

Salvaging Parts

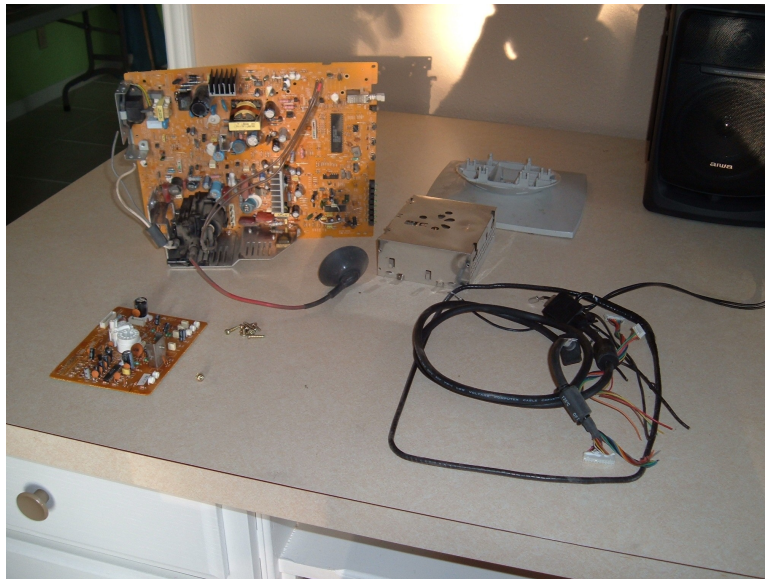
Is your spare electronic parts bin empty? Are you always looking for that one small part to finish a current project? Would you like to have a well stocked “junk box” ? Then why not salvage parts from some of those “jillions” of broken or used up electronic items that are filling the land fills. Practically anything electronic has some usable, salvageable components in them, and with very little work they can be the start to creating a well filled junk box. If you look around, there are plenty of opportunities to find old electronic items for salvage, like old computer printers, TV sets (look how many were just recently scrapped!), computer monitors, portable boom box’s, any old AM/FM radio, misc. industrial electronics, old VCR’s, the list is nearly endless. The unit for salvage doesn’t even have to work, there are still many, many usable components available for the taking. Obviously if it’s a dead unit and you see a burned up area on a p.c. board, then that’s an area you certainly wouldn’t want to salvage anything from, however all the rest of the board or unit is fair game though! As an example of what can be found, take a look at what a simple computer monitor salvage can yield.



A Typical “Well-Used” Computer Monitor

After disassembling the case and CRT, here is the main p.c. board, the CRT electronics board, some miscellaneous wire, a metal shield, and the old

monitor base. The CRT still contains the focus/deflection components that will be salvaged too, however only after “deactivating” the CRT. The focus/deflection components are rather secure on the neck of the CRT and I felt a little uneasy trying to pull it off before first destroying the CRT. Set the CRT face down on the work bench, cover the neck with a shop rag and smack the neck with a small hammer. No, the tube doesn’t implode violently, just a small hiss like opening a warm soda. Now it’s safe to pry off the focus/deflection assembly.



Breaking apart the focus/deflection assembly is probably the nastiest job of this whole operation, but well worth the effort considering the amount of enameled wire it contains. As the next pic shows, there’s a lot of usable wire in one of these monitors, the biggest score is the degaussing coil, that large loop of enameled wire covered in black plastic tape (partially unwrapped to show wire). I calculated that these alone average about 400 feet or more of very nice wire! The deflection coils are not nearly as nice since they have a nasty varnish covering that makes them hard to unwrap, but they do yield wire if you practice a little patience. There are numerous other small coils or inductors that also offer a variety of different sized enamel wire, easily salvaged.



Recovered Wire



Main & CRT P.C. Board's

Now on to stripping the p.c. board parts. You have a choice at this time, strip all the desired parts from the boards, then trash the remains, or store the full boards for future salvage. I've done both, but your choice depends upon how much storage space you have! As you can see, there's a lot of good components to be had just for the taking. Most all board components, less the IC's, will have leads more then long enough for future use, with even the shorter one's being usable in "manhattan" construction. Personally I never salvage IC's, but do take any discrete transistors that are interesting, like high frequency or high power devices. There are a number of various types

and sizes of heat sinks, all easy to remove. The following pic is just some of the components removed from this one monitor board.



Some of the Salvaged Parts

The final tally was a lot of capacitors of various types/values/voltages, some being very hi voltage, 1kv. working volts, various rectifiers, one bridge type, numerous discrete transistors, heat sinks, both sheet metal & extruded types, a few hi power resistors, a few LED's, a couple of miniature push button switch's, a couple of ferrite cores, bits & pieces of misc. hardware & metal work, misc. wire, both hookup & shielded, and lots of enamel wire of several sizes. So give it a try, there's sure a bundle of old electronic equipment out there being trashed everyday, strip some parts and fill that junk box without spending anything other then some labor time.

73, Bob KL7AH, Grove, Ok. kl-7ah@peoplepc.com