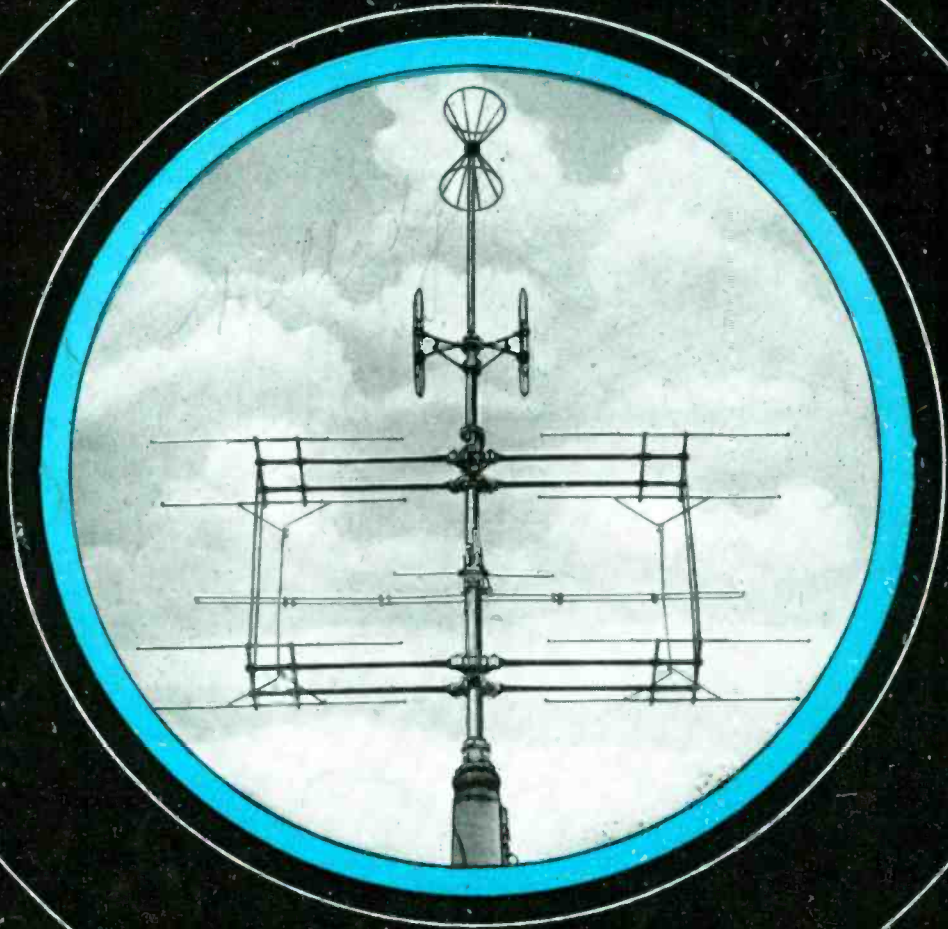


# Wireless World

RADIO and ELECTRONICS



OCT. 1945

1/6

Vol. LI No. 10

IN THIS  
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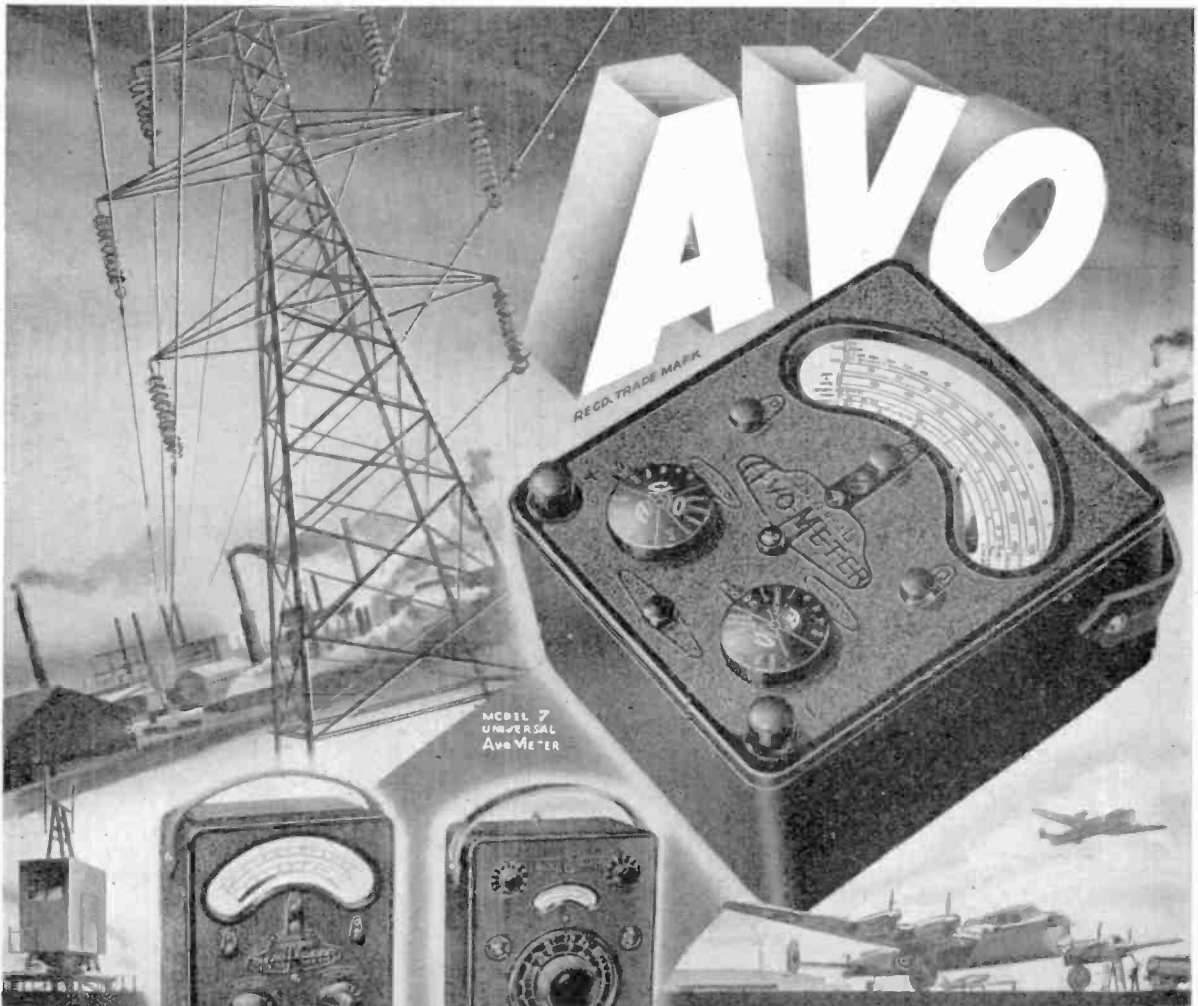
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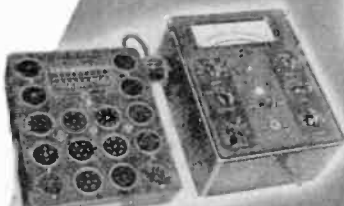
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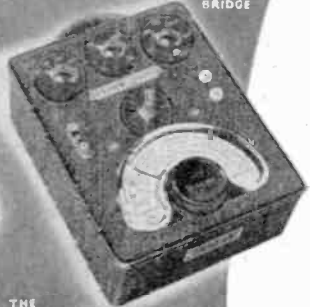
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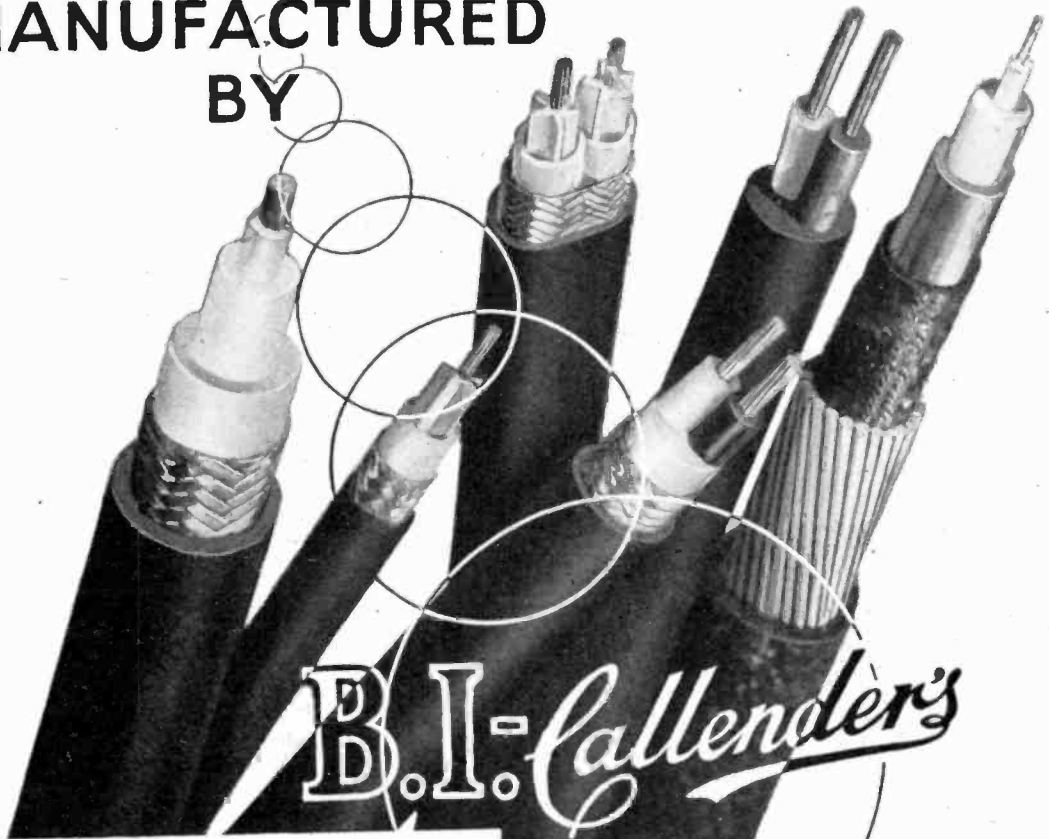
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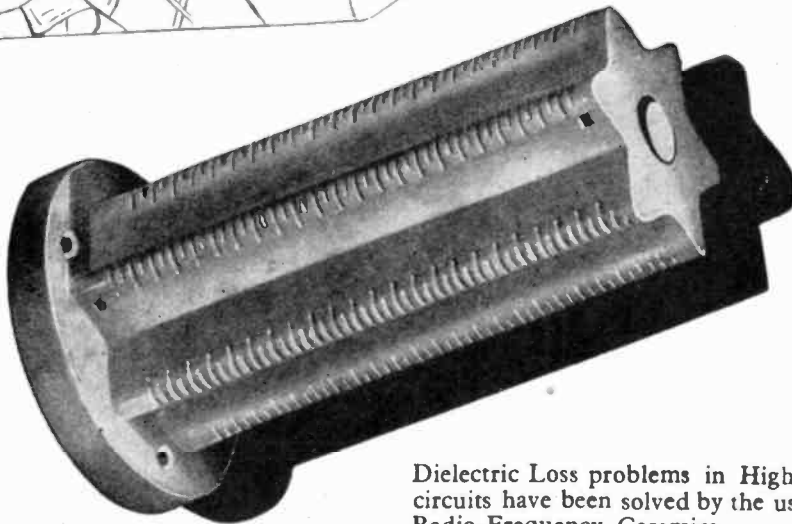
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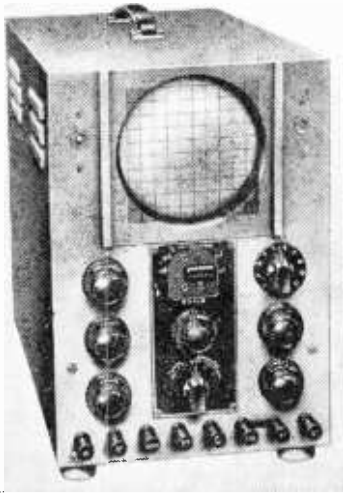
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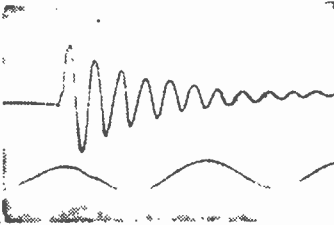
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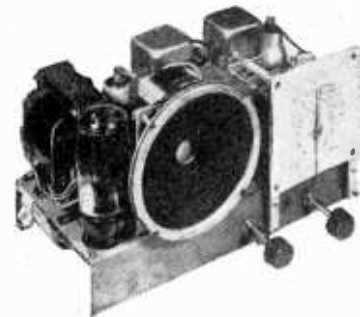
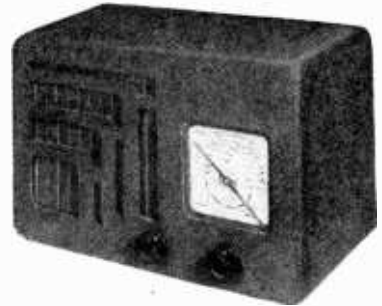
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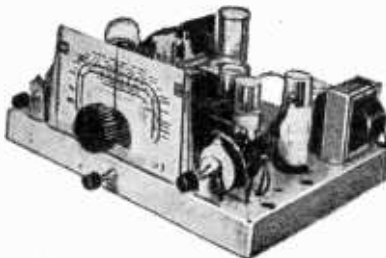
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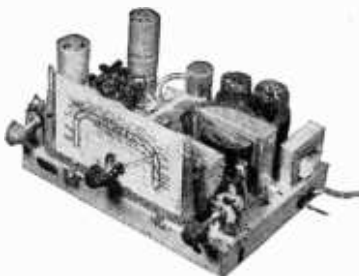


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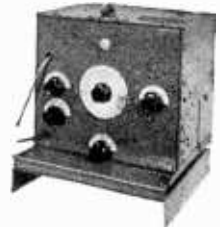
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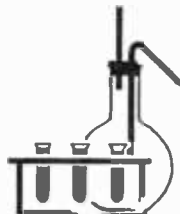
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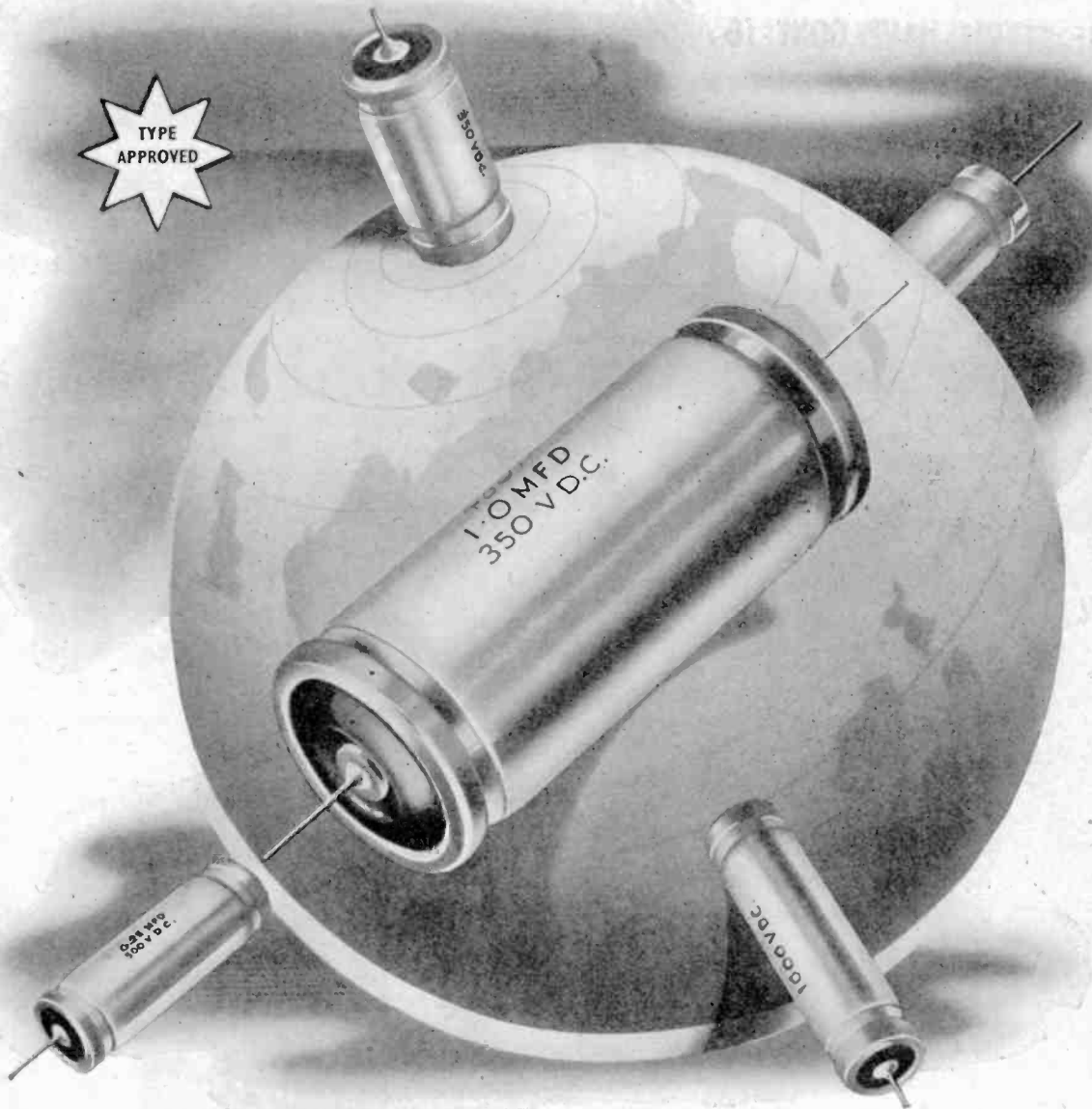


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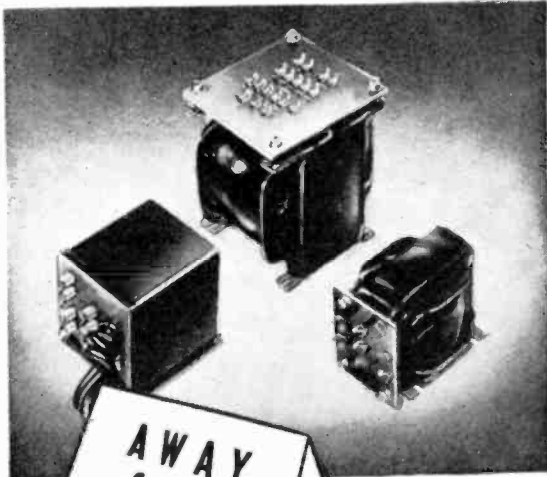


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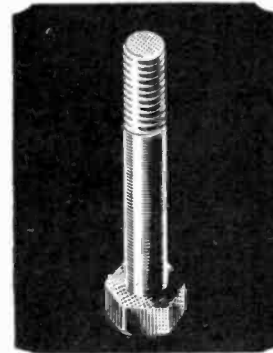
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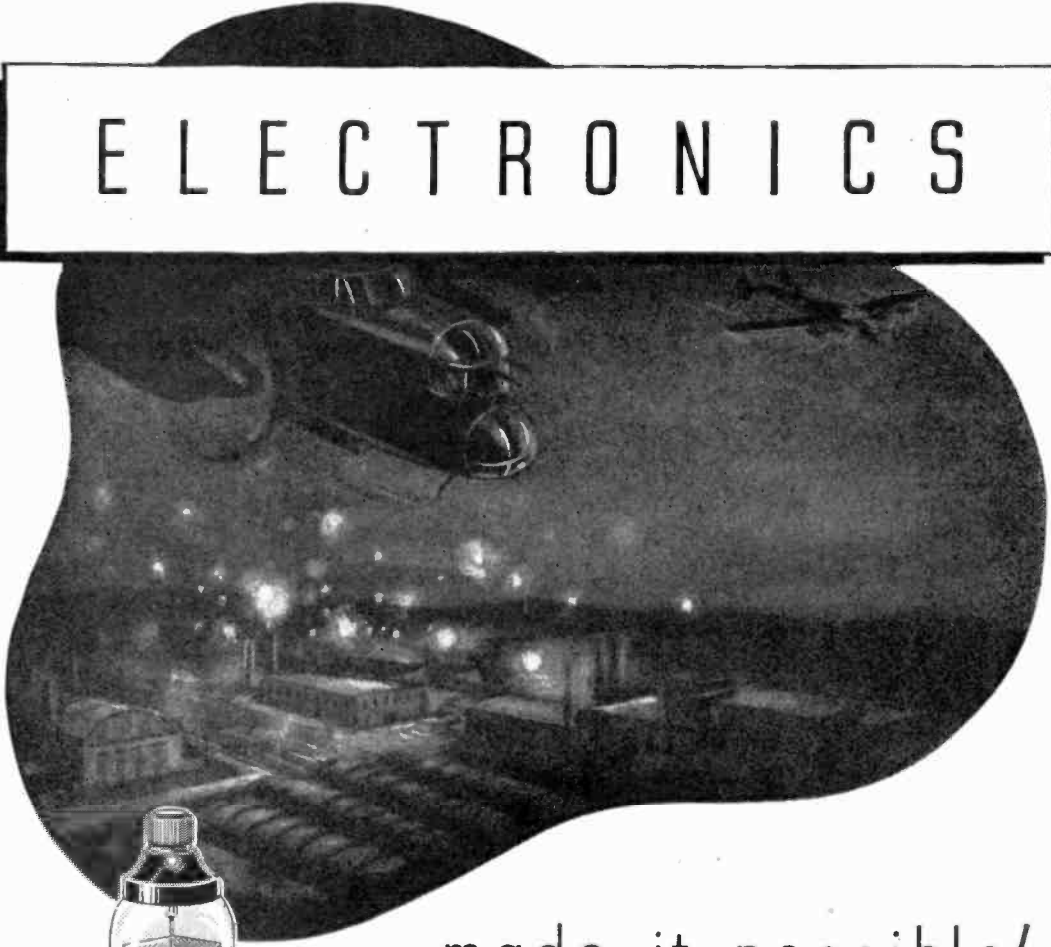


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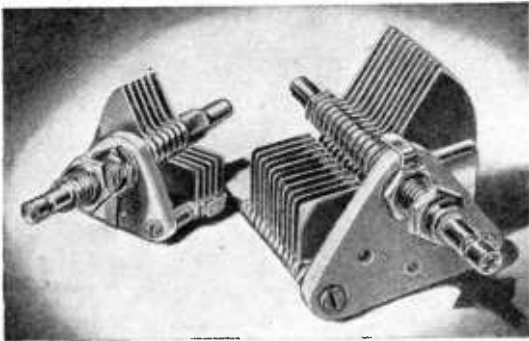


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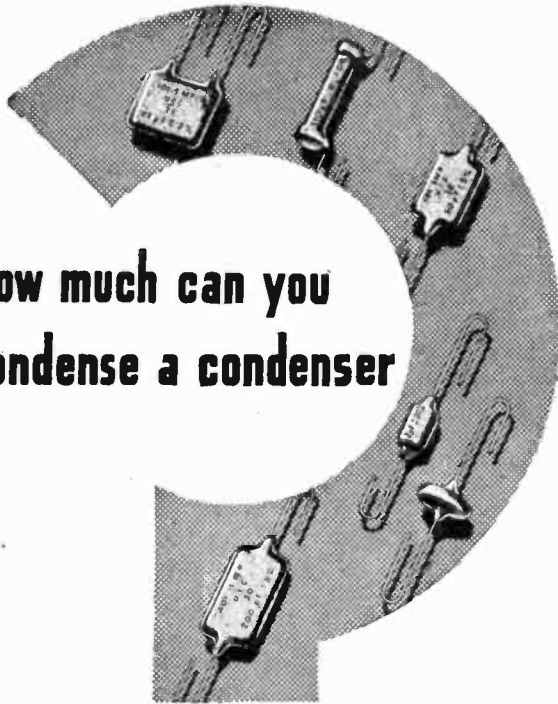
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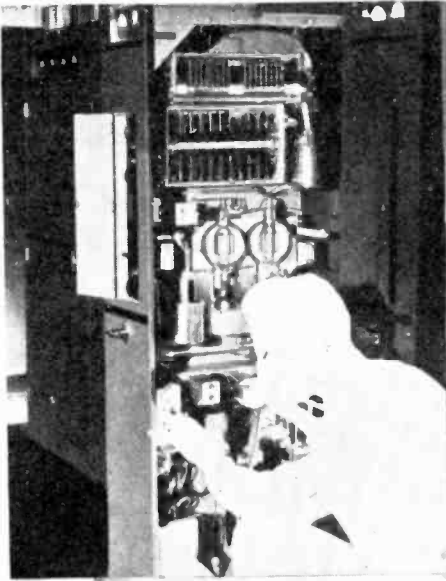
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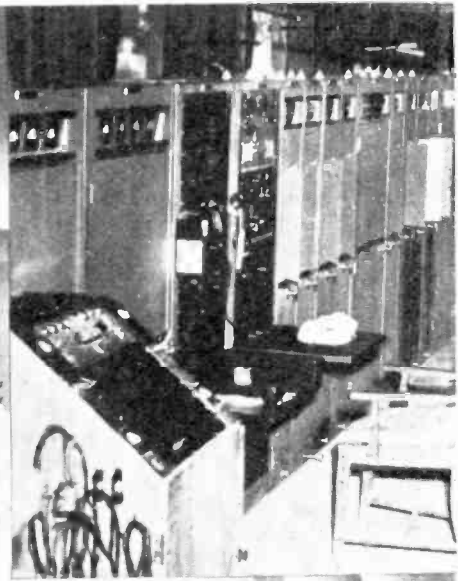
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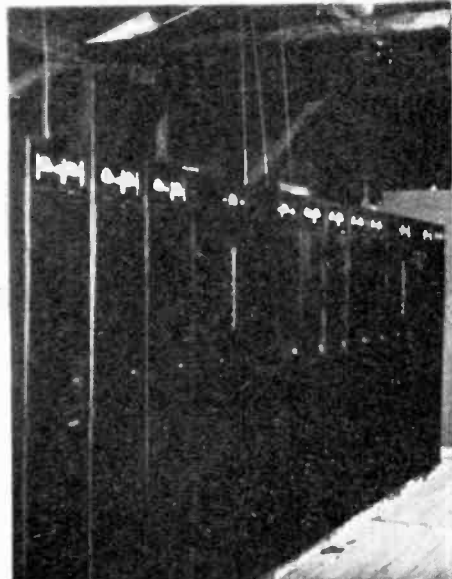
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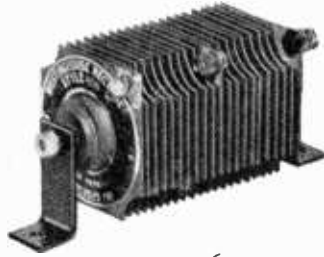
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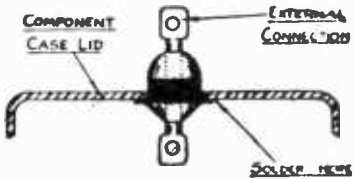
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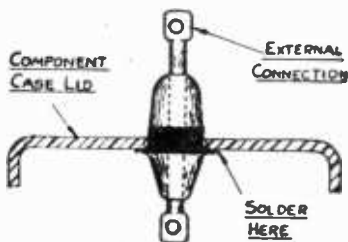
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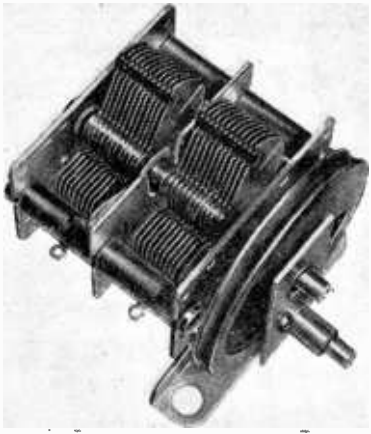
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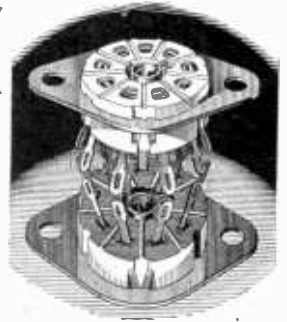
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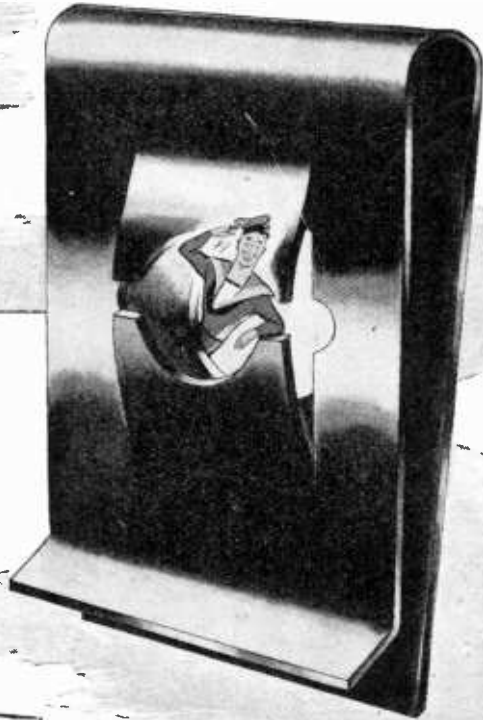
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# Wireless World

Radio and Electronics

35th YEAR OF PUBLICATION

## OCTOBER 1945

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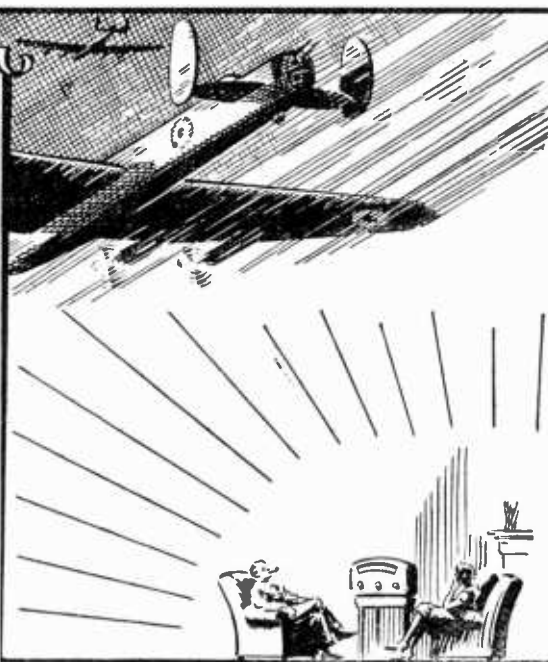
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### "OVER TO YOU"

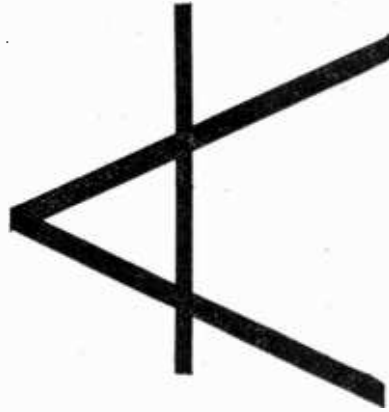
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# Wireless World

Radio and Electronics

Vol. LI. No. 10

OCTOBER 1945.

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## Monthly Commentary

What is  
Radar?

IN this world of wireless we are not especially fortunate in evolving our rather peculiar jargon. It is mildly perplexing that no sooner have we been told that radiolocation or radar involves essentially the location of an object by the help of observations made on a radio wave echo reflected from that object, than we find the same term officially applied to navigational systems in which the echo plays no part. We refer, of course, to "Gee," "Oboe" and other systems which depend entirely on measurements of signal transit time; a return signal may be used in some of the systems, but it is a triggered response, and in no sense an echo.

According to the definition that *Wireless World* was officially allowed to give in 1941, the reflected radio wave is inherent in radiolocation. Similarly, Sir Edward Appleton, Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, (the organisation that, through its offshoot, first brought radiolocation into being) defines it as "the process of locating the position of an object in space by radio waves . . . . The only co-operation required on the part of the detected body is of a passive character, in that it is required to reflect radio waves." That certainly does not fit the signal-transit-time systems. On the other hand, signal transit time is an important or even fundamental factor in most (but not all) systems of "echo radar," as we may have to call it.

★ ★ ★

Team  
Work

TECHNICALLY speaking, the story of radiolocation is a wonderful one. No amount of familiarity with radio can blunt one's appreciation of what has been achieved

during the war years. In the wider field, the story is even more wonderful, and with a much deeper implication. To an extent that has never been known before, radar design and production has been a matter of team work; of co-ordination of the work of individuals of diverse outlook and often with mutually competitive interests. It is a new thing in the world that the principles of team

work have so fully and successfully been applied to an engineering enterprise of such diversity and magnitude.

Teams from Government research establishments, the Universities and industrial research organisations have all contributed to the solution of fundamental problems and they have been ably backed up by the productive capacity and adaptability of our industry. Sir Stafford Cripps, President of the Board of Trade, in adding his tribute to the official Government statement, quoted elsewhere in this issue, said recently, "If, as I am sure is possible, we maintain in the peace that unity of purpose and that merging of knowledge, skill and resource in the national interest which marked the British radio industry's contribution to the war effort, the industry will have a great future before it." Even more material encouragement was given in Sir Stafford's promise of support: "The Government will take all practicable steps to see that the high prestige thus established by the research and development laboratories of the British radio industry in war is maintained and by official encouragement and support is built up to even higher standards in peace. Only thus can we be sure of meeting the needs alike of national security and of the national economy."

★ ★ ★

Tuning  
Scales

ONE of the minor problems confronting the designer of broadcast receivers is the tuning scale. By common consent, the public demands a station-name scale, but in present circumstances it cannot have a reliable one. Conditions are chaotic on the broadcast bands; "channel-jumping" is not unknown and even our domestic service is on a temporary basis, and one that does not make the marking of a scale particularly easy. Early and perhaps drastic changes in channel allocation are expected in Europe. Taking everything into account, the only reasonable course seems to be to fit the clearest frequency scale that can be devised, and to hope that the lay Press will help in making the public kilocycle-conscious.

# RADAR PRODUCTION

## *Wartime Triumph of the Industry*

**S**IGNAL honour has been done to the British wireless industry. Many industries have received well-earned tributes for their contributions to the war effort, but to no other has been accorded by official Government spokesmen such unstinted praise, couched in such detailed terms, as that given to the radio industry—collectively and as individual firms—for its production of radar equipment. By now everyone knows the decisive part played in the war by that equipment, first in defence and then in offence, but it should be stressed that radar, though radio-like, is a brand-new thing, involving brand-new problems at every stage of design and production. That these problems were successfully solved reflects the highest credit on all the teams that played a part in its evolution. The work of all teams was so closely intermingled that, as Sir Stafford Cripps said at

a recent Radio Industry Council celebration, it is impossible, even if we wished, to separate the various contributions. All were partners in a new enterprise, and it shows rare qualities of flexibility of mind in the industrial teams that they were able to adapt themselves to such novel conditions.

It must not be thought that the industrial contribution was restricted to production—mere “nuts and bolts stuff.” On the contrary, much fundamental development work was done by industry. In some cases a circuit diagram, almost literally on the back of an envelope, was the basis for a “development contract,” while in others the manufacturer had to work from a crude “bread-board” prototype. An early and outstanding original contribution from industry was the “Bedford attachment” for gun-laying radar gear, evolved by L. H. Bedford,

of Cossor. Many major contributions were made by B.T.H. in producing basic radar components including thyratrons for pulse modulation. G.E.C. research laboratories played a prominent part, especially by evolving new valves, in paving the way for centimetre-wave radar.

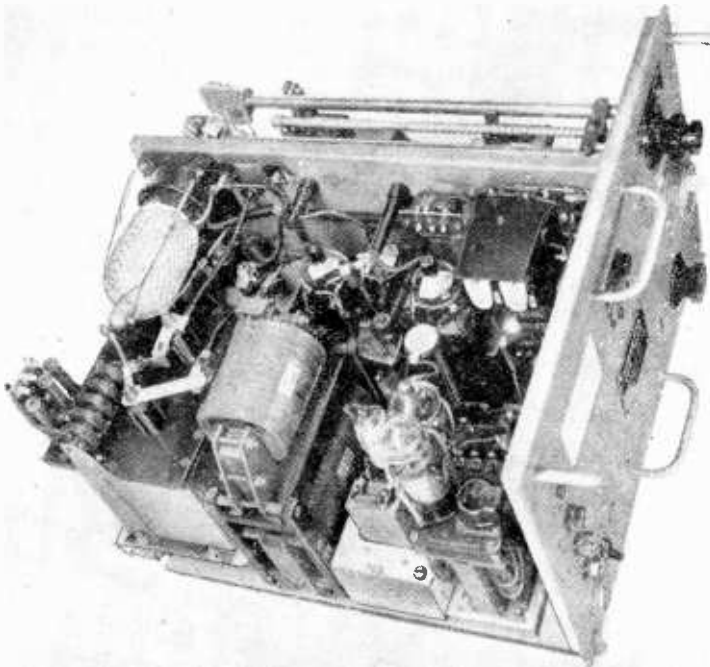
The official story begins in the era of appeasement; it was actually early in 1937 that radar secrets were first entrusted to the industry, and contracts placed. The transmitters for the CH (Chain, Home) stations were made the responsibility of Metropolitan Vickers and the receivers were made by Cossor.

Those two firms thereby became forerunners of the many which were to work for Victory during war; but it is a matter of interest that they, together with Pye, met the heaviest proportion of wartime demands for R.A.F. ground radar stations of all kinds.

These included not only the various sets in the radiolocation chain but the ground stations associated with “Gee” (the radar navigation system), “Oboe” (the ground-controlled bombing system), “Gee-H” (another blind-bombing system).

It is, of course, impossible to indicate by name all the hundreds of contributions to the Services’ radio needs, but the airborne radar sets may be said generally to have owed their existence and production in the main to the General Electric Company (who also worked on the valves for the early radiolocation ground chain), The Gramophone Company, E. K. Cole, Bush Radio, Pye, and Cossors.

The Navy in the early days was given equally strenuous support by Allen West, of Brighton (a firm which had no previous knowledge of radio technique), British Thomson-Houston, Standard Telephones and Cables, General Electric, Pye, Marconi’s W.T. Company, Cossors, Aeronautical and General Instruments, and the Plessey Company. Cossors and The Gramophone Company largely

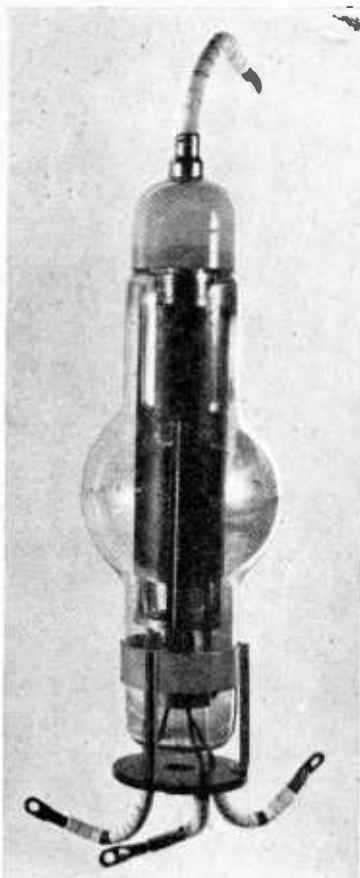


A Metro-Vick radar transmitter of the intermediate period, giving high pulse power with small valves.



served the Army's needs for GL (gun-laying) equipment for anti-aircraft batteries.

When credits are being allotted—no easy task in any one project,



High-voltage thyatron developed by B.T.H. for use in pulse modulation.

and still less so over such a wide field as radio as a whole—it must not be forgotten that the component manufacturers alone enable the set assemblers to do their job. Such firms as the Telegraph Condenser Company, Dubilier Condenser Company, the Morgan Crucible Company, and Erie Resistor, bore a great load in the production of components.

The development of the special cables, utilising the new material Polythene introduced by Imperial Chemical Industries, was effected by the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company (London), who disclosed their technique to other cable manufac-

turers. These cables helped greatly to open the way to the new very short-wave techniques so essential to radar.

Mention must also be made of the smaller firms which not only met the sudden demands placed on them, but arose to eminence in the wartime radio industry in doing so. For instance, in a private house in the riverside resort of Maidenhead, the firm Dynatron Radio, Limited, undertook the production of airborne radar and other sets for the R.A.F., and achieved a position in output and quality which must be compared with the achievements of the greatest firms, some of which have already been mentioned.

When radar production first passed into the hands of industry, the chain was of vital importance, and the two contracting firms (Metro-Vick and Cossors) had to provide separate buildings for assembly and testing in complete secrecy. Two men alone were initiated into the whole story: Dr. J. M. Dodds, of Metro-Vick, and L. H. Bedford, of Cossors. Their colleagues were told only about the transmitter or the receiver; never both.

Provision of additions to this system and of the coastal defence radar for detecting enemy aircraft sowing magnetic mines were early problems of the war.

A Cambridge professor undertook a hurricane programme for the introduction along the coast of equipment which existed only in a single laboratory model. He took his ideas to the development section of Pye.

With these developments the radar defences, which were to win the Battle of Britain, were given their final link. There was, however, another non-radar link which had meanwhile been forged. This was the VHF system of radiotelephone fighter control. Three hundred equipments were hand-made by G.E.C. instrument makers at Coventry during 1938 while the production problems entailed were being solved.

The Battle of Britain began as soon as real production of airborne VHF gear was arranged, and the race was so furious that a special liaison was arranged by M.A.P. between the contractor and Fighter Command,

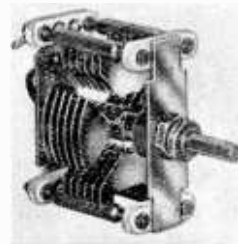
The ground end of VHF was just as urgent. Under the guidance of M.A.P.'s Royal Aircraft Establishment, the ground equipment was designed and built by E. K. Cole at Aylesbury and G.E.C. at Coventry. The enemy often put the ground equipments out of action during the raids on airfields, and only by working 24 hours a day could the factory workers keep the operational front intact.

One of the great production feats of the war was achieved when the Coventry G.E.C. benches and all the tools, representing about 80,000 man-hours, were almost wiped out by the enemy overnight. Plant was immediately set up at Bradford, and so speedily organised that only half a month's output was lost.

So, with radar and VHF the fighters fought and won the day battle. The night blitzes were still ahead.

From the Navy's point of view, meanwhile, the outbreak of war had not only given added impetus to the development of new devices but enormously increased the demand for standard sets for communication, and DF, in order that requisitioned vessels could be equipped.

The Admiralty Signal Establishment was rapidly and enormously expanded, partly by drawing technical talent from the very firms which were later to make so great a contribution; but no expansion could be adequate



Split-stator condenser for radar developed by Eddystone. Maximum capacity (parallel-connected) 200  $\mu\text{F}$ : flash - over 700 V.

to permit adherence to the old "slow but sure" routine, and production had to be arranged before laboratory work was finished.

Outstanding among the firms

**Radar Production—**

which successfully accepted burdens thrust upon them throughout the war by the Admiralty was Allen West. This firm manufactured without working drawings, 250 early models of a radar set for detecting surfaced submarines from destroyers or corvettes.

A certain type of set was made for fitting in ships with a type of aerial which produced a narrow beam. To cope with the rolling of the ship, this aerial had to be "stabilised," making it what was at first regarded as a fantastic mechanical contraption. It was, however, successfully put into production by Ferranti, Metropolitan Vickers, and W. A. Bentley, of Leicester.

Stabilisation reminds one of gyroscopes, for which the Sperry Company of Brentford is famous. Most naval radar gear required gyro control in one form or another, for which this firm has been largely responsible.

The non-radar DF equipment used in the Battle of the Atlantic was for the main part based on receivers and other devices developed and produced by the Marconi Company at Chelmsford and the Plessey Company at Ilford, before and during the early stages of the war. In particular, the Plessey Company devised and manufactured under naval guidance an ingenious instrument which enabled a signal of very

short duration to be instantly "D/F'd," an important contribution to the defeat of the U-boat.

At the beginning of the war the first radar set, designed to provide capital ships and cruisers with long-range warning of aircraft, was being fitted; and as soon as its success had been proved, an urgent programme for sets for fitting through the Fleet was put in hand.

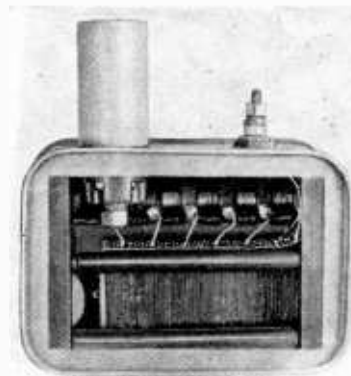
This first production for the Navy in 1938-1939 was undertaken by a comparatively small group of firms. Aeronautical and General Instruments, of Croydon, made the transmitters and aerial equipment, and Pye made the receiver and display panels. Aerials were also made by Hutchinson and Hollinsworth. A new type of treated, laminated wood made by the New Insulation Company of Gloucester was found to be invaluable in lessening the weight of ships' radar aerials.

Demands for an improved type of air-warning radar set made it necessary to spread production over a larger number of firms. Aeronautical and General Instruments, the Marconi Company, Pye, and Allen West assisted in producing what was at the time the most powerful radar set in existence.

At the same time a radar set suitable for small ships was urgently wanted. As a stop-gap, an Air Ministry ASV (air-to-surface-vessel) set was adapted. This was succeeded in 1941 by a more powerful naval set, the transmitter of which was made by the Marconi Company and Aeronautical and General Instruments, the receiver (a particularly good one) by Murphy Radio and the

Marconi Company; cathode-ray indicator by Ekco, and the aerial by Hutchinson and Hollinsworth.

The application of a cathode-ray tube to portray in plan the positions of all surface ships relative to each other and to the observer as if on a map of known



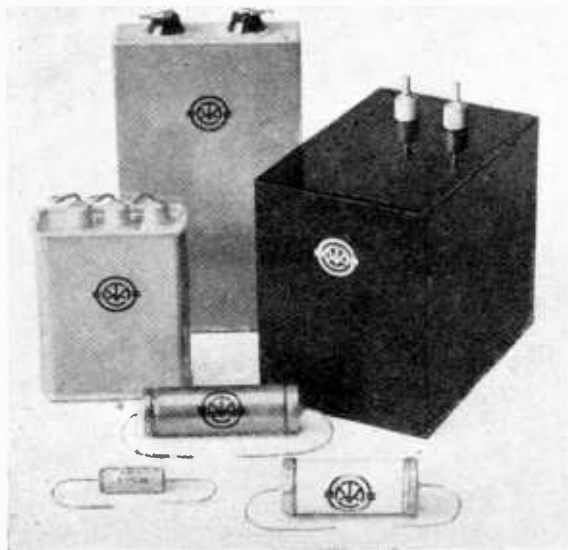
Delay-network unit for airborne HzS and ASV radar, designed to withstand high pulse loadings (case cut away). Developed and made by Dubilier.

scale was adapted for naval use by the Gramophone Company, and produced by them, Metropolitan Vickers and Allen West.

Large quantities of motor-generators and control gear were needed; Whipp and Bourne, of Rochdale, B.T.H., Newton Brothers, of Derby, and E. N. Bray, of Walthamstow, have been among the principal suppliers.

The Marconi Company produced wireless equipment of all kinds throughout the war, and this firm has contributed largely from its staff to augment the staff of Admiralty Signal Establishment. Some of the latest types of radar have been developed and constructed at Chelmsford for special naval purposes, particularly long-range air warning.

It will be appreciated that naval gunnery introduces the special circumstances in which both combatants are always moving freely in two dimensions, and, in the case of air targets, in three dimensions. Targets, too, are relatively small, and it is no use putting the shells close to them; they must be hits. This calls for extreme accuracy and first-class workmanship in instruments.

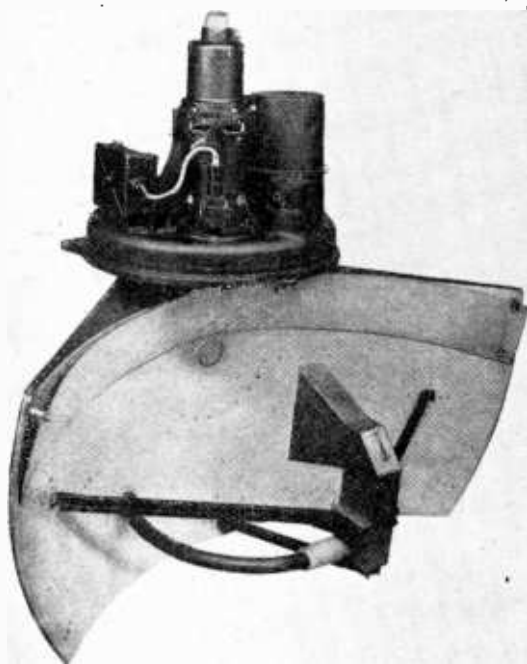


Typical TMC condensers used in radar equipment.

The first naval gun-laying set, from the radio point of view a revolutionary design, was made (with the exception of the aerials) by a number of firms experienced in radio; transmitters by the G.E.C. and B.T.H. (both at Rugby and the Willesden branch); receivers by G.E.C. and Pye; the cathode-ray indicator by Cossors, Parmeko and Ferranti.

The earlier equipments measured range only, albeit more accurately than the range-finder, yet much below the standard science knew could be achieved. Greatly improved devices measuring range, accurate to a few yards, were made from 1941 onwards by the Marconi Company and Metropolitan Vickers.

It is the beam switch which gives the direction of the target accurately, and so makes possible the "blind" firing of guns. This device requires extremely fine and accurate craftsmanship, and was



made by E. F. Moy, of Camden Town, despite all the troubles of the blitz. A very accurate yet compact form of potentiometer made by Painton, of Northampton, was also an important feature of the improved gunnery radar.

Still further changes have taken

place, making the radar set an integral part of the ship's gunnery equipment. E.M.I., the Gramophone Company, Allen West, Marconi, B.T.H. and Ferranti have all made contributions in the design and manufacture of sets which make the early types seem quite crude.

The cross-Channel radio-telephone equipment for the Navy and Army was constructed by the G.E.C. and Stratton (Eddystone), of Birmingham. The B.B.C.'s first broadcast from France after D-Day was over G.E.C. apparatus. The first cross-Channel radio conversation on D-Day was over Eddystone equipment.

An outstanding event in the preparations for the Normandy landings deserves special mention. Certain radio equipment was most urgently required for bombing operations, and similar naval demands apparently could not possibly be met in time. The Marconi W/T company, of Chelmsford, agreed to undertake this seemingly impossible task. They were introduced to McMichael Radio, who were making the gear for the R.A.F., and, starting from scratch, produced the necessary 150 sets in seven weeks, instead of a normal "war urgency" figure of at least seven months.

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Scanning unit, made by Nash and Thomson, for the H2S equipment.

On land, the night blitzes were finally mastered by radar; the problem for the R.A.F. was the ground control in the dark by GCI (Ground Controlled Interception) radar stations of fighters which themselves would carry AI (Air Interception) radar to finish the chase. The Army demanded

means for the accurate sighting of AA guns and searchlights by GL (gun-laying) and SLC (Searchlight Control). GCI was a development from CHL (Chain, Home, Low-flying), and the first prototype was shown to the industry during the crucial autumn



Air-cooled Magnetron valve made by M.O. Valve Company. A pulse output of 450 kW is given at centimetric wavelengths.

of 1940. Within two months the first experimental model was ready.

This model was inspected, and at least one of the three firms concerned had its first production model installed at an R.A.F. station within three weeks. It was on the air within another six hours.

In the months during which these stations came into use the night fighters, with the Army's radar-aided searchlights and guns of AA Command co-operating, took steadily increasing toll of the enemy night bombers. In May the Germans lost 144 night bombers, of which our fighters shot down 102. Then they abandoned the raids and turned to the war on Russia.

The first AI equipment to go into fairly extensive production, consisting of four main units (the transmitter, receiver, indicator, and modulator), was ordered in August, 1940. Six hundred installations were ordered, and in September, when production was about to commence, in one of the London raids all the components and most of the piece parts for the transmitter and modulator were wiped out at Siemens' works at Woolwich.

The jigs, tools and new components were sent to the Ekco works at Malmesbury for the transmitter, and to E.M.I. for the modulator, while Pye were

**Radar Production—**

assembling the other two pieces. By working round the clock, more than 200 of the equipments had been delivered by the end of October, more than 350 by the end of the year; and 1,000 by the end of the following July, when the night blitz had already been broken.

The technique of the night fighter crews continually advanced during the war in Europe. Centimetre - wave equipment came in, and always the manufacturers were changing and adapting in a series of crash programmes the AI gear which alone made certain the detection of enemy aircraft within range at night.

The ground radar which directed the Army's defence over our coasts and cities was developed from the earliest days by Cossors and other big firms.

Metropoli-

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 "Cupid" — the small radar unit mounted directly on the gun predictor and capable of selecting and following flying bombs at high speed and low altitude. Made by B.T.H.

tan Vickers received a development and construction contract for the first gun-laying equipment at the beginning of February, 1939, and the first prototype was produced in August, still before the war, with more than 400 completed by November.

On the next "mark" both Metropolitan Vickers—who were bombed on Christmas Eve but

immediately continued in a dispersal factory—and the Gramophone Company were engaged.

The design for its production was commenced by the Gramophone Company's design department in November, 1939, the basic research data having been worked out by the Ministry of Supply technicians.

An indication of the size and complexity of the equipment is



given by the fact that it weighed over a ton, incorporated no fewer than 60 valves and 122 highly accurate gears, wormwheels, cams and so on. By May the first prototype model was being field-tested and early in June was undergoing official trials, the first equipment coming off the line in November, 1940. Yet another more advanced Mark was de-

signed by B.T.H. and came off the line in February, 1943. In three months the production was at the rate of ten a week. Early models of a radar system for directing searchlights on to enemy aircraft were made by Murphy Radio in the winter of 1940-41 and produced in large quantities in 1941 and 1942.

Parallel with all the defence developments was the first of the airborne radar sets for the offensive, the ASV (air-to-surface-vessel) equipment carried by aircraft to search for shipping. Early models were produced by Ekco and Pye. The ASV which was installed in aircraft in 1939 was the first airborne radar of the war. This was followed by an improved version in a series used for finding surfaced U-boats at night. ASV was also adapted for use with the Navy in small ships for the detection of surface shipping and aircraft.

Then, owing to the desperate struggle at sea, "H<sub>2</sub>S" sets—which show coastal and other geographical outlines on the cathode-ray tubes in map form—were modified and diverted from their use by Bomber Command into coastal aircraft. This decision was taken in November, 1942, the actual production taking place in the following January and February.

With all these radar developments by no means the limit for industry had been reached. The great series of navigation and bombing aids which were to make possible the shattering of Germany's industry was on the way.

"Gee" enabled bombers to take off, assemble in saturation strength, and navigate constantly until their return, as well as making possible accurate navigation over home territory and sea in all conditions of visibility.

M.A.P.'s Telecommunications Research Establishment guided its development at Cossor's shadow factory, which was originally intended for production only, in the autumn of 1941, the firm submitting a prototype for approval in exactly six weeks. They and Dynatron shared production of the first order for 500, the smaller "daughter" firm undertaking two sets out of every five.

Their joint commitment was

more than fulfilled by February, 1942, and it has been revealed already that from that month onwards more than 2,300 acres of Germany were destroyed in a year, mainly by the use of "Gee" navigation, compared with a total of 400 acres until that system started. By the end of 1943 no fewer than 11,000 airborne "Gee" sets of an improved type—now almost universally used by Transport, Coastal, Bomber and other R.A.F. Commands as well as in naval craft—had been delivered by three big firms which were now working on it in the United Kingdom. The final achievement was a rate of production which enabled Britain to give 2,000 sets a month to her United States Allies.

During 1943 the first Mark of "Gee-H," blind-bombing aid akin to "Gee," was developed, and 200 sets delivered in three summer months.

When the battle of the Ruhr started in full blast in 1943 the "Oboe" ground-guided bombing system was introduced, principally for the pathfinders to drop their flares. "Oboe" was produced by Metropolitan Vickers, Pye, and Standard Telephone and Cables, and developed under TRE direction as a mobile unit in 1944. From the Cossor-Dynatron combination 100 airborne sets of an early "mark" were provided by August, 1943, and G.E.C. fulfilled an order for 36 of a following type by the end of November. When S.T. and C. undertook contracts for the ground end, they finished their development work in nine months.

Finally, as the world now knows, the bomber was freed from any dependence on ground radar stations. "H2S" had arrived and with it the first direct picture of the unseen earth's surface at night or in cloud.

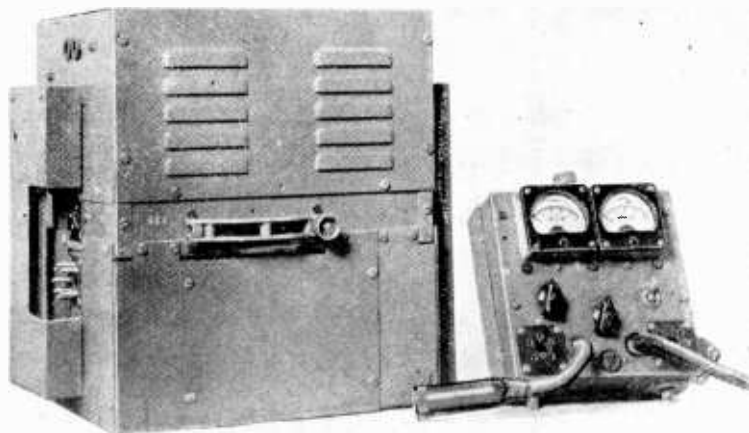
Work on H2S went on, and within a year of the approach to industry these sets were being turned out. The technique of scanners, the revolving dish-like aerials which serve H2S (and also AI) was considerably developed at the same time, the major work going to Nash and Thompson.

The eight "boxes" which made up the original installation were developed and crash-pro-

duced by the Gramophone Company, which completed the development task hand in glove with TRE between March and December, 1942, and turned out a first order for 50 installations at the same time. By the end of April, 1944, shortly before the invasion of Europe, the total was 3,700. By the end of the European war

ate freely day or night causing no confusion in a complicated defence system, and the equipment could send out distress signals in event of trouble. This wholly British radar achievement was entrusted principally to Ferranti to develop and mass produce.

So much for the official story, which, it should be stressed,



For identifying friend and foe: IFF equivalent developed and made by Ferranti.

seven out of every eight Bomber Command aircraft had H2S.

The Navy had similar needs for pin-pointing the positions of ships with the greatest accuracy to ensure the success of landings in enemy territory. While full use was made of devices already mentioned, special Naval needs were fulfilled by equipment developed by the Decca Radio and Television Company.

This story of the magnificent achievements of the radio industry, which all the time kept pace on ordinary wireless needs, can of necessity cover only a fraction of the radar devices which have been put into use. Not only are many of them still undivulged, but there are as many others whose uses for height-finding and other purposes cannot be detailed because of their very variety.

One more firm must be mentioned in another, all-pervading rôle. IFF equipment (Identification of Friend or Foe) automatically gave immediate identification of approaching friendly aircraft to radar. Allied aircraft could oper-

comes directly from British Government sources, and naturally covers the more spectacular aspects of radar. It will be obvious that much auxiliary apparatus—some of it of the highest complexity—is needed for the installation and maintenance of the equipment. For instance, it is evident that highly specialised signal generators, producing pulses of the desired length and repetition rate, are required for testing. Among the firms producing test equipment were Siemens, Erskine Laboratories and Salford Electrical Instruments. Shipton and Company was one of the makers of aerial equipment, which involves many unfamiliar problems of production. Training gear is essential if men and women are to be trained *ab initio*, and with speed and economy, in the operation of apparatus using principles seldom if ever applied before. "Trainers" were developed and made by Rediffusion and R.G.D., amongst others. But the full story of radar auxiliary gear must come later.

# AMATEUR TRANSMISSION

## Review of Past History and Future Prospects

By "ETHERIS"

**T**WO recent announcements doubtless brought hope rising in the breast of many an amateur transmitting enthusiast. They were, first, that the G.P.O. is now prepared to receive applications from pre-war transmitting amateurs for the re-issue of the radiating permits, and, secondly, that experimenters whose equipment was impounded in 1939 should now inform the Post Office where it should be returned.

Amateurs are warned, however, not to expect early restoration of either transmitting facilities or impounded equipment. Nevertheless, the above announcements, coming at the same time as the news that 10-watt valves, so largely used in amateur radio, can now be purchased without a permit, naturally lead to the conclusion that "things are moving."

No doubt they are. But enthusiasm needs to be tempered with a sober consideration of the post-war prospects of British amateur radio. Uppermost in the average amateur's mind will be the question: "What frequencies shall we get when transmitting facilities are restored?" For if he studies the uses to which in wartime his pre-war frequency bands are being put he may indeed wonder if he will get any of them back.

### Recollections

Surveying each band in turn he will recall how his 160-metre band, so useful before the war for short range cross-town working, was free of interference. According to an American authority it is now occupied by a wartime radio service which has such potentialities for peacetime use that it may well remain in that band. And how his medium-distance 84-metre band, shared with the Services before the war, is now so full of important-sounding telegraphy transmissions that he cannot see much prospect of their early removal; he will go on to recall how the 42-metre band, by far the most thickly populated

until September, 1939, is now largely occupied by broadcasting. If he listens on the old "DX band" of 14 Mc/s. he will find comparative quiet, mainly because skip effects prevent reception of the numerous commercial stations operating there. As for the bands from 28 Mc/s. upwards he will, should he listen there, experience all sorts of queer noises that sound as though they were fixed there for the rest of time!

A depressing outlook? Possibly. Yet he may take comfort if he thinks on a little further.

### Frequency Allocations

First of all, as every transmitting amateur knows, negotiations on post-war licences have been proceeding for a considerable time between the R.S.G.B. and the Post Office. The result of them can only be partially revealed as yet. For one thing it is rather too early to talk in public about frequency allocations, but the few hints dropped are so far encouraging.

A second reason for optimism is that a great deal of work is being done by official committees in the U.S.A. (and probably in the U.K. too) on the question of post-war frequency allocations for all services. Not only is the restoration of most of the pre-war amateur bands recommended by the Federal Communications Commission but mention has also been made of the possibility of an allocation in the 21 Mc/s. band and allocations of frequencies above 200 Mc/s., where propagation work on a hitherto little used part of the spectrum could be usefully done. In other words, the claims of the amateurs for a place in the post-war world are by no means being ignored.

All this spadework being done in Britain and America should greatly facilitate the submission of these claims to the international telecommunications conference,

which must inevitably be held to consider the various bids for frequencies. Very probably, such a conference would not meet for some months to come and in this event amateurs might as well abandon forthwith any hope of getting "on the air" immediately. Nevertheless an important reservation may be made here; if one or more ultra-short-wave bands could be vacated by any Government services happening to use them in Europe, they might well be re-allotted to the British amateur for use in the near future. As such bands possess optical range characteristics there could be no question of interference with other services outside the confines of this country.

Now, the ordinary broadcast listener who has never shared the enthusiasms of the transmitting experimenter may ask the question: "Why give the amateurs any frequencies at all? Before the war they didn't seem to be a very intelligent crowd of people, at least that is the impression I got listening to them on 42 metres on Sunday mornings. Surely there must be more essential services that could make better use of the frequencies?" This is, of course, a very pertinent question and one which may be paraphrased thus. Has the amateur transmitter any real value?

Many years ago at one of the early international telecommunications conferences, one delegation answered this question by suggesting that there was really no need for amateurs to transmit at all. They could do all they wanted to do on an artificial aerial. The delegation was the Japanese one, so perhaps this suggestion need not detain us further!

### Experimental Work

Then what is the real value of amateur radio?

In the past any serious-minded experimenter who wished to transmit could generally expect a sympathetic hearing from the

G.P.O. (the signs are that this attitude still remains). For in the early days of radio much of the research was fostered and brought to fruition by amateur experimenters.

As this work can now be done so much better by the great commercial companies, original research by individuals is largely a thing of the past. Yet there is every reason why experimental transmission should be encouraged as a matter of post-war policy. The man who "has radio in the blood," and who experiments because he likes to and not because he has to is of great value to the community. Individually, he may

last war. These same factors constitute the short answer to the question; what is the real value of amateur radio?

But our friend the ordinary broadcast listener is still not convinced. He sticks to his allegation that a great deal of nonsense was transmitted on the amateur bands in peacetime, and this he finds hard to reconcile with the statement that serious experimenting went on as well. In certain respects he is correct. For it must be confessed that some of the recruits to amateur radio between 1936 and 1939 did not compare in quality with the older hands. To a certain extent this

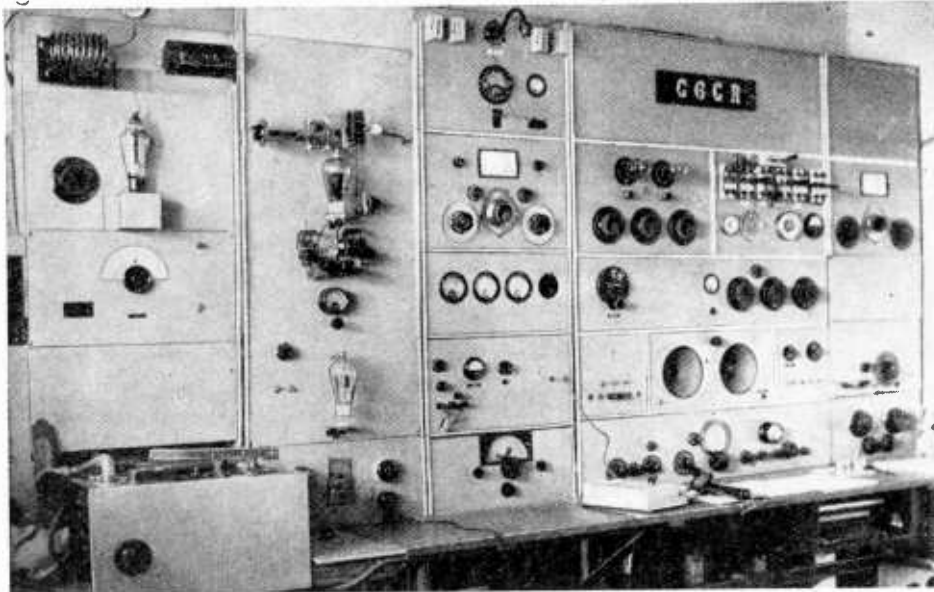
as one confessed to the writer. Amateurs with more integrity called them "baby broadcasters," an alliterative term of contempt that was well merited. Many of them dared not forsake telephony and employ telegraphy; amateur W/T procedure was a closed book to them and they simply did not know how to start.

This was not amateur experimental transmission. In the post-war world of amateur radio there will be no room for it. Consideration of a few facts and figures will make the reasons plain.

### Post-war Increases

Present portents are that Britain's 4,000 pre-war "hams" will double their numbers in a year or two after re-licensing commences. The R.S.G.B. membership, now approaching the 10,000 mark, includes many B.R.S.

The well-arranged amateur transmitting station G6GR operated, pre-war, by E. L. Gardiner, recently elected President of the R.S.G.B. A considerable amount of original research was carried out at this station on UHF. D/F., before the war.



achieve little. Collectively, he and his fellow enthusiasts are indispensable cogs in the wheel of British radio industry. In wartime he is as a volunteer a far better signals-man than the "pressed man," and requires far less training. A strong amateur transmitting community comprises a reserve of ready-to-use operators, as was actually shown in 1939. And the list of transmitting amateurs who hold senior commissioned rank in the Services is indeed impressive. These are factors that will undoubtedly influence the British Government to restore transmitting facilities as soon as conditions allow, as was actually their policy after the

was inevitable. Transmitting permits were being issued at a rapid rate in the three years before the war, and though the percentage of black sheep may have remained small, the total in numbers grew. And it was they who, being the most vocal, discredited amateur radio by their inane telephony transmissions on the 7 Mc/s band on Sunday mornings.

Those with more money than sense were able to buy ready-made transmitting stations which they frequently operated at far more than their licensed power. They and many others scraped through their G.P.O. morse test and then with a sigh forgot it all,

(British Receiving Station) members who, learning of amateur radio during the war, will want to savour it more fully afterwards. The Americans are expecting their 50,000 amateurs also to double themselves in a few years. A *pro rata* increase may be expected in all other countries where wartime radio and radar have brought many new enthusiasts into contact with electronic applications.

Before the war amateur transmitters collectively outnumbered all the "professional" stations put together. After the war they will probably do so to an even greater extent. Being authorised by their Governments to transmit, they might well expect those same

### Amateur Transmission—

Governments to find some more frequencies for them as their numbers expand. But it is not the amateur's way to agitate for more ether-room. He is content if, after each successive international telecommunications conference, he is left with that which he held before. His hope is that he gets back the majority of his pre-war bands, and should the proposed 21 Mc/s band come to him he would indeed be perennially grateful.

Therefore, assuming that double his pre-war numbers are to be accommodated in the same bands as before, the most intense interference ever known may be confidently expected. And then the extinction of amateur radio by suffocation caused by its own dead weight would almost surely follow. Greater discipline will need to be imposed on the amateur bands than was shown before the war. In those days, all right-thinking amateurs, while condemning the follies of the frivolous or inconsiderate minority, possessed no means of preventing them. Though 90 per cent. of the occupants of any band might be well disciplined the other 10 per cent. could spoil the value of the band for everyone else.

### Disciplined Operating

It would seem that the necessary discipline will have to be imposed by legislation operating somewhat on the following lines:

The higher-frequency half of each band might be reserved for telephony. There was a trend in this direction before the war. But in one of the most important bands of all (14 Mc/s) a curious anomaly existed. The central 100 kc/s were occupied by U.S. amateur "phones," with the result that the rest of the world's "phones" were compelled to transmit outside the American 'phone band if they were to make themselves heard at all in the U.S. or elsewhere.

This meant that they occupied frequencies normally employed for CW. The whole arrangement was unsatisfactory for telephony and telegraphy operators alike. Obviously, future 'phone bands will need allocating on a multi-lateral basis among the nations, and not unilaterally as happened in

America. Further to reduce interference between "phones," a limit of five minutes might be set to a single telephony transmission; in that period ten times the amount of matter can be transmitted by microphone than by key. The humming and hawing garrulity of the pre-war 'phone operator will be quite uneconomic on the congested post-war bands. The telephony enthusiast may argue that his type of emission needs more ether-space than half of any band. It happens, however, that CW stations have always greatly outnumbered "phones," and a half-and-half basis is a fair one.

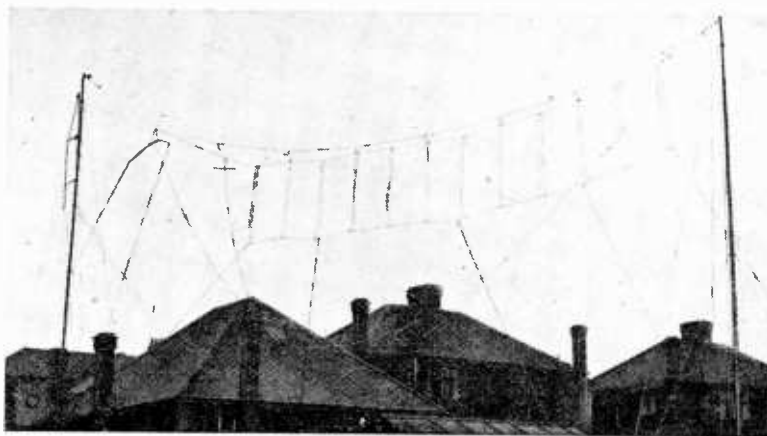
Scope exists for the telephony enthusiast to double his frequency allocation by adopting single sideband working or carrier suppression. The telegraphy enthusiast may argue that there is no case for telephony and the B.B.C. do it better anyway. The answer to this is (a) that properly used, telephony will dispose of traffic at ten times the rate of a hand-keyed CW transmitter, and (b) that telephony equipment de-

other bands the use of a new beam aerial may double field strength for a given input, and abuse of power may then be more apparent than real.

Where it is suspected international legislation should permit licensing authorities not merely to inspect a station but actually to search the premises for illicit sources of power. In such cases a mere warning or suspension of facilities should be supplemented by a stiff fine.

### Operating Ability

Finally, there is the question of operating ability. No amateur may transmit before passing the G.P.O. morse test. But as already stated, he may "with a sigh forget it all." Proficiency in operating by telegraphy could be fostered by three-yearly morse tests by the Post Office, except where an amateur belonged to a Service wireless reserve and had obtained a certificate of morse proficiency, renewable every three years. A test of operating ability need not be agreed internationally, and in



An imposing UHF aerial array as used by H. A. M. Clark at his station G60T for investigating wave propagation on the very high frequencies.

mands considerable skill in construction and operation (forgetting the complete stations that can be bought over the counter!) and long distance working is more difficult to achieve than with telegraphy sets.

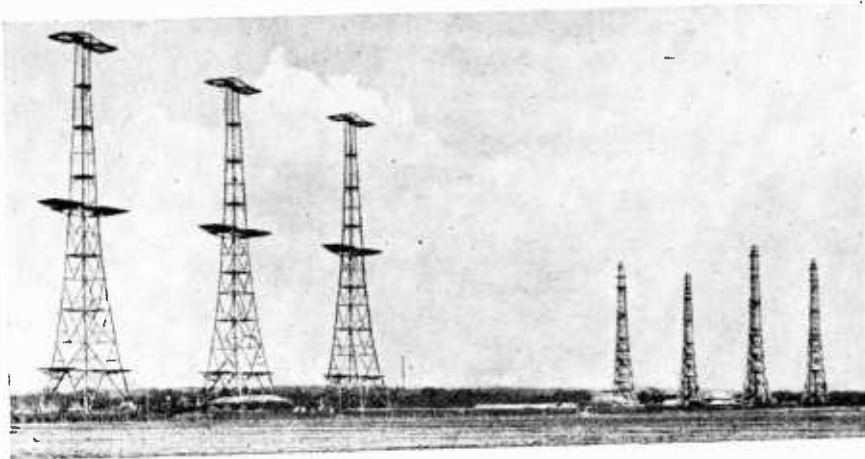
On certain bands where skip effects are negligible an unauthorised use of power is frequently apparent to listeners familiar with the normal signal strength of a given station. On

the case of British amateurs could be made one of the conditions for the retention of the G.P.O. permit.

Regulations based approximately on the proposals in the three foregoing paragraphs should do much to assist efficient operating in the post-war bands, and to permit amateurs truly to live up to their official status of holders of "experimental wireless transmitting permits."



# FUNDAMENTALS OF RADAR



## 1. Ground Stations: The Development of Pulse Technique

**I**N *Wireless World* for February and March, 1945, Dr. Smith-Rose discussed the basic principles and history of radar. It was not permissible, at that time, to discuss more than the broadest outlines; now, with the end of the war, details may be given of the instruments used.

The radar story begins with the "Chain, Home." This was the first operational radar system and led by logical steps which were determined by the war situation to the host of devices which are now available. In December, 1935, five operational stations were established on the east coast of England, and in August, 1937, fifteen additional stations were authorised to cover the east and south coasts of Great Britain. More were being set up at the beginning of the war, and with the fall of France CH coverage was extended round the south-west and west coast. The design of these stations was a peacetime design, and was very dependent on existing techniques. The wavelength used was 10 to 13 metres and pulses of about 10 to 15 microseconds duration were radiated at a recurrence rate of 25 pulses per second. The nominal pulse power was initially 200 kW, but later developments brought it up to about 800 kW. As the transmitter was "marking" only for 250 micro-

seconds in each second, the mean power was only  $\frac{1}{4}$  kW when the pulse power had reached 800 kW. This very small mark/space ratio is characteristic of radar transmitters and explains the very high pulse powers which have been obtained.

The aerial systems of the CH stations were fairly conventional. The transmitting array consisted of stacks of horizontal dipoles and reflectors slung from 350ft. towers; the receiving aerial system comprised a pair of crossed horizontal dipoles for direction-finding and two dipoles at different heights for elevation measurement. The receiving aerials were mounted on a 240ft. wooden tower. The whole transmitting system was not very different in fundamentals from a telegraph transmitter and array, while the receiver with its goniometer for direction finding follows normally from ordinary Bellini-Tosi or Adcock practice. The CH transmitter floodlit the area in front of it, so that any aircraft in that area was "illuminated" by the radiation. Scattered energy came back to the receiver and was handled by the direction finder in the familiar way.

General view of transmitting and receiving aerials at a CH station is reproduced at the top of this page.

To determine the height of the aircraft, the angle of arrival of the echo in the vertical plane was measured. This was done, as was mentioned above, by using two horizontal dipoles at different heights. In Fig. 2 portions of the polar diagrams for the two aerials are shown.

As would be expected, an aircraft at a small angle of elevation is received more strongly by aerial (2) than by aerial (1). The ratio of the strengths is related to the actual angle of elevation, and when this ratio has been measured by comparing the two signals with a goniometer, the height can be read off from a calibration chart. At a range of 150 miles and a height of 12,000ft. the angle of elevation is only about one degree (neglecting the curvature of the earth) so that only the first lobe need be considered.

The time interval between the transmitted pulse and the received pulse gave the range. Aircraft could be detected at ranges of up to 200 miles, and once detected they could be kept under continuous observation.

The disadvantages of the CH stations must have been realised even before they were built. Radiation which leaked back inland produced echoes from hills and from aircraft outside the zone of interest. Height-finding by the

**Fundamentals of Radar—** use of the polar diagram of elevated dipoles is unsatisfactory, and frequent calibrations were necessary. Crossed horizontal di-

CHL stations described below, when mounted on towers, had a  $h/\lambda$  value of about 45. With the huge box-like formations used for day raids in the

The CHL stations ("Chain, Home, Low") were devised. A wavelength of 1.5 metres was chosen. Transmitters capable of producing pulse powers of over 100 kW were designed and gave ranges exceeding 100 miles. A major change was also made in the method of radiating and receiving the pulses. At a wavelength of 1.5 metres it is quite practicable to produce a sharp beam with an aerial array of moderate dimensions. The actual array used was about four wavelengths by five.

The size of the array is expressed in wavelengths because it is known that the width of the beam produced by an aerial array is proportional to  $\lambda/l$ ; that is, it is inversely proportional to the dimension of the array in the plane under consideration. An array 10 wavelengths wide produces a beam twice as sharp as an array 5 wavelengths wide. A beam which fell to a sharp minimum at 10 degrees off the main radiation axis in the horizontal plane was produced. The whole structure was small enough to be turned continuously, so that the effect was rather that of a lighthouse. As the beam swept round it lit up a narrow section of the sky: any aircraft in that sector scattered radiation back towards the station. It was obviously desirable to use a beamed receiving aerial system to increase the sensitivity: such a receiving beam must be kept accurately in step with the transmitting beam so that the receiver is watching the "bright" part of the sky. A very ingenious arrangement was adopted. The transmitter requires the use of the aerial system for only a few microseconds at a time; then, for the next millisecond or so, the transmitter is dead and the aerial system can

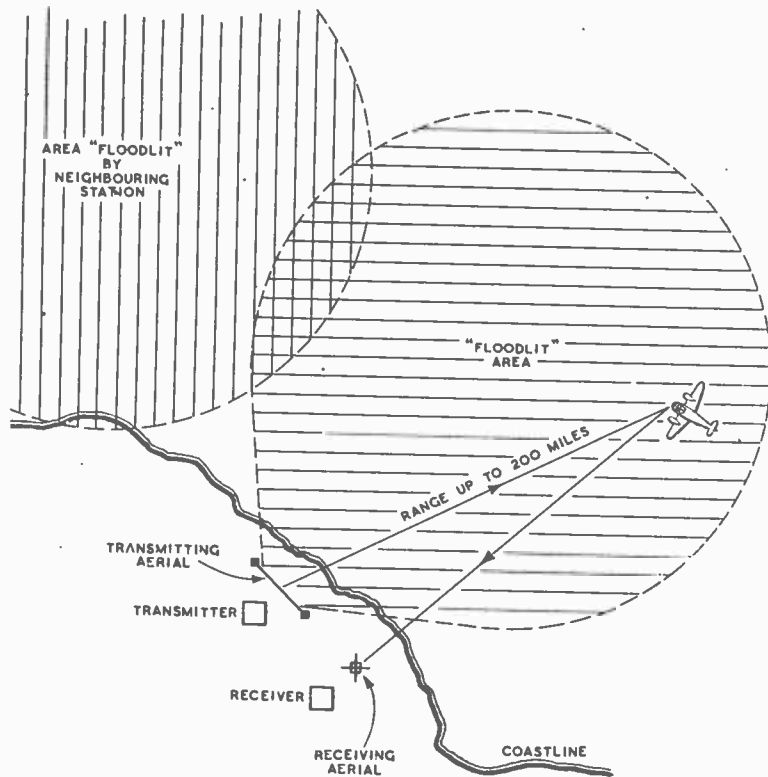


Fig. 1. "Floodlighting" and direction finding by Chain, Home Stations.

poles are liable to polarisation error in direction finding and frequent calibrations to check the balance of the system were needed. Above all, however, the mean height of the aerial system was only about 200 feet, and it was found that low-flying aircraft could not be detected except at short ranges.

This was because the aerial polar diagram, produced in the usual way by the aerial system itself and its image in the earth, has a minimum along the surface of the sea. The first maximum, which is the most useful region, is at an angle of elevation inversely proportional to the height of the aerial measured in wavelengths, that is to say, proportional to  $\lambda/h$ . To provide a very low pick-up it is necessary to raise the aerial as high as possible and to make the wavelength as short as possible. The CH stations had a  $h/\lambda$  value of about 8. The

summer of 1940 this was not important, but it was clear that sooner or later low-level raids would be attempted to prevent radar warning being given. It is at this stage that the real radar story begins, and that development moved away from conventional practice.

For both coastal artillery range-finding and for protection against low-flying aircraft it was necessary to use shorter wavelengths.

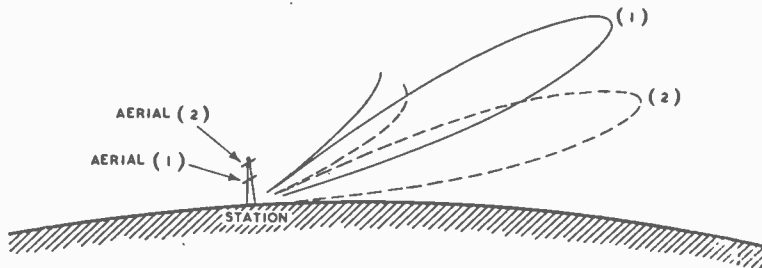


Fig. 2. Vertical polar diagrams of elevated dipoles at a CH station.

be used for reception. It is necessary to provide a protective device which will prevent the transmitted pulse being passed straight to the receiver.

A technique using this idea had already been developed for ionospheric work, but a more

tion in the CHL equipment. In a PPI the time base has its origin at the centre of the tube, and the spot travels radially outwards. The radius along which it travels is parallel to the searchlight beam of the radiation, and as the aerial array rotates so does the time

pencil. Further discussion of displays will be given later.

The arrival of a "direct appreciation" display enabled the CHL system to be used for fighter control direct from the cathode-ray tube without the intervention of the plotters who moved coloured plaques about on a map—the arrangement used in the handling of CH information. The equipment was known as GCI (Ground Controlled Interception) and was an elaborated form of CHL in which a pair of arrays of different height provided measurement of the angle of elevation and thus of the height of the aircraft.

When the CHL stations came into service there remained only a blind zone of a few hundred feet above the sea. To deal with wave-hopping coastal raiders, and to watch the movements of shipping, a further step down in wavelength was made.

The latest systems using centimetre waves and large reflectors enable very sharp beams to be produced which are largely independent of the proximity of the ground or sea. Very clear PPI pictures are obtained.

Before continuing further with



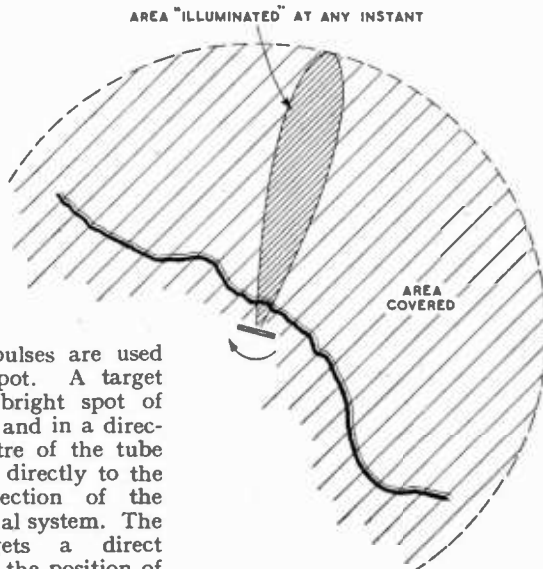
Rotating beam arrays used at CHL stations. The 185-ft. tower is used at sea level and the 20-ft. gantry shown on the right is for installation on cliffs.

Fig. 3. (Below) Rotating beam at a CHL station.

efficient system for use on fixed frequencies was devised, and this will be described later.

With the introduction of beamed transmission and reception came also a new form of "display" or indication on the receiver CR tube. The CH stations used a normal horizontal time base which was deflected by the reflected pulse in the way described by Smith-Rose. The goniometer used for direction-finding and elevation enabled the signals from two aerials to be compared or balanced. The "Plan Position Indicator" was introduced to display the informa-

base. Received pulses are used to brighten the spot. A target thus produces a bright spot of light at a distance and in a direction from the centre of the tube which corresponds directly to the distance and direction of the target from the aerial system. The operator thus gets a direct physical picture of the position of the target without any manipulation of controls. If a map is drawn on the face of the tube, the picture is even easier to follow, and the track of an aircraft can be followed by marking its position at intervals on the glass tube with a "chinagraph"



the discussion of radar equipment there are some important fundamental ideas which must be considered.

#### Pulse Repetition Rate

The CH stations emitted only 25 pulses per second. The reason

**Fundamentals of Radar—**

for this is that although aircraft are not normally detected at ranges greater than about 200 miles, there is sometimes sufficient return by normal ionospheric

factor in the choice of repetition rate.

**Pulse Width**

In the discussion of pulse repetition rate above we have seen that

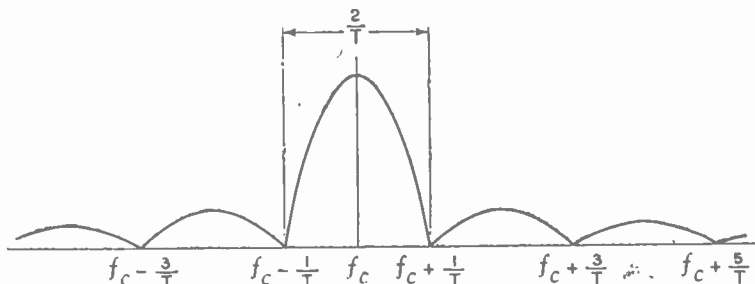


Fig 4. Sideband structure of rectangular pulse of length  $T$ .

scattering to give echoes with delays of up to 40 milliseconds, corresponding to distances of the order of 4,000 miles. This scattering is believed to be due to ionic clouds in the E layer. When this happens it is essential that the scatter from one pulse should not appear after the transmission of the succeeding pulse, or a false short range reflection would be simulated. At shorter wavelengths ionospheric effects cease to be of importance, and the pulse repetition rate can be increased. The limitation on repetition rate is always set by the maximum range from which an echo can be received. If the maximum working range of the equipment is 186 miles, the repetition rate may not exceed 500 pulses per second. Even though the operational range required may be less, it is the actual range which sets this limit, and if a high repetition rate is required it may be necessary to reduce the working range by reducing the transmitter power or the receiver sensitivity.

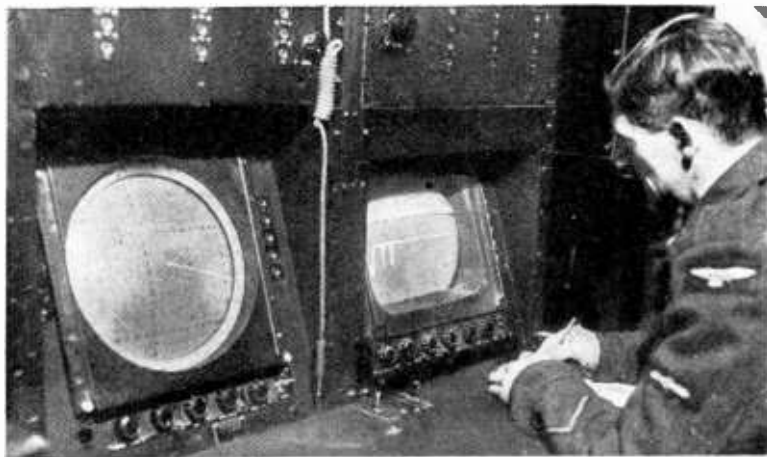
Another point to be considered in settling the repetition rate is the power dissipation. As the repetition rate rises, so does the mark/space ratio. With 25 ten-microsecond pulses per second the ratio is  $1/4,000$ ; with 2,500 one-microsecond pulses per second the ratio is  $1/400$ . If the peak power is the same, the mean power, and in consequence the heat dissipated in the valves, is increased by a factor of 10. In centimetre equipments this is often the limiting

narrow pulses permit higher peak powers for the same energy dissipation. Furthermore, as a 10-microsecond pulse corresponds to a range of about one mile, it is difficult to resolve two targets which are at nearly the same range, as the two echoes overlap. Targets within a mile of the station cannot easily be detected. Shorter pulses give better resolution and more accurate range measurement. Obviously it is useless to radiate very short pulses unless they can be received. A pulse of duration time  $T$  consists of a carrier and a continuous set of sidebands; most of the energy lies in a bandwidth of about  $2/T$ . Thus a one-microsecond pulse re-

quires a bandwidth of at least two megacycles, while a 10-microsecond pulse needs only 200 kc/s. If a one-microsecond pulse is used it is therefore necessary to provide a receiver with a pass-band at least two megacycles wide: otherwise energy is being radiated in sidebands which cannot be received and is being wasted. The noise level at the receiver is also dependent on bandwidth, and in early systems like CH, where sensitivity was more important than resolution or accuracy, long pulses and narrow bandwidths were used. As radar developed from being a warning device it became necessary to provide more and better information, and shorter pulses and wider bands were introduced. It is interesting to note that with a communications receiver provided with a bandsread dial the main peak and two peaks on each side shown in Fig. 4 could easily be separated. In this way a good estimate of the pulse length used was made, by measuring the spacing of the minima.

**Sweeping Rate**

In radar systems which use a beamed transmission it is necessary to consider the relation between the pulse repetition rate and the rate at which the beam is moved. Assume that the transmitter sends out 400 pulses per second, as a CHL transmitter does, and that most of the energy



Two forms of display are used at GCI stations. The PPI (Plan Position Indicator) with rotating radial time base is on the left and the range scale with linear time base on the right.

is concentrated within 5 degrees on either side of the line of shoot. If during the 2.5 milliseconds which has been allowed, in choosing the repetition rate, for the return of an echo, the aerial array has turned through more than 10 degrees, the array will not receive the echo. Therefore an angular velocity of 4,000 degrees per second will cause complete failure of the system. Of course, this is about 600 revolutions per minute, and no one who has seen a CHL array would doubt that this speed is quite impossible. Another factor, however, brings the limiting speed down. With long

afterglow cathode-ray tubes, which are used to keep a steady picture on the PPI, it is necessary to receive a number of successive echoes to "paint" the tube. If we choose 10 as a convenient requirement, our limit becomes 30 r.p.m. For the CHL, mechanical considerations keep the speed down to something of the order of 6 r.p.m., so that no difficulty is experienced. With centimetre radar, the narrower beams and smaller structures lead to the limit being set by the "build-up" time of the cathode-ray tube rather than by the difficulty of moving the aerial system.

seemed to regard the development of their own radiolocation systems as of rather secondary importance, preferring to concentrate their best scientific brains on the production of new and fearsome weapons, none of which ever quite came off.

### Very Neat

There were some pretty neat bits and pieces amongst radiolocation equipment even in the earlier days before the microwave apparatus came along. One of my favourites was the transmitter of the "GL" used in AA gunnery. It was not merely foolproof, it was pretty well blinking-idiot-proof. If Ham-handed Henry (or, later, Scatter-brained Susie) tried to switch on the HT when the cooling device for the master-oscillator and power-amplifier valve wasn't working, there was nothing doing; unless the draught of air from the blower was raising a hinged shutter and operating a mercury switch, nothing could be done about it. Nor would the HT switch work if those valves weren't getting their grid-bias. In fact, if H.H.H. or S.S. tried in a moment of madness to do almost anything that was bad for its health, this transmitter simply switched itself off and bade them think again. A delightfully simple arrangement made it possible for the operator to find out whether it was sending out a pulse of the right shape and of the right duration. The very accurate wavemeter, too, could be used successfully after a remarkably brief training period. A girl who had been, say, a dressmaker a few weeks before would report without turning a hair that the pulse was half a microsecond too "wide" or that the transmitter was "point three megacycle off tune." And a REME "Radio-Mech." (one of my best was a Scottish crofter, whose home was 40 miles from a railway station and who had never handled even the simplest electrical appliance before the war) would go and set matters right. Before the end of the war not a few radio-mechs. were girls—and a radio-mech. had to be capable of tracking down all sorts of tricky faults and of putting them right in double quick time.

□ □ □

### Clean-up Needed

THE medium-wave broadcast band is in a shocking mess just now. Running over it a few evenings before this was written, I counted thirty-odd inter-station heterodynes in addition to natural interference so bad in some cases that it amounted to something like jamming. That is bad enough, but it's not the whole of the sad tale.

## RANDOM RADIATIONS

By "DIALLIST"

### For This Relief . . .

WELL it's come at long last! The radiolocation cat is out of the security bag and one can at length speak and write freely of principles which have been common knowledge in the scientific world for a dozen years and more; you'll find the whole business of ionosphere sounding described in text books published from 1930 onwards—and the timing by means of a CRT of the delay between the sending of a short-wave wireless pulse and the return of the echo due to it is the basic principle of all radiolocation. I'm all for secrecy when and where it serves to hide from an enemy something valuable to us and unknown to him. It was very right and proper that microwave radiolocation methods and the working details of many systems should have been kept as dark as dark could be; but I never could see why things well known in all enemy countries and put to practical applications there should have been regarded as ultra hush-hush here. It was ludicrous, for example, to find two cinema films describing the cathode-ray tube and its use for measuring the height of the reflecting layers and for tracking breeding grounds of atmospherics placed in the secret category. These films were made by the N.P.L. and shown publicly at the Wireless Exhibition some years before the war! Many readers must have seen them then. In view of what we knew that our late enemies were doing in the radiolocation field a simple statement of the general principles of the art issued officially could have done no harm. On the

contrary, it would have been good and heartening war news and might have taken a form which would have led the other side to believe that we had made far less progress than was actually the case.

### It Saved Us

My own belief is that radiolocation, or rather our pre-eminence in the art, was the decisive factor in winning the war. I know from personal experience that it saved us from losing it in 1940, when Goring's gigantic *Luftwaffe* attacks were staged as a prelude to the invasion which we could hardly have hoped to repel had it been made. If we hadn't had our chain of efficient early-warning radiolocation stations, the Spitfires and Hurricanes of No. 11 Fighter Group and the guns of the Sixth A.A. Division could never have routed the hordes of the German air-arm. Pilots and gunners had little enough rest as it was; had we not known when raids were coming and what courses they were taking, they'd have been fought to a standstill through sheer physical exhaustion. We could not have brought off, later on, the mass air raids on German industry, whose effects were so decisive; we could not have tackled the submarine menace; we could not have prevented the destruction of our cities by bombers and "doodle-bugs"; we could not have held Malta; we could not have wiped out the Italian fleet so effectively and cleared the Mediterranean if we had not had radiolocation and if we had not exploited it to the utmost. Providentially for us, our enemies

### Random Radiations—

In addition to broadcasting stations, radio beacons are working on this waveband and causing a considerable amount of interference. Doubtless you have heard them, though possibly you did not realise what they were. A radio beacon sends out its call sign in slow morse, then a dash lasting many seconds; then comes an interval of a second or two and the process is repeated. The transmissions are automatic and I imagine that they are done by a wipe contact travelling over the rim of a rotating wheel carrying conducting strips of appropriate length for the dots and dashes and for the long note which follows the call sign. Whatever may have been necessary in wartime, there can be no good reason why the beacons should now operate on the already overcrowded MW band. Let us hope that the much-needed clean-up will be made soon and a satisfactory re-allocation of channels made. It should not be nearly so difficult as it was in former years to prepare a satisfactory "plan": a large part of the trouble when previous plans were made was that Germany and Italy had grabbed far more than their legitimate share of channels, obviously with an eye to propaganda work before and during the war that was then to come and is now, mercifully, over. Meantime radio manufacturers must be having some headaches over deciding what to put on the tuning dials of the new receivers that they are designing.

### The RIC Scheme

The wavelength allocation scheme put out by the RIC is clearly the result of much hard work and hard thinking on the part of those who were responsible for it. Though it contains much that is good, it is to my mind open to criticism at one point; I am emphatically against an 11-kc/s separation between channels. Reasons? Here are some of them. The United States and Canada use a 10-kc/s separation which seems to have proved satisfactory, considering the vast number of stations at work in North America. Even before the war several of the more strongly received Americans were interfering after about 9 p.m. in winter time with the reception of medium-wave Europeans by causing heterodyne whistles. Many of the Americans will no doubt increase their power output in the near future and a good deal of interference with foreign listening is to be anticipated if we adopt an 11-kc/s channel separation. One of the most valuable features of the 10-kc/s separation is

that it enables channels to be numbered by the two or three figures which indicate tens of kilocycles. Thus, if the MW band extends from 1,500 to 550 kc/s, the channels are numbered 150, 149, 148 . . . 55. A tuning dial graduated in this way becomes at once intelligible to anyone, even if he doesn't know what a kilocycle is. He sees from the table of stations that the one he wants is working on Channel No. 63, or 630 kc/s. All that he has to do is to twiddle his knob till pointer is at 63 on the scale and there he is, provided, of course, that the calibration of the scale is reasonably correct. It may be objected that if American stations can heterodyne Europeans when transmitting with a carrier difference of a few kc/s, they can also jam them when using the same carrier frequency. I've never noticed anything of the kind. The field strength of transatlantic stations is so much less than that of worthwhile Europeans that the worst that happens is the production of a faint background signal during programme intervals.

### The Cabinet Question

Another little problem for the radio industry is that of the cabinets which are to house their new models. To my mind the cabinet problem is one to which a satisfactory answer has so far seldom been found. The domestic wireless set is nowadays a piece of furniture and, like other pieces of furniture, it should be pleasing to the eye in addition to fulfilling its primary purpose. Many pre-war receivers seem to owe the inspiration for the design of their cabinets to the same source as Gray's "Elegy in a Country Churchyard": tombs and tombstones were the predominating

*motif*. Others went all ultra-modern with polygons and chromium plating. Strangest of all were those weird anachronisms, the Jacobean or Queen Anne radiograms and consoles. Admittedly the cabinet designer's task is no easy one. The chassis designer demands that knobs, dial and loudspeaker fret shall be in certain positions and the cabinet must allow for this. And if he gives rein to originality, the cabinet designer may find his opposite numbers in the laboratory shaking their heads over resonant chambers and such-like. For all that, I do feel that close liaison between laboratory and studio should be able to produce radio cabinets which are neither funereal nor artful and crafty in their appearance. In the immediate future the cabinet designer may have to cut the overcoat of the set according to the cloth, in the shape of wood and plastic materials, made available by whichever of the many powers that be is responsible for the allocation of such things. Still, I don't altogether give up hope of seeing as time goes on cabinets that combine good appearance with freedom from boominess.

□ □ □

### Plus Ça Change

THE other day I dropped into a local wireless shop, hoping to be able to replenish my sadly depleted store of BA screws and nuts. My enquiry was met by a shake of the proprietor's head and the kind of twisted smile that is reserved for those who ask silly questions. "Sorry," he began. "There's a . . ." But I forestalled him. "Yes," I said; "I know what you were going to say. There's a peace on."

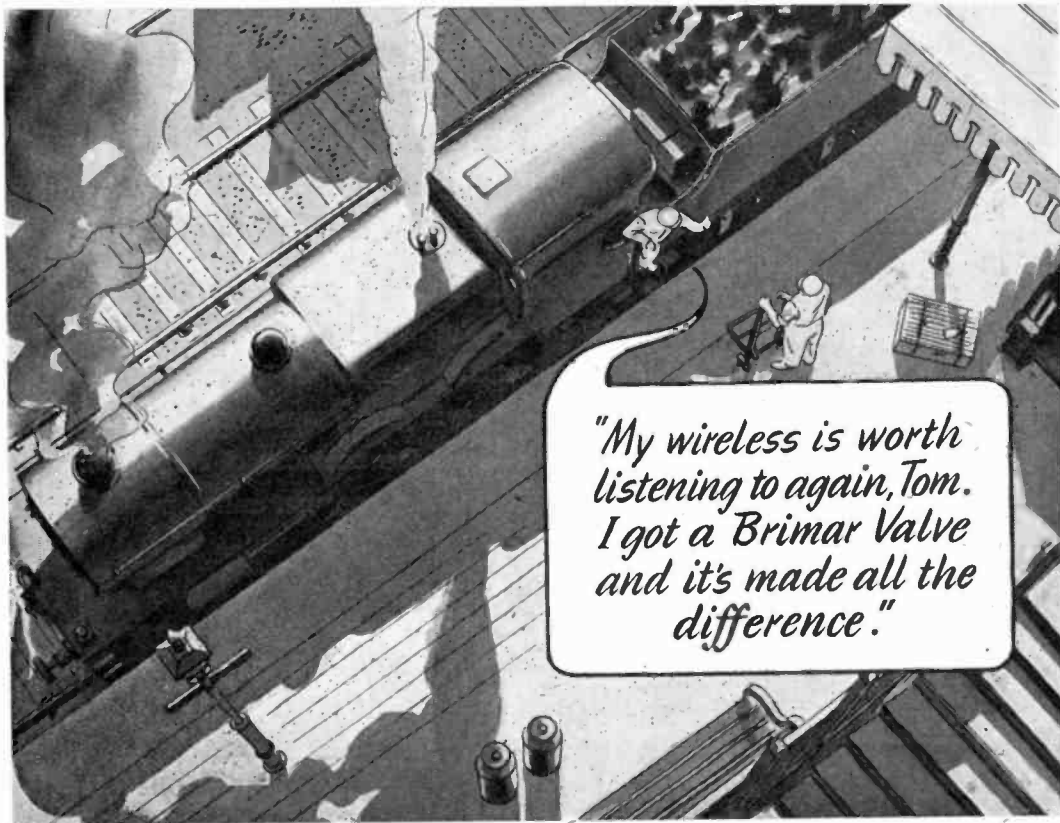
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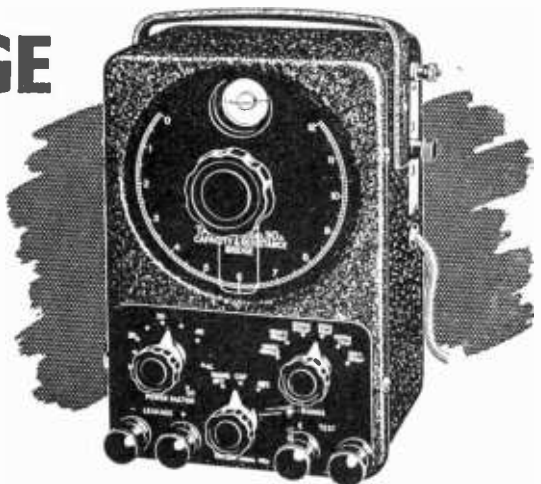
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# EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL RELAYS

## Can Rocket Stations Give World-wide Radio Coverage?

By ARTHUR C. CLARKE

ALTHOUGH it is possible, by a suitable choice of frequencies and routes, to provide telephony circuits between any two points or regions of the earth for a large part of the time, long-distance communication is greatly hampered by the peculiarities of the ionosphere, and there are even occasions when it may be impossible. A true broadcast service, giving constant field strength at all times over the whole globe would be invaluable, not to say indispensable, in a world society.

Unsatisfactory though the telephony and telegraph position is, that of television is far worse, since ionospheric transmission cannot be employed at all. The service area of a television station, even on a very good site, is only about a hundred miles across. To cover a small country such as Great Britain would require a network of transmitters, connected by coaxial lines, waveguides or VHF relay links. A recent theoretical study<sup>1</sup> has shown that such a system would require repeaters at intervals of fifty miles or less. A system of this kind could provide television coverage, at a very considerable cost, over the whole of a small country. It would be out of the question to provide a large continent with such a service, and only the main centres of population could be included in the network.

The problem is equally serious when an attempt is made to link television services in different parts of the globe. A relay chain several thousand miles long would cost millions, and transoceanic services would still be impossible. Similar considerations apply to the provision of wide-band frequency modulation and other services, such as high-speed facsimile which are by their nature restricted to the ultra-high-frequencies.

Many may consider the solution proposed in this discussion too far-fetched to be taken very seriously. Such an attitude is unreasonable, as everything envisaged here is a

logical extension of developments in the last ten years—in particular the perfection of the long-range rocket of which V2 was the prototype. While this article was being written, it was announced that the Germans were considering a similar project, which they believed possible within fifty to a hundred years.

Before proceeding further, it is necessary to discuss briefly certain fundamental laws of rocket propulsion and "astronautics." A rocket which achieved a sufficiently great speed in flight outside the earth's atmosphere would never return. This "orbital" velocity is 8 km per sec. (5 miles per sec), and a rocket which attained it would become an artificial satellite, circling the world for ever with no expenditure of power—a second moon, in fact.

the atmosphere and left to broadcast scientific information back to the earth. A little later, manned rockets will be able to make similar flights with sufficient excess power to break the orbit and return to earth.

There are an infinite number of possible stable orbits, circular and elliptical, in which a rocket would remain if the initial conditions were correct. The velocity of 8 km/sec. applies only to the closest possible orbit, one just outside the atmosphere, and the period of revolution would be about 90 minutes. As the radius of the orbit increases the velocity decreases, since gravity is diminishing and less centrifugal force is needed to balance it. Fig. 1 shows this graphically. The moon, of course, is a particular case and would lie on the curves of Fig. 1. if they were produced. The proposed German space-stations

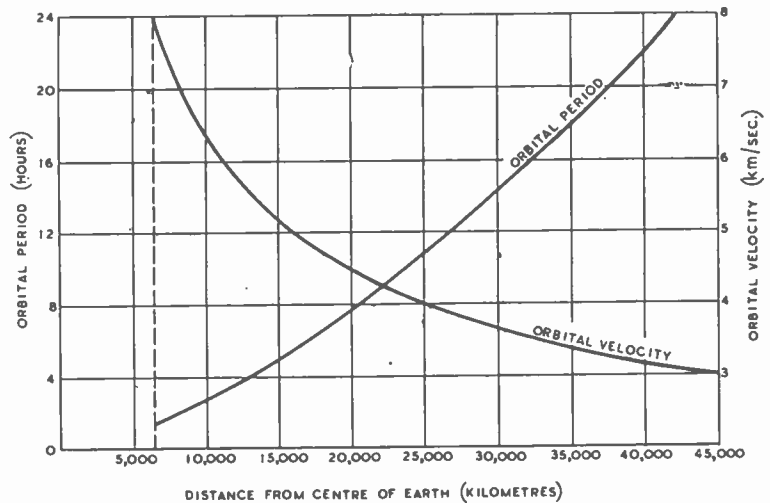


Fig. 1. Variation of orbital period and velocity with distance from the centre of the earth.

The German transatlantic rocket A10 would have reached more than half this velocity.

It will be possible in a few more years to build radio controlled rockets which can be steered into such orbits beyond the limits of

would have a period of about four and a half hours.

It will be observed that one orbit, with a radius of 42,000 km, has a period of exactly 24 hours. A body in such an orbit, if its plane coincided with that of the

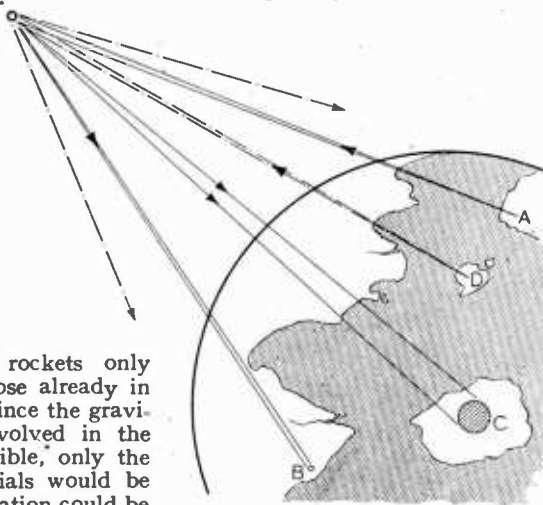
**Extra-terrestrial Relays—**

earth's equator, would revolve with the earth and would thus be stationary above the same spot on the planet. It would remain fixed in the sky of a whole hemisphere and unlike all other heavenly bodies would neither rise nor set. A body in a smaller orbit would revolve more quickly than the earth and so would rise in the west, as indeed happens with the inner moon of Mars.

Using material ferried up by rockets, it would be possible to construct a "space-station" in such an orbit. The station could be provided with living quarters, laboratories and everything needed for the comfort of its crew, who would be relieved and provisioned by a regular rocket service. This project might be undertaken for purely scientific reasons as it would contribute enormously to our knowledge of astronomy, physics and meteorology. A good deal of literature has already been written on the subject.<sup>2</sup>

Although such an undertaking may seem fantastic, it requires

Fig. 2. Typical extra-terrestrial relay services. Transmission from A being relayed to point B and area C; transmission from D being relayed to whole hemisphere.



for its fulfilment rockets only twice as fast as those already in the design stage. Since the gravitational stresses involved in the structure are negligible, only the very lightest materials would be necessary and the station could be as large as required.

Let us now suppose that such a station were built in this orbit. It could be provided with receiving and transmitting equipment (the problem of power will be discussed later) and could act as a repeater to relay transmissions between any two points on the hemisphere beneath, using any frequency which will penetrate the ionosphere. If directive arrays were used, the power require-

ments would be very small, as direct line of sight transmission would be used. There is the further important point that arrays on the earth, once set up, could remain fixed indefinitely.

Moreover, a transmission received from any point on the hemisphere could be broadcast to the whole of the visible face of

necessary evidence by exploring for echoes from the moon. In the meantime we have visual evidence that frequencies at the optical end of the spectrum pass through with little absorption except at certain frequencies at which resonance effects occur. Medium high frequencies go through the E layer twice to be reflected from the F

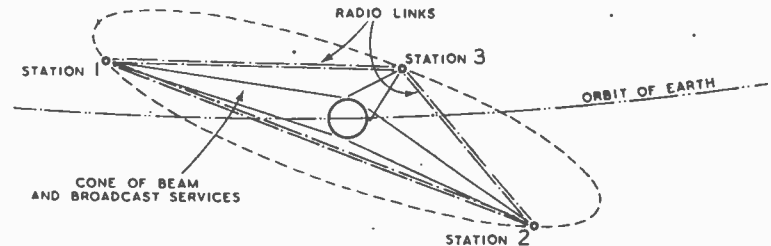


Fig. 3. Three satellite stations would ensure complete coverage of the globe.

the globe, and thus the requirements of all possible services would be met (Fig. 2).

It may be argued that we have as yet no direct evidence of radio waves passing between the surface

layer and echoes have been received from meteors in or above the F layer. It seems fairly certain that frequencies from, say, 50 Mc/s to 100,000 Mc/s could be used without undue absorption in the atmosphere or the ionosphere.

A single station could only provide coverage to half the globe, and for a world service three would be required, though more could be readily utilised. Fig. 3 shows the simplest arrangement. The stations would be arranged approximately equidistantly around the earth, and the following longitudes appear to be suitable:—

- 30 E—Africa and Europe.
- 150 E—China and Oceania.
- 90 W—The Americas.

The stations in the chain would be linked by radio or optical beams, and thus any conceivable beam or broadcast service could be provided.

The technical problems involved in the design of such stations are extremely interesting,<sup>3</sup> but only a few can be gone into here. Batteries of parabolic reflectors would be provided, of apertures depending on the frequencies employed. Assuming the use of 3,000 Mc/s. waves, mirrors about a metre. across would beam almost all the power on to the earth. Larger reflectors could be used to illuminate single countries or regions for the more restricted services, with con-

of the earth and outer space; all we can say with certainty is that the shorter wavelengths are not reflected back to the earth. Direct evidence of field strength above the earth's atmosphere could be obtained by V<sub>2</sub> rocket technique, and it is to be hoped that someone will do something about this soon as there must be quite a surplus stock somewhere! Alternatively, given sufficient transmitting power, we might obtain the

sequent economy of power. On the higher frequencies it is not difficult to produce beams less than a degree in width, and, as mentioned before, there would be no physical limitations on the size of the mirrors. (From the space station, the disc of the earth would be a little over 17 degrees across). The same mirrors could be used for many different transmissions if precautions were taken to avoid cross modulation.

It is clear from the nature of the system that the power needed will be much less than that required for any other arrangement, since all the energy radiated can be uniformly distributed over the service area, and none is wasted. An approximate estimate of the power required for the broadcast service from a single station can be made as follows:—

The field strength in the equatorial plane of a  $\lambda/2$  dipole in free space at a distance of  $d$  metres is <sup>4</sup>

$$e = 6.85 \frac{\sqrt{P}}{d} \text{ volts/metre, where}$$

$P$  is the power radiated in watts.

Taking  $d$  as 42,000 km (effectively it would be less), we have  $P = 37.6 e^2$  watts. ( $e$  now in  $\mu\text{V}/\text{metre}$ .)

If we assume  $e$  to be 50 microvolts/metre, which is the F.C.C. standard for frequency modulation,  $P$  will be 94 kW. This is the power required for a single dipole, and not an array which would

concentrate all the power on the earth. Such an array would have a gain over a simple dipole of about 80. The power required for the broadcast service would thus be about 1.2 kW.

Ridiculously small though it is, this figure is probably much too generous. Small parabolas about a foot in diameter would be used for receiving at the earth end and would give a very good signal/noise ratio. There would be very little interference, partly because of the frequency used and partly because the mirrors would be pointing towards the sky which could contain no other source of signal. A field strength of 10 microvolts/metre might well be ample, and this would require a transmitter output of only 50 watts.

When it is remembered that these figures relate to the broadcast service, the efficiency of the system will be realised. The point-to-point beam transmissions might need powers of only 10 watts or so. These figures, of course, would need correction for ionospheric and atmospheric absorption, but that would be quite small over most of the band. The slight falling off in field strength due to this cause towards the edge of the service area could be readily corrected by a non-uniform radiator.

The efficiency of the system is strikingly revealed when we consider that the London Television

service required about 3 kW average power for an area less than fifty miles in radius.<sup>5</sup>

A second fundamental problem is the provision of electrical energy to run the large number of transmitters required for the different services. In space beyond the atmosphere, a square metre normal to the solar radiation intercepts 1.35 kW of energy.<sup>6</sup> Solar engines have already been devised for terrestrial use and are an economic proposition in tropical countries. They employ mirrors to concentrate sunlight on the boiler of a low-pressure steam engine. Although this arrangement is not very efficient it could be made much more so in space where the operating components are in a vacuum, the radiation is intense and continuous, and the low-temperature end of the cycle could be not far from absolute zero. Thermo-electric and photo-electric developments may make it possible to utilise the solar energy more directly.

Though there is no limit to the size of the mirrors that could be built, one fifty metres in radius would intercept over 10,000 kW and at least a quarter of this energy should be available for use.

The station would be in continuous sunlight except for some weeks around the equinoxes, when it would enter the earth's shadow for a few minutes every day. Fig. 4 shows the state of affairs during the eclipse period. For



A project which goes part of the way towards the goal envisaged in this article has been put forward by Westinghouse in collaboration with the Glen L. Martin Co. of America. The radius of coverage would be increased from 50 to 211 miles by beamed radiation from an aircraft flying at a height of 30,000 ft. and equipped with television and FM transmitters.



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this calculation, it is legitimate to consider the earth as fixed and the sun as moving round it. The station would graze the earth's shadow at A, on the last day in February. Every day, as it made its diurnal revolution, it would cut more deeply into the shadow, undergoing its period of maxi-

channels would be available.

(3) The power requirements are extremely small since the efficiency of "illumination" will be almost 100 per cent. Moreover, the cost of the power would be very low.

(4) However great the initial expense, it would only be a fraction of that required for the

ever, owing to its finite acceleration, the rocket loses velocity as a result of gravitational retardation. If its acceleration (assumed constant) is  $a$  metres/sec.<sup>2</sup>, then the necessary ratio  $R_0$  is increased to

$$R_0 = R \frac{a + g}{a}$$

For an automatically controlled rocket  $a$  would be about  $5g$  and so the necessary  $R$  would be 37 to 1. Such ratios cannot be realised with a single rocket but can be attained by "step-rockets"<sup>2</sup>, while very much higher ratios (up to 1,000 to 1) can be achieved by the principle of "cellular construction"<sup>3</sup>.

**Epilogue—Atomic Power**

The advent of atomic power has at one bound brought space travel half a century nearer. It seems unlikely that we will have to wait as much as twenty years before atomic-powered rockets are developed, and such rockets could reach even the remoter planets with a fantastically small fuel/mass ratio—only a few per cent. The equations developed in the appendix still hold, but  $v$  will be increased by a factor of about a thousand.

In view of these facts, it appears hardly worth while to expend much effort on the building of long-distance relay chains. Even the local networks which will soon be under construction may have a working life of only 20-30 years.

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**EUROPEAN FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS**

THE Postmaster-General is understood to be planning an early Conference of interested parties to consider the allocation of frequency channels for the liberated countries of Europe. No detailed information on the scope of the Conference was available up to the time of going to press.

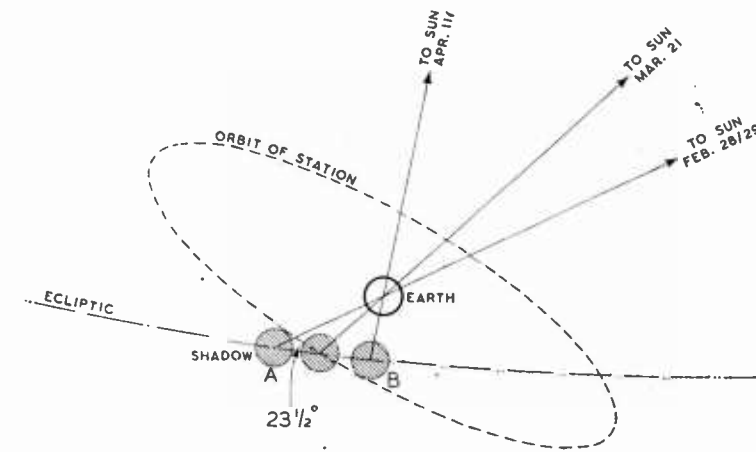


Fig. 4. Solar radiation would be cut off for a short period each day at the equinoxes.

mum eclipse on March 21st. on that day it would only be in darkness for 1 hour 9 minutes. From then onwards the period of eclipse would shorten, and after April 11th (B) the station would be in continuous sunlight again until the same thing happened six months later at the autumn equinox, between September 12th and October 14th. The total period of darkness would be about two days per year, and as the longest period of eclipse would be little more than an hour there should be no difficulty in storing enough power for an uninterrupted service.

**Conclusion**

Briefly summarised, the advantages of the space station are as follows:—

(1) It is the only way in which true world coverage can be achieved for all possible types of service.

(2) It permits unrestricted use of a band at least 100,000 Mc/s wide, and with the use of beams an almost unlimited number of

world networks replaced, and the running costs would be incomparably less.

**Appendix—Rocket Design**

The development of rockets sufficiently powerful to reach "orbital" and even "escape" velocity is now only a matter of years. The following figures may be of interest in this connection.

The rocket has to acquire a final velocity of 8 km/sec. Allowing 2 km/sec. for navigational corrections and air resistance loss (this is legitimate as all space-rockets will be launched from very high country) gives a total velocity needed of 10 km/sec. The fundamental equation of rocket motion is<sup>2</sup>

$$V = v \log_e R$$

where  $V$  is the final velocity of the rocket,  $v$  the exhaust velocity and  $R$  the ratio of initial mass to final mass (payload plus structure). So far  $v$  has been about 2-2.5 km/sec for liquid fuel rockets but new designs and fuels will permit of considerably higher figures. (Oxy-hydrogen fuel has a theoretical exhaust velocity of 5.2 km/sec and more powerful combinations are known.) If we assume  $v$  to be 3.3 km/sec,  $R$  will be 20 to 1. How-

# CONTRAST EXPANSION

## Design for a Negative Feedback Contrast Expander

By J. G. WHITE

(Concluded from page 278 of the previous issue)

TO avoid the high output impedance of the expander shown in Fig. 5 (a) of the previous instalment, voltage feedback is necessary, and is arranged over two stages in order that the input and feedback voltages may be in the correct phase relationship without using any coupling transformer.

In Fig. 6 (a) is shown a block schematic diagram of such an amplifier. If the gain of the amplifier without feedback is  $M$ , then it can be shown that the gain with negative feedback

$$M_1 = \frac{M}{1 + \beta M}$$

where  $\beta$  is the fraction of the output voltage fed back in phase with the input voltage.

To produce expansion of the applied signal, the resistor  $R_2$  is replaced by the anode-cathode AC resistance  $R_a$  of a valve,  $V$ . Negative bias, which increases as the amplitude of the signal, and is obtained from an auxiliary amplifier-rectifier system, is applied to the grid of the valve, so producing variations in  $R_a$ , and therefore in the feedback factor  $\beta$ ,

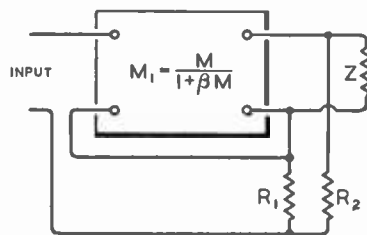
which equals  $\frac{R_1}{R_1 + R_a}$ . (See Fig. 6(b)).

By this use of a two-stage amplifier, the main criticisms which were advanced against the circuit of Fig. 5 have been disposed of. In addition, a larger part of the whole amplifier is subject to negative feedback, with a consequent extension of the benefits normally obtained thereby.

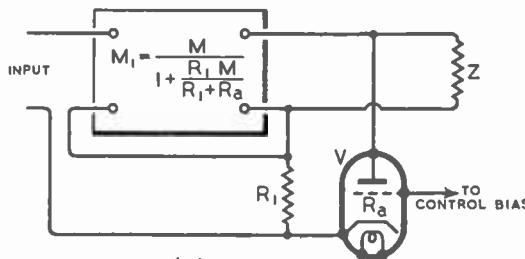
In the amplifier of Fig. 6 (b), let

- $M$  = gain of the amplifier without feedback
- $M_1$  = gain of the amplifier with minimum feedback
- $M_2$  = gain of the amplifier with maximum feedback
- $\beta_{min}$  = minimum fraction of the output voltage fed back
- $\beta_{max}$  = maximum fraction of the output voltage fed back

- $R_{a1}$  = maximum value of the AC resistance of  $V$
- $R_{a2}$  = minimum value of the AC resistance of  $V$
- $E$  = expansion of the audio volume range.



(a)



(b)

Fig. 6. (a) Block diagram of amplifier with feedback over two stages; (b) with the addition of a valve to control feedback.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } E &= \frac{M_1}{M_2} \\ &= \frac{M}{1 + \beta_{min} M} \bigg/ \frac{M}{1 + \beta_{max} M} \\ &= \frac{1 + \beta_{max} M}{1 + \beta_{min} M} \dots \dots (1) \end{aligned}$$

If  $\beta_{min} M$  and  $\beta_{max} M$  are both large compared with unity,

$$\text{then } E = \frac{\beta_{max}}{\beta_{min}} \dots \dots (2)$$

$$\beta_{min} = \frac{R_1}{R_1 + R_{a1}} \text{ and}$$

$$\beta_{max} = \frac{R_1}{R_1 + R_{a2}}$$

$$\therefore E = \frac{R_1 + R_{a1}}{R_1 + R_{a2}} \dots \dots (3)$$

If  $R_1$  is much greater than  $R_{a2}$

$$\text{then } E = \frac{R_{a1}}{R_{a2}} \dots \dots (4)$$

In the later part of this article it will be seen, however, that the simplifying assumption leading to equation (2) is in most practical cases unjustifiable.

In Fig. 7 is shown the schematic diagram of a two-stage amplifier with voltage negative feedback from the output of  $V_2$  to the input of  $V_1$ , the resistance  $R_1$  in the cathode circuit of  $V_1$  forming with  $R_a$  a potential divider across the output of  $V_2$ . Current feedback occurs in the first stage, but is usually neglected in calculations of gain, as  $R_1$  may in most cases be assigned a sufficiently low value to justify this. In the present case, however, the expansion range may be appreciably reduced by this subsidiary effect, and it will therefore be taken into account.

A simplified block form of Fig. 7 is shown in Fig. 8. Let

- $m_1$  = gain of the first stage without feedback
- $m_2$  = gain of the second stage without feedback
- $\beta_1$  = fraction of the first stage output voltage fed back
- $\beta_2$  = fraction of the second stage output voltage fed back

Then the over-all amplification

$$\begin{aligned} M_1 &= \frac{\frac{m_1}{1 + \beta_1 m_1} m_2}{1 + \beta_2 \frac{m_1 m_2}{1 + \beta_1 m_1}} \\ &= \frac{m_1 m_2}{1 + \beta_1 m_1 + \beta_2 m_1 m_2} \dots \dots (5) \end{aligned}$$

The feedback voltages in the

**Contrast Expansion—**

circuit of Fig. 7 are developed across a common resistor,  $R_1$ . As a result, equation (5) is modified. In Fig. 7 let

- $\mu_1$  = amplification factor of  $V_1$
- $\mu_2$  = amplification factor of  $V_2$
- $R_1$  = cathode resistor of  $V_1$
- $R_2$  = AC resistance of  $V_1$
- $R_3$  = load resistor of  $V_1$
- $R_4$  = AC resistance of  $V_2$
- $R_5$  = load resistor of  $V_2$
- $R_6$  = feedback resistor from  $V_2$

Also let  $R'_5 = XR_5$ , where

$$X = \frac{R_1 + R_6}{R_1 + R_6 + R_5}$$

and  $\beta = \frac{R_1}{R_1 + R_6}$

The over-all amplification without feedback may be written

$$M_0 = \frac{\mu_1 \mu_2 R_3 R'_5}{(R_2 + R_3)(R_4 + R'_5)}$$

and with current and voltage negative feedback becomes

and a negative potential which increases with the amplitude of the signal is fed to the control grid. Thus the impedance increases with the signal and the feedback voltage is reduced, so increasing the gain of the amplifier.

In order to obtain a satisfactory degree of expansion the impedance of the controlling valve must vary over a wide range. It has already been stated that the range of volume as normally broadcast is not greater than 40 db, whereas the full range of a symphony orchestra is of the order of 70 db. It is suggested, however, that a maximum range of 60 db. is the most that will be needed or can be tolerated under listening conditions in the home. If the peak output of an amplifier is 15 watts on the loudest crescendo of a full orchestra, the softest passages will produce an electrical output of 15 microwatts. This represents

level tolerable to the human ear in a living room 15 ft. x 12 ft. x 10 ft. having a reverberation time of 0.4 second, would be produced by 90 watts electrical power fed to a speaker having 5 per cent. efficiency.)

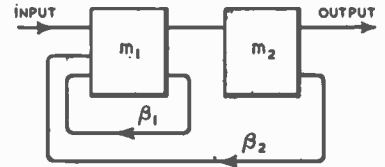


Fig. 8. Block diagram of amplifier of Fig. 7.

To produce an expansion of 20 db. it is necessary for the amplifier gain to vary in a ratio of 10 to 1. Examination of equations (5) and (7) shows that this entails a ratio of maximum to minimum voltage feedback ratios in excess of 10 to 1, the necessary increase being greater as the current feedback term increases. Thus current feedback should be kept as low as possible to ensure the maximum expansion for given values of  $\beta$  and  $M_0$  in equation (7). This may be done either by reducing the value of the cathode resistor  $R_1$  or by changing the other circuit constants of the first stage, at the same time maintaining the over-all gain without feedback at the same value. The first remedy unfortunately also affects the voltage feedback factor, and the second may prove difficult for several reasons, such as the types of valves available and the peak voltage required.

A variety of valves may be used in the control position, and ranges of impedance between 5,000 and 100,000 ohms are easily realised. The impedance of this valve, in series with  $R_1$ , shunts the anode load of  $V_2$  and at maximum feedback may reduce this load to a small fraction of its highest value. If  $V_2$  is a triode the load may then fall below the minimum necessary for low harmonic distortion. The effect may be reduced by connecting the high-potential end of  $R_6$ , i.e., the anode of the control valve, to a tap on  $R_5$ , or by using a pentode as  $V_2$ , such a valve normally working into a load much lower than its internal impedance. (Where the feedback voltage is

$$M_{I_1} = \frac{M_0 \left( 1 + \beta \frac{R_4}{\mu_2 R_3} \right)}{1 + \frac{(\mu_1 + 1)R_1}{R_2 + R_3} \left[ 1 - \beta \frac{XR_4 + R'_5}{R_4 + R'_5} \right] + \beta M_0 \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{\mu_1} \right]} \dots (6)$$

With values likely to be used in practice, equation (6) may be simplified so that

$$M_{I_1} = \frac{M_0}{1 + \frac{(\mu_1 + 1)R_1}{R_2 + R_3} (1 - \beta) + \beta M_0} \dots \dots \dots (7)$$

To obtain expansion of the signal,  $R_6$  in Fig. 7 is replaced by the anode resistance of a valve,

an acoustic output of 0.75 microwatt with the 5 per cent. efficiency of the average domestic speaker on a plane baffle. With the normal background noise in the average home a still smaller output would be lost, so that a volume range in excess of 60 db. would entail an increase in the output power on peaks. Such an increase would be impracticable as, assuming a minimum level of 15 microwatts, ranges of 63 db. and 70 db. would necessitate outputs of 30 and 150 watts respectively. (It is interesting to note that, according to Harvey Fletcher's computations, the maximum acoustic

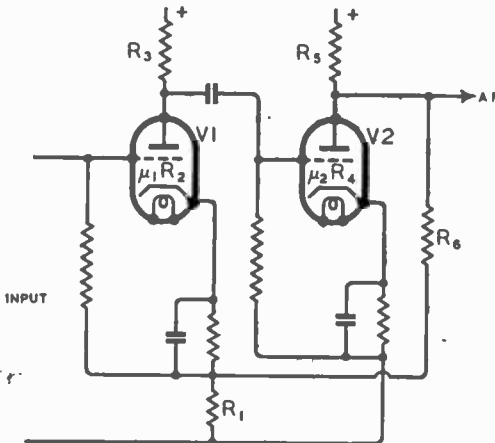


Fig. 7. Two-stage amplifier with voltage feedback over two stages and current feedback in the first stage.

taken from a tapping point on  $R_5$ , the feedback ratio  $\beta$  is reduced in the same proportion.)

After consideration of the foregoing discussion, it was decided to specify high-slope pentodes of the EF50 type in both amplifying positions, with a low anode load in the second stage. In addition, the voltage feedback was taken from a tapping on the output load to minimise the effects of a varying shunt load. The circuit, with component values, is shown in Fig. 9.

Where a valve such as an RF pentode has a load impedance much lower than its internal impedance, the stage gain may be written  $g_m R_1$ , where  $g_m$  is the mutual conductance and  $R_1$  is the load impedance. Similarly, the expression for gain in equation (7) may be written

$$M_1 = \frac{g_{m1} R_3 g_{m2} R'_5}{1 + g_{m1} R_1 + \beta g_{m1} R_3 g_{m2} R'_5} \quad (8)$$

where  $g_{m1}$  and  $g_{m2}$  are the mutual conductances of  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  respectively. The term  $(1 - \beta)$  in the denominator of equation (7) has been assumed to be equal to 1, as  $\beta$  is in most cases less than 0.1.

effect of  $V_3$ , varies between 3,675 and 3,270 times. (The limits of anode resistance of  $V_3$  have been taken as 100,000 and 5,000 ohms.) With feedback, the gain drops to 570 and 52 times respectively, so giving an expansion ratio of 11 to 1, or 20.8 db. approximately.

In Fig. 9 the signal output is taken from across the whole of the anode load. If it is taken from across the 2,000-ohm section of the load, the gains at minimum and maximum feedback become 228 and 17 times respectively and the expansion is approximately 22.6 db. Under these conditions the maximum output available from the stage is reduced by 60 per cent., and will not be sufficient to load an output stage directly unless high-slope output valves are used.

Although EF50 type valves have been suggested for  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  in Fig. 9, alternative types may be used. The theoretical results obtainable are easily calculable from the formulæ given. As a further example let us use a 6J7 for  $V_1$ , and a 6F6 for  $V_2$  and make  $R_1 = 1,000$  ohms,  $R_3 = 100,000$  ohms and  $R_5 = 6,000 + 2,000$  ohms. The gain with

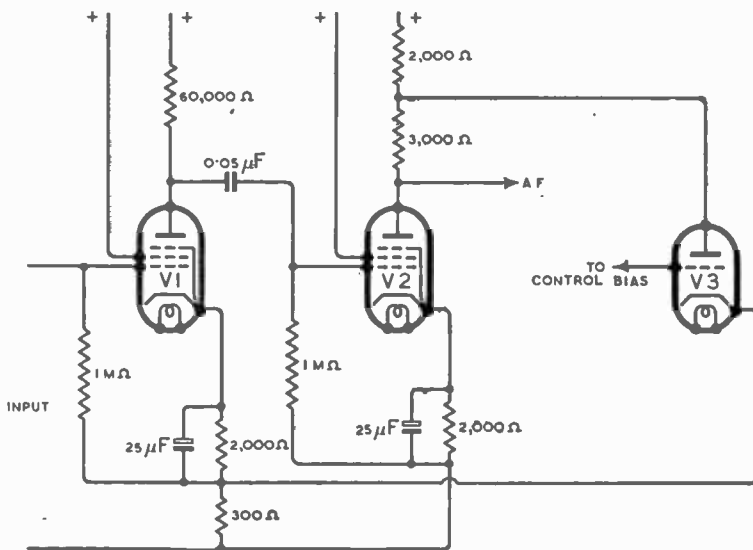


Fig. 9. Final circuit of suggested negative feedback contrast expander.

With the values shown in Fig. 9 and assuming the mutual conductances of  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  to be 3.5 mA/V under working conditions, the gain of the amplifier, without feedback but taking into account the shunt

minimum feedback is then 288 times, and with maximum feedback 29 times, giving an expansion of approximately 20 db.

The degree of feedback is high in the condition of minimum gain,

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**ROTARY CONVERTERS**, 210v. DC to 180v. AC at 600 watts, £10; ditto, 230 DC to 150 AC at 700 watts, £10; ditto, 460v. DC to 300 AV at 4 k.w., £25.

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**Contrast Expansion—**

but with normal precautions in building the amplifier no difficulty should be experienced in obtaining complete stability. The phase shift in a two-stage amplifier, even at the extremes of the audio-frequency band, will only in exceptional circumstances be sufficient to give positive feedback. As stability is also dependent upon decoupling in the anode and screen circuits, adequate bypassing capacitors should be provided.

The frequency response of the amplifier will be adequate for present-day needs, any slight falling-off in the extreme bass and treble being counteracted by the high degree of feedback which occurs even at high values of gain. Similarly, the greater percentage of third-harmonic distortion produced by pentodes as compared with triodes will be reduced, and should not be greater than 0.4 per cent. at maximum gain and at an output at which  $V_2$  does not draw grid current.

It is not proposed to consider in detail the provision of variable bias for the control valve, as this may follow already well known principles. It is generally desirable, however, to avoid feeding the rectifier used to produce it directly from the signal channel. The introduction of an auxiliary amplifier contributes greatly to the avoidance of "flutter," enables a sufficiently high control voltage to be obtained, and facilitates the control of expansion. The time constants of the circuit may be chosen to suit the individual listener's tastes, and the methods employed may well follow the principles published in various papers during the last year or so. It may also be desirable to consider the introduction of a delay voltage into the control system, so that expansion occurs only above a certain signal level.

**Volume Compression**

Expansion is achieved in the amplifier described above by arranging  $V_3$  in Fig. 9 to have a low impedance in the quiescent state, and then biasing the control grid negatively to increase the internal impedance, so producing an increase in gain with signal amplitude.

If the control grid of  $V_3$  is

biased to cut-off in the quiescent state and a positive potential increasing with the signal is fed to the grid, negative feedback will increase with the signal. Thus the gain is reduced as the signal level increases, and compression of the volume range is achieved.

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**PEACETIME RADAR****Applications to Civil Aviation**

LAST month, at the close of the third Commonwealth and Empire Conference on Radio for Civil Aviation (CERCA), a statement was issued on the use of radiolocation as an aid to air navigation. The statement is confined almost exclusively to what is described as "secondary radar"; that is, to navigational systems which do not involve echoes, but which depend on observation of signal transit time, either between an interrogatory transmitter on the ground and a triggered "responder" in the aircraft, or the reciprocal system—airborne transmitter and ground responder. Incidentally, there seems to be a tendency to prefer the former system, in conformity with the principle that major control should be from the ground. It is claimed that the use of radar will make it possible to determine the position of an aircraft much more accurately than by other methods. At the same time, the apparatus will act as a collision warning and enable the ground station to exercise more flexible control by identifying individual

aircraft, presumably by means of an adaptation of the wartime IFF device (Identification of Friend or Foe).

Sir Robert Watson Watt, who presided over the CERCA committee dealing with these matters, said that if we decide to divert a reasonable proportion of our technical design potential to adapting radar for the purpose, there was no reason why suitable apparatus should not be ready within a year or so.

An important decision was reached with regard to inter-airfield communication. Existing channels were thought to introduce delays quite out of keeping with the speeds of modern aircraft, and the view was expressed that means of direct communication for operational service messages should be provided between terminal airfields.

**OUR COVER**

THIS month's illustration shows a Naval radar aerial array for metre-band long-range warning equipment. IFF aeriels are above.



Letters to the Editor

“Fitting” Hearing Aids • Spreading  
Television Development • Rectifier  
Meters

“Cheaper Hearing Aids”

THE article by Mr. C. M. R. Balbi, in your August issue, raises a very interesting point. Can a machine be constructed which will enable a layman to make an accurate diagnosis?

Mr. Balbi apparently believes that it can. His “Predictor”—which appears to be no more than a specially built valve hearing aid with variable tone control and a calibrated ear-piece—is, he claims, a sufficient answer to the question.

I have long used such a device, under the name of “Audiometer” by which it is generally known, and have found it very useful in determining, to some extent, degrees of deafness and of upper register loss, but I would not trust readings made by some of my (otherwise quite intelligent) assistants. Nor are these the only points to be considered.

What of intermittent deafness—a very common form, arising from various causes: what of *Tinnitus* and other defects of hearing known to otologists: what of the person who can hear in a closed room but not in traffic? Such cases make up at least 50 per cent. of the hard of hearing.

Is Mr. Balbi unaware that the deaf are not only customers but patients: that *each one* must be individually treated and that service after sales make up at least half the Aurician’s business?

Incidentally, mass production of deaf aids is no new idea, and excellent models have already been on the market. None is now on sale—a fact that should speak for itself. A good wireless mechanic could certainly learn to repair deaf aids, but as for selling them over the counter, after a short conversation through the “Predictor” and a glance at some predictor curves—well, the salesman who did so would need to stay only a short while in each place, otherwise he might find his customers too regular in their

return visits to his liking or profit.

The “Predictor” may be—the Audiometer is—an excellent instrument in skilled hands, but if I were a radio dealer I should have great hesitation in installing one as the first step to entering on a cut-price hearing aid sales service.

J. CUNNINGHAM BEATTIE.  
Wigmore Street, London, W.1.

IN my opinion the person most suited to the task of selling hearing aids is the chemist—not the radio dealer, as suggested by C. M. R. Balbi in your August issue. Many chemists do optical work and fit surgical appliances as well as their ordinary work of dispensing prescriptions.

J. S. HILLMAN, M.P.S.  
Nuthall, Notts.

Adaptability of the Deaf

WE talk loosely about the need for the deaf to educate themselves in the use of hearing aids, but I have never heard a reasoned argument as to why it should be necessary. I wonder if your readers would consider the following to be a logical explanation?

A deaf subject, without artificial aid, adapts himself to some extent to his deficiency, and can follow speech and identify sounds, although what he actually hears would be quite unintelligible to a person with normal hearing. In effect, he has learned another language.

When such a deaf subject tries to use a hearing aid that restores normal response, he hears a confusion of sounds to which he is quite unaccustomed; again he has to learn a new language, or, rather, a forgotten language.

If I am right, it would seem that, at the first onset of deafness, the subject should make at least occasional use of a hearing aid. A deaf person who has failed to

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**Letters to the Editor—**

do so should use an instrument which would allow of a gradual improvement in response, starting from a point where the aid gave some overall amplification but very little wider frequency response than that to which he has been accustomed. The frequency response of the aid should then be widened gradually.

W. T. SMITH.

London, N.W.

**Radio Exports**

WHEN lecturing recently to a class of Indian students on the superheterodyne principle of reception, I tried to enliven the proceedings by discussing the features of a few well-known British superhets. To my surprise, none of the students had heard of any of the makes mentioned; the only trade names they knew were American or Continental.

"SEAAF."

**Television "Monopoly" ?**

THERE is one very dangerous recommendation in the Report of the Television Committee. This recommendation is that "The production of the new system should be open to competition among all firms—probably only a small number—capable of undertaking the production of a *complete system*" (italics mine).

So far as is known there is at present, owing to its patent holdings on the most effective electron camera devices, only one firm in this country capable of supplying an acceptable *complete* television system. An insistence upon the supplying of a complete system by any one firm is entirely unnecessary.

There are no valid reasons why a television transmitter contract could not be broken down into well-defined sections. For instance, electron cameras could be competed for independently of the main studio and transmitter equipments. Film transmission apparatus need not be supplied by the firm that supplies high-frequency feeders and transmitting aerials. The effective co-ordination of the work performed by the various contracting firms could safely be left to the B.B.C. engineers.

Such a logical splitting of any new television contracts would tend to distribute and encourage television research over wider fields, and would be a practical method of discouraging monopolistic tendencies.

W. A. BEATTY.

London, W.13.

**Telepathy or Radio Telepathy ?**

I MUST agree with Dr. G. D. Dawson and W. Grey Walter (your September issue) about the small induction fields of the 10-c/s brain currents, but I am not aware of any real evidence that there are not, in addition, radio-frequency currents. This, I feel, is the gap which remains to be closed: the evidence quoted on the effect of screening is inadequate unless some idea of the fields involved is given, for at the higher radio frequencies very small apertures suffice to let energy leak out. I should expect the effect of distance to be a reduction in the probability of an effect rather than in its magnitude; if the mechanism involved is a trigger mechanism, the effect, when produced, should be independent of stimulus.

H. A. Hartley's letter (the same issue) is typical of the unscientific approach which I feel has prevented any full investigation of the problem; mechanisms produced by the mind and astral phenomena are terms which demand definition. The only factual statement he makes is contradicted by Rhine. In the original experiments long training and practice were *not* needed, and most subjects had some natural gifts.

"RADIOPHARE."

**Rectifier Meters**

I IN your June issue W. H. Cazaly states that in order to convert a DC meter to read AC by the use of a rectifier, "some calculation is involved, and rectifiers vary so much in their characteristics that selection and individual testing are necessary for accurate results."

This is a misleading statement, and is based on a widespread misunderstanding of the way in which a correctly designed rectifier meter operates. It is necessary to realise that (with the ex-

ception of peak voltmeters, etc.) the instrument rectifier should never be used to rectify the unknown voltage to a DC voltage, which is then measured by the usual DC voltmeter. The reason for this is that the ratio of AC voltage to DC voltage given by a rectifier is inevitably a variable quantity, depending on temperature, load current and rectifier characteristics. However, the ratio of AC to DC current given by a full-wave rectifier can easily be made independent of the rectifier forward resistance, and this ratio is, in fact, 1.11 to 1 when the input current is sinusoidal.

Therefore, in order to convert a DC meter to read correctly on AC it is only necessary to think in terms of current, and then to convert the actual meter movement to an AC sensitive device by connecting an instrument rectifier directly to the moving coil, ignoring for the moment the shunts or series resistances. This "AC movement" will now need 1.11 times the current it originally required on DC for the same scale deflection, so that if the original voltmeter resistances are used in series with the AC terminals of the rectifier, the meter will read exactly 10 per cent. low on AC:

$$\left( \frac{I}{1.11} = 0.9 \right)$$

If new series resistances are to be wound for the AC voltage ranges, their values must therefore be made 0.9 times the corresponding value for the DC ranges. The voltage drop in the rectifier will be approximately 0.5 volt, so that the scale shape of all voltage ranges above, say, 50 volts, will be virtually unaffected by the conversion to AC.

For the AC current ranges shunts are not satisfactory, and a current transformer should be used, still remembering that the rectifier must be fed with 1.11 times the full scale DC current of the movement. For example, a 1mA moving-coil instrument would require 1.11mA AC for full-scale deflection. In such an AC ammeter the rectifier resistance cannot affect the accuracy, and, furthermore, the scale shape will be exactly the same as the original DC instrument. No calibration is necessary if the DC

instrument itself can be relied upon.

To sum up, the golden rules to be observed in converting a moving-coil instrument to read correctly on AC are as follow:—

- (a) Think in terms of current.
- (b) Connect the rectifier directly to the moving coil.
- (c) Use series resistances on the AC side of the rectifier for voltage ranges from 10 volts upwards.
- (d) Use a voltage transformer for voltage ranges below 10 volts.
- (e) Use a current transformer for current ranges other than that given by direct connection to the rectifier.

Thus, the calculation mentioned by your contributor becomes a simple multiplication by 1.11, and the question of individual selection and testing of rectifiers does not arise, as variations in the rectifier resistance cannot affect the meter reading.

A. H. B. WALKER.

Edgware, Middx.

[W. H. Cazaly writes: Mr. Walker's remarks are perfectly sound, and I am much obliged to him for making so clear certain points that might be misleading to readers. As far as voltage ranges—with which my article did not deal—are concerned, his methods are well known and easy to apply except when using rectifiers at low voltages, when deflections cease to be linear functions of the applied PD owing to the lower bend in rectifier characteristics. However, I think he will agree that "any old rectifier" cannot be relied upon to give desired results with the use solely of the simple and theoretically correct calculations he outlines. Surely it is necessary either to purchase rectifiers of known and suitable properties, or to find out something about the rectifiers that are available and have to be used and to select those that have the required characteristics. On current ranges Mr. Walker rightly advocates the use of instrument transformers in preference to resistance shunt networks, which, although quite practical, are a little complicated and may demand the use of more than one

scale on the meter. But it is not easy to design an instrument transformer on paper that will have the precise characteristics required, even when all the factors involved in the transference of energy from the primary to the secondary are known, and it is more difficult to construct such a transformer in the average workshop in a manner that will ensure its theoretical characteristics being realised in practice. An AC meter has to be regarded as a DC meter plus rectifier and transformer, and to test it for overall performance, as is required in calibration, a known test AC must be passed through the instrument as a whole. My device enables the magnitude of such a test current to be ascertained without the use of standard AC meters, which are rather expensive and seldom found in the average workshop.—ED.]

**"Those New Sets"**

BY now there must be tens of thousands of men in all branches of the Services who daily come in contact with radio apparatus containing between 30 and 60 valves. These men have become accustomed to using complicated gear so long as its controls are not "difficult"; and furthermore they have become accustomed to the superlative performance obtainable by using a few more "innards."

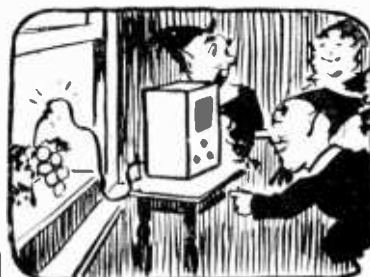
Whilst not advocating anything quite so advanced in either scope or price for broadcast reception, I would earnestly entreat all manufacturers to ponder awhile before inflicting their post-war programme of five-valve radiograms on 'all and sundry.

Price was never a deciding factor in the purchase of more ambitious radio equipment, but the majority of folk were a trifle scared at the hint of anything with valves running into double figures. This was the major problem I found in television receivers, but I feel the argument no longer holds water.

Now they are starting with a clean slate is it too much to hope for that at last we may get out of the rut of the basic super-hot FC-IF-D-AF-O?

G. KEATING.

Earley, Berks.



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# UNBIASED

## A Great Opportunity

IT is with many misgivings that I read that the electrical industry is making plans to flood our homes with a torrent of domestic appliances of all types to make up for the six years during which the factories have been otherwise engaged. The reason for my misgivings is that in the absence of any legislation to check it there is bound to be a big increase in man-made static. No doubt the more reputable manufacturers will see to it that their products are properly "suppressed," but there are certain to be many firms of the other sort whose apparatus needs suppressing in more senses than one.

At the same time there is, to my mind, an even greater bugbear to pleasurable wireless listening than man-made interference, and that is the annoyance caused by the over-loud loudspeaker bellowing out its stuff next door. Usually the blame is laid on the owners of the offending loudspeakers, but to my mind the radio industry itself is largely, if indirectly, responsible for this particular curse and the curses it calls forth.

The trouble is not always due to thoughtlessness or to indifference to other people's feelings on the part of the set users. It is due to the simple fact, which music lovers must accept whether they like it or not, that most people use their wireless set, for fully 50 per cent. of their listening time, as a background for other activities in the house. This particularly applies to women, who are round and about the house more than their menfolk.



Noisy loudspeakers.

Since they are not always in the same room as the LS, but are, during part of the day at any rate, moving about here and there in the house, they turn the volume up to a very high level so that they can

By

## FREE GRID

hear it wherever they may be. If it so happens that they are actually "listening" to an item as distinct from using it as a background they will turn the wick up higher still.

The remedy for this state of affairs is simple: namely, to have two or three extension loudspeakers placed at strategic points in the house so that complete "coverage" is given at relatively low volume. It is no use the radio industry merely trying to sell an extra loudspeaker or two and leaving the wretched buyer to trail untidy extension wires through the house and to do his own matching of the LS to the output of the set.

I contend that it is up to the wireless dealer to sell not merely loudspeakers but to sell the idea of "she shall have music wherever she goes" to the average housewife, and having sold the idea, to carry it into effect by examining the premises, choosing the correct strategic positions for the loudspeakers and then putting the LS outlets on the skirting boards as neatly as an electrical contractor would put a power outlet.

Right now, when plans are afoot for all the new houses, is the time to get ahead with this idea and insist that LS outlets be installed at the same time as the ordinary power outlets. This would soon cure the noisy loudspeaker menace as well as increasing both the enjoyment of the listener and the bank balance of the wireless dealer and manufacturer to the mutual satisfaction of all concerned.

## Alice in Blunderland

THE passion of scientific folk for mottoes from the classics which they profess to scorn is about on a par with the fascination which royal and other titles have for many Americans, and "Diallist" does well to tilt at this little idiosyncrasy as well as at the amazing habit which the scientific motto fans have of departing wildly from that correctness and exactitude which is supposed to be the be-all and end-all of their existence.

Writing recently in the lay Press on the subject of radar, one of them gave a very graphic account of fly-

ing blind over Brussels and accurately pin-pointing the position of the Cathedral in that city, quite regardless of the fact that no bishop has his seat in the Belgian capital.

The whole trouble is, of course, that the average scientist thinks that an outside in churches means a Cathedral, and I have no doubt at all that in this particular instance the writer pin-pointed the massive bulk of the Church of St. Gudule and promptly did what he and his colleagues are always deprecating: namely, he jumped to an obvious but false conclusion. No doubt a bishop would put his foot in it equally as much if he started discussing radar. In fact, it seems to be a failing of all us mortals to be unable to preserve a discreet and tactful reticence when dealing with subjects a little outside our ken.



Blood-curdling details in 1910.

In all fairness to the scientists, however, I must point out that they are not, by a long way, the worst offenders in this Alice-in-Blunderland business. As I have often pointed out, the palm is held easily by the B.B.C. chiefly when dealing with matters of history as shown in their various scrapbooks. I may say that, writing before the event, I am expecting the B.B.C. to excel itself in the Dr. Crippen broadcast which will have taken place a few days before you read these remarks.

The Crippen case is of special interest to all readers of *Wireless World*, since wireless played so prominent a part in the arrest of the unfortunate and misguided little doctor. I will gladly provide the producer with a new and personally autographed bowler hat if he has managed to get all the details correct, more especially the wireless ones. It is much more important to do this than to set out to give blood-curdling and inaccurate details, as I well recollect the newspapers did in those far-off days before de Forrest put a grid into Fleming's diode.

I am thinking of awarding another bowler hat for the tallest radar story. So far, the winner is the author of the amazing episode of the detection by radar, from a submarine, of a shoal of jellyfish.

# WORLD OF WIRELESS

## FM FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS

THE Federal Communications Commission has finally decided upon its recommendation for the frequency allocations in the 44-108 Mc/s band. It will be recalled that this band was not assigned until the results of FM tests to determine sporadic E interference were known.

The primary concern in the allocations in this portion of the spectrum was FM as this service is not assigned frequencies in any other band, whereas the other services for which provision is made have other allocations.

Of the three FM bands proposed, 50-68, 68-86 and 84-102 Mc/s, the second was dismissed as "completely unfeasible." The primary objection to the first was the amount of sky-wave interference. The F.C.C. report states that "interference among 50 kW FM stations at 58 Mc/s from sporadic E transmissions . . . might be expected for 140 to 480 hours per year at the 50 microvolt contour from stations 900 and 1,000 miles distant." It is pointed out that this interference would be concentrated in two or three summer months. In contrast at 84 Mc/s interference under these conditions "would be anticipated for only 6.5-25.5 hours per year."

The final allocations are:—

**FM**—educational 88-92 Mc/s, commercial 92-106 Mc/s.

**Facsimile**—106-108 Mc/s.\*

**Television**—44-50, 54-72 and 76-88 Mc/s.

**Non-Government**—42-44 and 72-76 Mc/s.

**Amateurs**—50-54 Mc/s.

\* This will eventually be occupied by FM when facsimile uses a higher frequency.

During the F.C.C. investigation considerable emphasis was placed on the hardship to the 400,000 owners of sets covering the old FM band of 42-50 Mc/s. It has, therefore, been decided to permit "interim operation" from 42-44 Mc/s.

## RADAR TRAGEDY

DURING Sir Stafford Cripps' address at the Radio Industry Council luncheon on August 31st, when he paid "tribute to the industry's outstanding contribution in the development of Radar—that great war invention," he referred to the "sad tragedy which accompanied the birth of H2S." He then recalled that it was whilst trying out the apparatus in the air that five of the small team working on it were killed in a flying accident in 1942.

Amongst those killed were "two of the most prominent engineers in the British television industry,

A. D. Blumlein and C. O. Browne, with their assistant F. Blythen."

Both Blumlein and Browne were on the staff of Electric and Musical Industries prior to being lent to the Government for research work on Radar.

C. O. Browne, who was a contributor to our sister journal, *Wireless Engineer*, was largely responsible for the E.M.I. television equipment installed at Alexandra Palace.

## AMATEUR LICENCES

IT is announced by the Radio Society of Great Britain that the G.P.O. has agreed to accept applications for radiating licences from amateurs who held Artificial Aerial Licences at the outbreak of the war. It is stressed, however, that some considerable time may elapse before licences are issued.

When making application to the Radio Branch W2/6 Engineer-in-Chief's Office (Alder House), G.P.O., London, E.C.1, applicants will be required to submit proof of their ability to send and receive the morse code. A Discharge Leave Certificate carrying testimony that the applicant served during the war in one of the recognised radio trades in one of the Services may be taken as proof of proficiency in morse.

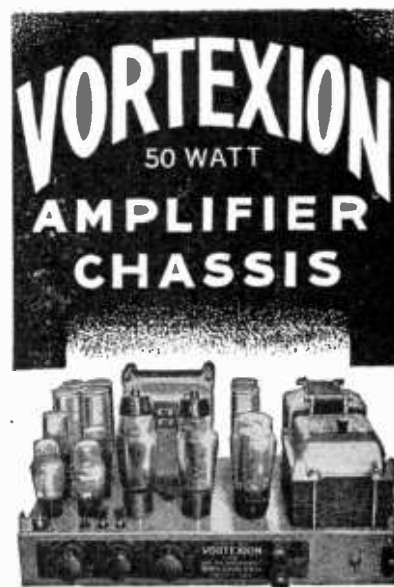
Among the trades listed by the R.S.G.B. a few months ago as likely to carry exemption are: Naval telegraphists, Fleet Air Arm air gunners and observer officers, Royal Signals wireless and line operators and R.A.F. wireless operators.

## EXPERIMENTAL B.B.C. TRANSMISSIONS

IT is known that experimental transmissions on the television sound channel, 41.5 Mc/s, have been radiated by the B.B.C. for some weeks and it is understood that FM experiments are now being conducted on 46.3 Mc/s.

On enquiry from the B.B.C. it was officially stated that "normal experiments in broadcasting on ultra-short waves are being carried out by our own Research Department from Alexandra Palace but these experiments are not intended for public reception."

A further test transmission has now been called for by the Television Development Committee of the Radio Industry Council. It has made formal application to the Government for "the immediate introduction of a still pattern picture transmission from Alexandra Palace." This, it is stated, is



The new Vortexion 50 watt amplifier is the result of over seven years' development with valves of the 6L6 type. Every part of the circuit has been carefully developed, with the result that 50 watts is obtained after the output transformer at approximately 4% total distortion. Some idea of the efficiency of the output valves can be obtained from the fact that they draw only 60 ma. per pair no load, and 160 ma. full load anode current. Separate rectifiers are employed for anode and screen and a Westinghouse for bias.

The response curve is straight from 200 to 15,000 cycles in the standard model. The low frequency response has been purposely reduced to save damage to the speakers with which it may be used, due to excessive movement of the speech coil.

A tone control is fitted, and the large eight section output transformer is available to match, 15-60-125-250 ohms. These output lines can be matched using all sections of windings, and will deliver the full response to the loud speakers with extremely low overall harmonic distortion.

PRICE (with 807, etc., type valves) £18.10.0

Plus 25% War Increase

MANY THOUSANDS ALREADY IN USE

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WIMBLEDON, S. W. 19.  
Phone: LIBERTY 2814

**World of Wireless—**

needed for training rehabilitated Servicemen in the television industry.

**VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

**T**HE Government is now putting into operation the plans for the provision of free vocational training courses with maintenance allowances to assist in the resettlement of men and women who have been in the Forces or other work of national importance.

The Vocational Training Scheme aims at providing intensive instruction in order to help men and women whose careers have been interrupted to acquire a degree of skill which will enable them to reach craft status in the shortest possible time. Among the 20 or more occupations for which training schemes have been prepared is one for "radio servicing."

General information relating to the scheme is given in a leaflet (P.L.156) which is available to members of H.M. Forces through Service channels and through local offices of the Ministry of Labour.

**ANTIPODEAN ANNIVERSARY**

**T**WENTY-ONE years ago this month two-way radio-communication between this country and New Zealand was achieved by C. W. Goyder, who was then still at Mill Hill School, London.

Goyder, who is now Chief Engineer of All-India Radio, was operating with the call G2SZ and exchanged signals with Z4AA at Palmerston South on the morning of October 18th, 1924. The transmitters, operating on wavelengths around 100 metres, used powers of between 100 and 150 watts.

**PORTUGUESE RADIO CONTRACT**

**A** COMPLETE system of radio communications in the Portuguese East African colony of Mozambique is to be established at a cost of approximately £120,000 by Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company under the first important civil radio contract to be placed since the end of the European war.

Twelve short-wave telegraph-telephone stations will be erected under the supervision of British engineers at key points throughout the colony, which has an area of 260,000 square miles.

Three main stations equipped with high-speed telegraphy transmitting and recording apparatus are to be erected at Lourenco Marques, Beira and Nampula. The first two stations will also have telephone terminal equipment linked with the colony's internal telephone system.

**COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING**

**E**UROPE'S first post-war commercial broadcasting station is expected to start transmitting in October. Working on a wavelength of 416.5 metres, with a power of 60 kW, the station, Radio Andorra, is situated in the Republic of that name in the Pyrenees.

It will be operated by Empire Overseas Radio, a British company, and the programmes will be in French and Spanish. Coverage is not planned to include Great Britain at present.

**NEW FERRANTI RECEIVER**

**D**ESIGNED to cover short waves from 16.7 to 52 metres in addition to the usual medium- and long-wave ranges, this four-valve (plus rectifier) superheterodyne is the first domestic broadcast receiver to be produced by Ferranti since 1939. It is housed in a moulded bakelite cabinet and has a pentode output valve rated to deliver 4 watts. There



First post-war broadcast set.

is provision for an extension loud-speaker and gramophone pick-up sockets are also fitted. The price is £15 (purchase tax extra) and distribution will be through members of the Radio Wholesalers' Federation.

**POINT OF VIEW**

**I**T is difficult not to feel a bit sceptical about the extent of these changes [in B.B.C. organisation]. The new Light programme is obviously the old General Forces programme on a different wavelength, and in a centralised country such as this, so overwhelmingly much of the programme material necessarily comes from London that the independence of the regions cannot go very far. Moreover, all the programmes will suffer from the basic defects of a State-owned monopoly

—its shortage of funds, its sensitiveness to political pressure, its insensitiveness to listener preferences, its concentration on avoiding giving offence rather than on positively pleasing.

"These things will not be remedied until there is competition—in the same places, at the same times, in the same sorts of programme—between wholly separate organisations which stand to gain or lose by whether they please or bore."—*The Economist*, July 28th.

**PERSONALITIES**

**Thomas Kirkham** has resigned his position as Managing Director of Ericsson Telephones which he has held for fourteen years. He is succeeded by **Air Comdre. Hugh Leedham, C.B., O.B.E.**, who has been Director of Radio Research and Development, M.A.P. He was created a C.B. in 1942.

**W. F. Taylor**, who has been with the Telegraph Condenser Company for twenty years, has joined the Board of Directors. He will continue in his present capacity as Sales Manager of the Company's various sales divisions.

**Dr. R. C. G. Williams** has been appointed General Manager of the new Electronics Division of Murphy Radio; his deputy is **K. S. Davies**. The Division is responsible for research, manufacture and distribution of "electronic devices other than radio broadcasting."

**G. Bernard Baker** has been appointed head of all radio broadcasting research and development in Murphy's.

**A. A. Kift** has retired from Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co. after 43 years' service. During the last twenty years he has successively held the positions of Sales Manager, Assistant Engineer-in-Chief and Contracts Manager.

**C. G. Carlton**, who for over four years before the war was Publicity Manager of McMichael Radio, has been appointed to a similar position with our Publishers, Associated Hiffe Press.

**IN BRIEF**

**I.R.E. Growth.**—The Annual Report of the Secretary of the U.S. Institute of Radio Engineers shows that the membership has increased by some 2,000, bringing the total to 13,137. Of the total membership 11.7 per cent. reside outside the United States. The increased membership in Great Britain was largely responsible for the addition of 111 members in Europe.

**Admission of non-members** to technical meetings of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, permitted under an arrangement introduced in 1943, is to continue. Those "who may consider that their technical experience and educational attainments do not suffice to admit them to any form of Institution membership" will, on completing the application form and payment of ten shillings, receive an invitation to the coming session's meetings.

**The greatest station construction**

boom in the history of broadcasting is foreseen in the U.S. when, on October 7th, the Federal Communications Commission starts issuing licences to the hundreds of applicants whose applications have been shelved during the war. According to *Broadcasting*, pending applications include 486 for commercial FM stations, 180 for commercial AM; 125 for commercial television and 25 for educational stations.

Opened on September 1st, the new direct radio-telephone circuit between Canada and Barbados, B.W.I., is operated by the Canadian Marconi Company and Cable and Wireless (West Indies). A radio-telephone service has also been opened between Barbados and Georgetown, British Guiana.

**Canada Calling.**—Regular transmissions to Europe in five languages, English, French, Dutch, Czech and German, are now radiated daily from 1100-2300 GMT from the Canadian international short-wave station at Sackville, N.K. Transmissions between 1100 and 2015 are radiated by CHTA on 15.22 Mc/s (19.71 metres) and from 2015-2300 by CHOL on 11.72 Mc/s (25.60 metres).

**RF Heating on Show.**—An exhibition of Radio Heating, conducted by Rediffusion, Ltd., for the benefit of industrial users of this equipment, is now being held at Dorland Hall, Lower Regent Street, London, S.W.1, and will remain open until September 28th.

**MEETINGS**

**Institute of Physics.**

*Electronics Group.*—"Recent work on the Theory of the Latent Image," by Prof. N. F. Mott, Bristol University, on October 23rd, at 5.30 in the Reid-Knox Hall, British Institute of Radiology, 32, Welbeck Street, London, W.1.

**British Kinematograph Society**

*Theatre Division.*—"Electronics and the Cinema"—II, by Geoffrey Parr, on October 21st at 11.0 in the G.B. Theatre, Film House, Wardour Street, London, W.1. Tickets obtainable from 2, Dean Street, W.1.

**INDUSTRIAL ENQUIRIES**

Exporters are invited to get into touch with a South African firm interested in direct import of broadcast receivers.

A firm in Finland wishes to hear from British wireless manufacturers not at present represented in that country.

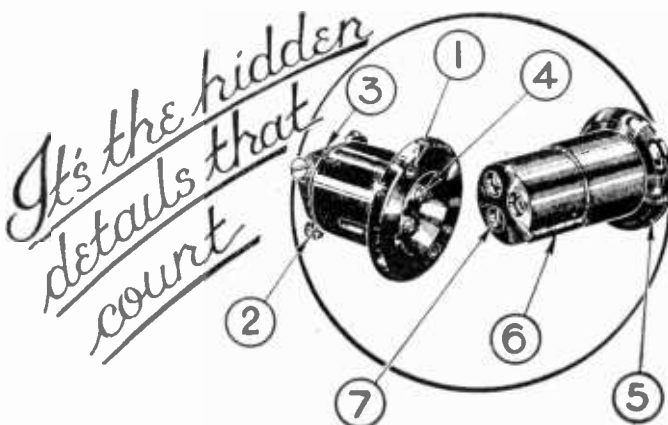
An electrical firm in Madeira wishes to import British radio and electrical appliances.

British manufacturers of broadcast receivers and domestic electrical goods are invited to write to an importer in Cyprus.

A wireless firm in Brazil is interested in British broadcast receivers.

(Letters for the above enquirers, sent c/o The Editor, will be forwarded.)

A *Wireless World* correspondent, writing from Argentina, states that local factories are assembling broadcast receivers, and that there is a market for British components and accessories.



R.C.M.F. Standard Radio and light Electrical 3-pole or 2-pole + E. Connectors for removably joining mains leads to apparatus. Reg. Design No. 756088.

- 1.—Two-hole fixing (6BA @ 1 3/2" crs.) for apparatus-member, with flange outside.
- 2.—Terminals accept up to 1 x 16 s.w.g. (or equivalent flexible), firmly clamping connections.
- 3.—Adequate insulation between terminals and over surfaces providing excellent creep distances.
- 4.—Male contactor pins in apparatus-member (hence "plug") sunk below surface against accidental damage and intended to be wired 'dead' as normal for an 'inlet' member.
- 5.—Flex member or socket provided with large mushroom head for easy extraction and adequate internal space for gripping cord, with screw terminals accepting up to 23 x 36 s.w.g. per pole.
- 6.—Locating key which co-operates with slot, in plug member and polarizes the connections.
- 7.—Recessed sockets of live member (hence "socket") avoids accidental short circuit. Contact dimensions to R.C.M.F. standard for Radio Mains Connectors for 250 volts a.c. or d.c. 3 amp. max., or up to 6 amp. at lower voltages.

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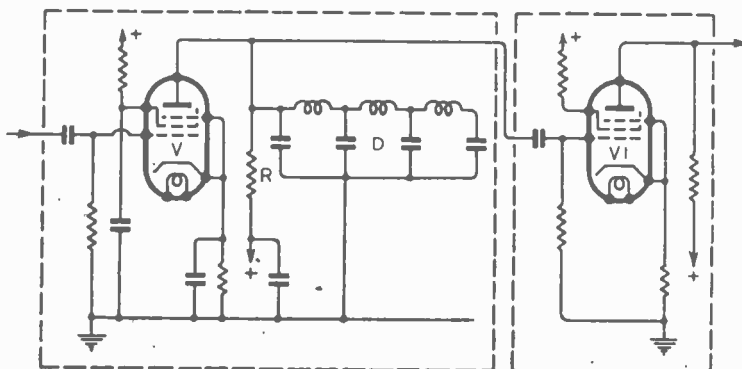
Telephone : RlPpleway 3474 (5 lines)

# RECENT INVENTIONS

## PULSED SIGNALS

THE drawing shows an amplifier which is designed to favour the passage of non-sinusoidal signal pulses, transmitted at a definite repetition frequency, and to attenuate all other frequencies, thus ensuring a high signal-to-noise ratio.

A delay circuit D, of the open-ended transmission line type, is shunted across the output resistance R of the first valve V. The time constant of the shunt is such that it serves to reflect and build up voltages of the fundamental signal frequency, and its harmonics. It therefore presents a much higher impedance to them, when looked at from the anode of the valve V, than it does to any interfering fre-



Pulse filter circuit.

quencies. The pulsed signals are thus passed on at full strength to the grid of the second amplifier V<sub>1</sub>, whilst all others are largely attenuated in the shunt circuit.

*Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Ltd. (assignees of T. T. Eaton and D. G. C. Luck). Convention date (U.S.A.) September 11th, 1942. No. 568240.*

## HEARING AID

FOR frequencies below, say, 1,000 cycles a second, the directional or stereophonic effect in hearing is attributed to the time interval that elapses between the arrival of the same sound in one ear and the other, whilst for higher frequencies it is caused by a difference in intensity due to the acoustic shadow cast by the head. The two effects merge at different levels of frequency with different people, but both involve the independent use of each ear at substantially the same degree of sensitivity.

To meet these requirements in a hearing appliance for the deaf, a separate microphone-and-telephone set is provided for each ear, the two fittings being differently shaped so that the one for the right ear cannot be inadvertently applied to the left ear and vice-versa. The amplifying channel of each set in-

## A Selection of the More Interesting Radio Developments

cludes volume and frequency-response controls, which are pre-set by an expert for each particular patient. In addition, there is an overall volume control which affects both sound channels simultaneously and is operated, as desired, by the wearer.

*Murphy Radio, Ltd.; G. B. Baker; and J. H. Balean. Application date August 24th, 1943. No. 568027.*

lator is not sufficiently free from CW leakage for the purpose in view, it is replaced, according to the invention, by a "mechanical" arrangement based on the well-known principle of the radio-goniometer. If the carrier frequency  $f_1$  is fed to the fixed coils, and the search coil is rotated at the modulation frequency  $f_2$ , and the coupling between the two sets of coils is proportional to the cosine of the angle between them, then the output from the search-coil will contain the frequencies  $(f_1 + f_2)$  and  $(f_1 - f_2)$ , but neither of the frequencies  $f_1$  or  $f_2$  alone.

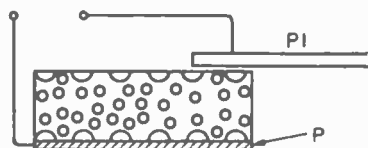
When the modulation frequency is too high for the search-coil to be rotated at the fundamental, the stationary coil is made in the form of a transmission-line loop, in which the carrier frequency builds up into a number of stationary waves, each influencing the search-coil in the course of a single rotation.

*Standard Telephones and Cables, Ltd., and C. W. Earp. Application date February 23rd, 1940. No. 567967.*

## VARIABLE CONDENSERS

A UNIFORM mixture of small conducting particles in a solid dielectric is used to make a type of variable condenser. As shown diagrammatically, the particles form a line of small condensers, arranged in series between the fixed lower plate P and an upper movable plate P<sub>1</sub>, more of the "series" lines being brought into parallel as the two plates increase their overlap.

Metal or carbon particles, about 40 microns in size, are mixed with a ceramic material, such as titanium oxide, which is then moulded under heat. To ensure adequate isolation of the particles, the volume of the dielectric should be twice that of the metal or carbon. The mouldings can be shaped to give any desired law of



Composite dielectric condenser.

capacity change. For a rectangular slab the width should be about twenty times the thickness. One specified use of the composition is for making small trimming condensers.

*The Mullard Radio Valve Co., Ltd., and C. L. Richards. Application date June 25th, 1943. No. 567597.*

## SCREENING AMPLIFIERS

THE screening can and the deposited film of metal both tend to reflect heat back into the valve. With amplifiers of small dimensions, as used for very high frequencies, the resulting temperature may become excessive.

According to the invention, a protective layer of graphite, mixed with a suitable binder, is interposed between the glass bulb and the screening can or metal film. The graphite, when in close contact with both surfaces, is said to combine the property of good thermal conductivity with a high coefficient of absorption for radiant heat, so that it assists the outward flow of heat from the valve to the screen and absorbs the heat that would otherwise be reflected back into the valve.

*G. Liebmann and Cathodeon, Ltd. Application date October 29th, 1942. No. 567971.*

## RADIO BEACONS

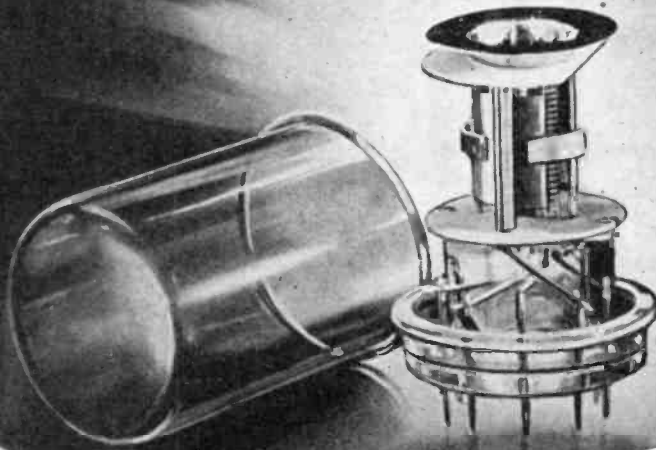
IN a blind-landing system of the kind in which the path of descent is marked out by suitably modulating "offset" lobes of radiation, a clear-cut indication is secured by transmitting, from at least one of the directive aeri-als, signal sidebands that are free from any carrier wave.

As the ordinary balanced-valve modu-

The British abstracts published here are prepared with the permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office, from specifications obtainable at the Patent Office, 25, Southampton Buildings, London, W.C.2, price 1/- each.



# The MULLARD *all-glass technique*



By a complete departure from the conventional form of valve construction, Mullard have effectively reduced the losses due to H.F. resistance, inductance and capacity effects within the valve itself and in the leads coming from the electrodes. The all-glass technique makes use of an almost flat circular glass pressing for the base of the valve, into which short pins are sealed, the electrodes being welded directly to the pins. By thus reducing the length of the lead-out connections, considerably improved efficiency at the higher radio frequencies has been achieved.

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OF THE  
MULLARD  
LABORATORIES

Rate 6/- for 3 lines or less and 3/- for every additional line for part (inserted), average lines 5-6 words. Box Numbers 2 words, plus 1/- per Press Day; November, 1945, issue, first post Wednesday, October 10th. No responsibility accepted for errors.

### NEW RECEIVERS AND AMPLIFIERS P. RADIO SERVICES, Ltd., offer:-

NEW ac 4v receivers, £12/3/4; new 4v battery sets, £10/19; may we register your name for a new Pye, Ekco, Cosmor, etc., for supply when available; 5w ac/dc amplifier with valves, neat chassis construction, £6/10; Rothermel crystal pickups, 78/9; home battery chargers, output 12v 1 amp, £2/19/6; mains transformers, 350-0-350, 80ma 27/6; 120ma 35/-; Bryce stepdown transformers, 230/110v, 60w 30/-, 100w 35/-; 1st grade 3 core 0.3 amp line cord, 2/6 yd; volume controls, all values, 3/6, with switch 4/6; Rola 5in pm 18/6, 8in 19/6 (no trans.); Celestion 8in pm with trans 27/6, mains energised, 2,000 ohms field 36/-; Vitavox 12in pm, £26/18/6; universal output transformer, 6/6; 1,000w stepdown, 230/110v, £6/15; Bell transformers, 5/11; Meico moving coil microphones, 5sna; mike trans, 8/6; floor stand, 42/6; "B.L." 8mid 500v electrolytics, 3/1 (large stocks); vibrators, Mallory 6v 4-pin 12/-, Bulgin 6v 6-pin (self rectifying), 20/-; plug and distributor suppressors, 2/3; dynamo condensers, 2/6; telescopic aerials, side fitting, 21/-.

PURCHASE by post with confidence. Satisfaction guaranteed. All goods are brand new and latest type. Despatch same day. Postage or carriage extra under £4.

I.P. RADIO SERVICES, Ltd., 55, County Rd., Walton, Liverpool. Tel. Aintree 1445. (Estab. 1935.) [4138]

T.R.F. medium wave kit of parts, with drilled chassis and all components, condensers, etc., and circuit, nothing else to buy. £4; valves, £2/10; 5in speaker, trans., 27/6. HENRY'S, 5, Harrow Rd., Edgware Rd., W.2. COMMUNICATIONS, Ltd., "Dan".

C will have them as soon as trading conditions allow.—Remember—Dale Electronics, Ltd., 105, Bolsover St., W.1, Mus. 1023.

A NEW compact quality 6w amplifier for home use on ac mains, complete with built-in speaker and 5 valves, push-pull output; 10gns.—Chas. Britain Radio, Radio House, Wilson St., London, E.C.2. [4135]

AMPLIFIERS.—An amazing offer of brand-new Government surplus, 20w, 613a, in push pull, suitable for low impedance P.M. speakers, 50 only, definitely no more, at £8/15; carriage extra.—Cardings, 28, Dudley St., Wolverhampton. [4041]

QUALITY amplifiers, 200-250v ac, 5 watt 8½gns., 12 watt, £14; a.s.e. for fully illustrated leaflet and copy of "Design for Quality"; immediate deliveries.—J. H. Brierley (Gramophones and Recordings), Ltd., 403, Will St., Liverpool, 8, Lark Lane 1709. [3796]

HIGH quality receivers of exceptionally fine performance now being prototyped, deliveries expected to begin December. Limited supplies only; also multi-range ac/dc meter and new 1.5-300v ac/dc valve voltmeter; enquiries invited.—The Moreton Cheyne Company, B.M./R.F.M., London, W.C.1. [4038]

### RECEIVERS, AMPLIFIERS—SECOND-HAND

FOR sale, P.A. equipment:-

1 E.M.I. amplifier (230 volts, ac input) output; 2 6L6 push-pull with spare valves; complete in mahogany box with twin turntables and pick-ups and input for radio; 2 carbon mikes, one hand and one as stand; 2 ex-R.A.F. speakers, 4ft 6in long, 2ft 2in mouth, aluminium; 2 speakers, horn type, 4ft long, 1ft 10in mouth; 1 square wooden speaker; 1 flared wooden speaker, 3ft long, 3ft x 1ft 3in mouth; £65, or nearest.

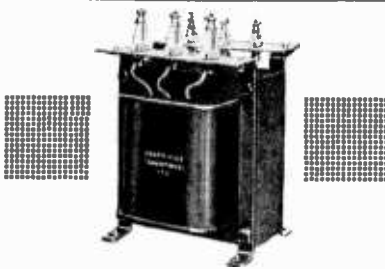
1 TRIX amplifier (230 volt ac input), output 2 d.o. 26 in push-pull with spare valves, complete in oak box with twin turntables and pick-ups (individual fading control on each gramophone); Trix carbon mike on stand, 4 ex-R.A.F. aluminium horn speakers, 4ft 6in long, 2ft 2in mouth, 2 horn speakers, 4ft long, 1ft 10in mouth; 1 square wooden speaker; 1 flared wooden speaker, 3ft long, 1ft 3in x 3ft mouth; 24-volt rotary converter for mobile use, and 24-volt batteries for 12 hours' run; £100 or nearest.

ALL the above are in actual operation at present and can be seen and tested on application. All are complete for indoor or outdoor use, speech and music, and the last two completely mobile.—Enquiries, Spalding U.D. Council, Electricity Dept., 9, Winsor Rd., Spalding. 'Phone 2838. [4063]

R.C.A. AR.88.L.F. receiver, new condition; £50, or offer.—Box 3047. [4036]

BRIAN Savage 30-watt amplifier, only used twice; £28.—Tel. Loughton 3483; [4105]

MARCONI PHONE model 288, dc. 4-valve plus rectifier, in good working order; 13gns or offer.—Box 3419. [4151]



For the past 15 years we have devoted our energies exclusively to the manufacture of Transformers and Chokes. Although we continue to be very active in the field of Research and Development, we are nevertheless giving much of our attention to increasing our range of mounting facilities.

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FOR sale, R.M.E.70 and DB20 Preselctor; £69.—Box 3053, c/o Wireless World.

HAMMARLUND Comet pro crystal model with speaker, £25 offer.—Box 3404.

WIRELESS short wave a.c. and d.c., 90-250 volts, set of spare valves, as new; offers.—Tel. Wembley 1696. [4065]

SAVAGE portable p.s. amplifier, ac, 12w output, complete with 7 valves, mic., 3 loudspeakers; £15.—Box 3151. [4063]

RADIO sets, amplifiers and radio sundries; list free; state needs.—A.C.S. Radio, 44, Widmore Rd., Bromley, Kent. [3806]

SELL, Hammarlund super Pro, 550 kc, 20 mc, 110-230v input, 12in. speaker, 16 watts output, spare valves; offer.—Box 3405.

NATIONAL H.R.O., complete 9 coils, but without power unit, unused, due to war service, except for test, offers; also Wireless Worlds." Aug. '43-July '45, inc.—Box 3054

TELEVISION receiver, complete sound and vision chassis, with 19 valves, 7,000-volt power pack, etc., but less 15in tube, £15; cabinet £5 extra.—Tanner, 22, Cole Park Rd., Twickenham, Peppergrove 5600. [4077]

SOUND SALES Fourband Super Six, new 1944, used few hours only, £29; Marconiphone car radio, 12v, £5; Magnavox Mod. 32 emer. speaker, 25/-; mains trans., 250v, 60ma, 27/6; 350, 120v 5/-.—Box 3148.

COMMUNICATION receiver, super R.M.E. C 69 with D.B. 20 unit, 14 valves, 6 watt band, covering 550kc to 32,000kc, 8 inch speaker, all in steel crinkle cabinets, cost £80; in first class condition, £70.

HALICRAFTER Sky Bubbly, 6 valves, 4 watt bands, 110 volt, with auto transformer, for 240ac, in good working order, £18. Also Rola M.E. 12 inch 15 ohms speaker, £5/15.

Wesey, 27, West St., Ashburton, Devon.

Hi-Fi amplifier with 12in speaker in infinite baffle enclosure, mike and p.u. inputs with mixer, bass and treble controls, 18watt output; £35; demonstration.—Robb, 4, Greenbank Ave., Little Sutton, Cheshire.

H.R.O. rack mounting with 7 coils and Hi power pack; also H.R.O. table model with 9 coils, power pack and 6-volt vibrator unit; what offers for either, or would consider exchange for car with cash adjustment.—Box 125, Parris, 121, Kingsway, W.C.2.

BAKERS'—New 7-valve "Wireless World" Quality amplifier with tone control stage, 8 watts push-pull triode output, price includes super Quality triple cone, 12in permanent magnet speaker, with large output transformer and all valves; also as above but with 15 watts tetrode output, ideal for realistic reproduction for public address; 2½d. stamp for particulars, prices, etc.—Bakers Selhurst Radio, Tel. Croydon 4225.

NEW MAINS EQUIPMENT

VORTEXION mains transformers, chokes, etc., are supplied to G.P.O., B.B.C., L.P.T.B.; why not you? Imitated but unequalled; orders can only be accepted against Government contracts.

VORTEXION, Ltd., 257, The Broadway, Wimbledon, London, S.W.19. Lih. 281.

NEW LOUDSPEAKERS

£5/18/6.—New Baker Super Quality 12in Auditorium permanent magnet speaker with triple cone, manufactured by Bakers Selhurst Radio, the pioneer manufacturers of moving coil speakers since 1925, wide frequency range, even response, ideal for quality reproduction, fitted with magnet, having exceptionally high flux density in the air gap, suitable for public address equipment when quality reproduction is first consideration; send 2½d. stamp for leaflet giving details of above and constructional details of a new acoustic chamber designed to extend loud speaker frequency range; also constructional details of an infinite baffle cabinet; every music lover interested in realistic reproduction should write for leaflet.

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VOIGT 1/coil twin speaker unit only; offers.—Box 3355. [4098]

B.T.H. RK Sen., 12in, 190v-250v, do field; best offer.—Box 3349. [4089]

GOODMAN'S infinite baffle speaker, perfect condition; £12.—39, Regent Rd., Stratton (Elmsbridge 2576). [4090]

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All B.V.A. valves available, also number of discontinued types; list prices; pro form or c.o.t.—David Robinson, Ltd., 100, High St., Bedford. [3421]

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SALE, res. tuned of signal generator: 440; 60ps-60k/s; lab. instrument.—Box 3353. New ac motors, 1/4hp, high starting torque. 200-250v. £5; 1/2hp, £5/10; 3/4hp, £7/10; 1hp, £9/15; all other sizes available; also machinery.—John W. Steel, Bingley, Yorks.

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**WAVEBAND I.F. Coils**, 465 K.C., neat construction, 13/6 pair.  
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TERMS: Cash with order.—H. Franks, Scientific Stores, 58, New Oxford St., W.C.1. Tel. Museum 9594. [3961]

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**COTTON-COVERED** copper instrument wire 1/2lb reels, 18, 20, 22, 24 gauges, 1/6; 26, 28 gauges, 1/9; 30, 32g, 2/-; 34g 2/3; silk covered ditto, 2oz reels, 24, 26, 28g, 1/6; 30, 32, 34, 36g, 1/9; 42g, 2/-; 18g double silk, 1lb, 5/-; B.A. thread screws, 1 gross useful sizes, 2/6; ditto, nuts, 2/6 gross; assorted gross screws and nuts, 2/6; ditto, brass washers, 1/6 gross; fibre washers, 1/6 gr; assorted solder tags, 2/- gr; assorted small eyelets and rivets, 1/6 gr; rubber-covered stranded copper wire, 1d yard; heavier quality, 1 1/2d, yd; very heavy quality, 2 1/2d, yd; ideal for aerials, earths, etc.; tinned copper connecting wire, 20ft coll, 6d; ditto, rubber covered, 10ft 6d.; finest quality push-back wire, 12 yards, 2/3; postage extra.—Post Radio Supplies, 33, Bourne Gardens, London, E.4. [3593]

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Type E. 120 ma. Ratings as type A	37/6
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Secondaries 500-0-500 volts.	
Type J. 200 ma. L.T. windings as type I	52/-
Type K. 200 ma. L.T. windings as type H	52/-
Type L. 250 ma. L.T. windings as type I	56/-
Type M. 250 ma. L.T. windings as type H	56/-
Secondaries 250-0-250 volts.	
Type N. 200 ma. L.T. windings as type H	47/6
Type O. 200 ma. L.T. windings as type I	47/6
Type P. 300 ma. L.T. windings as type H	60/-
Type Q. 300 ma. L.T. windings as type I	60/-
Secondaries 425-0-425 volts.	
Type R. 120 ma. 4v. 2a., 4v. 2 1/2a.	40/-
Type S. 120 ma. 6.5v. 5a., 6v. 2 1/2a.	40/-
Type T. 80 ma. L.T. windings as type R	35/-
Type U. 80 ma. L.T. windings as type S	35/-
Secondaries 425-0-425 volts.	
Type V. 120 ma. L.T. windings as type R	39/-


Types H to Q are provided with two L.T. windings, centre tapped.

Please note that owing to dimensions and weight of type H to Q, kindly add 2/6 for carriage and packing.  
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50 mfd. 12 volt biasing condensers	each 2/6
25 x 25 volt biasing condensers	each 2/6
.05 mfd., .02 mfd., .01 mfd. and .1 mfd., 400 volt working	1s. per doz.
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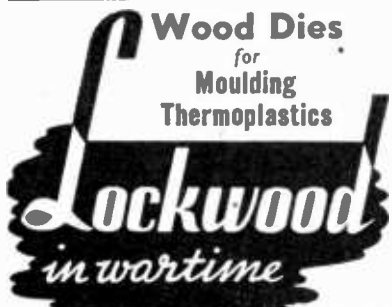
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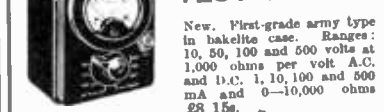
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campaigns would not have functioned. We shall be pleased to supply technical data and samples to those on essential work who have not already received them. For the present, however, the use of these capacitors is restricted to purposes laid down by the Supply Ministries.



**PAPER dielectric. Synthetic rubber end plugs. Wire end connections.**

D.C. Working Volts		Capacity Mfds.
at 71° C.	at 100° C.	
500	350	.001 to .05
350	200	.005 to .1
200	120	.05 to .1



**PAPER dielectric. Synthetic rubber-faced end discs. Wire end connections.**

D.C. Working Volts		Capacity Mfds.
at 71° C.	at 100° C.	
1000	600	.005 to .1
750	500	.02
500	350	.05 to .25
350	200	.1 to .5



**Plain foil ELECTROLYTIC. Temp. range -30° C. to +71° C. Synthetic rubber-faced end discs. Tag connections.**

Peak Working Volts		Capacity Mfds.
at 60° C.	at 71° C.	
6 to 450	6 to 350	2 to 100

(With standard intermediate voltage steps.)

(With standard intermediate capacity values.)



**Plain foil ELECTROLYTIC. Temp. range -30° C. to +71° C. Synthetic rubber end plugs. Tag connections.**

Peak Working Volts		Capacity Mfds.
at 60° C.	at 71° C.	
12 to 350	12 to 275	1 to 20

(With standard intermediate voltage steps.)

(With standard intermediate capacity values.)



**CERAMIC dielectric Synthetic rubber end plugs. Wire end connections.**

Capacity Ranges	Temperature Coefficient
10 to 1000 Mmfd.	- 800 · 10 <sup>-6</sup> per 1° C.
5 to 150 Mmfd.	+ 120 · 10 <sup>-6</sup> per 1° C.

**CONSTRUCTION:** In all of the ranges illustrated above a thin wall metal case is employed. "Metalpacks" and "Micropacks" are sealed by spinning the ends over on to synthetic rubberised discs. "Metalmites," "Picopacks" and "Metalicons" are sealed by reducing the ends on to synthetic rubber bungs, which in turn seal themselves on to the connecting wires.

The above ranges deal with Paper, Electrolytic and Ceramic capacitors; later it is hoped to offer a range known as "Micamites," which will deal with stacked Mica and Silvered Mica capacitors. These will be in flat rectangular cases following the shape of the capacitor element.

**IMPORTANT:** The proprietary names used to identify these capacitors refer exclusively to components developed and produced by T.C.C. Other products bearing similar names and not manufactured by us should not be confused with the genuine and original T.C.C. super-tropical condensers.

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## ADVERTISING Ersin Multicore ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC



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**WE look forward** in the near future, to sending once more supplies of Ersin Multicore Solder to our friends in the U.S.A. and elsewhere overseas. Ersin Multicore contains 3 cores of non-corrosive Ersin Flux and provides just that extra rapidity of fluxing action which ensures a precision standard of consistently reliable solder joints. Only a solder wire having 3 independent cores of flux, evenly distributed across the cross-section of the solder wire, can give this extra efficiency. If you make high quality electronic equipment you will wish to learn more about Ersin—the flux contained in the 3 cores. It possesses all the non-corrosive properties of best grade Rosin but is specially activated to remove surface oxides and prevent them forming during soldering processes. It separates with a speed and gentleness which previously has never been thought possible with a non-corrosive flux. Whether you buy solder by the 1-lb. or 10,000-lb. it would give us much pleasure to send you technical literature and samples of Ersin Multicore 3 Core Solder. Just send us your name and address.



**3 CORES OF FLUX** provide just the correct proportion of flux to solder. NO extra flux is required. The flux does not tend to run out of the cores: so there is always a supply available for the next joint. The utmost economy of flux and solder is achieved.

Five standard antimony free alloys are available. Ersin Multicore Solder is supplied in bulk quantities in any other tin-lead alloy to special order. Recently 45 tin and 55 lead alloy has been in most demand for electronic equipment. Colour coding of reels and packages makes different alloys instantly recognizable.

ALLOYS—Tensile Heating Points

Alloy	Composition	Heating Point
10 SWG	60% Sn, 40% Pb	190°C
15 SWG	60% Sn, 40% Pb	190°C
22 SWG	60% Sn, 40% Pb	190°C
28 SWG	60% Sn, 40% Pb	190°C
36 SWG	60% Sn, 40% Pb	190°C
44 SWG	60% Sn, 40% Pb	190°C
50 SWG	60% Sn, 40% Pb	190°C
56 SWG	60% Sn, 40% Pb	190°C
63 SWG	60% Sn, 40% Pb	190°C
70 SWG	60% Sn, 40% Pb	190°C
78 SWG	60% Sn, 40% Pb	190°C
86 SWG	60% Sn, 40% Pb	190°C
94 SWG	60% Sn, 40% Pb	190°C
100 SWG	60% Sn, 40% Pb	190°C

**GAUGES**

Ersin Multicore Solder is made in a wide range of gauges. Standard gauges supplied are 10 SWG, 22 SWG, 28 SWG, 36 SWG, 44 SWG, 50 SWG, 56 SWG, 63 SWG, 70 SWG, 78 SWG, 86 SWG, 94 SWG, 100 SWG. 10 SWG, 22 SWG, 28 SWG, 36 SWG, 44 SWG, 50 SWG, 56 SWG, 63 SWG, 70 SWG, 78 SWG, 86 SWG, 94 SWG, 100 SWG are the most widely used sizes for the production of electronic equipment.



**ERSIN THE ACTIVE NON-CORROSIVE FLUX**

Ersin which is contained in the 3 cores of Multicore Solder is a pure high grade rosin which has been subjected to a complex chemical process to increase its fluxing action to the highest possible degree without impairing in any way the well-known non-corrosive and protective properties of the original rosin. In effect, rosin as a flux suffices only as an agent to avoid oxidation during soldering, whereas Ersin will not only remove surface oxides, but also prevent their formation during the soldering operation.

**ERSIN ACTIVE NON-CORROSIVE FLUX**

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**Above** is a reproduction of a double page colour advertisement now appearing overseas in such journals as the U.S.A. "Electronics." That there is a demand for Ersin Multicore in U.S.A. is particularly interesting because the production of cored solder in North America probably exceeds that made in all other countries of the world combined. Many U.S.A. and other overseas manufacturers of high quality radio

equipment find it worthwhile to import British made Ersin Multicore Solder although freight and often duty has to be paid. Most British radio manufacturers know also that the superiority of Ersin Multicore makes it more economical to use than any other form of solder. If you are not already enjoying the advantages of Multicore, please let us know.