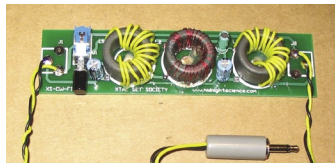


What's NEW

Tell them you saw it in Monitoring Times

Crystal Kits

The Xtal Set Society has been busy lately, with three new kits just recently announced! The first of these may be the circuit one of our readers was looking for – a passive CW filter, XS-PCWFK. This filter features a ~400 Hertz bandwidth with 750 center frequency and requires no battery or supply. The kit includes a bonus of sorts: it may be configured as an SSB rather than CW filter with a change in components.



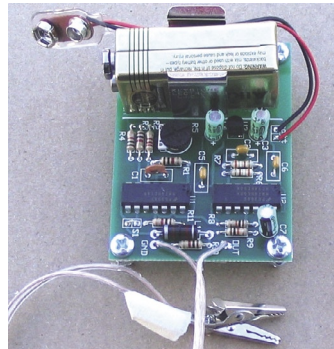
It goes between your receiver or rig – audio output – and 8-ohm speaker or phones, and accommodates old-style hi-z headphones too, such as Baldwin's. The kit is assembled on a 1.25 x 5.0-inch printed circuit board. Jacks, plugs, and cables are not included. An assembly manual is provided, and solder assembly is required. For most hobbyists, kit assembly is about one-half hour. A completed assembly is shown in the picture.

The XS-PCWFK "Passive CW Filter Kit" is \$19.95 plus \$4.95 shipping/handling.

With hopes of inspiring more building and experimenting with radio electronics, the Xtal Set Society also introduced the AM BC-Band Test Generator, XS-TGK. This generator produces a low-level AM signal with a 1 kHz tone for testing your crystal sets and other gear; it tunes from 550 to 1600 kHz. The kit includes assembly manual, 2 x 2.7-inch PCB, two ICs, voltage regulator, RC components, and 9-V battery clip with wires. Battery and cabling not included. Assembly time is ~45 minutes. Price \$19.95 plus \$4.95 shipping/handling.

Another new accessory from the Xtal Set Society is the Crystal Ear-Piece Transistor Amplifier Kit, XS-EAK. This amp is designed specifically to drive a crystal earphone, which is capacitive. Maximum gain is set at 14x. The input is capacitively coupled and includes a 100K pot, ideal as a load for a crystal set and as a volume control. All com-

ponents mount on the 2 x 2-inch PCB, including 9-volt battery holder and 9-volt clip with wires. Battery and audio cables/connectors are not included. Interconnect wiring can be soldered directly to the PCB pads. Assembly time is ~45 minutes. The XS-EAK "Ear Piece Transistor Amplifier Kit," is \$19.95 plus \$4.95 shipping/handling.



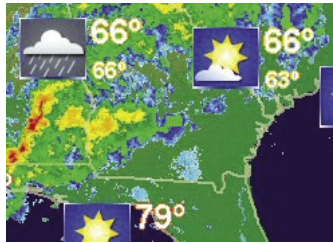
Orders may be placed via the Xtal Set Society website catalog at www.midnightscience.com (or from P.O. Box 3636, Lawrence, KS 66046, 405-517-7347). For additional information, visit the site or email them at xtalset@sunflower.com.

Weather Tracking Software

The same tools available to the avid storm chaser are now also available to the consumer who wishes to stay ahead of deadly weather and keep families protected with advance warnings – even before the weatherman makes public announcements. SWIFT Weather Co. released an incredibly comprehensive weather tracking software tool called SWIFT WX Professional (www.swiftwx.com).



Using SWIFT WX Professional, the consumer has access to more than 1,100 weather maps and analyses, weather radar down to the street level, GPS tracking, perimeter alerts/first alerts, and up-to-the-



minute data feeds from 140 weather service offices. In fact, SWIFT WX provides the same technology used by U.S. government agencies for less than 50 cents per day. All that is required is an internet connection, since the program pulls its data from internet sources. If you are mobile, this will probably mean connecting via a cell tower.

The software can only be purchased on line: You can also download it and try it for free for two weeks. After that, it's \$14.50 per month or \$159.50 yearly from www.swiftwx.com; you can cancel at any time.

SWIFT WX is a welcome product for those who want to be prepared well in advance for twisters, hurricanes, mud slides, flash floods, ice storms, blizzards - and other Mother Nature nasties. And what if the power/internet connection goes down? Well, then I guess you already know where the severe weather is!

Tac-Comm Tactical Radio Carrier

Tac-Comm introduces the TRC-1 Tactical Radio Carrier. The TRC-1 provides a simple and convenient method to protect, package, and organize most any mobile radio for portable, tactical, or emergency communication operations.

The rugged aluminum carrier is designed to adapt almost any mobile radio into a stand-alone base station. Multiple TRC-1s can be stacked or used side-by-side to provide an



impromptu, on-scene, multi-agency communications center.

In addition to providing protection to the radio, the carrier keeps all parts of the radio together. Fastening the microphone and power cord to the carrier prevents loss and assures the radios will be available when needed. Radio channel/frequency information could also be attached to the TRC-1.

For more information please visit www.Tac-Comm.com or write Tac-Comm, 1050 W 105 N, Orem, UT 84057; 801-224-0299.

NASCAR Nextel FanView

It's race time again, but if you don't have a scanner of your own, you can still tune in to the race from the stands. FanView is a handheld scanner that not only includes audio, but video and data as well. You can catch the race telecast but still hear the live audio feeds of the drivers. You can priority scan for up to four drivers, catch up to seven in-car camera channels, and replay audio on demand. Meanwhile, it will display graphic-rich data such as lap times, speeds, position and point standings, updated every lap; information and statistics on drivers, events, and tracks; and real-time statistics for multiple drivers on the same screen, so you can compare your favorite driver's performance to other drivers on each lap.



The device will transmit data over the 2.5 GHz wireless broadcast spectrum. It will be available on a rental basis for \$50 per day or \$70 per race at the FanView hauler and at all Track Scan locations during NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series. Other accessories include battery, charger (available only for weekend rentals), headset, and carry bag. See www.nextel.com/nextelcup

Books and Equipment for announcement or review should be sent to What's New, c/o Monitoring Times, 7540 Highway 64 West, Brasstown, NC, 28902. Press releases may be faxed to 828-837-2216 or emailed to Rachel.Baughn,editor@monitoringtimes.com.