Travel Iambic Paddle Kit

## MFJ-561K INTRODUCTION

Your new Travel Iambic Paddle is a great addition to any CW collection. Its small, lightweight frame makes it ideal for traveling. Just plug your pocketsized paddle into your favorite keyer or rig and you are ready to send smooth CW from almost anywhere.

This kit is a very simple one that can be constructed by the most novice of kit builders. By following the instructions carefully, you should be able to assemble the paddle and send CW in no time. Though the paddle is universal to most transceivers, MFJ recommends that the paddle be used with compatible MFJ products. With whatever keyer or rig you use, verify that it has a 3.5 mm jack input.

# **BEFORE YOU START BUILDING**

**Construction Area:** Kit construction requires a clean, smooth, and well-lighted area where you can easily organize and handle small parts without losing them. An inexpensive sheet of white poster board makes an excellent construction surface, while providing protection for the underlying table or desk. Good overhead lighting is a plus, and a supplemental high-intensity desk lamp will prove especially helpful for close-up work. Safety is also an important consideration. Be sure to use a suitable high-temperature stand for your soldering iron, and keep the work area free of combustible clutter.

**Tools Needed:** While assembling this kit you will need a work area outfitted with the following tools and supplies:

- □ Phillips Head Screwdriver
- □ 30 to 60 Watt Soldering Iron
- □ High-temperature Iron Holder with Moist Cleaning Sponge
- □ Rosin-core Solder (thin wire-size preferred)
- □ Needle Nose Pliers or Surgical Hemostats

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surfaces to be connected are hot. Then, feed the solder around the lead causing the solder to wick up, wetting all exposed surfaces.

**Desoldering Tips:** If you make a mistake in soldering and need to correct a step, follow these instructions carefully. First, grasp the part to be removed with a pair of hemostats or needle-nose pliers. Heat the solder joint until the solder loosens and pull gently. The lead should then be able to be extracted. Repeat this process for any other bad connections.

# PARTS LIST

Your kit should contain all of the parts listed below. Please identify and inventory each part on the checklist before you start building. If any parts are missing or damaged, refer to the manual's warranty section for replacement instructions.

V	Qty	Part Description	Part Number
	1	Paddle Base	738-0561
	1	Paddle	735-0561
	4	Phillips Head Screws	654-0250S
	3	Solder Lugs (Aluminum Tabs)	720D-0621L
	2	Washers	714-0631
	2	Shoulder Washers	7145-0421N
	3	Kep Nuts	705-0440-K
	1	Open-end 3.5 mm Stereo Cable	620-8005
	1	Spacer	715B-0500S
	6	Rubber Feet	770-1162
	1	Wire Tie	745-2149

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- 1. Insert the shoulder washer into the hole on the side of the paddle facing out. Make sure that the shoulder is completely inside the hole and the washer is flush with the paddle.
- Next, insert a screw into the hole from the inside out. On the outside of paddle, place a washer, a solder lug and then a kep nut on the screw. Be sure to tighten it with the solder lug facing away from the arms of the paddle, parallel to where the base goes (see Figure 1).
- 3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 for the other side. Make sure that the solder lugs are not in contact with the paddle. The washers are provided to insulate the screw, solder lug and kep nut from the paddle.

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## Figure 1

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4. Place the Paddle on its base and then fasten. First, secure the back of the paddle with a screw and kep nut. Then, place the spacer between the paddle's arms and secure it from the bottom with the screw and the remaining solder lug (see Figure 2 and 4). Be certain that all screws and nuts are tight before proceeding. Make sure there is a small gap between the spacer and the screw heads.

## Figure 2



The next steps require soldering. For tips on soldering refer to BEFORE YOU START BUILDING portion of the manual.

**Caution:** When heated, soldering irons and solder can seriously burn anything they contact.

5. Prepare the wire of the 3.5 mm jack to be connected to the Iambic



- 7. Flip the paddle over so that the bottom is facing up. Then, lay the wire along the bottom side of the paddle (see Figure 4).
- 8. Use Figures 3 and 4 to orient the wires to their correct positions. With the paddle positioned like Figure 4, run the wire that corresponds to the tip through the upper hole, the ring through the bottom hole, and the common to the solder lug located on the base.
- 9. Solder the common wire to the solder lug on the bottom of the base and let cool.
- 10. Flip the paddle back right side up and pull each wire to the corresponding solder lug on either side of the paddle.
- 11. Solder the wires one at a time to the corresponding solder lugs on either side of the paddle and let cool. Make sure that the wires do not make a connection with the paddle arms.

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## TROUBLESHOOTING

If your paddle does not function properly, proceed with the following steps.

- □ Refer to Figures 1, 2, and 3 to ensure that your paddle is assembled correctly.
- □ Make sure that all screws and nuts are secure.
- □ Check all solder marks for flaws.
- □ Be sure that all the leads of the wires are properly connected (see steps 4-10 and Figures 3 and 4).
- □ Make sure the 3.5 mm jack is plugged correctly in your keyer or rig and that the keyer or rig is properly turned on.
- $\square$  Be sure that there is a gap between the spacer and the screw heads.
- □ Make sure that the shoulder washer is completely inside the hole on the paddle and the washer is flush with the paddle.

If none of these steps help, go back through the assembly instructions to insure that the kit was properly assembled. If the kit does not work after this, contact your local MFJ distributor for product assistance.