

Date: Thu, 12 Dec 2002 05:30:37 -0000  
From: "kc8jnh "  
**Subject: a couple vca questions**

Alright, now that the smoke of the soldering iron has cleared, i'm finding a couple unclear problems with the vca5B. any help from anyone who's successfully gotten one of these up and running would be gratefully received.

1) the parts list speaks of three pots, but the pcb (and the panel design) shows a place for only two. after looking at the schematic, i realized that the third would go into the spot where trimmer 4 was meant. is this right, or did tom just disregard the idea of the third pot and i don't have to worry about it?

2) what's the deal with R15? i soldered into onto the board before turning to the last page and seeing the revision. should i take R15 off the board and bridge it between R14 and the capacitor, or do i leave a resistor in R15's spot on the board and use a second one to make the bridge? (in other words, should a resistor be left sitting in R15's spot on the pcb?)

---

Date: Mon, 23 Dec 2002 18:12:01 -0000  
From: "j\_inform3r "  
**Subject: VCA5B problems HELP please!**

Has anyone built the VCA5B? I'm running into A LOT of inconsistency when I look at the schematic. I'm having trouble figuring out where to place the caps. Also, I cant figure out why there is a missing spot where one of the trimmers go. And also, R15 is confusing me. Can someone please shed some light on this? If possible, can someone upload a picture of their PCB?

Thanks, John

---

Date: Fri, 27 Dec 2002 05:26:43 -0000  
From: "kc8jnh "  
**Subject: Re: VCA5B problems HELP please!**

hi john. i just got the vca5b working a couple days ago (i think). i'll try to upload some pictures tomorrow and write in more detail then, but in brief, trimmer 4 seems to just be a spot for the gain pot (i think you should be able to just short it, if you want), R15 shouldn't be soldered to the board on the spot that says "R15". instead use it to bridge where the instructions say. i'll take a better look at the caps and reply tomorrow if i have time.

David

Date: Sun, 05 Jan 2003 06:14:50 -0000  
From: "j\_inform3r "  
**Subject: Re: VCA5B problems HELP please!**

Hi David.

Thanks for the info. I would REALLY appreciate the pics if you can. I also welcome any other VCA5B owners insights /experiences.

Thanks, John

---

Date: Mon, 06 Jan 2003 02:53:42 -0000  
From: "kc8jnh "  
**Subject: Re: VCA5B problems HELP please!**

hi john

i just wrote the definitive VCA5b manifesto and my computer erased it somehow. this one will be much more brief, so email me if you have any more questions.

i uploaded two pictures, one of the front and one of the back. on the back you'll see two resistors. the one on the left is the T4 short (you'll need something here), and the other is the true R15.

there are seven caps in all. two are the power caps that sit at C1 and C2. these are .1 uF and say 104 on them. two are large round caps in C6 and C7. these are 22 uF. two are .22 uF and they are C3 and C4 and mine say 224 on them. the last is C5 and it is .01 uF (mine says 103 on it).

i also wrote a long disclaimer that basically said my knowledge of electronics could easily fit into a little Golden Book and so take this all with caution and don't snicker too much at my horrible soldering job in the pictures. also, be aware that, while my VCA is working, it's not working all that well. the whole thing really attenuates the signal, overall. also, the pots/resistors seem to be the wrong value, since my VCA is doing most of its signal attenuation in the first quarter of the knob turn. i'd like the volume to be spread over the whole thing to make it truly useful. of well. any ideas anyone?

David

---

Date: Sat, 10 May 2003 13:33:30 -0000  
From: "poison\_in\_a\_colorful\_bottle"  
**Subject: Rob's VCA5B**

Just a question regarding the picture of the VCA5B...I notice that there are no trimmers installed. The documentation doesn't mention anything about calibrating the VCA5B do the trimmers need to be installed?

thx, -dustin