

Collins 516F-2 Power Supply Front Backing Panel Replacement

by Rod Blocksome, K0DAS

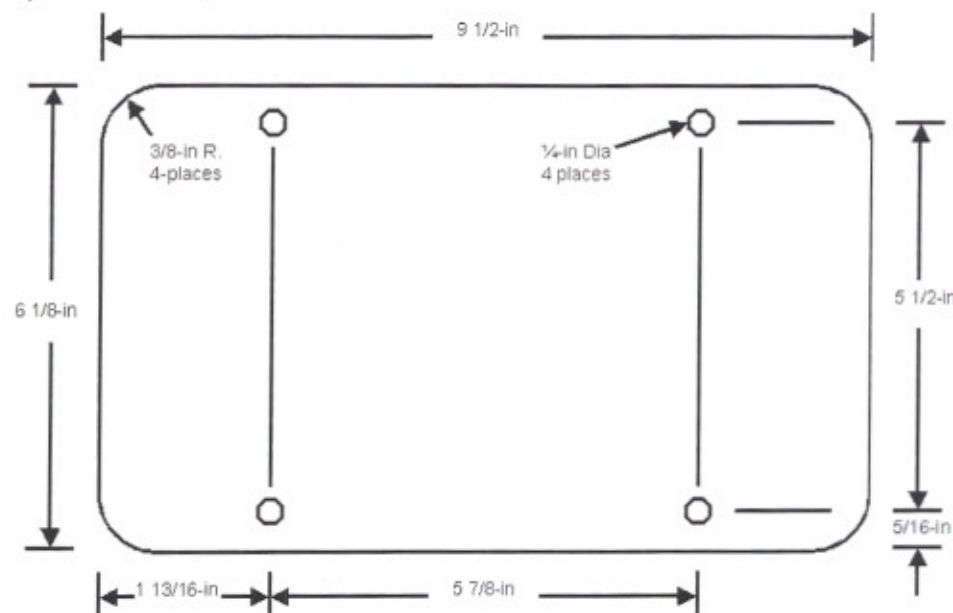


Figure 1. Collins 516F-2 power supply front-grill backing-panel dimensions.

Recently, I restored several 516F-2 power supplies, the previous owners of which had installed a speaker in the front grill. Many hams did this simple mod rather than buy the 312B-4 or 312B-3, especially if the rig was a KWM-2. The grill backing panel is usually cut out to the shape of the speaker. Four screws through the front grill and the backing panel mount the speaker.

Removing this modification involves restoring the front grill and making a replacement backing panel. If the speaker was mounted with 6-32 or smaller screws, the

screw holes in the grill usually can be restored by gently tapping with a hammer against a flat metal plate. A slightly enlarged hole due to the screw often can be restored in this manner. Anything more drastic and you probably are better off starting from scratch with perforated metal sheet and painting it. As an alternative, finished blank grills are available from Wayne Spring, W6IRD. Even unmodified 516F-2's often have a faded and warped backing panel.

The problem of a replacement panel was solved when I discovered black-suede matte board at a local crafts store. It's pure black and of the correct thickness. A full sheet was \$40, but they cut one in half for me. I had them cut it length-wise, giving me a piece that was 16 x 40 inches. You can cut out 10 backing panels from this \$20 piece, enough for yourself and a couple of friends. A hand paper-punch for 1/4-inch holes is ideal for cutting clean holes in the board. Figure 1 gives the dimensions for making the board. The hole pattern for the Collins logo is not shown in the figure. If you have a "winged emblem," you need two holes 1/2 inch from the top edge, spaced exactly 1 inch and centered between

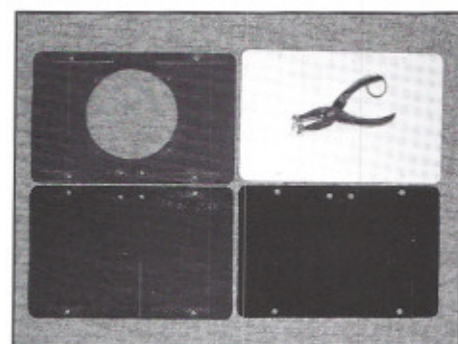


Figure 2. Old panels on the left; new on the right (front and back).

the side edges. The "round emblem" requires a single hole 1/2 inch from the top edge and centered between the side edges. Figure 2 shows a comparison of the old and new panels. Figure 3 shows the finished product.

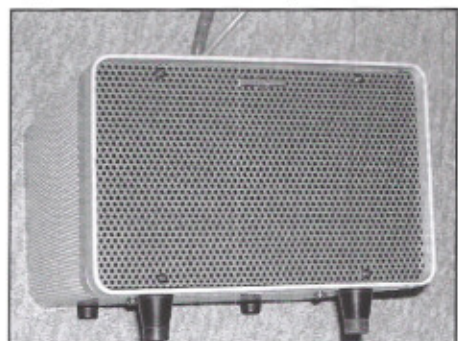


Figure 3. The finished product.

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Please find two inserts enclosed with this issue of the Signal. The election ballot contains the names of four CCA members you nominated to fill three open positions on the CCA Board of Directors. Please select three members to serve in these positions by checking three of the four boxes provided.

You are also voting to approve a change to the CCA By-Laws. Please make your selection by voting YES or NO on the proposed changes. Return your ballot in the matching color, pre-addressed envelope provided. Deadline for return of ballots is December 15th. Results of the election will be announced on the CCA nets and on the CCA Collins Reflector in December.

It is also time to renew your CCA membership. Please complete the enclosed CCA Membership Renewal form and return it in the matching color, pre-addressed envelope provided. Please support the efforts of the CCA by renewing your CCA membership now!