

# Elecraft K2 Builder's Alert

## KSB2 Defective Speech Processor (U3)

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We recently discovered that a small number of KSB2 boards were shipped with defective speech processor I.C.s (U3). Only a few KSB2 boards shipped **before** February 23, 2009 are affected.

**Your KSB2 is NOT affected unless U3's markings match those shown here exactly.** Note the second and third lines: 1S 625/C54502. Also, the markings are in tan instead of the usual white letters.



**Your KSB2 is NOT affected if your K2 transmits in SSB at all.** A defective U3 will prevent any SSB output.

**⚠ CHECK U3's MARKINGS ON YOUR KSB2 BOARD BEFORE YOU BEGIN ASSEMBLY.**

It is much easier to replace U3 before other components are installed.

### What To Do

Elecraft will correct the problem at no cost to you. You may either:

1. Return the KSB2 board to Elecraft to replace U3 or,
2. Install a new U3 on the board yourself.

To return the KSB2 board to Elecraft, e-mail [sales@elecraft.com](mailto:sales@elecraft.com) or call 831-662-8345 for an RSA number and return instructions.

To obtain a new U3, send an e-mail to [parts@elecraft.com](mailto:parts@elecraft.com) or call 831-662-8345. Order part number E600119.

Installing U3 is a fairly simple procedure, even without special SMD tools. Suggest you proceed as follows:

**⚠ Observe ESD precautions when replacing U3 yourself. Wear an ESD wrist strap or frequently touch an unpainted metal ground while working.**

- Cut the leads to the old U3 near its body, then remove and discard the chip.
- Clean the solder pads, removing the cut leads using a desoldering iron, solder sucker or desoldering braid.
- Position the new U3 on the cleaned solder pads as shown here.
- While holding the chip in position, tack one lead in place by touching it and the solder pad with a soldering iron carrying small drop of solder on the tip. When you are satisfied with the position so that all four leads are resting on the solder pads, solder the remaining leads. If needed, touch up the first lead you tack-soldered in place.

