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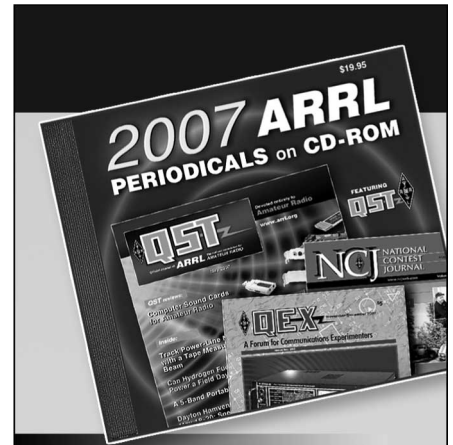
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Should anyone have this type of interference, you might have the fuse holders checked by an experienced electrician, by pulling out the fuse, and using an insulated screw driver short the contacts in the holder while observing for any possible arcs. Most power companies will investigate and even repair, in some cases, the cause of this type of QRN, free of any charge. They may not have any better equipment to isolate such a problem than you have, but they certainly are aware of all the possible causes and have the experience in coping with them. - *Vern Hajek, K6UGS*

MAKING TAP CONNECTIONS ON SMALL COILS

Whenever it is necessary to solder a tap connection on Miniductor or similar coil stock it is often difficult to avoid shorting to the adjacent turns with the solder. To help remedy this situation I place a strip of household aluminum foil between the turns on each side of the turn to be soldered. The excess foil is folded back over the other turns to shield them from solder splashes. Clean connections are now possible and quite easy to make. Of course, you should not forget to remove the foil before applying any power. - *Burton H. Syverson, W9HD*

MOUNTING HIGH-VOLTAGE CAPACITORS

Mounting high-voltage oil-filled capacitors has always impressed me as being one of the least pleasant jobs in the building of a power supply, because of the usual absence of a self-contained means of fastening the capacitor to the chassis. For this reason I felt a need to come up with a better mounting device prior to building my next power supply.

I found that a tube of silicone rubber-adhesive sealant, the type manufactured by GE and Dow-Corning for bathtub sealing, proved to be my solution. A good-size blob of the sticky sealant under each capacitor holds them firmly and neatly in place. One word of caution: put the capacitors where you want them on the chassis the first time, because after the sealant has set, it takes brute-force strength to remove them. - *J.R. Falker, W8SRK*

CHEAP-AND-EASY PANEL TRIM

Adding a stripe of color to the panel of a piece of homemade radio equipment will often impart a professional appearance that might otherwise be lacking. Those ubiquitous gray Hammertone rack panels certainly need something to dress them up, and the technique described here does the job rather well.

Select a roll of masking tape that is made to the width you prefer for a stripe of panel trim. (The writer has rolls of tape in various widths to meet various design require-

ments.) Remove from the roll a length of tape somewhat in excess of what will be needed. Next, affix one end of the tape to a solid object. Hold the free end in one hand, and spray paint the nonadhesive side the the strip your favorite color. White, black, or red contrasts nicely with gray panels. After the paint has dried, the strip can be applied to the panel, and the free ends of excess material sliced off with a razor blade.

White decals do not stand out well against a gray panel. A strip of painted masking tape can be attached to the panel, full length, above and below the row of controls. White press-on decals placed on the trim strip will be easy to read. Alternatively, black decals can be installed on a white or yellow strip.

Though the writer has not tried to use Mystic Tape (available at most hardware stores and supermarts), it should serve nicely as trim. - *WICER*

ANTENNA INSULATORS FROM A SIX-PACK

Antenna insulators are usually inexpensive but are not always on hand when needed, especially on a Field Day when they might be one of the forgotten items. I have found the plastic holder on most brands of beer sold in six-packs to be quite strong and able to support a length of wire. When cut into three pieces, one holder should be adequate for the ends and center of a dipole for all bands except maybe 40 and 80 meters, in which case the folded holders of three six-packs may be necessary to support such lengths. Seems to me that there are always a lot of insulators available and wasted on these weekend Field Days. - *Ev Taylor, W6DOR/W7BYF*

ONE-OSCILLATOR REPAIR ON HW-101

My new HW-101 transceiver would not work on cw because the 1000-Hz tone oscillator, V15A, would not oscillate. I called the local Heath Service Center and was told that they usually replace the phase-shift network (PEC 84-22) in the grid circuit to solve this problem. I later talked with other hams who had the same problem.

A check with my brother, WB8DGC, revealed that two years ago he had the same problem with his HW-100. He called Heath at Benton Harbor, and was told to change the cathode resistor, R310, from 1000 ohms to 680 ohms. This solved his problem and mine. I suspect that many people replace perfectly good PECs when this cathode-resistor change would solve their problem.

Further, my sidetone level was ear shattering. I solved this problem by changing R326 (in the plate lead to V15B) from 1M ohm to 6.8M ohm. The circuit of the SB-102 was modified to include a cw-tone volume potentiometer. - *Jan A. Heise, WA4VQD*