

# 20 MTR 20 WATT QRP LINEAR AMPLIFIER KIT

**Ramsey Electronics Model No. QAMP20**

*Need a little extra boost for your QRP rig? Believe it or not, 20 watts is only about an 'S' unit below a 100 watt rig! This nifty little amp will add some "punch" to any QRP transmitter.*

- Works great with Ramsey QRP rigs or any other 1-2 watt transmitters
- Built-in T/R relay automatically switches between receive and transmit
- Runs on 12 volts DC at 2 to 4 amps; ideal for field day or battery operation
- Multistage low pass filter for a clean signal
- Operates all modes: CW, SSB, or AM
- Fast, easy, and fun 2 hour assembly
- Informative manual answers questions on theory, hook-ups, and uses - enhances resale value too!
- Clear, concise assembly instructions carefully guide you to a finished kit that works the FIRST time!



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- QRP Power Amplifiers

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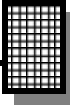
### QAMP20 QRP CW POWER AMPLIFIER KIT INSTRUCTION MANUAL

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## KIT ASSEMBLY AND INSTRUCTION MANUAL FOR

# ***20 METER QRP CW POWER AMPLIFIER KIT***

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Ramsey QAMP series of QRP power amplifiers are compact 10 to 20 watt RF amplifiers for QRP CW transmitters. These amplifiers are made to be driven by transmitters in the ½ to 2 watt range. Built-in to the power amplifier is a sensitive T-R relay which will switch the unit in and out of the antenna line. When in receive, the amplifier is bypassed and the antenna feeds directly to the input jack. When you go to transmit, the T-R circuit detects the transmit RF power and automatically switches the power amplifier into the circuit and amplifies the applied RF power. If you decide to run "barefoot", turning off the QAMP will disable the amplifier and your QRP transmitter will feed directly through the amplifier without any amplification. Power is supplied by any 12 to 15 volt DC source with a current draw of 1 to 3 amps depending upon RF power output. A 5 pole low pass filter using toroid cores keeps harmonics and spurious signals very low. The entire amplifier is very easy to construct, but does require you to wind a few coils and RF transformers - we'll lead you step-by-step through all steps!

## **HOW IT WORKS**

The QRP amplifier is very simple with most of the "magic" being done by just a few parts, the pair of MOSFET transistors and the ferrite wideband transformers. Transformer T2 matches the 50 ohm amplifier input to the push-pull inputs of the FET transistors. The term push-pull means that one transistor amplifies the positive portion of the input signal while the other transistor amplifies the negative portion - put another way, one is pushing while the other is pulling! The center tapped transformer splits the input signal so each transistor will only amplify the correct part of the input signal. Incidentally, this push-pull technique has been used for years in both vacuum tube and solid-state gear.

The push-pull signal output from the FETs is combined and impedance matched to 50 ohms by ferrite transformer T1. To reduce any harmonic content, a 5 pole low pass filter consisting of L1,2,3 and C4,5,6,7 is used.

The FET transistors are biased "on" slightly for best gain and linearity. Zener diode D1 provides a constant voltage for the bias network R2,3,4. Bias pot R4 allows adjustment of bias voltage to the FET transistor gates. It is adjusted for a set amount of current through the transistors.

The T-R relay circuit uses a simple diode detector consisting of D2 and D3. The detector output is amplified by transistors Q3 and Q4 to drive relay K1.

## **PARTS LIST FOR THE QAMP20 QRP POWER AMPLIFIER**

### **CAPACITORS:**

- 1 100 to 220  $\mu$ f electrolytic capacitor [C1]
- 1 10  $\mu$ f electrolytic capacitor [C2]
- 4 .1  $\mu$ f disc capacitors (marked .1 or 104) [C3,8,10,13]
- 2 180 pF disc capacitors (marked 180 or 181) [C4,7]
- 2 330 pF disc capacitors (marked 330 or 331) [C5,6]
- 2 .001  $\mu$ f disc capacitors (marked .001 or 102 or 1000) [C11,12]
- 1 .01  $\mu$ f disc capacitor (marked .01 or 103 or 10 nF) [C9]

### **RESISTORS:**

- 3 1 K ohm resistors (brown-black-red) [R1,5, TP1]
- 1 6.8 K ohm resistor (blue-gray-red) [R2]
- 2 10 K ohm resistors (brown-black-orange) [R3,12]
- 1 470 ohm resistor (yellow-violet-brown) [R6]
- 1 100 K ohm resistor (brown-black-yellow) [R7]
- 2 270 ohm resistors (red-violet-brown) [R8,9]
- 1 51 ohm resistor (green- brown-black) [R10]
- 1 2.2 K ohm resistor (red-red-red) [R11]
- 1 5 K potentiometer (marked 502M) [R4]

### **SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES:**

- 1 Zener diode, 6.2 volt (gray body with black band) [D1]
- 2 1N4148 type signal diodes (glass body with black band) [D2,3]
- 1 1N4002 style black epoxy diode [D4]
- 2 Power MOSFET transistors (marked P16NF06) [Q1,2]
- 2 2N3904 NPN transistors [Q3,4]
- 1 221334 PNP transistor [Q5]

### **OTHER COMPONENTS:**

- 1 Relay DPDT 12 volt [K1]
- 1 PC mount pushbutton switch [S1]
- 2 RCA style PC mount phono jacks [J1,2]
- 1 2.5 mm DC power jack [J3]
- 2 Heatsink [HS1,2]
- 3 Yellow toroid coil core [L1,2,3]
- 1 10  $\mu$ H inductor [L4]
- 1 2 hole small ferrite transformer core [T2]
- 1 2 hole large ferrite transformer core [T1]
- 7' #24 enameled magnet wire (thin wire) [for winding L1,2,3 and T1,2]
- 2 4-40 x 1/4" machine screw
- 2 4-40 hex nut

**REQUIRED, NOT SUPPLIED:**

- Ramsey case, knob and panel set, Ramsey part no. CQRP
- Matching input and output cables to existing QRP transmitter
- 12 volt DC power supply 3 amp rating
- Proper dummy load or resonant antenna

**"THE RAMSEY LEARN-AS-YOU-BUILD ASSEMBLY STRATEGY"**

Take a look at the parts layout diagram. There is quite a lot to the construction of the QAMP20. It's easier than it seems once you get going, especially after you have installed a few of the "landmark" components. Once these "landmark" components are placed, other parts' positions are referenced to them, and construction goes quite smoothly. This will help in relating from one part to another what specific holes it may require on the board, and that part's orientation. In addition, we will discuss the purpose of most components or groups of components as we go along. This is the Ramsey Learn-As-You-Build kit assembly philosophy. Be sure to read through all the steps, and check the boxes as you go to be sure you didn't miss any important steps. Most of the problems we find here at the factory are due to faulty assembly, no matter how experienced the builder may be: it's especially tough to tell a 30 year experienced ham that he goofed! Before you run the circuit, check all diodes and polarized capacitors for proper orientation.

**TIPS AND NOTES:**

Use a good soldering technique - let your soldering iron tip gently heat the traces to which you are soldering. Heat both wires and pads simultaneously. Apply the solder on the iron, lead, and the pad when pad and wire is hot enough to melt the solder. The actual joint should look like a drop of water on paper (somewhat soaked in).

Parts are mounted on the top side of the board. This is the side that has no traces or pads on it.

Part orientation - All parts in this kit are mounted at 90 degree angles, meaning parts are either parallel or perpendicular to the sides of the board.

Part installation - When parts are installed, the part is placed flat to the board, and the leads are bent on the backside of the board to prevent the part from falling out before soldering. The part is then soldered into place, and the spare leads are removed. Make sure lead lengths are as short as possible when dealing with the RF section of this kit.

In all the following instruction steps, our word "INSTALL" means to do the following:

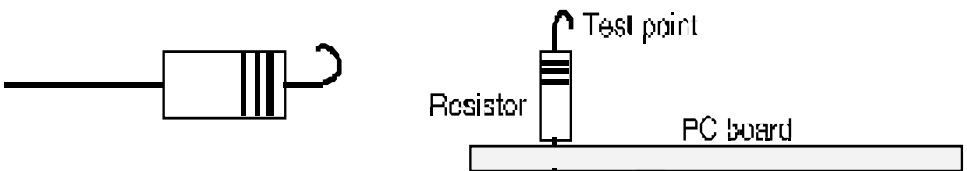
- Insert the part, oriented correctly, into its correct holes in the PC board.
- If helpful, gently bend the part's wire leads or tabs to hold it in place, with the body of the part snugly against the top side (component side) of the PC board.
- Solder all wires or pins of the part, whether the 2 wires of a resistor or the 3 or 4 wires of a transistor.
- Trim all excess wires extending beyond each solder connection, taking care that wire trimmings do not become lodged in PC board solder connections.

### **CONSTRUCTION:**

Since you may appreciate some "warm-up" soldering practice as well as a chance to put some "landmarks" on the PC board, we'll first install some "hardware" components.

1. Install S1, PC mount pushbutton switch. Solder all 6 pins securely.
2. Install J1 and J2, PC mount RCA phono jacks. Solder all 4 pins on each securely as these connectors will be subjected to some stress when coax cables are connected to them.
3. Install J3, PC mount DC power jack.
4. Install relay K1. Notice that it installs only one way.
5. Install potentiometer R4. This pot allows adjustment of the bias to the power transistors.
6. Install C9, .01  $\mu\text{f}$  disc capacitor (marked .01 or 103 or 10 nf).
7. Install Q5, 221334 PNP transistor, with the flat side oriented toward D2.
8. Install R6, 470 ohm resistor (yellow-violet-brown).
9. Install R10, 51 ohm resistor (green-brown-black).
10. Install R11, 2.2 K ohm resistor (red-red-red).
11. Install R12, 10 K ohm resistor (brown-black-orange).
12. Install D2 and D3, 1N4148 style signal diodes (glass body with black band). Pay special attention to the banded ends. The banded end on a diode is the cathode and must be oriented correctly or the circuit will not work. Both diode D3 and diode D2 are detectors for sensing applied RF power.
13. Install C10, .1  $\mu\text{f}$  disc capacitor (marked .1 or 104).
14. Install R7, 100 K ohm resistor (brown-black-yellow).

- ❑ 15. Install Q3 and Q4, 2N3904 NPN transistors, observing proper orientation of the flat side. These two transistors amplify the signal diode's output to a level high enough to close relay K1.
- ❑ 16. Install diode D4, 1N4002 style black epoxy diode. Check positioning of the banded end.
- ❑ 17. Install jumper JMP2. Use a piece of scrap component lead wire bent into a "staple" shape and inserted into the board like a component. Jumpers act as electronic "bridges" carrying signals over PC board circuit traces underneath.
- ❑ 18. Install C13, .1  $\mu\text{f}$  disc capacitor (marked .1 or 104).
- ❑ 19. Install L4, 10  $\mu\text{H}$  inductor (green body with brown-black-black bands).
- ❑ 20. Install R3, 10 K ohm resistor (brown-black-orange).
- ❑ 21. Install C2, 10  $\mu\text{f}$  electrolytic capacitor. Electrolytic capacitors are polarized with a ( + ) and a ( - ) lead and must be installed correctly for proper operation. Generally, capacitors have their ( - ) lead marked with a black stripe while PC boards have the ( + ) hole indicated.
- ❑ 22. Install D1, 6.2 volt Zener diode (gray body with a black band). This diode provides a stable voltage which is used to provide bias for the power transistors.
- ❑ 23. Install R5, 1 K ohm resistor (brown-black-red).
- ❑ 24. Install R2, 6.8 K ohm resistor (blue-gray-red).
- ❑ 25. Install R1, 1 K ohm resistor (brown-black-red).
- ❑ 26. Locate another 1 K ohm resistor (brown-black-red). Trim back one lead to a length of  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. Bend this wire into a small loop as shown. This loop will act as a convenient point to connect a test probe for setting the bias voltage. Insert the resistor into the PC board and hold it carefully while you solder it to the board.

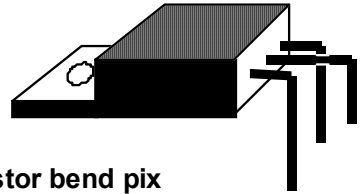


- ❑ 27. Install R8, 270 ohm resistor (red-violet-brown).
- ❑ 28. Install C11, .001  $\mu\text{f}$  disc capacitor (marked .001 or 102).
- ❑ 29. Install R9, another 270 ohm resistor (red-violet-brown).
- ❑ 30. Install C12, another .001  $\mu\text{f}$  disc capacitor (marked .001 or 102).
- ❑ 31. Install C8, .1  $\mu\text{f}$  disc capacitor (marked .1 or 104).

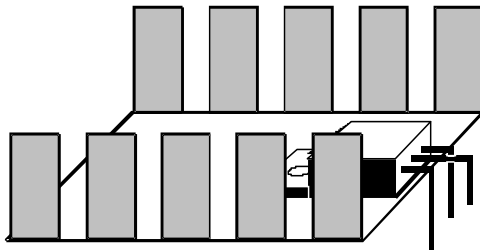


These last four parts (R8,9 and C11,12) form parasitic suppression networks across each transistor to suppress any tendency for high frequency oscillation in the power amplifier.

- 32. Install C3, another .1  $\mu\text{f}$  disc capacitor (marked .1 or 104). Both of these capacitors bypass the center tap of the ferrite transformers to ground. Bypass means to provide a low impedance path to ground.
- 33. Install C1, 100 to 220  $\mu\text{f}$  electrolytic capacitor. Be sure to observe correct polarity.
- 34. Install C4, 180  $\text{p}\text{f}$  disc capacitor (marked 180 or 181).
- 35. Install C5, 330  $\text{p}\text{f}$  disc capacitor (marked 330 or 331).
- 36. Install C6, another 330  $\text{p}\text{f}$  disc capacitor (marked 330 or 331).
- 37. Install C7, another 180  $\text{p}\text{f}$  disc capacitor (marked 180 or 181).
- 38. Install wire jumper, JMP1. Use a scrap piece of component lead wire.
- 39. Locate the MOSFET power transistors and prepare the leads for insertion into the PC board. Bend down the two outside leads about 1/8" from the transistor body and the center lead about 3/16" from the body.
- 40. Mount the transistors and heatsinks to the PC board using the 4-40 screws and nuts. Solder all transistor leads. Note that the heatsinks may look slightly different from the ones shown.

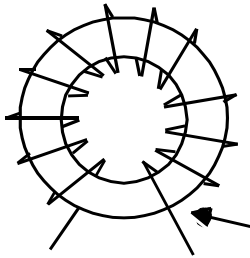


**Transistor bend pix**



We're almost finished. All we need to do now is install a few remaining parts that have to be handmade - for that "old-world craftsmanship" touch! We'll prepare all those parts now for further assembly. We supplied plenty of enameled wire for your kit but if you mess up, you can get a whole 50' spool of it from Radio Shack (278-1341).

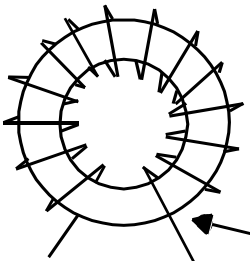
- ❑ 41. Winding L1 and L3 toroid RF coils (two identical units ): Locate 2 of the donut shaped yellow toroid cores provided in the kit. Cut 8" of the enameled magnet wire and, following the drawing, thread the wire through the core 12 times - not 11, not 13; it **MUST** be 12 times through the core, pulling each turn gently tight. Winding too tightly runs the risk of scraping off the enamel insulation and shorting the wire. Tin each end with solder by holding your soldering iron and solder the ends until the insulation melts away and the copper wire underneath coats nicely with solder. Tin all the way up to the toroid core body.
- ❑ 42. Winding L2: Locate the remaining yellow toroid core and cut 9½" of enameled magnet wire. Wind 14 turns through the core using the same procedure as above. Tin the wire ends as before. Mark this part with a piece of tape, a dab of paint or a magic marker. We don't want to confuse it with the other two toroid coils wound just before!



**12 turns through center of core**

**IMPORTANT:**  
**Loop the first winding**  
**around the front of the**  
**core as shown.**

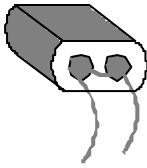
- ❑ 43. Winding T2: Locate the smaller of the two 2-hole ferrite cores. Cut off one 11 inch length of enameled magnet wire and thread the wire through the core 6 times, pulling each turn gently tight. That's 6 times through each hole, resulting in 6 complete turns through the core. Be especially careful not to strip the insulation by pulling too tightly around the core. The amount of wire cut for this task is the proper amount. If you have too little or too much, you haven't wound the core correctly. Tin each end with solder as before. Tin all the way up to the core body. This winding is the primary of transformer T2.
- ❑ 44. Cut off another length of the same wire, 8 inches long. Wind 1 turn through the core, loop out 1 inch, twist together and run one more turn



**14 turns through center of core**

**IMPORTANT:**  
**Loop the first winding**  
**around the front of the**  
**core as shown.**

through the core, continuing on in the same direction as before. Tin each end with solder all the way up to the core body. This winding is the 2 turn center-tapped secondary of T2.

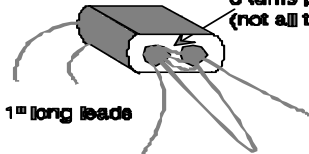


Only 2 turns shown for clarity,  
6 turns are needed

Each lead is about 1" long

- ❑ 45. Winding T1: Locate the remaining larger 2-hole ferrite core. Cut off a 10 inch length of the enameled magnet wire and thread the wire through the core 3 times, pulling each turn gently tight. That's 3 times through each hole resulting in 3 complete turns through the core. Again, the amount of wire cut for this task is the proper amount. If you have too little or too much, then you have not wound the core correctly. Tin each end with solder as before. Tin all the way up to the core body.

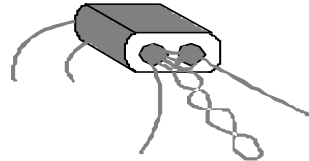
Primary leads  
(wound previously)



1" long leads

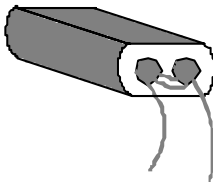
6 turns previously wound  
(not all turns shown for clarity)

1 turn with loop,  
then another turn



Twist the loop together tightly  
(not shown tightly for clarity)

- ❑ 46. Cut off another length of wire, 9½ inches long. Wind 1 turn through the core, loop out 1 inch, twist together and run one more turn through the core. Continue on in the same direction as before. Tin each end with solder all the way up to the core body. This winding is the 2 turn center-tapped primary of T1.
- ❑ 47. Locate the smaller transformer (T2) and install it snugly on the PC board.

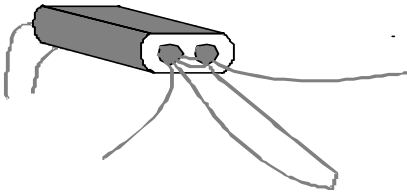


3 turns through each hole

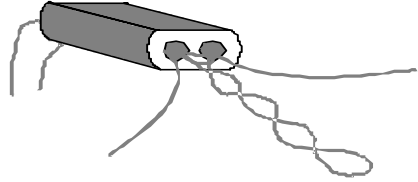
Each lead is about 1" long

- ❑ 48. Install the larger transformer (T1) into the indicated location on the PC board.
- ❑ 49. Install L1, a 12 turn toroid inductor wound previously. If desired, a small dab of hot melt glue, bathtub sealer, or caulk may be used to secure the toroids.

Secondary leads  
(wound previously)



1 turn with loop,  
then another turn



Twist the loop together lightly  
(not shown tightly for clarity)

- 50. Install L2, the 14 turn toroid inductor - you marked it special, remember?
- 51. Install L3, the remaining 12 turn toroid inductor.

This completes the assembly of your QRP power amplifier. Now's a good time to give your masterpiece a good going over, being especially alert for any:

- bridged-over solder joints;
- misplaced components;
- transistors or diodes placed wrong;
- electrolytic capacitors installed wrong.

### INITIAL TESTS:

To prepare your amplifier for testing you'll need the following:

- 1. Multimeter capable of measuring voltage and current.
- 2. 12 volt DC power source of at least 3 amp capacity.
- 3. Suitable dummy load and resonant antenna.
- 4. QRP transmitter with a power output in the ½ to 2 watt range, such as the Ramsey QRP-20.
- 5. Proper cables to interface between the QRP transmitter and the QRP power amplifier.

With the above all set up and handy, let's get testing!

1. Rotate Bias pot R4 fully CCW.
2. Connect a multimeter to TP1; set the meter to read up to 5 volts DC
3. Connect a dummy load to J1, the amplifier RF output. In a pinch, a light bulb may be used - see the section, "Verifying RF Power Output."

4. Temporarily install a jumper from the collector of Q3 to ground.
5. Apply power to the amplifier but do not turn on the transmitter. Measure the current drawn by the amplifier and slowly rotate the bias pot, R4, clockwise until you reach a reading of  $\frac{1}{4}$  amp. Do not allow the current to rise above  $\frac{1}{2}$  amp. If you cannot adjust or reduce the current, disconnect the power supply and consult the troubleshooting hints section. The voltage at TP1 should be about 3.2 to 3.5 volts.
6. Turn off power. Disconnect jumper from Q3 to ground.
7. Connect the QRP transmitter to the input of the amplifier. Key the transmitter. You should hear the T-R relay click and see amplified power output. Measure the DC current draw; it should be in the 1 to 3 amp range depending upon power output. Unkey the transmitter. The relay should drop out and the current should drop back down to  $\frac{1}{4}$  amp.

This completes the testing of your QRP power amplifier. The PC board should be mounted into a protective enclosure to guard against accidental contact. The Ramsey CQAMP case set provides an ideal perfectly sized cabinet that matches all other Ramsey kits.

Study the following sections on DC power supply and RF power considerations. Operate your transmitter with good amateur practice.

## **YOUR POWER SUPPLY AND RF OUTPUT POWER**

For optimum performance, one or two volts of extra DC supply power can make quite a difference in any RF power amplifier. For example, two lantern batteries in series, or 8 D cells, will obviously provide about 12 volts with sufficient current capability for casual operating. For maximum RF output power, use a supply of 13 to 14 volts DC. The easiest method is to place two fresh D cells in series with your power source if a full 13.6 - 15 volts DC is not available. Be aware that batteries are not the optimum power source, especially if you are prone to long QSOs! A word of caution concerning wall plug style AC adapter power supplies: They are not suitable for operation of your amplifier due to their poor regulation, AC ripple content, and RFI susceptibility.

With 1 watt of drive and a supply voltage in the 11-12 volt range, you can expect a 1 to 2 amp current draw and about 10 watts of RF output power. With a solid 13 to 14 volt supply, you can expect about 2 to 3 amps current draw and up to 10 or 12 watts of RF output power. With 2 watts of RF drive, expect up to 20 watts RF output!

## **VERIFYING TRANSMITTER RF OUTPUT**

The most important thing to know is whether your transmitter is delivering some measurable and reassuring level of RF power. Then you can continue on to adding the QRP amplifier and checking out the whole set-up.

Ideally, you have a small RF wattmeter, already inserted in the antenna line, capable of accurately measuring low output power in watts. And it cost you less than what you paid for the transmitter kit. Right? In the words of Wayne from "Wayne's World"... Not! So here are a few other ideas for you to try.

Saying the same thing another way, we assume you know that accurate, commercially built RF wattmeters cost much more than what you paid for this Ramsey amplifier kit. Since this solid-state amplifier does not require lots of critical tuning or adjustments, a periodic power output check-up should suffice. If you don't own or have access to a low-level RF power meter, use a trick that is decades old - the common flashlight or panel bulb. All you need to know is the basic difference between bright, superbright, dim, unlit and burned out! Using a light bulb to check power output is also a satisfying way to put Ohm's Law to work. Your Radio Shack catalog specifies operating voltage and current in milliamperes for a variety of small replacement lamps and a local automobile parts store is a treasure trove of various other lamps. It may be worth your while to make up a simple plug-in "output tester" for your amplifier - a male RCA plug connected to a socket for the bulb of your choice or even soldered directly to the bulb.

RF voltage levels in this amplifier can vary from 2 to 25 volts RMS depending on various factors. Typically, 1 watt power levels are achieved in the 5 to 7 volts RMS range, 5 watts at 12 to 15 volts, and 10 watts at 20 to 25 volts. A good test bulb for this amplifier is the #93 automobile lamp bulb or the #1156 type bulb. Both are 12.8 volt rated, with the #93 being specified at 1 amp and the #1156 being 2 amps for normal brilliance. Using some Ohm's law calculations shows that the #93 is a 12 watt lamp and the #1156 is a 24 watt lamp. We can conclude that 10 watts or so of RF should light a #93 bulb reasonably well, while 20 watts should be about right for a #1156. Try it out!

Please remember, though, that a flashlight bulb does NOT present the proper load impedance to the amplifier output, so theoretical calculations based on the bulb's rating can only be approximate. For example, the #93 at full brilliance presents a 12 ohm load to the amplifier. Because of this, the amplifier may act "flakey" when tuning up into a light bulb, and by all means you should not consider a light bulb an accurate indicator of the QAMP-20's performance! If ANY light bulb lights up when connected to the antenna jack of this amplifier, you can be satisfied that you have RF output power at least equal to the DC power rating of the bulb you are using. If you burn out your bulb, rejoice and put your rig on the air!

Amateur radio magazines and handbooks provide a variety of circuits for RF wattmeters and relative field-strength indicators, including methods of using your VOM as an indicating device. CQ magazine for March 1990 offers an article by

KB4ZGC on how to make a highly accurate yet inexpensive dummy load and wattmeter capable of showing 1/10-watt differences in RF power. If you use a wattmeter characterized for the HF frequency region, it will not give accurate results at the much higher two meter frequencies, although it will be quite adequate for go/no-go testing.

## **MAXIMIZING RF POWER OUTPUT**

The simplest way to ensure maximum reasonable power output without component damage is to run the DC voltage in the 13 to 14 volt range, observing a maximum limit of +15VDC. Typically, an automobile power source is 13.6 volts when the engine is running, and most mobile rigs are specified at this voltage level.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you are experimenting with this transmitter and see a sudden and massive increase in power output and DC current, you have not reached the promised land or created a 100 watt amplifier! Sudden surges like that are a sure sign of amplifier self-oscillation. Kill the DC power supply immediately because your RF power transistors are heading to self-destruction while probably interfering with every TV set in the neighborhood! A poorly matched antenna along with higher supply voltages is usually responsible for this occurring. Any prolonged "parasitic" emissions may also overheat and destroy other components in the amplifier.

## **TROUBLESHOOTING HINTS**

The QRP power amplifier is very straight forward and simple to troubleshoot. When beginning to track down a problem, use some common sense to narrow down your search area.

If the amplifier is not keying upon application of RF power, check to see if the T-R relay circuitry is operating. A quick read-over of the theory of operation tells us the diode detector senses the RF and a pair of transistors amplifies the signal to activate the T-R relay. Proper logic tells us to: 1) First check and see if RF is getting to the diodes; 2) see if they are detecting RF; 3) see if the transistors are driving the relay. Proper procedure is to take just one part of the circuit at a time and follow the signal through.

If the amplifier does not amplify, check to see if RF is flowing through to transformer T2 and across to the RF power transistors. Amplified output should appear at output transformer T1 and then on to the low pass filter. Remember that RF enters and exits through relay contacts on K1.

Do the transistors get too hot? Do they get hot without amplifying? Things to check are the bias circuitry and RF path through the relay. The amplifier should draw about ¼ amp with no signal applied. If you see more than that, recheck the bias setting (see the section "INITIAL TESTS").

If you hear an AC hum on the transmitted signal, usual causes are RF getting back into the power supply or a bad VSWR on the antenna.

These short checks in no way detail any and all problems that can rear their ugly head, but should get you on the way to solving most errors. We'd like to be able to foresee a problem a builder may encounter, but the sheer number of parts and the permutations and combinations of installing them makes any list of precise, exact solutions impossible. If you run into a roadblock, gather all your thoughts and information and give a call to the factory for some help. If you elect to enlist the help of a local expert, great...but be sure the expert is qualified (no need for having someone lead you down the wrong path)! Remember: You may always return the kit for factory service, and there's no charge if the problem is our fault. See the warranty on the last page of this manual.

## **USING THE QRP POWER AMPLIFIER**

Hooking up and using the amplifier is easy: Just connect your existing transmitter to the QAMP input and the antenna to the QAMP output. A resonant antenna is an absolute requirement for QRP operation, and an amplifier is not a "band-aid" for a poor antenna system!

For maximum performance, a QRP station must include the following:

- 1 A resonant antenna (dipole or quarter-wave vertical);
- 2 Good quality coaxial feedline and connectors;
- 3 An effective earth ground.

We cannot expect good results from low levels of RF output if the power gets wasted in lousy coax, corroded connections, or poor antennas.

If you elect to use an antenna tuner, it is extremely important that you understand exactly how to use tuners and what they can and cannot do. A few watts of RF can easily become lost in an incorrectly adjusted antenna matching device. The whole idea of a QRP station is to keep things simple and economical, so we cannot overemphasize the priority of a clean, efficient connection of the amplifier output to a resonant antenna.

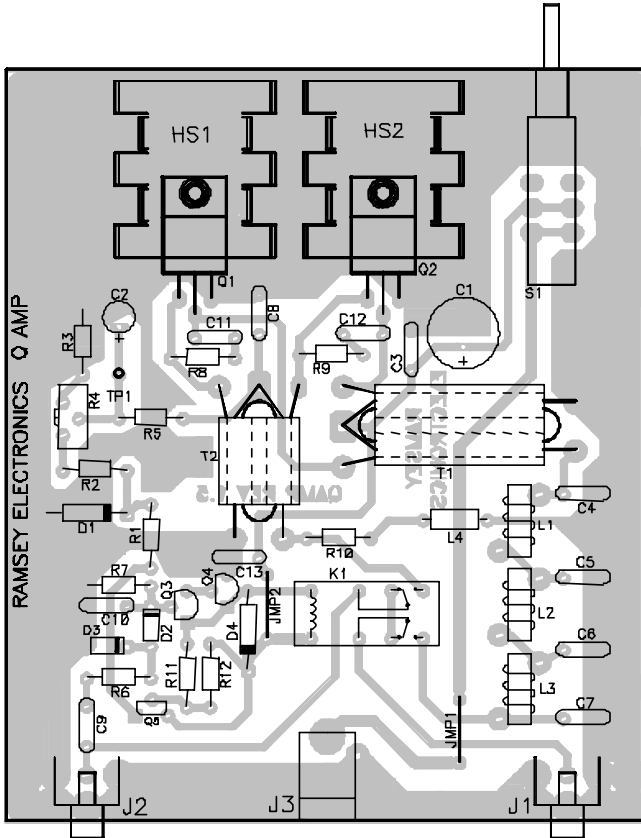
## **ENCLOSURE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Your finished amplifier can be installed in a variety of enclosures of your own design and choosing. You might be planning to combine several Ramsey circuit kit boards in a single enclosure. Use of the inexpensive and attractive Ramsey case and hardware set will give your unit that nice finished look and increase its resale value. These sturdy black instrument cases are supplied with neatly lettered front and rear panels, switch knobs, rubber feet and mounting screws.



While we believe that the Ramsey enclosure and knob option is a fine value for finishing off your Ramsey kit, we are happy to give you a couple of additional suggestions and our reasons for them. If your first goal is economy and rugged portability, you will find that the circuit board can be mounted nicely in a standard VHS videotape storage box, which also gives room for storing cables, a small homemade keyer, etc. The controls are easily mounted at one end of such a box. It may be necessary to cut away the molded posts which secure the tape itself. These storage boxes come in several styles, so pick one which truly looks practical as a project enclosure. To accomplish RF shielding, the most economical metal enclosure nicely suited for Ramsey amateur kit board is Radio Shack No. 270-253A. This metal utility cabinet can accommodate both a receiver, transmitter and amplifier board, plus speaker, with room for various refinements you might like to add.

**PARTS LAYOUT QAMP20 POWER AMPLIFIER KIT**





## **The Ramsey Kit Warranty**

**Please read carefully BEFORE calling or writing in about your kit. Most problems can be solved without contacting the factory.**

Notice that this is not a "fine print" warranty. We want you to understand your rights and ours too! All Ramsey kits will work if assembled properly. The very fact that your kit includes this new manual is your assurance that a team of knowledgeable people have field-tested several "copies" of this kit straight from the Ramsey Inventory. If you need help, please read through your manual carefully, all information required to properly build and test your kit is contained within the pages!

**1. DEFECTIVE PARTS:** It's always easy to blame a part for a problem in your kit, Before you conclude that a part may be bad, thoroughly check your work. Today's semiconductors and passive components have reached incredibly high reliability levels, and it's sad to say that our human construction skills have not! But on rare occasions a sour component can slip through. All our kit parts carry the Ramsey Electronics Warranty that they are free from defects for a full ninety (90) days from the date of purchase. Defective parts will be replaced promptly at our expense. If you suspect any part to be defective, please mail it to our factory for testing and replacement. Please send only the defective part(s), not the entire kit. The part(s) MUST be returned to us in suitable condition for testing. Please be aware that testing can usually determine if the part was truly defective or damaged by assembly or usage. Don't be afraid of telling us that you 'blew-it', we're all human and in most cases, replacement parts are very reasonably priced.

**2. MISSING PARTS:** Before assuming a part value is incorrect, check the parts listing carefully to see if it is a critical value such as a specific coil or IC, or whether a RANGE of values is suitable (such as "100 to 500 uF"). Often times, common sense will solve a mysterious missing part problem. If you're missing five 10K ohm resistors and received five extra 1K resistors, you can pretty much be assured that the '1K ohm' resistors are actually the 'missing' 10 K parts ("Hum-m-m, I guess the 'red' band really does look orange!") Ramsey Electronics project kits are packed with pride in the USA. If you believe we packed an incorrect part or omitted a part clearly indicated in your assembly manual as supplied with the basic kit by Ramsey, please write or call us with information on the part you need and proof of kit purchase.

### **3. FACTORY REPAIR OF ASSEMBLED KITS:**

To qualify for Ramsey Electronics factory repair, kits MUST:

1. NOT be assembled with acid core solder or flux.
  2. NOT be modified in any manner.
  3. BE returned in fully-assembled form, not partially assembled.
  4. BE accompanied by the proper repair fee. No repair will be undertaken until we have received the MINIMUM repair fee (1/2 hour labor) of \$25.00, or authorization to charge it to your credit card account.
  5. INCLUDE a description of the problem and legible return address. DO NOT send a separate letter; include all correspondence with the unit. Please do not include your own hardware such as non-Ramsey cabinets, knobs, cables, external battery packs and the like. Ramsey Electronics, Inc., reserves the right to refuse repair on ANY item in which we find excessive problems or damage due to construction methods. To assist customers in such situations, Ramsey Electronics, Inc., reserves the right to solve their needs on a case-by-case basis.
- The repair is \$50.00 per hour, regardless of the cost of the kit. Please understand that our technicians are not volunteers and that set-up, testing, diagnosis, repair and repacking and paperwork can take nearly an hour of paid employee time on even a simple kit. Of course, if we find that a part was defective in manufacture, there will be no charge to repair your kit (But please realize that our technicians know the difference between a defective part and parts burned out or damaged through improper use or assembly).

**4. REFUNDS:** You are given ten (10) days to examine our products. If you are not satisfied, you may return your unassembled kit with all the parts and instructions and proof of purchase to the factory for a full refund. The return package should be packed securely. Insurance is recommended. Please do not cause needless delays; read all information carefully.

# QAMP20 20 WATT LINEAR AMPLIFIER

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### REQUIRED TOOLS

- Soldering Iron Ramsey WLC100
- Thin Rosin Core Solder Ramsey RTS12
- Needle Nose Pliers Ramsey MPP4 or RTS05
- Small Diagonal Cutters Ramsey RTS04
- <OR> Technician's Tool Kit TK405

### TOTAL SOLDER POINTS

121

### ESTIMATED ASSEMBLY

#### TIME

Beginner .....4 hrs

Intermediate .....2 hrs

Advanced .....1.5 hrs

### ADDITIONAL SUGGESTED ITEMS

- Holder for PC Board/Parts Ramsey HH3
- Desoldering Braid Ramsey RTS08
- Digital Multimeter Ramsey M133

Price: \$5.00

Ramsey Publication No. MQAMP20

Assembly and Instruction manual for:

**RAMSEY MODEL NO. QAMP20 20 METER 20 WATT  
LINEAR AMPLIFIER KIT**



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**www.ramseykits.com**



This Quality Electronics  
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packed in the USA

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