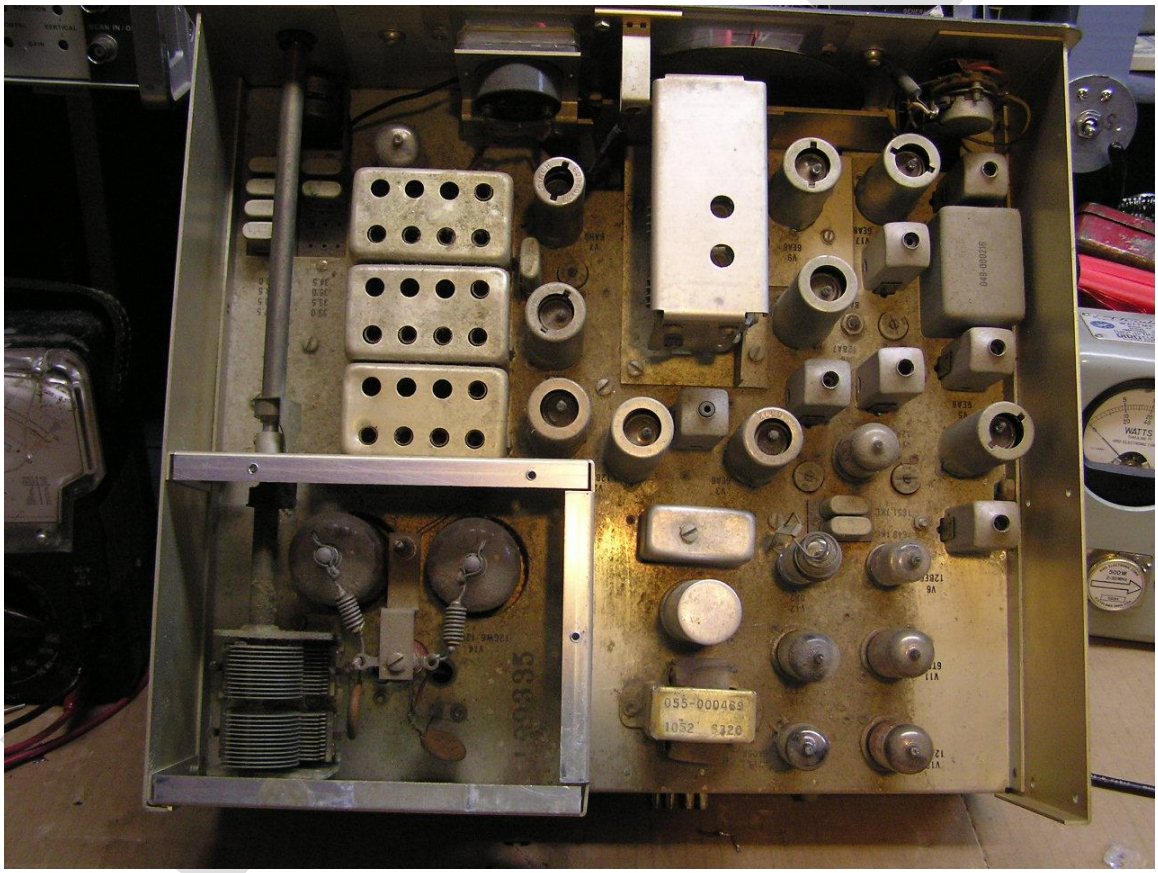
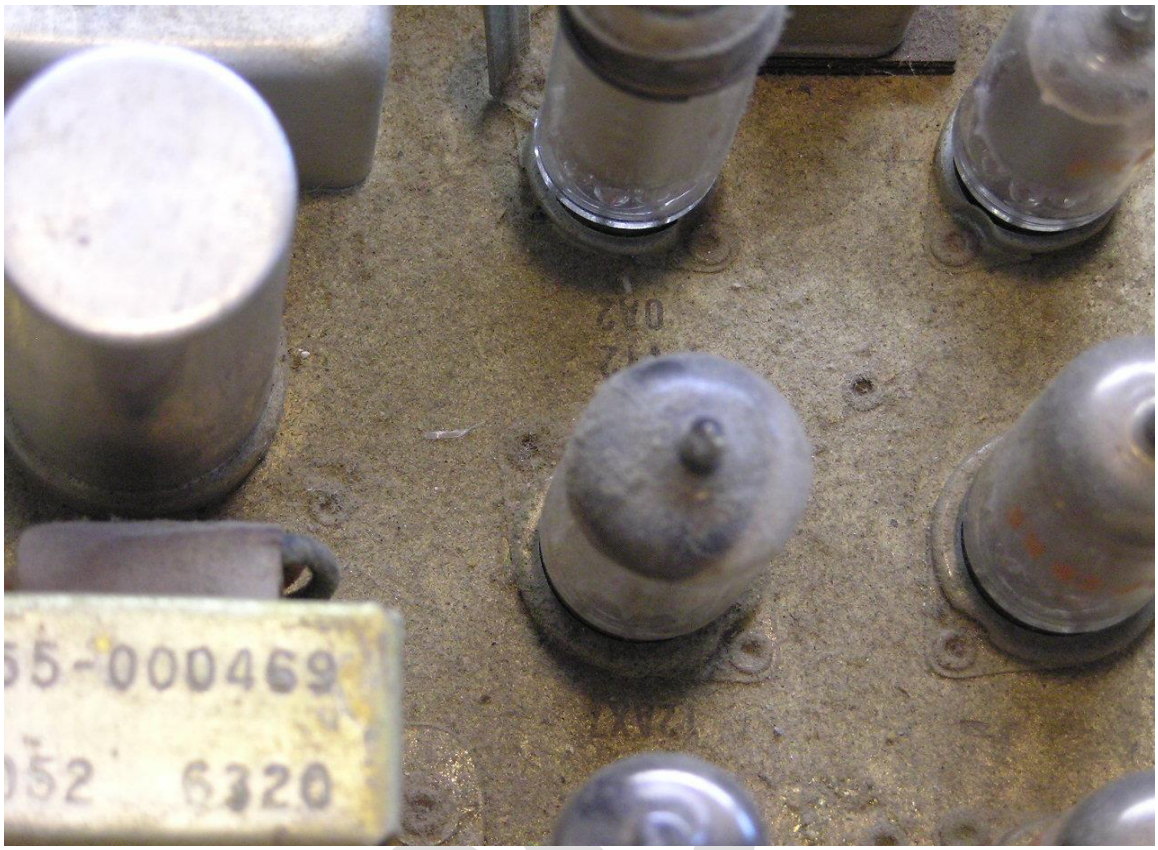
SR-150 RESTORE

BY WDØGOF

This was an easy one it only took 4 years(*stay tuned for the rest of the story*). I purchased this radio on e-Bay for $121, from a ham in Averill Park, NY in June of 09. The power supply was not included, I have several spares. I started the restoration in Aug 09. The radio was complete with a good case and a very good front panel. It had been stored for a very long time and was thick with dust and dirt inside. It is a run 7 radio which means it had all the latest improvements. It still has all original components and appears to have some minor tinkering inside. A visual inspection revealed a broken tube socket and a vaporized contact on K1. The K1 contacts involved are the contacts to an external relay used to control and external power amp. The wires from the three relay contacts have all been over heated and will need to be replaced.



I started with the cleaning. On a unit this dirty I use the Scrubbing Bubbles in the bath tub method. I set the unit in the tub leaning back slightly. I spray it with scrubbing bubbles bathroom cleanser let it set for 5 minutes, spray again and give it another 5 minutes. Then with the shower wand I rinse it thoroughly. I am careful not to spray the meter, dial or front panel. This method even dissolves away the yellow/brown film that builds up in electronic equipment.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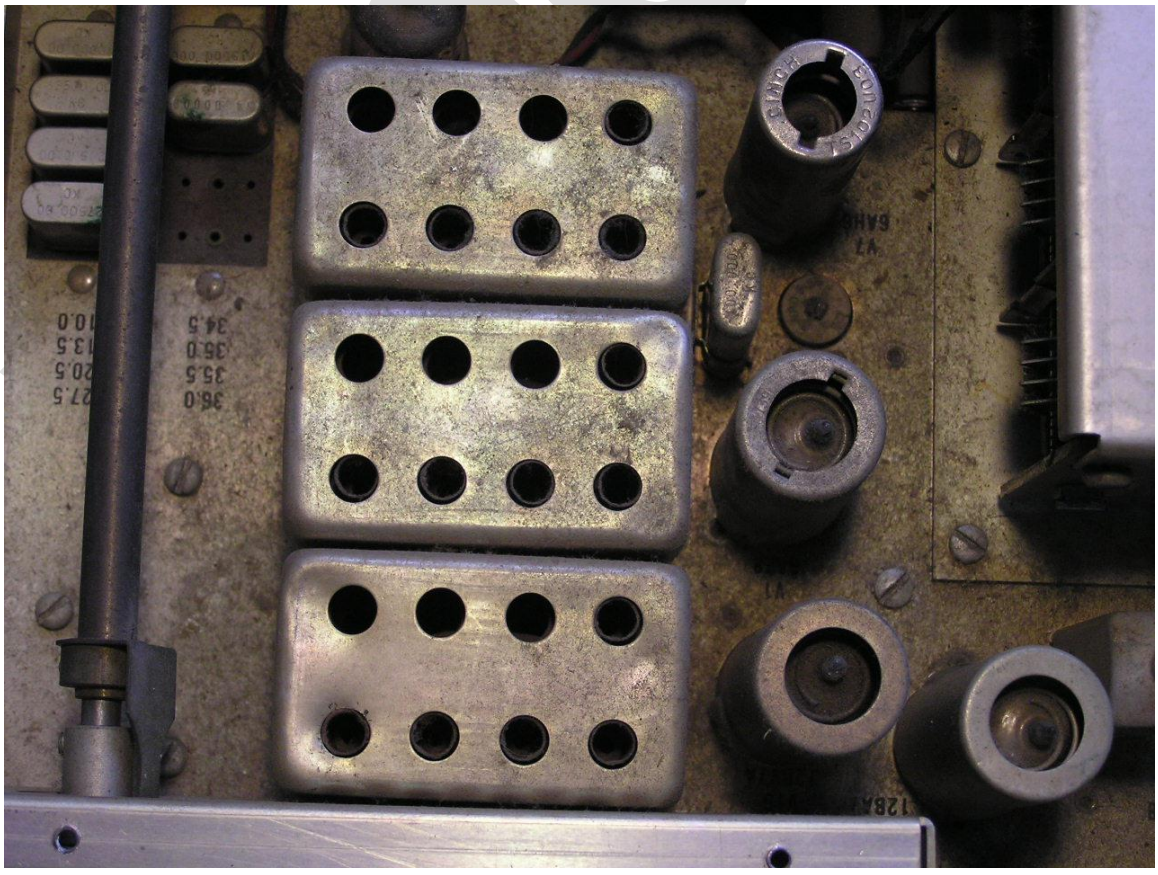
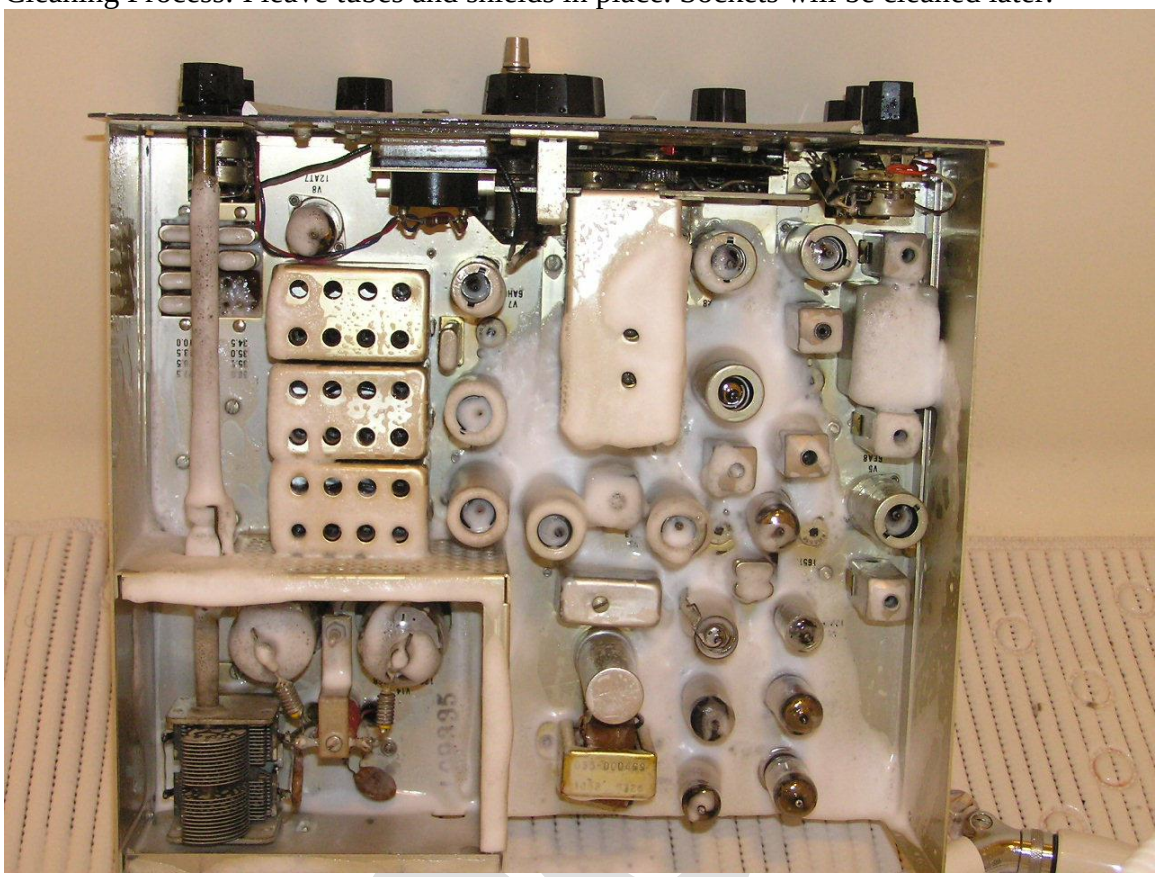
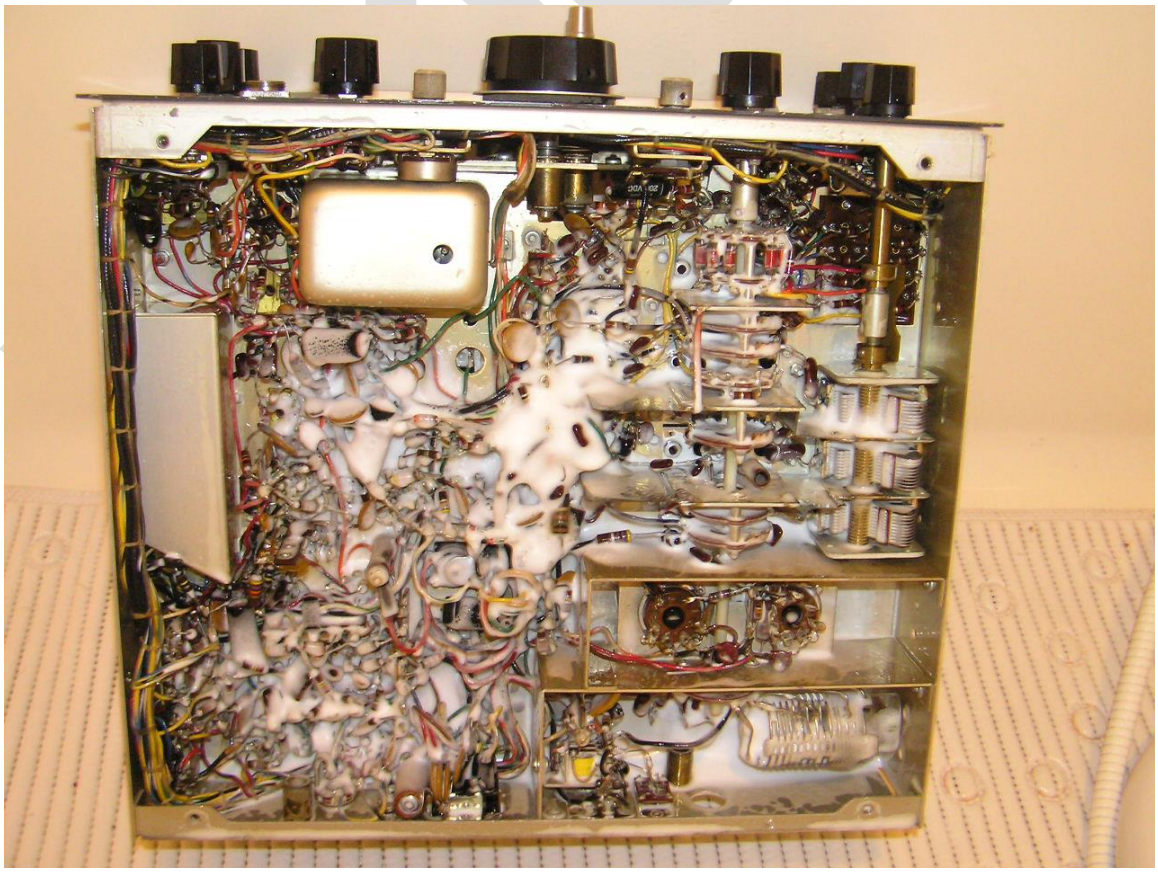
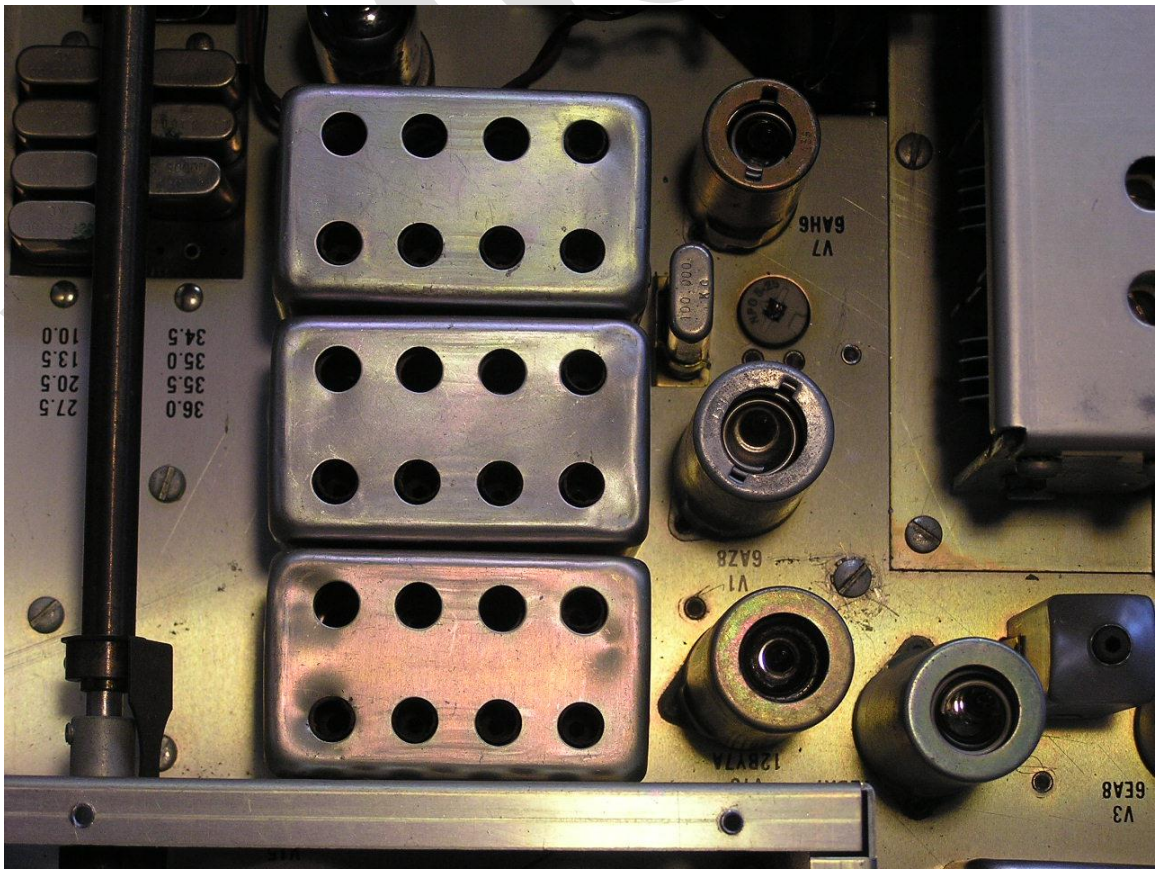


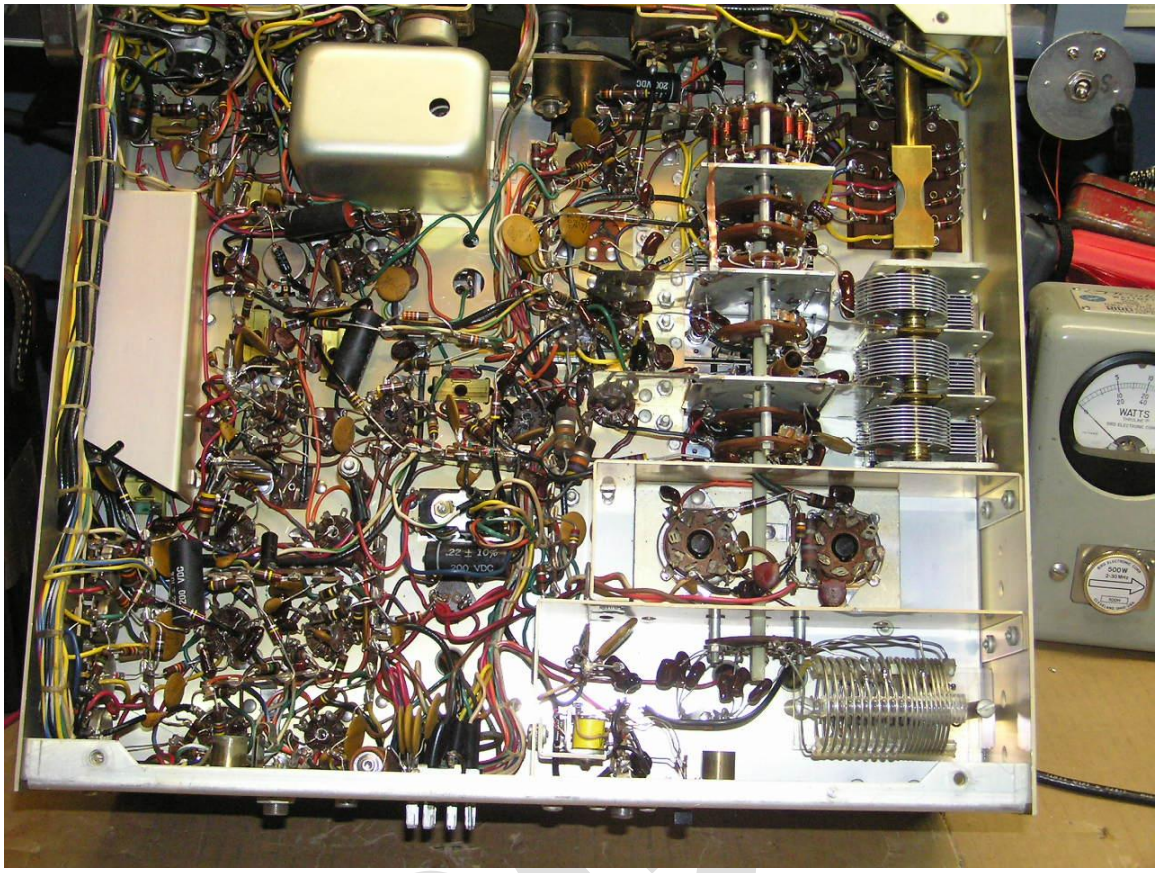
Cleaning Process: I leave tubes and shields in place. Sockets will be cleaned later.



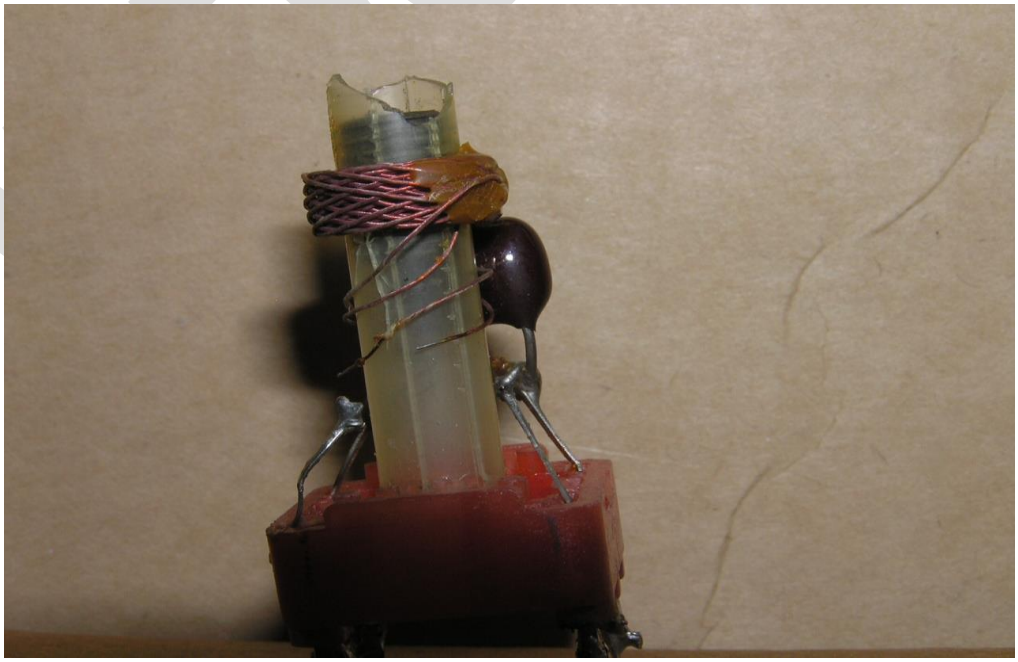


After Cleaning:

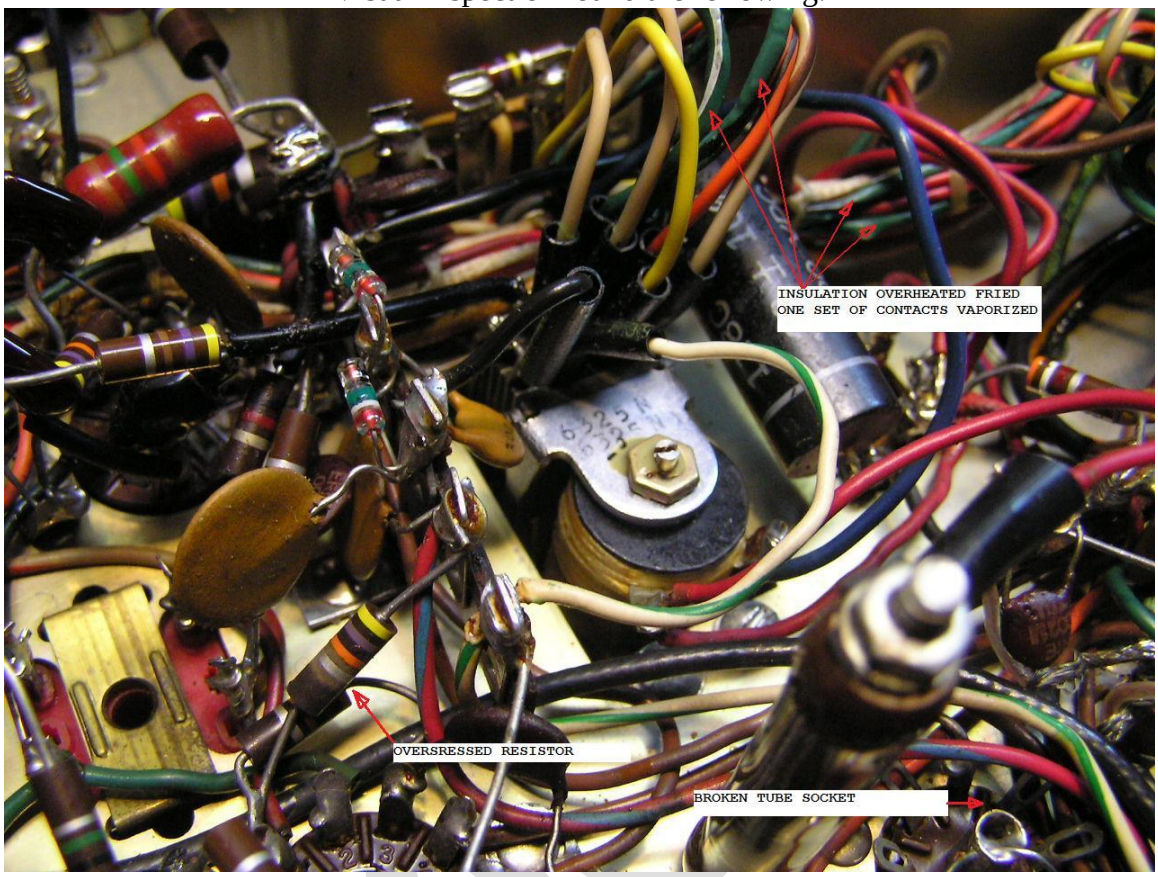




At this point I could not stand it, I had to see if it worked even with the bad tube socket. The relay problem doesn't impact normal operation of the rig. Upon power up there was no TX or RX. I quickly located the problem, no carrier osc, no plate voltage on V10. T4 open, I discovered the slug was frozen. At that point I had a hunch about what had happened. A prior owner tried to adjust the slug and had spun the form in the base. Inspection confirmed this as well as a broken form.



Visual inspection found the following:



I had a T4 in a parts rig, replaced it and the rig actually worked. The receiver actually met factory specs but was not up to standard performance. The transmitter worked, but max output with a new matched pair of finals was 40 watts. So now its power down and start replacing wires, resistors, capacitors, relays and tube sockets. I got very busy in the shop so it went on the shelf…….

…….. Well it is now July 2013, in the process of closing down the shop. I finally have time to work on my own rigs. I pulled this baby of the shelf and put it on the bench. I replaced the burned resistor, the tube socket, electrolytics and rewired K1. I then tested all the tubes and replaced a few. None were bad just on the low side. A "by the book" track and alignment brought it totally in spec. One problem left. The VFO didn't stabilize until it had been on for 90+ minutes. Even then it was just barely in spec. I did the zener mod to the CAL/RIT ckt, and replaced the dog bone caps in the VFO. Now at about 20 minutes it is much more stable than spec.

ALL DONE.

73 WDØGOF