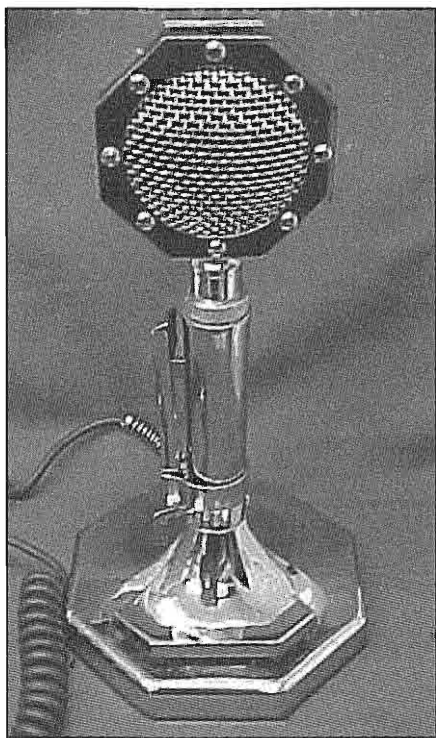


Life After the D-104

by Bob Peters, K1JNN/5
833 Denmark Dr.
Mesquite Texas
75149-3269
soundimp@poboxsoun.com

I, for one, was disturbed to find that ASTATIC would not be manufacturing the good old D104 or, as many of us know it, the lollipop mike. This mike came to ham radio in the 1930s and was probably the most popular mike in ham radio. If you look at a photo of almost any shack, you will find a D104.

When I learned that Astatic would be manufacturing the D104 Final Edition I had to have one. It arrived by Santa on Christmas Day of 2001, the final never-



The Silver Salute microphone, currently produced by Workman Products.

to-be-made-again classic microphone. While surfing the Web the other day guess what I found? A look-alike D104 made by Workman Electronic Products of Ohio. Does it look like a D104? Not really. It appears that Astatic must have had a copyright on the old lollipop since the replica of the original D104 is an octagon. It is called the Silver Salute (please see photo), and it sounds every bit as good as the old lollipop.

This mike comes with a 4-pin connector as used on older Yaesu and Kenwood mikes. Specifications say 600-ohm impedance, but it works great on the Globe King and the Ranger II with no matching transformer needed. According to Workman, you need to use the amplifier built into the mike since it is part of the equalization curve. This same statement came from Astatic for the D104. Using the amplifier is no different than running some EQ, and we all do that on AM anyway. The amplifier is not there as a CB thing, as I have heard many hams say. Everyone I have talked with says it sounds as good as the good old lollipop. One more fantastic feature is that you can take the head off the stand and use it on your old G Stand if you want, or you can use the Workman stand for your old D104 ...10DA ... or 10C.

I had never heard of Workman before locating them on the Web, but the company distributes a lot of ham radio products and is adding to its product line all the time. See <http://www.wep4cb.com> for the complete product line. The company sells wholesale only, so contact your favorite dealers for retail sales. According to Workman, dealers such as AES, WBOW, and RS&L carry this mike. Look forward to hearing more of these on the air.

