

A Better PL-259 Connection

Here's a way to save time and make a more reliable connection the next time you install a PL-259 connector on RG-58 or RG-59 coax.

Clamp the UG-175/U or UG-176/U adapter in a vise so the end below the threads is exposed. Then with a large soldering iron or torch heat up the adapter and lay a thin layer of solder all around its tip. When it cools, insert the already prepared coax and screw the adapter into the PL-259.

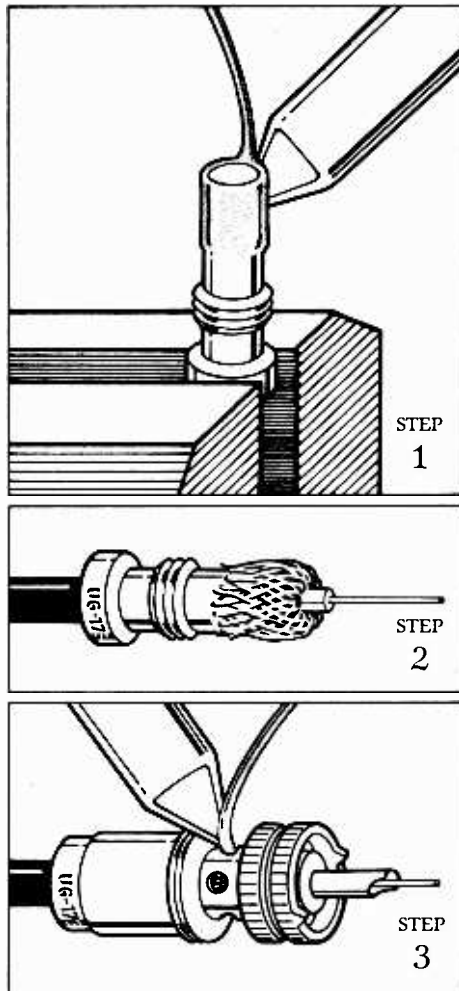
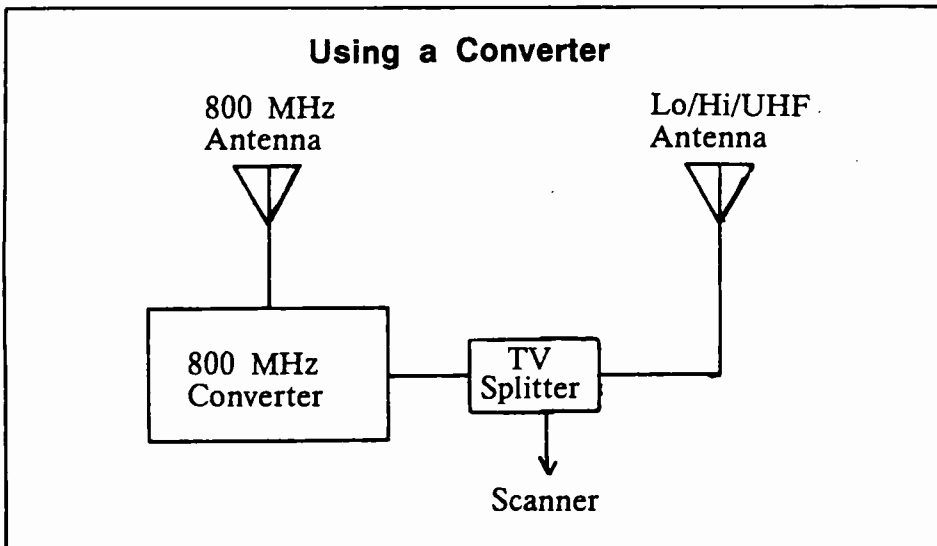
The result? The presoldered portion of the adapter makes it much easier to heat up and solder the shield through the holes in the PL-259.

(Courtesy Larsen Electronics White Plains, NY)

Use a Converter and Your Scanner at the Same Time

One of the biggest problems with using a converter ahead of a scanner is that the normal frequency ranges of the scanner are disabled while the converter is in line. For example, the scanner can no longer receive normal low, high and UHF bands with an 800 MHz converter hooked up.

MT reader Ron Smith of Birmingham, Alabama, has a solution: a standard TV-type VHF/UHF signal splitter available from Radio Shack and electronic departments of discount chains can combine signals from the converter with normal signals from the outside scanner antenna! Thanks, Ron for this excellent suggestion. The simple technique is shown below.



Long Play Tape Recorders

We occasionally receive inquiries from both institutional and hobby radio interests inquiring as to the availability of extended play tape recorders for logging communications over considerable numbers of hours.

Commercial and military users employ special (thus, high cost) recording instruments made specifically for that purpose, but where does the user with limited resources come up with a suitable recording instrument?

It is possible to purchase a conventional cassette recorder and slow the transport mechanism down by reducing the voltage, changing pulley diameters, reducing the capstan diameter, or replacing the motor, but it may be easier in the long run to purchase a tape recorder which has already had the conversion done.

Many modern scanner and shortwave receivers are equipped with accessory jacks which will switch on the tape recorder when a signal is present as well as properly present a low level, medium impedance audio line to the recorder.

Modified Panasonic cassette recorders are available from AMC Sales, Inc., 9335 Lubec St., Box 928, Downey, CA 90421 (ph. 213-869-8519). Prices are \$95 and \$159 (plus \$4 shipping) each for 10 hour and 14 hour recorders (5 or 7 hours per side of a conventional TDK DC 180 cassette, supplied).

More on the PRO-2004

The ability to restore cellular telephone coverage to the popular Realistic PRO-2004 scanner has met eager acceptance in the consumer marketplace. Grove Enterprises has had difficulty in locating enough scanners around the country to satisfy demand.

One additional hint after diode D513 is clipped: press the RESET button to prepare the microprocessor for its new range.

So far none of our PRO-2004 owners has discovered a way to increase frequency coverage any further, including the 66-88 MHz range used in the European market.

Rumors still persist that Radio Shack intends to replace the microprocessor with one which cannot receive the cellular frequencies but, at this writing, such a replacement radio has not yet appeared.

Add an External Audio Filter

Most of the audio below about 400 Hz contributes nothing at all to the intelligibility of speech. This hi-pass device really clears out the "junk." It can be used with either headphones or a speaker. The capacitor value shown is critical for 8 ohms.

The capacitors and switch can be mounted in a mini-box such as Radio Shack #270-230, requiring no modification of the receiver.

A slight increase in gain setting is required, raising the sibilant range of the audio (the "crispness" of speech).

(Luther Crumbaugh, Prescott, AZ)

