

The story of some B2 Coils by Ben G4BXD

Having been sold a pup at the NVCF by a well known seller of military radios and components, based in Lincolnshire I believe, these so called "B2" coils turned out not to be so.

They looked like them, same size former, same type of plug arrangement but not having a B2 tx on me at the time I failed to remember that the B2 is a 6 pin plug arrangement, these coils had just 5 pins. So, could I rescue something from this unmitigated disaster?

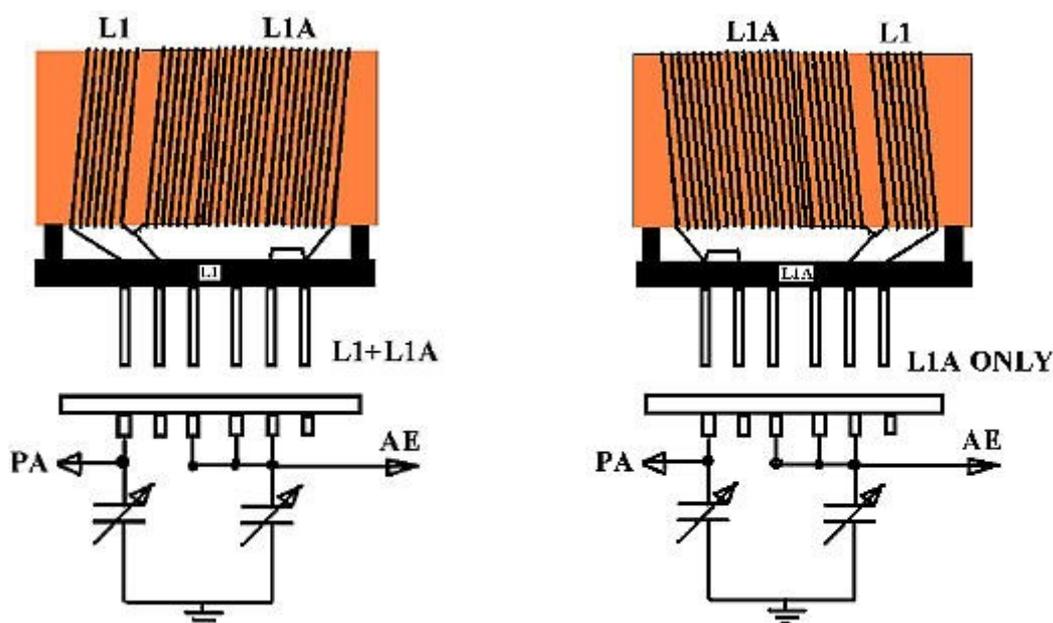
Obviously, when I subsequently got home I could clearly see they were not B2 coils and I'm guessing the seller knew this only too well and relied on the good will of buyers to believe his trumped up claim. Needless to say, Hell will freeze over before I ever take his word again, though he did claim to be retiring at the end of the year.

So, faced with 4 coils that did not plug into the B2 what was there to do?. As it was each coil unit had the end pin broken off. Who ever had used them before only needed 4 of the pins for the two coils wound on each former so simply broke off the end pin, as you would!.

Checking with the B2 I found that the two end pins would plug into the B2 socket if the others were removed. A plan formed. Remove the unwanted pins, use one in the end position and at least the coils would be usable and not a total waste of money.

I actually found that I could leave two pins in one end, lucky as it was needed, and with the other end pin replaced the plug still fitted the B2. There was however another problem as the B2 used a tapped coil and the available pin arrangement would not cater for this trick. I decided that I would only need coils to work on the ham bands so the full original coverage of the B2 was not needed, hence each coil could work on just one band without the need to be reversed, removing the need for the tap.

To show the way 2 ranges are achieved from each coil here is the pin layout of the coil and socket.



When inserted as on the left, both windings are used, when inserted as on the right only the one winding is used, raising the operating frequency of the coil.

So, each old unit was disassembled, the old windings taken off, the formers cleaned, the broken pin removed along with the unwanted pins, the end pin replaced, the formers painted, the bases painted, the coil rewound and mounted and hey presto, new coils for the B2. Simple!



Two of the ceramic formers has bits missing, the usual chips etc around one of the mounting holes where some dip stick had over tightened the mounting. I used P38 car body filler to refill the missing bits, a cardboard tube inserted inside the former to hold the new bit in place.

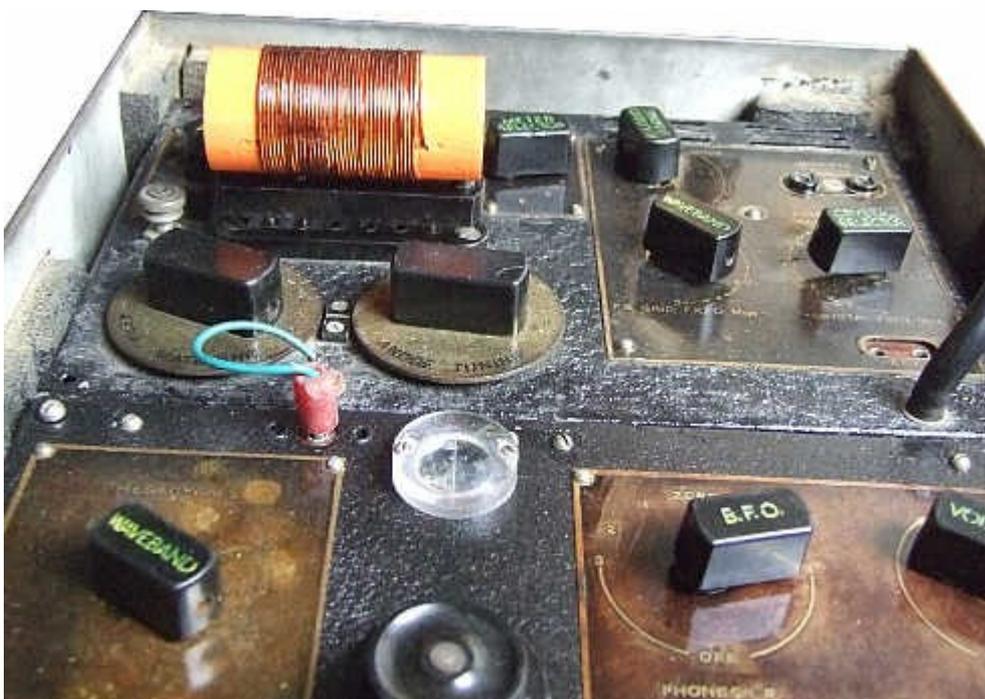
The two formers that had broken edges I filled with P38 and sanded. The original coils for the B2 have an orange colour, the colour of these formers was the right colour but the paint was chipped etc so they needed repainting. I tried a mix of red and yellow from the yl's acrylic painting kit and it was quite good but I needed a slightly bigger supply of the same colour to paint them all the same. Hobby shop, model paint, nice orange was found so this was tried.



The bases were then prepared, you can see the original 5 pin locations, the unwanted middle two pins removed and the end pin replaced in each base. I then painted them a gloss black. Pictured here after first coat.



With the first coil, for 80Mtrs, wound it was given a coat of varnish and I think it looks at home in the set.



After a couple of hours work the set of coils were completed. From disaster into hope, as Bones once said to Kirk.

