Kazimierz “Kai” Siwiak, KE4PT

Perspectives

Re-cycling Electronics

During my early days in amateur radio — in the mid 1960s — my main source of electrical and electronics components for homebrewing ham gear was a discarded television chassis. After dismantling and sorting the components, there was almost enough to recycle a vacuum tube television set into a low-power ham transmitter — along with a healthy handful of resistors, capacitors and potentiometers to replenish the ‘junk’ box for other projects. I needed just a few additional specialized parts like crystals for frequency control. That was then. Today’s discarded television sets do not yield many ham-salvageable components, which begs the question: “What can today’s home brewer recycle into a ham project?”

Some discarded consumer items can still be recycled into ham gear. For example, a magnetron-based microwave oven can source the parts for a several hundred watt high-voltage power supply to breathe life into a home brew vacuum tube linear amplifier. The magnetron also yields a hefty refrigerator magnet.

I’d like to revisit this concept and publish an account of what you, dear reader and experimenter, have recycled into ham projects?

In This Issue:

- Tim Czerwonka, WO9U, creates custom keyboards using qmk firmware.
- Lynn Hansen, KU7Q, describes automation options for the CTR2 HMI.
- Chuck MacCluer, W8MQW, describes sequencing of antenna change-over relays.
- Eric Nichols, K7PEC, reveals the effects height and ground parameters on a dipole.
- John Stanley, K4ERO, shows that loss on a line with SWR can be lower than on a matched line.
- Peter DeNeef, AE7PD, estimates the field power density from a parabolic dish antenna.
- Alan Victor, W4AMV, investigates transformer coupled tuned impedance transforming circuits.

Writing for QEX

Please continue to send in full-length QEX articles, or share a Technical Note of several hundred words in length plus a figure or two. QEX is edited by Kazimierz “Kai” Siwiak, KE4PT, (ksiwiak@arrl.org) and is published bimonthly. QEX is a forum for the free exchange of ideas among communications experimenters. All members can access digital editions of all four ARRL magazines: QST, On the Air, QEX, and NCJ as a member benefit. The QEX printed edition is available at an annual subscription rate (6 issues per year) for members and non-members, see www.arrl.org/qex.

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Very kindest regards,
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