Tips for Building the Radios

Build and test it up in sections as the instructions suggest. Don't go on to the next stage until the previous stage is successfully tested.

Soldering: Too much heat on the circuit board metal pads could lift the metal. Too little heat and you will have a cold solder joint, which is neither mechanically nor electrically reliable. When the solder is molten, it should wet the whole metal pad. When finished, you should have a solder joint that is shiny and extends over the whole metal pad. It helps to clean the grunge off the soldering iron tip with a wet cloth before soldering. Bend the leads over on the metal pad before soldering, but make sure they cannot short on to adjacent pads. (All this sounds like quite a tall order, but it is actually is quite easy after some experience)!

Mount the components on the board so the leads are as short as possible. However, don't pull too hard on the leads– you can damage the components that way.

Soldering transistors: transistors are sensitive to heat and can be damaged. Apply minimum heat when soldering them in place.

Tuning the IF "cans". Do not use a metal screwdriver. This will be ferromagnetic. This causes the inductance of the inductor in the can to change when the screwdriver is moved away from the can, thus detuning the circuit. It is possible to cut the leg of a plastic pen top into a screwdriver shape that will serve nicely.