

MFJ DRY DUMMY LOAD MODEL MFJ-260

I acquired this dummy load from a friend who was getting out of the hobby.



It looked in good shape but I checked the load resistor to see how close it was to 50 Ω . The measurement was taken at the SO-239 connector and it measured about 64 Ω .

Your first thought would be that the load was overheated. The load is rated for intermittent operation up to 300 Watts and up to 160 MHz. The power rating of the resistor used as the load looks like at about 50 Watts but not sure about this. I remembered he was a QRP guy and it probably did not see any more than a few Watts at one given time. Checking the internal resistor directly showed about 51 Ω .

The problem was painted rivets used to connect the SO-239 to the box and internal overspray. To fix the problem I drilled out the rivets and removed the internal paint around the SO-239 area and other areas where a ground was required using a Dremel tool. The rivets were replaced with #6 machine screws, nuts and lock washers. After re-assembly the resistance measured at the SO-239 connector was about 51 Ω .



I checked the VSWR on 2 meters using a Bird 43 Wattmeter and after doing the conversion calculation it indicated about 1.5 to 1. Although the dummy load was not rated higher than 160 MHz, I checked it at 440 MHz. It was un-usable at this frequency.

This is the only MFJ item I have and given the few parts it has it is surprising (maybe not to some) that it could have a factory defect. I don't know how old this load is but given the type of problem there may be others out there with a similar problem.

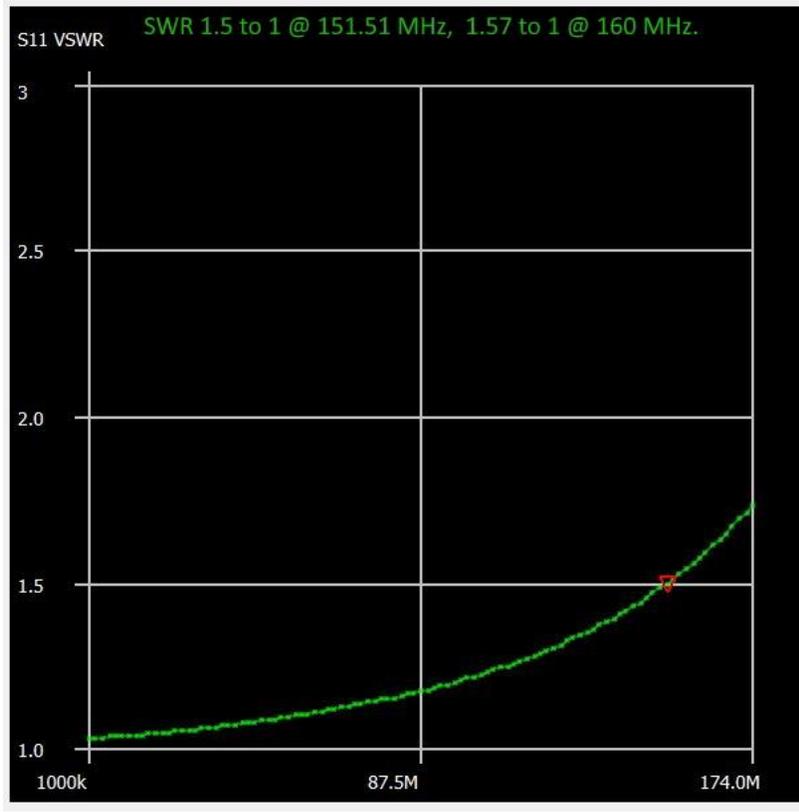
April 15, 2013

Update September 30, 2018

This update does not pertain to the MFJ-260 but with a similar problem with another piece of MFJ equipment. I recently picked up a used MFJ-941C tuner. This is the second piece of MFJ equipment I have. The problem was with the Bypass Coax SO-239 connector. The connector was not making good contact with the box because the paint was acting as an insulator.

Update March 28, 2020

Here is an SWR plot of this dummy load using a Hugen NanoVNA-H4.



The red marker at the 1.5 to 1 SWR line is at 151.51 MHz.

MFJ rates this dummy load to 160 MHz. I presume this is at 1.5 to 1 SWR. This dummy load didn't not quite make it but close according to the plot.

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