

Back in August 2023 I made an impulse purchase of an elderly Yaesu FT-817 transceiver. I bought it because it was very small and very cute, other than that, I knew nothing about the Yaesu FT-817 but it seemed attractive to have an HF radio in the shack that was actually known to work.



My sole interest is HF CW and the FT-817 did not have the optional CW filter which I soon found to be made of pure unobtainium. BUT! A Timewave DSP-9 was found in the back of the closet and it does a very cost effective job of subbing for the missing CW filter.

The use of the DSP-9 required an external speaker so I went looking through the various junk piles and found a pair of speakers out of my long gone but still mourned 1982 Volvo and a random chunk of 3/4 inch birch veneer plywood suitable for building a speaker cabinet. I scrounged a little fragment of pink fibreglass insulation to stuff inside the planned speaker enclosure and a small terminal strip that once resided in the keyboard of a Teletype Model 28 to use for the speaker connection.

The scrap of plywood was measured out to make a box to fit the 3.5 inch speaker. I measured it out to be large enough to allow the FT-817 to sit on top but small enough that it could all come out of this one piece of 3/4 inch plywood plus an even smaller piece of 1/8 inch birch veneer plywood for the front and back panels.

A few passes through the table saw cut the wood to size and then I threw in the dado blades to cut some rabbits so the little pieces of plywood could be easily joined together. Four more

rabbets were cut in the top, bottom, and side pieces so that the speaker bezel would fit in comfortably. I then cut some 1/8 inch grooves to hold the front and back panels. A hole was cut in the back panel so that the speaker was not sealed (this is a speaker out of a car door, not some high falutin Bose accoustic suspension job). The hardest part was cutting a half way presentable hole for the speaker but that did not matter much because any errors would be hidden by the speaker bezel.

I did not use any fasteners, I just glued and clamped it and left it over night.



I fitted the terminal strip on the back and fitted the speaker in at the front. Then I took all that stuff out, sanded it, and painted it white... three times. The colour white was chosen because the can was close by.



When the paint on the box had dried I reinstalled the speaker and the terminal strip, wired it all together, threw in some insulation to cut out any boomyness and it was done.



The receiver covers the AM and FM broadcast bands so two memory positions were used for CBC 740khz and for CKUA FM here in Athabasca and they sound pretty good.  
You can't beat that Volvo Sound!