

ADDENDUM

W9YA's Constructive Critique of the K5BCQ Mega 2560 Mini K3NG Keyer P.C.B.

05-Feb-2022

Since I wrote my original critique of this PCB and manual/BOM, I have spent a bit of time reading through other opinions from the RadioArtisan forum at groups.io. There I found parallel input from OK1RR, LA3ZA and MANY others. This reflects how important the community at RadioArtisan has been to the development and improvements on the K5BCQ P.C.B. (In the short amount of time since I wrote my Critique and Review there has been further input about a silk screen error from Zinci Sulfati.)

I have the following 4 items to add to my previous critique:

1 – I am NOT sure exactly how well the mega-pro-mini on-board regulator will work with a full 14-15V DC input. Perhaps the PCB could consider the on-board placement of an optional buck-boost regulator ? (The next item also makes this extremely desirable.)

2 - The sidetone audio could use improvement with an amplifier. AND powering this from the built in regulator would not make any sense along with the rest the current requirements.

3 – Instead of using pin “D4” for the dit paddle input, using “D2” will allow for enabling the “Direct Paddle Pin Read” option. A simple trace elongation on the bottom of the board long with a slight adjustment in the placement of the “D5” on the top side of the board would accomplish this improvement.

4 – R14 is too small and exceeds the recommended maximum current sourcing specs. 1K would most likely be more than sufficient.

FINALLY: I hope that when K5BCQ and/or the AQR Club are done with either distributing the finished product OR with the developmental/improvement work on the design; they would seriously consider releasing the CAD files so the community that helped with this endeavor could continue to further improve this FB P.C.B.

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