Lowe HF-125, HF-225, HF-235 and HF-250 (HF-150?) Common Electrolytic Capacitor Failures

Even with the HF-250's extremely cool operation, there are TWO electrolytic capacitors on the main board that should be replaced in **EVERY** Lowe HF-125, HF-225, HF-235 and HF-250 (HF-150?) receiver on the planet. This is a very common failure trait. Voltage stressed electrolytic capacitors C156 and 157 (both **100 uf** at <u>10 volt</u> rating) go bad or we should say are BAD. These should both be replaced with **100 uf ones having a <u>16 volt</u> rating**. Of course this is for the electronic savvy person and be sure NOT to use too much heat and a small soldering iron tip and proper de-soldering device (otherwise damage will happen to the board), WARNING : Uses plated through holes. Be sure and use QUALITY replacement capacitors (nichicon etc) and some TLC.

Both test samples suffered from these capacitor failures. Can lead to strange wooshy-rumbling sounds in the audio to total receiver dropouts (including totally DEAD) and weird Sync operation. With the later sample the 8 volt regulator capacitor vented with some electrolyte oozed out (thank goodness no damage to the PC Board in this case, but it can happen). These are NOT surface mounted capacitors (standard radial lead type).

With the front of the cabinet facing you C156 is located on the far left side, just right of the 2 voltage regulators IC's. C157 in located right in the middle of the PC board FRONT edge. It's a bit tight with the front panel metal shield cut out area. Or see the HF-225 service manual for the detailed board location (it's in the same location and part numbers).

Another possible part failure is **L46** (a **100 uh** choke that becomes open). Receiver goes totally DEAD (display works). Dan Walkley in the UK reported this on You Tube.



To properly disassemble the HF-250's cabinet (at your own risk) first one removes the 3 front panel knobs (volume and tone knobs: 1.5 mm, main tuning knob: 2.0 mm Hex type). Then carefully remove the 2 large Hex screws at each end on the FRONT panel (3.0 mm). The front panel then can be carefully removed. Next the interlocked piece on the top panel can be removed (slid out of it's rear panel slot, use a **PLASTIC** screwdriver to get it started) along with its internal speaker and access to the PC boards. Do NOT remove the rear panel. IMPORTANT: Bottom cover removal has just 4 screws, but be careful as with one of our test samples there were plastic (nylon) washers in between the cabinet and rear cover screws that can be very easily lost.

I will NOT be held responsible for any info that is listed here ALL DONE AT YOUR OWN RISK !

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