IZ2UUF web site

Using a Wouxun/Kenwood USB cable as a Yaesu FT817/857/897 CAT connection.

March 12th, 2011

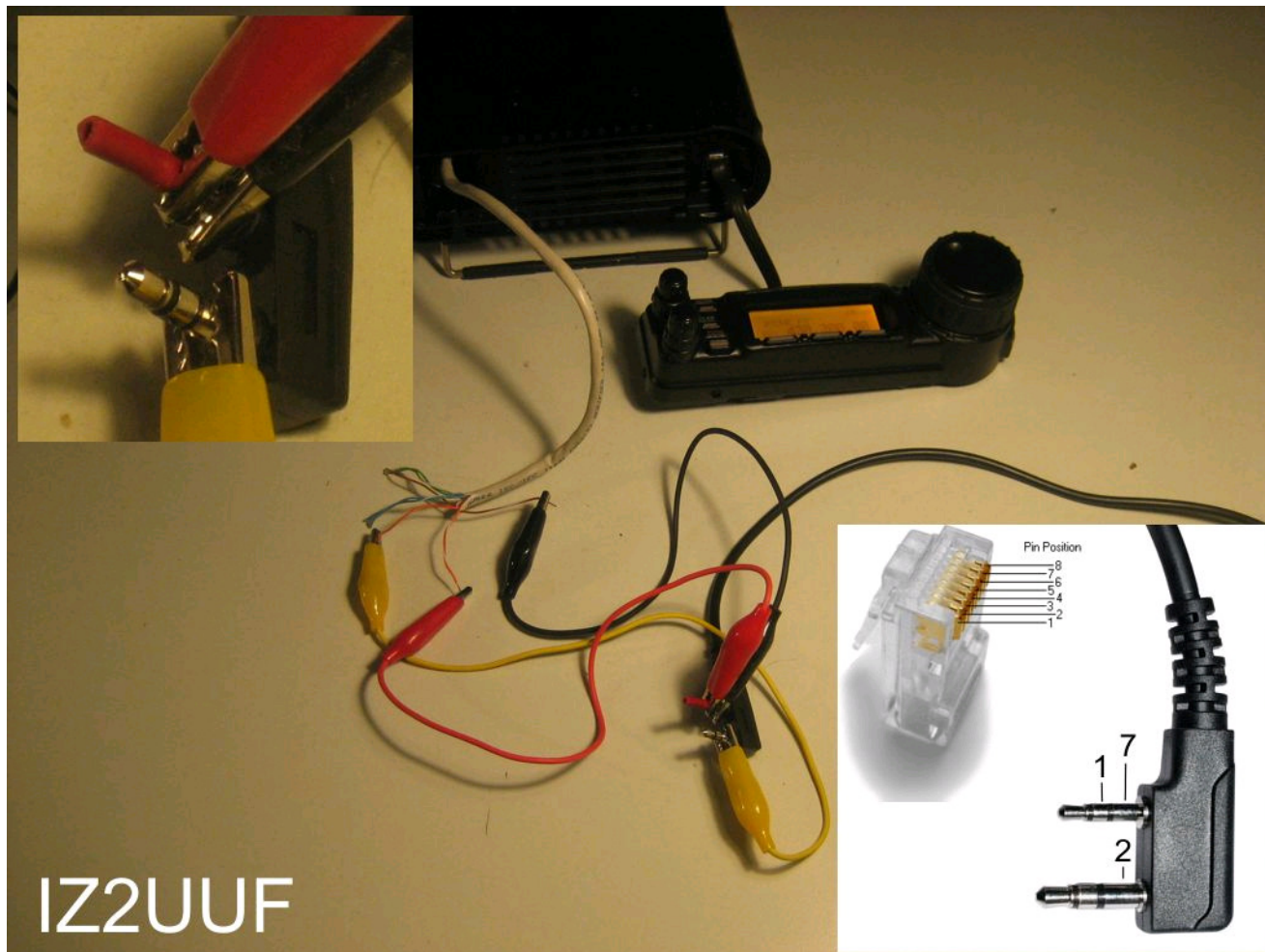I was looking on the internet for a cable to connect my Yaesu FT857 to my PC.
Aside of the expensive official cable, there were the usual RS-232 circuits plus several cheap Chinese USB adapters on ebay.
Looking at them, I realized that most of the RS-232 conversion cables for any electronic equipment are simply 5v to 12v level conversion circuits.
Given that, every USB-to-5v_SERIAL adapter should work as well. For example, I got an USB programming cable for my Wouxun KG-UVD1P handheld, which have the same pinout of Kenwood radios. So, why not giving a try to it?

I did not have handy a 8-pin miniDIN for the rear CAT port, but I knew I could use the front MIC port as well. That port has a RJ-45 LAN-like connector. I cut a piece of LAN cable and with three crocodile clips i conneceted it to the Wouxun adapter. You know what? It worked.
In order to use the MIC port as a CAT interface, you must activate it by setting Menu 059 (MIC SEL), changing it from NOR (normal) to CAT.

March 16th, 2011

Eventually I got the right connectors and it works on the rear CAT port too. You need a stereo 2.5mm female, a stereo 3.5 female and a 8-pin mini din plug.

These are the pinout of the two connectors and how you should connect them.

Pin	Signal
1	TX INH
2	not connected
3	SENSE
4	TX (from radio)
5	RX (to radio)
6	GND
7	not connected
8	+13.8V power

Pin	Signal
A	not connected
B	TX (from radio)
C	GND
D	not connected
E	not connected
F	RX (to radio)

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