

ELECRAFT KX3 Application Note

KX3 160M/80M Rx Performance Improvement

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Background

As with all Elecraft products, design improvements are continually made and modifications are made available to customers who already own those products. Currently, the KX3 receive performance meets or exceeds most other radios available in the market today. Since its release, however, Elecraft has raised dynamic receive performance specifically on 2 bands, 160M and 80M. This App Note describes those changes.

Design Improvements now in production

The KX3's receive dynamic performance has been improved by approximately 10dB on the 80M and 160M bands only. Operators on these bands may recognize improved performance with strong local interference with this modification in place.

Changes have been made to 4 SMD parts on the RF board. **Due to the density and small size of these components, Elecraft recommends that owners of KX3s do not attempt to make the modification.**

KX3 Impact

The Performance Improvement applies only to RF Boards Revision C or earlier. The improvement has already been incorporated into KX3 RF boards Revision D. Revision D boards were introduced in KX3 serial numbers between 1845-2045. KX3s in this range will require inspection to determine the revision installed. See details below.

FAQs

Do I need to have this improvement installed?

Only those operators in the 160M/80M bands AND with multiple, large local interference signals (above S9+55dB, preamp OFF) will find value in this design improvement. If you have a KX3 above serial number 2045, you already have it installed. See the section below for details.

Why do I have to pay for this performance improvement?

Since this is a design improvement and not a bug fix, customers have a choice to pay for the improved performance on these 2 bands if they determine they will benefit from the improvement.

How can I arrange for the improvement to be installed?

KX3 operators may return their KX3 to Elecraft for this modification to be made. Elecraft charges US\$49.00 for the modification. The KX3 owner pays shipping and applicable customs fees in both directions.

For those in Europe and Asia, please contact your local distributor of Elecraft products for service fees and shipping arrangements.

How to determine if you have a candidate KX3 for the Performance Improvement

The Revision is found under the Flex cable connector on the RF Board. The RF Board is the one with the battery tray mounted to it. Ensure that the Flex cable is fully seated once you are finished with your inspection.

