

Spirit Box (model P-SB7) modification

Almost every paranormal investigative team has an SB 7 spirit box. Some teams rely heavily on the instantaneous communication that the device provides while other teams use it sparingly and with much scrutiny. The basic assumption with the device is that unseen entities can utilize the white noise between frequency sweeps to communicate with the living; however, because of interference from broadcasting stations, the device opens itself up to auditory pareidolia. Bits of spoken words from radio broadcasts sneak in and can cause team members to infer meaning from random syllables.

One way to reduce the possibility of receiving active broadcasts that interfere with spirit box sessions, especially those pesky ghosts that sound an awful lot like Casey Kasem, is to remove the antenna from the device. Though strong signals may still be audible even without an antenna, the reception of these signals is drastically reduced.

Removing the antenna from the P-SB7 involves little skill, but requires some attention to detail. You'll need a well-lit work surface, a very fine tipped phillips head screwdriver, rubber gloves (latex or nitrile), and a thin-bladed knife.

First, as when working on any electric or electronic equipment, put on your gloves and disengage the power supply, in this case remove the batteries (Figure 1). TIP: Only keep batteries in equipment that you are currently using, store batteries separate from devices at all times.



Figure 1

Remove the face plate of the device using your knife (Figure 2). The face plate is made of very flimsy metal so be sure not to bend it. There is enough adhesive on the face plate to return it to its original position without having to apply any additional glue (just make sure that you place it sticky side up while you are working).



Figure 2

With the face plate removed, you may now access the two very small front plate screws that hold half of the SB 7 body together (Figure 3). Remove these screws and set them aside.



Figure 3

Carefully turn the unit over and remove the two back plate screws located at the bottom of the battery compartment (Figure 4).

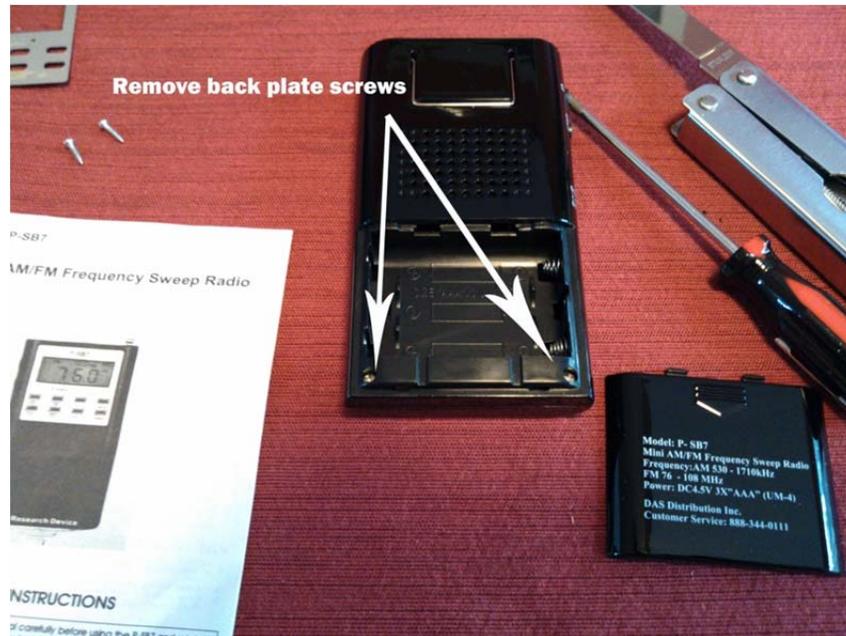


Figure 4

Gently turn the SB7 over and remove the top of the case. This will expose the working components of the device. The reason that you are wearing glove is so that you do not leave unwanted finger prints on the display module and to prevent the natural acids and oils of your skin from getting on the circuit board components.

In this step you will be dealing with three screws, two that hold the antenna to the case near the top of the device and one that connects it to the circuit board. Loosen the two screws that hold the circuit board to the case but do not remove them (Figure 5). This will allow you to release antenna once you remove the antenna attaching screw at the antenna base. Then, remove the antenna screw.



Figure 5

With the antenna screw removed, gently lift the circuit board and slide the entire antenna up and out of the unit (Figure 6).

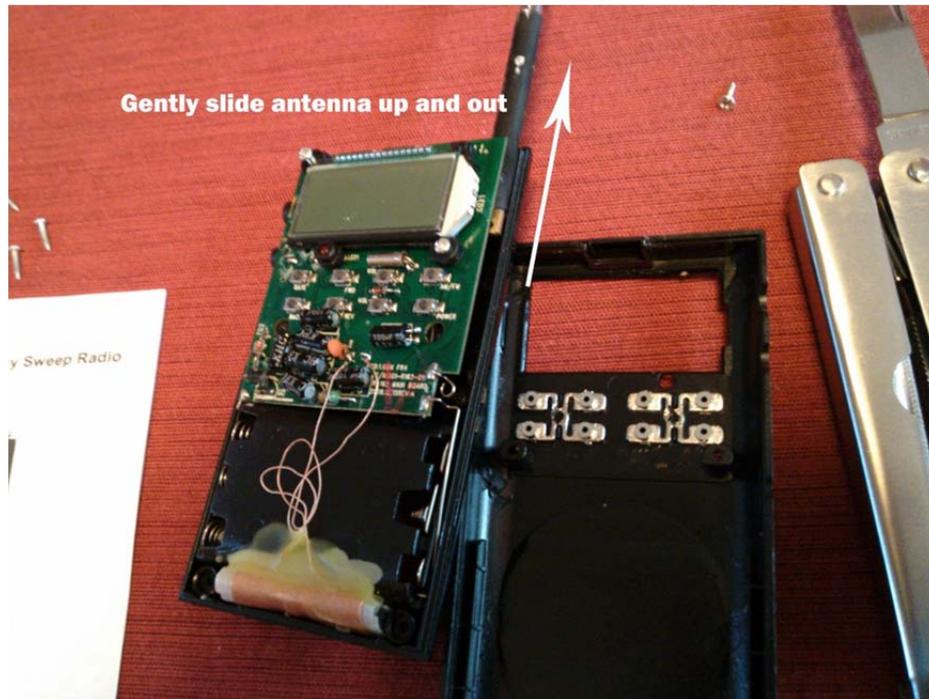


Figure 6

With the antenna removed, retighten the two upper screws and reinstall the antenna attaching screw (Figure 7).

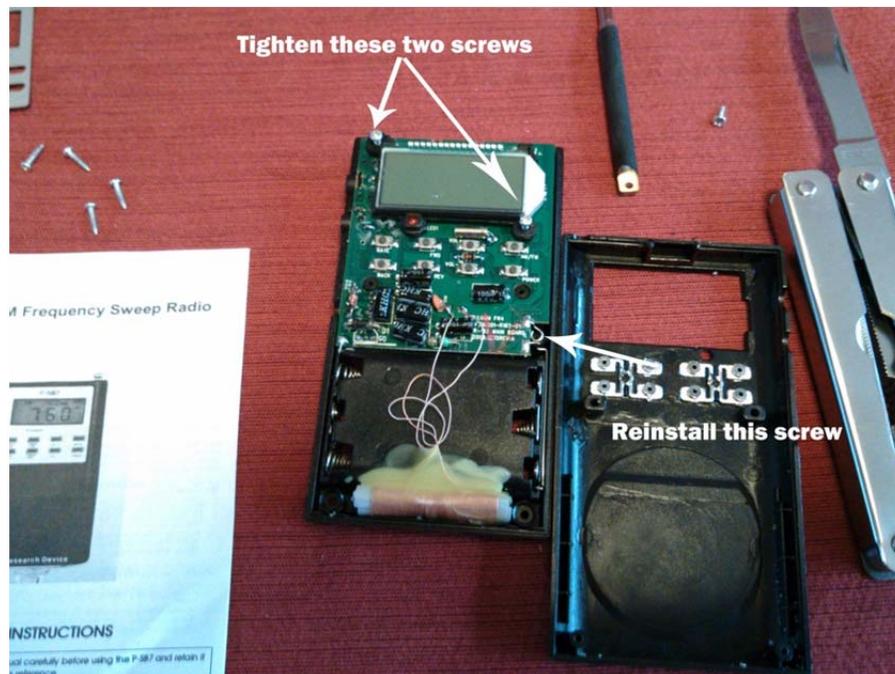
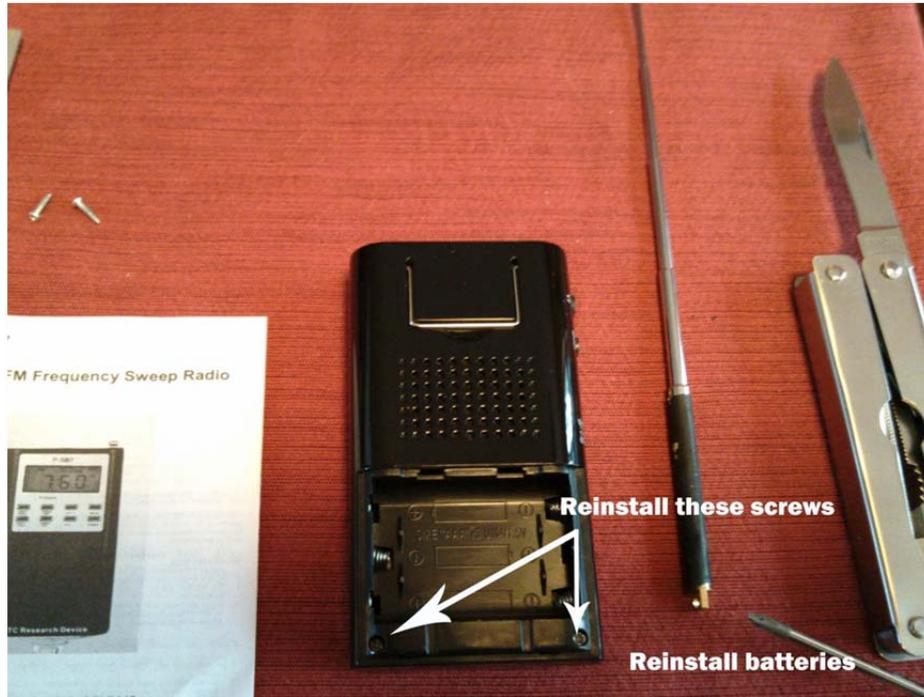


Figure 7

Replace the front cover and turn the unit over. Reinstall the back screws, reinstall the batteries and the battery access cover (Figure 8).



(Figure 8)

Turn the unit face up, reinstall the front plate screws, the faceplate, and turn the unit on (Figure 9).



Figure 9

With the unit fully restored, perform an operational test using both AM and FM bands in all sweep rates. At this point I'd say, "Stick a fork in it, it's done," but that might interfere with the device's normal operation.