

Johnson Ranger Front Panel Removal

Cabinet – If you plan to re-paint the cabinet, pull the feet & rails out of the cabinet & keep screws, etc together to make it easier to put together.

- 1) Remove all knobs using a screwdriver and penetrating oil if necessary.
- 2) Meter - clip the red & black wire leaving some wire color on soldered connections so as to determine polarity when putting this back together. Remove the large meter post nuts and remove the metal can over the meter.
- 3) Panel and Meter lamps - Push holders sideways at the top slightly & holders will pop loose. These holders are just a friction fit into the front panel. Remove bulb on the HV indicator, or mark the meter or HV indicator in some way to keep them straight.
- 4) With 3/8" drive socket, remove the 2 nuts (right & left) that hold indicators on the back side of the panel. Then with 1/4" socket, remove the two nuts on the front side of the bezel. The bezel should now be loose. It may stick because of the gasket, but you can pull it off.
 - Notice that there are #4 nuts on the screws inside the bezel which help support the bezel. Also note that there are large nuts on the jewel assemblies inside the bezel again to support the bezel without distorting it when everything is tightened down.
- 5) Rotate the VFO control fully CCW & note where the stop is. You will want to note this for re-assembly. Now loosen the screw holding the pointer. Pull the pointer.
- 6) There is a large nut on the Jackson Drive of the VFO. Remove this nut with a 7/8" socket.

CAREFUL NOW! Place the unit on the bench so that the front panel is clear of the bench, resting on the chassis (not the front panel). It is important that you don't support the weight on the front panel.

- 7) Remove the 7/16" nuts around each control with a deep socket driver.

WARNING: Be careful not to disturb the VFO Jackson drive (side-to-side or up-or-down). The flexible coupling in the VFO box is phonelic and is very fragile. The panel should now easily pull off the chassis. After the panel comes off, you might want to remove the heavy brass VFO drive panel unit to relieve the stress on the coupler.

- 8) Remove the four meter mounting nuts. Pull the meter & put the meter parts & screws put in separate can or sealable plastic bag. Those screws are small so be careful and don't lose them.
- 9) Remove the plastic dial from the bezel by removing the nuts on the two indicator assemblies. Put these parts in a separate plastic bag.

Reinstalling everything is basically a reversal of the above procedure. The bezel support nuts on the inside of the bezel that go with the mounting screws on the front panel should be 5/16" from the surface of the panel. The large bezel support nuts on the jewel assemblies should be 1/32" below the gasket, and the dial pointer should clear the back of the bushing by 1/32".

In putting the panel back on, continue to be careful of the VFO dial drive assy. Don't let the panel drop and stress the coupler. You will have to do a recalibration of your VFO after putting everything together but this is easy. Refer to the manual.

For an outstanding restoration job, send the panel, bezel, cabinet, & crystal knob to Dee W4PNT (<http://w4pnt.8k.com>).

Patty & Dee's Marina Collectors of "firebottle" radios
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