

A STUDIO TYPE MICROPHONE FOR THE SHACK

(Free up your bench from the clutter of hand mics)
VK3CJS - member Central Goldfields A.R. Club VK3JA



My old hamshack nearly drove me mad. What a tangle of microphones and leads. If only I could hang a couple of mics on skyhooks.... well, why not try ?

I had an old cantilever desk lamp with a broken shade... just the thing. The only problem was that the microphone lead would have to run over and behind the rigs through the RF "hot zone" amongst the antenna leads. I also bring open wire feeders into the shack for HF.

..... so the mic should be equipped with a preamp, good RF suppression and quality shielded cable to prevent RF feedback. No problem! I use an old ICOM 251 2m allmode which has such a mike (the 8 - pin plug is a dead giveaway; they use one of the extra pins to provide power for the preamp).

I would also have to forgo my conventional PTT switch. VOX takes care of SSB mode but is not enabled on FM. The source of all things (local rubbish tip) provided me with a nice foot-switch from a dictation machine.

Trying out the geometry of the cantilever in situ, it became obvious that the microphone would need plenty of reach so I could slouch in my chair properly. A foot long piece of tubing (preferably aluminium for screening) would give my mic a nice "shotgun" style extension.



By an amazing stroke of luck, it turns out that the ICOM mic capsule and preamp are a nice snug fit inside the flared out end of a vacuum cleaner stem. The fine bronze mesh from behind the face of the old microphone is a neat fit too. The yellow trim is simply the cap from a cordial bottle with the centre cut out. All fits snugly - no need for glue.



The "acoustic suspension" is 4 sturdy rubber bands around the stem, top and bottom, fore and aft.

Friction holds everything safely together. The bands ass through holes drilled in the outer cage. The cage is a 3 inch length of 2 inch PVC pipe. The picture will hopefully be worth a thousand words.

BTW.... don't go hacking up the old lady's appliance. Do the Australian thing and get yer Hoover doover from the tip !