slide the antenna back and forth until the station is at its loudest. Tune the radio for a station around 1400kHz. Adjust the antenna trimmer located on the back of the gang until the station is at its loudest. Repeat these steps until the antenna alignment is optimized. This procedure set the antenna to "track" the oscillator. Once the antenna is properly aligned, carefully apply candle wax or glue the antenna coil to the ferrite rod to prevent it from moving (as shown in Figure 24).

#### **DC Voltages**

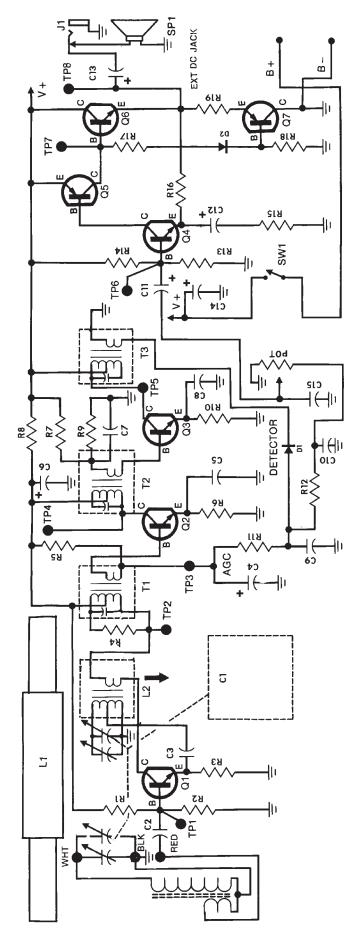
The voltage readings below should be used in troubleshooting the AM radio.

Q1	B 1.5V E 1.0V C 8.9V	Q5 B 8.3V E 9.0V C 5.8V
Q2	B 1.4V E 0.7V C 8.9V	Q6 B 5.8V E 5.2V C 9.0V
Q3	B 1.7V E 1.0V C 9.0V	Q7 B 4.6V E 5.2V C 0.0V
Q4	B 5.7V E 5.2V C 8.3V	

#### **Test Conditions**

- 1. Volume control set to minimum.
- 2. Connect a jumper wire between capacitor C2 (side that goes to red lead of coil L1) to negative battery.
- 3. Battery voltage 9.0V
- 4. All voltages are referenced to circuit common.
- 5. Voltage reading can vary  $\pm 10\%$ .

# SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM



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