Elecraft K3
I.F. Output Buffer Gain Modification

Revision A, September 3, 2009

Introduction

This modification increases the signal level at the I.F. output by more than 10 dB. It requires changing one easily-accessible resistor on the K3's main RF board with either another surface mount device (SMD) or a leaded 1/8 watt resistor. A kit containing both an SMD and leaded resistor is available from Elecraft: K3IOBUFFKT.

This change has been incorporated into all new K3's beginning in September 2009.

Modification

⚠ **A grounded wrist strap and ESD dissipating mat are recommended whenever you work inside your K3.**

Remove the front section of the K3's bottom cover and locate R8 (see below).

If you have SMD tools, simply replace it with a 13k, 0805 device such as that provided in the Elecraft mod kit.

To install the 13k 1/8 watt leaded resistor, first remove the existing SMD. It is easily removed by cutting it in half with sharp diagonal cutters, then using your soldering iron to clean the broken ends off the solder pads.

Use the via next to one solder pad as shown to anchor one end of the leaded resistor. Trim the lead before soldering in place to it does not extend through the via and beyond the top of the board.