

SHORTWAVE BULLETIN

Nummer: 1590. 28 maj 2006.

Deadline nästa nr: 9/6 2006 (E mail 11/6 kl. 0900 SNT)

Som synes bredvid har medlemsantalet ökat, vilket ju inte händer så ofta! Dessutom är det en aktiv DX-are som då och då tidigare skickat in en del tips. Vi hälsar härmed Robert Wilkner varmt välkommen i klubben.

Det är riktigt trevligt denna gång att tipsspalten är ganska stor och intressant. Bl a BV och SHN har varit iväg till Römö som ligger på den danska västkusten och är en riktig sommarpärla.

Om jag får tummarna loss skulle det varit intressant att sätta upp ett par EWE antenner för test. De är bara 3 m höga och 7,5 m långa, vilket gör det möjligt att ganska osynligt placera dem mitt i en häck eller mellan några träd. Det är också lätt att gömma en koaxialkabel i ett PVC-rör som grävs ner i gräsmattan för nerledning till rx-en. Kanske störningarna skulle minska en del med dessa antenner.

Keep on

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SWB-info

SWB online på HCDX: <http://www.hard-core-dx.com/swb>

Dateline Bogotá: <http://hem.ektv.nu/~ekt035221/Dateline.htm>

SWB hot stuff: <http://hem.ektv.nu/~ekt035221/> (på denna sajt ligger alltid senaste SWB).

SWB member information: <http://www.hard-core-dx.com/swb/member.htm>

Jubileumstidskriften: <http://hem.ektv.nu/~ekt035221/> (html- + pdf-version).

QSL, kommentarer, mm.

We are extremely happy to introduce a new SWB-member who also have contributed now and then in the past. Bob is very active on the bands and that is just what we need in SWB. Welcome to the club!

Robert Wilkner: Greetings from Florida. I would like to be considered for membership in SWB. I am a tropical band dxer mostly specializing in Latin America and some Pacific stations. I have been active in tropical dxing since 1980. I coedited and published DX South Florida for 15 years.

I can provide you with an up to date bandscan of Latin American Stations for each issue of SWB.

My location is 15 kilometers from the Atlantic Ocean, in Pompano Beach, South Florida. I just purchased a Icom 746Pro which I use with a noise reducing antenna. Also am experimenting with an on the front lawn antenna which seems to work very well for receiving Latin American stations.

I teach history part time to university bound students. I would enjoy receiving SWB and being a regular contributor. I am a member of NU/DXplorers and Cumbre. Best of 73's, Bob

26/5: Again using a 25 meter *on the lawn antenna*. Four months of use of the 746Pro and still impressed with its' ability produce good retrievable audio in ssb and AM. Looking to improve on the long wire antenna.

Christer Brunström: Radio Victoria 9720 kHz epost från Henrique Ramos, Administrador de Radio Difusora Victoria. Han rekommenderar hemsida www.ipda.com.pe för mer info om stationen.

Good Friends Radio Network via WHRA 15665 diplom undertecknat av Rod Hembree, producenten av programmet Radio Weather. **RdP Internacional** 11905 brev, kort, dekal, T-shirt och tre CD-skivor som tack för mina monitorrapporter i samband med att man gick över till sommarschemat. **Radio Virgen de Remedios**, Tupiza, Bolivia 4545.2 kHz med epostmeddelande (inte på långa vägar lika trevligt som ett brev men bättre än inget alls).

Dan Olsson: Idag har vi äntligen en sol som lyser över de sista veckornas regnmoln.

Aktiviteten på radio är låg. Dock kan jag redovisa några QSL: **9720 DW/ Komsomolsk** kort och schema, **6265 R Alpenroos** e-brev och **6220 Mystery R** med e-brev. De två sista hittade jag när städade datorn. Båda kom i höstas!

Bjarke Vestesen: Det er sidste weekend med mine antenner. Søndag skal de pilles ned, før gravemaskinerne går i gang mandag morgen for at lægge ny kloak og minirensningsanlæg. Jeg frygter, det vil give en masse støj fremover, når antennerne (især mine EWE) bliver reetableret. Har netop investeret penge i to stk. MiniWhip-antenner fra hollandske Roelof Bakker. MiniWhip'en har fået gode anmeldelser af bl.a. Guy Atkins i USA og den skulle have ret imponerende resultater - selv har jeg lige forleden modtaget dem med posten, så jeg har ikke selv erfaringer endnu at dele ud af.

28/5: Her følger lige lidt flere tips fra Stig, indtelefoneret fra Rømø her søndag morgen. Jeg besøgte ham og fire andre i går lørdag i sommerhuset på Rømø, men da jeg havde mine døtre med kørte vi hjem ud på aftenen mod Fyn.

Sommerhuset er godt beliggende med mulighed for flere tusinde meter ledning mod vest i marsken, og der er små fire kilometer til stranden. I nat tjekkede vi forholdene mellem Rømø og mit QTH på Fyn: På Rømø bragede WGIT ind på 1660 kHz med S9 +5, mens jeg lige akkurat kunne ane noget musik på samme frekvens på min vestvendte EWE. Så beliggenhed er totalt afgørende, og vores erfaring er også, at den jyske vestkyst altid er fremragende

(Bjarke, bl a Michael Schnitzer i södra Tyskland har hör många fina saker på MV med sina två EWE. Hur upplever du EWE i förhållande till dina andra antenner? Är riktningssärligheten även på KV lika bra som på MV? Hur är det med känsligheten för elektriska störningar? Förresten, kommer ditt minirensanlæg att ha elektrisk styrning eftersom du fruktar störningar? /red)

Stig Hartvig Nielsen: Det bliver ikke til så meget DXing til daglig, men et par dage i sommerhus på Rømø har "hjulpet" lidt. Her var perfekte muligheder for lange beverageantenner - jeg fik dog kun 300 meter op mod vest. (På Stigs vegne - Best 73's BV)

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LOGGEN - ALL TIMES ARE UTC

2325			Australia VL8T Tennant Creek by far the strongest of the three 120 meter band Australians 1040. 22 May [Wilkner-FL]
3172.634			Peru Radio Municipal , Panoa weak signal for last few weeks, sign on between 0900 and 0945. [Wilkner-FL]
3249.69			Honduras, HRPC R Luz y Vida , San Luís 1020 to 1035 "Honduras Centro America...Dios Bendito ... Radio Luz y Vida...la programa de ..." 25 May [Wilkner-FL]
3279.69	26.5	0310	La Voz del Napo med Radio Maria-program, sunget ID. S2 SHN
3291.18	28.5	0320	Voice of Guyana med reggae, tids-ann., frekvens-ann. S3 SHN
3310	21.5	0025	Radio Mosoj Chaski med lokalt språk. 3 CB
3340	21.5	0027	Radio MI med andlig musik. 2 CB
3340			Honduras R Misiones Internacionales , Comayagüela noted en espanol at 1040-42. 24 May [Wilkner-FL]
4052.48	26.5	0250	Radio Verdad med religiöst program. S3 SHN
4052.5	21.5	0020	Radio Verdad med stilla musik. 2-3 CB
4385.80			Peru R Visión , Distrito José, Chiclayo has been silent for the last two days. [See 4790 kHz.] [Wilkner-FL]
4409	28.5	0030	Radio Eco med ID og frekvens-ann. S2 SHN
4498.1	21.5	0045	Radio Estambul hördes svagt. CB
4498.1	28.5	0202	Radio Estambul med fuldt ID, s/off cirka 0345. S2-3 SHN
4545.2	20.5	2310	Radio Virgen de Remedios med religiöst vid denna tid. Senare aymara och snack om jordbruksarbetare. 2 CB
4555.941			UNID 1023 noted 0900 to 1030 . Follows a fade patter similar to other Bolivian stations in the 60 meter band. <i>Radio Paititi, Guayaramerin, Beni has been reported here in the past.</i> Signal remains weak with no usable audio. 22 May [Wilkner-FL]

4650.22	28.5	0105	Radio Santa Ana med ID. S2 SHN
4717.1	21.5	0035	Radio Yura med lokala nyheter. 2-3 CB
4774.97	26.5	0230	Radio Tarma med ID og reklamer. S3 SHN
4779.97	28.5	0030	Radio Culturel Coatan med fuldt ID. S3 SHN
4781.5	27.5	2350	Radio Tacana med ID. S2 SHN
4790.292			Peru R Visión , Distrito José, Chiclayo 0900 "Radio Visiónkilociclos banda de ..." by om, into lively "flauta andina" then to Palabras de Dios at this moment - 1033, now back to music at 1041. At 1043 continuous ments de Palabras de Dios [Wilkner-FL] Received tip from Arnaldo Slaen reporting same frequency switch per DXer Miguel Castellino. Many thanks Arnaldo! Happy with this, but would have enjoyed the return of Radio Atlantida. :-)) 24 May [Wilkner-FL]
4797	21.5	0034	Radio Mallku med meddelanden. 2 CB
4824.425			Peru La Voz de la Selva , Iquitos 1033 to 1040 returned after being off the air for three days. Om with ID, 26 May [Wilkner-FL]
4925	21.5	0015	Rádio Educação Rural de Tefé med dödsannonser. 3 CB
4960	20.5	2040	AIR Ranchi med referat av cricketmatch på Jamaica (?). 2 CB
4975.96	25.5	2045	Radio Uganda med afrikansk musik, mange ann., ID og s/off 2105. S2 BV
4989.95t			Suriname Radio Apintie , Paramaribo 0920 to 1010 fading in and out om and yl seemingly in language, weak signal, not Spanish...can't pull enough details on this one. 20, 21, 25, 26 May [Wilkner-FL]
5005.9			Peru Radio LTC , Juliaca seemingly the Peruvian 1000 to 1020, poor signal; seems to test transmitter every three weeks. 25 May, Nothing 26 May. [Wilkner-FL]
5019.9			Solomon Islands, SIBC , Honiara 0845 to 0919, English om and yl, talk over music. 22 May [Wilkner-FL]
5025	20.5	2250	Radio Parakou med fransk och afrikansk musik. 3 CB
5040.06			Ecuador Voz del Upano , Macas 1000- 1020 with Palabras de Dios very similar to R Visión, tried at first to pull a parallel. Upano is producing a very weak signal in South Florida. 24 May [[Wilkner-FL]
5054.6			Costa Rica, Faro del Caribe , noted with very poor signal 1015. Seems continued transmitter problems. Last month strong signal, but FMing. 25 May [Wilkner-FL]
5486.7			Peru Radio Reina de la Selva , Chachapoyas 1055 with good signal music and om ID as "Reina de la Selva". 26 May [Wilkner-FL]
5580.3	21.5	0032	Radio San José med sänger. 2 CB
5699.83	26.5	0100	Radio Frecuencia , San Ignacio, med ID og katolsk program. s/off 0145. S3 SHN
5809.72	26.5	0330	UID . på spansk. Snak og musik. Stadig hér 0450, men meget svag. Måske et blandingsprodukt. S2 SHN
5910	17.5	0145	Radio República via Naven, Tyskland, med spansk, snak om Cuba og Guantanamo-basen, tydelige IDs kl. 0200. S2 BV
5952.2	20.5	2215	Radio Pío XII med musik. 2 CB
6105.465			Bolivia R Panamericana , La Paz 1043 noted with ments de Bolivia and standard programme. 22 May [Wilkner-FL]
6184.97	27.5	0200	Radio Educación IDede på engelsk og bad om lytterrporter. S4 SHN
6275	28.5	0650	Radio London International med reklame for radiomagasin. ID. S3 BV
7110	22.5	1500	Radio Hrodna startade en lokalsändning med huvudsakligen kulturella inslag. Hörs även på 6040 men svagare där. De övriga små lokalstationerna tycks vara off. Eller? 3 CB
9695	20.5	2207	Rádio Rio Mar med fotboll. 3 CB
9735	24.5	0500	Darfur Salaam med arabisk og mange IDs, frekvens-ann., sudansk musik, hørt // med 11820 kHz (lidt svagere). S4 BV
9740	20.5	0600	HCJB med tyska direkt från Pifo i Ecuador och med Sendung für DXer. 4-5 CB
15280	24.5	1810	Messages of Love for Sudan, The Voice of Hope med sändning på engelska. Kommer från 7th Day Adventist Church men varifrån? Adress i Uganda. Epost: radio@bushnet.net . 4 CB
15345.37	19.5	1820	Radiodifusión Argentina al Exterior med engelskt program; DX-inslag som vanligt på fredagar. 2-3 CB

INDONESIA - 3266.41 **RRI Gorontalo(p)** 1151-1203 May 12. Vocal music to 1159, then SCI and Jak news. Fair at best; on later than usual. (Wilkins-CO)

INDONESIA - 3987.04 **RRI Manokwari** 1132-1141 May 12. Older C&W tunes from 50's and 60's, heavy on fiddle and steel guitar. Fair, about even with the band noise. Heard daily since May 3, so this re-activation seems permanent. (Wilkins-CO)

This station has not been reported heard since February 2002 (DSWCI Ed. Anker Petersen, via DXLD)

INDONESIA - 4869.94 **RRI Wamena(p)** May 14. Vocal music to 1201, then M anc briefly, and joined Jak pgm in progress at 1201:40; out of Jak pgm at 1225, followed by a M anc for a couple of minutes, then music. Fair at best, not nearly as strong as its Papuan neighbors. Still there at 1259, at threshold level, with SCI and another Jak pgm. Not heard in several months - another reactivation?? Let's hope so! (Wilkins-CO)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA - 3345 **R. Northern** 1047-1107 May 13. YL with anmts in Pidgin to 1050, then vocal music; more anmts at 1101 were followed by more music at 1105. No ID, but presume this is Popondetta. (Wilkins-CO)

SARAWAK - 7270 **RTVM Kuching** 1300-1313 May 12. Two pips to 1300, apparent time check ("Sembilan..."), then ten minutes of news by YL. Thought I heard "Radio Malaysia" right after pips, so don't know if this was Wai FM or not. Anyway, pretty good signal. (Wilkins-CO) (John Wilkins, Wheat Ridge, Colorado. via Cumbre DX Digest)

Stationsnyheter

INDONESIA, RRI-Wamena has reactivated again on 4869.9kHz. In Japan, 1st noted on 14th May with vy good signal, but QRMed by RRI-Sorong on 4870.9kHz... As for my all information it is for all people. 73 & FB DXing!
(Kenji Takasaki in Mie pref, JAPAN via HCDX)

MALI: Today May 19 I heard **RTV DU MALI**, Bamako re-activated on approximately on **4834,9 kHz** at 1920 UTC. Signal level was even S9 and overall reception very good. Station played nice local music and frequency wandered between 4784,89-92 kHz. Earlier reported by Jarmo Patala in the Finnish HCDX-list. (73 de Jouko Huuskonen Turku FINLAND via HCDX)

PERU. 4620.44, R Espacial, Otuzco, 0957-1005, May 07, usual rapid-paced male announcer over Peruvian campesino music with possible mentions of onda corta, 1000 Man again announcing so fast as to slur the words. Began with ID, mention of música, and TC. Followed by canned announcement with mention of radio. Then a nice canned echo promo/ID starting with "Espacial" over "Sultans of Swing" by Dire Straits!! Also mention of Otuzco. Another canned announcement with a lot of laser shooting SFX and 13 stuttering/repeating of words. Then yet another canned announcement with mentions of Unión, and a beautiful canned ID: "Radio Espacial ...Otuzco... Perú" ending with laser shooting SFX again. One more canned announcement and live announcement at 1004 and music. Strength a little better than usual. Really slick production. Glad to finally get an ID on this (Dave Valko, Dunlo PA, DSWCI DX Window May 17 via DXLD) ?? I was not aware that lasers made any noise (gh, DXLD)

PERU. RADIO MAKES WAVES IN THE ANDES --- Radio Sicuani broadcasts to remote communities in the Southern Andes Where we work: Latin America: Peru: Radio in the Andes. In the Southern Andes, an award-winning community radio station is working in favour of the disadvantaged, broadcasting programmes over the mountains in the indigenous language, Quechua, and in Spanish Radio Sicuani plays an important role in educating its listeners on issues as varied as human rights, the environment, politics, and health... [illustrated] http://www.cafod.org.uk/where_we_work/latin_america/peru/radio_in_the_andes
(via Chris Brand, radio websites, May Radio User [UK] via DXLD) 4826v
CAFOD = Catholic Agency For Overseas Development. A quick check of the other LAM countries listed found items about radio in El Salvador and Paraguay, but not SW (Glenn Hauser, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

ST HELENA: Radio St Helena is planning to reintroduce short wave transmissions following a long break of almost a decade. The famous station used to transmit on short wave one day per year during the 1990s using a borrowed shortwave transmitter, but it was deprived of use of the transmitter in late 1999 and its shortwave transmissions came to an end. Now the station's management has launched a fund-raising campaign with the aim of acquiring a new shortwave transmitter and putting the station back on short wave. The radio station is also hoping to raise enough funds to set up an amateur radio club station on the island and promote amateur radio in local schools. This is all good news for short wave listeners and radio amateurs. St Helena, the island from which the station operates, is a much wanted entity for both short wave listeners and radio amateurs. The South Atlantic island is among the most isolated in the world. The nearest major land mass is Africa, 1,000 miles away. <http://www.rsgb.org/news/gb2rs.htm#rsh> (Mike Terry via HCDX)

Övriga radionyheter

Re DXLD 6-078: Radio Equipment Forum

The Kreuzberg is 928 metres tall and located in the Rhön mountains, southeast of Fulda. The transmitter site there is owned by Bayerischer Rundfunk, and ch. 3 is to be switched off for the same reason than Biedenkopf ch. 2: All civilian TV transmitters in Hesse and the northwestern corner of Bavaria will change over to DVB-T. In just five days all remaining analogue TV transmitters in Hesse will run 525/60 with NTSC colour. . .

However, this is not the end (yet!) for Band I in Germany. There will still be the Göttelborner Höhe (Sarre) and Grünten (Bavaria) transmitters on ch. 2, alongside with Raichberg (Baden-Württemberg) and Ochsenkopf (Bavaria; this one with vertical polarization) on ch. 4.

And the discussion of still signing off TV stations (none here in Germany anymore) brought back memories of watching TV going off for the night 15...20 years ago. The Czech did it in a rather elaborate way: A VTR of a waving flag (must have been the "video clip" for the national anthem I could not hear on our B/G system TV set), then they brought up one after another, each one for a few seconds, the test cards of TV's main control room, the radio communications switching centre at Prague and finally the individual transmitter site until finally shutting down the transmitters. GDR TV did it without anthem and without test cards:

Just a final announcement by the program anchor, over to a "we wish you a good night" slide from which the studio faded to black, and after a few seconds the transmitters cut off so that those with older TV sets without muting suddenly woke up and went to bed. Pschschschschschschsch. . . (Kai Ludwig via HCDX)

Please find below the latest news letter of DX Tuner: regards, Young Stars Radio Club, www.geocitites.com/ysrc_india

Greetings Fellow Member, Welcome to the May 2006 DX Tuners Newsletter.

First of all, We have new sites to tell you about.

- (1) San Diego. I wonder how many of the members remember back to the early DX Tuner days, when we had Javaradio San Diego. Well, this site is returning within a couple of weeks with the Icom PCR 1500, and a discone. It will be good to have coverage of this area again.
- (2) Sturup MMX. This new site will be great for covering airband in the Copenhagen/Malmö area. Radio here is a Yaesu VR 5000, utilizing a discone.
- (3) Kerry, Ireland. Here we have a new VHF-UHF site in southern Ireland, close enough to Shannon Airport for excellent airband reception. This receiver is a Uniden Bearcat 780XLT, frequency range is 25 MHz to 1300 MHz. Antenna used is a discone at 30'.
- (4) Our new DRM Italy site is online and doing business, with the Elad FDM 77, and gets great HF reception with a 40 meter dipole.
- (5) The old NDB site (Non Directional Beacon) will be operational soon. NDB DX-ing is a fun hobby, where you hunt for beacons on the lower part of the medium and longwave band.

Now to other DX Tuner happenings.

The Rommele receiver site with antenna farm and Icom R-75 is online and has all directions active on the EWE antennas. We have a great circle map of the world on the Rommele site showing the beams, to assist you in choosing antenna for the part of the world you want to hear.

You can listen to the African airline net on 11300 MHz and beam 180*, and hear transmissions with almost local quality, amazing. Broome site-op has relocated in Broome, and now has his site back up with a discone. When Kai VK6KJSJ had discone up before, reception was good on all bands, very fun radio site.

After a period offline Rochdale, UK has returned, and is planning a new antenna, possibly a Slim Jim cut for 2 meters (144 MHz). The Phuket, Thailand site has relocated to a better reception area not far away, and an already great DXing site just got better.

New Node Requests...

If you have a receiver you want to share with others on the DX-Tuner network, you are most welcome to contact us. There is info on our main page.

We at DX Tuners are proud of our support team, and if you need help or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us using the "customer support" option, the link is of course on our main page. I would also like to suggest that new members check out our very good aids, FAQ's and Visual Guide. These will increase your enjoyment of the radios.

That's about it for this time. Our url is, of course, <http://www.dxtuners.com/>. We hope you enjoyed hearing the news, and are enjoying your visits to the DX Tuners global network of receivers.

Brad Wall, DX Tuners Newsletter Editor San Bernardino, California, USA. <http://www.dxtuners.com> (via HCDX)

SWSCAN SHORTWAVE RADIO BROADCAST PREDICTION

Freeware: Complete Short Wave Frequency Database Tool with:

- graphical frequency analysis signal strength prediction for any place in the world
- date/time filters
- filters for language/programme
- propagation prediction
- based on the International Listening Guide (ILG) Shortwave Database.

On shortwave, radio stations have complex schedules. And propagation changes every hour. Which station is active right now? And what signal can I expect? These are key questions. This tool will guide you through the short wave jungle.

The software will create a time- and day-specific bandscan of any shortwave segment including a signal strength prediction (the dB column) looking like this: <http://radiovibrations.com/swbrowse.htm> (via Glenn Hauser, DXLD)

The above was linked from this: <http://www.myradiobase.de/fmscan/index.php> (via Paul Logan, skywaves, via Paul Crankshaw, MWC, via DXLD)

Africa on Shortwave guide

An updated edition of the Africa on Shortwave guide is now available on the British DX Club web site.

Compiled by Tony Rogers, Africa on Shortwave is a comprehensive country-by-country guide to domestic and external shortwave broadcasts from Africa, including selected opposition and target broadcasts to the African continent.

It is in pdf format and can be downloaded at: www.bdx.org.uk - see Articles Index. (via HCDX)

The Kiwa "MAP" Story

The Kiwa MAP (an acronym for Multiband AM Pickup) was a "labor of love" project of Craig Siegenthaler, the talented engineer/designer behind Kiwa Electronics. Made in small numbers from about 1990 to 1992, The MAP is a unique receiver accessory appreciated by those who value audio quality and the best possible audio recovery from their communications receivers. A little over 100 MAP units were ever produced, and this one is serial number 109.

I know of no other product quite like the MAP, but the nearest competitor is Sherwood Engineering's SE-3 unit. Both accessories offer synchronous AM detection of signals; the MAP, however, provides additional IF filter bandwidths, a high quality internal speaker, useful audio shaping and "tone-tilt" controls, and does not require a 455 kHz I.F. output jack on the receiver (due to the included direct pickup attachment). In addition, the MAP is much better constructed and presents a more polished, professional appearance with its quality cabinetry and controls.

The MAP takes a different approach to synchronous detection than the SE-3. The Sherwood product utilized the PLL-style of synch-AM with a synthesized carrier signal, while the Kiwa unit amplifies the existing carrier, strips away the sidebands, and mixes the "exalted" carrier with the original signal. In theory the PLL approach deals better with selectively fading signals, while the non-PLL approach offers lower audio distortion of the recovered signal.

The MAP is a product that from the start was never a profitable venture for Kiwa Electronics. In typical Kiwa Electronics fashion, the MAP is robustly built like the proverbial tank. Well over 40 case screws hold the chassis and enclosure together, and the rounded cabinet corners and powder-coat paint provide a high grade, professional appearance. The circuit board and components used are also top-notch. Because of the high parts cost and extensive labor required for assembly, had a very short production run. Those few hobbyists fortunate enough to get their hands on a Kiwa MAP accessory enjoy a very special audio and IF filter enhancing product that works with any 455 kHz I.F. receiver.



Features and Construction Far Exceeding Sherwood Engineering's SE-3 MK III

Highly Desirable 455 kHz Direct I.F. Pickup Attachment Included, Plus Extensive Owners Manual and 24vdc Power Supply

Have you been searching for a Kiwa Multiband AM Pickup (MAP)? Look no further, as this MAP is in excellent operating condition and complete with the Direct Pickup attachment--necessary for using the MAP with any 455 kHz I.F. receiver lacking an I.F. output. The physical condition is good-- the sides are scratched (see slideshow photos) but the front and rear panels are close to perfect. This MAP unit is very attractive and you would be proud to display it in your radio shack. What's more, you'll enjoy the best quality audio reproduction possible with your 455 kHz I.F. receivers, and improved selectivity, too.

Those who know Kiwa products are well aware of their high quality, performance, and construction. The sought-after Kiwa MAP is undeniably the most sturdy and thoroughly "over-engineered" product ever to come out of this niche-market receiver accessories manufacturer. Unfortunately it was a short-lived and unprofitable item for Kiwa Electronics due to high parts cost and time-consuming assembly (see sidebar, left). Despite the harsh realities of production and its brief appearance in the shortwave accessory marketplace, the rare Kiwa MAP remains a useful add-on for both program listeners and DXers.

An entirely new "back end" for your receiver. The MAP is essentially the second half of a communications receiver optimized for AM listening. It bypasses many of the distortion-inducing stages and processes the signal in a manner specifically designed for AM mode transmissions. The MAP's signal processing is completely analog with no DSP filtering. The signal exits the radio at the 455 kHz I.F. stage and does not return to the receiver.

A self-contained unit including speaker, the MAP works with any receiver employing the common I.F. frequency of 455 kHz (the MAP will not work with any other I.F.). By use of either a direct pickup (supplied), inductive pickup (not supplied), or a IF OUTPUT jack on the receiver, the 455 kHz signal is intercepted and reconditioned to provide lower noise and distortion, improved selectivity, and a flatter frequency response. The MAP is composed of 21 integrated circuits and 19 transistors specifically chosen for low noise and distortion. Direct Pickup. A direct connection "pickup" easily attaches with a spring-loaded micro clip to the proper point (before or after the radio's I.F. filters, depending on receiver type and/or selectivity desired). No receiver modification or internal rewiring is required; the pickup is removable so that the MAP may be used with other 455 kHz I.F. radios. If you are considering a Kiwa MAP, be sure the crucial Direct Pickup attachment is included! The high bidder of this auction will receive this vital component along with the owners manual, AC adapter, and the MAP itself.

The heart of the MAP is its synchronous AM detection, a mode pioneered in consumer-grade receivers by the Sony ICF-2010. The synchronous detector in the MAP is a non-PLL type. Employing an enhanced-carrier technique (similar but superior to Drake's "Synchrophase" R7/R7A detector), the MAP's detector is able to extract audio even from very weak AM signals while providing low audio distortion (<1.0% THD). The diode (envelope) detector in most receivers is by nature threshold sensitive, meaning detection cannot happen until the signal is higher than the forward voltage drop of the diode. The MAP's detector is not limited in this way, and a more complete and accurate rendition of audio is the result.

Perhaps the main advantage of the MAP's detector is the ability to tune further off the carrier frequency to favor reception of either sideband with less distortion than diode detectors. It also has an edge over most synchronous detectors in this respect; the majority of PLL-type synchronous detectors require that the receiver be tuned to the center of the carrier. For example, the Sherwood SE-3 and ESKAB's PLAM board for the R-71A employ a PLL-type synchronous detector that loses "lock" if the receiver is tuned more than 35-40 Hz away from the carrier. The Kiwa MAP in wideband mode allows tuning as much as 3 kHz either side of carrier before significant distortion arises.

Filter Bandwidths. Using up to six cascaded ceramic filters which are followed by AF filtering, the MAP's selectivity is tailored for excellent adjacent channel rejection and a very flat audio passband. The narrowband position is 2.9 kHz wide at -6 dB and 4.6 kHz wide at -60 dB; the wideband position gives 6.9 kHz at -6 dB and 9.2 kHz at -60 dB.

Advertised shape factors for the narrow and wide bandwidths are conservatively rated at "better than 1 to 1.8" and "better than 1 to 1.45" respectively. Actual measured values were given in a custom Certificate of Performance supplied with each MAP. This particular MAP up for auction has shape factors of 1 to 1.53 (narrowband) and 1 to 1.32 (wideband). Other specific details for this MAP unit (serial #109) are shown in the certificate. Because this is a late serial number (believed to be the last one ever made) it incorporates all of the circuit improvements and tweaks made to the MAPs during their production run.

Features and Controls of the Kiwa Multiband AM Pickup:

- Synchronous AM detection for any 455 kHz I.F. receiver
- Additional stages of selectivity through cascaded ceramic filters for wide & narrow bandwidths
- Useful "Tone Tilt" provides a minimum of +/- 16 dB bass/treble tone adjustment similar to tone tilt control on high-end stereo equipment
- Automatic Gain Control (AGC) optimized for best reproduction of AM signals
- High quality, low distortion monitor amplifier and speaker
- Standard 1/4" phone jack works with stereo and monaural headphones
- Front panel Overload LED flashes red if the amplifier is driven into distortion with excessive levels
- I.F. Notch Filter, calibrated and tunable from 1.1 kHz to 4.5 kHz, measured depth of -37 dB
- Red, yellow, and green Signal Input LEDs give a visual indicator of signal strength provided by the I.F. pickup attachment
- MAP vs. Receiver "A/B" switch gives instant comparison between MAP-processed audio and original receiver audio
- DC Power: 24 volts DC at 400ma with supplied AC adapter, or 12.5 - 15.5 volts DC for battery operation
- Adjustable I.F. input level to compensate for variations among receivers
- 455 kHz I.F. Output - post-filtering signal useful for spectrum displays, panadapters, etc.
- Record Output - synchronous detection audio output for recorders and measurement purposes
- Record Output Level - adjustable gain to suit various recording needs
- Receiver Input - audio from receiver's headphone jack, external speaker, or other audio source
- Ground Terminal - connects between MAP and receiver for low noise level and proper MAP operation
- MAP Owner's Manual - descriptive text & graphics; performance charts; instructions and diagrams for hookup to numerous receivers plus general hookup guidelines; specifications; alignment information; MAP circuit schematics

Audio Quality and Audio Recovery.

The difference that the MAP can make in the fidelity and intelligibility of signals ranges from subtle to amazing. The effects are as varied as the signals found on the mediumwave and shortwave bands. Clearer speech is the norm, due in part to improved reproduction of consonants such as C's, K's, and T's which contribute to speech clarity. Voices seem to lift "out of the mud" and station IDs are usually easier to catch. Music is likewise improved. Local MW stations sound excellent in the wideband filter position. If you are a fan of the wide variety of music heard on shortwave, you will appreciate the MAP's fidelity. Stronger, interference-free signals are impressive--the Afropops heard on Africa Number One (15475 kHz) seem to jump out of the speaker. Music from stations with marginal reception through the receiver alone often becomes very listenable when processed by the Kiwa MAP.



In some ways the MAP accentuates the normal aural shortcomings of SW communication and studio environments. Previously inaudible chair squeaks, shuffling papers, and other background noises are occasionally audible to the careful listener. It's as if the broadcast is put under an "audio magnifying glass". A 1984 World Radio TV Handbook (WRTH) article describes the same peculiarities when using the Sherwood SE-3 synchronous detector.

Radio enthusiasts who have collected the "Proceedings" series of technical publications from the now-defunct Fine Tuning organization may recall the detailed review of the Kiwa MAP in the 1990 edition. In this review, John Bryant was quoted on the audio quality of the Kiwa MAP when DXing the Indonesian stations on the tropical bands: The first morning I used my MAP, I heard a full ID on 'Radio Pemerintah Daerah Tingkat Dua Sumbawa' for the first time in my life. In fact, it was the first time I have clearly heard the four or five words of an RPD identification all at the same time on any RPD reception from the central USA. The additional clarity, especially on muffled languages, is startling!

This Kiwa MAP provides great selectivity, beautiful audio quality and is in good overall physical condition (the front and rear panels are very good). However, my receiver line-up is now mostly DSP-based and I no longer have a use for this wonderful accessory that requires a 455 kHz I.F. stage. To the best of my knowledge, all outputs and controls work as they should. Although it will not arrive DOA, the Kiwa MAP is vintage, used electronics and is sold "as-is". Current bid May 1 = 489\$.
(Guy Atkins via eBay & rec.radio.shortwave)