

## Re: sanding off chip markings?

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- *From:* [mrdarrett@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:mrdarrett@xxxxxxxxxx)
  - *Date:* 6 Jun 2006 14:22:37 -0700
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Joerg wrote:

Hello Michael,

A couple of weeks ago, I bought an FM radio from the 99 cent store (Made in China).

I then decided to take it apart, to see what neat stuff was inside.

One of those little key-chain things? I tried one. Horrible RF performance, can't hold a tune in a bucket. I doubt it's worth taking apart (I didn't). Don't even know where I put it, not that I wanted to go looking for it.

The first thing I noticed was a chip (microcontroller?) that had scratches on top. After a closer look, it looked like someone took a Dremel-like tool to sand off the chip markings.

Probably just a single-chip receiver. On mine it must have been a rather lousy one. The five-transistor FM radio I built as a kid was better.

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Regards, Joerg

Yup, this one was pretty lousy. Has a "scan" button that gets confused sometimes and then doesn't scan anymore... at least, until you turn it off and back on...

Re: sanding off chip markings?

But still, for 99 cents, I wasn't expecting an iPod... ;)