

## ***Finding Parts to Build Stuff With is Easy:***

I have been building electronics things for over 60 years and over that time and especially in this day and age I keep hearing that finding the parts that are needed to do so are apparently hard to find. In my experience, it has never been easier to find parts, especially today. The internet is a wonderful place to search for things you can build with. You just need to know what you are looking for, describe it in the browser and let it work for you. The most common comment I get from people that are having problems finding things is where to look. That is what flea markets are for. Both online and in person. There is so much stuff out there that people are trying to get rid of that it's mind boggling. In the first place know what you are looking for. Ask questions of other hams or hobbyists.

For instance, let's say you want to build some type of mechanical device with a stepper motor like an alt/az rotator for satellite work. The first question is where do I find designs for such things? Now these devices use stepper motors, and the robotics people use them all the time. Look on robotics sites for them. Here's a nice site and it's Canadian too.... <https://www.robotshop.com/ca/en/robot-parts.html>. How about capacitors for antenna tuners? I would check out flea markets and if that fails go to some of the sites in the US like Palstar or MFJ to see what they have. All those parts are available for reasonable costs. Look at this Palstar site.... <http://www.palstar.com/en/components/> It is often worth it to look at these manufacturers. Here is where you can get the MFJ catalog... <https://mfjenterprises.com/>



MFJ sells replacement parts for their equipment and lots of other great stuff for reasonable prices. My favourite place to go first whenever I'm looking for something is Amazon.



For instance, let's say you are looking for brass standoffs for some little thing you are

building. [https://www.amazon.ca/s?k=brass+standoff+mounts&crid=A2YTD58N0RVL&srefix=Brass+standoff%2Caps%2C200&ref=nb\\_sb\\_ss\\_ts-doa-p\\_3\\_14](https://www.amazon.ca/s?k=brass+standoff+mounts&crid=A2YTD58N0RVL&srefix=Brass+standoff%2Caps%2C200&ref=nb_sb_ss_ts-doa-p_3_14)

The selection is mind boggling.

How about some high voltage capacitors?

[https://www.amazon.ca/s?k=high+voltage+capacitors&ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss\\_1](https://www.amazon.ca/s?k=high+voltage+capacitors&ref=nb_sb_noss_1)

Or how about some high precision 1W resistors?

[https://www.amazon.ca/WiMas-Resistor-Resistance-Assorted-1000Pcs/dp/B0797QLGGB/ref=sr\\_1\\_5?dchild=1&keywords=1+watt+resistor&qid=1628868780&sr=8-5](https://www.amazon.ca/WiMas-Resistor-Resistance-Assorted-1000Pcs/dp/B0797QLGGB/ref=sr_1_5?dchild=1&keywords=1+watt+resistor&qid=1628868780&sr=8-5)

So, finding parts is not so hard after all is it? In fact, it is easier today than ever to find just about anything you want within moments on the internet. Back in the old days there were tons of surplus stores that you could go to to find anything you wanted, but those days are over. Most surplus stores are near the major manufacturers in the States these days and that starts getting expensive to ship.



If you look online, you will find a ton of places that sell small quantity parts. One of them is Lee's Electronic Components in Vancouver. <https://leeselectronic.com/en/> You will find a ton of stuff at this little shop. They ship too.

Another source in Canada is Electronics Surplus. Their supply is a bit limited, but they have lots of stuff that you might need. <https://electronicsurplus.ca/>

A1 Electronics Parts out of Toronto is another one with a huge selection of surplus and new parts to choose from.

<https://a1parts.com/index.html> Another one to look at for parts in Canada is the Quebec company SurplusTek. Once again a big selection for anyone playing around with electronics. <https://surplustek.ca/en/electronic-projects-kits-parts-and-accessories/miscellaneous>

If you can't find what you want in Canada, try the States. Electronic Surplus is a huge company out of Ohio that has just about everything and at good prices.

<https://www.electronicsurplus.com/> There are so many companies in the US selling parts and pieces to electronic enthusiasts that it boggles the mind. Just type into Google "electronic surplus" and you will see dozens of great sources to choose from. One of my favorites is Max Gain Systems. This is where I found the turns counters that I like to use on my antenna tuners. <https://mgs4u.com/product/model-rav-t14-deluxe-turns-counting-dial-assembly/>



It surprises me how isolated some people are from the huge advantages we have with the internet on finding parts for building our projects. I had a visitor over the other day looking for a specific capacitor for an antenna he has wanted to build for one 5 years. He has been held up because the guy that used to build butterfly capacitors in Alberta is no longer doing so and is impossible to contact, he told me. My advice is to go to MFJ and buy one from them. Here's the link for it.... <https://mfjenterprises.com/products/mfj-23>

My point is that if you want something, think about who else uses that stuff and maybe approach the company or person instead of just thinking it is impossible to find parts for your projects. Become curious and do some digging and you will be surprised what is out there. Have fun creating some amazing things for your hobby and look a little harder for the parts or ask someone.

73

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