



V.P.'s CORNER...

Hey guys, its me again... hopefully this article will not be as boring as the rest. With spring coming around I thought I would start a small set of articles on Fox Hunting Equipment. Every club member should know already but if you are new or do not remember the club has a fox transmitter. It is set on the universal simplex frequency (146.520) and when out transmits every 4 minutes. Thanks to Robert KG4LTV we now have a voice module installed on the fox that says that this is an exercise for the NARC and everyone is encourage to participate in the exercise. The fox is a Ramsey "sly fox" transmitter that has the ability to transmit from .5mw to 5w, right now it is set at 1w and can be heard about 3 miles away. Once close you will need an attenuator to drop the signal down.

I will be talking about different Attenuators that can be purchased and built. Arrow antennas have a great attenuator that works well for the club fox.
<http://www.arrowantennas.com/atten.html> I currently use this one and have had no problems locating the fox using this Attenuator. The only problem I have with this one is that on a 1w fox even with full Attenuation you still have a very strong signal but jumping up to 2nd or 3rd harmonic helps with this problem.

Fox Hunt Attenuator

75 dB in 5 dB steps, especially designed for transmitter hunting.

4" (width)
2" (height)

Die Cast Aluminum Box, Miniature Toggle Switches and 1/2 Watt Resistors.
This is a rugged unit made to stand the stress of the Hunt. It is serviceable through the removable rear cover.

Why only 75 dB? Once you get close enough to the hidden transmitter that your radio is at full scale with all 75 dB most of the signal is not coming from the antenna anyway, it is getting into the radio directly. **BNC connectors.**

Assembled & Tested

Complete Kit

Soldering & assembly required.

Fox Hunt Attenuator
1 25 10 25 10 25 10 25 10 25
ArrowAntenna.com

Only
\$ 59.00

Only
\$ 39.00

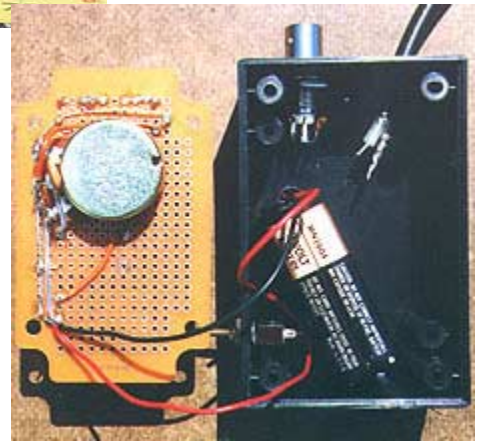
Scroll on down for Photo of the Attenuator Kit and Attaching Blade & Cables

The second attenuator is a home brew one that I am currently in the process of building.
<http://members.aol.com/joek0ov/offatten.html#kit> this attenuator is highlighted in the may 1998 issue of "homing in". Finding the parts for this little gem is not hard at all except for one 4 MHz oscillating crystal that can be ordered from www.jameco.com. The site list all parts needed with part numbers from radio shack less the 4mz crystal. I was able to pick up all these parts at both the Radio shacks here in town for less than 20 dollars for two of them.



Parts list of the offset attenuator

C1,2	470 pF ceramic disc	272-125
C3	.0047 μ F ceramic disc	272-130
R1,2	2.2K 1/4 watt	271-1325
R3	4.7K 1/4 watt	See Text
D1	1N4148 signal diode	276-1122
J1	UG-1094 BNC socket	278-105
VR1	5K audio taper potentiometer	271-1720
S1	Toggle switch	275-625A
U1	7805 regulator (+5V)	276-1770
X1	4.0 MHz oscillator (See Updates below)	
	Battery connector	270-325
	Knob	274-424
	BNC cable	278-964
	AWG 24 bare wire	278-1341



I have purchased enough of the 4 MHz crystals if anyone needs them to build the second attenuator, if anyone needs one let me know I have 6 available. I was able to pick up a book called *transmitter hunting: radio direction finding simplified* by Joseph Moell and Thomas Curlee and will be continuing future articles on Fox Hunting basics. If anyone would like to borrow the book let me know it is very informative and shows how finding a hidden transmitter is not just a skill but an art.

I hope everyone has a chance to build one of these attenuators and takes advantage of the NARC's fox. I look forward to hunting with everyone in the near future.

73

N5VOO