

SSCA Discussion on the Icom M-802 Clipping Issue

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Re: Icom M-802 "Clipping Issue" - Revisited....

by [colemj](#) » Sat Jul 02, 2011 5:12 pm

There are many radios on the nets here in Panama who have severe clipping problems. All of them are 802's and most of them were bought in the past 1-3 years. I am surprised at the number of 802's exhibiting this behavior. Some clip so bad as to be completely unintelligible. There certainly could be installation issues, but this would mean that it is only 802's which are improperly installed.

Many stations using all different gear have stronger or weaker signals than others, but it is only the 802's that exhibit clipping problems. Again, most of these 802's are recent purchases.

Mark Vessel Name: Reach Vessel Make and Model: Manta 40

Re: Icom M-802 "Clipping Issue" - Revisited....

by [ka4wja](#) » Sat Jul 02, 2011 7:22 pm

Mark,

Thank you for posting your info....

colemj wrote: There are many radios on the nets here in Panama who have severe clipping problems. All of them are 802's and most of them were bought in the past 1-3 years. I am surprised at the number of 802's exhibiting this behavior. Some clip so bad as to be completely unintelligible. There certainly could be installation issues, but this would mean that it is only 802's which are improperly installed.

Many stations using all different gear have stronger or weaker signals than others, but it is only the 802's that exhibit clipping problems. Again, most of these 802's are recent purchases.

Just to be clear it isn't when they purchased the M-802, but rather when it was made / what serial number it has.....

In addition to Gary's posting, notifying us that all units after s/n 0108261 have shipped with the "mod" done at the factory.....Eric ("fairbank56") posted some s/n info back in March 2009.....

Eric wrote:

I don't know what serial number they started with for the factory mod but I just modded one that was serial number 105223. I know that the factory mod has been done for all numbers after 108290.

And, with some dealers having dust-covered boxes of new gears sitting around for years....it's not surprising that some who've bought M-802's within the past few years, have in fact bought old units....so called NOS (New Old Stock).....

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{BTW, my primary M-802's s/n is 0106996, bought in the fall of 2006.....and although it did not exhibit any "clipping" issues, it was made prior to the Icom "fix / mod"....so, I went ahead and sent it in to Icom in early 2007 and had them do the "mod".....and my spare M-802 s/n is in the 0104xxx range and it DID exhibit the "clipping" problem.....}

So, two M-802's installed the same way, on the same boat.....one had the problem, and one didn't.....and both made before Icom figured out the problem.....

This is my personal experience.....and if you believe it (it IS true), it does show the sporadic nature of this early M-802 issue.....some radios had the problem, and some didn't.....no matter how they were installed....}

What I do find surprising is that few sailors are aware of an "official M-802 clipping problem", and the easy and FREE fix / modification that is available to them....

So, Mark if you could please pass along the info in my post above to all those boats out there that you hear the "clipping problem" from, maybe we (the sailing community) can get the word out once again....

Mark, thanks again!!!!

Fair winds..

John

John, KA4WJA

s/v Annie Laurie (currently lying, Sewall's Point, FL)

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[http://www.c470.jerodisys.com/470pix/foto\\_bot.htm](http://www.c470.jerodisys.com/470pix/foto_bot.htm)

### [Re: Icom M-802 "Clipping Issue" - Revisited....](#)

by [fairbank56](#) » Sat Jul 02, 2011 10:43 pm

The clipping does not occur when you modulate with a steady whistle. It only happens on voice/power peaks when sounding certain consonants with emphasis. One person could speak into the mic without causing the problem while another person would, simply because of how they talk, how close to the mic they are and/or how loud they speak. There is also an SWR detector adjustment on the filter board that is performed at the factory or during regular maintenance by a service tech. A slight difference in that adjustment might cause one radio to cause the problem and another radio would not. The whole problem is alleviated by the simple addition of a single 470 ohm chip resistor on the main board in the area of the Automatic Power Control circuitry. The best way to check for this mod on early serial numbered radio's is by visual observation for this resistor.

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Eric

### [Re: Icom M-802 "Clipping Issue" - Revisited....](#)

by [Don Radcliffe](#) » Fri Aug 19, 2011 7:39 pm

Still running into the same issue--on the way back from Hawaii, there was a boat which had no problems with their 802 on the 14300 khz net, but the clipping was pretty bad on 4146. They probably had a better antenna match at the higher frequency.

### [Re: Icom M-802 "Clipping Issue" - Revisited....](#)

by [SV THIRD DAY](#) » Fri Aug 19, 2011 11:47 pm

If you send in your radio, Icom will fix the clipping problem that they first denied was happening, and now will fix it for free. But sending in your radio, isn't as easy as it sounds when you are out of the Country!

Rich Boren

><(((0>

S/V THIRD DAY

1977 Hudson Force 50

Currently Living Aboard in Port San Luis, California

Blog: <http://www.sailblogs.com/member/svthirdday/>

High Output Water Makers at [www.CruiseROWater.com](http://www.CruiseROWater.com)

### [Re: Icom M-802 "Clipping Issue" - Revisited....](#)

by [Soggy Paws](#) » Tue Nov 01, 2011 3:46 am

Here here (or hear hear) on the clipping issue... I first heard about this 3-4 years ago when we were in the Caribbean, and we are also surprised at the number of boats that we still encounter with the problem

You hear someone 'clipping' on a net, ask them if they have an Icom 802 and 98% of the time, the answer is yes.

They are surprised we can tell, and that we know the answer to their problem... (short term fix, check your connections and grounds, if that doesn't work, turn your power back, and hope you can get somewhere where 'sending the radio back' makes sense). In Tonga, shipping your radio back isn't very feasible...

A number of boats in this year's Puddle Jump fleets, who left the mainland with working 802's, ended up with barely useable 802's by the end of the crossing.

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SO, if YOU own an Icom-802, and don't know if your radio has had the 'clipping problem' fixed, then check it out!!! Fix it while it's relatively simple to do so. DON'T wait until it happens (in the Bahamas, on passage across the Atlantic, etc etc etc).

Sherry & Dave - s/v Soggy Paws - Circumnavigating

<http://www.svsoggypaws.com>

### Re: Icom M-802 "Clipping Issue" - Revisited....

by [btrayfors](#) » Tue Nov 01, 2011 11:56 am

Very good advice from Soggy Paws. I am very active on the maritime nets, and install SSB equipment professionally as well. I still see and hear LOTS of 802 installations which have multiple problems, including the dreaded "clipping" problem.

Even if you're not experiencing it now, it's quite possible that the strains on equipment and antenna/ground systems during the course of an ocean voyage will change your setup just enough for the clipping problem to raise its ugly head...and at exactly the wrong time.

Check the serial numbers and if you have an older 802 with a serial # below 0108261, get it fixed as quickly as you can.

FWIW,  
Bill  
S/V Born Free  
WA6CCA

### Re: Icom M-802 "Clipping Issue" - Revisited....

by [Auspicious](#) » Tue Nov 01, 2011 1:26 pm

Soggy Paws wrote:short term fix, check your connections and grounds, if that doesn't work, turn your power back, and hope you can get somewhere where 'sending the radio back' makes sense

Definitely the case. My 802 did fine until a few years passed. No I have clipping on 40m. I'm shipping the radio back to Icom and cleaning all the connections.

dave

S/V Auspicious

### Re: Icom M-802 "Clipping Issue" - Revisited....

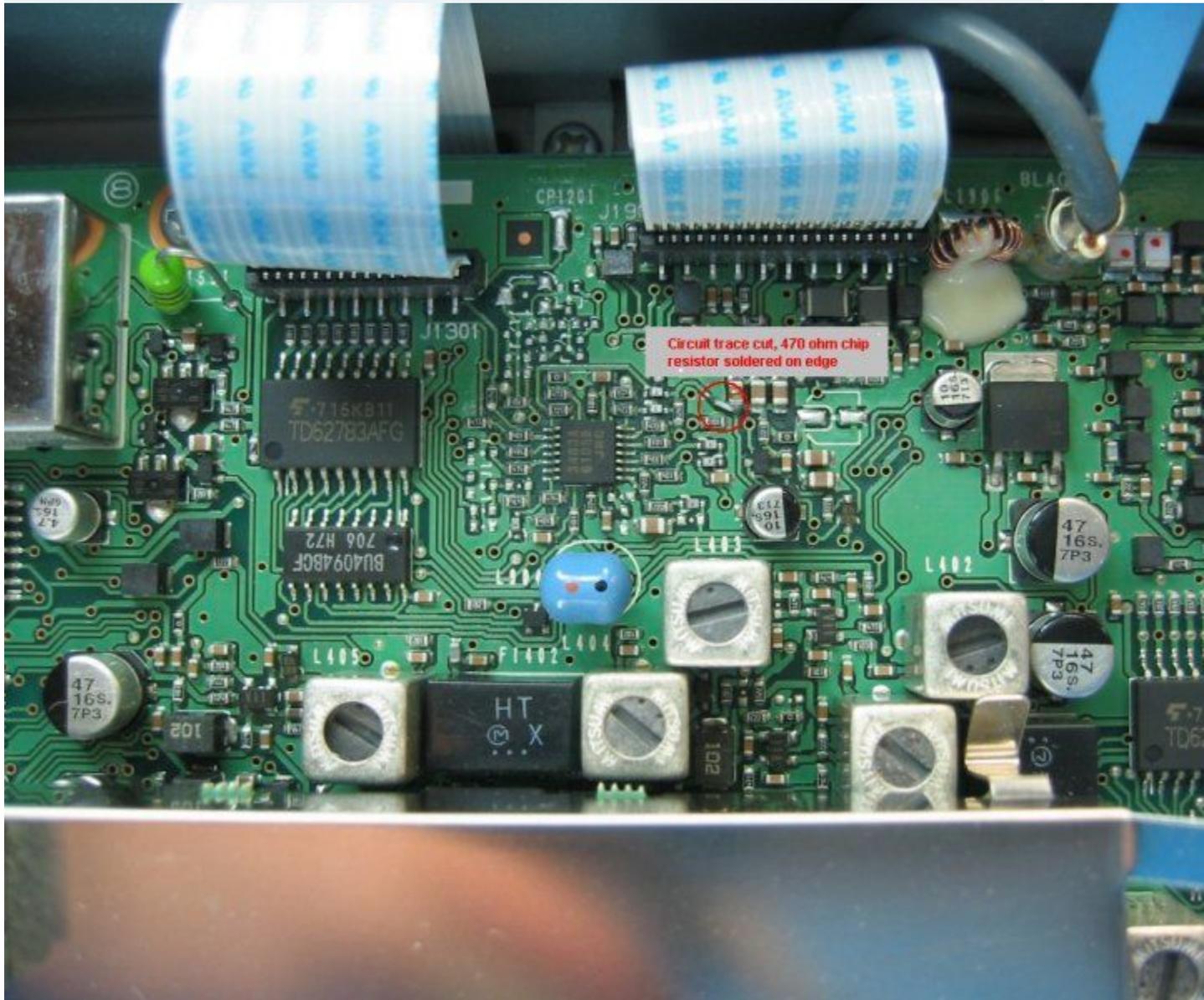
by [fairbank56](#) » Tue Nov 01, 2011 5:12 pm

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If you have a transceiver with serial number before 0108261, you can visually check for the mod by removing the cover of the transceiver and look for the added resistor near the center back edge of the main board which is the large board you see after removing the top cover. To add the resistor, a circuit trace is cut and the chip resistor is soldered on edge bridging the cut. Icom has now come out with a new board version that accommodates the resistor placement. See photo's. If you're a good techie with magnifiers, the right soldering tools and steady hands, you can easily do it yourself. I've done a few.

Eric



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