

73 Reviewby *Larry R. Antonuk WB9RRT*

Heathkit Adapter and Coax Cable Kits

*Create your own versatile adapters.*Heath Company
Benton Harbor MI 49022
(800) 253-0570

Price Class: HCA-3001, \$80; HCA-5001, \$70

It's happened to everyone at least once. You're right in the middle of some complex (and highly important) test procedure, like measuring desense on a 2 meter repeater at the same time you're keying up a 440 repeater into a dummy load. You have one more cable to hook up, but you need a PL-259-to-N adapter. You reach into your tool box, and...hmmm. You were sure you had one more of those. Oh well, you can just screw together this BNC-to-N, along with this...no, that won't work. Let's see, maybe if I...no, not that either. It doesn't matter how many times you dump out that coffee can full of flea market RF adapters, you don't have what you need. You just "can't get there from here." The test has to be postponed (or altered, or fudged) until you get the proper equipment.

The HCA-3001 RF Adapter Kit

At some point, having the right tool for the job becomes important. It's either a necessity, or it's simply worth it in order to eliminate headaches. The right tool for the RF technician is now available from Heathkit.

The HCA-3001 RF adapter kit is a product that should be found under every radiohead's Christmas tree. This kit consists of two dozen adapter ends and six center pieces, packed in a zippered, leather-like case. An actual adapter is made by screwing the ends (say, one female UHF and a male N) to each end of the threaded center piece. This produces an adapter that is slightly longer than the average adapter, but much more versatile. The kit contains male and female N, F, RCA, BNC, UHF, SMA, TNC, and Mini-UHF adapter ends. This means that you can get from one to another of any of these styles, making up an adapter that Amphenol never even thought of! You can now go from a female F to a female SMA in one two-inch adapter, not the seven-inch conglomeration that you have to link together now.

The adapters all have Teflon™ insulation and gold-plated center pins. One of the nicest features is the fact that the adapters all fit in their individual slots in the case. You can tell at a glance if any of the components are missing, eliminating the "left it at the site" syndrome.

The HCA-5001 Coax Adapter Cable Kit

Once you've used the RF adapter kit for a while, you'll come to appreciate the pleasure of using just the right tool for the job. If you really want

to pamper yourself, the next step is to pick up the HCA-5001 Coax Adapter cable kit. This kit consists of 20 three-foot RG-58 cables with a variety of mixed and matched connectors on each end. The styles are the same as listed above, with no SMAs, and with a couple of test clips thrown in. These connectors are the same high quality as the adapter set, and the cable is a flexible, easy-to-work-with type. And it's bright yellow, so you can tell at a glance if someone at another bench has "borrowed" one of your cables. Heathkit even throws in two wall racks so you can keep track of things.

Once you have the Heathkit adapter AND cable kits, there'll be no RF job you won't be able to tackle. This part of the job will become so easy you may have to hunt around to find something ELSE to complain about! **73**

Larry Antonuk WB9RRT has written numerous reviews on test equipment and electronics books. He currently works as a project manager for a land mobile service shop in Keene, New Hampshire. He enjoys home-brew projects, experimentation, and instrumentation. Contact him at P.O. Box 452, Marlborough NH 03455.

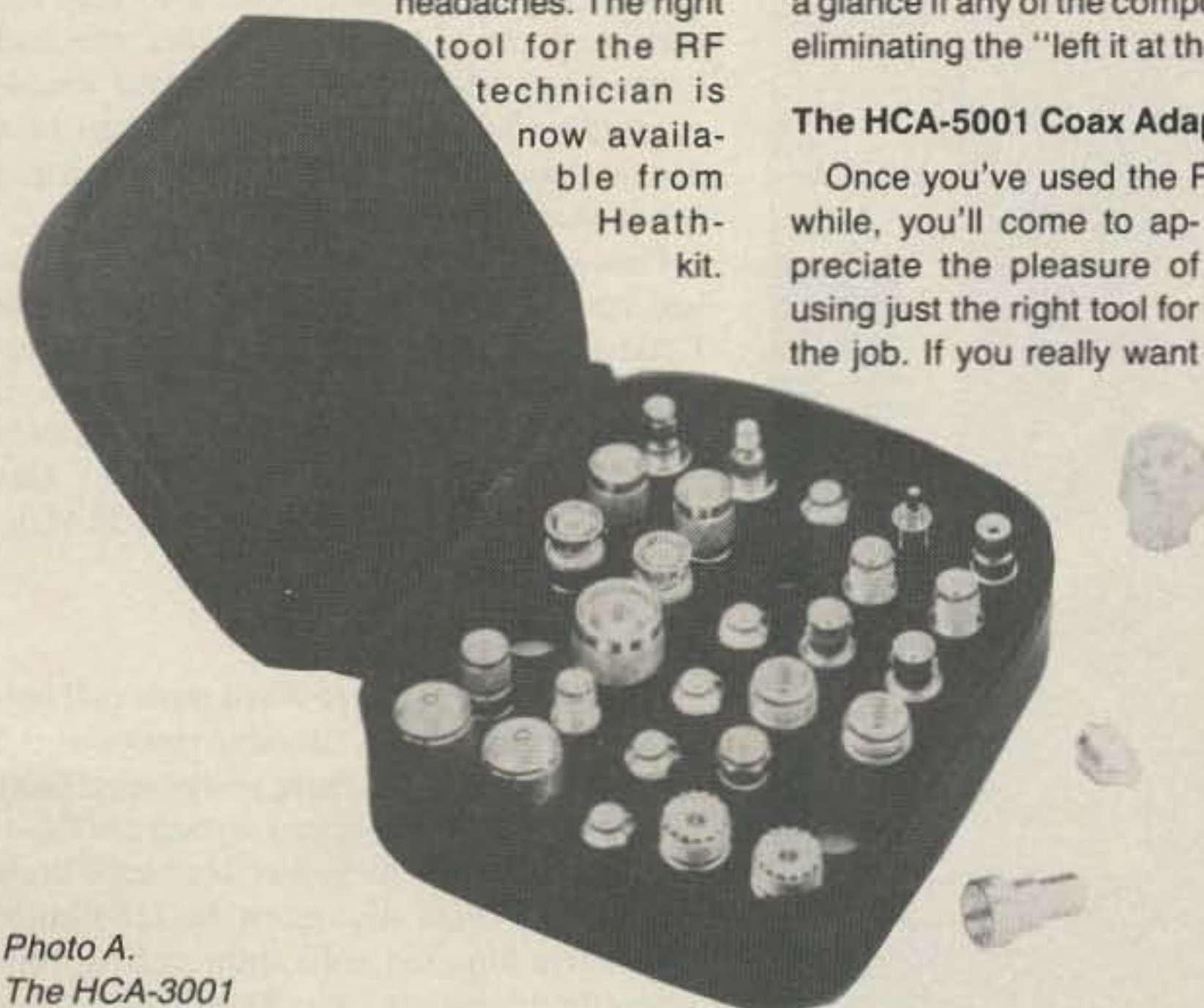


Photo A.
The HCA-3001
RF adapter kit.

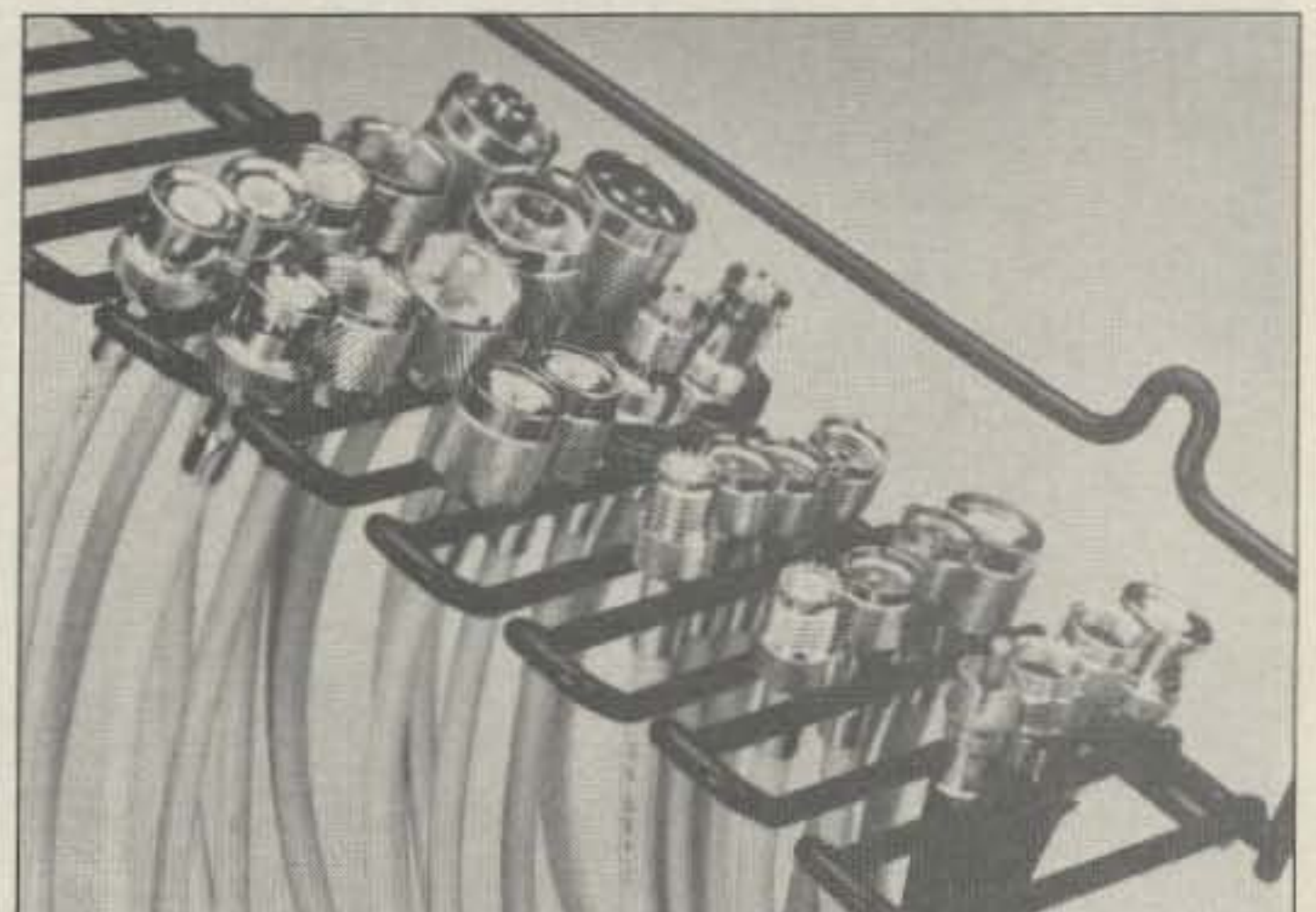


Photo B. The HCA-5001 coax cable kit.