

**HICKOK 539C**  
**10 PIN NIXIE TUBE SOCKET TO 9 PIN SOCKET SAVER MOD**  
**By William Eccher**

When Hickok designed the 539C to replace the 539B new sockets had been introduced, which created issues fitting them into the faceplate. A compromise was made with the 9 pin miniature tube socket to accommodate the 10 pin nixie socket. Since the added pin was in the middle of the socket the retainer machine screw could not be used to secure the 9 pin socket saver.

Very few nixie tubes are in use today and other products are available to test them at a reasonable cost.

The center pin is removed from the socket and after the socket saver is installed the 10<sup>th</sup> pin wiring is connected to the retaining machine screw. It would be easy to remove this modification if some obscure reason it was desired.

