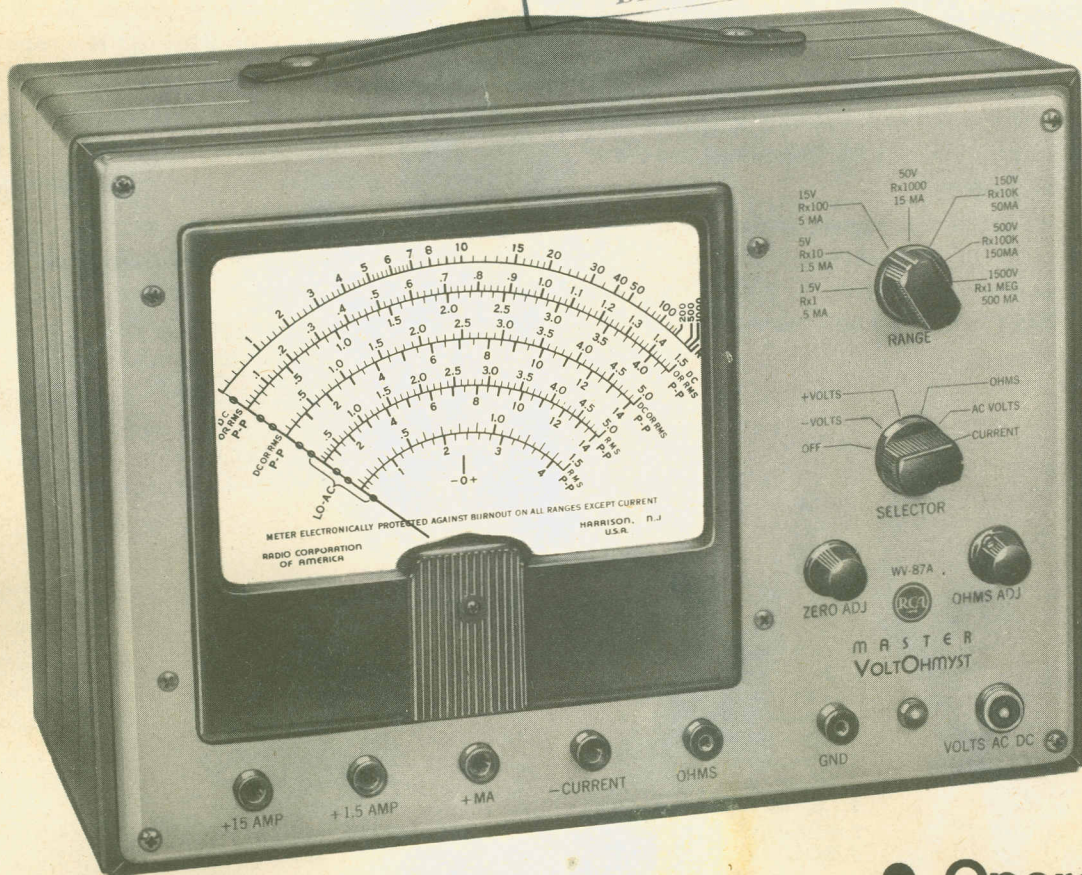


Return to Don Martin

RCA MASTER VOLTOHMYST®

Type WV-87A



● Operation

● Characteristics

● Maintenance

● Applications



RADIO CORPORATION of AMERICA

TEST AND MEASURING EQUIPMENT

HARRISON, N. J.

Safety Precautions

The metal case of this instrument is connected to the ground of the internal circuit. For proper operation, the ground terminal of the instrument should always be connected to the ground of the equipment under test. The WG-218 Direct Probe and Cable has a shield throughout its entire length which is connected to the instrument ground and case. Always handle the WG-218 by the insulated probe housing.

An important point to remember is that there is always danger inherent in testing electrical equipment which operates at hazardous voltages. Therefore, the operator should thoroughly familiarize himself with the equipment under test before working on it, bearing in mind that high voltages may appear at unexpected points in defective equipment. Additional precautions which experience in the industry has shown to be important are listed below.

1. It is good practice to remove power before connecting test leads to high-voltage points. If this is impractical, be especially careful to avoid accidental contact with equipment racks and other objects which

can provide a ground. Working with one hand in your pocket and standing on a properly insulated floor lessens the danger of shock.

2. Filter capacitors may store a charge large enough to be hazardous. Therefore, discharge filter capacitors before attaching test leads.

3. Remember that leads with broken insulation provide the additional hazard of high voltages appearing at exposed points along the leads. Check test leads for frayed or broken insulation before working with them.

4. To lessen the danger of accidental shock, disconnect test leads immediately after test is completed.

5. Remember that the risk of severe shock is only one of the possible hazards. Even a minor shock can place the operator in hazard of more serious risks such as a bad fall or contact with a source of higher voltage.

6. The experienced operator continuously guards against injury and does not work on hazardous circuits unless another person is available to assist in case of accident.

ITEMS

Supplied with WV-87A

1 Direct Probe and Cable.....	Type No. WG-218
1 DC Probe	Type No. WG-217
1 Ohms Cable	Stock No. 93859
1 Current Cable, Red.....	Stock No. 93725
1 Current Cable, Black.....	Stock No. 93726
1 Ground Cable	Stock No. 93832
1 Slip-on Alligator Clip.....	Stock No. 59410
1 1.5-Volt Battery	Type No. VS036
2 RCA-6AL5 Tubes.....	1 Warranty Certificate
1 RCA-12AU7 Tube.....	1 Instruction Booklet

ACCESSORIES

Available on Separate Order

For Measuring AC Voltages at Frequencies from 50 Kc to 250 Mc:
Crystal-Diode Probe Type No. WG-264 |

For Increasing DC-Voltage Range to 50,000 Volts:
High-Voltage Probe..... Type No. WG-289 || Multiplier Resistor | Type No. WG-206 |

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MASTER VOLTOHMYST

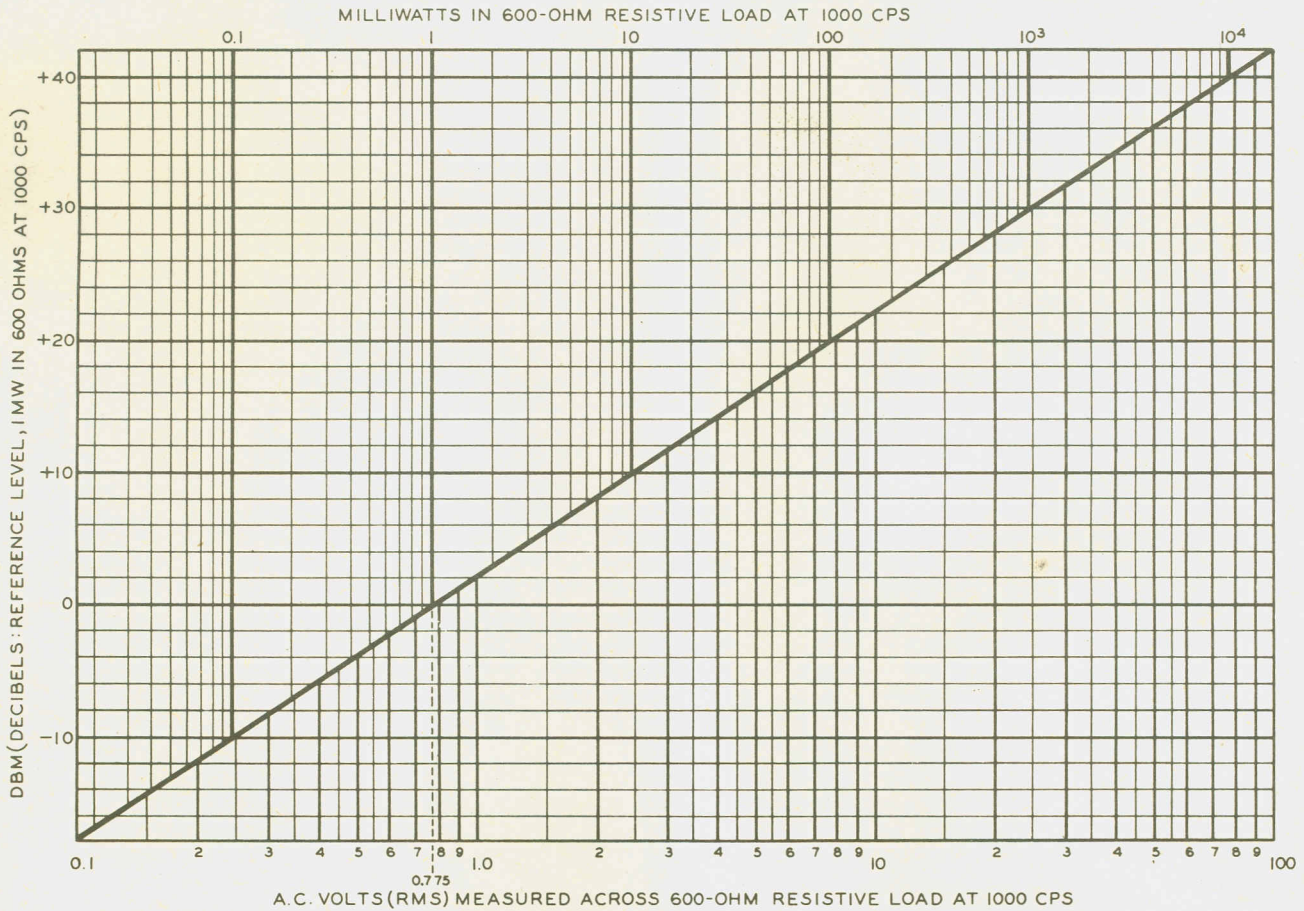
Type WV-87A

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Note: For loads other than 600 ohms, see table on page 16.

Figure 1. Graph for conversion of rms voltages to dbm values

General Description

The WV-87A Master VoltOhmyst* is an all-electronic voltmeter designed to measure directly the peak-to-peak values of complex waveforms and the rms values of sine waves on separate scales. The instrument also reads dc voltage, resistance, and direct current, employing vacuum tubes on all functions except current measurement to insure good sensitivity and stability. For dc-voltage measurements, an input resistance of 11 megohms minimizes loading of the circuit under test. When used to measure ac voltages, the WV-87A has a maximum rated input of 4200 peak-to-peak volts and 2000 rms volts. The instrument will also measure dc voltages up to 1500 volts, resistances up to 1000 megohms, and direct current up to 15 amperes.

Calibration of the Master VoltOhmyst in peak-to-peak voltage values as well as rms voltage values is a desirable feature for applications such as television, radar, and other pulsed electronic systems where complex waveforms are encountered. As the meter reading is proportional to the full peak-to-peak value of the waveform, a better indication of the true value of the voltage is given than is possible with voltmeters which respond only to the positive or negative peak of the waveshape. (See "AC Voltage Measurements," page nine.)

The instrument is frequency compensated for ac-voltage ranges up to and including the 500-volt range (500 rms volts or 1400 peak-to-peak volts) and can be used at frequencies up to approximately 3 megacycles, depending upon the impedance of the source voltage. The extended frequency range of the Master VoltOhmyst, coupled with its high sensitivity, make it a convenient and reliable device for use in rf applications. When the auxiliary WG-264 Crystal-Diode Probe is used, the useable frequency range is extended to 250 megacycles. The WV-87A has an over-all accuracy of $\pm 5\%$ of full scale on ac-voltage measurements.

An input resistance of 11 megohms on all dc-voltage ranges allows the WV-87A to be used in circuits where instruments with a lower impedance would result in loading of the circuit under test and a resultant error in reading the operating voltage. The 11-megohm input resistance also has the advantage of not being so high as to impair the stability of the instrument. The over-all accuracy of the Master VoltOhmyst on dc-voltage measurements is $\pm 3\%$ of full scale.

*Trade-Mark "VoltOhmyst" Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

When used to measure resistance, the WV-87A will read from 0.2 ohm to 1000 megohms in seven ranges. Convenient midscale values are set at 10, 100, 1000, 10,000 and 100,000 ohms and at 1 and 10 megohms.

On measurements of direct current, the meter will read from 10 microamperes to 15 amperes with an accuracy of $\pm 3\%$ of full scale. Current is read on nine ranges of from 0 to 0.5, 1.5, 5, 15, 50, 150, and 500 milliamperes and from 0 to 1.5 and 15 amperes.

Additional features of the WV-87A include provision for zero-centering of the meter pointer, a useful adjustment for checking FM discriminator alignment and the polarity and condition of bias cells; two separate scales for low-voltage ac measurements; circuit design which permits measurements of the ac component of a dc voltage or the dc component of an ac signal; and large, easily read meter scales stamped in black and red for direct reading of rms, peak-to-peak, and dc voltage values. Circuit design also prevents any dc-loading effect when the WV-87A is used to measure ac voltages.

The light-weight probes and cables supplied with the WV-87A have been designed to match the mechanical and electrical characteristics of the instrument. All ac-voltage measurements are made with the flexible WG-218 Direct Probe and Cable which connects at the front panel of the WV-87A. For dc-voltage measurements, the WG-217 DC Probe, which contains a 1-megohm isolating resistor, slips directly onto the front of the Direct Probe and Cable and forms a sturdy, insulated probe without the addition of an extra cable.

Two separate cables, one red for the positive connection and one black for the negative connection, are used for all direct-current measurements. Each is provided with an alligator clip. A separate cable is provided for resistance measurements.

For measurement of ac voltages up to 250 megacycles, the auxiliary WG-264 Crystal-Diode Probe slips onto the front of the Direct Probe and Cable. DC voltages up to 50,000 volts may be measured with the Master VoltOhmyst when the auxiliary WG-289 High-Voltage Probe is connected to the "VOLTS AC DC" terminal.

The RCA WV-87A Master VoltOhmyst is a versatile instrument, designed to give quality performance. A reliable measuring device, it enables the user to make a wide variety of accurate electrical measurements in all kinds of electrical equipment.

Specifications

Electrical

DC Voltmeter:

Ranges 0 to 1.5, 5, 15, 50, 150, 500, 1500 volts
 Input Resistance (With DC Probe WG-217
 attached to Direct Probe & Cable WG-218):
 All Ranges 11 megohms
 Sensitivity on 1.5-V Range 7.3 megohms/volt
 Over-all Accuracy $\pm 3\%$ of full scale

AC Voltmeter:

Ranges:
 RMS Values of Sine Waves $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 0 \text{ to } 1.5, 5 \text{ volts on} \\ \text{separate LO-AC scales} \\ 0 \text{ to } 15, 50, 150, \\ 500, 1500 \text{ volts } \blacktriangle \end{array} \right.$
 Peak-to-Peak Values of Sine
 Waves & Complex Waves $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 0 \text{ to } 4, 14 \text{ volts on} \\ \text{separate LO-AC scales} \\ 0 \text{ to } 42, 140, 420, 1400, \\ 4200 \text{ volts } \blacktriangle \end{array} \right.$
 Over-all Accuracy $\pm 5\%$ of full scale
 Input Resistance and Capacitance
 (With Direct Probe & Cable WG-218):
 1.5, 5, 15, 50, 150-V Ranges 0.83 meg. shunted by 85 μmf
 500-V Range 1.3 meg. shunted by 80 μmf
 1500-V Range 1.5 meg. shunted by 75 μmf

Frequency Response:

Flat at Power-Line Frequencies up to 1500 Volts.
 With Direct Probe and Cable WG-218*:
 For source impedances of approximately 100
 ohms or lower 30 cps to 3 Mc \square
 For source impedances of approximately 1000
 ohms or lower 30 cps to 500 Kc \triangle
 With Crystal-Diode Probe WG-264 \bullet $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{within } \pm 10\% \text{ from} \\ 50 \text{ Kc to } 250 \text{ Mc} \end{array} \right.$

Pulse-Response Capability (See Fig. 8)

Ohmmeter:

0 to 1000 Megohms in 7 Ranges: Rx1, Rx10, Rx100, Rx1000,
 Rx10K, Rx100K, Rx1MEG

Direct-Current Meter ■

Ranges, Nine . . . $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 0 \text{ to } 0.5, 1.5, 5, 15, 50, 150, 500 \text{ milliamperes;} \\ 0 \text{ to } 1.5, 15 \text{ amperes} \end{array} \right.$
 Average Voltage Drop Across Meter . . approx. 0.3 volt for full-
 scale readings on all ranges
 Over-all Accuracy $\pm 3\%$ of full scale

Meter Movement:

Direct Current for Full-Scale Deflection 200 μamp

Tube Complement 2 RCA-6AL5, 1 RCA-12AU7

Power Supply:

AC-Voltage Rating 105-125 volts
 Frequency Rating 50/60 cps
 Power Consumption (Approx.) 5 watts
 Battery (1.5-volt cell) 1 RCA VS036

Maximum Input Voltages:

DC Voltage (no ac voltage present) 1500 volts
 AC Voltage (no dc voltage present):
 RMS for Sine Waves 1500 volts
 Peak-to-Peak for Sine Waves 4200 volts
 Peak-to-Peak for Complex Waves 2000 volts
 Sum of Combined DC and AC Peak Voltage 2000 volts

Mechanical

Over-all Dimensions:

Height 10 inches
 Width 13½ inches
 Depth 7 inches
 Weight 8 pounds
 Finish $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{blue-gray hameroid case,} \\ \text{satin-aluminum panel} \end{array} \right.$

\blacktriangle CAUTION: See Maximum Input Voltages.
 \bullet For ac-voltage ranges up to and including the 500-volt range (500 rms volts
 or 1400 peak-to-peak volts).
 \square Response is up about 10% at 3 Mc.
 \triangle Response is up about 10% at 500 Kc.
 \bullet Available on separate order.
 \blacksquare DC voltage from either positive or negative current terminal to ground
 must not exceed 1500 volts.

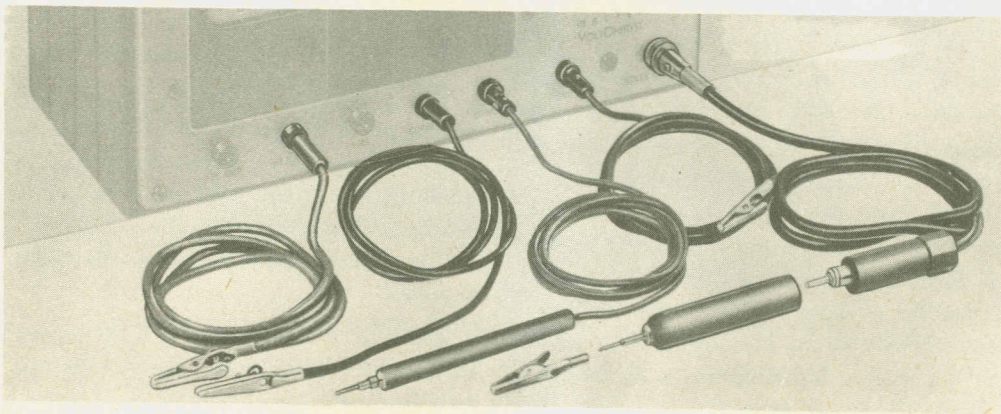


Figure 2. Probes and cables for use with WV-87A

Functions of Controls and Terminals

SELECTOR control—Turns power off when in “OFF” position; selects operating function of instrument when switched to other positions.

RANGE control—Permits choice of range for current, voltage, or resistance measurement.

ZERO ADJ control—Used to position the meter pointer at either the left-hand “0” position or, when SELECTOR control is set to “+VOLTS”, to the zero-center “-0+” position.

OHMS ADJ control—Used to position the meter pointer at the extreme right line on the “R” scale when SELECTOR control is in “OHMS” position.

+15 AMP terminal—Red current cable is plugged in here when current to be measured lies within range of 1.5 to 15 amperes.

+1.5 AMP terminal—Red current cable is plugged in here when current to be measured is between 500 milliamperes and 1.5 amperes.

+MA terminal—Red current cable is plugged in here when current to be measured is 500 milliamperes or less.

-CURRENT terminal—Serves as common negative terminal for all current measurements.

OHMS terminal—Ohms cable plugs in here for all values of resistance measurements. Ground cable must be inserted in GND terminal and connected to circuit under test.

GND terminal—Is connected directly to chassis of WV-87A and serves as common return point for all resistance and ac-dc voltage measurements. Ground cable is inserted here and connected to circuit under test.

VOLTS AC DC terminal—Direct Probe and Cable and its attaching DC Probe are connected here for all ac and dc voltage measurements. Ground cable must be plugged into GND terminal and connected to circuit under test.

Operation and Applications

Preliminary Adjustments:

To prepare the WV-87A for use, make the following connections and adjustments:

1. Connect the Direct Probe and Cable to “VOLTS AC DC” terminal, the Ground Cable to the “GND” terminal, and the Ohms Cable to the “OHMS” terminal.

2. Plug the power cord into an ac outlet supplying 105-125 volts at 50/60 cycles, and adjust the controls as follows:

a. Turn the SELECTOR control to “+VOLTS” position and allow several minutes for the instrument to warm up.

b. Adjust the ZERO ADJ control to position the meter pointer at the left-hand “0”

NOTE: When making this adjustment, notice whether or not the position of the meter pointer changes when the SELECTOR control is switched to “-VOLTS”. If the pointer position changes, readjust the mechanical zero control as described under “Maintenance”.

c. Turn the SELECTOR control to the “OHMS” position. The pointer should deflect to approximately full scale.

d. Rotate the OHMS ADJ control to position the pointer at the last line on the “R” (ohms) scale.

e. Turn the SELECTOR control to the “AC VOLTS” position. If the meter pointer does not indicate zero volts when the SELECTOR control is set on “1.5 V”, refer to steps 2, 3, 4 of “AC Calibration” and to “Electrical Balance Check” in the Maintenance section. The instrument is now ready for use.

DC-Voltage Measurements:

CAUTION: Maximum input voltages must not be exceeded. See “Specifications”, page 6.

The WG-217 DC Probe must be used with the WG-218 Direct Probe and Cable for all dc-voltage measurements.

The WV-87A has seven dc-voltage ranges: 0 to 1.5, 5, 15, 50, 150, 500, and 1500 volts. Although the meter is protected against burn-out under ordinary overloads, it is good practice to make a trial measurement at a range setting higher than the voltage expected. Continued or repeated overloads may impair the accuracy of the movement. To measure dc voltages, proceed as follows:

1. Set the SELECTOR control to "+VOLTS" or to "-VOLTS", as required.
2. Connect the clip of the Ground Cable to ground.

CAUTION: See first paragraph of "Safety Precautions", page 2.

3. Set the RANGE selector to a range position higher than the voltage to be measured.
4. Touch or connect the DC Probe to the high side of the source voltage.
5. Reset RANGE selector to a position which gives a reading nearest to full scale.
6. Read the dc voltage from the scale corresponding to the RANGE selector setting.

Zero-Center Indication:

Zero-center indication is frequently useful because it allows observation of either positive or negative dc-voltage excursions without the necessity of resetting the SELECTOR control.

1. Set the SELECTOR control to "+VOLTS".
2. Rotate the ZERO ADJ control to position the pointer at the center "-0+".
3. Set the RANGE selector to a position at least twice the voltage to be measured.
4. After a test reading has been made, the RANGE control may be set to the lowest position which allows the pointer to remain on the scale.

Resistance Measurements:

The Ohms Cable is used in making all resistance measurements. Before resistance measurements are made, the power should be removed from the equipment under test so that no voltages are present.

1. Set the SELECTOR control to the "OHMS" position.
2. Set the RANGE selector to the "R x 10" position.
3. Short the Ohms Probe to the Ground Cable and adjust the ZERO ADJ control to position the pointer at the left-hand "0" if necessary.

4. Separate the Ohms Probe from the Ground Cable. The meter pointer should deflect to full scale. If the meter pointer does not deflect to exactly full scale, use the OHMS ADJ control to obtain full deflection.

5. Connect the clip of the Ground Cable to one terminal of the resistance to be measured.

6. Touch or connect the Ohms Probe to the other terminal of the resistance to be measured.

7. Reset the RANGE control to give a convenient deflection on the "R" (ohms) scale.

8. Multiply the reading on the "R" scale by the factor indicated by the RANGE control setting.

CAUTION: Low-current, low-resistance devices, such as thermocouples and meter movements, may be damaged unless a range higher than "R x 10" is used because the WV-87A applies up to 1.5 volts across the resistance under measurement when the RANGE control is set at "R x 1" or "R x 10".

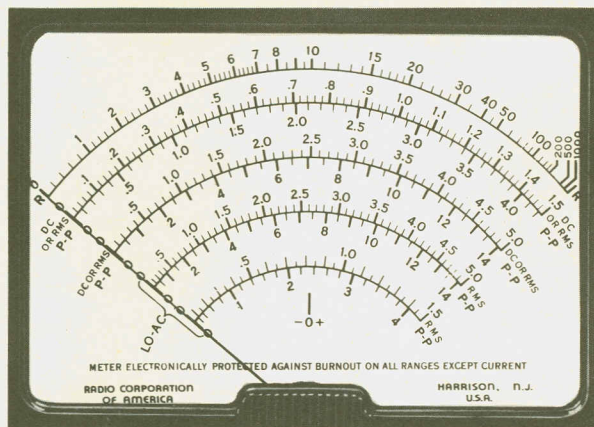


Figure 3. Details of WV-87A scales

Measurement of Resistance Values Above 1000 Megohms:

The leakage resistance of small mica and paper capacitors is usually above 1000 megohms. The circuit shown in Figure 4 can be used to measure resistance values above 1000 megohms. An external dc-voltage source between 20 and 500 volts is utilized to obtain a measurable pointer deflection. Make circuit connections as shown in Figure 4 and proceed as follows:

1. Set SELECTOR control to "+VOLTS" and measure the voltage at point B.
2. Measure the voltage at point A.
3. Compute the unknown resistance from the following formula:

$$R_x(\text{megohms}) = \frac{11 [(\text{Volts at "A"}) - (\text{Volts at "B"})]}{(\text{Volts at "B"})}$$

EXAMPLE: The value of an unknown resistance is to be determined with the circuit of Figure 4. An external voltage of 500 volts is applied. The WV-87A measures 2.5 volts at "B", and 500 volts at "A". Then,

$$R_x = \frac{11 (500 - 2.5)}{2.5} = 2200 \text{ megohms (approx.)}$$

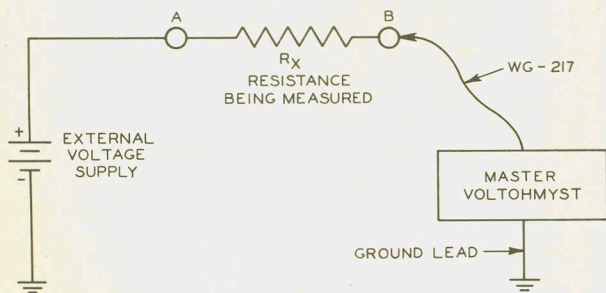


Figure 4. Circuit for measurement of resistance values above 1000 megohms

AC-Voltage Measurements:

CAUTION: Maximum input voltages must not be exceeded. The accuracy of meter indications is dependent upon the frequency of the ac voltage being measured, the waveshape, repetition rate, and the impedance of the voltage source. See "Specifications", page 6 and section below for additional information.

The WG-218 Direct Probe and Cable is used for all ac-voltage measurements. The WG-217 DC Probe should be removed.

1. Set the SELECTOR control to "AC VOLTS".
2. Adjust the ZERO ADJ control if necessary to position the meter pointer at the left-hand "0".
3. Set the RANGE control to a position considerably higher than the voltage to be measured.

4. Connect the Ground Cable to the ground side of the voltage to be measured.

5. Touch or connect the Direct Probe to the high side of the source voltage.

6. Reset the RANGE control for a convenient deflection.

7. Read the ac voltage from the scale corresponding to the RANGE control setting.

The meter scales of the WV-87A are calibrated in both rms and peak-to-peak voltages and are easily distinguished by their red and black colors. When values of sine waves are measured, for example, rms voltages are read from the black divisions and the corresponding values in peak-to-peak volts (equal to 2.83 times the rms voltage) are read from the red divisions. If the SELECTOR control is set at "15V" and a sine wave of 10 rms volts is applied to the instrument, the meter pointer will indicate 10 rms volts on the black scale and 28.3 peak-to-peak volts on the red scale. This time-saving feature makes the usual interpolation from one scale to another unnecessary.

Full-scale values for rms voltages are 1.5, 5, 15, 50, 150, 500, and 1500 volts. AC voltages from 0 to 1.5 rms volts (0 to 4 peak-to-peak volts) and from 0 to 5 rms volts (0 to 14 peak-to-peak volts) are read on the two lower scales marked "LO-AC". Higher voltages, up to 1500 rms volts, are read on the two upper voltage scales.

Examples of typical voltage waveforms found in television circuits are shown in Figure 7. Examples of other types of basic waveforms which can be measured by the WV-87A are given in Figure 5.

The instrument has a maximum rated input for non-symmetrical waveforms of 2000 peak-to-peak volts. Sine waves and symmetrical complex waves up to 4200 peak-to-peak volts can be measured with somewhat reduced frequency response. (See Maximum Input Voltages and footnotes under "Specifications".)

(Continued on page 13)

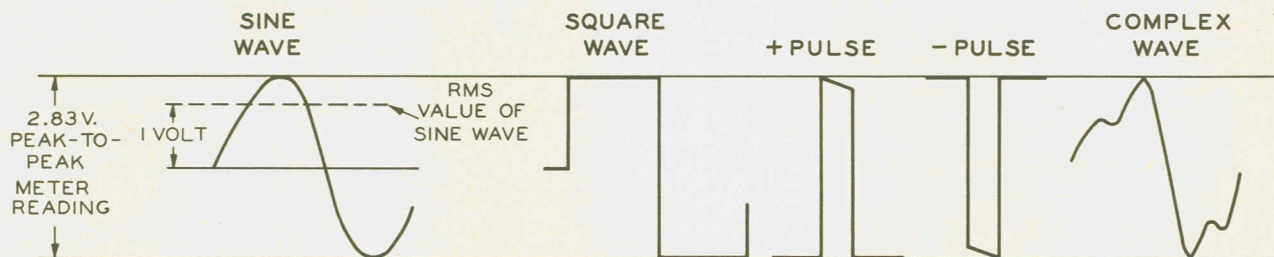


Figure 5. Typical voltage waveforms

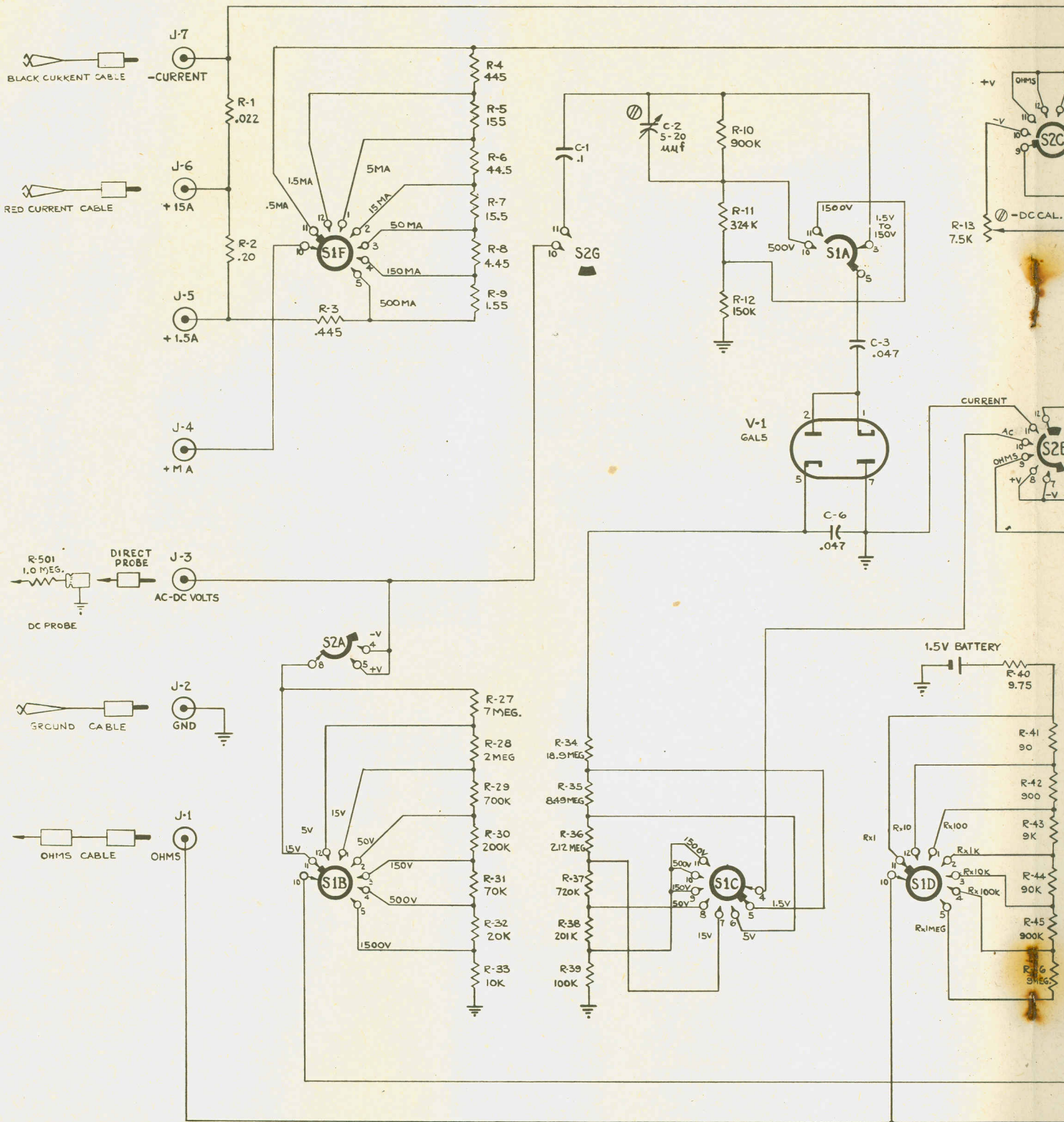
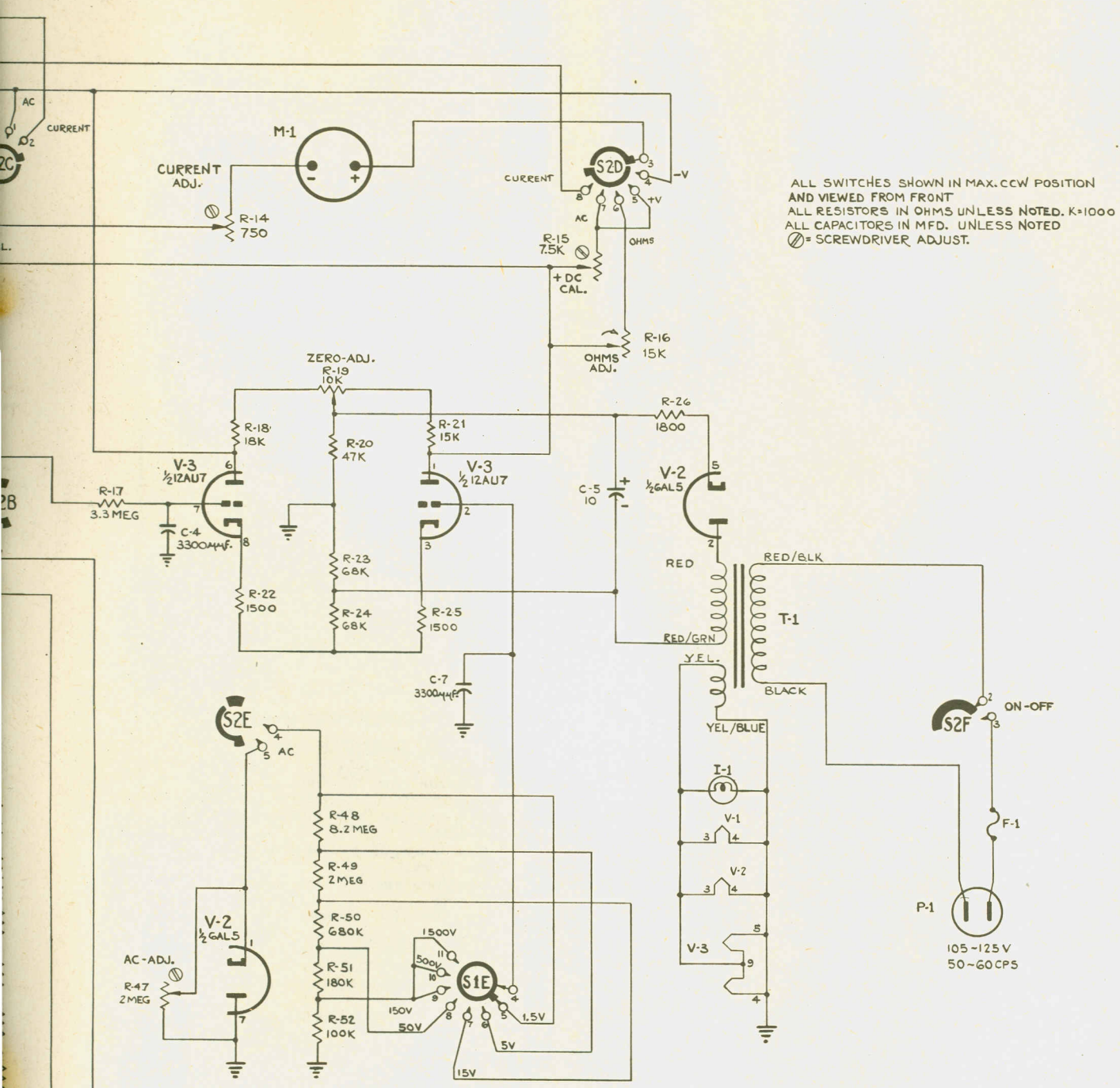


Figure 6. Schematic diagram



ALL SWITCHES SHOWN IN MAX. CCW POSITION
AND VIEWED FROM FRONT
ALL RESISTORS IN OHMS UNLESS NOTED. K=1000
ALL CAPACITORS IN MFD. UNLESS NOTED
⊗ = SCREWDRIVER ADJUST.

W-232887-2A

Replacement Parts List

Type WV-87A

Master VoltOhmyst

When ordering Replacement Parts, please include Serial Number and Code Number of instrument.

Symbol No.	Description	Stock No.	Symbol No.	Description	Stock No.
Capacitors					
C 1	Paper, 0.1 μ f, \pm 20%, 1600 volts...	94016	R 24	Same as R 23	—
C 2	Ceramic trimmer, 5.0 to 20.0 μ f...	64689	R 25	Same as R 22	—
C 3	Molded paper, 0.047 μ f, \pm 20%, 400 volts.	73553	R 26	Fixed composition, 1800 ohms, \pm 5%, 1/2 watt.	30930
C 4	Fixed mica, 3300 μ f, \pm 20%, 500 volts.	39664	R 27	Carbon film type, 7.0 meg., \pm 1%, 1 watt.	59538
C 5	Dry electrolytic, 10 μ f, -10%, + 100%, 250 volts.	93869	R 28	Carbon film type, 2.0 meg., \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	59540
C 6	Same as C 3	—	R 29	Carbon film type, 0.7 meg., \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	59541
C 7	Same as C 4	—	R 30	Carbon film type, 0.2 meg., \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	56733
Jacks and Connectors					
J 1	Jack, single contact, female (black).	93858	R 31	Carbon film type, 70,000 ohms, \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	59542
J 2	Same as J 1.	—	R 32	Carbon film type, 20,000 ohms, \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	59177
J 3	Connector, chassis, single contact.	54695	R 33	Carbon film type, 10,000 ohms, \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	55665
J 4	Connector, single contact (female).	93995	R 34	Carbon film type, 18.9 meg., \pm 1%, 1 watt.	94009
J 5	Same as J 4	—	R 35	Carbon film type, 8.49 meg., \pm 1%, 1 watt.	94010
J 6	Same as J 4	—	R 36	Carbon film type, 2.12 meg., \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	94011
J 7	Connector, single contact (female).	93996	R 37	Carbon film type, 720,000 ohms, \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	94012
Resistors					
R 1	Resistance coil assembly, 0.022 ohms, \pm 1%.	93999	R 38	Carbon film type, 201,000 ohms, \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	94013
R 2	Carbon film type, 0.20 ohms, \pm 1%, 1 watt.	94000	R 39	Carbon film type, 0.1 meg., \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	72893
R 3	Resistance wire, 0.445 ohms, \pm 1%	94001	R 40	Carbon film type, 9.75 ohms, \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	94014
R 4	Carbon film type, 445 ohms, \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	94002	R 41	Carbon film type, 90 ohms, \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	55859
R 5	Carbon film type, 155 ohms, \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	94003	R 42	Carbon film type, 900 ohms, \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	54197
R 6	Carbon film type, 44.5 ohms, \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	94004	R 43	Carbon film type, 9000 ohms, \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	56723
R 7	Carbon film type, 15.5 ohms, \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	94005	R 44	Carbon film type, 90,000 ohms, \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	56725
R 8	Carbon film type, 4.45 ohms, \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	94006	R 45	Carbon film type, 0.9 meg., \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	55661
R 9	Carbon film type, 1.55 ohms, \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	94007	R 46	Carbon film type, 9.0 meg., \pm 1%, 1 watt.	55862
R 10	Carbon film type, 0.9 meg., \pm 1%, 1 watt.	59536	R 47	Variable carbon type, 2.0 meg., \pm 20%, 1/2 watt.	59534
R 11	Carbon film type, 324,000 ohms, \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	94008	R 48	Fixed composition, 8.2 meg., \pm 5%, 1/2 watt.	34959
R 12	Carbon film type, 150,000 ohms, \pm 1%, 1/2 watt.	56483	R 49	Fixed composition, 2.0 meg., \pm 5%, 1/2 watt.	34257
R 13	Variable carbon type, 7500 ohms, \pm 20%, 2 watts.	93839	R 50	Fixed composition, 680,000 ohms, \pm 5%, 1/2 watt.	30562
R 14	Variable wire wound, 750 ohms, \pm 20%, 1/2 watt.	94015	R 51	Fixed composition, 180,000 ohms, \pm 5%, 1/2 watt.	11959
R 15	Same as R 13	—	R 52	Fixed composition, 0.1 meg., \pm 5%, 1/2 watt.	3252
R 16	Variable carbon type, 15,000 ohms, \pm 20%, 1/2 watt.	59532	Miscellaneous		
R 17	Fixed composition, 3.3 meg., \pm 5%, 1/2 watt.	31417	F 1	Fuse, 1/4 ampere.	72104
R 18	Fixed composition, 18,000 ohms, \pm 5%, 1/2 watt.	3219	I 1	Pilot lamp, miniature bayonet, 6-8 volts.	11765
R 19	Variable carbon type, 10,000 ohms, \pm 20%, 1/2 watt.	93838	M 1	Meter, dc, 0 to 200 microamperes.	93991
R 20	Fixed composition, 47,000 ohms, \pm 5%, 1/2 watt.	30787	S 1	Switch, rotary wafer type, 4 section, 7 position, 6 circuit.	93993
R 21	Fixed composition, 15,000 ohms, \pm 5%, 1/2 watt.	36714			
R 22	Fixed composition, 1500 ohms, \pm 5%, 1/2 watt.	30654			
R 23	Fixed composition, 68,000 ohms, \pm 5%, 1/2 watt.	14138			

Symbol No.	Description	Stock No.	Symbol No.	Description	Stock No.
S 2	Switch, rotary wafer type, 3 section, 6 position, 7 circuit.....	93992		Clip, alligator, for ground and current cables.....	35262
T 1	Transformer, power, primary 117 volts, 50/60 cycles.....	93994		Clip, alligator, slip-on.....	59410
	Board, fuse.....	55316		Connector, black, for current cable.....	93989
	Holder, battery.....	72229		Connector, red, for current cable.....	93988
	Jewel, pilot lamp (smooth).....	54660		Tip, black, for ground cable.....	93856
	Knob, control, large, blue.....	59543		Tip, red, for ohms cable.....	93857
	Knob, control, small, blue.....	53689		WG-217 DC PROBE	
	Nut, hexagon.....	93997		Connector, cable, female, 2 contact.....	59547
	Socket, tube, 7 pin.....	56382		Insert, brass.....	59548
	Socket, tube, 9 pin.....	59531	R 501	Resistor, fixed composition, 1.0 meg., ±5%, ½ watt.....	30652
	Socket, pilot lamp.....	57760		Shell.....	59549
	CABLES			Shield.....	59550
	Cable, current, black, with alligator clip and connector, 48" long.....	93726		Tip.....	59551
	Cable, current, red, with alligator clip and connector, 48" long.....	93725		WG-218 DIRECT PROBE AND CABLE	
	Cable, ground, with clip and tip, 48" long.....	93832		Connector, double contact, male.....	93873
	Cable, ohms, with tip and prod, 48" long.....	93859		Connector, cable.....	48982
				Shell.....	59529
				Sleeve.....	59530

(Continued from page 9)

When any voltmeter is used to measure ac voltages, certain precautions in the interpretation of readings are necessary because connection of the meter to the circuit may cause some disturbance. This is also true of the vacuum-tube voltmeter but its high input impedance minimizes such disturbances. The amount of circuit disturbance caused by the voltmeter is usually reflected in a decreased circuit voltage, the amount of decrease being dependent upon the characteristics of both the voltmeter and the test circuit.

For example, inaccurate readings of normal circuit conditions can be obtained from any one or a combination of the following conditions:

1. Where the impedance of the test circuit is higher than the impedance of the voltmeter. This condition will cause loading of the circuit to a degree dependent upon the ratio of the circuit impedance to the voltmeter impedance. As this ratio increases, the loading effect of the voltmeter is increased with a corresponding change in the normal operating conditions of the circuit.
2. If the capacitance of the circuit is low in relation to the input capacitance of the voltmeter.
3. If the frequency of the source voltage is higher than the upper frequency rating of the voltmeter.
4. If the voltage waveform in the test circuit consists of narrow pulses with a low repetition rate.

The last of these four conditions needs careful consideration in order to interpret correctly the peak-to-peak readings of the Master VoltOhmyst. The values

of the circuit capacitors and resistors used in the peak-to-peak rectifier circuit of the WV-87A have been chosen to give a discharge time which will provide a reliable peak-to-peak reading over its specified frequency range. If narrow pulses having a low repetition rate are applied to the rectifier circuit, the discharge rate may be so fast that the capacitors have dissipated an appreciable percentage of their peak charge by the time the next pulse is applied. As a result, both the rms and peak-to-peak voltage indications will be lower than the true value of the applied voltage.

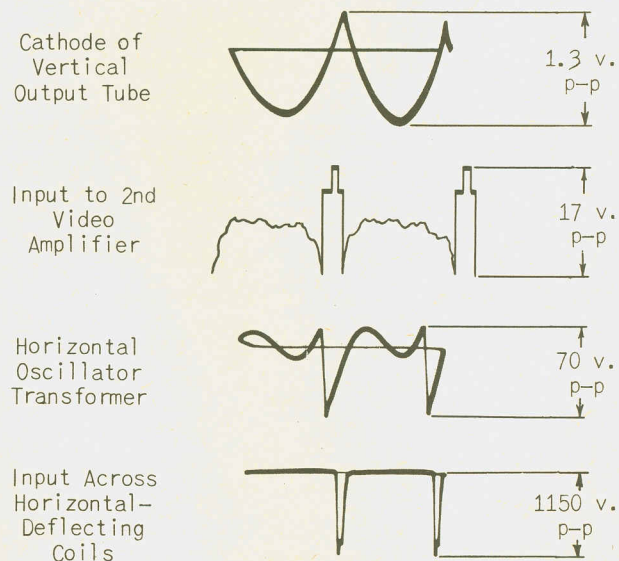


Figure 7. Typical television voltage waveforms

Reliable ac voltmeter readings can be assured only if the characteristics of the voltmeter are compatible with the characteristics of the circuit under test. When the WV-87A is used to measure ac voltages, the section "Electrical Characteristics" on page 6 should be considered. Information on input resistance and capacitance, frequency response, and pulse response is given.

It should be remembered that when the instrument is connected to any voltage source it may cause a loading effect on the circuit and result in a reduced voltage at the test point. When the instrument is not used in accordance with the conditions given under "Specifications", the normal operating voltages of the circuit may change, resulting in an erroneous reading of normal operating voltages.

Direct-Current Measurements:

When the WV-87A is used for measurement of direct current, it is not necessary that the instrument be plugged into the power line. The following precautions should be observed, however, to avoid damage to the meter movement.

- a. Do not subject the meter to any overload. The meter is *not* protected against burn-out on current measurements and improper use may permanently damage the meter movement.
- b. When a current of unknown value is to be measured, the instrument should be set up at least one range higher than the range on which the unknown current is expected to be measured. A trial measurement should be made and the range reduced to a scale which gives a reading nearest to full-scale deflection.
- c. Do not apply ac voltages at any of the current terminals. The instrument should be used to measure current in dc circuits only.

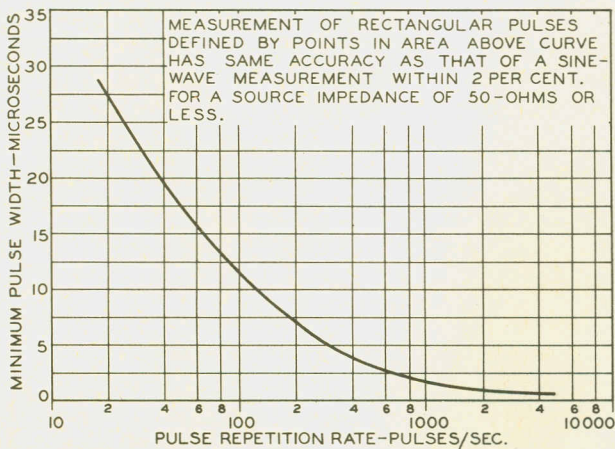


Figure 8. Pulse-response capability of WV-87A

d. Make sure the dc voltage of the circuit in which the instrument is connected is not greater than 1500 volts as measured from either the positive or negative current points to ground.

1. Connect the black current cable to the jack marked "—CURRENT" and the red current cable to one of the three positive current jacks, depending upon the estimated value of the current to be measured.
2. Turn the SELECTOR control to the "CURRENT" position.
3. For currents of 150 milliamperes or less, the RANGE control should be set at the "500MA" position and the red current cable connected to the "+MA" terminal for a trial measurement. For trial measurement of higher currents, the red current cable should be connected to either the "+1.5A" or "+15A" terminals.
4. Remove power from the equipment in which the measurement is to be made.
5. Connect the two current cables in series with the circuit in which the current is to be measured as follows. Break the circuit at a convenient point and connect the black current cable to the negative lead or terminal of the opened circuit and the red current cable to the positive lead or terminal. This procedure should place the instrument directly in series with the circuit.

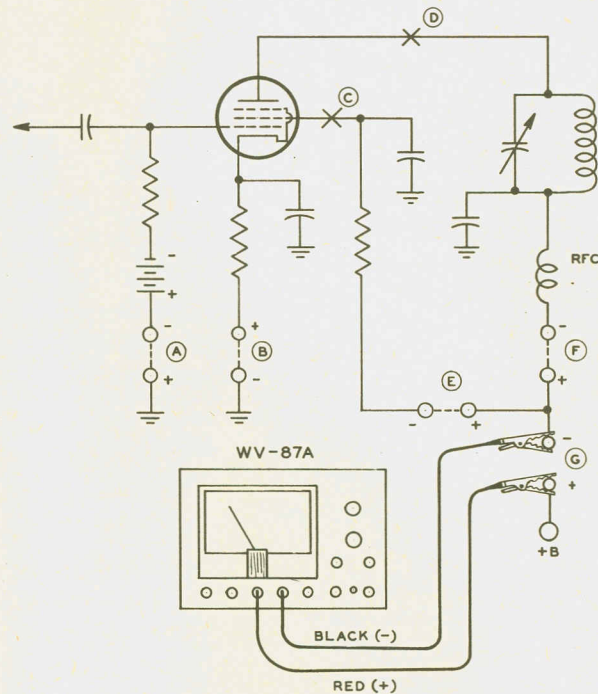


Figure 9. Current measurements in typical circuit

6. Apply power to the circuit and observe the reading on the appropriate scale, as determined by the current jack employed and the setting of the RANGE control. All direct currents are read on the upper two voltage scales.

7. If necessary, readjust the RANGE control or change the current terminal setting to give a reading on a lower scale which is nearest to full-scale deflection of the meter pointer.

Figure 9 shows a typical circuit and points at which the instrument may be inserted for direct-current measurement. It should be noted that points C and D are in leads containing circulating rf current and, therefore, should not be used. Screen current, for example, can be read by inserting the instrument at "E", plate

current may be read by inserting the meter at "F", which are below the rf by-pass points, and the combined screen and plate currents may be measured by inserting the instrument at "G".

In all three cases, the black current cable should be connected to terminals marked "-" and the red current cable to terminals marked "+". Total tube current can be measured by inserting the instrument in the cathode lead at point "B", with the black cable at terminal "-", and the red cable at terminal "+". Normal polarity is reversed in the grid circuit where a negative bias is applied and the direction of current flow is toward the ground point. Here, the black cable is connected at "A" to terminal "-" and the red cable to terminal "+".

Special Applications

In addition to maintenance and service applications of the WV-87A in ac, dc, af, and pulsed electronic and electro-mechanical equipment, the instrument may be used with versatility in numerous special applications. The special applications described below will help to illustrate the wide range of usefulness of the instrument.

Oscillator Grid-Bias Measurement. The negative dc voltage developed at the grid of an oscillator tube is proportional to the amplitude of oscillation. The impedance of these circuits is usually high and any test instrument inserted into the oscillator must be of sufficiently high impedance so as not to change appreciably the total value of the circuit impedance. The WV-87A is well suited to measurements of this nature. To measure grid bias, the instrument should be set up on the appropriate dc-voltage range and the DC Probe used for the bias measurement.

Comparative voltage readings should be taken on each band of a multi-band receiver and the main tuning capacitor should be rotated through each band while the bias is being measured.

AVC-Voltage Measurements. The WV-87A can be used to measure avc voltage at the diode-load resistor, along the avc bus, or at the grids of the controlled tubes.

Output Indication. The Master VoltOhmyst is a useful instrument for measuring output in the align-

ment of radio and television receivers. In these applications, the DC Probe is usually connected to the load resistor of the second detector in AM and TV receivers while the circuit components are adjusted for optimum output. In an FM receiver, the probe is connected to the limiter load resistor. The zero-center feature of the WV-87A is particularly useful in alignment of FM discriminators.

Bias-Cell Voltage Measurements. These small voltages can be measured accurately by the WV-87A. The expanded voltage scale of 0 to 5 volts provides easy-to-read indications of small voltages, an important feature where bias voltages are critical.

Detection of Gassy Tubes. Gassy tubes frequently may pass the check of an ordinary tube tester but cause improper functioning of equipment in which they are installed. The presence of gas in an output tube or avc-control tube, for example, can impair the function of the entire receiver. If a tube is gassy, measurement of the grid bias in an RC-coupled circuit will indicate an abnormal value of bias.

Insulation-Resistance Measurements. Current leakage through the dielectric of capacitors and insulation of coils, transformers, cables, and other components can be measured with the WV-87A in terms of resistance. Values of leakage resistance above 1000 megohms can be measured with the circuit shown in Figure 4.

When making resistance measurements, the Direct Probe of the WV-97A is always positive with respect to the Ground Cable. This arrangement facilitates the measurement of leakage resistance in components such as electrolytic capacitors where polarity must be observed.

DBM Measurements. The graph on page 4 can be used to determine dbm values corresponding to rms ac-voltage values across a 600-ohm resistive load. A dbm value is defined as the number of decibels above or below a reference level of 1 milliwatt in 600 ohms at 1000 cycles. Zero dbm, therefore, would indicate a power level of 1 milliwatt; 10 dbm, 10 milliwatts; and 20 dbm, 100 milliwatts.

Because dbm are defined with respect to a 600-ohm load, power levels correspond to voltage values. DBM can be measured in terms of rms voltages across a 600-ohm resistive load. For example, 0.775 rms volt indicates 0 dbm and 7.75 rms volts indicate 20 dbm. While these measurements must be made with a sine waveform to avoid waveform error, any frequency can be used which is within the range of the WV-87A. The decibel and ear-response curves have their closest correlation at 1000 cycles.

The graph provides rapid conversion of rms voltages to corresponding dbm values. Associated power levels can be read along the top of the graph. If the rms voltage is measured across a resistive load other than 600 ohms, the correction factors given below must be added algebraically to the dbm values read from the graph in Figure 1. For resistive loads not given in the table, the following formula should be used for determining the correction factor:

Resistive Load at 1000 cps	DBM*
600	0
500	+0.8
300	+3.0
250	+3.8
150	+6.0
50	+10.8
15	+16.0
8	+18.8
3.2	+22.7

* DBM is the increment to be added algebraically to the dbm value read from Figure 1, page 4.

Accessories

Available on Separate Order

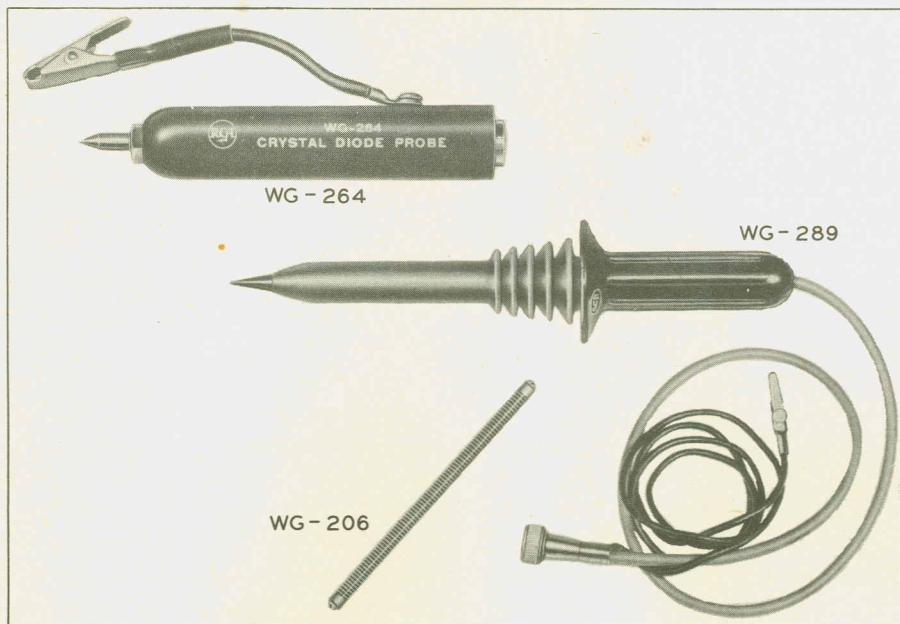


Figure 10. Accessories available on separate order

$$\text{Correction Factor} = 10 \log \frac{600}{R}$$

where R is the load in ohms. If R is greater than 600 ohms, the correction factor is negative.

When the WG-264 Crystal-Diode Probe is used with the Master VoltOhmyst, the usable frequency range is extended to 250 megacycles. This probe consists of a germanium rectifier and an RC network in a polystyrene housing. The probe, which slips onto the front of the WG-218 Direct Probe and Cable, eliminates an extra cable.

The WG-264 may be used in rf circuits of up to 20 rms volts in the presence of dc voltage as high as 250. The over-all frequency range of the probe is from 50 Kc to 250 Mc. All voltage readings are made on the dc scales in terms of rms volts for sine waves.

DC voltages as high as 50,000 volts can be measured directly by the WV-87A when the WG-289 High-Voltage Probe is used. The probe uses the WG-206 Multiplier Resistor, of 1090 megohms, to present an over-all voltmeter input resistance of 1100 megohms. With a multiplying factor of 100, the Master VoltOhmyst provides six full-scale positions of 150, 500, 1500, 5000, 15,000, and 50,000 volts. The 150,000-volt scale should not be used. This extremely high input impedance is especially desirable when it is necessary to measure voltages found in phototube, television, and other high-impedance circuits which would not function properly if loaded down by a low-impedance voltmeter.

The WG-289 High-Voltage Probe offers distinct advantages in high-voltage circuits as well as low-voltage circuits characterized by high impedance or poor regulation.

Circuit Description

The operation of the Master VoltOhmyst centers around a vacuum-tube bridge circuit using a 12AU7 twin-triode. (See Schematic Diagram, pages 10 and 11.) When this bridge is properly balanced, the voltages at the two plates will be equal and the 200-microampere meter, connected between the plates, will read zero.

When a positive voltage is applied to the grid of triode section 1, the current through the left half of the bridge is increased, causing the voltage at the plate of this section to decrease. This current also flows through the common cathode resistor, increasing the voltage drop across it, and biasing the grid of triode section 2 in a negative direction. This causes a voltage increase at the plate of triode section 2. The difference in potential across the meter causes current to flow through the meter from the plate of section 2 to the plate of section 1.

When the WV-87A is used to measure ac voltage, the voltage is first rectified by an RCA-6AL5 twin-diode which serves as a full-wave peak-to-peak rectifier. This tube, shown as V-1 on the schematic diagram, has associated components chosen to give the circuit a long time constant. When the ac signal swings negative, C-3 is charged through the left-hand diode section to the negative peak value of the voltage. As the voltage starts in a positive direction, this diode section becomes nonconducting and the charge on C-3 is prevented from discharging. As the ac signal swings positive, the positive peak is added in series with the charge on C-3 and is applied to the plate of the right-hand diode

section. C-4 is charged to a value equal to the sum of the positive and negative peaks. Because of the relatively long time constant of the circuit, the voltage across C-4 will be maintained at the peak-to-peak value of the applied ac voltage. This charge is then applied as a dc voltage to the grid of triode section 1 of the 12AU7 bridge tube and the circuit action is the same as described above.

When the ac-signal rectifier is connected, however, contact potential within the tube causes a small amount of voltage to appear at the left-hand grid of the 12AU7, resulting in a slight unbalance of the bridge and a small meter deflection. To counteract this effect, a diode section of another 6AL5 is connected to the other grid of the bridge tube. The bucking potential of this second diode section is used to correct for the contact potential of the ac-signal rectifier. This bucking potential may be adjusted to the exact required value by means of a potentiometer connected across the second diode section.

When the instrument is set up to measure resistance, ac voltage or dc voltage, it is impossible for any voltage applied to the test probes to be applied directly to the meter itself. As shown in the schematic diagram, the meter is isolated from the source voltage by the 12AU7 bridge tube. This current limitation of the 12AU7 and its associated components decreases the danger of overloading the meter. This protective function is not provided for current measurements, however, since the meter is used as a direct-measurement device.

Maintenance

(See "Safety Precautions", page 2)

General

The WV-87A Master VoltOhmyst is manufactured, tested, and calibrated under strict engineering supervision. If the instrument should require adjustment or repairs, the procedures outlined below should be followed.

A schematic diagram of the WV-87A is shown in Figure 6 and locations of calibration controls are shown in Figure 11. If it becomes necessary to replace any of the component parts, only RCA replacement parts or their equivalents should be used. When ordering replacement parts for the Master Volt-Ohmyst, consult the Replacement Parts List on page 12 and specify the code and serial numbers of the instrument as well as the stock number of the replacement part.

Zero Setting of Pointer

Mechanical Adjustment:

The meter pointer should rest at the left-hand zero mark when the SELECTOR control is turned to the "OFF" position. If the pointer should come to rest at a deflected position, the position may be corrected mechanically by adjusting the small screw on the front of the meter case.

Electrical Balance Check:

1. Set the SELECTOR control to "+VOLTS" and allow the WV-87A to warm up for 15 minutes.
2. Rotate the ZERO ADJ control. It should be possible to set the meter pointer at either zero or 70% of full-scale deflection on any range.
3. Set the SELECTOR control to "-VOLTS".
4. Rotate the ZERO ADJ control. It should be possible to set the meter pointer at either zero or 20% of full-scale deflection on any range.
5. If the conditions given in steps 2 and 4 above cannot be satisfied, there is an unbalance between the two triode sections of the 12AU7 bridge tube and it should be replaced. See the section on Tube Replacement below.

Calibration

The calibration of the WV-87A should be checked after any internal adjustments are made or after any of the component parts are replaced. If recalibration is necessary, the instrument should first be recalibrated on direct current as follows:

NOTE: The accuracy of calibration cannot exceed the accuracy of the standards employed.

Direct-Current Calibration:

1. Check the mechanical zero position of the pointer. If necessary, rezero as described above.
2. Set the SELECTOR control on "CURRENT" and the RANGE control on "50MA".
3. Connect the red current cable between the "+MA" jack and the positive terminal of a dc supply which can be adjusted to deliver exactly 25 milliamperes. Connect the black current cable between the "-CURRENT" jack and the negative terminal of the dc supply.
4. With the 25 milliamperes flowing through the meter, rotate the current-adjustment control, R14, with a screw driver for a reading of approximately half scale.
5. Supply exactly 50 milliamperes and readjust R14 for a reading of exactly 50 milliamperes. Check all other milli-ampere ranges for a full-scale accuracy of $\pm 3\%$.
6. Remove the red current cable from the "+MA" jack and insert it into the "+1.5AMP" jack. Supply exactly 1.4 amperes. The WV-87A should read between 1.37 and 1.43 amperes. The

15-ampere range should also be checked for a full-scale accuracy of $\pm 3\%$.

DC-Voltage Calibration:

1. Turn the SELECTOR control to "+VOLTS" and allow the WV-87A to warm up for at least 15 minutes.
2. Check the line voltage. The WV-87A should be calibrated at 117 volts, 60 cycles.
3. Rotate the ZERO ADJ control to bring the pointer exactly to zero. This control should not be readjusted during the rest of the calibrating procedure.
4. Set the RANGE control on "50V".
5. Connect the Ground Cable clip to the negative terminal of a dc source supplying exactly 50 volts. The WG-217 DC Probe should be connected to the positive terminal of the source voltage.
6. With a screw driver, adjust the "+DC CAL" potentiometer (R15) to bring the pointer exactly to the 50-volt mark on the scale. (See Figure 11 for location of calibrating controls.)
7. Reverse the test-lead connections at the voltage source.
8. Set the SELECTOR control to the "-VOLTS" position.
9. With a screw driver, adjust the "-DC CAL" potentiometer (R13) to bring the pointer exactly to the 50-volt mark on the scale.
10. Check the remaining dc-voltage ranges against other dc sources of known accuracy which provide full-scale deflection.

AC-Calibration Check:

Before ac calibration is attempted, the WV-87A first should be calibrated as outlined above. The procedure for ac calibration is as follows.

1. Remove the WG-217 DC Probe from the WG-218 Direct Probe and Cable.
2. Set the SELECTOR control to "AC VOLTS".
3. Set the RANGE control to "1.5" volts.
4. Short the Direct Probe to the ground clip and adjust the AC ZERO potentiometer (R47) so that the pointer rests exactly at zero. The potentiometer is located on the rear of the chassis and is accessible through an opening in the rear of the cabinet.
5. Turn the RANGE control through the remaining scale settings. The meter pointer should remain at zero while the RANGE control is changed. If the pointer cannot be adjusted to zero, or if it moves away from the zero setting as the RANGE control is changed, interchange the two 6AL5 tubes. If this fails to correct the difficulty, one or both of the 6AL5 tubes should be replaced. (See Section on Tube Replacement below.)
6. Set the RANGE control to "150V".
7. Apply exactly 150 volts, 60 cycles between the ground lead and the tip of the WG-218 Direct Probe and Cable. The meter should read within 5% of the applied ac voltage. If it does not, the values of the circuit components should be checked.
8. Check the remaining voltage ranges for accuracy at full-scale deflection. They should read within 5% of the applied ac voltage.

AC-Compensation Adjustment

1. Turn the SELECTOR control to "AC VOLTS".
2. Set the RANGE selector on "500V".
3. Set meter pointer at zero.
4. Apply exactly 200 volts at a frequency of approximately 100 kilocycles between the ground cable and the WG-218 Direct Probe. With a screw driver, adjust the ceramic trimmer (C2) until the pointer reads exactly 200 volts.

Ohms Adjustment

NOTE: The battery must be installed for all resistance measurements.

1. Set the SELECTOR control to "+VOLTS" and make certain the pointer is at zero.
2. Turn the SELECTOR control to the "OHMS" position.
3. Set the RANGE control to "RX1".
4. Adjust the OHMS ADJ control for full-scale deflection.
5. Turn the RANGE switch to the "RX1MEG" position. The meter pointer should read above 1000 on the resistance scale. If the pointer indicates a lower value, there is excessive leakage in the ohmmeter circuit.

If it is necessary to readjust the OHMS ADJ control when changing from a low-range position to the "RX1MEG" position, the battery should be checked. If the difficulty remains, refer to the section on Tube Replacement below.

Tube Replacement

All tubes supplied originally with the WV-87A have been thoroughly aged by operating them for several hours before installation in the instrument. This preliminary conditioning of a new tube helps to insure stability and dependable performance.

If a new tube is installed without prior aging, it may be necessary to rezero the instrument when it is switched from the lowest to the highest dc-voltage range. This operating inconvenience may be corrected by aging the tube as follows.

Before installing a 12AU7, age the tube by connecting the grids and cathodes to one side of a 117-volt, 60-cycle line and the two plates to the other side of the line. The heaters should be operated at normal voltage. The tube should be operated in this manner for a minimum of 12 hours before it is installed in the instrument. The calibration should then be checked.

An alternate, and usually satisfactory, aging procedure con-

sists of operating the new tube in the WV-87A for approximately 36 hours, after which time the instrument may be recalibrated. If this procedure is unsatisfactory, the first aging procedure should be followed.

If it becomes necessary to replace a 6AL5, the tube can be aged for a minimum period of 36 hours by operating it in the instrument. After this period of time, the calibration should be checked according to the procedure outlined under "AC Calibration Check".

Battery Testing

CAUTION: Do not allow exhausted cells to remain inside the case of the WV-87A as chemicals from deteriorated cells may damage the instrument.

The battery should be tested frequently to insure accuracy of resistance measurements. It may be tested as follows.

1. Turn SELECTOR control to "OHMS".
2. Set RANGE control to "RX1" position.
3. Rotate the OHMS ADJ control to bring the pointer to full scale deflection.
4. Short the Ohms Cable to the Ground Cable for about 10 seconds.
5. Open the short circuit and observe the scale indication. Any appreciable deviation from full-scale deflection indicates weak cells which should be replaced.

RCA Repair Service

If the WV-87A fails to function properly, a visual inspection first should be made followed by an electrical check according to the procedure described above.

In the event the difficulty remains, the instrument may be returned to RCA for repairs. Information regarding RCA repair service may be obtained by writing to the RCA Service Company, Camden, N. J.

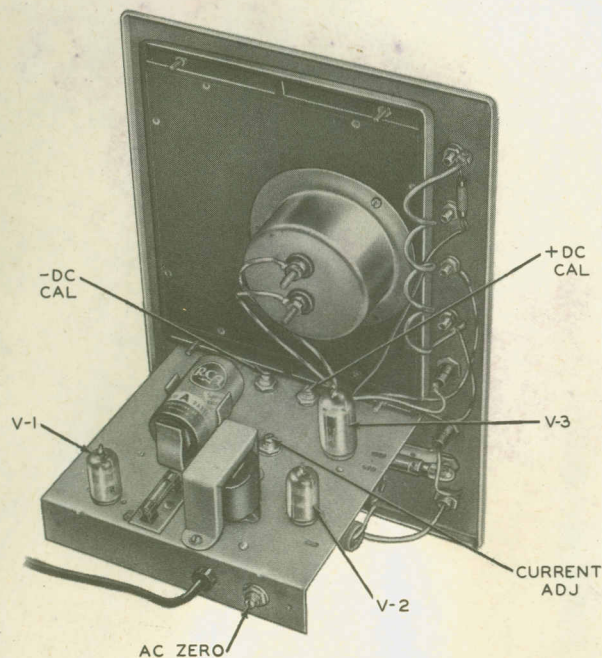


Figure 11. Locations of tubes and calibration controls

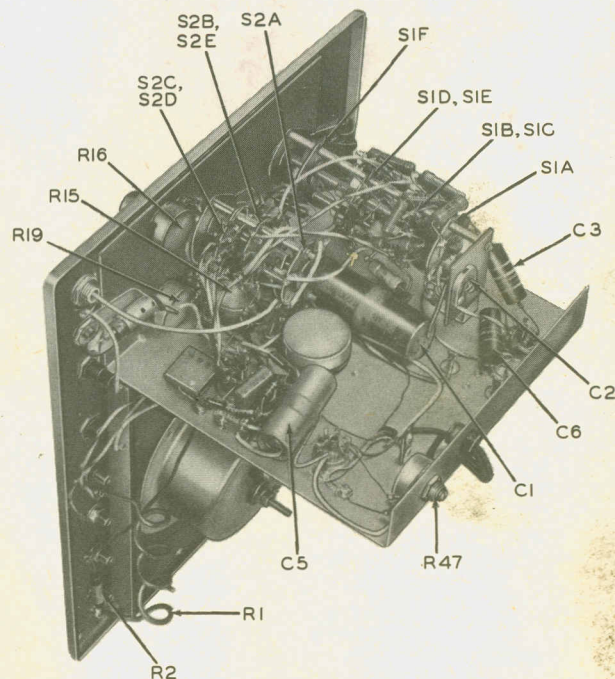


Figure 12. Locations of components