

TARG Tips 4

Identifying Components.

Whilst on holiday recently in the caravan, I decided to do a little construction, needless to say that this called for component identification, namely the value of both resistors (colour code bars) and the identification of number values on capacitors.

Now, I am getting older (and some would say more forgetful by the day) and the old mince pies are not what they used to be and being in the caravan I don't have the kit I have to hand at home. What I do have with me however is a smart phone with a decent camera on it. If you can't read the numbers on a component, try taking a photo fairly close in with your phone's camera, you can then expand the picture and with luck be able to read the numbers of the component.



Capacitor's can be tricky things to read without a magnifying glass. A phone camera can be a useful addition to your tool box.

Even resistors become a breeze to get the colours right first time and calculate the value.



By expanding the image on your phone camera's screen, the resistors are easy to calculate the value of.

This trick will also work for car parts when stripping down engine components, it also makes a handy reference for re-assembly.

My thanks to Belinda M6JNX for this little trick, hope you find it useful.

73 de Mark Sanderson, M0IEO.