Vivitar 2800 Modification

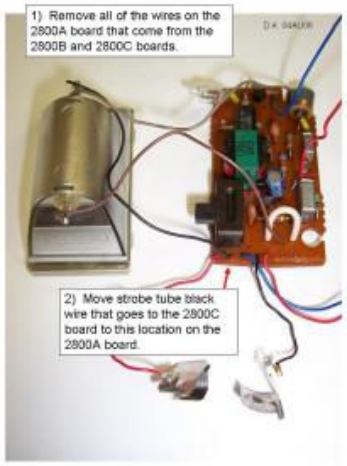
Here is a new modification to the Vivitar 2800 that I just completed, along with some discharge test data. The modification incorporates the previous modification to disable the auto off feature of the Vivitar 2800 (The "disable auto off" mod was created by member 212 of Hags).

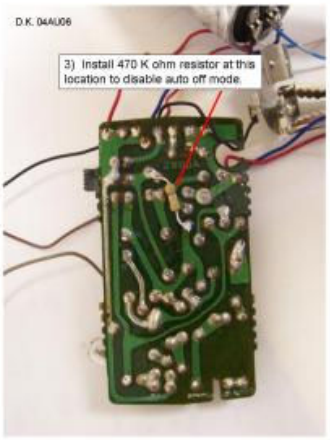
This new **modification removes two of the three boards that are within the Vivitar 2800** (see after modification picture below), and the 2800A board will be the only remaining board. Since it appears no one is using the bounce back feature of the various flash units when building trail cameras, the 2800B and 2800C boards are no longer needed. **Removal of these two boards greatly reduces capacitor discharge, and reduces the amount of space needed for the slave flash components** (data plot attached).

The previous "Low Power Mod" that removed the Neon bulb from the Vivitar 2800 is not recommended based on my new modifications and test data. (My opinion has changed, see new posting http://hagshouse.ipbhost.com/forums/index....showtopic=22291)

Basic Modifcation Steps

1) Remove the wires on the 2800A board that come from the 2800B and 2800C board.
2) Move strobe tube black wire that goes to the 2800C board to the 2800A board (see picture).
3) Install 470 K resistor to disable the "auto off" feature (see picture).





Note : removal of the Neon bulb appears to disable the charge limiter circuit on the Vivitar 2800, and causes the inverter to run continuously if the battery is left connected. Also removal of the Neon bulb does not appear to help reduce the capacitor discharge rate (see attached plot). Removal of the Neon bulb acutally makes the Vivitar 2800 run similar to the Vivitar 2000 (always tries to charge the capactior by running the inverter continuously).

Hope everyone finds this information interesting. I want to also thank Hags member Willraygreen for his support on this project (supplied the hardware for me to hack, and lots of good discussion).

As always modification of commercial equipment is at your own risk. High voltage exists within Flash units, so precautions must be taken to avoid injury.

Enjoy,

Don Kirk