HAMILTON
RANGEMASTER AM1000

AM1000

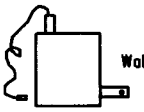
INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

OUTSIDE TRANSMITTER

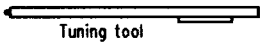
AM1000
213 CARAWAY LN
Cary NC 27519

With your AM1000 you should find:

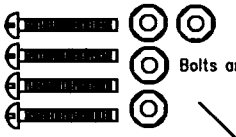
Some spare junper shunts



Wall transformer/ 12 volt power supply



Tuning tool



Bolts and nuts

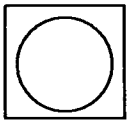
OR the AM1000BR Mount Bracket Kit

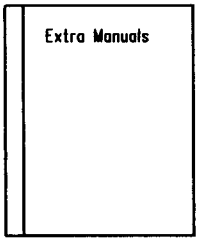
Crystal (With AM1000C version)

Ferrite

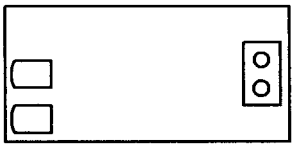
Transmitter

Install CD

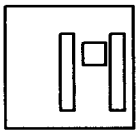




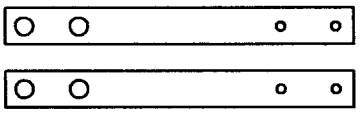
These items may or may not be included depending on what you discussed at the time of your order



AM1000PR audio adapter



Frequency agile module (Installed on AM1000A version)



Transmitter Mount bracket kit

Audio attenuator

Please note that changes or modifications not expressly approved by RangeMaster for compliance could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

Installing the AM1000 transmitter

This unit is meant to be installed by someone who has some radio background. If you don't feel qualified to install this unit yourself contact a local radio/TV shop. They may be able to help. Also if you have a friend who is a Ham radio operator they may be able to help you. The goal of a successful installation is to achieve ½ mile range if the unit is near ground level. Within this ½ mile the signal should be clear and easy to hear. There may be some static mixed in, but the message being played should be clear. Up to a mile range and further may be possible if you have a good site and have the unit higher. A good height is 30 feet. Look around the structure and find a suitable place to mount the transmitter. It should be mounted as high as possible.

Keep in mind the cabling needs, a cable needs to run to the power and audio source. See included diagram for cabling example. Typically #24 2 pair shielded cable is used for runs of 50 feet or less, #22 for up to 100 feet. Use one pair for + and – 12 volt and the other pair for the 600 ohm balanced audio. Connect the shield to ground at just one end. Also a ground wire needs to be run from the transmitter to a good ground for lightning protection. You can drive a 4 or better 8 foot ground rod into the ground for the lightning protection ground or use an existing ground. For best lightning protection the ground wire should have a direct path to dirt ground.

If you get low range and the tuning peak voltage range is low you may have a bad ground. Driving an 8 foot rod into soil should insure you have a good ground. Don't get the rod to close to a house foundation. An electrical or pipe ground may not be reliable.
RF (radio frequency) can be tricky stuff. If you don't get results from your site, try another. The height is very important. The unit will not work unless it is tuned after it is installed in its final position. (You can't tune it on the ground first, it HAS to be tuned after everything is done, wires tacked into position.
Avoid putting the antenna near metal, especially large massive pieces of metal. Small metal pieces may be all right. You want to provide a stable environment around the unit. Attach any ground wire so that it will not move in the wind.

The antenna develops hundreds of volts of RF power. It won't shock you and can easily be quenched by even putting your hand close to it.
Once you've found a site sturdily mount the unit to the structure. Cable the ground wire to a good ground. Use #12 or #10 wire or larger (not aluminum) and run the wire directly down to your ground rod. The ground wire connects to the binding post on the bottom of the unit. If

your wire is to large to fit into the binding post use a short section of wire and a wire nut to complete the connection. Weatherproof the wire nut connection. It is important to keep the ground wire away from metal on the way to ground rod to get good range and provide the best lightning protection. Keep the ground wire away from other metal if at all possible. (See hints page) A couple inches away is fine. Cable the unit to the inside to provide power and audio for the transmitter. See included diagram. The unit requires a 102" whip antenna that can be purchased at Radio Shack, Stock # 21-903. It can be steel or fiberglass. Some say the fiberglass will give slightly better range. The striped wire is plus + on included wall power supply.

Begin the Tuning: You will need the following
Meter Tuning tool (supplied)
Small flathead screwdriver Medium Phillips screwdriver
The VOM or volt ohm meter can be bought at a Radio Shack if you don't have one. Be sure the crystal is installed if you are not using the agile module.
The crystal will not lock into the board, just seat it into the socket pins, it won't fall out.

Check that "TUNE" is set 1/2 way between the counter- clockwise position (Min. Capacitance) and clockwise position (Max. Capacitance). Use the tuning tool to tune. When "TUNE" is turned fully either way be careful not to apply to much force. Permanent damage may result. "TUNE" will turn about 10 turns. Make sure that the "Power Adjust" control is set to about 1/2 of the way from counter clockwise. It is a 1 turn control. Set "AUDIO LEVEL" all the way down (counter – clockwise). Important Note: (TURN IT BACK UP WHEN YOU ARE DONE TUNING!) (This is a commonly missed item)

Set the "POWER SWITCH" to on. "Cabling note, you can use either terminal block for cabling they are both the same, (+ and – is for power NOT S+ and S-, AF+ and AF- is audio)" Check all of your cabling, turn the power on. You should be able to see the power light come on. See cable diagram in this Manual for cabling examples. When using the control cable Ferrite if the hole is to big try to loop the cable through twice. The ferrite installs on the audio cable just outside the transmitter box.

Step 3
There are 3 test hole pads on the unit (see diagram). Take a standard voltmeter that is set to DC 5-20 volts and plug it into the bottom and top test hole pads. The black lead will go to the test hole pad closest to the mounting hole (Ground) (Top).
Next move the jumper on the "COIL TUNE" jumper block one at a time to find the one that gives the highest meter reading or highest power amp voltage. Be sure that only one jumper is used at a time. Leave this jumper on the highest meter reading and proceed. If you find 2 areas of the jumper block that give a peak reading one of them may be an harmonic. Chose the position closest to the center of the jumper block range. If you are not seeing a good meter reading then rotate the PWR control until you do, or check your meter.

Step 4
If things look good so far take the tuning tool and rotate "TUNE" to obtain a peak reading of the meter. When the meter peaks you are tuned. Be sure to stay away from the antenna while tuning. If you are to close to the antenna your body will affect where it tunes.
Keep in mind that you need to see a peak. The meter should rise and fall as you adjust. If you just turn it clockwise or counter clockwise all the way and the meter goes up until the capacitor can't be turned anymore then it is not tuned.

You will get the most power with the least capacitance of the tuning cap that you can get to tune (counter clockwise). You may find that 2 jumper positions will tune. If so use the one that tunes with the "TUNE" in the most counter clockwise or least capacitance position. This will give you the best range and circuit performance.

Step 5
The next step is to adjust the power level. You simply involves taking 2 voltage readings and referring to the power chart in this manual adjust the power pot until you are at the legal power level. Turn the audio pot all the way down. Take your voltage reading, take this reading with the meter leads in the same position as when you were tuning. Now place your Black (negative) test lead in the bottom test hole pad & your Red (Positive) test lead in the middle test hole pad. This will measure your Current.
Your power should not exceed 100 milliwatts or .1 Watt to comply with FCC rules (Part 15). This would be acceptable. See the conversion table supplied for different combinations of Voltage and Current that equal 100 milliwatts. The "Power Adjust" works just like a volume control. Clockwise is more power and counter clockwise is less. With the AM1000T simply adjust until the LED is green.

Step 6
Next connect your audio source. It is a good idea to leave the "aud" audio adjust ¾ to all the way up "clockwise" and adjust the audio level from the ground. The Terminal block input is designed to work with a 600 ohm telephone cable like impedance. When you order the AM1000 you get an adapter that will convert 8 ohm (low imp 3.5mm) speaker type output or (high imp) like from a CD player to the required 600 ohm balanced audio. The new audio adapter has a gain control.

Step 7
Using a test radio tune to the transmitter frequency. The frequency used for this unit is often 1610 Khz . If the frequency is different it will be marked inside the unit. Look on the crystal (Y1). Once you pick up the signal on your test radio, (with no audio it will sound quiet with maybe a slight hum. Turn up your "AUDIO LEVEL" while listening to the test radio until you get distortion then back the "AUDIO LEVEL" off just a tad. If you are adjusting the audio level from the ground leave the "AUDIO LEVEL" set about ¾ position. Your station should sound as loud as others in your area on a test radio, if you don't then there is a problem.
A scope is needed to be sure of 100% modulation. When the unit is being 100% modulated a test sine wave at the antenna will match the original audio waveform.

Step 8

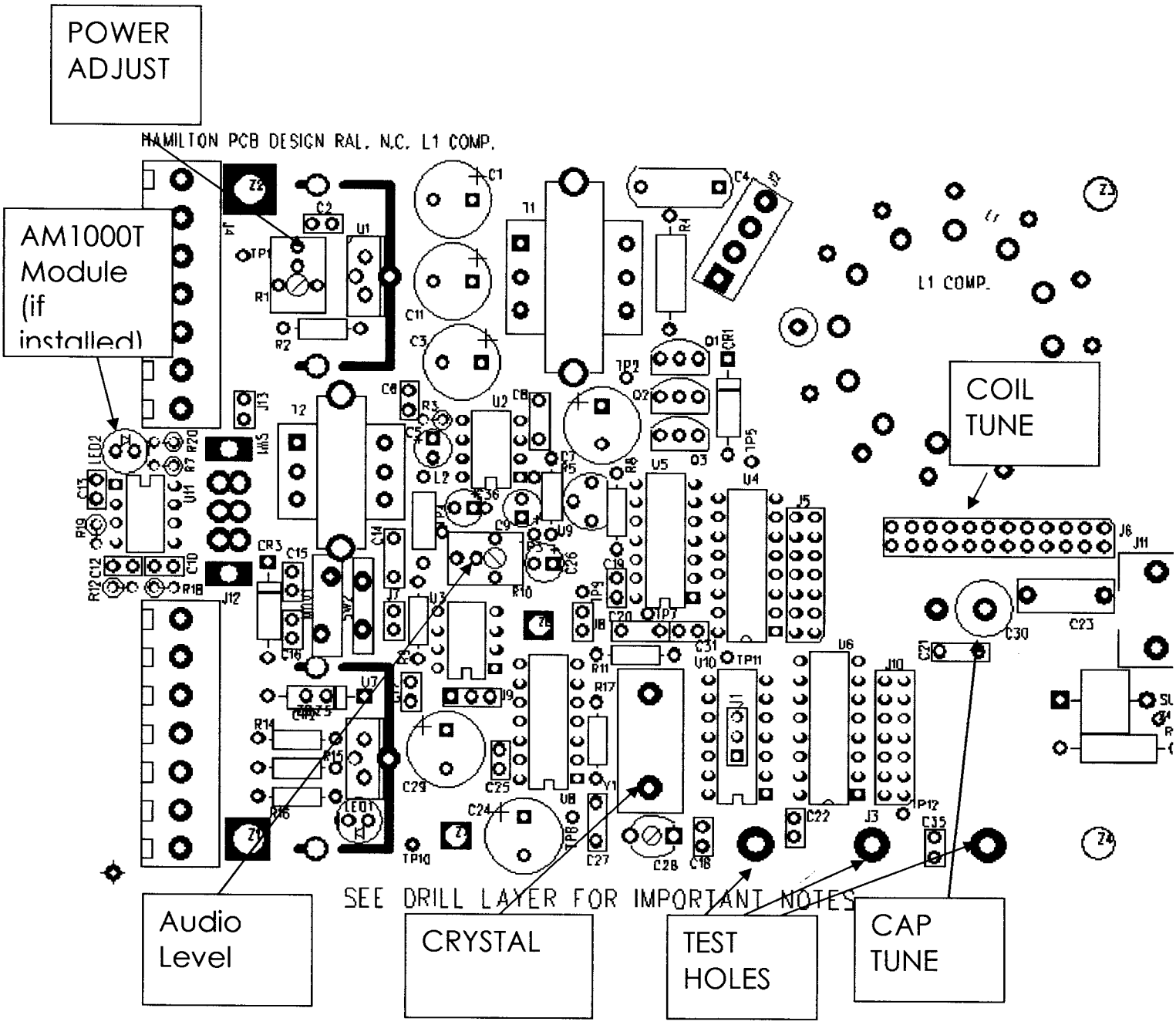
Now go and check your range. Use your car and your odometer to check the range. Do the final tune on "TUNE" (Check to be sure the meter voltage is still peaked). Adjust "AUDIO LEVEL" control for best sound on your radio.
Keeping the antenna as vertical as possible will help your range. It is also critical to keep the antenna away from metal. Don't for example, mount the antenna so it runs up against, or parallel to a metal drain pipe.

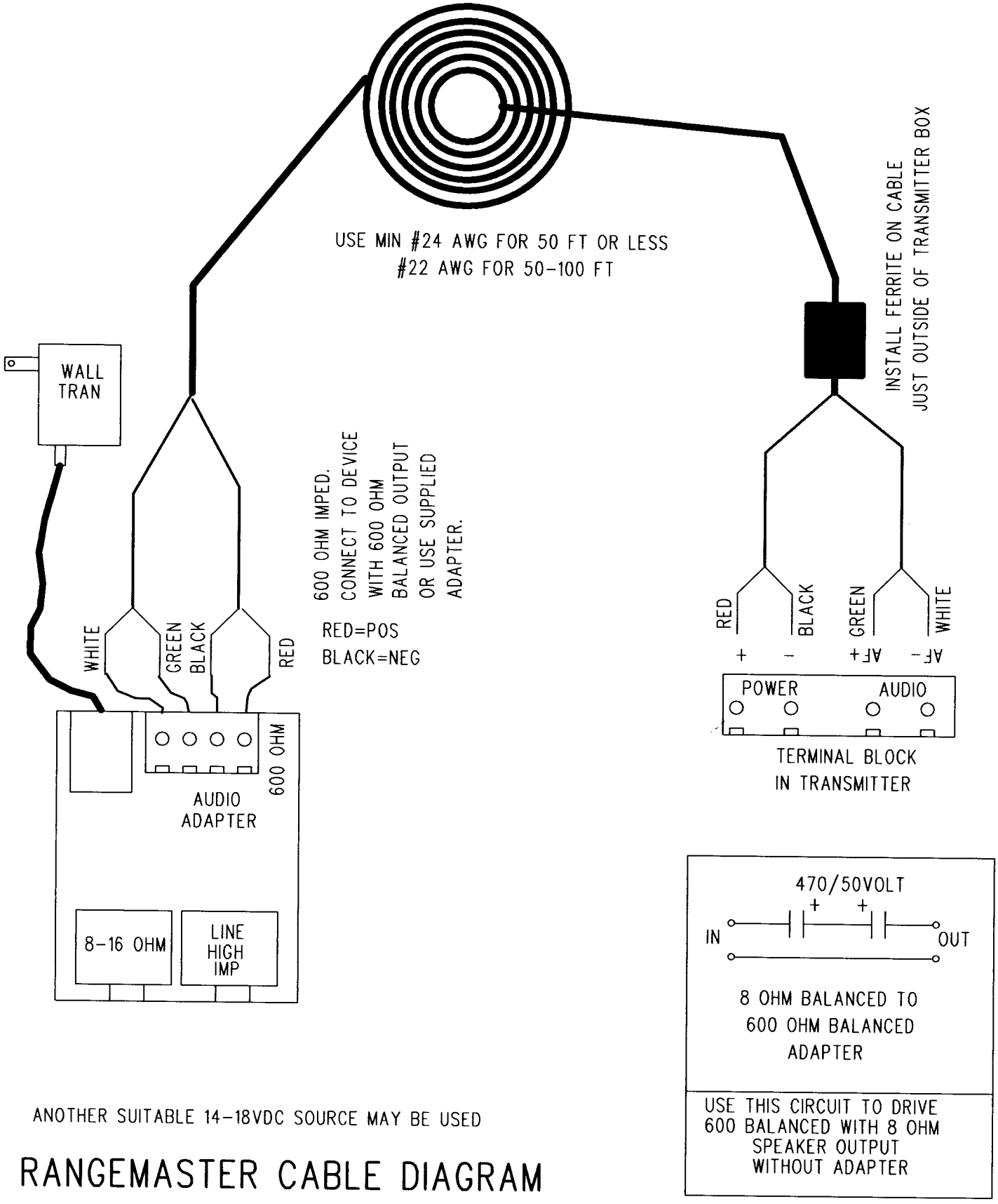
Before you leave make sure that the customer knows that if they have any trouble with the transmitter to simply unplug the wall transformer or power supply. Because of the high RF voltage generated the unit can induce a signal into phone lines, stereos, and other equipment.

If you find that you are not getting good range check the transmitter ground system, if you notice that when tuning the unit that instead of a sharp peak in the voltage the voltage barely moves while you are tuning you probably have a bad ground. Electrical grounds will not always be acceptable, you may need to run a separate ground or find another ground. You could use a water pipe that is going to ground for example. Also if you are getting poor range make sure you have set the power properly. If you are having troubles recheck all wiring and connections. If you have carrier but no audio be sure the audio pot is turned up. Be sure the power is connected to the power terminals and not the sync terminals. Be sure the crystal is in and seated (unless you have the freq module). See the trouble page.

Section 15.219 Operation in the band 510 - 1705 kHz.
(a) The total input power to the final radio frequency stage (exclusive of filament or heater power) shall not exceed 100 milliwatts.
(b) The total length of the transmission line, antenna and ground lead (if used) shall not exceed 3 meters.
(c) All emissions below 510 kHz or above 1705 kHz shall be attenuated at least 20 dB below the level of the unmodulated carrier. Determination of compliance with the 20 dB attenuation specification may be based on measurements at the intentional radiator's antenna output terminal unless the intentional radiator uses a permanently attached antenna, in which case compliance shall be demonstrated by measuring the radiated emissions.

We recommend fully cooperating with the FCC and following all FCC rules. The FCC is an independent governmental agency, answerable only to congress, we cannot guarantee and/or we cannot be held responsible for what the FCC may do or decide in any particular situation.

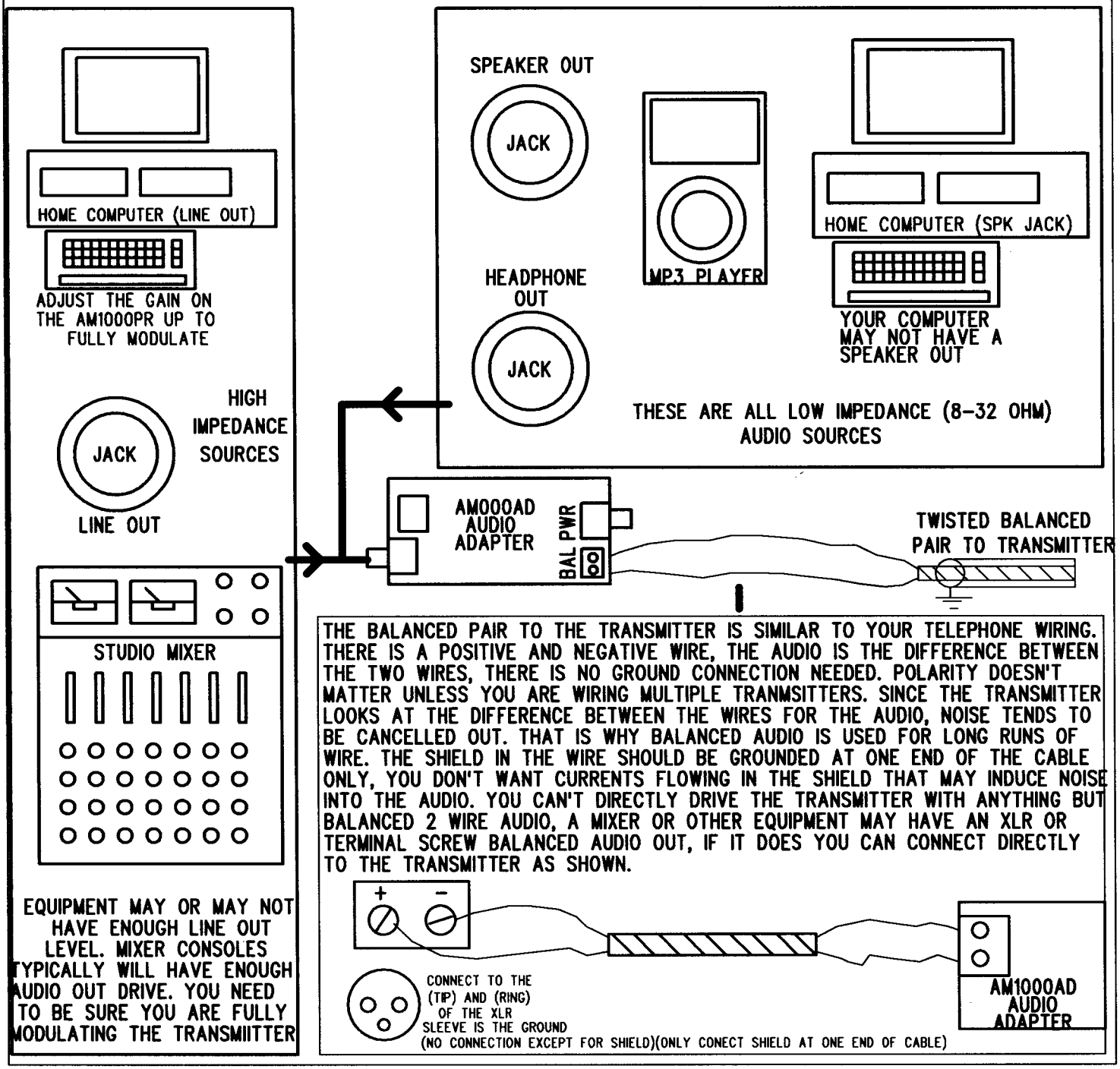

POWER ADJUST
HAMILTON PCB DESIGN RAL, N.C. L1 COMP.
AM1000T Module (if installed)
L1 COMP.
COIL TUNE
SEE DRILL LAYER FOR IMPORTANT NOTES
Audio Level
CRYSTAL
TEST HOLES
CAP TUNE



ANOTHER SUITABLE 14-18VDC SOURCE MAY BE USED

RANGEMASTER CABLE DIAGRAM

We have found the most common cause of low range is the audio setup, even more common then grounding problem. Not enough audio power (volume) and/or an impedance mismatch. If your station is not as loud as other stations in your area without distortion then there is a problem in the audio chain.



If you are using an Innovonics 222 be sure your output polarity is correct, here is how:
1. Turn the positive peaks all the way down
2. Turn the output level up until you get distortion, then back off a little (hair) for good sound.
3. Then turn the positive peaks all the way up, if you get distortion then the (output) terminals + and - are probably reversed.
The polarity of the input terminals doesn't matter.
If you are having trouble matching your input impedance to the Innovonics see the website for instructions. (How to hints, then audio button)

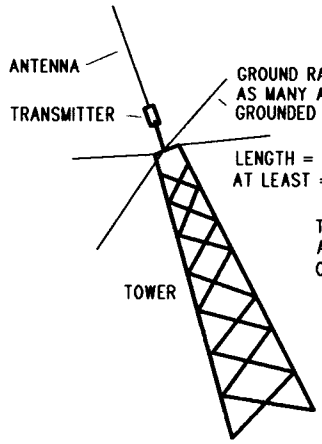
-Your station should sound as loud as others on the dial, if it doesn't there is a problem. It may be an audio impedance mismatch, or the level may need to be turned up. If the audio level isn't high enough you won't get good range, audio is a gate on the power, keep your audio turned up as high as you can.

-We have found the most common cause of low range is the audio setup, even more common then grounding problems. Not enough audio power (volume) and/or an impedance mismatch. If you are using an 8 ohm (low impedance) output which would be a headphone or speaker output that needs to be connected to the low impedance input on the audio adapter. Then the 2 screw terminal block needs to be wired via 2 wire twisted pair to the transmitter. If you plug the low impedance port of the adapter to a high impedance source like a line out jack you will have problems. An impedance mismatch will lower the audio level and reduce the fidelity, and may cause distortion. If you have a line out type source it needs to go to the high impedance jack on your audio adapter. In either case if you can't get the audio loud enough so it is as loud as other stations in your area without distortion then there is a problem in the audio chain.

To get more Range:
Try to locate the transmitter near something that will reradiate the RF energy such as high tension power lines. The signal will tend to follow lakes and rivers. Use as high a modulation level as you can. Get the unit as high as you can but not so high you can't safely get to it to tune it.

Troubleshooting:
-Check the voltage at the terminals of the transmitter, is there at least 12VDC there?
-Low range is often a bad ground. There could be bad soil conductivity in your area, or the ground rod could just be in gravel or sand instead of dirt. If you can just push the rod in with your hand then it won't be a good ground. Bad connections are often the problem. Just wrapping wire around a rod will NOT work. ALL connections need to be soldered or clamped. The copper needs to be bright and shinny before soldering or clamping. Be sure your ground wire is isolated and not wrapped around a metal mast or attached to metal siding or downspout. The ground wire should be isolated from all massive (bigger then a nail) metal. Use an 8 foot ground rod if at all possible. If you are using bigger then #12 wire (better) you won't be able to insert it into the binding post at the transmitter. Use a short (6") piece of #12 as a splice make the connection. Twist the #12 wire to the larger wire and twist a wire nut on. Be sure to weatherproof this with some silicone. Then put the other end into the ground binding post of the transmitter and tighten the binding post. If you find that you installation degrades after a few weeks you probably have a ground splice or connection that is weathering or corroding somewhere. This ground wire must be locked down and stable so it won't move. Electrical grounds will not always be acceptable, you may need to run a separate ground or find another ground. You could use a water pipe that is going to ground for example. See the hints page for an example of a good ground system.

-Check quality of ground- After tuning unit, with the tune voltage at about 2-3 volts (rotate PWR) rotate the Cap tune from the extreme counter clockwise position to the clockwise position while watching the meter. Make note of the voltage swing you see, less then 1.5 volt, bad or no ground. 1.5-2 volts poor to adequate ground. 2-3 volts, good ground. 3-5volts, great ground. This test will give you an idea where you stand with your ground quality.
-If you are getting poor range be sure you are setting the power properly.
-If you have carrier but no audio be sure the audio pot is turned up. Be sure the power is connected to the power terminals and not the sync terminals.
-Be sure the crystal is in and seated (unless you have the freq module).
-Is power switch on?
-Are you using the tuning tool provided?
-When the transmitter is working properly it is possible to see a small spark with a pencil lead placed close to the coil (large red round object) pins. You may need to turn the power up for it to do this. Or you may feel a slight RF burn to your finger if you lightly touch the pins of the coil.



GROUND RADIALS

IF YOU AREN'T USING A TOWER SIMPLY MOUNTING THE TRANSMITTER OVER A GROUNDPLANE OR ELEVATED GROUNDPLANE WILL HELP. THIS CAN BE AS SIMPLE AS INSTALLING THE TRANSMITTER OVER A BUILDING THAT HAS A METAL ROOF. DESIGNING AN GROUNDPLANE IS COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THIS SITE.
THE TRANSMITTER DOES REQUIRE A GOOD GROUND TO OPERATE, IT CAN BE AS SIMPLE AS USING THE EXISTING ELECTRICAL GROUND OR VERY COMPLEX AS WHEN USING MULTPLE GROUND RODS AND BURIED RADIALS.

IF YOU TRY TO USE THE EXISTING ELECTRICAL GROUND OF A BUILDING YOU MAY NEED AN ELECTRICIAN.

ANY GROUND YOU USE MUST BE ELECTRICALLY CONDUCTIVE.
FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU USE A METAL ROOF CHECK TO BE SURE IT IS ELECTRIALLY CONDUTIVE ACROSS IT'S SURFACE.

ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO GET MORE RANGE TO TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE AM1000'S ABILITY TO BE MODULATED +130%. THERE ARE MANY AUDIO PROCESSORS ON THE MARKET THAT WILL DO THIS, THE CHEAPEST IS THE INNOVONICS 222. SEE INOVON.COM THE OPTIMOD IS ALSO AN EXCELLENT UNIT.
ANOTHER TIP FOR GETTING GOOD RANGE IS TO OVER MODULATE A BIT.

Section 15.219 Operation in the band 510 ~ 1705 kHz.

(a) The total input power to the final radio frequency stage (exclusive of filament or heater power) shall not exceed 100 milliwatts.

(b) The total length of the transmission line, antenna and ground lead (if used) shall not exceed 3 meters.

(c) All emissions below 510 kHz or above 1705 kHz shall be attenuated at least 20 dB below the level of the unmodulated carrier. Determination of compliance with the 20 dB attenuation specification may be based on measurements at the intentional radiator's antenna output terminal unless the intentional
radiator uses a permanently attached antenna, in which case compliance shall be demonstrated by measuring the radiated emissions.

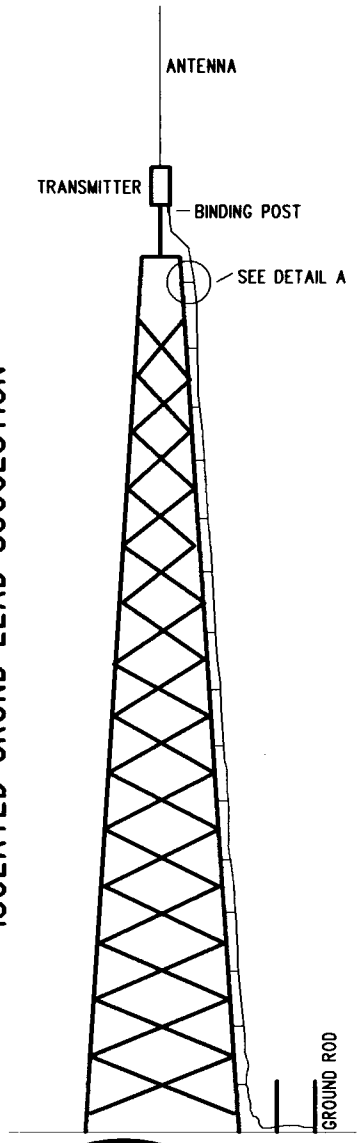
Always cooperate with the FCC and follow FCC law.
Note: The FCC may not pass some of the grounds on this page (ex elevated ground).

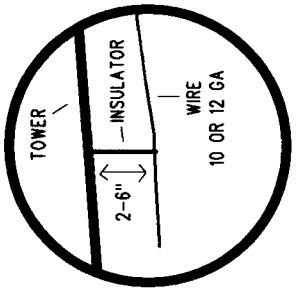
ANOTHER TRICK IS TO KEEP IN MIND THAT ANY CONDUCTOR IN THE AIR THAT ISN'T GROUNDED WILL CARRY YOUR SIGNAL. HIGH TENSION POWER LINES CAN CARRY YOUR SIGNAL FAR IF YOU CAN INDUCE YOUR SIGNAL INTO THEM. EVEN YOUR BACKYARD CLOTHESLINE CAN ACT AS A RADIATOR IF IT IS METAL WIRE AND HAPPENS TO BE INSULATED AT THE ENDS. YOUR SIGNAL CAN BE BE PICKED UP AND RE-RADIATED.
KEEP THIS IN MIND & LOOK FOR CONDUCTORS LIKE THIS WHEN LOOKING FOR A SITE FOR YOUR LOW POWER TRANSMITTER.

ANOTHER HINT IS WATER. YOUR SIGNAL WILL CARRY WELL OVER OPEN WATER.

HEIGHT IS VERY IMPORTANT, BUT DON'T GET THE UNIT SO HIGH THAT YOU CAN'T GET TO IT TO TUNE IT PROPERLY.
IT'S IMPORTANT THAT IT BE HIGH, BUT IT'S CRITICAL THAT IT BE TUNED. THE UNIT WON'T WORK AT ALL IF IT'S NOT TUNED PROPERLY.
25-30 FEET IS USALLY GOOD FOR HEIGHT, MORE WILL GET MORE RANGE BUT THE MOST BANG FOR THE BUCK IS 25-30 FEET.

ISOLATED GROND LEAD SUGGESTION





DETAIL A

INSULATOR CAN BE CERAMIC OR ANY GOOD STRONG NON-CONDUCTIVE MATERIAL. PLASTIC WOULD BE OK.

TO GET GOOD RANGE:

1- ELEVATED GROUDPLANE
2- GET IT HIGH.
3- USE AN AUDIO PROCESSOR.
4- USE ISOLATED GROUND LEAD
5- ELEVATED OR BURIED RADIALS

RANGEMASTER Transmitters

Drawn	KFH
Date	6/04
Approv.	
Size	A
Scale	1x
Page	1 of 1

COPY

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

COPY

GRANT OF EQUIPMENT
AUTHORIZATION
Certification

Hamilton PCB Design
134 Wind Chime Ct. P.O. Box 20594,
Raleigh, NC 27619
United States

Date of Grant: 07/17/1998

Application Dated: 05/08/1998

Attention: Keith Hamilton

NOT TRANSFERABLE

EQUIPMENT AUTHORIZATION is hereby issued to the named GRANTEE, and is VALID ONLY for the equipment identified hereon for use under the Commission's Rules and Regulations listed below.

FCC IDENTIFIER: NWXAM1000
Name of Grantee: Hamilton PCB Design
Equipment Class: Part 15 Low Power Communication Device Transmitter
Notes:

Grant Notes	FCC Rule Parts	Frequency Range (MHZ)	Output Watts	Frequency Tolerance	Emission Designator
37	15C	1.2 - 1.71			

37: This device has shown compliance with new rules adopted under Docket 87-389 and is not affected by Section 15.37, transition rule.

Mail To:

9805218315166002

E	I
1.0	1.00
1.1	.910
1.2	.840
1.3	.770
1.4	.720
1.5	.670
1.6	.630
1.7	.590
1.8	.560
1.9	.530
2.0	.500
2.1	.480
2.2	.455
2.3	.435
2.4	.420
2.5	.400
2.6	.385
2.7	.370
2.8	.360
2.9	.345
3.0	.335
3.1	.325
3.2	.315
3.3	.305
3.4	.295
3.5	.285
3.6	.280
3.7	.270
3.8	.265
3.9	.255
4.0	.250
4.1	.245
4.2	.240
4.3	.233
4.4	.228
4.5	.223
4.6	.218
4.7	.213
4.8	.210
4.9	.205
5.0	.200
5.1	.197
5.2	.193
5.3	.189
5.4	.186
5.5	.183
5.6	.180
5.7	.177
5.8	.174
5.9	.171

VOLTAGE

BOTTOM AND TOP TEST JACKS

CURRENT

MIDDLE AND BOT TEST JACKS

1.00 VOLT EQUALS 100 MILLI AMPS ACTUAL CURRENT

READINGS NEEDED THAT PRODUCE 100 MILLIWATTS