

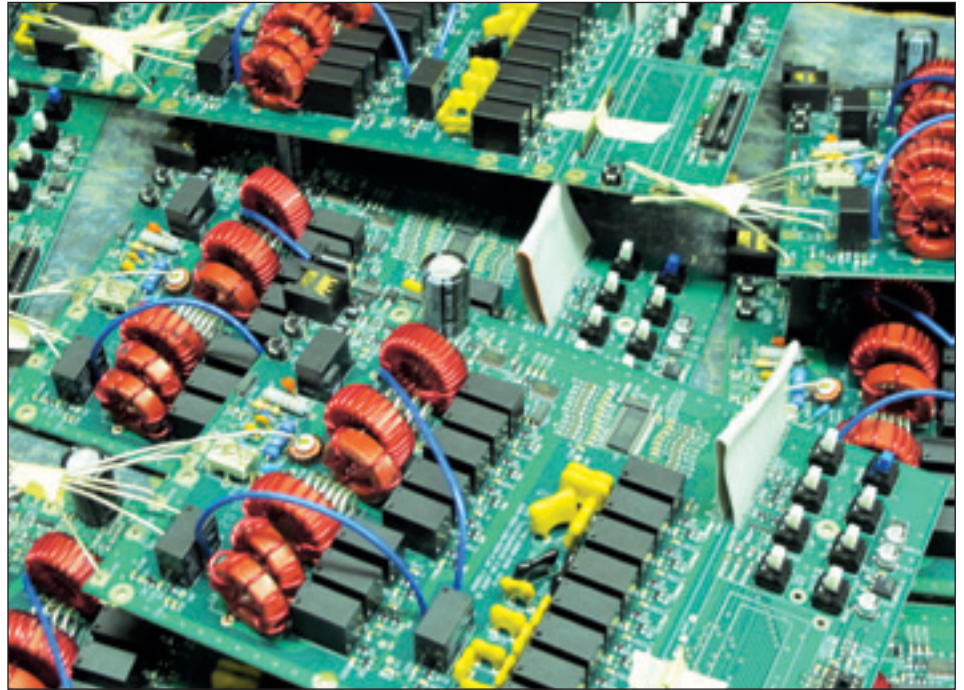
# Ham Radio Manufacturing: An Inside Look

*On a recent tour of the MFJ factory in Starkville, Mississippi, the author found it humming with activity most of us never get to see: skilled workers assembling a wide range of ham radio products.*

**Harold Kramer, WJ1B**

I had the pleasure of visiting MFJ in Starkville, Mississippi in June, and I was impressed with the scope of the operation and the friendliness of everyone I met. My goal here is to provide a glimpse into a modern Amateur Radio manufacturing facility, something few of us have the chance to see.

My thanks to MFJ owner Martin F. Jue, K5FLU, who gave me a great tour and helped fill in some of the information for the photo captions.



**PC boards after wave soldering. Their permanent home will be inside a tuner. The switch boards have not yet been separated from the main PC board.**



**Celletta Tate is using a computer controlled bending machine to form a wattmeter cabinet.**



**Here we have Randy Sharp dimpling two concentric aluminum tubes to form a double wall structure for a vertical antenna.**



With a variety of parts within reach, Shonda Warren assembles an air variable capacitor for an antenna tuner.

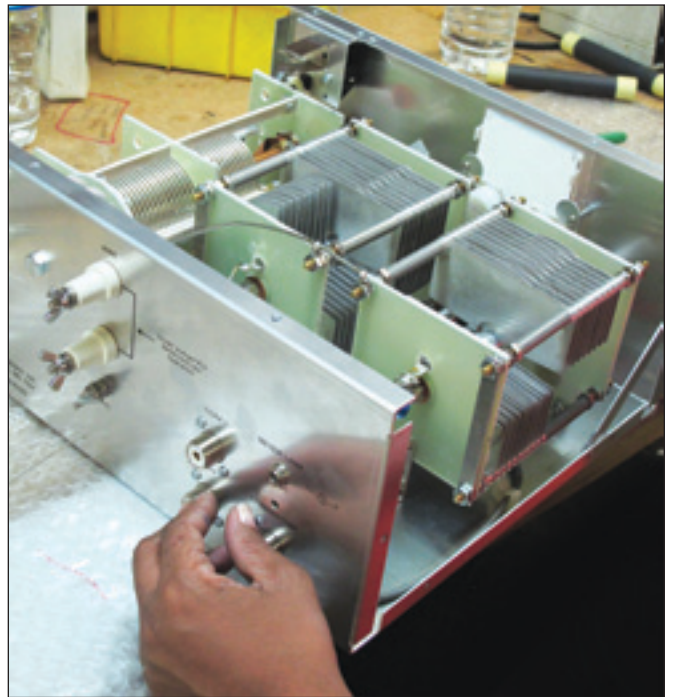


These thick-wall rectangular tank coils will end up in a full legal limit amplifier. Their considerable surface area and mass helps dissipate the extreme heat generated when the amplifier is running full power for an extended period. The taps are silver soldered and the entire inductor assembly will be glass beaded and silver plated for added efficiency.



Wiring a high-Q air-wound inductor to a rotary switch for use in an antenna tuner.

Up close, matching networks for a vertical antenna.



Putting the final touches on a legal-limit antenna tuner.

Photos by the author.

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