



# **The Sudden Storm Kit**

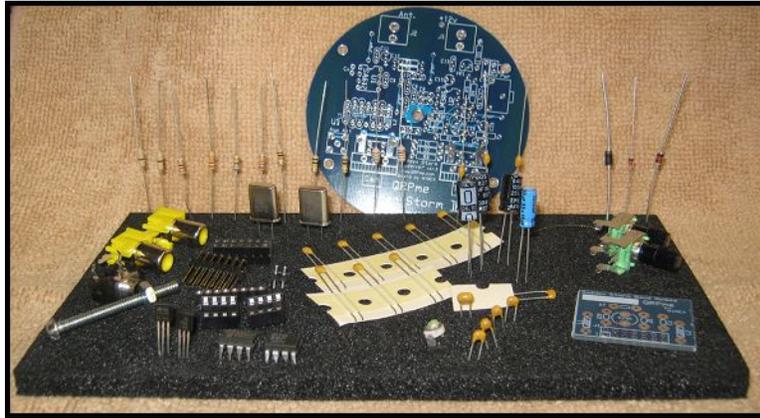
by QRPme

## **Builder's Guide**

for

**Sudden Storm ][ Ver3 pcb**

**Open the can and the adventure begins...**



Organize the parts and take an inventory...

## Bill of Materials

### Resistors

R1 = 100K brn-blk-yel  
 R2 = 10 ohms brn-blk-blk  
 R3 = 22 ohms red-red-blk  
 R4 = 10K brn-blk-org  
 R5 = 680 ohms blu-gry-brn  
 R6 = 27K red-vio-org  
 R7 = 100K brn-blk-yel  
 R8 = 1K brn-blk-red

L1 = 10uh brn-blk-blk  
 L2 = 15uh brn-blk-blk

Q1 = 2N7000  
 D1 = 1N4005  
 D2 = unused  
 D3 = 1N5818  
 D4 = 1n4148  
 VR1 = 78L09

### Capacitors

C1 = 27pf (270)  
 C1' = 50pf trim  
 C2 = 220pf (221)  
 C4 = .01uf (103)  
 C5 = .01uf (103)  
 C6 = .033uf (333)  
 C7 = .1uf (104)  
 C8 = .1uf (104)  
 C9 = 100pf (101)  
 C10 = 100pf (101)  
 C11 = .1uf (104)  
 C12 = 100uf  
 C13 = .1uf (104)  
 C14 = .33uf (334)  
 C15 = 10uf  
 C16 = .01uf (103)  
 C17 = 100uf  
 C18 = .1uf (104)  
 C19 = 100uf  
 C20 = .01uf (103)

### Miscellaneous

J1 = RCA jack  
 J2 = RCA jack  
 J3 = stereo jack  
 U1 = 8pin DIP socket  
 U2 = 8pin DIP socket  
 U3 = 2x7x.1" f. hdr  
 J1 = 2x7x.1" m. hdr  
 P1 = 1x2x.1" male  
 XTAL = 8pSI Psocket  
 P1 = 10K linear pot  
 P2 = 10K linear pot  
 U1 = SA612 MIXER  
 U2 = LM386 AMP  
 round tuna can pcb  
 band module pcb

1.5" x 1/8" bolt  
 1/8" x32 nut

Hopefully, everything is there and you can get started!

You should review the following schematic and run through this builders guide a couple of times just to familiarize your self with the complete construction process. Experienced builders usually develop their own techniques in building projects. This guide takes a step by step approach to building the kit where all the parts are installed in functional stages. Within each stage, the parts are installed according to their profile; where the parts that hug the board closest are installed first and progressively taller parts are installed in order of height. This makes it easier to install successive parts. After completing each stage, it is either tested or inspected before moving on.



## **STAGE 1: THE POWER SUPPLY**

The first stage is the power supply stage. The parts needed to install on the board for this stage are: J1, D3, C14, VR1, C13, R5, C12 and C13. Within each separate stage, the parts that lie closest to the board are installed first. The parts sequence for this stage is: C11, C13, C14, D3, R5, VR1, C12 and J1. If you don't have a bench top vice or pc board holder, you can use the now empty can as a board holder when soldering. The only problem is that if you do install the RCA connectors and the stereo headphone jack early in the build, the board will no longer fit snug in the can due to the connectors sticking out over the edge of the can. I have a small electronic vice I use to hold the board in position for soldering so I will show the connectors installed with the appropriate stage. If you need to use the can as a board rest, you should delay installing connectors J1, J2 and J3 until the very end of the build. You can tack in a couple of cut component leads at the J1 end of diode D3 and the ground side of either C13 or C14 to feed the 12 volts in for testing purposes.

- ü C11 .1uf = 104

- ü C12 100uf = 100uf 25 volt

- ü C14 .33uf = 334

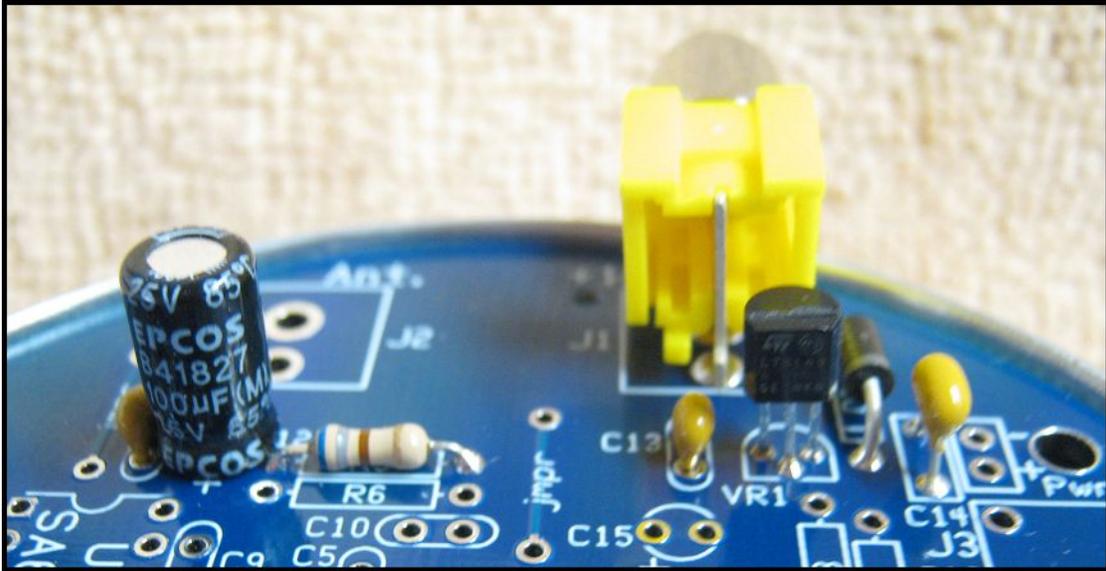
- ü R5 680ohms = BLU-GRY-BRN

- ü D3 1N5818

- ü VR1 LM78L09

- ü C12 .1uf = 104

- ü J1 RCA connector



View of completed first stage

Now you can test your progress. First inspect all your solder points for good solder fillets and that they are not shorting to adjacent pads or ground. Retouching a soldered pad with a hot iron usually will cause a 'suspect' solder blob to reform into a nicely wicked connection. When you are happy with your soldering, you can then do a preliminary power up of the board. You can either bring in +12 volts to connector J1 using a power cable with a male RCA connector or use alligator clips to hook up +12 volts to the test points that you tack into the circuit using the component leads. You should be able to measure +9 volts between the right side of resistor R5 and ground. A convenient location for the ground connection is any of the 4 mounting holes at the 4 corners of the board.

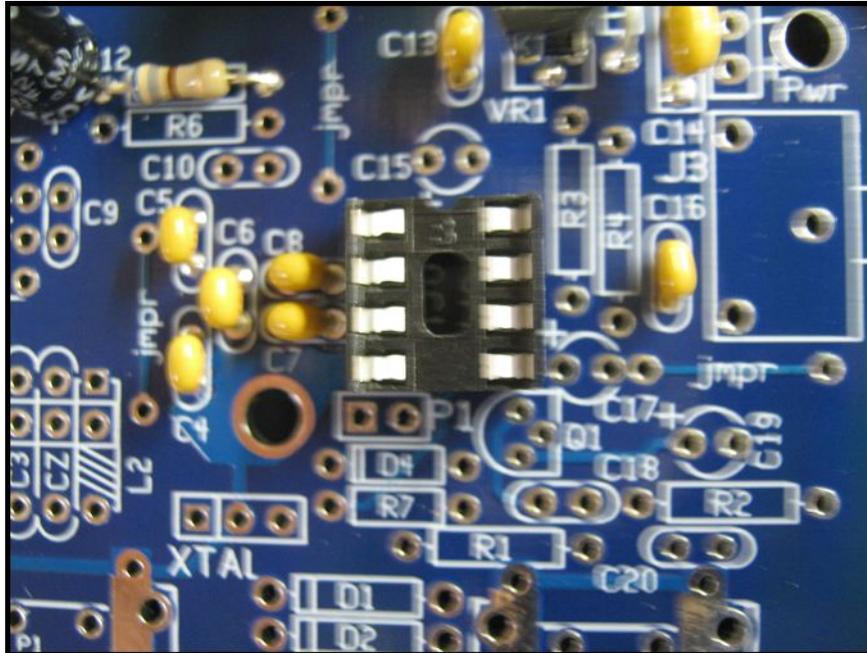
If you get +9 volts at the right side of resistor R5 then everything is normal and you can move on. Otherwise, you need to re-inspect the components, your soldering job or your +12 volt connection.

## STAGE 2: THE AUDIO AMPLIFIER

Next we will tackle the audio circuit. The parts for this stage, in the order of installation are: C4, C5, C6, C7, C8, C16, C18, R2, R3, R7, D4, DIP socket U2, Q1, C15, C17, C19, J3, connector P1, and the LM386. Also included in this step is a special installation/MOD for resistor R4. The tiny little yellow caps C4, C5, C6, C7, C8, C16 and C18 are the smallest and lowest parts so they are installed first.

- ü C4 .01uf = 103
- ü C5 .01uf = 103
- ü C6 .033uf = 333
- ü C7 .1uf = 104
- ü C8 .1uf = 104
- ü C16 .01uf = 103
- ü C18 .1uf = 104
- ü R2 10 ohms BRN-BLK-BLK
- ü R3 22 ohms RED-RED-BLK
- ü R7 100K BRN-BLK-YEL
- ü D4 1N4148

Now install one of the DIP (Dual In-line Pin) 8 pin sockets. Make sure that the 'notch' on the socket lines up with the little 'notch' designator on the silk screen.



ü IC socket at U2

Install the transistor Q1 followed by the tall caps C15, C17 and C19.

- ü Q1 2N7000
- ü C15 10uf = 10uf 25 volt
- ü C17 100uf = 100uf 25 volt
- ü C19 100uf = 100uf 25 volt

The last two parts to solder are the jack J3 and mute connector P1. J3 snaps in for easy soldering but the p1 connector is a little tricky. You need to hold the connector in place for soldering by some means.

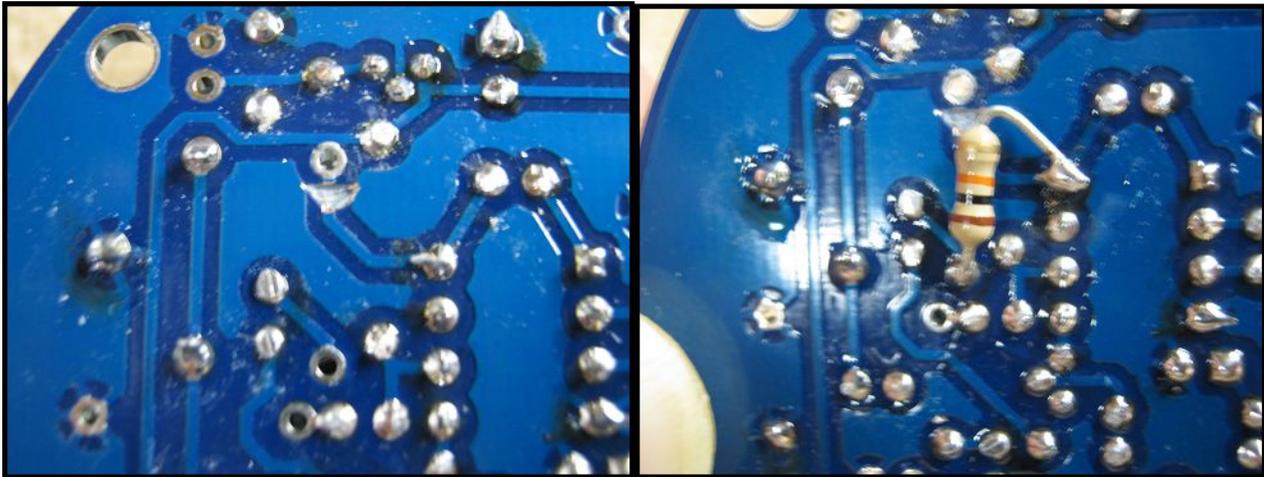
I've been soldering those pesky 2 pin Molex connectors for well over 25 years and I only use my fingers. I mount the soldering iron into soldering position in my vice then bring the work to it now using 2 hands. My left hand is holding the board, upside down, with my forefinger holding the connector in place...TOUCHING ONLY 1 PIN OF THE CONNECTOR. I then position the board so I can solder in THE OTHER CONNECTOR PIN only. When the solder has cooled, I can remove my finger from the pin and then solder in that second pin, completing the installation of the connector. Soldering Molex connectors having 4, 6, 7 and 8 pins are pretty easy as there is plenty of spacing between the pin you are soldering and the pin you are holding. It is the 2 pin connectors that are tricky....because if you hit the wrong pin with the iron (50% chance of that), your finger will get very hot very quickly and you might end up saying a bad word or two.

ü J3 stereo jack

ü P1 1x2x.1" straight male header

A modified installation of R4 is next. If you 'dry-fit' R4 and take a look at the underside of the board, you will see that the top pad for R4 is AWFULLY CLOSE to the power supply trace running right by the top pad of the resistor. In fact, some boards have a short between the pad and the adjacent trace. So to insure a properly working kit, we will cut the trace leading to the 'top' pad of R4 from the 8 pin DIP socket to the slightly lower right. Just isolate the pad by either slicing thru the trace just below the pad with an Exacto knife or Dremel bit. I have done that to all the

remaining Version 3 boards but you may have to do this with your board.



Isolate the top pad for R4 then mount R4 to lower pad and IC pin.

Now you can install resistor R4 on the bottom side of the board with one leg in the non-isolated hole and the other leg directly to pin 8 of the DIP socket.

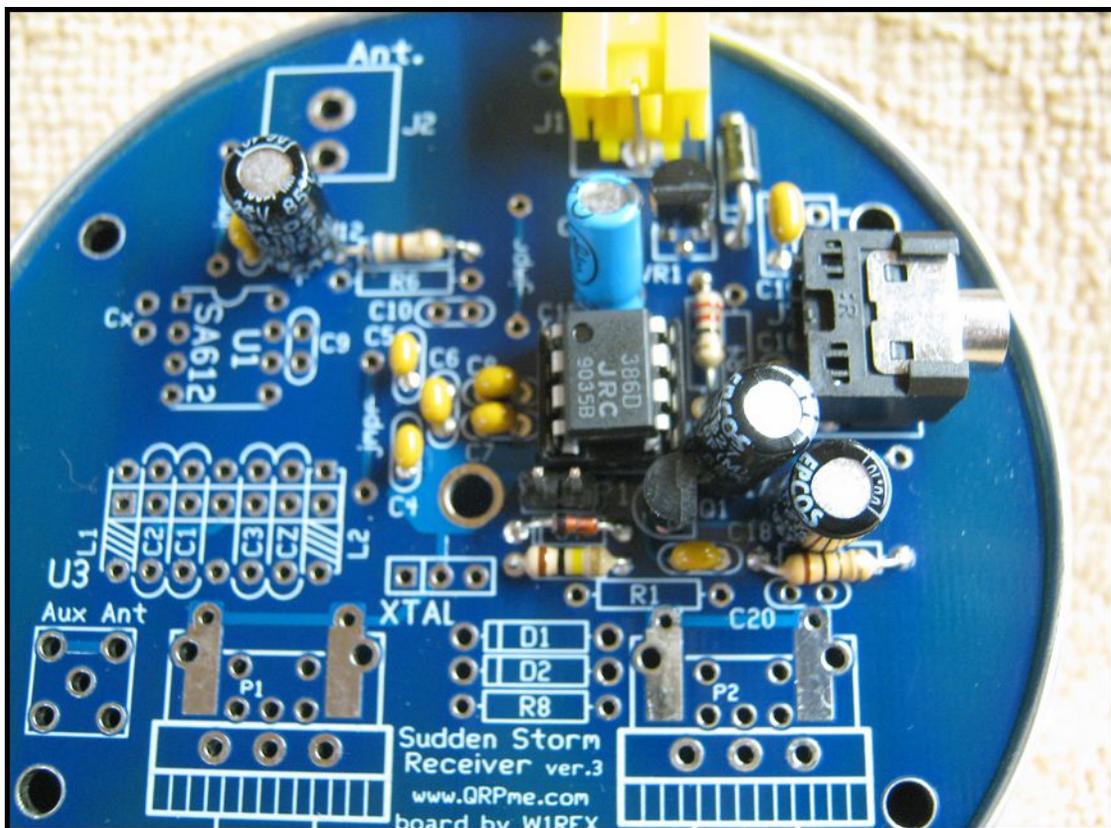
ü R4 10K = brn-blk-org

Inspect all your soldering for this stage and make sure you have all the proper parts in the right places. If everything looks good, you can install the LM386 in the socket making sure the notch on the part lines up with the notch in the connector.

ü LM386 at U2

Now we can test the audio stage. If you are holding back the installation of the RCAs and headphone jack so that you can use the empty can as a board holder, you will have to tack in a test jack for your headphones. Don't use the holes for the J3 jack holes because you will then have to clean them up when you go to

install the J3 jack later, Use already soldered pads like the test ground and the right side (top view) of cap C19 where it heads off to the stereo jack. With headphones in place and +12 volts applied to the power jack J1 or power test points, you should hear an audio pop when power is applied. When you touch any point around the tiny yellow caps to the left of the LM386, you should get loud hum in the headphones. Your audio stage is working! If you don't hear anything, you need to power down and go over your work for this stage. Check for proper parts in each location and all your soldering work. Look for cold solder joints, solder bridges to adjacent pads and such.



View of completed Stages 1 & 2

### **STAGE 3: THE MIXER/OSCILLATOR**

Stage 3 parts in order of installation are: C9, C10, C20, D1, R1, R6, the 2<sup>nd</sup> DIP socket, the crystal socket, potentiometer P2 and the SA612 mixer chip.

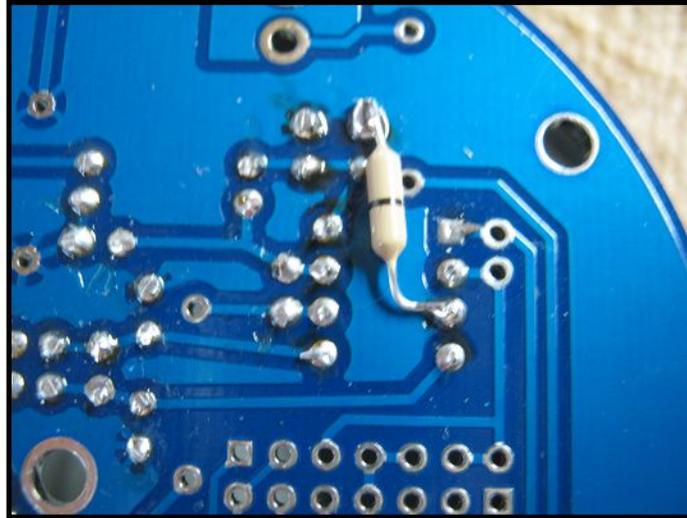
Again, the small yellow caps are installed first followed by the resistors and diode.

- ü C9 100pf = 101
- ü C10 100pf = 101
- ü C20 .01uf = 103
- ü D1 1N4005
- ü R1 100K = BRN-BLK-YEL
- ü R6 27K = RED-VI O-ORG

When installing the socket, orient the notch on the socket with the notch designator on the circuit board.

- ü IC socket at U1

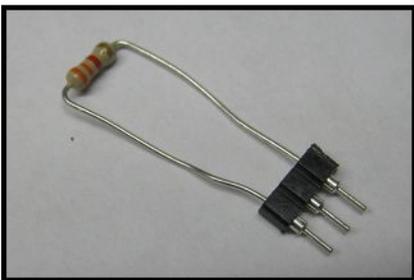
Now we need to make a MOD on the back side of the board. There is small patch of ground plane underneath the SA612 which is NOT connected to the overall ground plane. Use a small piece of cut off component lead or a zero ohm jumper from pin3 of the IC socket (with the 3 small grounding rays) to the ground side of C12 & C12 (also with the small grounding rays).



Back side view of completed SA612 ground mod

### ü SA612 ground MOD

The crystal socket is next. I usually insert a resistor or a small capacitor into the socket to use as a handle for soldering.

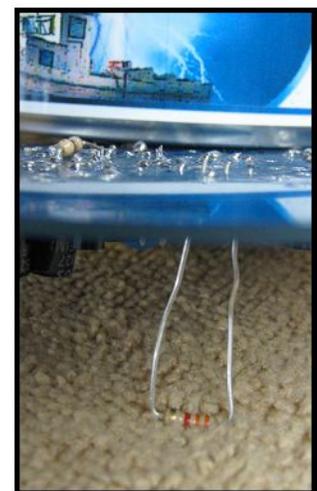


Crystal socket with resistor 'handle'

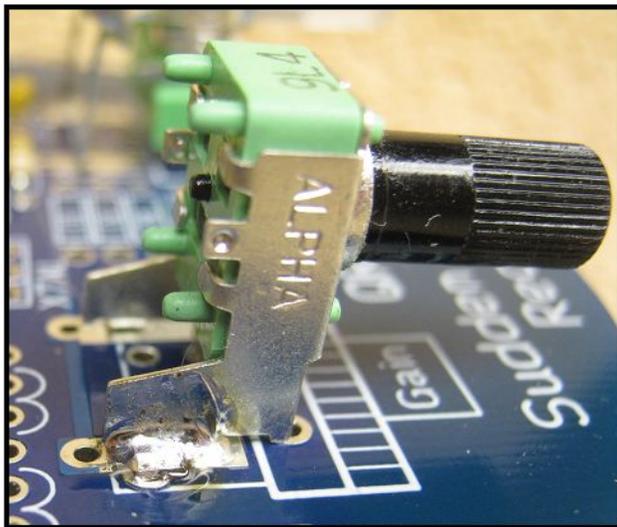
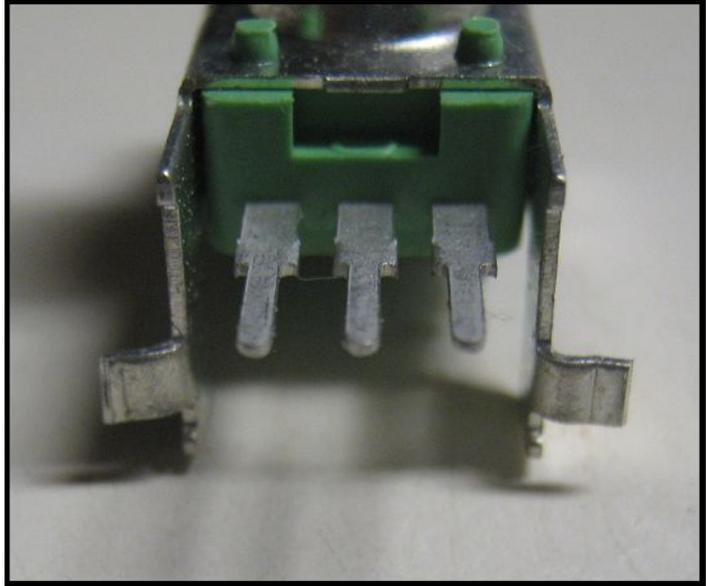
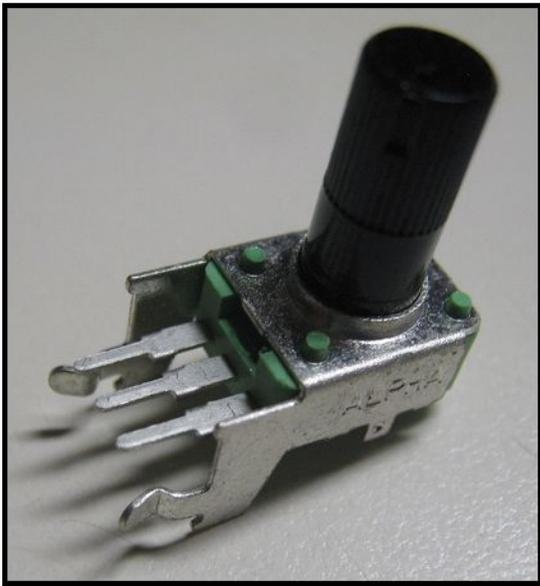
Then I insert the socket into the board and rest the board on the resistor like a leg and solder 1 pin with your two

free hands. Now that the pin is soldered, you can hold it in place while upside down with one hand, re-heat the SAME pin with the other hand while straightening the socket out at the same time.

Now that 1 pin is soldered and the socket is straight up out of the board, you can solder the remaining pins.



The potentiometer P2 is next. The pot that comes with the kit is shown below. You have to straighten the mounting tabs, then bend them at 90 degrees and shorten them for soldering to the rectangular pads on the top of the printed circuit board.

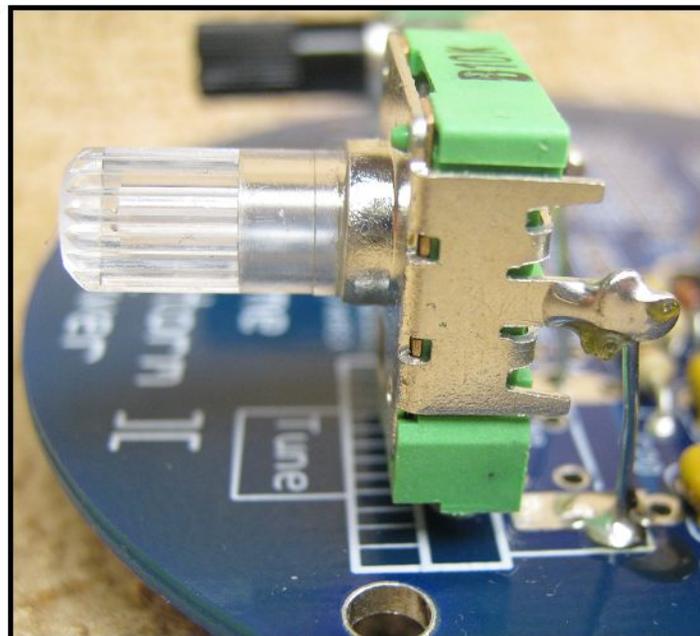
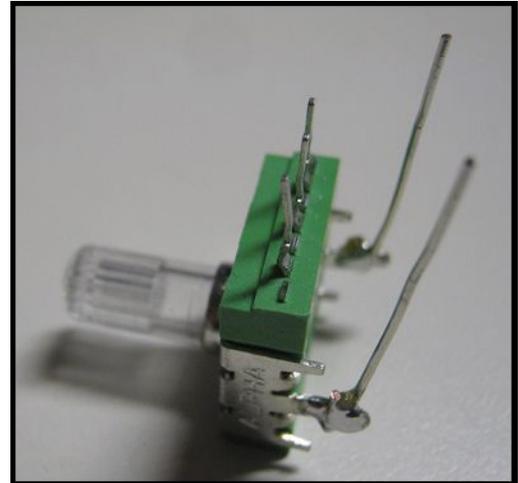


If you purchased the Sudden Storm Soup-up kit, you will want to install those pots instead of the regular pots supplied. The larger

Soup-UP pots are designed for vertical mounting, so the mounting leads need to be straightened. The pots are mounted into the larger pot holes. Two cut off component leads can be soldered between the mounting tabs on the pots and a set of extra holes on the pcb pads to provide extra stabilization to the pots.



Soup UP pots as supplied and modified for Sudden Storm use



Typical Soup UP pot mounted to the circuit board.

Unfortunately, there is not much you can do to test this stage until the band module is installed. So inspect your work while it is fresh in your mind and then move on to the next stage.

#### STAGE 4: THE BAND MODULE

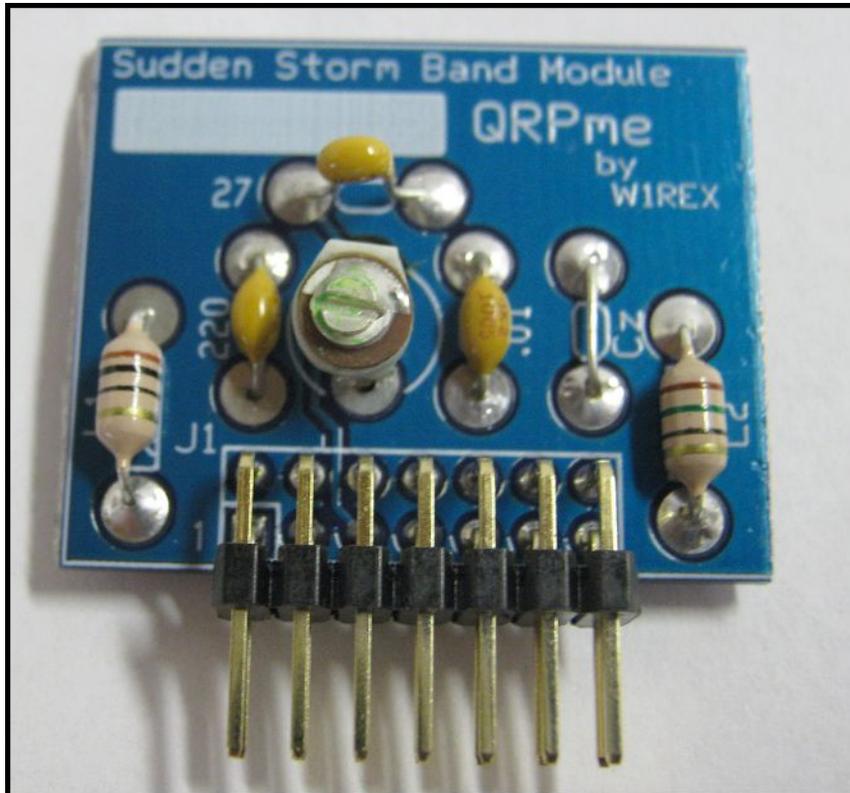
Now it is time to work on one of the unique features of the Sudden Storm version 3 kit: the band module. The parts required for this stage are (in order of installation): C2, C3, C1' (trimmer cap), C1, L1, L2, J1, U3, pot P1, J2.

- ü C2 220pf = 221
- ü C3 .01uf = 103
- ü C1' the 50pf trimmer cap [also solder top pads](#)
- ü C1 27pf = 270
- ü L1 10uh = BRN-BLK-BLK
- ü L2 15uh = BRN-GRN-BLK
- ü Cz ...a shorting wire across Cz
- ü J1 2x7x.1" right angle male header



Band module board with caps installed.

[Note that trim cap pin towards top of board is also soldered on the top side.](#)



View of completed 40m band module board

And now install the band module related parts on the round tuna can board: U3, pot P1 and J2.

- ü U3 2x7x.1" female header
- ü P1 10k linear potentiometer
- ü J2 RCA connector

You can now insert the SA612 chip, crystal and band module board and you are ready to operate!



Sudden Storm kit ready for action!