

Additional Band Coverage for the Heathkit HW32A

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The following is a simple, cheap, but very effective way to modify the Heathkit HW32A. The big disadvantage with the original model is that it covers only the American phone band—14 200 to 14 350kHz, leaving a very desirable portion of the band unworkable. Here's how to cover the rest of the band without altering calibration or delving too much into the innards or disfiguring the front panel.

Firstly purchase an additional crystal (18,122kHz). You will also need a slide switch (DPDT), a couple of nuts and bolts, a solder lug, and a bicycle spoke.

Unsolder the present crystal from the right hand front corner of the PC board. Drill and file a suitable hole in the right hand chassis end, making sure that the hole is of sufficient size to allow full movement of the switch slide, which will project through the chassis.

Before mounting the switch in position, bend the outside lugs at right angles as shown in Fig 3 and solder the two crystals into position. It is easier at this stage to connect two short lengths of wire to the centre lugs of the switch. These will be connected to the two holes in the PC board from which the original crystal was taken.

When mounting the switch to the chassis, clamp a solder lug beneath the head of the switch mounting screw nearest the front panel.

Take the bike spoke, Fig 2, and after allowing half an inch to protrude through the front panel, bend the unthreaded end to form an eye which should fit neatly around the slide portion of the switch. Take care in aligning the spoke along the outside of the chassis and drill a hole in the front panel so that the spoke is a neat sliding fit.

Little now remains except to slip the "eye" of the spoke over the part of the switch which protrudes through the chassis Fig 3. It is held in position by the solder lug (previously clamped under the mounting screw) which is bent at its outer end to allow the spoke to slide easily. The threaded end of the spoke which protrudes

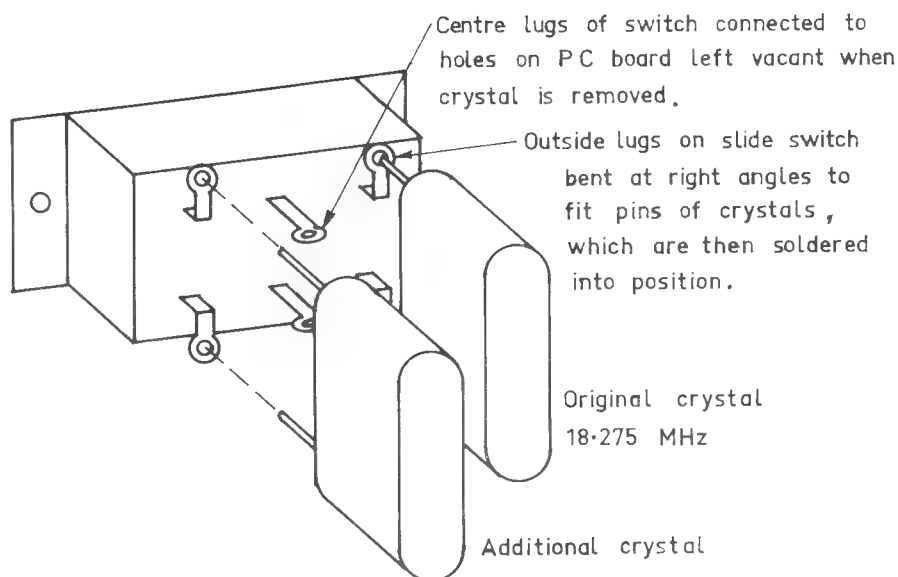


FIG 1 REAR VIEW OF SLIDE SWITCH

from the front panel is "decorated" with the spoke nipple or small knob from the junk box and the modification is complete.

The dial need not be interfered with as it is easy to interpolate or estimate count-

ing backwards. 14 350 becomes 14 200 with the switch in the "additional band" position. If you are really keen, there is nothing to stop you adding a new set of figures, perhaps in a different colour ●

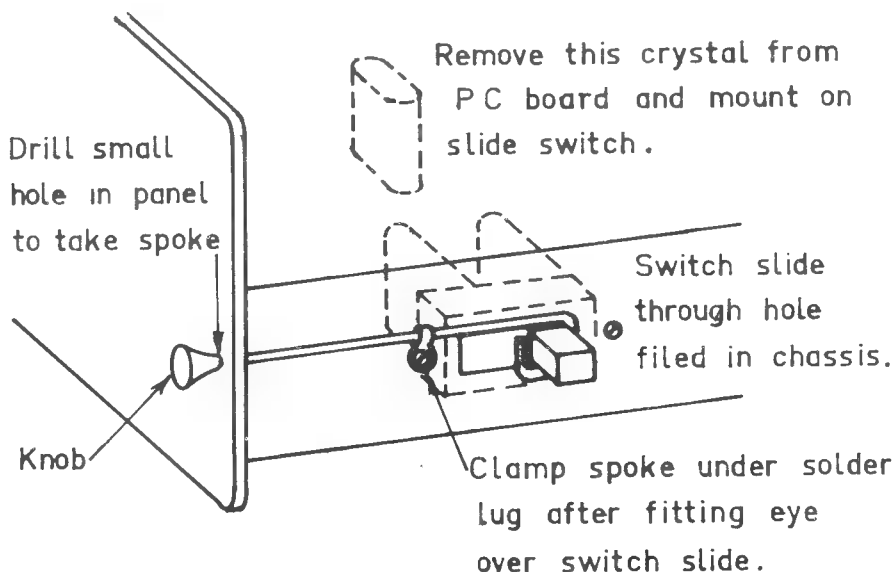


FIG 3 SHOWING MOUNTING OF SLIDE SWITCH AND CRYSTALS



FIG 2 SWITCH ROD—SEE TEXT