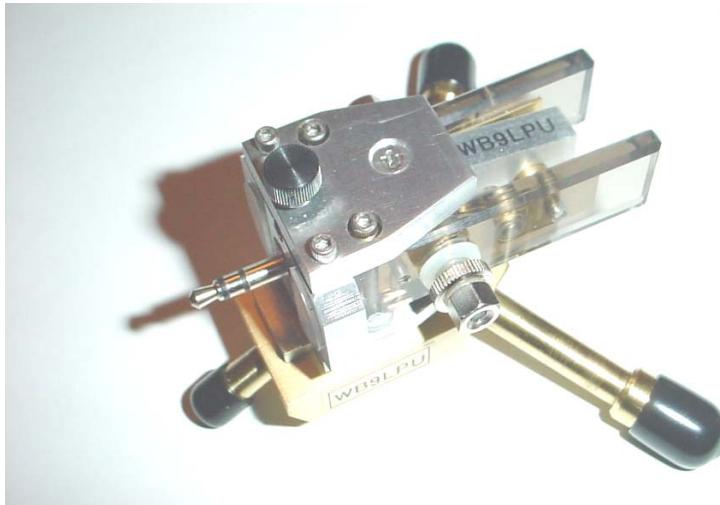


## The KXer – An Iambic Paddle for the Elecraft KX-1

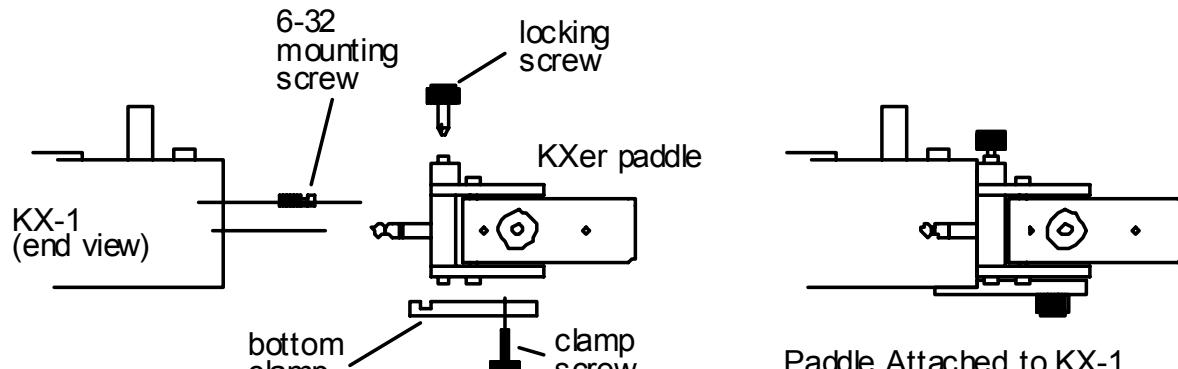
By Richard A. Meiss, WB9LPU



This model is shown with "smoke gray" paddles.

The KXer is a small iambic paddle that attaches directly to the Elecraft KX-1 QRP transceiver using the standard threaded mounting hole built into the rig. No changes to the rig are necessary. An optional base, with extendable legs, allows for stand-alone use of the paddle. Paddle tension is set by two pairs of rare-earth magnets, and paddle travel can be independently adjusted with two thumb-nuts.

*Mounting the paddle to the rig.* The diagram below shows the paddle attaches to the KX-1. As shipped, the paddle is mounted to the base by a screw that passes through the base. The paddle clamp serves as a spacer when the base is used.



Paddle Attached to KX-1

1. Remove the paddle from the base by undoing the black mounting screw on the bottom. Set the bottom clamp aside.
2. Remove the 6-32 mounting screw from the paddle by undoing the locking screw on the top of the paddle. Back off the locking screw so that it does not protrude into the mounting screw hole.
3. Thread the mounting screw into the hole on the front of the KX-1 until it is finger-tight. (Be careful not to damage the circuit board inside by too much pressure.)
4. Insert the phone plug on the paddle into the KX-1 phone jack. Move the paddle from side to side to engage the end of the mounting screw. When it goes into the hole, push the phone jack all the way into the KX-1.
5. Tighten the locking screw so that it grips the mounting screw. This will pull the paddle tight against the KX-1. Refer to the line drawing.
6. Turn the KX-1 over. Using the 1/2 inch screw provided, mount the bottom clamp as shown in the pictures that follow. Be sure that the groove at the front of the clamp engages the edge of the KX-1 enclosure.
7. Tighten the bottom clamp mounting screw. The paddle should now be firmly fixed to the KX-1. Re-check the tightening of the upper locking screw.

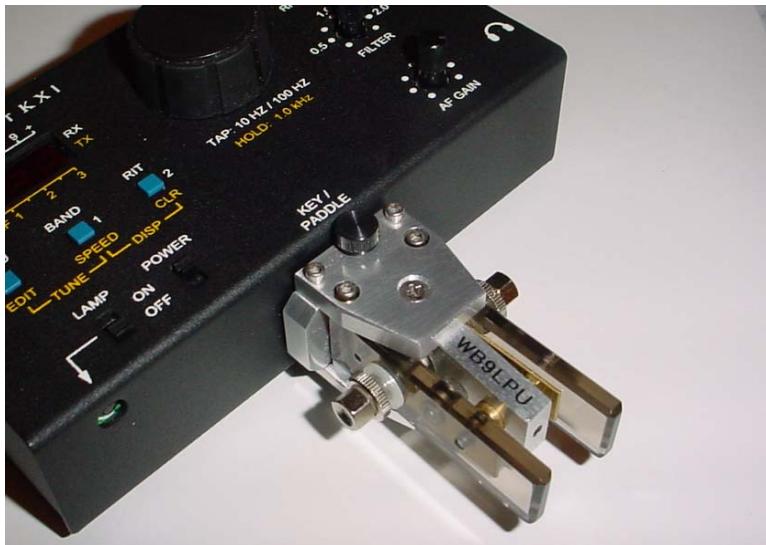
The pictures that follow illustrate details of the mounting method.



The KXer and its mounting parts. The brass screw has been threaded into the KX-1 and will be gripped by the locking screw. The rectangular clamp stabilizes the paddle and holds it rigidly in place.



This view shows the under side of the paddle with the bottom clamp in place. Its groove should be engaged with the front of the KX-1 housing.



Here is the KXer mounted on the KX-1, all ready to operate. The locking knobs on either side adjust the paddle travel to suit the operator's taste.

*Using the KXer in the stand-alone mode.* The KXer can function as a stand-alone paddle using the optional base. To use the paddle in this mode:

1. Remove the KXer from the KX-1 by undoing the bottom clamp and the upper mounting screw. You can also remove the mounting screw from the KX-1 and safely store it in the mounting hole in the KXer. Tighten the locking screw to keep it from getting lost.
2. The extension legs are stored in the brass base. Unscrew the two long legs from their storage holes and thread them into the sockets at the rear of the base. Unscrew the short leg from the rear of the base and thread it into its place at the front of the base.

3. The bottom clamp serves as a spacer to hold the KXer slightly above the base, so that the lower bearings are not restricted. There is a small screw mounted in the base as an alignment pin for the bottom clamp. It can go only one way, and the paddle can fit only one way. Use the long screw provided to fix the paddle to the clamp, and tighten it finger-tight so that the paddle does not move.
4. To connect the paddle to the KX-1 (or any other rig), use a stereo patch cord with a male plug on one end and a female jack on the other.



This view shows the KXer mounted to the base, with the legs stowed for travel. One of the leg mounting holes can be used to store the shorter clamp mounting screw.

*Some final notes.*

1. The paddle travel adjustment is provided with lock-nuts so that it will retain its setting.
2. If you are a bit heavy-handed, a small mat of non-skid rubber (such as used for drawer liners) placed under the feet will keep the key from moving in the stand-alone mode.
3. To clean the contacts (which should not really be necessary), use a strip of ordinary paper. Place it in the contact gap, close the paddle with light finger pressure, and pull the strip through. Sandpaper is not necessary.
4. Enjoy the "big paddle" feel while using your super little rig.

Questions? Drop me an email at [wb9lpu@earthlink.net](mailto:wb9lpu@earthlink.net) or [wb9lpu@arrl.net](mailto:wb9lpu@arrl.net).

72/73 and Happy DXing de WB9LPU

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