Replacing a Reverb Tank

Reverb tanks usually fail for one of a couple of reasons. They contain two coils with very fine wire and this can break over time. Also the springs slowly stretch under their own weight and foul the chassis. In either case the best option is to replace.

The reverb is secured to the frame with four screws, sometimes it is also enclosed in a bag and you just have to figure out how to get that off. Most importantly, don't disconnect the leads yet as the most common mistake is getting the leads round the wrong way. Once you have the tank loose, position it so you can read the labels next to the connectors. One is input and the other is output. Label the leads so you know which is which. There is no standard color code. OK, now you can disconnect them.

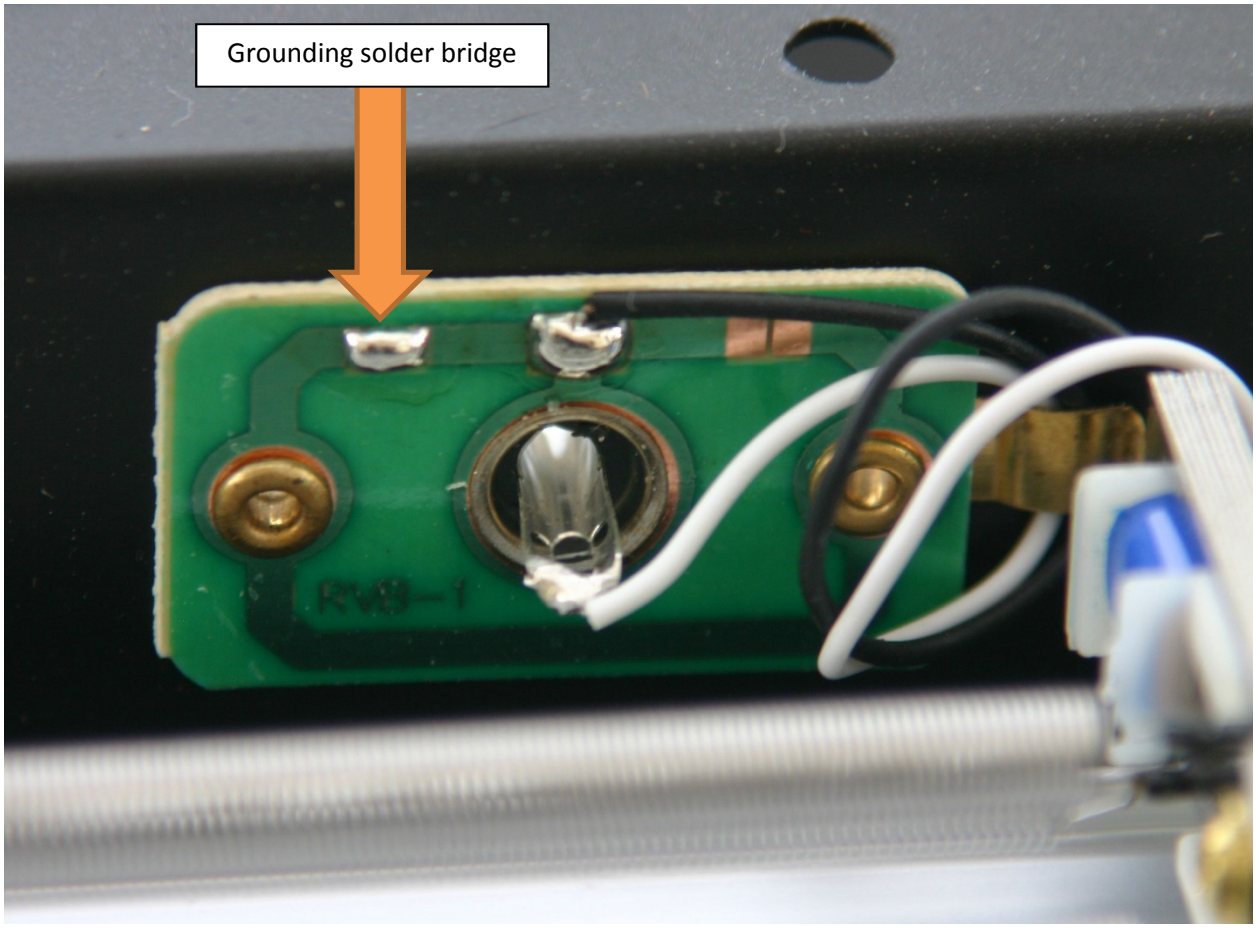
Grab the new tank and remove ALL the foam packing materials. Put the old tank to one side and plug in the new connecting the leads that you labelled just a few moments ago to the corresponding places. You did label them, right? Rest the tank somewhere where the springs are not fouling anything and try it out. If all is good you can proceed with the reinstallation. Do take care with combos as the speaker magnet will try to wrestle it out of your hands and no-one will take a scratched tank back.

How to Re-configure the Connector Grounding for Reverb Tanks

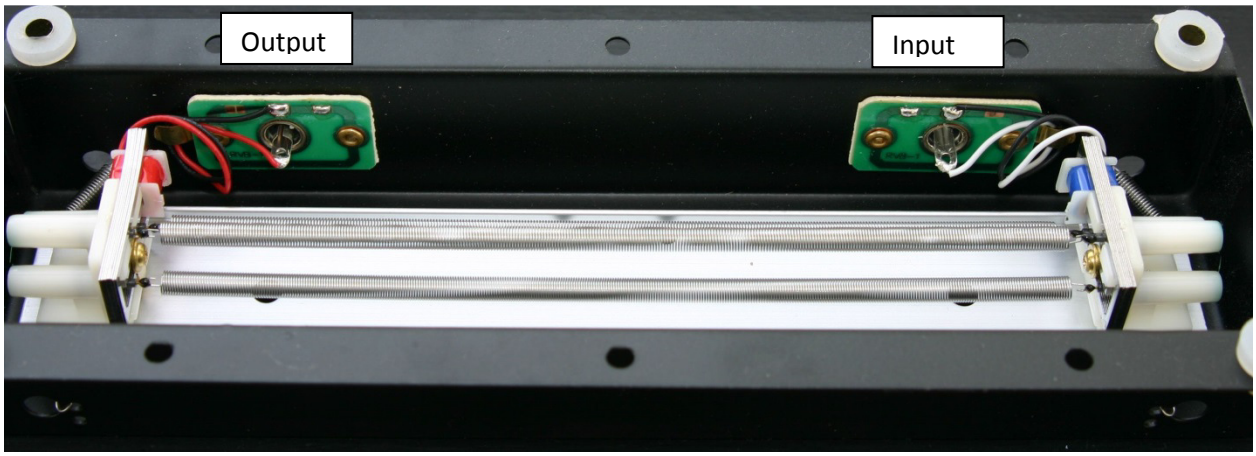
Reverb tanks come in four pre-arranged connector grounding schemes. 'Grounded' means electrically connected to the chassis.

Scheme	Input Connector	Output Connector
A	Grounded	Grounded
B	Grounded	Isolated
C	Isolated	Grounded
D	Isolated	Isolated

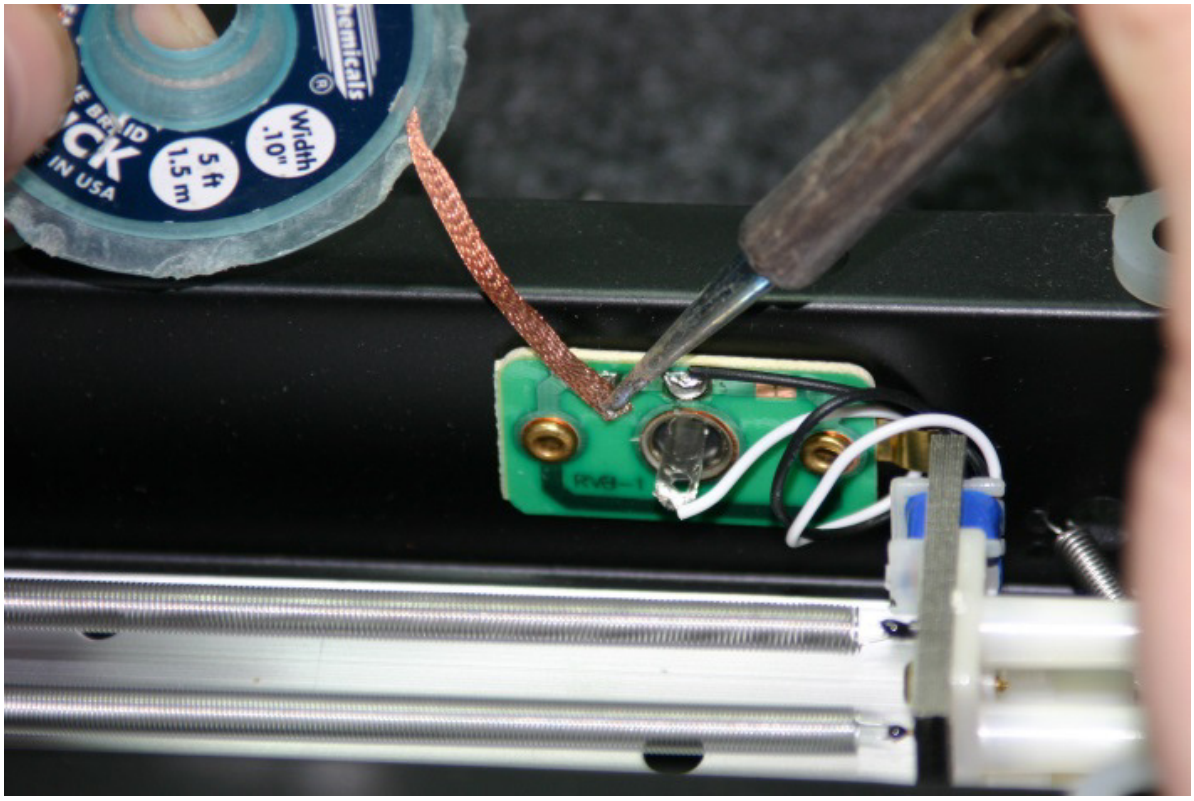
The scheme is designated by the fifth character in the model number. For example an **8BB2A1B** uses scheme 'A' and both connectors are grounded. You can see how this is done in the photo below. There is a solder bridge on the connector circuit board that makes the connection. You need to carefully remove this using a soldering iron to isolate the connector. On the other hand if you need to ground a connector that was previously isolated, you must add the solder bridge.

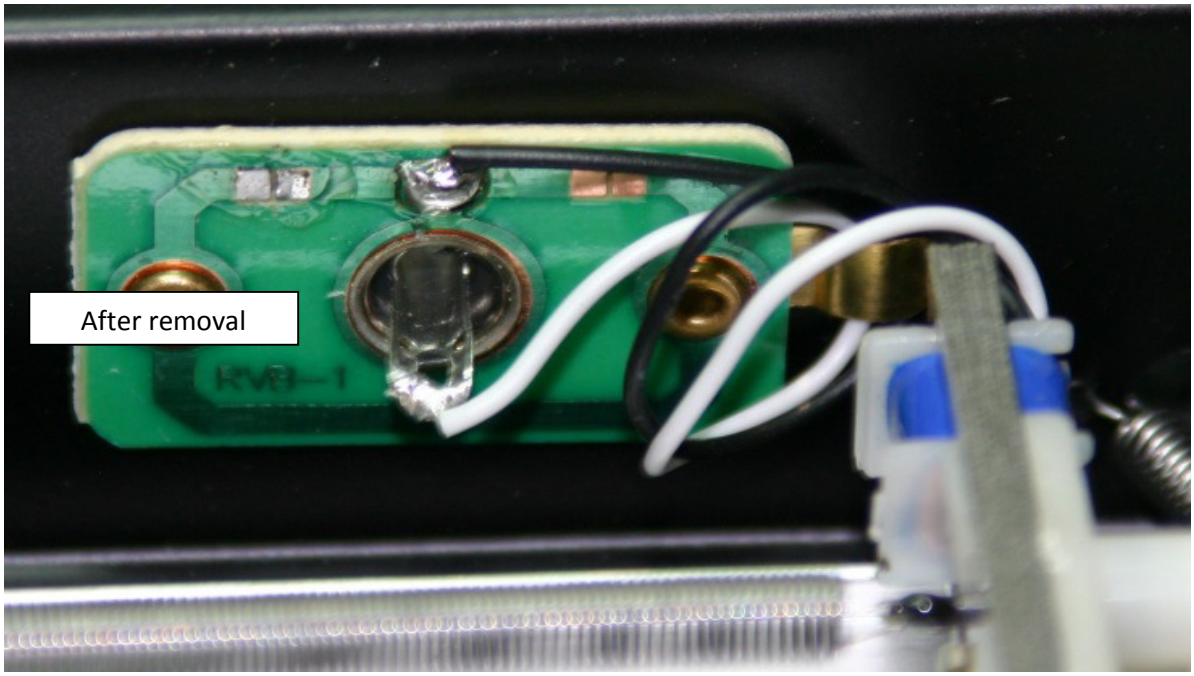


By way of example, we are going to convert an 8BB2A1B to an 8BB2C1B. Here is the bottom view of an 8BB2A1B. You can see that there are solder bridges on both connectors.



The 8BB2C1B has the input isolated so we need to remove the solder bridge by heating the solder until it is molten and quickly brush away the solder with a cotton bud or similar. A better choice, if you have it, is to use a product like 'solder wick' to remove the excess solder. Make sure no solder debris is left inside the chassis. That's it!





To add a solder bridge, just hold the solder wire over the copper pads and heat all three while feeding in just enough solder to form the bridge. Only solder the one pair of pads.

Questions? Email: tech@bmamps.com