

INTERMITTANT VINTAGE ROTARY SWITCHES

Rotary switches in vintage rigs can be a problem particularly in rigs that are seldom used.

Cleaning the switches will not correct the problem. The problem with these old switches is that the protective coatings have been worn through. A lubricant/surface protectant is needed.

I have found several lubricants that will protect the contacts and prevent oxidation of the contact area. These are a bit pricy but you don't need much. Buy the smallest little jar, it will last for years.

Clean the switch with a good quality contact cleaner first. Then use a very small, flat, artist's paint brush to apply one of the lubricant/surface protectants listed below.

- **Krytox 205g0** – For a smoother and buttery feel. Less is more.
- **Tribosys 3203** – A thin lubricant that creates a fast and smooth feel. (my pick)
- **Tribosys 3204** – Thicker than 3203 but is hard to mess up.

HINT FOR OPERATING EQUIPMENT THAT HAS NOT BE USED FOR 30 DAYS OR MORE: Before you turn it on operate the wafer switches from fully clockwise to full counterclockwise two or three times. Turn all gain, volume and drive controls to minimum and repeat the procedure twice after turning on.