

REMOTELY CONTROLLED FOX BOX PROJECT

Consistent with the great Yin and Yang of Life in general, there is good news and bad news in foxhunting. Foxhunting is, purportedly, a way to practice finding hidden, rogue transmitters causing interference to legitimate radio communications.

The good news is, there are very few rogue transmitters causing interference; and the bad news is, there are very few hidden transmitters to practice on.

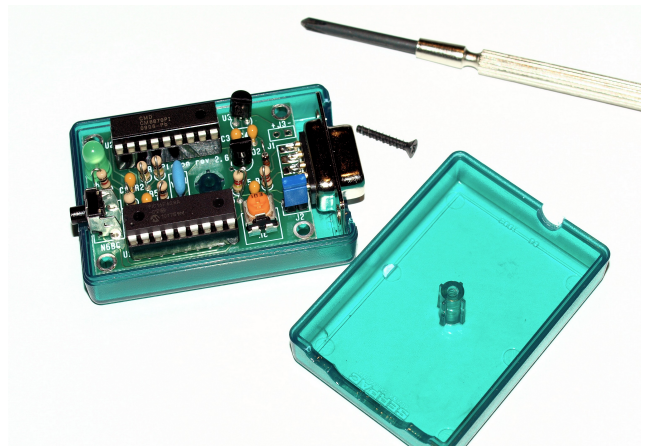
Consequently, I constructed an inexpensive, down and dirty, quick as you please, hidden transmitter in a protective metal case, what is known, in the vernacular, as a "Fox Box."

My Fox Box is a combination of brains and brawn.

First ... The "Brains"

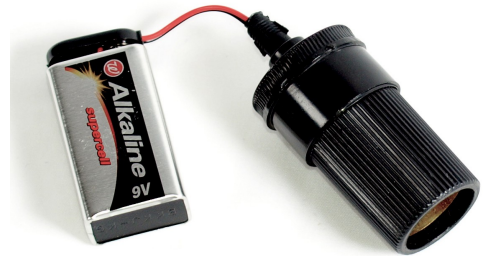
I ordered a remote radio controller designed for hidden transmitter hunting from www.Byonics.com called a Pic Con which is DTMF programmable, stores all options in EEPROM, and is quite compact.

It comes in kit for, for \$42, or fully assembled for \$66.



You need a patch cable to connect the device to the transmitter, and to provide power to the Pic Con. You can either build one yourself, or purchase an assembled cable for \$19. The cable provides DC power, and two-way communication between the Pic Con and the radio. Custom cables designed to work with particular radios are available.

The pre-assembled cable I purchased has a male cigarette lighter accessory power plug. I purchased a female power jack and made an adapter to accept a 9 V battery to power the controller.

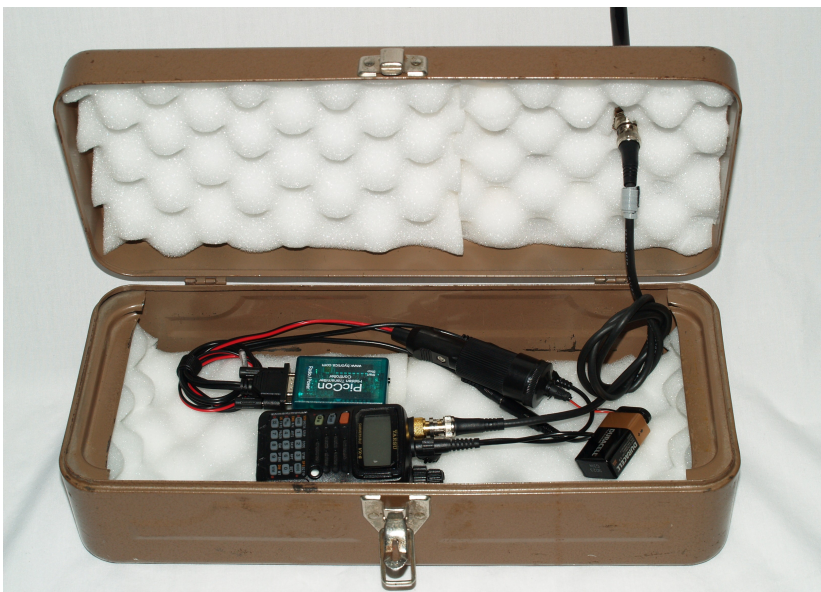
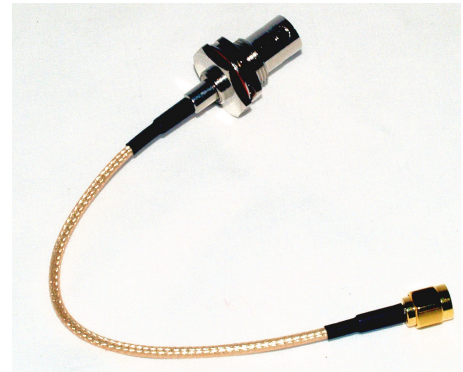


Second the "Brawn"



Most guys house the radio and controller, etc., in a old military ammunition case to protect the radio and the controller out in the field. Instead, I follow good old ham radio tradition, and use an old metal toolbox that was just lying about the workshop for cost of \$0. This might cost as much as \$10 if one purchases a new toolbox.

I drilled a hole in the top to accommodate a BNC/SMA adapter cable, which has a bulkhead BNC connector for cost of five dollars. I lined the top and bottom of the case with a bit of packing foam. I stuff it all in, and that is all it takes to build a quick, and easy, Fox Box.



You program the Pic Con using DTMF tones sent from another radio.

That's IT. Quick and simple.

/// James - K8JHR ///
