

Hello, Martin,

I certainly recall the days when Olson Radio and others sold the 'pill,' 'capsule' or whatever-you-call them mics; seems to me they were about \$15 in 1950s money. Horrible-sounding little mics, but they looked cool. I never had one; as a kid in junior high, I didn't have the budget for something like that.

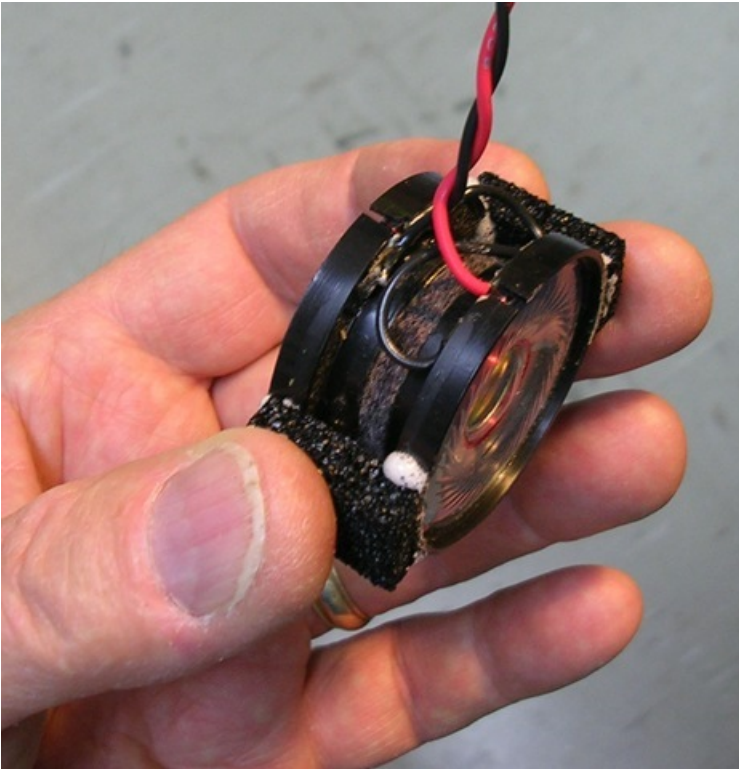
But recently I inherited a box on junk with a gutted Calrad inside. It was in pretty bad shape, with extra holes drilled in the base, probably for a switch. But recently I undertook to refurbish it like so:



1. First I liberated the drivers from a throwaway pair of airline headphones.



2. This is what the drivers looked like, once removed.



3. Next I mounted them back-to-back with a piece of felt in between



4. This is the mic case, puttied and repainted.



5. And how the dynamic elements were mounted and wired in proper phase to give a ribbon-like bidirectional pickup pattern.



6. And here's the finished mic, complete with cable and low-Z XLR connector.



7. And how it looked in the eBay listing. I asked for \$150, as I had seen real junkers go for nearly that amount in the past, but didn't get a single bid.

I even put a recording of the mic up on the Web:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/gnb66alfoo4128x/Dynamic%20Capsule.mp3?dl=0>

So I've still got the mic, and will probably relist it at some future time at a lower starting price. I have been collecting microphones for the better part of 50 years, and still wonder why these cheapie losers command the prices they get. Very interesting what we find valuable, isn't it?

Jim Wood
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