

the GENERAL RADIO Experimenter

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A 900-2000 Mc UNIT OSCILLATOR

With the addition of the new TYPE 1218-A Unit Oscillator, the series of GR Unit Oscillators shown in Figure 2 now covers the frequency range from 0.5-2000 Mc. The lowest-frequency unit has two frequency ranges, the others have only one. They all are simple triode oscillators with output adjustable from a low value to about 200 milliwatts. The oscillators are well shielded for use in the measurement laboratory to drive bridges, slotted lines, and other impedance-measuring equipment, and as power sources in general testing and measurement systems. Heater and plate power can be obtained from any available power source but ordinarily one of the small GR Unit Power Supplies will be used. The new oscillator covers the frequency range of 900 to 2000 megacycles, used mostly for aircraft navigation and marine services.

Tube

The oscillator tube used in the Type 1218-A 900-2000 Mc Unit Oscillator is the 5675-type pencil triode shown in Figure 3. This tube has small internal electrodes of conventional cylindrical design, but grid connections are brought

out to a large circumferential terminal which requires disc seal construction. The cylindrical plate, grid and cathode electrodes are all located on the plate side of the grid disc, and tuning between plate and grid is possible with a quarter-wave line section at frequencies as high as 2000 Mc. At the same frequency a $\frac{3}{4}$ wave-length section is required to tune between grid and cathode.

Tuning Elements

Since the high Q of the short coaxial grid plate line determines performance and stability of the oscillator, the longer grid cathode line has been coiled up in a $3\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter circle to save space. It is housed in a shallow cylindrical compartment, which is shown in Figure 4 with the shield cover removed. The mechanical design of the oscillator is

Figure 1. View of the Type 1218-A Unit Oscillator.



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Also IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
UNIT VIBRATOR POWER SUPPLY . . .	6
RELAY-RACK MOUNTING FOR UNIT INSTRUMENTS.	7

determined by this construction, which requires a linear motion for plate tuning and a rotational motion for the cathode in a plane perpendicular to the plate line. Of equal importance for the final design was the decision to use sliding contacts in the two tuned circuits. With the new materials and methods now available, reliable sliding contacts can be produced, and f-m noise due to vibration and microphonics is lower in contact-type circuits than in circuits that have closely spaced parts to produce wide frequency ranges.

Output Coupling

A current maximum at all frequencies occurs only at the point of the movable short-circuit in the grid-plate quarter-wave line. Coupling to the load is accomplished at this point, and means are provided for adjusting the coupling in the movable plunger.

Drive Mechanism

The complete oscillator is shown in Figure 1. Like all other Unit Oscillators, it consists of a casting with large round shields and an L-shaped bracket that carries the frequency dial. The TYPE 874 Output Connector and a knob for



Figure 3. The 5675-type pencil tube used in the Type 1218-A Unit Oscillator.

fine tuning are located on top of the casting. Figure 4 and Figure 5 show how some of the mechanical problems have been solved. The $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide berillium copper band and the rack and pinion visible in Figure 5 provide the linkage between the main frequency dial, which is rotated through 200° by 8 turns of the vernier dial, the short-circuit plunger of the plate grid line, which moves linearly by $1\frac{3}{4}$ ", and the contact arm on the grid cathode line which rotates 200° . With these drives the oscillator can be tuned to audio beats.

Power Supply

Like all other Unit Oscillators, the new TYPE 1218-A works best from a 300-volt power supply with about one half this voltage on the plate of the oscillator tube. The large plate series resistor required for this operation helps to stabilize the oscillator and protects the tube from overloads. To avoid complications in the r-f output circuit, the B supply is grounded at the plate potential of the oscillator tube. To reduce undesirable fm when commonly available 6.3 volt a-c heater power is used, a rectifier and filter for the cathode heater voltage have been included.

Figure 2. Group of Unit Oscillators covering a frequency range of 0.5 to 2000 megacycles. The lengths of the bars in front of the units indicate their frequency coverage on a logarithmic scale.





OPERATING CONSIDERATIONS

Several modes of operation which have not been possible on previous Unit Oscillators have been provided. A 3-position switch selects the desired operation, and allows the application of external control or modulating voltages at a telephone jack. Schematic diagrams corresponding to the switch positions are shown in Figure 6.



Figure 4. View of the right-hand end of the oscillator assembly with cover removed to show the cathode line.

Normal Operation

Normal operation is obtained in the first switch position labeled CW. Figure 6a shows that the plate circuit can be opened at the ground point by plugging in at the panel jack and that a control voltage can be inserted in series with the plate voltage. As with all other Unit Oscillators, audio voltage can be applied here to obtain sinusoidal amplitude modulation to allow the use of high-gain audio amplifiers after an r-f detector.

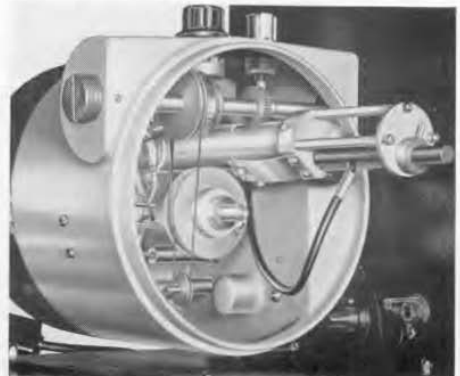
No control voltage is required for CW operation, unless it is desired to

Figure 5. View of the left-hand end of the oscillator casting with cover removed showing the drive mechanism.

change the amplitude or to hold the oscillator output constant as the frequency is varied. To accomplish this, a voltage derived from an output monitor can be inserted at the panel jack. While a feedback system of this sort can be set up using the 874-VR Voltmeter Rectifier and an amplifier, automatic output control is so useful and almost indispensable for some applications, that an amplitude-regulating power supply has been developed for this purpose and will be announced in a few months.

Square-Wave Modulation

Amplitude modulation, obtained by superimposing a-c voltages on the d-c plate voltage of the oscillator tube, introduces undesirable frequency modulation, which increases rapidly with carrier frequency. Square-wave modulation that turns the oscillator on and off eliminates this difficulty. Ordinarily considerable square-wave power is required to turn the oscillator off completely or to give large output if the d-c plate voltage is eliminated. To obtain satisfactory operation with low power, the circuit is changed in the SQUARE WAVE position of the selector switch as shown in Figure 6b. A large resistor is inserted in the grid circuit, which makes the oscillator un-



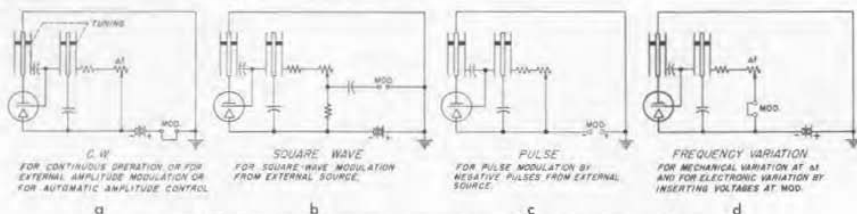


Figure 6. Schematic diagrams of oscillator for various modulation conditions.

stable so that it can be triggered with relatively low power. Good square-wave modulation from about 100 to 5000 cycles can be obtained, with square wave input as shown in Figure 7. Figure 8 shows the output produced if sine waves are applied in the SQUARE WAVE position of the selector switch.

Pulse Modulation

For pulse modulation, the d-c plate supply is removed in the PULSE position of the selector switch, and pulses are applied to the cathode. This circuit is shown in Figure 6c. For full output, 150 volts are required. The build-up time of this Unit Oscillator varies from about 3 to 10 microseconds, depending on carrier frequency and load. The decay time is of the order of 0.5 microseconds. While this performance is not adequate to reproduce faithfully short pulses, it is possible to obtain reasonably good output pulses down to about 1 microsecond. If a monitoring scope is available, the input pulse can be adjusted to equal the observed rise time and the desired pulse length. Characteristic 1 and 5-microsecond output pulses,

obtained with input pulses of 6 and 10 microseconds, at 1500 Mc, are shown in Figures 9 and 10. A Type 1217-A Unit Pulser with a suitable amplifier was used as the modulating source.

Frequency Increments

Small frequency variations, of the order of 20 kc to 100 kc, can be obtained by varying mechanically the resistance in the grid circuit. The 1000-ohm resistor, Δf , at the top of the main casting, has been provided for this purpose. In series with this variable resistor is a fixed resistor of 2000 ohms and a telephone jack that is normally closed. This circuit is shown in Figure 6d. Increasing the grid circuit resistance beyond 3000 ohms tends to make the oscillator unstable, but bias voltages with low internal impedance can be introduced at the telephone jack to change the frequency by about 0.1%. Since both sides of the bias voltage are high against ground, the modulator jack on the front panel cannot be used for this purpose, and a second jack, shown in Figure 4, has been provided. The circuit can be used for electronic frequency control in

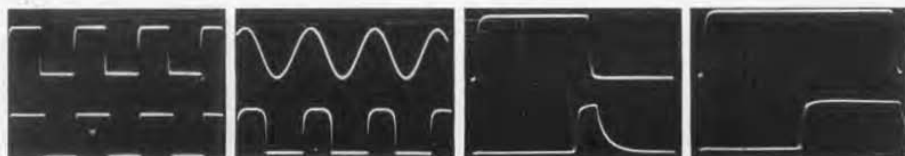
Oscillograms of modulation waveforms. Repetition rate is 1000 cycles per second. Upper trace is the input waveform; lower trace is the output.

Figure 7. Square-wave modulation. The rise and fall time is faster in the r-f output than in the input.

Figure 8. Sine-wave input, square-wave output.

Figure 9. 6 μ sec input pulse, 1 μ sec output pulse.

Figure 10. 10 μ sec input pulse, 5 μ sec output pulse.





a closed-loop system as well as for frequency modulation.

ACCESSORIES

The TYPE 1218-A Unit Oscillator is well suited for use as a generator in measurements with the TYPE 1602-B Admittance Meter and the Type 874-LBA Slotted Line. In conjunction with the TYPE 874-MR Mixer Rectifier and the TYPE 1216-A Unit I-F Amplifier, it functions as the heterodyning oscillator in a u-h-f detector assembly. With the

addition of a TYPE 874-GA Adjustable Attenuator and the Type 874-VR, -VI Voltmeter, the oscillator becomes a standard-signal generator.

Amplitude modulation to 100% with negligible fm, and pulsing with a high degree of carrier suppression can be obtained with the TYPE 1000-P7 Balanced Modulator. In addition, the extensive line of General Radio TYPE 874 Coaxial Elements is available for adapting the oscillator to other uses in the laboratory. —EDUARD KARPLUS

SPECIFICATIONS

Frequency Range: 900–2000 Mc.

Frequency Control: 6" dial with direct reading frequency calibration over 200°. Slow motion drive, 8 turns.

Frequency Calibration Accuracy: $\pm 1\%$.

Frequency Drift: Approximately 0.1% per day.

Output Power: At least 200 milliwatts into a 50-ohm load. Maximum power can be delivered to load impedances normally encountered in coaxial systems.

Output Connector: TYPE 874 Coaxial Connector; adaptors to other types of coaxial connectors are available.

Modulation: Sinusoidal amplitude modulation in the plate circuit; automatic output control with amplitude-regulating power supply; square-wave modulation in the grid circuit; pulse modulation in the plate circuit; frequency variation in the grid circuit. For general use, square-wave modulation is recommended.

Power Supply Required: 300 v, 30 ma, d c; 6.3 v, 0.135 a, a c or d c. TYPE 1203-A Unit Power Supply is recommended for operation from 50-to-60-cycle power line of 115 volts.

TYPE 1202-A Unit Vibrator Power Supply is recommended for operation from a 6 or 12-volt storage battery.

Tube: TYPE 5675 UHF triode.

Mounting: The oscillator is housed in an aluminum casting and is shielded with two spun-aluminum covers. The assembly is mounted on an L-shaped panel and chassis finished in black crackle lacquer. TYPE 480-P7U1 adaptor panel is available to mount the oscillator in a relay rack. See page 8.

Accessories Supplied: TYPE 874-R22 Patch Cord, TYPE 874-C Cable Connector, TYPE 874-PB Panel Connector, multipoint connector, and telephone plug.

Accessories Available: Unit Power Supplies; Unit Oscillators and Unit Pulser for modulation; TYPE 1000-P7 Balanced Modulator; TYPE 874 Coaxial Elements, including adaptors, attenuators, volt-meters, filters, mixers, and lines. See the General Radio catalog and recent issues of the EXPERIMENTER for details.

Dimensions: Width, $12\frac{1}{2}$ × height, $10\frac{3}{8}$ × depth, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches overall.

Net Weight: $14\frac{3}{4}$ pounds.

Type

Code Word

Price

1218-A

Unit Oscillator

CARRY

\$465.00

U. S. Patent Nos. 2,125,816 and 2,548,437.

NEW ADAPTABILITY FOR UNIT INSTRUMENTS

General Radio Unit Instruments are rapidly becoming recognized as a convenient and inexpensive solution to the problem of equipping the electronics laboratory with basic measuring equipment—power supplies, generators, amplifiers and detectors. They are particularly useful in the educational laboratory, because they can be assembled like building blocks into combinations for particular purposes, thus giving the student an understanding of the elements of which more specialized instruments are composed, while their modest prices provide a welcome relief to the strain on the departmental budget.

For the industrial organization, Unit Instruments perform reliably and at low cost many of the everyday jobs of the electronic engineering laboratory, and their simplicity of operation combined with compact construction makes them equally well suited for many production tests.

Two new developments, described on the following pages, bring to the Unit line a still greater flexibility of application. The Type 1202-A Unit Vibrator Power Supply, operating from batteries, provides power for Unit Instruments in the field, where a-c power lines are not available; and the Type 480 Panels permit permanent installation on relay racks in the laboratory.





THE UNIT VIBRATOR POWER SUPPLY

Design Considerations

Most of the Unit instruments are normally supplied with heater and plate voltages at the multipoint connector of a TYPE 1203-A Unit Power Supply, which operates from a 115-volt 50-60 cycle power line. Two of the Unit instruments include their own supply for direct power-line operations.

The new vibrator power supply is designed to meet the exact needs of both Unit-line groups when operated from either a 6-volt or a 12-volt storage battery. There is a multipoint connector for heater and plate supply; there is a power outlet for 115-volt a-c supply. This latter feature extends the usefulness of the new supply to field operation of many instruments other than that of the Unit line, such as megohmmeters, vacuum-tube voltmeters, oscillators, etc. Power can be taken simultaneously from both outlets to supply, for example a TYPE 1216-A I.F. Unit Amplifier and a TYPE 1209-A U.H.F. Oscillator for antenna measurements.

To avoid duplication of facilities, the new vibrator supply can also be operated from a 115-volt, 50-60 cycle line.

Alternate Methods

Commercial equipment for supplying

higher-voltage a-c or d-c power from storage batteries has been available for some years. A survey of the equipment on the market with the requirements of the Unit Instruments in mind made it quite evident that a supply designed especially for these instruments was necessary. In some instruments, the heater must not be grounded, in one, the heater voltage is rectified. Therefore, any supply that requires that the heaters be connected direct to the battery is not adequate. This is even more evident for 12-volt-battery operation. Some Unit Instruments require a grounded plate supply; in others, the plate supply must not be grounded. The plate and heater circuits of the supply must be isolated from each other and from ground and, therefore, from the battery as is done in the TYPE 1202-A Vibrator Supply. Any method that involves the generation of 115 volts a-c from the battery to feed a TYPE 1203-A Supply which in turn supplies the plates and heater circuits of the Unit instrument requires unnecessary duplication of equipment and substantially greater conversion inefficiency with consequent extra drain on the storage battery. A single supply is lower in cost and more efficient than two in tandem.

View of the Type 1202-A Unit Vibrator Power Supply.





Design Features

The TYPE 1202-A Vibrator Supply incorporates filtering for "hash" and r-f to an adequate degree. The frequency at the 115-volt outlet and at the heater supply outlet for battery-input operation is 115 cycles and the wave-shape is approximately square. With power-line input, the heater-supply frequency and wave-shape is 50-60 cycles sine-wave. There are two switch positions for battery operation to allow for diverse battery and load conditions.

Selenium rectifiers are used in the plate supply system for greater overall

efficiency and less drain on the battery. The 6-foot battery cable has heavy-duty insulation to withstand the severe mechanical treatment that can be expected out of doors and at the battery of a car. It is fitted with extra-large battery clips. The leads are color-coded because the supply must be connected with due regard to the ground connection at the battery.

The complete supply is housed in a standard General Radio Unit Instrument cabinet that is about one fifth of a cubic foot in volume.

—A. G. BOUSQUET

SPECIFICATIONS

Input: Six-volt storage battery or twelve-volt storage battery or 115-volt, 50- to 60-cycle power line. Instrument is shipped with connections for 6-volt operation unless 12-volt supply is specified on the order.

Output: 300 volts at 55 ma d-c; 6.3 volts at 2.7 amperes a-c. With battery input, 115 volts at 115 cycles is also available. The maximum output is 40 watts.

Vibrator: A 6-volt vibrator is supplied with the instrument. It is used for both 6-volt and 12-volt operation.

Output Connectors: A standard multi-point connector is mounted on one side of the cabinet

for plugging in instruments of the unit line. A standard a-c outlet on the other side of the cabinet for connection to instruments that normally plug into a power line.

Accessories Supplied: Spare fuses, a mating multipoint connector, a power line cord and a heavy cable for battery connection.

Mounting: Black-crackle-finish aluminum panel and sides. Aluminum cover finished in clear lacquer.

Dimensions: (Width) $10\frac{1}{8}$ × (height) $5\frac{3}{4}$ × (depth) $6\frac{5}{8}$ inches overall.

Net Weight: $11\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

<i>Type</i>		<i>Code Word</i>	<i>Unit Price</i>
1202-A	Unit Vibrator Power Supply.....	AURAL	\$125.00

RELAY-RACK MOUNTING FOR UNIT INSTRUMENTS

An important feature of Unit Instruments is their small size, which for general use on the laboratory bench, is a considerable advantage. They can be stacked one on another, for instance, to require as little bench space as possible.

Where permanent installation for long periods is desired, however, relay rack mounting reduces the need for bench space to a minimum. In order to provide as much flexibility in use as possible, we are therefore making available

Figure 1. View of the Type 1217-A Unit Pulser and the Type 1203-A Unit Power Supply mounted in a Type 480-P4U3 Relay-Rack Panel.





relay-rack adaptor panels in which Unit Instruments can be mounted.

Each panel has a cut-out opening in which one or more Unit Instruments can be mounted. No alteration of the Unit Instrument is necessary; each instrument fastens into the hole in the panel with simple hardware to produce a secure, neat, flush-mounting. Ample clearance around instruments is provided, so that systems can be set up in any convenient arrangement. Most instruments can be mounted with a power supply in a single rack; one, the TYPE 1218-A Unit Oscillator, because of its size, requires separate panels for oscillator and power supply. All necessary mounting hardware is supplied.

— S. P. BALDWIN

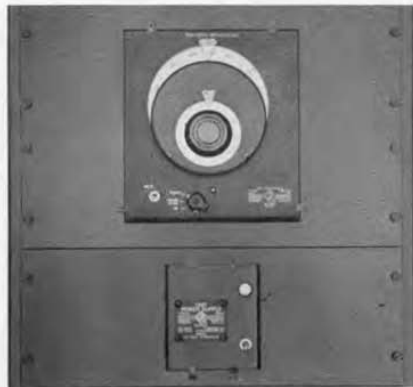


Figure 2. View of the Type 1218-A Unit Oscillator and the Type 1205-A Unit Power Supply mounted in the Type 480-P7U1 and the Type 480-P4U1 Relay-Rack Panels, respectively.

<i>Type</i>	<i>Type Numbers of Unit Instruments Panel will handle</i>	<i>Code Word</i>	<i>Price</i>
480-P4U1	1214 or 1203	UNIPANARCH	\$12.50
480-P4U2	1204, 1206, 1212, 1213, 1216, or 1217	UNIPANBOLT	12.50
480-P4U3	1203 and any of above	UNIPANCART	12.50
480-P4UC1	1203 and 1208	UNIPANDOCK	15.00
480-P4UC2	1203 and 1209	UNIPANFORT	15.00
480-P4UC1	1203 and 1211	UNIPANGOLF	16.00
	or		
	1203 and 1215		
480-P7U1	1218 only	UNIPANHUMP	14.00

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