

1970s Capacitors

Capacitors have been used in electronic circuits since their invention in the late 19th century, and their popularity has only grown with time. In the 1970s, capacitors were commonly used in electronic devices such as radios, televisions, and computers. Capacitors were used for various purposes, including power filtering, decoupling, signal coupling, and timing.

In the 1970s, electrolytic capacitors were commonly used due to their high capacitance values and low cost. These capacitors were made using an electrolyte and a conductive material and were polarized, meaning they had a positive and negative terminal. Ceramic capacitors were also used in electronic devices, mainly for their stability and reliability.

These are the spent (bad) capacitors replaced in the Altair 8800b-dm computer. Each one had to be de-soldered and more contemporary capacitors soldered in their place. Direct replacements from new old-stock were used when available. It is a time-consuming, but vital process when restoring vintage electronics.