HINTS AND BITS

There is a problem with some of the Icom IC-451A 432 MHz. transceivers that shows up when an external preamplifier is used.

I hooked up a GaAsFET preamp to my IC-451A using hard keying of the DPDT relays. Intermittantly the preamp would fail. It would work sometimes for days and other times it would blow after keying the mic without any output. DC problems were eliminated by running the preamp on Ni-CADs.

The problem is that the Hybrid transmit module in the rig would oscillate intermittantly when going back to the receive mode. This hefty oscillation 'turns on' the Pin diode antenna changeover switch and gets into the output of the preamp.

Rather than tackling the problem, I installed a circulator in the output line of the preamp that sends the RF oscillation into a dump load.

Another solution would be to break the RX line between the Pin diode switch and the RX board and wire up the spare connectors on the rear apron to accept the preamp.

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