

Re: Smell of burned capacitors...

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- *From:* jakdedert <jakdedert@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 30 Dec 2005 13:48:39 -0600
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gb wrote:

"TimPerry" <timperry@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:hN2dnb0jluDZECnenZ2dnUVZ_tGdnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

"mc" <look@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
[news:10Zsf.20603\\$Lb1.10693@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:10Zsf.20603$Lb1.10693@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

I have a function generator that burned up a tantalum capacitor (which shorted) and a 2-watt resistor. Fixing it electrically was no problem,

but

there is a scorched place on the circuit board and a terrible smell.

Today I made some progress against the smell. I had been airing the generator out, covers off, in my attic (which is not hot at this time of year), for about 3 days with little progress. Today I figured out that

the

bulk of the smell was actually in a large calibration-instructions chart that was glued to the inside of the case. I Xeroxed it and peeled off and discarded the original; much better. I've also given the whole circuit board a spraying with contact cleaner and then with isopropyl alcohol.

Any other ideas? The smell was so strong

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that even with all the covers on the function generator, it was quite noticeable throughout the workshop.

simple green or other mild detergent applied with toothbrush or paintbrush.
rinse with clean water. air dry or gently apply heat gun or hair dryer.

Tim has the right idea. The Collins radio restorers swear by Simple Green for cleaning and restoration work.

I am cleaning a receiver (previous 25 year owner was a smoker). After doing all of your steps with contact cleaner, Windex, isopropyl alcohol and distilled water in key areas .. it still had a slight odor.

So, I tried Simple Green with cotton swabs and Q-tips. Brought up brown in areas that I had previously cleaned. Simple Green also has a slight pleasant odor. It's better -- but will take quite a bit of Q-tips and cleaning still !

I am on an aircraft listserv. The subject of Simple Green for cleaning airframes came up recently. Apparently, both the FAA and US Military have banned it for being corrosive to aluminum. The SG folks have released a new aviation formula specifically for the purpose.

Might be worth keeping in mind....

jak

gb

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