

Installing the Preselector Option in WJ-8716 and WJ-8718 Receivers (including “A” and “/MFP” versions

Some notes and advices on a (relatively) easy task

by Paolo Viappiani
Via Magenta 32
54033 Carrara, Italy
pviappiani@tin.it

In order to install the Preselector Option in those receivers successfully all the following parts are needed, please look at Figure 01 below:

- the Preselector unit (metal box, W-J Part No. 796012);
- the Preselector Decode card (796002) and its multipole coloured cable;
- the PRE-W2 flat cable assembly (provided with two female connectors) that has to be installed in the bottom of the receiver.

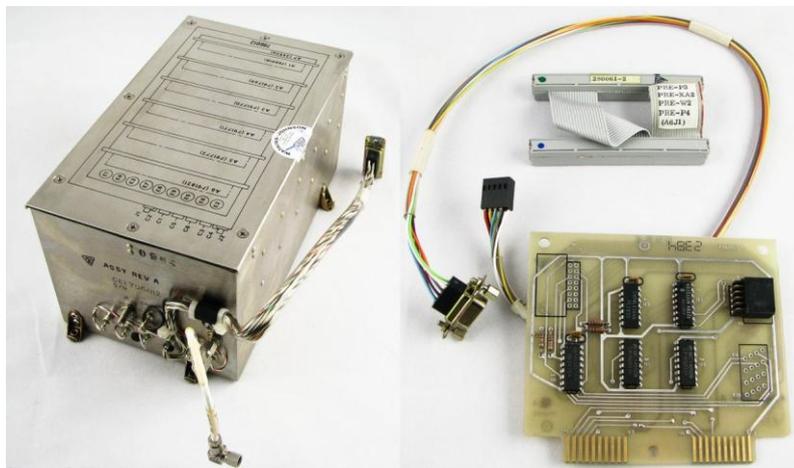


Figure 01: All the Preselector Option parts.

Please follow the mounting procedure as per the steps listed below:

- 1) Route the multipole cable (the one formed by colored wires and provided with a 9-pin sub-D socket at one end and a 10-pin DIL socket at the other end) from the A6 (I/O MB) compartment to the Input and Power Supply compartment passing it thru the hole of the aluminium chassis that is facing the A6 mainboard in the front side of the receiver.

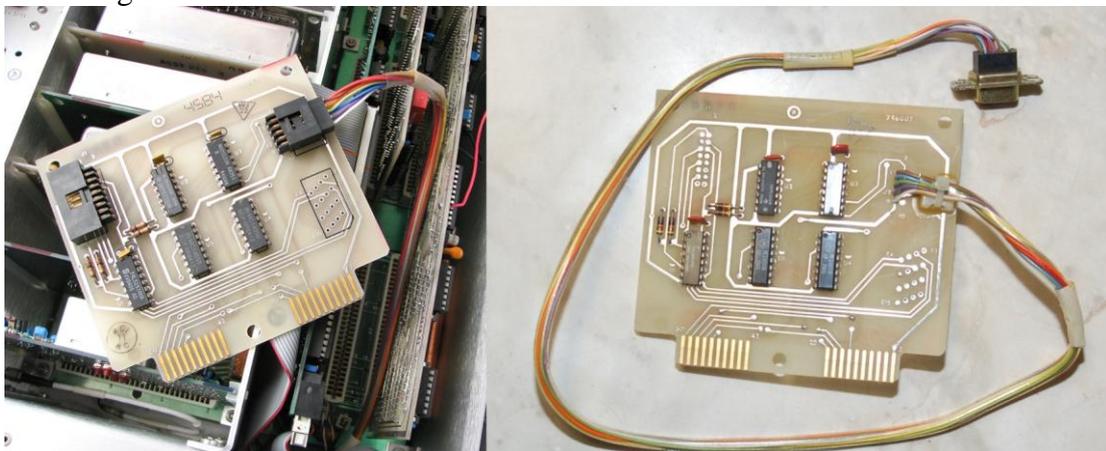


Figure 02: Two Preselector Decode boards with their multipole cable.

Note: in some cases the multipole cable terminates with a 9-pin sub-D socket at one end and at the other end its wires are directly soldered to the Preselector Decode board 796002 instead (look at Figure 02 Right). Please be advised, there are no circuit differences.

2) Ascertain that the multipole cable passes in the front section of the receiver freely enough and then fasten the 9-pin sub-D connector to the receiver chassis (thru the proper hole that faces the Input and Power Supply compartment) using two UNC 4-40 screws, look at Figure 03 below.

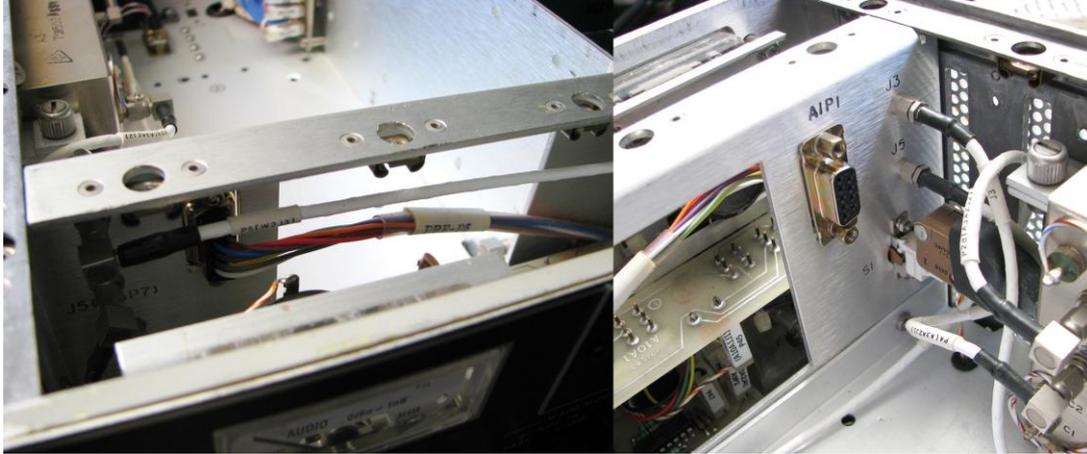


Figure 03: Routing the multipole cable in the receiver front (left picture) and installing the 9-pin sub-D connector in place (right picture). Please don't worry if your receiver is not provided with that large squared hole in the chassis, not all the WJ-8716/8718's have it!

3) Connect the 10-pin socket at the other end of the cable to the proper plug in the Preselector Decode card 796002 and insert that card into the X4 socket of the A6 I/O mainboard (X4 is the first socket in the center row of the A6 MB from the front of the receiver). The component side of the Preselector Decode Card must be placed to the right (as it happens for all the other boards), see Figure 04.

If the multipole cable end is already connected to the Preselector Decode Card directly, simply insert the card into the A6X4 socket.

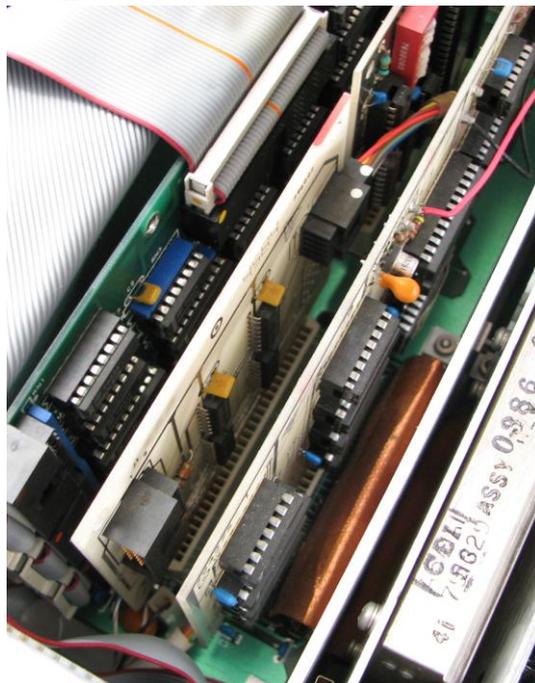


Figure 04: The Preselector Decode Card plugged in the X4 socket of the A6 mainboard.

3) Mount the Preselector unit (the metal box, Part No. 796012) in the Input and Power Supply compartment using four Phillips screws passing thru the proper holes (already present in the receiver chassis).

4) Locate the coaxial cable that runs from E1 in the Input Filter (A2 subchassis 791616) to the Input Converter (A3 subchassis 791592) and disconnect its SMA plug at the Input Converter side. Connect this end of the cable to J1 in the Preselector Unit instead.

5) Locate the coaxial cable that comes from J2 (in the Preselector unit) and connect the SMA plug at its end to A1J1 (in the A3 Input Converter, where came the original coaxial cable that has been removed in the previous step).

6) Connect the 9-pin sub-D plug that is at the end of the multipole cable coming from the Preselector unit to the 9-pin sub-D socket that had been previously fastened to the receiver chassis (Step 2 above); fasten the two fixing screws tightly enough for a secure pin contact, see Figure 05 below.

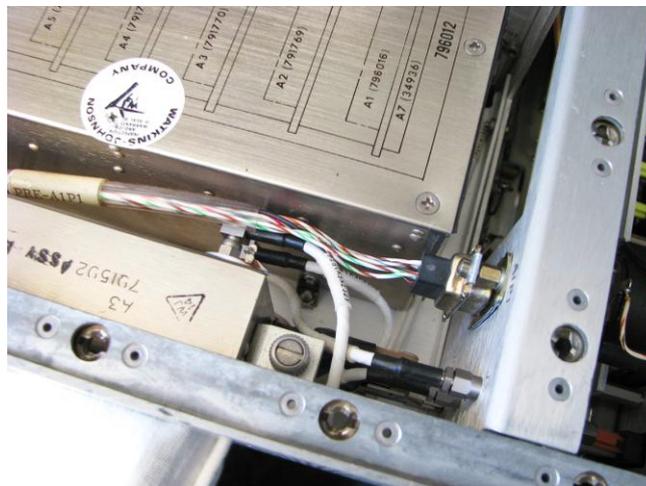


Figure 05: The Preselector 9-pin sub-D plug connected and fastened to its companion socket.

7) Place the receiver so that the bottom part of its chassis is accessible and locate A6J1 and A6X4 in the bottom of the A6 I/O mainboard. Please ascertain to locate these parts exactly. Attentively read the Dave Schofield's very interesting article that appears at the Web address: http://www.ra1792.co.uk/radios/80s/pre_option.pdf and place the pre-assembled PRE-W2 (flat cable terminated with two 64-pin female connectors) exactly as specified there.



Figure 06: The PRE-W2 Cable assembly installed in the bottom of the A6 mainboard.

This completes the Preselector installation and the receiver should continue to be operational, now taking advantage of the newly-installed sub-octave preselection.

If this does not happen, most probably the PRE-W2 cable has not been inserted correctly, please check this first: I never saw a W-J Preselector that needed troubleshooting, but there is always a first time...

In the case, the original Watkins-Johnson Manual that concerns the WJ-8718/PRE Option could be of a great help, it can be found at the addresses: <http://bama.edebris.com/manuals/watjohn/wj8718> , or:

<http://watkins-johnson.terryo.org/documents/manufacturers/WJ/Manuals/WJ-8718-PRE-manual.pdf>.

And that's all for now.

Have fun and best 73!

Paolo Viappiani, Italy