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PRACTICAL METHOD DEVELOPED FOR CURING NEW TVI



SIMPLIFYING THE CALCULATION OF TRANSMITTING TRIODE PERFORMANCE By E. E. SPITZER

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Simple methods of calculating transmitting triode performance are presented in this article which give results very close to published data. They are applicable to class C amplifiers both modulated and unmodulated and also to class B audio amplifiers.

Published data on transmitting | stantaneous values of grid and plate tubes show many typical operating conditions which are excellent current at the peak of the plateconditions which are excellent guides for the operation of the tubes. Conditions sometimes arise, however, which make other operat-ing conditions desirable or necessary.

Many amateurs would probably like to calculate new tube operating conditions but are deterred by the apparently formidable mathematics involved. In this article, the mathematics for the calculations of class C amplifiers are very much boiled down by eliminating one variable, the length of the plate-current pulse. For our calculations, this variable is assumed to be 140 degrees of an rf cycle, 140 degrees is a representative value for class C amplifiers. With this assumption, five simple formulas permit calculation of power output, plate loss, grid bias, grid current, and driving power.¹ The same method of calcuation is extended to class B audio amplifiers by using a plate pulse of 180°. Several examples are worked out to show clearly how the methods are used.

In the method described here, the calculations are based on the in-

that this peak occurs when the grid voltage is at its peak occurs when the gru cursion and the plate voltage is at its peak negative excursion. When these two voltages are equal, the tube has very nearly its optimum performance. This important fact is recognized in the tube characteristic curves by the inclusion of a curve labeled $E_c = E_b$. The 812-A characteristic curves shown in Figure 5 include this limiting curve. If we choose a point such as "A" on the $E_b = E_c$ curve in Figure 5, we can read directly the instantaneous plate current, the required plate and grid voltages, and then, by dropping down to point "B" on the I. family, we can also read the instantaneous grid current for the same grid voltage. All calculations are then made using these values.

Class C Operation (Telegraphy and Telephony) It is assumed that we have data on the tube including the plate-characteristics curves. It is also assumed that we want to operate at a certain value of dc plate voltage, (Continued on Page 3, Column 1)

REDUCING THE HARMONIC POWER OUTPUT OF AMATEUR TRANSMITTERS

By JOHN L. REINARTZ, W3RB RCA Tube Department

Although it is not generally realized, most amateur transmitters using but one tuned circuit in the final output stage cannot meet the FCC rule stated in Article 17, Act of 1947 with regard to the reduction of the radiation of harmonic frequencies to not less than 40 db below the output of the fundamental frequency.

This article is the first of a series on harmonic reduction which will present some practical methods of minimizing TVI at the source.

Why We Have Harmonics All tubes generate harmonic components when operated under class C conditions. Each time the grid of the tube is driven positive, a cur-rent pulse flows in the plate circuit of the tube. The current value for each of the harmonics produced depends on the angle of plate-current flow. For example, for a plate-current-flow angle of 140° the the harmonic relationships' are given in Table I.

TABLE I Equivalent Power level referred to Current. undamental (db) % of Fundamental Component Fundam Fundamental 100 Second Harmonic 69 0 -- 3.2 -- 10.3 69.4 -25.8

The voltages produced across the output circuit by these harmonic components are dependent on the magnitude of the impedances presented to each harmonic component by the tuned circuit and are dependent to a large degree on the Q of the tuned circuit.

The performance of any amplificr in a transmitter is determined by both the characteristics of the associated tuned circuit and the tube. The choice of the tube has been made easy for us by the manufacturer who has supplied us with the necessary tube characteristics and operating values. It is, therefore, only necessary to consider the rf circuit constants that should be used. C, L, and R can be of various values within rather large limits, and, if frequency were the only consideration, the capacitance could be made small and the inductance large or vice versa. The action of the reflected load resistance on the tuned tank circuit is to decrease the sharpness of tuning as its shunt value is made smaller. In actual practice, however, there is a compromise value for the three components which results in high efficiency and good harmonic suppression.

Now, the larger the value of the tuning capacitor, the smaller the (Continued on Page 2, Column 1)

EXPERIMENTAL MODEL



This one-stage rig was designed to reduce harmonic radiation and resultant television interference. Although it is not the unit described in HAM TIPS, it utilizes the same practical method discussed.

WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED



Component details which were found essential for reducing harmonic output are shown in this close-up. A plate shunt trap in upper right of photo reduces harmonic pulses generated at the plate of the 807. An absorption trap coil, center, times to the harmonic and changes the phase relation with respect to the plate tank tuning system. Cancellation of stray harmonic currents traversing the chassis is accom-plished by means of a cancellation wire shown running parallel with chassis.

HARMONIC POWER OUTPUT

(Continued from Page 1, Column 4) impedance it presents to the harmonic components in the platecurrent pulse. Consequently, the harmonic voltage produced across this capacitor is smaller. In addition, there is a larger circulating current in a larger capacitance for a given power output. It is this ratio, called Q, of the circulating volt-amperes. (rf voltage times circulating current) to the power out-



Figure 1. A single-tuned circuit.

put, that determines the harmonic power that can be passed on. The harmonic power is higher for low Q and lower for high-Q circuits.

Harmonics are suppressed to a considerable extent even by a simple tuned circuit.² For example, if the tuned tank circuit is as shown in Figure 1 where R_n and C_n are the antenna resistance and capacitance, then the db reduction of harmonics in the antenna due to the Q of the tank circuit is given in Table II.

TABLE II

HARMONIC REDUCTION in db DUE TO A SINGLE-TUNED CIRCUIT REFERRED TO FUNDAMENTAL-FREQUENCY POWER

Q	Second Harmonic	Third Harmonic	Fourth Harmonic
.5	-23.5	-32.0	-37.5
10	29.6	-38.1	-43.5
15		-41.6	-47.0
20	-33.6	-44.1	-49.6

adding these values to those given in Table 1 gives-

TABLE III

HARMONIC POWER OUTPUT in db OF TUBE AND SINGLE-TUNED CIRCUIT REFERRED TO FUNDAMENTAL. FREDUENCY POWER

	The Contract I O WER			
	Second	Third Rarmonir	Fourth Harmonic	
Q	Harmonte			
.5	-26.7		- 63.3	
10	32.8	-18.4	-69.3	
15		51.0	-72.8	
20		-51.4	-75.4	

We see from these tabulations that every time we double the O of the tuned circuit the harmonic level goes down by 6 db. For the second harmonic, however, this reduction is still insufficient to comply with the FCC rule of -40 db even when the Q of the tuned circuit is 20.

Harmonic Suppression in Double-tuned Circuit

If the circuit is doubly tuned as in Figure 2, there is an even greater reduction in harmonics as shown in Table IV.

TABLE IV HARMONIC REDUCTION in db DUE TO 2 COUPLED CIRCUITS REFERRED TO FUNDAMENTAL-FREQUENCY POWER

0	Second Harmonic		Third Harmonic	Fourth Harmonic
5		-38.2	-54.4	- 76.8
10		50.2	-67.4	- 88.8
15		-\$7.3	-75.1	- 96.2
20		-62.3	-79.4	-100.8

It can be seen from this tabulation that whenever the value of Q is doubled the harmonics are all reduced by 12 db. Another important fact that can be deduced from these tables is that it is better to have a O of say 10 in each tuned circuit of Figure 2 than to have a Q of 20 in the single tuned circuit of Figure 1. Now we can meet the FCC rule of -40 db for harmonic radiation if we use a Q of 10 or better in each of the tuned circuits. This -40-db value represents 0.01 watt for an amateur station radiating 100 watts at the fundamental frequency.

Field-Strength Considerations

Let us consider the field strength produced by an antenna. The field strength produced by a horizontal half-wave dipole" is

$E = 23 \frac{\sqrt{P}}{d}$ volts per meter,

where P is the radiated power in watts and d is the distance in feet from the radiator to the point where E is measured. This value can be considered an average value. Actually, the field strength varies with distance between a lower and higher value because of subtraction and addition of the wave reflected from the ground and the direct wave, and also because the configuration of the lobes changes with the effective length of the transmitting antenna for any particular har-

monic. The formula is useful for distances up to about 650 feet. Since the amateur is concerned with distances within this value down to say 50 feet. the above formula for field strength applies. Inversion of the formula will give the power required to produce a given field strength.

P=1880 (Ed?' microwatts, where E is in volts/meter and d is in feet.

The limiting field strength for the service area of a television transmitter is considered by the FCC to be 500 microvolts per meter in residential and rural areas. It has been determined that an interfering



A double-tuned circuit. Figure 2. ignal of 1/100 this value is not objectionable. The amateur, therefore, should not produce an interfering field greater than 5 microvolts/meter for such a service area.

Let us now find the power required to produce such a field at 500 fect.

 $P = 1880 (5 \times 10^{-6} \times 500)^2 = 0.012$ microwalls.

Compare this 0.012-microwatt value with the 0.01 watt (10000 micro-watts) which the present FCC rulings allow for harmonic radiation when the radiated fundamental output is 100 watts. A 0.01- microwatt value represents a power ratio of harmonic to fundamental values of 10⁻¹⁰ or -100 db when the power radiated at the fundamental is 100 watts. This changes to 10⁻¹¹ or

CURING 1V1 "Reduction of Harmonic Power Output in Amateur Transmitters" published in this issue of HAM TIPS is the first of a series of articles on the immortant subject by John L. is the first of a series of articles on this important subject by John L. Reinartz, W3RB, a member of the RCA Tube Department and one of the nation's best-known Radio Ama-twars. In his next article Captain Reinartz will describe further his method of attack on TV interference.

-110 db when the fundamental power is 1000 watts. These values are far more severe than the --40 db level currently required, but are what the amateur must attain if he wants to stay on good terms with the general public.

Other Methods of Reducing TVI

Because even two tuned tank circuits may fail to reduce an interfering signal to the -100 or -110 db level, other means must be found. Several good articles on the subject have appeared in amateur magazines. Mack Seybold has shown in the August 1947 issue of OST that the addition of trap circuits in the plate lead of the final class C stage will reduce the harmonic level some 40 to 50 db and if considered along with two tuned tank circuits may reach the desired -100 or -110 db level.

Harmonic Suppression

In cases where even the processes outlined above fail to reduce the interference to television reception at distances shorter than 500 feet. it will be found advantageous to resort to additional grounded trap. circuits tuned to the interfering harmonic. These trap circuits should be closely coupled to the hot end of each plate tank circuit of every stage in the transmitter. Such a system, devised by the writer, was found capable of apparently completely cancelling a harmonic. Because every rf stage in a transmitter amplifies the harmonic components present in its grid ex-(Continued on Page 3, Column 3)

IN DOUBLER SERVICE EMISSION COUNTS



It takes a lot of cathode emission to back up heavy peak plate current pulses when driving a frequency-multiplier tube for optimum gain. That's why RCA high-trans-conductance beam power tubes are preferred types for medium-power doubler and tripler service. They produce maximum plate-current swing for a given grid signal voltage. And they have the high-power filaments and heater-cathodes required to handle high peak plate-current ... with emission to spare.

SIMPLIFIED CALCULATIONS

(Continued from Page 1, Column 2) Es, and with a certain average plate current, Is. We want to know power output, Pe, grid bias, Ee, dc grid 1c current, Ie, and driving power, Pa.

First we find the peak plate current. This value is 4 times the average plate current, Ib. Then, we go to the plate-characteristics curves and on the curve Ee=Eb, we find the instantaneous plate voltage eb, and the instantaneous grid voltage e, at which we get the plate cur-rent of 4 In. With these values, together with the amplification factor, 4, obtained from the tube data, we then apply the following formulas. Power output

Po=0.86 (En-en) In (watts) (1) Plate loss

Pp=Eb Ib-Po (watts) (2)Grid bias

 $E_{e} = \left[\frac{E_{b}}{\mu} + 0.52 \frac{(\mu + 1)}{(\mu)} c_{b}\right] (volts) (3)$

(4)

(5)

(6)

Peak rf driving voltage eg=Ec+ec (volts)

To get the dc grid current, Ic, we first have to calculate $\frac{E_c}{c}$ the ratio er of the grid bias to the peak rf driving voltage and then from Figure 4 get $\frac{I_e}{i_e}$ the ratio of average grid current to the instantaneous grid current at $E_e = E_b$. The instantaneous grid current is obtained from the characteristic curves.

Then, the average grid current, $I_c = i_c \times$ (ratio $\frac{I_c}{i_c}$ from

Figure 4), (amperes)

and driving power

2 (Th) 2

 $P_d = 0.9 \times e_s \times I_c$ (watts)

The calculated power output figure as well as the published typical power output values are theoretical values of tube output which include both useful output and rf losses in the tube, in the tank circuit, and associated wiring. Useful rf power obtainable, therefore, will depend on the efficiency of the circuit and in turn upon the quality of components and circuit layout used.

The calculated value of driving power includes only the actual power input to the grid plus the power lost in the bias supply. It

.25 .20 .15 ie .10 .05 Ec Figure 4. Curve from which ratio of ic is obtained.

does not include rf losses that occur in the driver-stage tank circuit, in coupling from the driver stage, in the socket and wiring or losses in tubes caused by transit-time load-ing. The driver stage power out-put, therefore, should be substan-tially greater than the calculated value of driving power in order to provide an adequate range of adjustment for optimum transmitter performance. Example

As a check, this method may be applied to the 1500-volt ICAS Telegraphy condition given in the published data for the 812-A (Figure 6 on page 4). The given conditions are $E_b = 1500$ volts, $I_b = 173$ Ma., $\mu = 29$. The peak plate current is $4 \times 173 = 692$ ma. This value of current can be obtained at ec-eb-120 volts, as given in the plate charac-teristics, Figure 5, at point A. Power output

P.=0.86 (1500-120) 0.173 = 205 watts Plate loss Pp=1500×0.173-205 =259-205=54 watts Grid bias $\mathbf{E}_{e} = -\left[\frac{1500}{29} + 0.52 \ \frac{(30)}{(29)} \ 120\right]$ Peak rf driving voltage $e_{g} = 116 + 120 = 236$ volts and $\frac{E_e}{e_g} = \frac{116}{236} = 0.49$ 0g From Figure 4, $\frac{1}{2} = 0.175$ From the characteristic curves (Fig-

ure 5) for $e_e = e_b = 120$ volts, i.e = 220 ma. or 0.220 amp. at point "B" (Continued on Page 4, Column 1)







Amateurs everywhere look to RCA tube publications for accurate data and unques-tioned authoritativeness. For information on the material shown, see your local RCA Distributor, or write Commercial Engineering, RCA, Harrison, N. J.

HARMONIC POWER OUTPUT

(Continued from Page 2, Column 4) citation voltage, the first place to get rid of the harmonic is at the crystal oscillator plate-tank circuit. What may be left can be taken care of in subsequent stages at their respective plate tank circuits.

To prove the effectiveness of this system, a 2E26 oscillator-doubler, controlled by a 7-Mc crystal, fol-lowed by an 813 final was built having the shunt traps roughly tuned to 28 Mc and the grounded traps (tuned to the offending har-monic, approx. 28 Mc) coupled closely to each plate tank circuit.

In some cases, it may be necessary to tune one or more of these traps to the third harmonic, to obtain greater reduction of interference.

The essentials of this circuit are shown in Figure 3. A television receiver was set up ten feet away and connected to a standard 90" folded-dipole antenna through 100" of 300-ohm, twin-lead transmission line. The antenna for the transmitter was strung within 8 feet of the TVR antenna. With normal excitation to the 813 tube in the 20-meter band and with the TVR tuned to channel 2, it was possible to operate the transmitter with 100% 60-cycle modulation without undue interference to the TVR even though the transmitter was incompletely shielded in that the entire top cover of the transmitter cabinet was removed. The measured output from the 813 was adjusted to 150

watts as a convenient value for testing purposes. A cathode-ray oscilloscope was

Page 3

connected to the grid circuit of the receiver kinescope to allow further visual indication of the interference caused by the transmitter when the closely coupled grounded-trap circuits were detuned. Under such conditions the pattern on the kinescope was a maze of interference and the CRO tube showed a pattern with both rf and 60-cycle components present at the grid of the kinescope. All these patterns disappeared when the grounded plate traps were properly tuned. The shunt traps in series with the plate circuits of the two tubes needed only to be tuned to the inductive side of resonance of the un-wanted harmonic. This tuning was not critical. To obtain the results described, the grounded-trap coil should be located at the hot end of the tank coil and wound on the same form and in the same direction. Ground the trap coil at the far end, away from the tank coil.

It is realized that a complete test requires that the TVR be tuned to a television station signal in order to determine if any interference may still be present that could not be detected under the test conditions outlined above. Such tests are under, way and will be discussed in the next article of this series.

Radio Engineers Handbook, FE Terman. Fig. 86 ""L-bus and Reder", Proc. IRE., Vol. 19, pp

949-962, 1931 ³BMA publication R4-2860-A (July 1948) by W. T. Wintringham.



Figure 5. The 812-A characteristic curres.



Figure 3. Schematic of method devised to cancel transmitter harmonics.

AF POWER AMPLIFIER & MODULATOR-Class B Typical Operation Maximum Ratings, Absolute Values: 1000 1250 volta ICAS 1500 max. 175 max. 235 max. CCS -110 volta DC PLATE VOLTAGE...... MAX.-SIGNAL DC PLATE.CURRENT*....... MAX.-SIGNAL DC PLATE INPUT*....... PLATE DISSIPATION*...... -115 1250 max. 175 max. volta 3300 **** 220 115 240 140 volt ma walls DC Plate Current DC Grid Current (Approx.)..... **** 165 max. ma ma watis **** 45 may 65 may watte 33 35 7.6 130 Driving Power (Approx.)..... Power Output (Approx.)..... ----6.6 ** - * Typical Operation: watts ----.... Values are for 2 tubes RF POWER AMPLIFIER & OSC.-Class C Telegraphy 1500 volta -- 40 225 -48 270 volta Key-down conditions per tube without modulation # # **** Maximum Ratings, Absolute Values: 22 28 ••••• 100.0 260 310 70.8 ICAS CCS 1250 max. -- 200 max. 12200 ohm 1500 max. 13200 volts 3.5 watte -200 max. volta 340 watte 175 max. 175 mov ma ma 35 maa 35 max. PLATE INPUT. PLATE DISSIPATION 175 max. 260 max. ----watta PLATE-MODULATED RF POWER AMP .-- Class C Telephony 45 max. 65 max. walls Carrier conditions per tube for use with Typical Operation: a max. modulation factor of 1.0 1250 1500 volts Maximum Ratings, Absolute Values: CCS ICAS - 90 volta -120 DC PLATE VOLTAGE 1250 max. 4000 590 240 1000 max. volts 3000 ohms 530 200 DC GRID VOLTAGE DC PLATE CURRENT DC GRID CURRENT PLATE INPUT PLATE DISSIPATION -200 max. -200 max **** volte **** volts 150 max. 35 max. 125 max. ma 140 173 naa maa 35 max. 30 6.5 30 175 max. Driving Power (Approx.)..... Power Output (Approx.)..... 5.4 130 115 mex. watte watte 45 max. 30 max. watte 190 watts Averaged over any endio-frequency cycle of sine-useve form. Crid voltages are given with respect to the mid-point of filement. Grid voltages are given with respect to the mid-point of filement. # Modulation essentially negative may be used if the positive peak of the audio-frequency envelope does not exceed 115% of the currier conditions. nt operated on ac. If de is used, each stated value of grid voltage should be reduced by one-half the filament voltage Figure 6. General data for the 812-A. Then, peak plate current for two tubes $i_b = 1.57$ I_b (7) The bias required for this plate $P_{\rm p} = \frac{1}{2}(1500 \times 0.310 - 340) = 62.5$ SIMPLIFIED CALCULATIONS watts. Zero-signal plate current for current can be found from the char-(Continued from Page 3, Column 2) two tubes acteristic curves. The peak grid Therefore, the average grid current $I_c = 0.220 \times 0.175 = 0.038$ amperes At the value of is given by (7) drive per tube is then the sum of 2 x 65 we determine the peak grid voltage e. and the peak plate voltage e. on $I_b' = \frac{2 \times 65}{3 \times 1500} = 0.029$ amperes. the bias and e_e (=e_b) which was and the driving power determined for equation (8). the $E_{e} = E_{b}$ curve. $P_4 = 0.9 \times 236 \times 0.038 = 8.0$ watts The required bias for a plate cur-Peak grid-to-grid driving voltage The following formulas apply: A comparison between these calrent (per tube) of 14.5 ma. at 1500 $=e_s=2(e_c+E_c)$ (volts) (11) culated values and the published data for the 812-A is shown in Power output for two tubes. volts can be found from Figure 5 The required plate-to-plate load and is about -48 volts. $P_{\bullet}=0.78$ ($E_{\bullet}-e_{\bullet}$) I_{\bullet} (watts) (8) resistance Table 1 below. Plate loss per tube, $P_p = \frac{1}{2}(E_b I_b - P_a)$ (watts) Then from equation (11), $R_{L} = 2.6 (E_{b} - e_{b}) (ohms)$ It can be seen from this com-(12)(9) Peak grid-to-grid driving voltage parison that for practical purposes I, $e_s = 2(90 + 48) = 276$ volts. there is a satisfactory agreement be-The grid bias should be chosen The maximum-signal driving tween published and calculated From equation (12), plate-toso that at E_b, a zero-signal current power for two tubes, values flows which produces a plate displate load resistance RL- $W_d = \underline{i_e e_g}$ (watts) **Class B Operation** (13)sipation of about 1/2 the rated dis-2.6×(1500-90)=11,800 ohms sipation. Thus, if each tube is rated to dissipate P', watts, 4 (Audio Frequency) 0.310 where ie is the grid current in For class B audio operation it To get the driving power, we first amperes at the point found for may be assumed E_b and I_b are given. In this case, I_b is the plate Zero-signal plate current for two 2P' (amperes) need the peak grid current at e. = e. equation (8). =90 volts. This value is obtained tubes = $I_i =$ (10) Example current for both tubes of the pushfrom Figure 5 and is 130 ma. or 0.130 amperes. Then, driving pull amplifier. Again consider the typical oper-Calculated Values Published Data TABLE 1. (class C) ating conditions given in the pubpower for two tubes lished data for the 812-A as a class DC Plate Voltage (Es)..... DC Grid Voltage (Es)..... Peak RF Grid Voltage (eg). DC Plate Current (Is)..... DC Grid Current (Is)..... $P_4 = \frac{0.130 \times 276}{-9} = 9$ watts. 1500 B AF power amplifier in ICAS serv-ice. The data given are $E_0 = 1500V_1$ -116 4 236 173 Is=310 ma. or 0.310 amperes (2 The calculated values may now 30 ma. 6.5 watts 190 watts tubes). be compared with the 812-A pub-lished data, as shown in Table 2 Driving Power (Pd) Power Output (Pa)..... 8.0 205 Then the peak plate current isbelow. 1.57×310-487 ma. HAM TIPS is published by the RCA Tube Department, Harrison, N. J., and is made available to Amsteurs and Radio Experi-menters through RCA tube and parts distributors. From the $E_{\alpha} = E_{b}$ curve in Figure Again, the approximate calculations give results in good agreement with the published data. 5 we get 487 ma. at e_c=90 volts and H. S. STAMM, W2WCT. JOHN L. REINARTZ, W3RB. Technical Adviser ca=90 volts. Then from equations (8), (9), ³For a derivation of these formulas, refer to "Simplified Methods for Computing Per-formance of Transmitting Tubes", W. G. Wagsner, Proc. IRE., Vol. 25, No. 1, January 1937, pp 47-77. and (10), power output for two tubes P.=0.78 (1500-90) 0.310 = 340 watts. Plate loss per tube TABLE 2. (class B audio) Calculated Values Published Data DC Plate Voltage (E_b).... DC Grid Voltage (E_c).... Peak AF Grid-to-Grid Voltage (e_c).... Zero-Signal DC Plate Current (I_b).... Max.-Signal DC Plate Current (I_b).... Effective Load Resistance (Plate to Plate) (R_L)... Max.-Signal Driving Power (Plate)... Max.-Signal Power Output (P₀).... 1500 volta 1500 -48 volts 270 volts 28 ma. 310 ma. 13,200 ohms -48 276 29

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