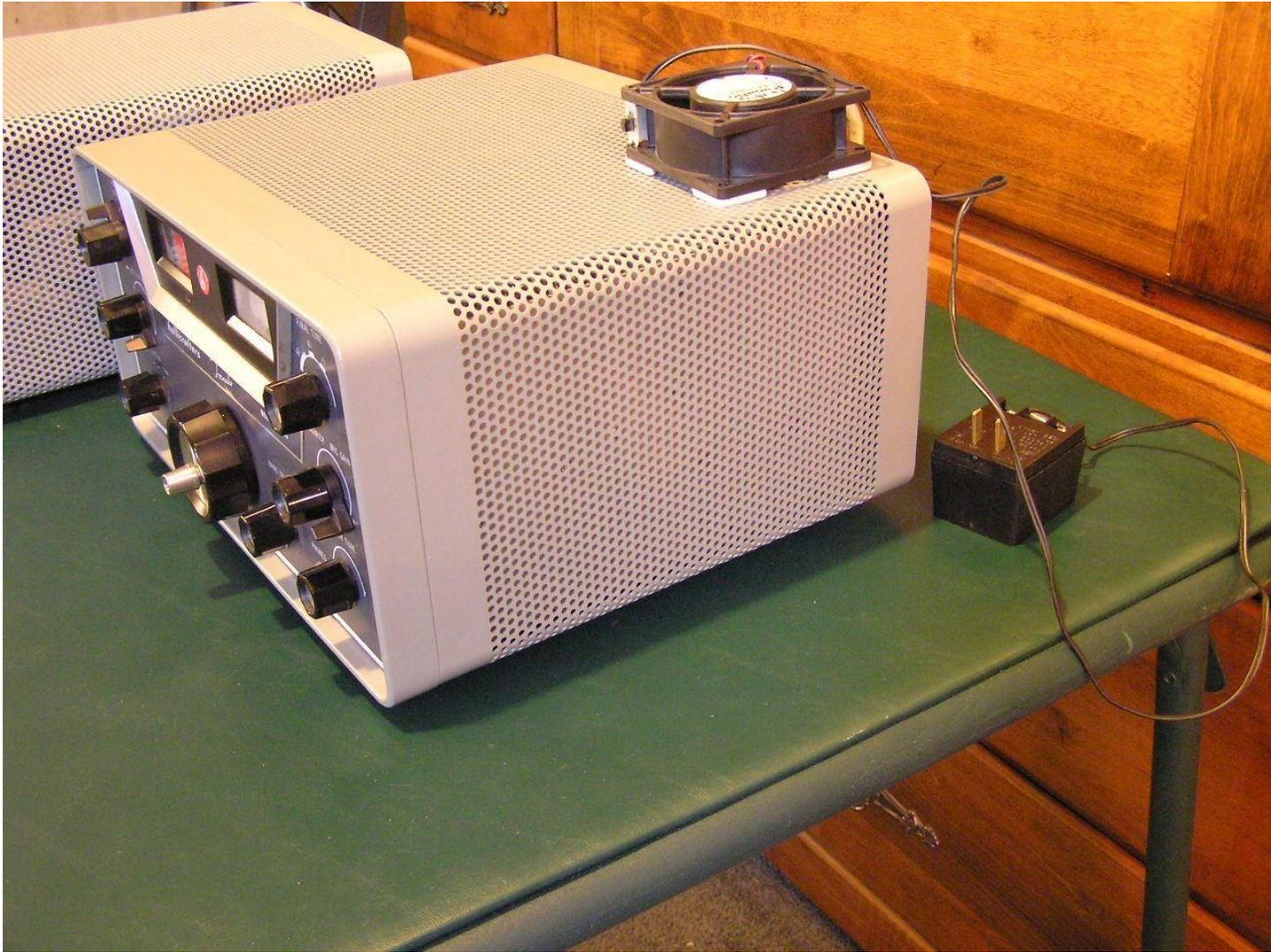


SR-500 finals

Hallicrafters selected the 8236 for the final amps. This is a truly remarkable tube. As long as it is not gassy or shorted it's good. The solid carbon block plates are indestructible. With a plate dissipation of 50 watts each they will take a lot of misuse and a very heavy duty cycle. The prime user of this tube was the Navy and Coast Guard. When they did away with the equipment that used the tube all production of the tubes halted. When I checked with my Navy contacts I found that the Navy cleared all their stock of 8236's around 1985. You can still find NOS tubes. I suspect that someone bought the navy stock and is slowly selling them to keep the price up. You can find them on ham classified sites and eBay. I buy "cheap" singles and pairs and very seldom get duds. I seldom resort to eBay. I plug a single tube in the rig with no RF drive. Then I record the bias voltage for 35ma and 150ma of plate current. Then I match tubes with similar readings.

There is an alternative. The 8236 is a beefed up direct replacement for the 6DQ5. The 6DQ5 has a plate dissipation of 24 watts. So you have to be cautious of the duty cycle. I also use a muffin fan with stick-on felt pads, placed on top of the rig over the finals sucking hot air out. The power output with a good matched pair of 6DQ5 tubes is equal to the 8236. Some of the 6DQ5 tubes are taller than the 8236 so you may have to dimple the PA cover for clearance. Careful, dimple too high and the case will not go back on.

I would expect the life to be shorter for the 6DQ5 but have no verification of that. There is an \$80.00 difference in the rig price between the rig with the 8236 and 6DQ5 finals. I have sold several 500's, at the buyer's choice, with the 6DQ5 finals and have not received any negative comments. But then, once the deal is done you seldom hear from them again.



This one was rescued from the lof