

A Lifetime's Hobby

Peter Sables G4MRU

It is a bit hard to just put to paper what in essence is a life time hobby, but I do know there are still things that I have not got involved in, if only because I do not know anything about it yet or just not come across it.

If only I had kept ALL the things I've made... If only!

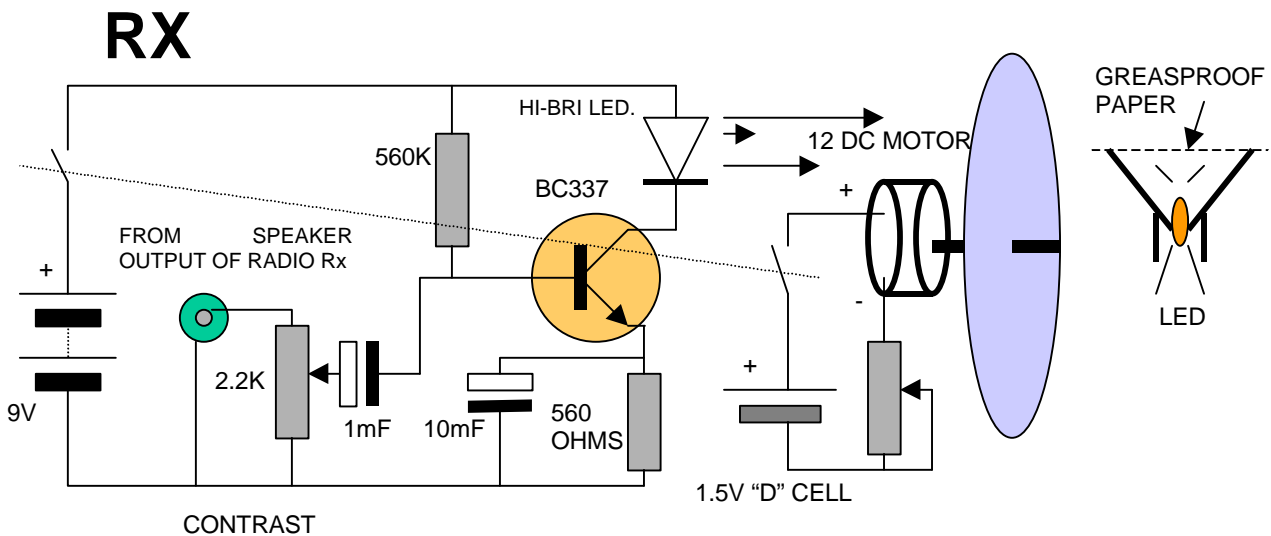
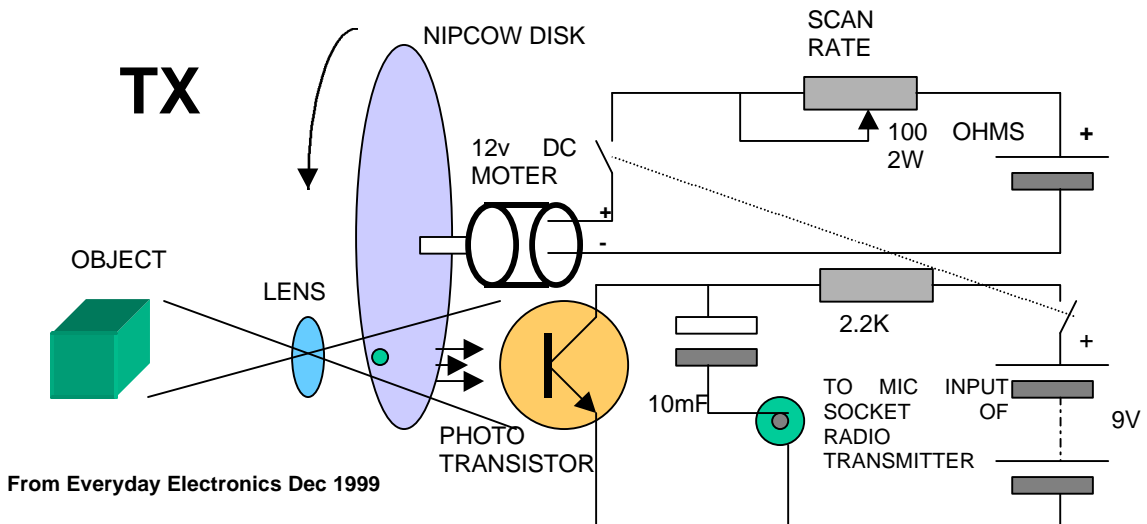
The things that I've done, well that's another story. What grieves me though is the amount of "Projects" that I've made and just given away, thinking vainly that the item is what the recipient has always wanted... They say thanks, great. Is it used? I'm sure its not. But I do know they are lost, never to see the light of day again. I'm not moaning mind you, just making a point. Over time I've just about made everything that there is to make. Even as I was doing my RAE some 20 years ago, I made my first 2metre transceiver. I think it frightened my RAE tutor. Thing is it worked, it did



The completed Nipkow disk 25 line TV system

drift a little though...

So 3 or 4 years ago I thought, why am I making all this stuff and for what? It only ends up on the shelf. So why not look for the unusual the innovative but not earth shattering. I got myself on the WEB and



Design of the Nipkow Disk 25 line TV

Artwork and built by Peter Sables G4MRU



**The
Distance
Getter
Radio**

it |

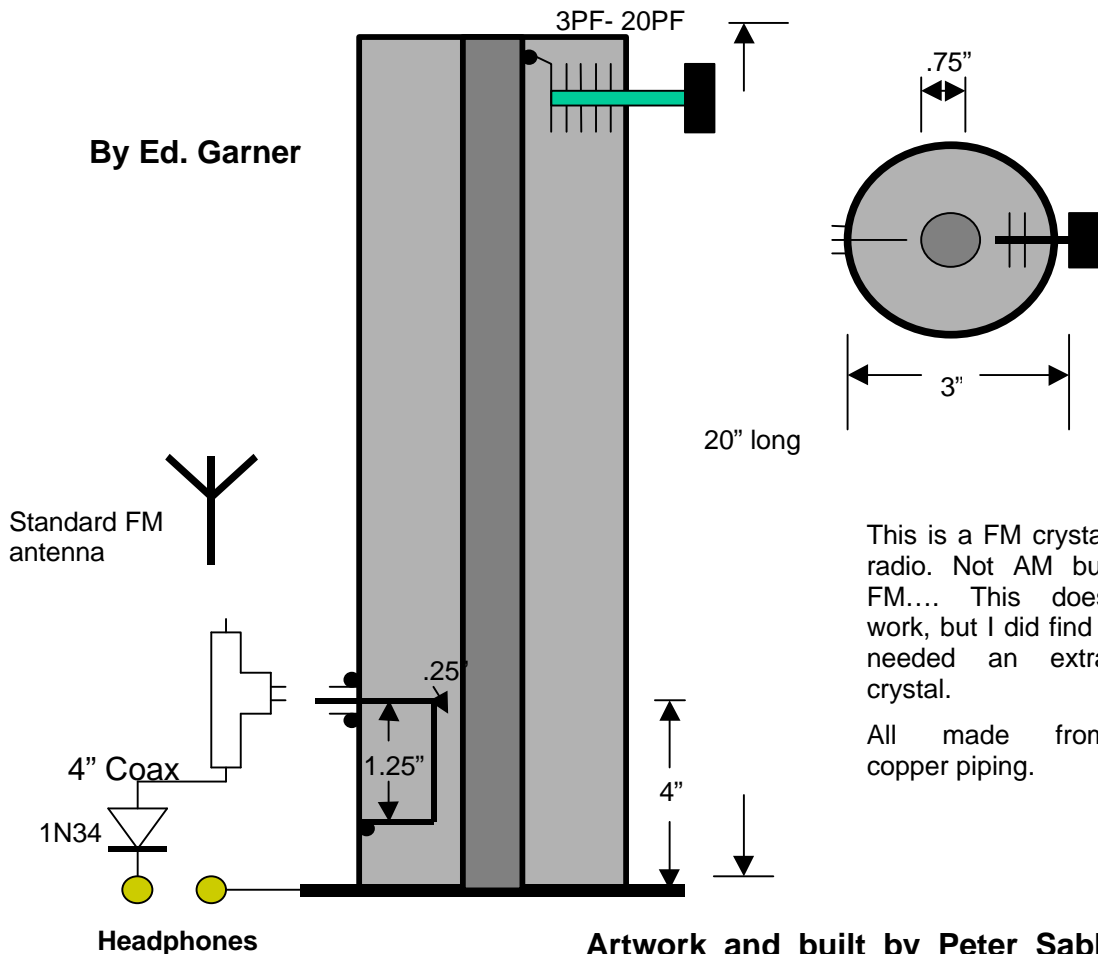
started looking for THAT interesting item.

Even then it was only going to be build it... shelve it... nothing different there. I then looked at a CATS WHISKER RADIO that I built for a good old chap who gave me a rough crystal that was in a drawer. It brought back lots of memories for him. I said, "Tell you what, I'll make you a cats whisker radio out of it and you can have it. It would look nice on your sideboard." Meanwhile he fell sick.

Anyway I built it and one day took it to him in hospital. He held it and said "Keep it for me". He died in the night... I still have it. Anyway, looking at

thought why not build the stuff as it was meant to be built? Get as much info as you can, history, types of part that were used. Main thing, KEEP THE FAITH...

So, in the back of my mind I remember a very unusual instrument. A Theremin. Yes that's it, hunt it down, get plans, get history. That was fascinating, I may just write that up for you. Anyway I built a prototype. Then I just had to build it as it should be built. That done, yes you guessed it, my son wanted one. "Wicked!!" he said... I must build him one but this time better, a really good



By Ed. Garner

This is a FM crystal radio. Not AM but FM.... This does work, but I did find I needed an extra crystal.

All made from copper piping.

Headphones
Design of the FM crystal radio

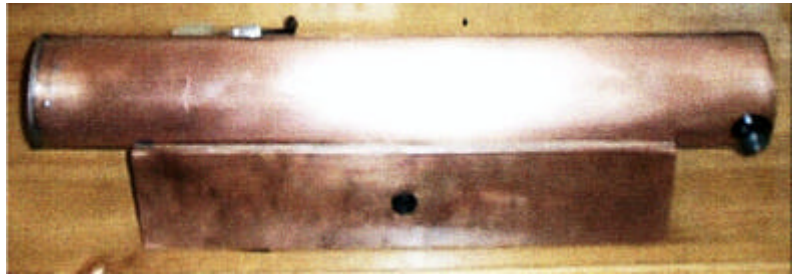
**Artwork and built by Peter Sables
G4MRU**

one. It took weeks. I gave it to him. But, yes, he had cooled; he took it though. Not seen it since. That was it. I'll build - but now keep all I build.

Next was a 25 line TV using a Nipkow Disk. Study the history, get the parts. Did it work? Well yes, sort of, but then it never really worked in the first place. What to do with it was the next problem. I'll build a shelf. Next an FM crystal radio using a copper pipe. Fab - onto the shelf. Then a valve diode radio... Onto the shelf, need another shelf and another.

I've just built the Distance Getter radio, from a design in Radio Craft Magazine, March 1935. This was really interesting. Only allowed a valve and wire, you make the rest. The next project is a Glow Bug transmitter. I'd not heard of that one.....

The main thing is I get as much interest out of getting it to look right as I do in getting it to work as it once did. I just had to get some old radio mags, why not put them in a frame... That was it. I just knew I had made it to the top when my daughter

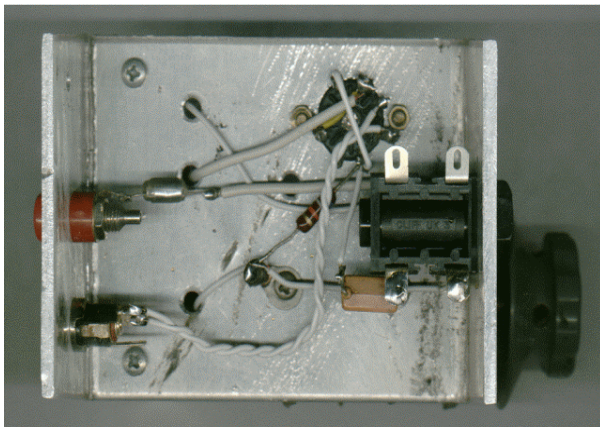


The completed FM crystal radio

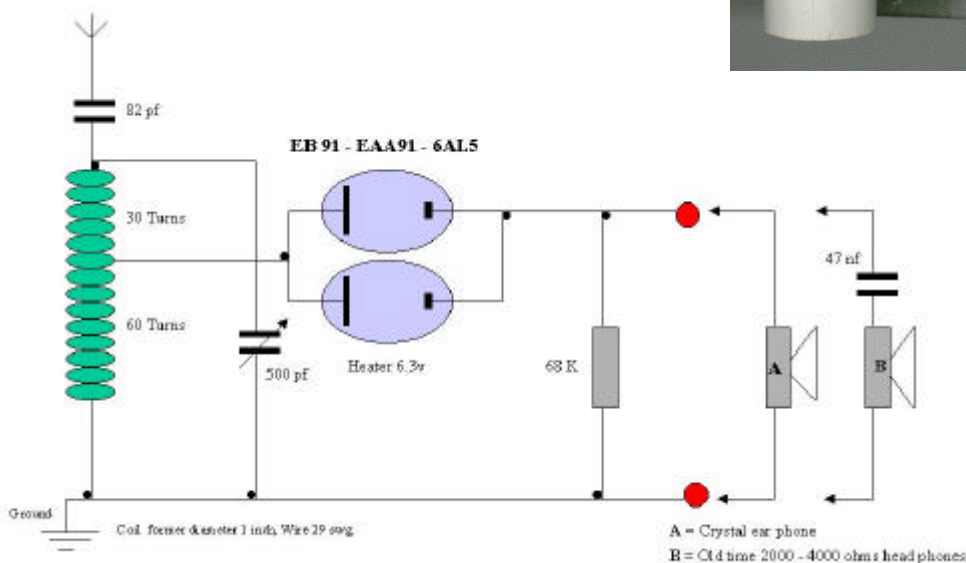
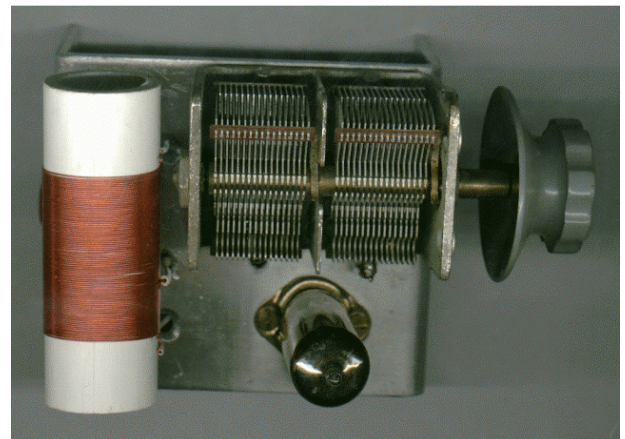
said " It looks like a museum up there". She told her mate at work and she wanted to come round and see it. My first visitor to "The G4MRU Museum".

The thing is, they must look right in period and they must work as they once did.

I've not tried a proper restoration yet, but I've got my eye on a nice old navy (USA) Transmitter. I just may have a go. It can go on the shelf, next to the Hallicrafters.....



Top and bottom views of the valve diode radio



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Circuit of the valve diode radio