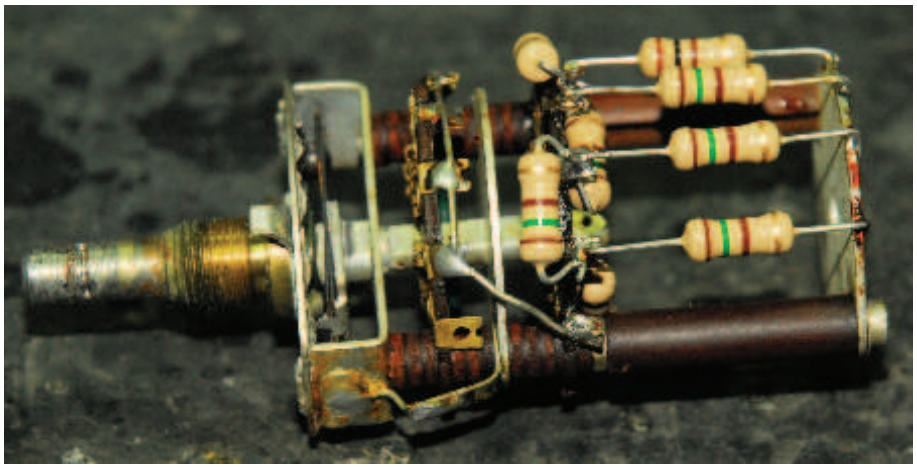
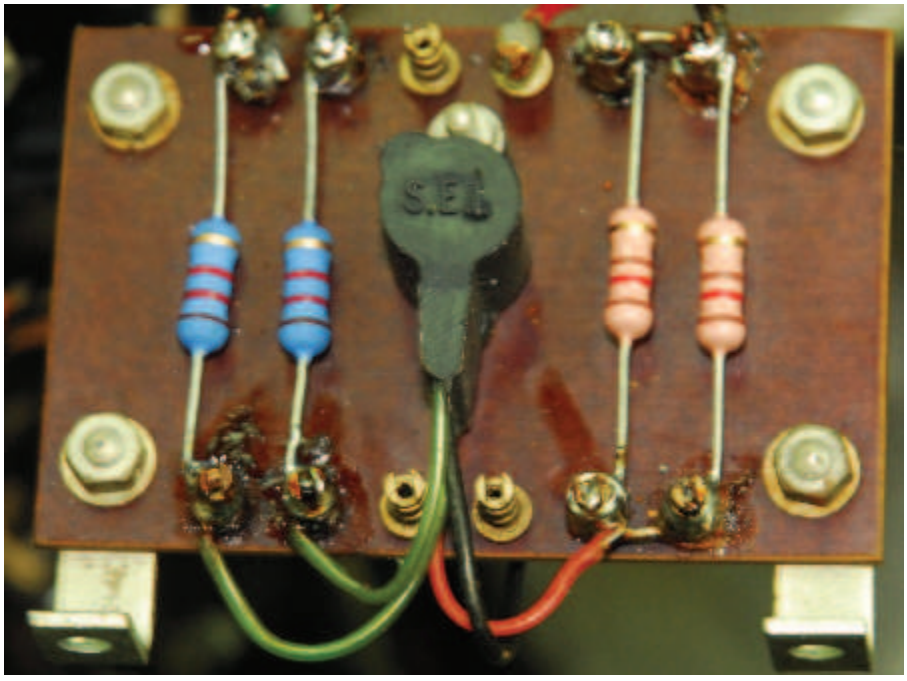


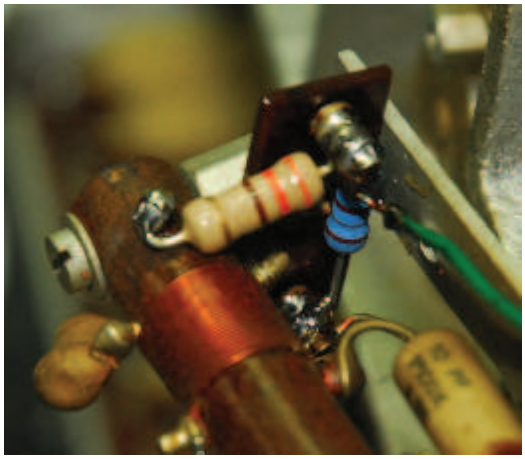
Left: The RF attenuator in the RA17 MK1 is a simple affair compared to that in the RA17L. There is no Low Pass Filter.



With the VFOs removed from the chassis an ideal opportunity presents itself for work on a couple of areas which would otherwise be nearly impossible to access since their retaining screws are normally obscured by the VFO sub-assemblies.

Left: The meter rectifier board.

Below: R21 and R22 on the Low Pass filter on the input to the Harmonic Mixer.



I have actually tested all the valves on my newly acquired AVO VCM163.

Only one valve tested bad, an EF93 in the 100KHz IF strip. The valve in question exhibited very poor leakage between the cathode and screen-grid.

Apart from the GZ32 (replaced with a 5AR4), this is the only valve that currently warrants replacing.

However I note that all the ‘new’ 6BA6s (EF93) that you provided are marked ‘International Servicemaster’. All but one (already fitted to calibrator) of these exhibit 25 Megohms between heater and cathode, but test OK. This particular manufacturer has a shady reputation. Although an American company the valves were made in West Germany. It has been suggested by some experts that on some occasions the valve inside the glass was not necessarily the one marked on the outside.

Servicemaster 6BA6s are considerably taller than everyone elses!

Ian Ropper
March 8, 2019