Reducing old valve receiver oscillator drift

Most older receivers employing vacuum tube oscillators do show a significant amount of drift according to todays standards and much of this drift is during warmup. A solution, empoloyed by Hallicrafters in their SX-101 series, is to simply add a 6.3V filament transformer of the correct current rating directly across the AC Line cord of the receiver, before the power switch and drive the heater of the tunable oscillator tube in the receiver from it. This way the oscillator tube is always heated (as long as the AC line is plugged in) regardless of whether the receiver is on or off, and warmup drift is almost completely eliminated or certainly significantly reduced.

Plate and screen voltages to any tunable stage in a receiver—particularly the local oscillator, should also be regulated for greater stability.

(By Irwin Math, WA2NDM, in "CQ".)