Morse Code Iambic Paddle Practice Oscillator

Background Information

This practice module allows the user to gain proficiency with a paddle (squeeze) keyer commonly used to send properly structured Morse code dits and dahs depending on the paddle activated. Additionally the sending of alternate dits and dahs sequentially is possible by squeezing both paddles together. Which paddle sends dits or dahs can be configured on the board by use of the included jumpers.

The module supports a wide speed range and a clear output tone that can be fed directly to a speaker without the need for further amplification.

Basic Operation

When reading this we recommend also referring to the overall layout photo included in this document to allow you to become familiar with the unit and its features.

Basic operation involves first setting the orientation jumpers, then, connecting the key and a speaker to the appropriate 3.5mm jack on the top edge of the PCB. After these connections are made power can be connected. A built in regulator means that a wide input voltage range is accepted, any DC voltage form 12 – 20 VDC can be used. The power jack is the common 2.1mm barrel type, with a center positive. The Barrel jack is also on the top edge.

Layout photo


Iambic Practice Module - Key Components
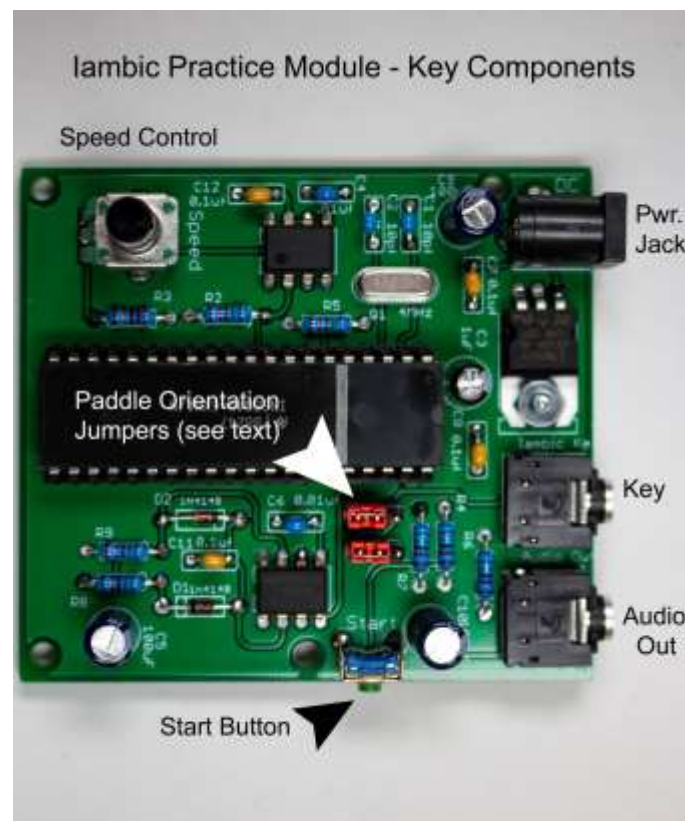
After connecting power to the unit, a short beep will be heard, this indicates the unit has initialized correctly.

To start using the oscillator, adjust the speed control to the 9 O'clock position using the knob pointer line and then briefly press the start button on the right hand edge of the PCB. This button is only used to start the unit and will not be used again until power is cycled.

Once this step has been completed the keyer is ready to use. Send some practice code and adjust the speed control to suit your desired speed. Speed increases with clockwise rotation of this control.

These 2 photos show the connectors and start button in close up for reference;

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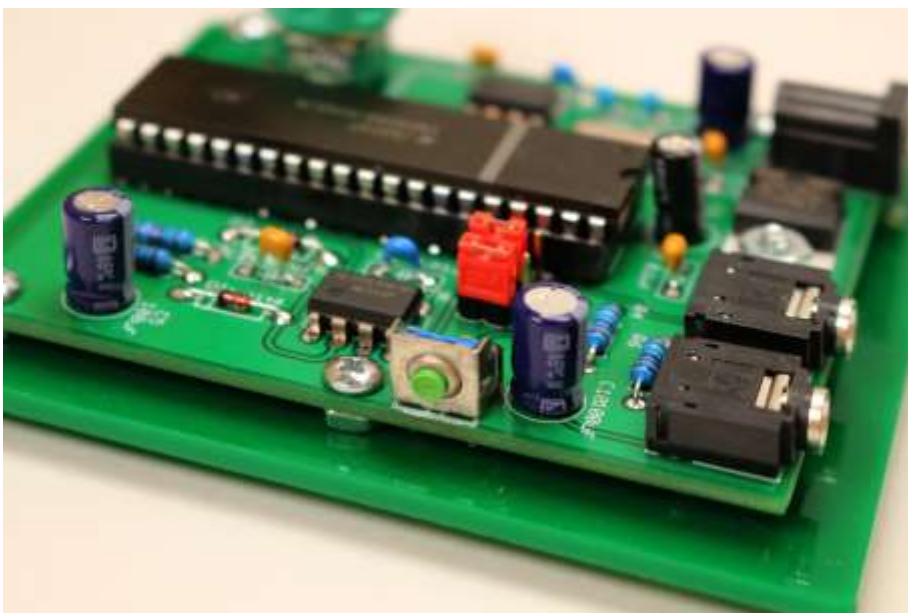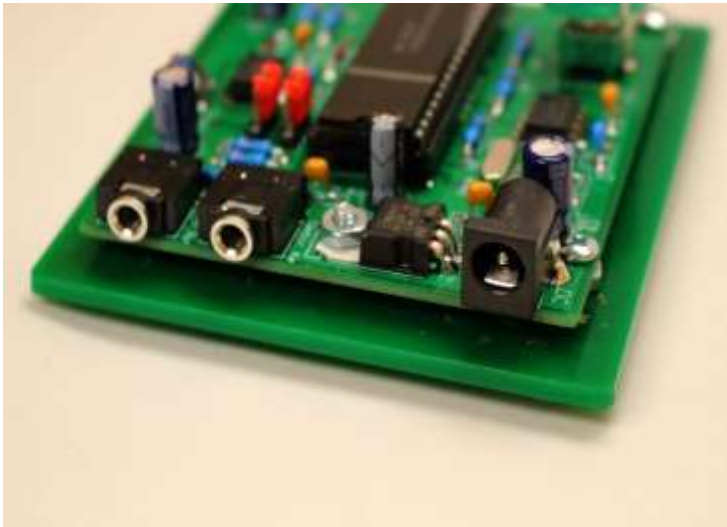
Setting the paddle orientation jumpers

We have added this feature to allow the user to set the paddle orientation to suit their sending style. By setting the jumper headers as shown below, the oscillator will either send dits on the left paddle or right paddle. Once set most users will not need to touch these again.
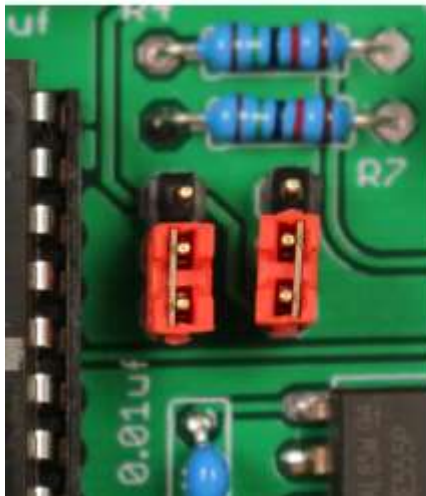
Paddle Orientation Jumpers
(Set for your preferred Style)
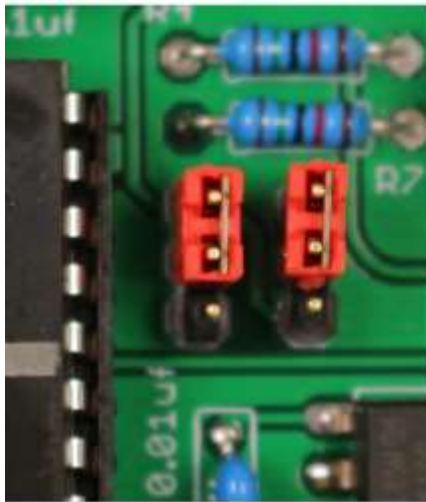
Jumpers set to
Left Paddle = Dit
Right Paddle = Dah

Please Note:

Always set the jumpers as a pair to ensure trouble free operation.

Jumpers set to
Left Paddle = Dah
Right Paddle = Dit

Troubleshooting

In the unlikely event that you have a question or encounter a problem, refer to these notes first and please contact us at steve@electroresales.com if you still have issues.

1. No operation or audio.
   a. Check the power source is actually providing 12VDC or more
   b. Has the start button been pressed?
2. I want to swap the paddles orientation.
   a. Change the jumper settings as shown on the previous page
3. I want to change the keyers 'weight'
   a. This is not possible, the output is set to 3:1 (a standard weighting)
4. Can I use a 9 volt battery for portable operation?
   a. It is possible to use a 9 Volt battery but continuous operation will drain the battery quite quickly, we recommend a power supply be used.
5. Do you sell power supplies for this unit?
   a. No we do not, many suitable types are available via eBay or Amazon