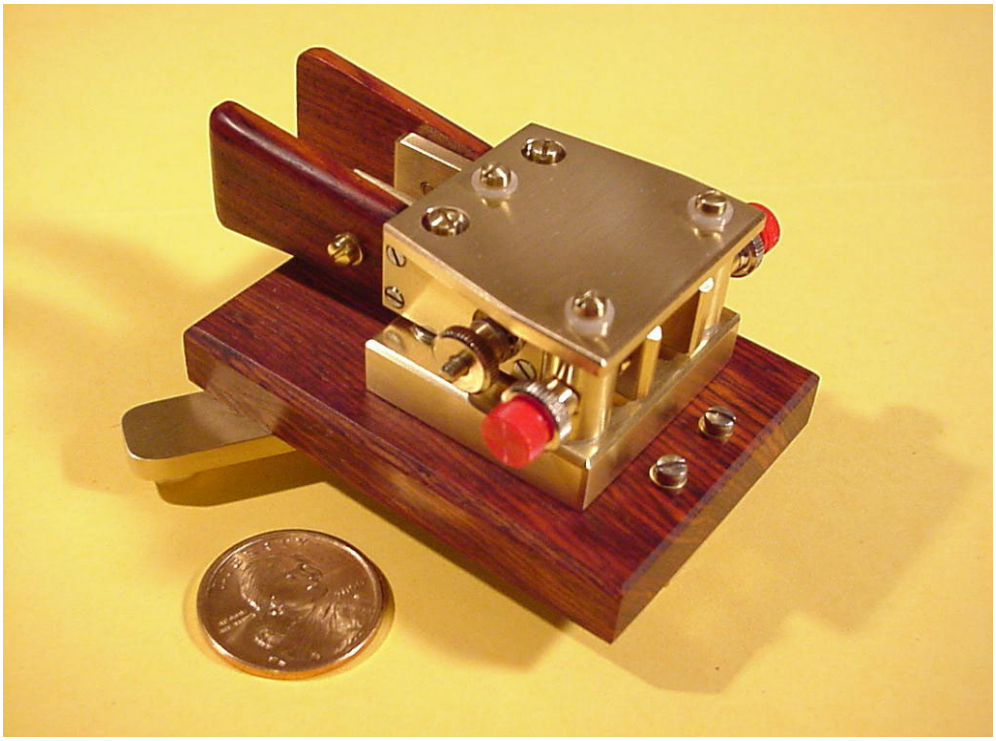
Parkwood Paddles by WB9LPU

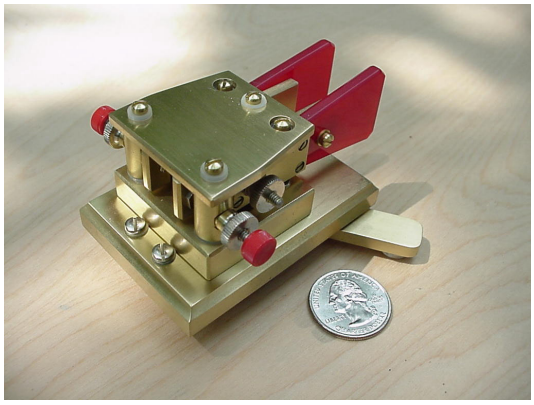
Thanks for inquiring about my paddles. This brochure will point out their main features, show a number of examples that are now in use, and will give a schedule of prices and options. While I have made a large number of designs, for the sake of practicality, I have decided to offer a single basic design that can be customized to suit the user. I am continuing to make refinements in the design and construction, so future paddles may have features that are slightly different from those shown here.



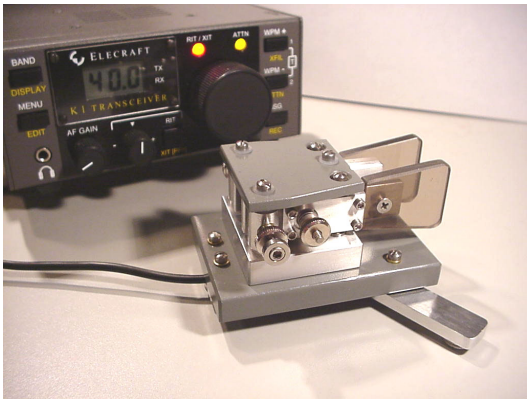
Features of the Parkwood Paddles –

- Fully iambic operation, with the tension of each paddle independently adjustable
- Tension supplied by either coil springs or rare-earth magnets
- Small in size, but with the crisp feel of larger paddles
- All critical adjustments fitted with locknuts and steel compression washers for settings that stay put
- Instrument-grade ball bearings (four per paddle) A teflon-ball pivot system is also available.
- Contact pillars and paddle bearings held above and below for rigidity and stable adjustments
- Swing-out legs (adjustable) for additional stability
- Mechanism machined from C360 brass or aircraft aluminum
- Wide choice of materials for paddles, fingerpieces, and bases
- Choice of connection methods – none, unterminated cable, pigtail with phone jack, or base-mounted phone jack

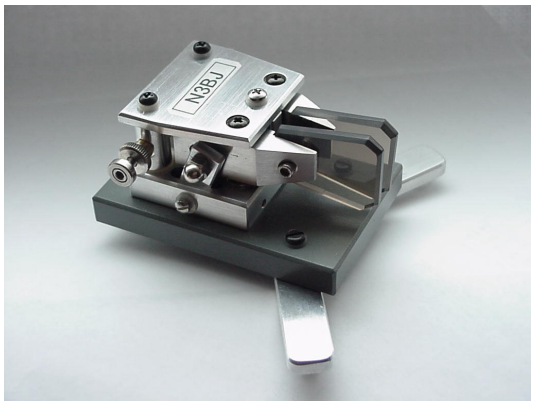
Here are some examples of paddles that will give an idea of the range of variation that is possible with the basic design. This is not a catalog, but just a history of paddles that I have made, and many variations are possible.



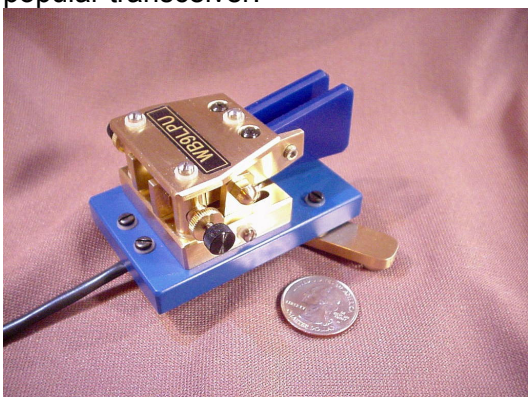
An all-brass paddle with spring tension and wide fingerpiece spacing



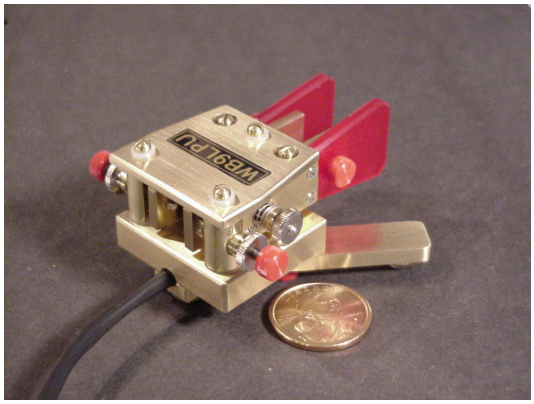
This aluminum and steel paddle, with spring tension, is styled to match a popular transceiver.



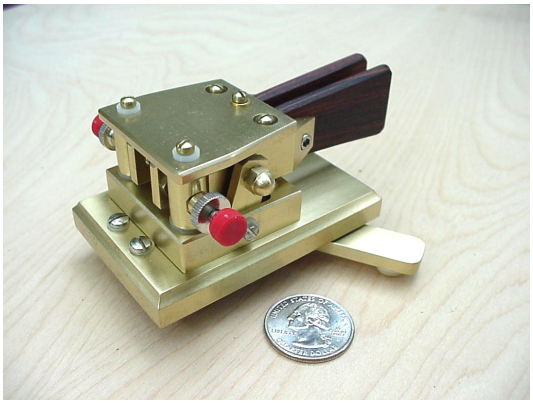
An aluminum paddle on a steel base, with magnetic tension adjustment and close-spaced fingerpieces



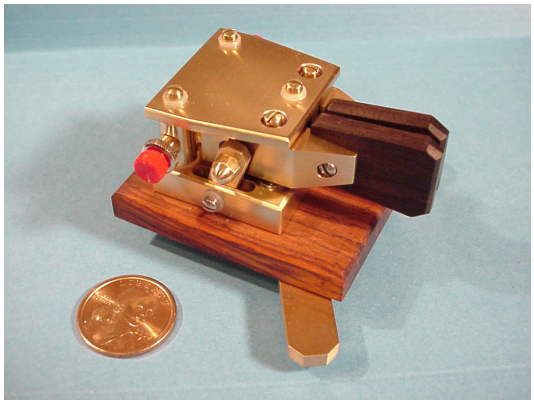
A brass paddle mounted on a steel base, with magnetic tension and close fingerpiece spacing



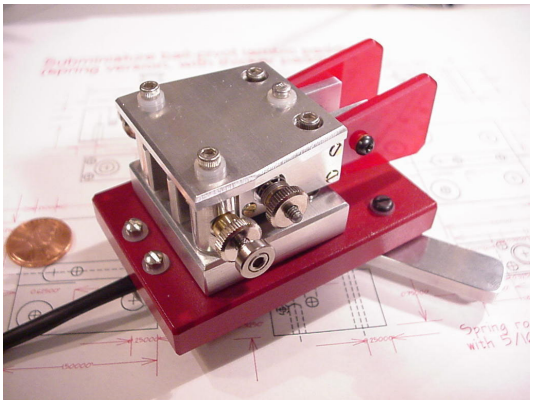
This all-brass paddle has no base; the legs attach directly to the mechanism.



This all-brass paddle has magnetic tension and ebony fingerpieces.



A brass paddle mounted on a base of cocobolo wood, with magnetic tension and ebony fingerpieces



An aluminum paddle on a steel base, wide spacing, spring tension

Brass paddle on brass base, spring tension, cocobolo wood fingerpieces

A brass paddle with short fingerpieces, mounted on cocobolo wood

Options and Choices –

The Standard Model is made of aircraft aluminum (1024-T4 alloy) and is mounted on a painted (powder-coated) steel base. Ball bearings and spring tension are standard.

Price $125.00

The DeLuxe Model is made of brass (C360 alloy) with a choice of exotic hardwood or painted steel base. Ball bearings and spring tension are standard.

Price $160.00

For magnetic tension (either model), add $15.00. For brass base, add $10.00.

For connection to the keyer, the following are available –

- no cable or connector; supplied by user
- six-inch pigtail, terminated with a female phone jack (1/8”)
- long cable, user supplies connector
- base-mounted female phone jack (not available with steel base)

For the color and/or material of the base, I offer –

- painted steel in red, blue, or gray (see examples)
- 3/8' thick brass
- exotic hardwoods, such as cocobolo, bocate, purpleheart, or ebony (the aluminum paddles would not be heavy enough with a wood base)

For the fingerpieces –

- polished plexiglass in red, blue, or smoky grey
- exotic hardwoods as above
- standard spacing is approximately ½ inch (fixed)
- some spacing variation is possible during construction

Frequently asked questions –

Q. What is the difference between spring tension and magnetic tension?

A. Both systems have the same feel; the spring tension is a bit easier to adjust, and the magnetic system, while more elegant, is also harder to make because of the additional machining. The magnetic settings can be locked more securely, although this is not a big problem with the spring system. I originally refined the magnetic design for use in some of my PaddleBugs, but it works well for the paddles too.

Q. How long does it take to have a paddle made?

A. This is hard to say, because this is a spare-time effort until I retire. In the past the waiting times have been longer than I had hoped, on the order of several months at least.

Q. Do you require a deposit?

A. No deposit is required. You will be added to the list, and I will let you know when your paddle is nearly ready, and we can arrange for payment then. Inquiries as to the construction progress are always welcome.

Q. How do I get in touch?

A. My mailing address is:

Richard A. Meiss, WB9LPU

2626 Parkwood Drive

Speedway, IN 46224-3223

E-mail: igeq100@iupui.edu, or wb9lpu@earthlink.net, or wb9lpu@arrl.net

Thanks again for your interest in the Parkwood Paddles. If you are interested further, drop me a line and we can discuss the particulars.

73,

Richard Meiss, WB9LPU

Speedway, IN