

How do I?

An occasional series



This week: Fix it Yourself!
Replacing a Microphone Cable

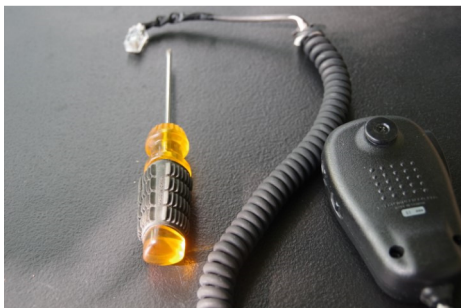
**Have a favorite mobile radio whose microphone cable has seen better days?
Don't give up on it; replace it!**

My trusty Yaesu FT-7800R mobile 2m/70cm dual band radio elected to inform me that it really wanted its microphone cable patched. Initially, I put some electrical tape around the wires going into the connector. That worked, but the plastic outer covering quickly began falling apart. I found I could order a new cable for about half the price of a microphone.

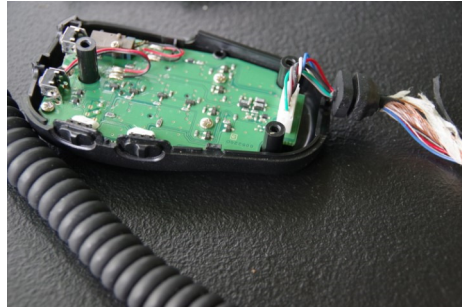
I got myself **A Round TUIT** (a.k.a. "around to it") and placed the order. About five days later the parts arrived.



I unhooked the old microphone from the radio. Using a small Phillips screwdriver, I removed the three screws in the back of the microphone.



Next I removed the back cover. The Push-To-Talk (PTT) switch fell out, so I laid it to one side. There is a plastic connector where the cord connects to the printed circuit board. I pried it off and slipped the new cord's connector in place and fastened the strain relief.

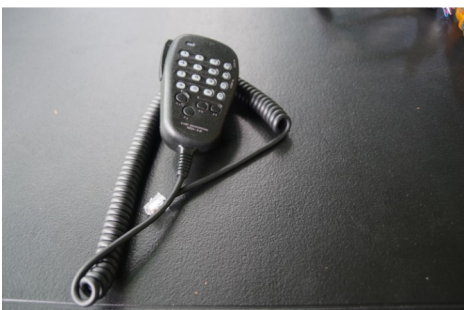


Then I reinstalled the PTT switch, slipped the back cover back on and reinstalled the three screws that had been removed earlier.



Now, the smoke test. I attached the microphone to the radio, powered-up and tried the National Calling Frequency on 2 meters: 146.520 MHz. While no one came back to me, the radio successfully went into transmit mode and seemed to behave itself.

Total time: maybe 10 minutes and that included stopping to take photos!



What have you fixed today?