

Adding a tone card to your ICOM IC2AT

I got my ham license in 1981 and ICOM IC2AT was my first HT. Ham gears were expensive in the past. The price of an IC2AT HT was HK\$1,500 and equivalent to my one month's salary.

IC2AT was one of the most popular HT 30 years ago and ICOM sold millions of it. In fact, it generated enormous income to ICOM and made ICOM to grow up very fast.

I do not want to part with my IC2AT because it was my first rig. However, modern repeaters require CTCSS tone to access and IC2AT does not have this ability.

Therefore, I have been looking for ways to add a tone card to this HT. Third party tone card is available in China at a price of HK\$80 from http://www.rfdiy.net/mod1/show_article.asp?id=201230

However, the tone board size is too large to be installed in an HT.

I eventually got one from Communication Specialist

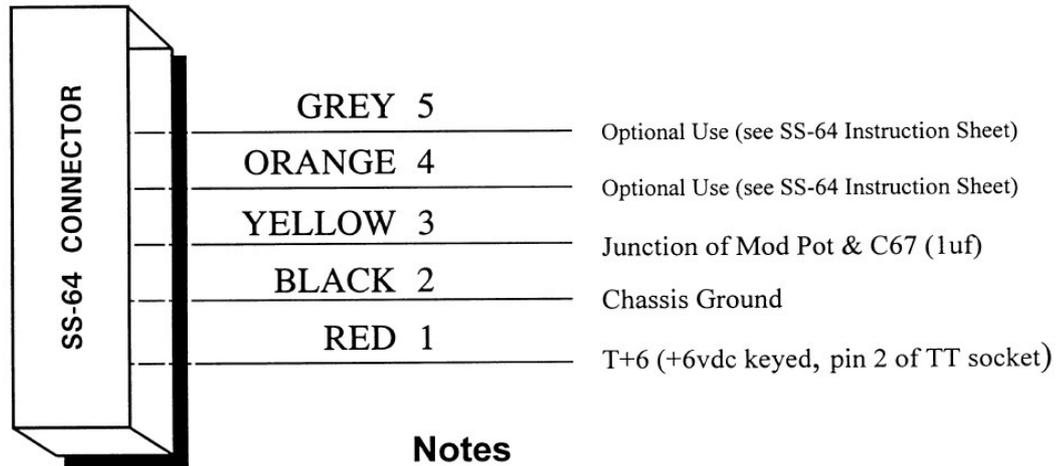
<http://www.com-spec.com/ss64.htm> Their SS64 tone card is very small and can be easily installed in IC2AT.



The installation instruction is as follows:

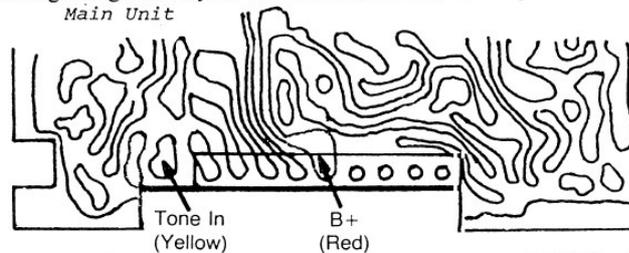
SS - 64 To Icom IC-2AT Handheld

The connector of the SS-64 must be removed and flying leads attached to the board to fit inside the IC-2AT case



Notes

Actual connection points for tone output & B+ power to the printed circuit board are shown below. Chassis ground is available near the chassis hinges. The SS-64 mounts on the left side on the rear of the radio near the VCO. The DIP switch on the board should face the left edge of the radio with the wire end facing the VCO shield cover. The bottom edge of the SS-64 should rest against capacitor C-15. If the leads below the mounting surface are long, they should be trimmed to allow the encoder to mount flush. You can cut an access hole to the SS-64 DIP switch on the back cover of the radio by measuring up 1.25" from the bottom flat edge where the battery mounting plate attaches for the bottom edge of the dip switch. For the top edge of the switch, measure up 1 5/8" up from the bottom edge. Measure in .5" from the left edge and .3175" for the right edge. Take your time to assure a clean and square hole.



Here are some installation photos:





The result of the installation is very good and audio report is excellent. I used the modified IC2AT in Oxfam Trail walker 2008 for accessing the VHF repeaters. My HT has performed very well and flawlessly.

73

Johnny Siu VR2XMC

Email : vr2xmc@arrl.net