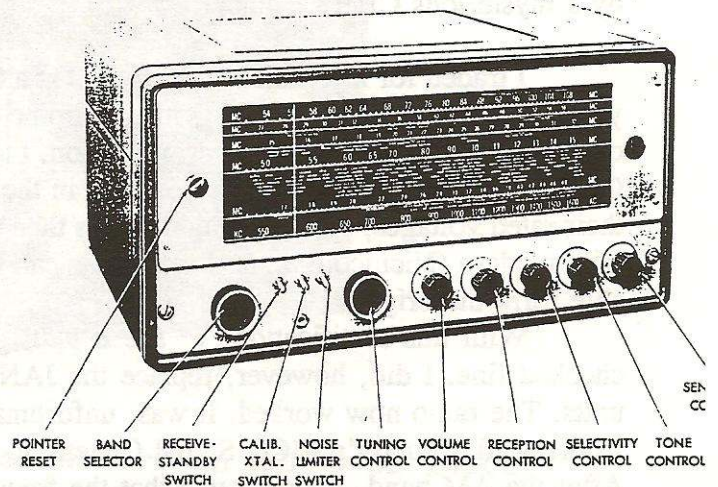


RECEIVER RESURRECTIONS

I. RESUSCITATING A HALLICRAFTERS SX62A

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Last year when buying some angle iron at a local scrap metal dealer, I saw an interesting shape in one of the hoppers. Rectangular, black, with a line cord attached. It turned out to be a Hallicrafters SX-62A. The SX62A is a 16 tube communications receiver built around 1960, covering 540 khz to 109 mhz in six bands.



This one, however, was in a sad condition, it looked as if someone had dropped it out of a third floor window and it had landed on the sidewalk upside down. The steel cabinet top was crushed in about an inch and the beautiful 155"x5" glass slide rule dial was totally shattered. Still it had good knobs and perhaps one or two tubes had survived the fall. The junk dealer was a good sort and gave me the radio free because I was buying a lot of scrap iron along with it.

At home I eased the chassis out of the cabinet. "Hmm, doesn't look bad at all." After dusting and washing the chassis with hot water and detergent it looked near mint. Miraculously the tubes all checked good. Having a nice chassis made me want to find a good dial and cabinet for it. (The restorers curse was setting in! You find a nice part of something and you have to have the rest of it).

A few weeks later I was at the Los Altos Ham swap meet and had survived the dawn stampede when I espied a familiar object in the back of a pick-up. It was in poor condition, the knobs and other hardware were missing but the cabinet and dial were intact. To my delight, my offer of \$10 was accepted for the SX62A.

After a light sanding and two spray coats of semi-flat black enamel, the cabinet looked factory fresh. The dial on closer examination was not so good. There were tiny areas where the paint had flaked off the glass. I did the only possible thing. I put an ad in the Antique Radio Classified requesting a dial. There were three replies. Two of them admitted to small areas of flaking paint so that must be a weak spot of the SX62A. The third reply was more promising. He had also had the problem of finding a satisfactory dial so had borrowed a SX62A with a perfect dial and had it photographed as a positive image on thick base film stock. He had a spare copy for \$25.

I sent off for it and on arrival it looked good and was in razor sharp focus. It was installed following the instructions to sandwich the film between a sheet of clear and a backing sheet of white translucent plexiglass. The sheets cost \$3 for both, cut precisely to size by Tap Plastics.

Finally the set was switched on and the many panel lamps illuminated the dial from the rear. Gorgeous! -- 73 --