

The Sound of Silence

The reality of the modern world with electronics is that we now have to live with more noise than we ever had to do before. A multitude of electronic devices have now entered homes everywhere and as a result we in the hobby are now the victims. Back when I got started in the hobby, I always had a fear of a bang on the door from a neighbour with the scream "you're all over my TV".

One of the lessons we learnt when doing our studying, was interference and how not to be an issue to anyone, we would be thought all about ferrite rings and how to coil coax for both radio and Television to hopefully eliminate noise and interference to other equipment.

But as the tech world has grown so has the noise level, from chargers to LED lights etc. we are now the victims of the electronic boom and as such we suffer from noise from all directions.

Atmospheric noise and even military signals as in radar etc. are now an issue in the hobby. Russia scanning the horizons has had a big effect on certain bands and even the solar cycle has it's own noise too.

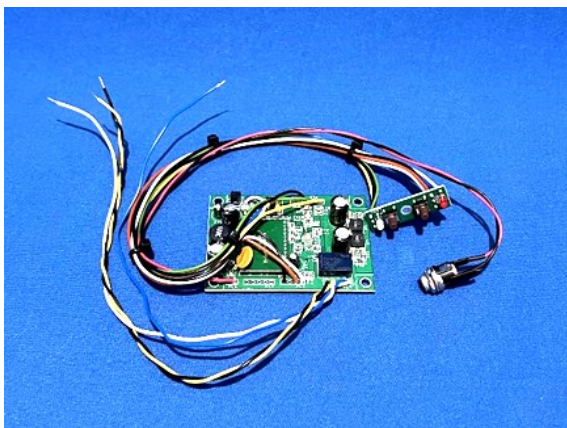
Being the owner of a FT101ZD for more years than I care to remember, one of the issues was how to reduce the noise level on the rig, it being 40yrs old it is limited in what it can do with noise compared to my ICOM 7600.

Reducing the RF gain, switching on the noise blanker to help get that faint signal out of the noise is more or less your limit.

So what else is available on the market that might help? I did ask around and between a loop antenna as a receive, was suggested as was a number of filtering devices.

I did as I said earlier not want to reduce the signal in to the transmitter if it was in the noise, I was going to kill it altogether.

While pondering on what I would do next I had bought an SP901 speaker for my radio of David EI6GVB, and mounted in the top of that speaker was a small circuit board with a socket for a power source and two little push buttons that when pressed changed the noise level.



This was a NEDSP1962-KBD and made by a company called BHI noise cancelling products. Who were they I'd never heard of them, but the filter was making a big difference to my noise, so off to google I went for more info.

BHI DSP noise cancellation products are designed to effectively reduce background noise and improve audio clarity. These products utilize digital signal processing technology to analyse and filter out unwanted noise, allowing for clearer communication and enhanced listening experiences.

The first thing that hit me was it was filtering the speaker and not connected between the antenna and radio, so input signal stayed the same you just filtered the sound.

Now the a NEDSP1962-KBD worked well but to some degree it was limited to what it can do. I have a hearing issue with 50% loss from being a fool and not wearing ear protection when I was younger and to top it off I have tinnitus in both ears at different frequency, so my hearing is somewhat challenging at times. I was delighted to see BHI had built a noise cancelling unit for operators with hearing issues.

The ParaPro EQ20 Audio DSP may be just what I need so a purchase was made complete with a request to configure the colourful knobs with grey that way it was in keeping with the YAESU grey theme.



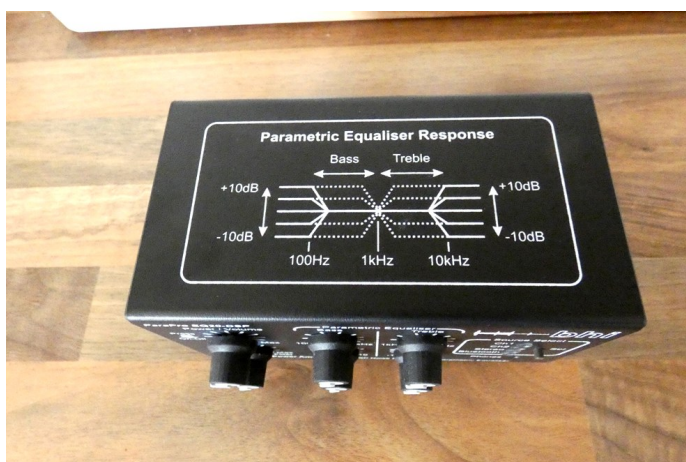
This is the standard Parapro with the colourful knobs and below is the customized unit that I had requested. I purchased the BHI power supply also; I do have the box full of old power supplies that we all have but I did not want to take a chance doing any damage to the unit.



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A full set of instructions came with the unit and the first thing to hit you is how light it is but the build quality takes your mind off its weight, great info on the front panel and a diagram on the top surface explaining what goes on in the unit



few YouTube video's one of the tests done is on an ICOM 7300, which you would think wouldn't need any help, but as can be seen, totally changes the reception of a receiving station and can then be copied and added to your log.

So to price, there is an old saying (you will forget the price but never the quality), that applies to this BHI device current unit price is £339.95 then the power supply on top, but before you say WHAT !! it's worth every penny. No point having a Radio antenna that you can't hear, with the noise your gear could be worth 5k or more but in real terms it ain't worth a penny if you cant hear stations, and I don't mean our European cousins, I mean the stations out there looking for you.

I did lend it to a friend Eamo, EI7LC, with terrible noise problems and he was blown away and lost for words, and after 5mins, his shack had become a better place to be, rather than looking at a dial and wondering if there was a station he could hear and work.

So well done BHI on a great product.



The rear panel is self-explanatory with power in and L/R speaker in mono or stereo inputs/outputs.



Each of the available modes can be accessed from the front panel and the unit can be adjusted to suit your hearing and noise reduction.

Dose it work...? In a nutshell, YES, they definitely work and if you want to see how well, then have a look at a



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