

**Identifying Damaged
Tait Orca TOPA-AN-202
Antennas**

15 April 2003

Applicability

This Technical Note provides visual indicators to identify TOPA-AN-202 antennas that have failed in the field.

1. Introduction

**Identifying
Antenna
Damage**

The existing Orca ¼ wave UHF whip antenna, TOPA-AN-202, could fail to radiate RF signal if the antenna is damaged.. The failure to radiate is attributed to the antenna's centre pin breaking. Quite often a break of the antenna pin will allow the pin to fall out of the antenna when it is removed from the radio.

Usually the break is obvious as seen in **Figure 1** below.

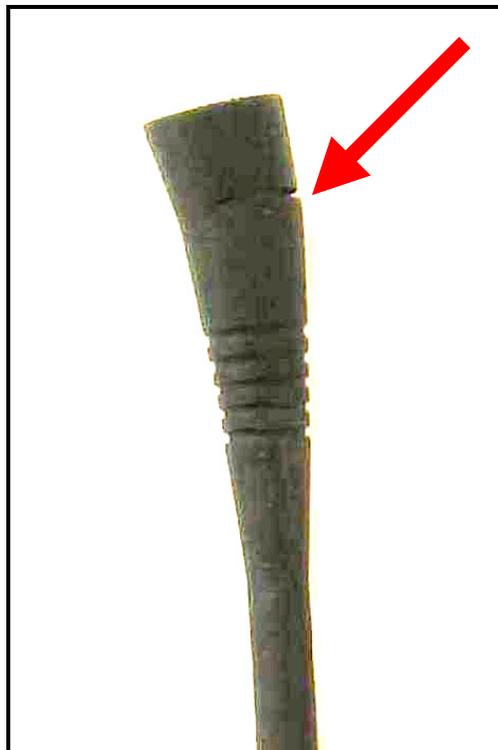


Figure 1

However the antenna may only show a 'rib' about 10mm from the base as shown in **Figure 2**. This antenna has a broken centre pin. This can be verified by measuring from the pin to the top of the antenna whip with an ohmmeter. This antenna is open circuit, and should be replaced.

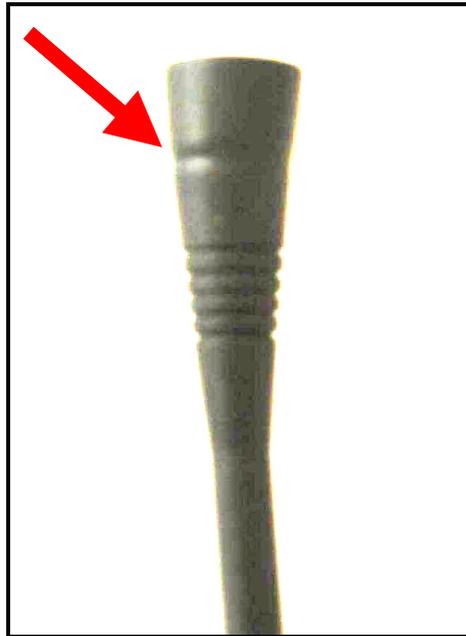


Figure 2

Antenna Types

There were two suppliers of antenna employed during the life of the TOPA-AN-202 antenna. Centurion supplied the first version and these can be identified by the smooth outer edge of the SMA connector.

The second version was manufactured by Auden and can be identified by the serrated outer edge of the SMA connector.

Either version fails in the fashion outlined above if subjected to sufficient lateral pressure. It became evident from information passed to Technical Support that the amount of pressure required was below expectations of users. After sourcing and testing other brands, a change of supplier was made to Galtronics. The new antenna is known as a TOPA-AN-212.

Related Documents	E-mail updates 1 to 6. Focus calls: 5421, 5692 and 5831. Warranty Remedy: WR-015
Solution	All TOPA-AN-202 antennas that fail should be replaced with the TOPA-AN-212 antenna by implementing Warranty Remedy WR-015. Note: If there are 'J' and 'K' band users with failed TOPA-AN-202 antennas these should be replaced with the TOPA-AN-204 or TOPA-AN-205 respectively.
Compliance	None.
CSO Instruction	Please inform all technical, sales, logistics staff and accredited dealers of the how to recognise failed antennas.

2. Issuing authority

Name and position of issuing officer	Graham Brenchley Customer Support Engineer
Confidentiality	Confidential – This message or document contains proprietary information intended only for the person(s) or organisation(s) to whom it is addressed. All Recipients are legally obliged to not disclose Tait technological or business information to any persons or organizations without the written permission of Tait.
Distribution Level	Tait Only and Associate
Document History	Original Release 15 April 2003 GCB