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RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA

# GENERAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND DATA ON UHF TV ANTENNAS 

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## UHF TV PYLON ANTENNAS

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# GENERALTECHNICALDATAFOR RCA, UHFTELEVISION ANTENNAS 

## I. General Description of Non-Directional Type Antennas

A. THE "S" SERIES ANTENNAS USING ONE LAYER OFF-SET FEED

The physical characteristics of the " S " series antennas do not differ in any respect externally from the earlier center fed types. The salient difference is that the point of feed, instead of being at the center of the internal coaxial feeder, is displaced downward by one slot layer, or $3 / 2$ wave lengths, from the geometrical center. At the UHF frequencies involved, this shift varies from approximately $371 / 2$ inches at Channel 14 to approximately 20 inches at Channel 83 . Since this represents a small percentage of the overall length of the antenna, and since the radiation center has no specific definition for such an antenna of multiple sources of radiation and has been construed by implication to be the geometric center of the antenna, the geometric center is likewise considered the electrical or radiation center of an antenna employing this off-set feed.
B. "D" SERIES ANTENNAS HAVING TWO-LAYER OFF-SET FEED

The " $D$ " series antennas similarly have no external physical differences from the earlier-center feed or the present " S " series antennas. The " D " antenna differs only in that they employ a point of feed off-set from the geometrical center downward by two layers of slots, or 3 wave lengths. This displacement ranges from approximately 75 inches at Channel 14 to approximately 40 inches at Channel 83. The radiation center, for the reasons outlined above, is considered to be the geometrical center.

## II. Electrical Considerations in the Use of Off-Center Feed

To attain the desired high gain single lobe of suitable beam width directed at the horizontal and having minimum radiation in the minor lobes requires that the successive layers of slots be fed in phase. With such phase conditions the vertical radiation pattern will have minor lobes, however, accompanied by minima between the minor lobes which go to a theoretical zero value. In actual antennas where production tolerances are closely controlled, these nulls are minima which may in practice closely approach their theoretical value of zero. Thus the approach to a method of null fill-in becomes a matter of prime importance in obtaining signal distribution which will afford at least the minimum required field intensities over the desired service area. Ideally, the minima should be filled in to yield a smooth vertical pattern curve of proper shape, and having no lobes or points of minima, to achieve con-
stant signal with varying distance over the area to be served. (See Fig. 1.) If the minima associated with the lower minor lobes are filled such that the average of these variations approaches such a curve, and the minima do not fall below the value required to attain minimum signal intensities, the minima fill-in requirements will have been obtained within the rcquirements of practice. Figs. 2, 3, and 4 show the ideal or cosecant field curve for three particular cases of antenna height and radii of service areas of constant field.

Feeding the various elements in phase but with an asymmetrical amplitude distribution is a practical method of approaching this minima fill-in requirement. This method is well adapted to series fed antennas where the radiated energy of a particular slot or layers of slots can be controlled by the degree of coupling to the feeder. Since the antenna consists of a discrete number of slot layers, the amplitude distribution must have a "stepped" power distribution rather than a smooth variation in distribution along the total aperture. The term "stepped" antenna arises from the plot of the radiated power per unit of distance along the aperture, as illustrated in Fig. 5. As indicated the coupling loops are set such that equal power is fed into the group or section of slot layers above the feed point and the group or section of slot layers below the feed point. The power radiated per element is then different in the top and bottom sections by the ratio of slot layers above and below the point of feed. In an eighteen-layer having two-layer off-center feed this results in an 11-7 division, thus the power density in the upper section has a ratio of $11 / 7$ or 1.57 greater than the power density in the lower section.

Considering the upper and lower sections as two antennas, each having different patterns by reason of the different power densities, but fed with equal powers, as indicated in Figs. 5 and 6, it is evident that the minima and minor lobes will not occur at the same depression angles. Thus the resultant pattern will be one in which the minima cannot go to zero nor to values lower than the minima of either antenna, since the amplitudes are unequal at those depression angles and cannot produce complete cancellation even when in phase opposition.

Fig. 12 shows a calculated vertical pattern for a type TFU-24DM antenna, employing two-layer off-set feed and having no beam tilt, which evidences the benefits derived from such fill-in procedure. The use of beam tilt, to be discussed later, quite rapidly adds to the benefits of minima fill-in and does so to a much greater extent than with center-fed antennas. This is quite evident from the curve for the 24 DM type with $1^{\circ}$ of beam tilt, also shown on Fig. 12.

## III. Use of Electrical Beam Tilt

The advantages of the use of beam tilt are well known and quite evident. Power directed in the horizontal plane at the antenna will serve no useful purpose in inducing
voltages at receiving antenna located near the earth at or below the radio horizon. For this reason alone, it is then evident that electrical beam tilt, which depress the beam uniformly at all azimuth angles, should be used to at least the extent that the beam is tilted to the horizon or slightly below. Dependent upon the particular terrain conditions, the distribution of population, the extent of the population area from the transmitter and the vertical directivity pattern of the antenna considered greater values of beam tilt are in virtually every case useful. The solution for particular cases of course lies in the careful analysis of the above factors for a specific coverage problem.

The use of minima fill-in contributes a slight reduction in the power gain of the major lobe, by reason of the fill-in process at the minima. However, this reduction in gain is quite small, particularly in comparison of the penalties in the major lobe to the great benefits derived at angles below the major lobe. The use of beam tilt however does require the suffering of greater reduction in gain at the major lobe. However, for values of tilt commonly used the penalties are not at all in proportion to the decided benefits derived both for distant and close-in coverage. The reduction in maximum lobe and horizontal power may be read from Fig. 19. In addition to the apparent advantage of displacing the power distribution from the horizon or above, with the attendant waste of power contained in the major lobe at and above the horizontal plane to the areas where needed for receiver antennas, it is further apparent upon examination of the several vertical patterns that receivers at "medium" distances from the transmitter will receive radiation from well up on the major lobe curve rather than the area of lower relative field.

A further, and perhaps more important reason, for the use of some electrical beam tilt is the rate at which minima fill-in is accelerated. Fig. 13 shows the vertical pattern for a 24DM antenna having zero beam tilt and $1^{\circ}$ beam tilt. The extent of fill-in for the same antenna when tilted is readily observed. This may likewise be seen in examining the zero and $1^{\circ}$ tilt patterns for the TFU-21DL in Fig. 10 and the zero and $1^{\circ}$ tilt patterns for the TFU-27DH in Fig. 18.

Similarly, a comparison of the present one layer offset types TFU-21BLS, TFU-24BMS, and TFU-27BHS for untilted and tilted conditions may be examined by reference to Figs. 7,11 , and 15.

It is apparent from an examination of the " $D$ " type antennas for the respective groups of channels that considerable benefit is derived in the area of depression angles of common interest to every installation, down to about - $6^{\circ}$. In Fig. 20 is shown the calculated pattern for a 24DM with the ideal or cosecant field curve from Fig. 3. The average of the calculated pattern is in close agreement with the ideal curve, thus a real improvement toward the condition of constant field versus distance for the close-in area is obtained.

Beam tilt is accomplished rather simply in these antennas by the simple expedient of displacing the entire harness upward by a small distance. The shift amounts to only a few inches and may be accomplished readily even after erection of the antenna upon the tower. When shifted, the upper section acquires a phase lead over the lower section. To determine the distance to be shifted for a given value of beam tilt the curves of Fig. 21 are used. From
this curve is read the phase difference $2 \delta$. This value may then be used in the equation:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{d} & =\frac{\delta}{360} \times \frac{11802}{\mathrm{f}} \\
\delta & =\frac{2 \delta}{2} \\
\text { When } \mathrm{d} & =\text { Shift in inches } \\
\mathrm{f} & =\text { Frequency in } \mathrm{mc}
\end{aligned}
$$

to determine the shift distance in inches. Suggested methods of mechanically accomplishing the harness shift are described in the instruction book for these antennas.

## IV. Horizontal Radiation Pattern

Antennas of this type have a horizontal pattern circular within 0.5 db . The theoretical limit of circularity for 3 -slot layers rotated $60^{\circ}$ is 0.02 db maximum to minimum ratio.

The effect of operating two such antennas in close proximity, as on a common tower platform, has been studied to a limited extent. Further studies and measurements are in process with respect to this mode of operation as well as to investigate the effects of tower members on the horizontal pattern when mounting such antennas internally in a tower structure or closely adjacent to a tower as in side mounting, as might be done with several antennas on a common supporting tower. Figs. 22, 23, and 2.4 show the measured horizontal patterns for a model antenna having a cylinder of comparable dimensions in the presence of the antenna at different separations.

It may be concluded that separations on the order of 5 wave lengths will not cause variations in horizontal field pattern circularity in excess of about 2 db . Figs. 25 and 26 show the effect on the horizontal radiation pattern of a UHF antenna when mounted internally to a supporting tower.

## V. Directional UHF Antennas

Figs. 27 and 28 show the horizontal field radiation patterns for two types of UHF directionals which readily lend themselves to manufacture and which will probably be useful for the majority of the conceivable installations which would benefit from a directional pattern.

Fig. 27 is the pattern for a single slot per layer antenna, the layers having the same slot dimensions and spacings as in the non-directional antennas but with the slots colinear. Calculated and measured model curves are shown.

Fig. 28 shows the calculated and a measured model pattern of a directional antenna having two slots per layer spaced diametrically opposite.

The application of directionals must be limited to within the requirements of the 10 db maximum variation limit. Shaping of patterns within this limit may be assisted by choice of the diameter of the radiating pipe, phasing of the slot layers, and small angular rotation of selected slot layers. Methods of null fill-in and beam tilt as applied to non-directional antennas may be similarly applied to directional types to obtain the desired effects of control of the vertical directivity pattern.

## VI. Mechanical Specifications

Fig. 29 is a specification sheet for the various UHF antennas currently produced. Table I lists the appropriate mechanical parameters by channels associated with the dimensions on the specification sheet.

Figs. 30,31 and 32 show the tower mounting plate requirements for the antenna flange furnished with each of the three pipe sizes used with the various types of antennas.

## UHF TELEVISION PYLON ANTENNAS

| Type | Sections | Channels | Relative Gain | Gain In DB |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| TFU-3BL | 2 | 14-30 | 3 | 4.77 |
| TFU-3BM | 2 | 31-50 | 3 | 4.77 |
| TFU-3BH | 2 | 51-83 | 3 | 4.77 |
| TFU-6BL | 4 | 14-30 | 6 | 7.78 |
| TFU-6BM | 4 | 31-50 | 6 | 7.78 |
| TFU-6BH | 4 | 51-83 | 6 | 7.78 |
| TFU-9BL | 6 | 64-30 | 9 | 9.54 |
| TFU-9BM | 6 | 31-50 | 9 | 9.54 |
| TFU-9BH | 6 | 51-83 | 9 | 9.54 |
| TFU-12BL | 8 | 14-30 | 12 | 10.79 |
| TFU-12BM | 8 | 31-50 | 12 | 10.79 |
| TFU-12BH | 8 | 51-83 | 12 | 10.79 |
| TFU-12BLS | 14 | 14.30 | 21 | 13.22 |
| TFU-21DL | 14 | 14.30 | 21 | 13.22 |
| TFU-24BLS | 16 | 14-30 | 24 | 13.80 |
| TFU-24DL | 16 | 14-30 | 24 | 13.80 |
| TFU-24BMS | 16 | 31-50 | 24 | 13.80 |
| TFU-24DM | 16 | 31-50 | 24 | 13.80 |
| TFU-27BHS | 18 | 51-83 | 27 | 14.31 |
| TFU-27DH | 18 | 51.83 | 27 | 14.31 |







FIGURE-5
POWER DISTRIBUTION OF "STEPPED" ANTENNA


FIGURE-6
"stepped" antenna considered as two antennas



















FIGURE-25


FIGURE-26


FIGURE-27

FIGURE-28


## PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING DATA UHF SLOTTED TELEVISION ANTENNAS

ELECTRICAL SPECIFICATIONS
Power Handling.......................... 10 kw up to $10,000 \mathrm{ft}$.
Maximum Ambient Temperature, at Full Power....... $45^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.
Input Impedance............ 50 ohms, V.S.W.R. less than $1.1 / 1$
Input Connection........Single $31 / 8$ UHF flanged coaxial line
Hor. Pattern Circularity............................. $\pm 0.5 \mathrm{db}$
MECHANICAL SPECIFICATIONS
Design Assumptions

- Max. wind velocity ( $1 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ rad. ice) 95 mph.
Max. wind velocity (no ice) 110 mph. ( $50 / 30$ p.s.f.).
Tensile stress below 20,000 p.s.i.
- Actual wind velocity.
- Max stress on bolts 18,000 p.s.i.


[^0]TABLE I
PRELIMINARY UHF ANTENNA DATA WEIGHTS, HEIGHTS, AND MOMENTS FOR FILING


Channel

| No. | $\mathrm{H}_{2}(\mathrm{Ft}$. | H(Ft.) | Weight | $\underline{R_{1} \text { (Ft./Lbs.) }}$ | M(Ft./Lbs.) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 40 | 20.334 | 40.668 | 2210 | 1185 | 26350 |  |
| 41 | 20.167 | 40.334 | 2200 | 1175 | 25950 |  |
| 42 | 20.000 | 40.000 | 2180 | 1165 | 25450 |  |
| 43 | 19.834 | 39.668 | 2160 | 1155 | 25000 |  |
| 44 | 19.584 | 39.167 | 2150 | 1145 | 24700 | TFU-24BMS |
| 45 | 19.417 | 38.834 | 2140 | 1135 | 24250 , |  |
| 46 | 19.250 | 38.500 | 2120 | 1125 | 23900 | TFU-24DM |
| 47 | 19.000 | 38.000 | 2100 | 1110 | 23400 |  |
| 48 | 18.751 | 37.584 | 2090 | 1095 | 23000 |  |
| 49 | 18.584 | 37.250 | 2080 | 1085 | 22600 . |  |
| 50 | 18.414 | 36.828 | 2070 | 1075 | 22300 |  |
| 51 | 20.584 | 41.167 | 1910 | 985 | 22600 |  |
| 52 | 20.417 | 40.834 | 1895 | 980 | 22500 |  |
| 53 | 20.250 | 40.500 | 1875 | 970 | 22000 |  |
| 54 | 20.083 | 40.167 | 1860 | 965 | 21780 |  |
| 55 | 19.917 | 39.834 | 1850 | 955 | 21350 |  |
| 56 | 19.750 | 39.500 | 1840 | 950 | 21000 |  |
| 57 | 19.584 | 39.167 | 1830 | 945 | 20800 |  |
| 58 | 19.417 | 38.834 | 1820 | 940 | 20450 |  |
| 59 | 19.250 | 38.500 | 1800 | 930 | 20100 |  |
| 60 | 19.083 | 38.167 | 1785 | 925 | 19950 |  |
| 61 | 18.917 | 37.834 | 1775 | 920 | 19650 |  |
| 62 | 18.750 | 37.500 | 1760 | 915 | 19250 |  |
| 63 | 18.584 | 37.167 | 1755 | 905 | 19000 |  |
| 64 | 18.500 | 36.917 | 1750 | 900 | 18850 |  |
| 65 | 18.334 | 36.668 | 1740 | 895 | 18550 |  |
| 66 | 18.167 | 36.334 | 1730 | 890 | 18200 | TFU-27BHS |
| 67 | 18.000 | 36.000 | 1715 | 885 | 17990 |  |
| 68 | 17.917 | 35.834 | 1700 | 880 | 17800 | TFU-27DH |
| 69 | 17.834 | 35.584 | 1690 | 870 | 17500 |  |
| 70 | 17.668 | 35.334 | 1675 | 865 | 17100 |  |
| 71 | 17.500 | 35.000 | 1660 | 860 | 16990 |  |
| 72 | 17.417 | 34.834 | 1655 | 855 | 16840 |  |
| 73 | 17.250 | 34.500 | 1650 | 850 | 16460 |  |
| 74 | 17.083 | 34.250 | 1640 | 845 | 16240 |  |
| 75 | 17.000 | 34.000 | 1630 | 840 | 16000 |  |
| 76 | 16.917 | 33.834 | 1620 | 835 | 15850 |  |
| 77 | 16.751 | 33.584 | 1610 | 830 | 15600 |  |
| 78 | 16.668 | 33.334 | 1600 | 825 | 15400 |  |
| 79 | 16.584 | 33.167 | 1590 | 820 | 15100 |  |
| 80 | 16.417 | 33.000 | 1580 | 815 | 14950 |  |
| 81 | 16.334 | 32.584 | 1575 | 810 | 14750 |  |
| 82 | 16.167 | 32.334 | 1570 | 805 | 14500 |  |
| 83 | 16.083 | 32.167 | 1560 | 800 | 14350 |  |

$\mathrm{H}_{2}-$ Height to Electrical Center.
H-Overall Height.
$R_{1}$-Wind Load at $50 / 30$ p.s.f.
M-Overturning Moment at 50/30 p.s.f.

## TOWER TOP INSTALLATION DRAWING FOR MOUNTING RCA TFU-27BH ANTENNA <br> ( $65 / 8$ DIA. POLE)


 PRIOR TO MOUNTING ANTENNA, TOWER TOP
TOBE HORIZONTAL WITHIN O. 3 DEGEEE
TO BE HORIZONTAL WITHIN O, 3 DEGEEE

FIGURE-30

# TOWER TOP INSTALLATION DRAWING FOR MOUNTING RCA TFU-24BM ANTENNA <br> ( $85 / 8$ DIA. POLE) 


FIGURE-31

## TOWER TOP INSTALLATION DRAWING FOR MOUNTING RCA TFU-21BL \& TFU-24BL ANTENNA ( $103 / 4$ DIA. POLE)



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[^0]:    * Note: Suffix number added to MI number indicates channel number.

