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Collecting Stamps vs. Seashells-- and why this is not wildly O.T.

by: Wayne Burdick N6KR

During my childhood, I watched my dad indulge in his hobby: collecting stamps.

Most of the time, his collection hibernated in two large photo albums on a shelf in the family room, seemingly forgotten.

Then once a month, by prior arrangement, he'd receive a package of envelopes and postcards in the mail. Each item sported one or more canceled stamps. Dad would fill a bowl with water, soak the stamps until they floated free, then lay them on a piece of wood by a window to dry in the hot San Diego sunshine. Once they were dry enough to handle, he'd pull out the albums and cement the stamps to blank pages in perfect rows and columns.



One album held foreign stamps, the other domestic. I'd admire their colors and artwork. Sometimes I'd ask him questions about their monarchs, palaces, and currency denominations. But Dad seemed most interested in the fact that they were each slightly different -- their social, political, or geographical nature was secondary.

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K4 User Experience

by: Bob Wolbert, K6XX

Here are personal opinions on the Elecraft K4 from the perspective of a moderately active ham and a K3 user since 2007. As an "In-House" field tester, I've had a K4 on the air for three years now, but it is only in the past few months that I've really given it a workout. Since autumn, my K4 has worked several thousand stations in each of the big modes: CW, SSB, RTTY, and FT8.

First impressions are lasting, and those from the very first operating session in 2020 remain impressive: its big, beautiful display, fantastic receiver audio, and unexpectedly low receive background noise. Several other features and benefits of the K4 are now appreciated. Let's start by getting the rig on the air. Operating CW and SSB are as simple

and competent as expected—a “plug and play” experience. It is the “digital” modes such as Baudot RTTY and FT4 & 8 where configuring a transceiver is often obtuse. Not so with the K4. The internal USB sound card and (multiple) USB serial ports reduce the connecting cables down to a single, standard (included) USB cable, making interfacing with a logging computer trivially simple. This single cable handles rig control, CW keying, and sound card in & out for both voice and digital modes. Setting the multitude of interface parameters is accomplished right from the K4’s touch screen.

[Read More](#)

Editor's Note

Bob was first licensed deep in the last century at age 12 as WN6HPF, then assigned the callsigns WA6HPF and N6IP, with K6XX received in 1996. K6XX is active on most HF bands and modes, focusing on contest operations. He competed in WRTC-2010, WRTC-2018, and WRTC-2022 and was on the Organizing Committee for WRTC-96. He was elected to the CQ-Contest Hall of Fame in 2021.

Bob has been with Elecraft since 2000 and is presently an Engineering Project Manager and a key contributor to the development of Elecraft’s amplifier product line.

New! KXIBC2 Internal Battery Charger

Not operating in the field yet? You now have one less excuse...thanks to the KX2's new internal battery charger!

The KXIBC2 module is a C/10-rate charger for the KXBT2 Li-ion internal battery pack. Operation is simple, requiring only that a power supply be connected to the KX2 when charging is required. The radio may be on or off during charging. The KXIBC2 does not generate any RFI, so the radio may be used during charging if the power supply provides sufficient current for both charging and receive/transmit operation.

The KXIBC2 replaces the previous KXI02 option module, retaining its RTC (real-time-clock) function.

[Learn More](#)

News & Updates

Shipping Status as of 8/15/2023

- **K4 & K4D Transceivers** - In Stock - Typically ships 1-4 days
- **K4 to K4D Upgrade Kit** - In Stock
- **KPA1500** - In Stock.
- **KPA500** - In Stock
- **KAT500** - In Stock

The items listed are factory assembled. Visit our [Shipping Status Page](#) for the shipping status of other products.

2023 Conventions

- August 19-20 - Hamfest, Huntsville, AL
 - September 15-16 - W9DXCC Convention, Naperville, IL.
 - October 20-23 - Pacificon 2023, San Ramon, CA 94583
-

K3/K3S Options Update

by: Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ

I've been out of town much of this last month and I apologize for my lack of regular updates over the past months on the K3 Options. The buck stops here - I apologize and take full responsibility for the slow updates and delays in getting these completed and shipped.

The bottom line: We and our vendors were overloaded and had way overestimated our ability to build and get the options and our regular core products out the door at the same time. We've been 'heads down' focusing on adding capacity to correct this situation.

In my last update, I was way over-optimistic about our in-house production ramp-up rate and the capacity of our Calif. based PCB assembly houses and their ability to ramp up production of all of our main products and the very large number of individual K3 option boards at the same time. The ongoing semiconductor shortages, while improving, have also continued to put sand in the gears of production as we took time to hunt down numerous hard-to-get parts. We -have- been successful at getting a very large number of KIO3B and KSYN3A options built and shipped, along with the K144XV and K144RFLK orders. But that, combined with our post-COVID ramping up of our K4, Amplifier, and Autotuner product lines, severely taxed both our inside final assembly and our outside PCB assembly sub-contractor's abilities to handle everything at once. We had to pull back and reset to add production capacity and first focus on our core Radio, Amp, and Auto-Tuner products, with the K3 last-time buy options following that.

We have now qualified and added several additional CA-based PCB assembly houses to work with our parts ordering group, which greatly increases our production capacity. We are already using them for a wide range of boards with good results and faster delivery.

This increased capacity has allowed us to catch up with our K4, Amplifier, and KAT500 Autotuner backlogs, and these products now typically ship from stock. (or occasionally 5-10 working days after your order, depending on short-term order surges, etc.) Catching up on these products has opened up additional capacity for our K3 Options production, where we are now heavily focused.

We're currently working with our PCB assembly vendors to solve any remaining parts problems and to firm up the delivery dates for the remaining K3 options. Fortunately, we have sufficient raw unstuffed PC boards in-house for a number of the K3 options, which will speed up the production process. I will report back here in about two weeks, during the week of 8/21, with an updated status for each product, showing production status, open issues, etc.

One item that may start shipping soon is the KPA3A 100W option. We're

currently confirming if we have all the sheet metal and other parts in-house that go with the built and tested KPA3A RF assemblies.

One additional note:

We've also been successful in ramping the KX2 production rate enough to exceed the order rate and reduce the backlog. We are working hard to push that higher so KX2s are shipping from stock soon. We are also shipping against our KX3 backlog and are working hard to get that production rate up so we can get it back into a stocking situation.

[Visit the Shipping Status Page Here](#)

How to cancel your order/request a refund

If you would like to cancel your order, we will refund your deposit immediately. To request a refund, please email sales@elecraft.com and provide your first and last name, call sign, and your order number if you have it.

Have You Ordered Your KX2 & KX3 T-Shirts?



K4 Update & Info

High-Performance Direct Sampling SDR



K4 Shipping Update (As of 8/15/23)

K4 & K4D Transceivers are in stock - We are now building and shipping as orders are placed. Orders ship within 1-4 days.

Elecraft K4 Wear & Carrying Case



K4 T-Shirt

Navy blue with K4 Sketch designed by Elecraft Co-Owner/CTO, Wayne Burdick, N6KR. Comes in short and long sleeves.



Elecraft Hat

Not your tradeshow giveaway. This quality made hat with white stitched Elecraft logo will last you a lifetime!



ES100 K4 Carrying Case

The ES100 carrying case designed for the K4. Includes foam inserts to protect your K4. The ES100 fits in most airplane overhead compartments or under the seat.

[Check out K4 features on our YouTube Channel](#)

Learn more about the K4 and order [here](#)

Listen for us on the air - We'll likely be on a K4!



K4, K4D, KPA1500, KPA500, KAT500 In Stock!

*Monthly specials are not valid in combination with any other discounts. Not valid on purchases prior to August 1, 2023. Free UPS Ground Shipping within the contiguous U.S. for Specials. Offer ends August 31, 2023. Items listed in stock as of 8/15/2023. Subject to change



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