

CRYSTAL SETS TO SIDEBAND

By Frank W. Harris, KØIYE

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FOREWORD

Dear Radio Amateur,

I began writing this book when I realized that my homebuilt station was almost unique on the air. For me, the education and fun of building radios is one of the best parts of ham radio. It seemed to me that homebrewing was disappearing rapidly, so I wrote articles about it for my local radio club newsletter. My ham friends liked the articles, but they rarely built anything. I realized that most modern hams lack the basic skills and knowledge to build radios usable on the air today. My articles were too brief to help them, but perhaps a detailed guide might help revive homebuilding.

I have tried to write the book that I wish had been available when I was a novice operator back in 1957. I knew that rejuvenating homebuilding was probably unrealistic, but I enjoy writing so I pressed on. I thought of myself as Don Quixote battling the windmills of modern apathy toward the details of technology and science in general. It seemed to be a hopeless quest. But even if it turned out that no one else cared, I found the project satisfying and extremely educational.

Modern book publishers don't print books that will have few readers. Because of its length and numerous color illustrations, this book would be expensive to put on paper. Not surprisingly, several publishers of electronics books had no interest in it. Fortunately, CDs cost no more than a postage stamp, so I began sending out CD copies with my QSLs to those radio contacts that showed an interest in my rig. It was great fun. I often got back thank-you letters and pictures of their homebrew equipment along with their QSL cards. Eventually, the book appeared on several websites and was even translated into Spanish.

This book has now been in circulation for 8 years. It is no longer new, so naturally interest has faded and some of the websites have dropped it. What I should be doing is continuing to build new designs and continually updating it. However, life must be lived in series and I seem to be spending more time hiking in the mountains than I do working on ham radio. My electronics projects these days are nearly all related to mountain rescue. As examples, as I'm writing this, I have several rope force dynamometers to modify waiting on my workbench and some data cables for our climbing equipment test tower that I need to rebuild. My mountain rescue work gets me out in the fresh air and in contact with people face to face. This is important for retired guys like me. I have added to two articles to chapter 16 about PIC programming and class D audio amplifiers that came from my rescue work but should also be interesting to hams. Sigh. Life is too short!

We homebrewers are nearly extinct, but there are still hundreds of us scattered around the world, some are even in the USA. Yes, there *ARE* American homebuilders! We're rare, but thanks to the QRP hobby, the number is growing. Even if we homebrewers don't change the

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world, I guarantee you will enjoy learning radio technology and building your own equipment. Someday I hope to meet you on the air ... or at least on the Internet. Hi!

73s, Frank Harris, KØIYE

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