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# Matching Speakers of Different Impedances

Connecting two or more speakers to an amplifier is fairly simple if the units have identical impedances, and all are to share the power output equally. It is a different matter, however, if the impedances are unequal and if the various speakers require unequal shares of the power.

Take the most complex case involving  $n$  speakers, each of which has a different share of the power, all to be connected to one universal output transformer. Assume that one side of each voice coil is connected to the zero tap, and that the other side is connected to some other tap.

Now, taking speaker 1, and forgetting the others for a moment, the impedance it reflects back to the primary of the transformer is  $R_L R_1/T_1$ , where  $R_L$  is the load impedance the amplifier should see,  $R_1$  is the impedance of voice coil No. 1, and  $T_1$  is the transformer tap to which the speaker is connected. This must be so, since if, for instance, we connected a 4-ohm speaker to a 2-ohm tap, the amplifier would see 4/2 or twice its correct load impedance. Similarly, speaker 2 reflects an impedance of  $R_L R_2/T_2$ , etc. All these reflected impedances in parallel form the amplifier load, and if the matching is correct the following equation is true

$$\frac{1}{R_L} = \frac{1}{R_L R_1/T_1} + \frac{1}{R_L R_2/T_2} + \dots + \frac{1}{R_L R_n/T_n} \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Simplifying, } T_1/R_1 + T_2/R_2 + \dots + T_n/R_n = 1 \quad (2)$$

The audio voltage developed across the transformer primary will be the same regardless of what is connected to the secondary, as long as the reflected impedance is the correct value, and therefore, in an ideal transformer, the voltage from any secondary tap will be constant regardless of what impedance is connected across it. For example, the voltage across a 2-ohm

tap would be the same whether a 2-ohm speaker or a 4-ohm speaker were connected across it, provided the complete speaker network presents the proper load impedance to the amplifier. Now

$$P_1 = E_1^2/R_1 \quad (3)$$

where  $P_1$  is the power desired in the speaker, and  $E_1$  is the audio voltage across the speaker. But, if we had only one speaker, then  $R_L = T_1$  and  $P_1 = P_T$  where  $P_T$  is the total power output of the amplifier.

Since  $E_1$  is the same in both cases we can write

$$P_1 = E_1^2/T_1 \quad (4)$$

Dividing (3) by (4)

$$P_1/P_T = \frac{E_1^2/R_1}{E_1^2/T_1} = T_1/R_1 \quad (5)$$

Since  $P_1 + P_2 + \dots + P_n$  must equal  $P_T$  then

$$P_1/P_T +$$

$$P_2/P_T + \dots + P_n/P_T = 1 \quad (6)$$

Substituting Eq. (5) in Eq. (2) we again obtain Eq. (6), which proves our derivation.

Rearranging Eq. (5) we obtain the simple result  $T_1 = R_1 p_1$  where  $p_1$  is per cent of power output desired in speaker 1, and finally  $T_k = R_k p_k$  for speaker  $k$ . With this equation the most complicated speaker networks can be easily set up. For instance, say we have three speakers, 4, 6, and 8 ohms. The first is to get 50 per cent of the power, and the other two 25 per cent each:

$$T_1 = 4 \times .50 = 2 \text{ ohms; } T_2 = 6 \times .25 = 1.5 \text{ ohms; } T_3 = 8 \times .25 = 2 \text{ ohms.}$$

Thus, the 4-ohm and 8-ohm speakers would be connected to the 2-ohm tap, the 6-ohm speaker to a 1.5-ohm tap, the amplifier would be loaded correctly, and each speaker would have the desired share of the power.

The transformer taps available may not correspond exactly with those calculated, of course, in which case the nearest value should be chosen.

\* By Richard W. Crane in "Electronics."

# TESTING OF AMPLIFIERS\*

(Continued from last issue)

High frequency response is determined by the shunting capacitance of the circuit, especially at the output end.

With frequency attenuation and phase distortion, each corner of a square wave is similarly affected. Increasing phase distortion will cause the

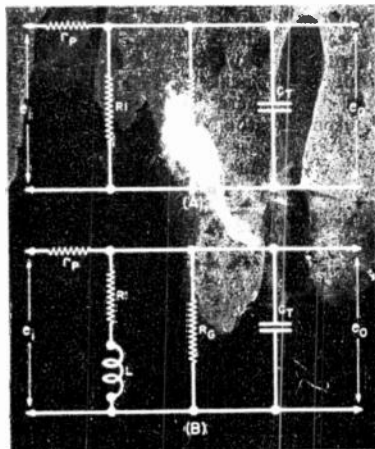


Fig. 8 Equivalent circuits at high frequencies for a resistance-coupled amplifier. (A) Uncompensated. (B) Compensated.

capacitance shunting the load resistor  $R_L$ . An equivalent circuit is drawn in Fig. 8, and all the shunting capacitance is grouped together and denoted by  $C_0$ . Analysis shows that the greater portion of  $C_0$  is due to the inter-electrode capacitances of the input and output tubes, with the remainder added by the wiring of the circuit. The latter can usually be decreased very easily, while the former is taken care of by using tubes carefully designed for low inter-electrode capacitances.

To test the network response, the repetition frequency of the square-wave generator is turned up to somewhere between 1000 and 2000 cycles and fed into the amplifier. Two output square wave waves are shown in Figs. 9A and 9B along with the frequency response curves of the amplifiers tested. Inspection of the oscillograms shows

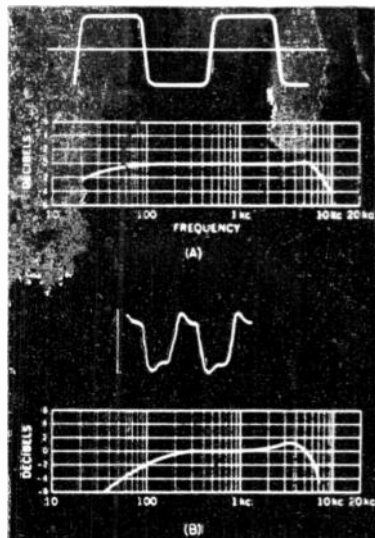


Fig. 9. Fidelity curves and wave shapes showing the attenuation at the high frequencies. (A) No phase distortion. (B) With phase distortion.

square wave to assume an asymmetrical shape. Fig. 10 is a good picture of a square wave passed through an amplifier that had excessive phase distortion.



Fig. 10. Wave showing excessive phase and frequency distortion at high frequencies.

tion with some frequency distortion. Many times both appear simultaneously and are easily separated. This need cause little concern, since correct-

\* By John Williams in "Radio News."

ing one type of distortion well, in general, also corrects most of the others.

One way to widen the flat portion of response curves of resistance-coupled amplifiers is to add a small amount of inductance (usually about 1 mh.) in series with the load resistor  $R_L$ . (See Fig. 3B.) This tends to form a resonant circuit with  $C_{in}$  and hence, neutralize the inductive reactance. If the circuit constants are chosen cor-

rectly, the distortion is not only eliminated, but extends to wide range audio amplifiers. The response of R.F. and I.F. amplifiers can likewise be examined to determine if any general method is used by the circuit. Many generators used by the experimenter have provision for external audio modulation. Instead of the ordinary sine-wave modulation, square-wave modulation can be used. The ordinary amplitude modulation of the generator of A.F. and I.F. fre-

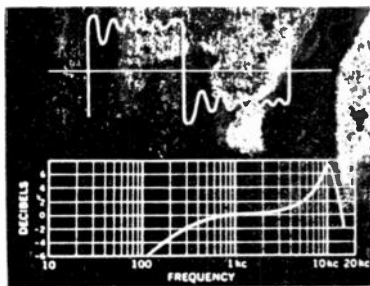


Fig. 11. Fidelity curve and wave shape of output signal showing excess gain at high frequencies and a pronounced underdamping.

rectly, this neutralization will occur at the high frequencies. For those who desire more information, references at the end will furnish the desired formulas.

Transformer-coupled amplifiers are sometimes troubled with a sudden rise in gain at the high frequencies due to the resonant circuit formed by the secondary winding and the distributed capacitance of the turns of wire. In Fig. 11, we have the pattern obtained when a square wave is passed through such an amplifier. The oscillations here are plainly visible. These oscillations can be stopped by sufficient damping of the circuit. A resistor across the secondary winding of the transformer corrects the undesired results very nicely.

Without going into too much detail, a great deal of which would be repetitions, output patterns of square waves at the high end are shown in Fig. 12. Each type is explained by its associated captions.

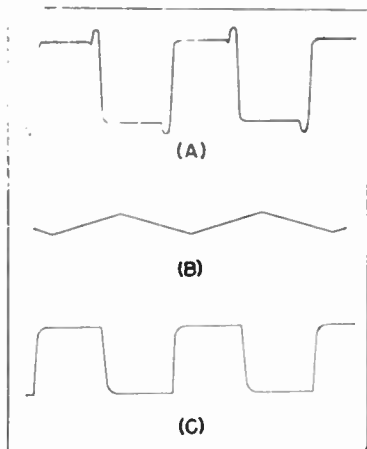
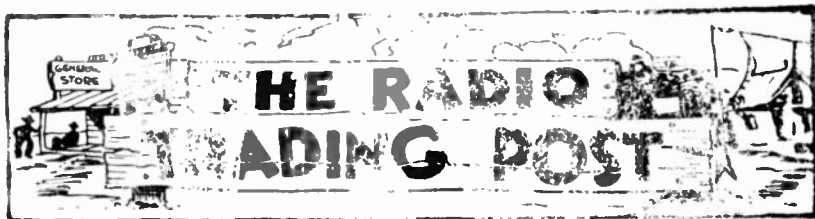


Fig. 12. Unusual output wave shapes obtained from faulty amplifiers. (A) Shows good high frequency response; however, with slight underdamping of oscillations. (B) Both the low and high frequency response of the amplifier are unsatisfactory. (C) Shows some attenuation of high frequencies and large phase distortion.

quencies. The instrument can then be used in the regular way for testing. For example, the generator could be connected to the plate of an I.F. tube through a .1- $\mu$ f. condenser and the output across the diode detector analyzed. Then the generator could be shifted to the grid of the I.F. tube in the receiver, and again pick up the output from the diode detector. Any departure will indicate distortion and can be accordingly corrected.

One precaution must be observed in using an ordinary oscilloscope for re-

(Continued on page 14)



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**WANTED**—Portable typewriter camera and camera equipment (still and motion) record player, binoculars.  
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**FOR SALE**—25 w. P.A. amplifier good condition w/2 mike and 1 phone input. Have Ampente PGH chrome dynamic mike w/ new type unit, chrome floor stand. Low price. C. W. Schechter, Scenic Drive, Rt. 2, Muskegon, Mich.

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**WANTED**—Senior Model 1280 combination tester with cover. State condition and lowest price. Delbert Shaffner Deepwater Missouri.

**WANTED**—G.E. IFM-90 FM converter; Hallicrafters S-29 communications receiver, radio test equipment. George G. Chandler, Assoc. Fna USN, P.O. Box 73 Back Bay Sta. Boston 17 Mass.

**URGENTLY NEEDED** for WERS use—National one ten receiver. State condition and price in first letter. C. W. Schechter, Scenic Drive Rt. 2 Muskegon Mich.

**FOR SALE**—A Model K Presio in order type 4A cutting head built in playback, DB meter, cuts up to 12" records, in perfect condition, 34 1/4" r.p.m. \$90.00 V. Howerdell, 102 Hancock Ave., Jersey City N. J.

**FOR SALE**—Decca auto radio with separate loud speaker, good operation, \$20 RCA station allocator new 2% battery charger, new rectifier 4 amper \$12 Paul Caplan, 21 St. Francis Ave.

**WANTED**—Experienced electrician with car (and best equipment desirable but not essential) can use for equipment, tubes, small radios in my collection. Riders, 1400 Madison Ave., 1829 E. 14th Ave., Jamaica, N. Y. Jamaica 2-2000.

**FOR SALE**—F. of Emory 150T and 150T instrument transformer for same. Also later unused, and original cases. Will sell at 1/2 off. Joseph L. Wyckoff, 100 Rugby St., Philadelphia 19, Pa.

**FOR SALE**—Hickok OS7 oscillator, 1000 cycles, output meter self-contained, and operated, portable carrying case, cost \$55.00 takes it G. E. phono induction motor, heavy duty, variable speed. New Radio Service 4923 Henderson St., Chicago, 41, Illinois.

**WANTED**—Any quantity of the following tubes, must be perfect and boxed. 1R5, 7B7, 7A8, 5Y3, also 12SA7, 12A8, 12K8, 12SO7, 12SK7, 35Z4, 35Z5, 50Y6, 50Z7, 45Z5, 12S17, 12K7, all 117 v. tubes. Details and prices to Leo Stein, 114 East 3rd St. Mt. Vernon, N. Y.

**FOR SALE**—1 RCP, Model 411 supertester \$12.00. 1 Weston Model 565, 3 meter set analyzer. Both in good operating condition, make offer. Victor H. Berger, 300 Grandview Ave., Gordon Heights, Wilmington, Delaware.

**WANTED**—Supreme Analyzer Model 585 Rider's Manuals 1-8, oscillators, d.c. milliamperes meters 0-100. Will Sell or Swap 4 Majestic 90c chassis and pwr. pks., Brunswick radio chassis super 9 tube jobs, all in playing condition Louis A. Goldstone, 1279 Sheridan Ave., Bronx 56 New York City.

**FOR SALE**—LoqLog decating slide rule, Keuffel & Esser model 4091-3 complete with leather-liner case and manual of instruction. Dexter Kurs, 4525-45 St., Long Island City 4, New York.

**WANTED**—Automatic record changing, record player unit. Prefer Garrard or Capehart State make, model, condition and cash price. Dexter Kurs, 4525-45 St., Long Island City 4, New York.

**FOR SALE**—One Supreme No. 85 tube checker with adapters \$20; a.c. volt meter W. E. Model 528, No. 1769 \$8.00; Majestic turntable and motor from phono radio, \$10 Davis Drug Co., Camden, Tenn.

**FOR SALE**—Rider's auto radio service manual, vol. 2, \$4.00, Philco radio manual, \$2.50, Brainerd and Roe Rewinding and Motors, \$2.75. Post paid. Like new. Hanson, Gary, Minnesota.

**FOR SALE**—Best ever takes Weston Model on checker. Has volt and ohm and short check for condensers, capacitor, but not filament, A-1 condition. Radio Service, New York.

**Wanted**—Phonomotor (78 rpm) and small parts for phono player. Will swap parts and tubes. Will pay \$100.00. 1481 Shaker Ave., New York.

**Wanted**—Copies of "Electronics" magazine, 1930-Jan, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 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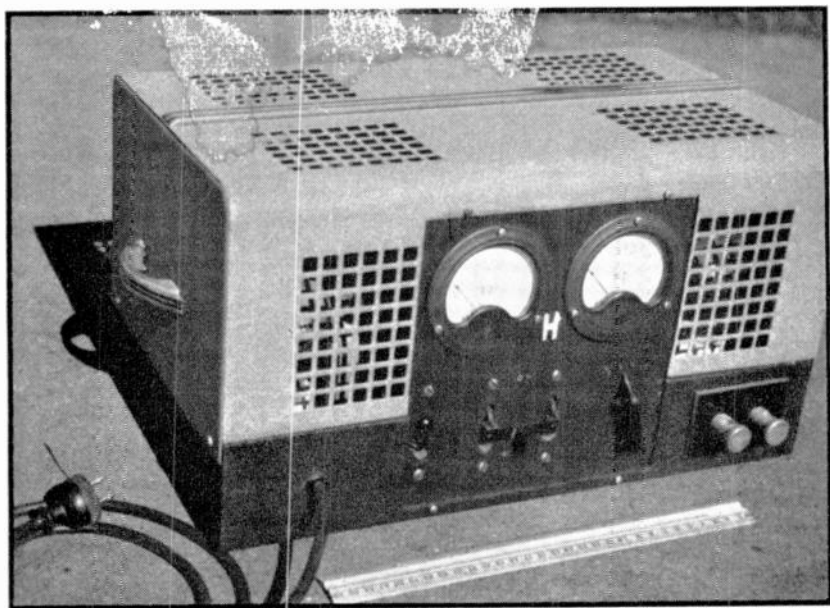
# THERMIONIC RECTIFIER CIRCUITS\*

The purpose of this article is to give details and performance characteristics of five rectifier tube circuits which have proven satisfactory in use over a period of several years. It is believed that this treatment is particularly appropriate at the present time because motor-generators and batteries are expensive, scarce, and compared to electronic circuits, which can often be used to replace them.

The electronic circuits proposed are made of stations of well-known type, or emphasis is placed on some points: (1) the use of miniature tubes and components; (2) the achievement of relatively high current outputs;

(3) lightweight construction, making for portability; (4) operation from 115-v. a-c as a source of power.

One power supply employs four argon charger-type tubes in a bridge circuit whose input connects directly to the a-c line, and will supply 9 amp at 90 v. d-c. It can supply a load equivalent having 110 v. nominal rating, and is particularly suited to operation of electrolysis, etc. Three transformerless B supplies include a full-wave rectifier connecting directly to the a-c line and delivering 400 ma at 280 v., a half-wave rectifier providing a common connection between a-c line and d-c load and delivering 130



High-current gas-type full-wave rectifier assembled in well-ventilated metal cabinet, and rated to deliver up to 9 amp at 90 v. D-C output terminals are at right on panel. The meters are connected to read output voltage and current. Total weight is 39 lb.—much less than an M-G set having equal capacity.

\* By *Lieut. Richard C. Hitchcock, U.S.N.R.*, in "Electronics." The assertions herein are the private ones of the writer, and are not to be construed as official or reflecting the views of the Navy Department or of the Naval service at large.

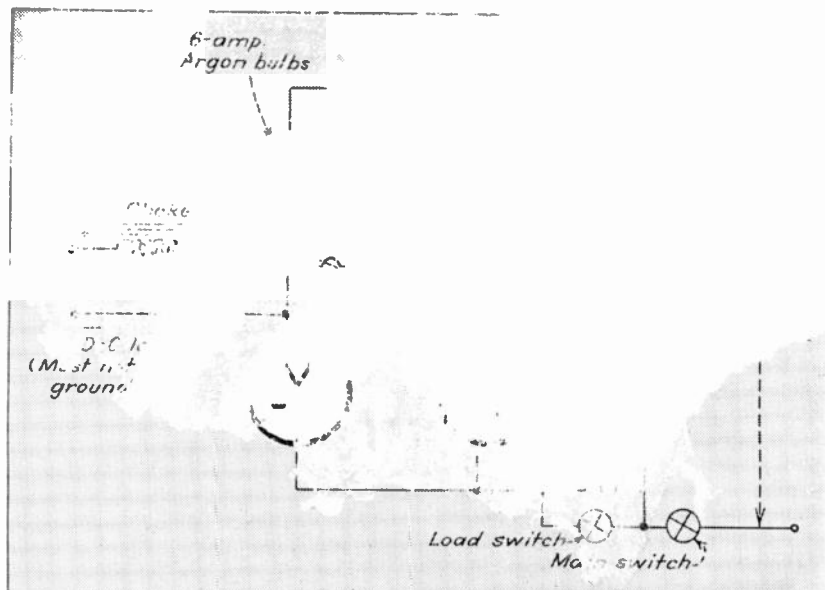


Fig. 1.—Schematic diagram of high-current rectifier circuit, using four gas-type tubes to provide d-c outputs up to 9 amp at 90 v.

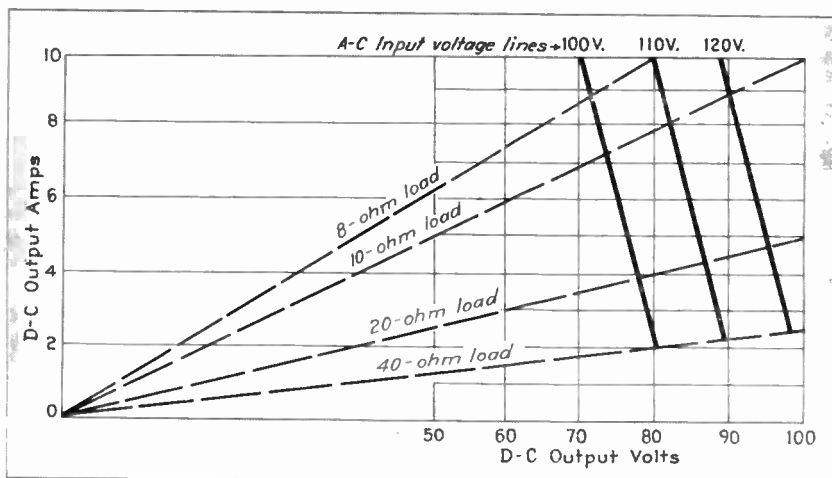


Fig. 2.—Operating characteristics of high-current rectifier circuit of Fig. 1.



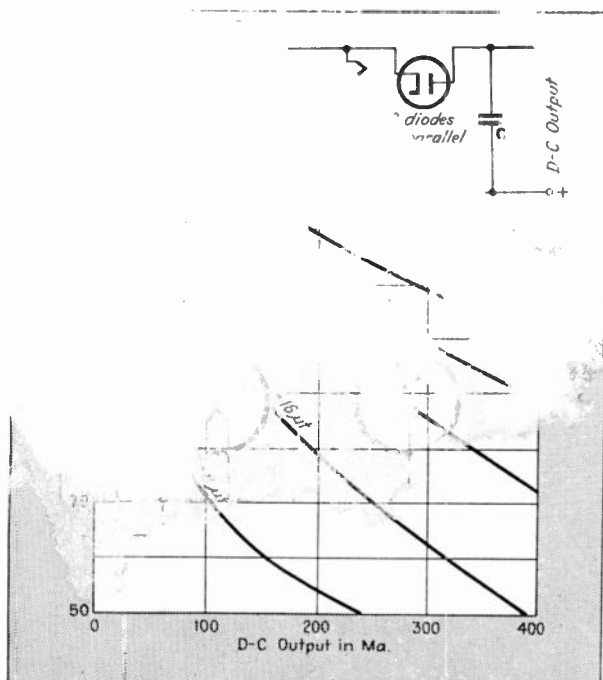


Fig. 3.—Half-wave transformerless rectifier circuit using four 25Z5 or 25Z6 tubes, with operating characteristics.

ma at 150 v; a full-wave doubler giving 200 ma at 180 v. Finally, an eight-tube bridge circuit is represented that has proved satisfactory for obtaining 2000 v d.c. at 250 ma. It uses receiver-type tubes in an unorthodox design — a simple and economical means of supplying a cathode-ray tube.

### Gas-Type High-Current Rectifier

Since a d-c arc gives about four times the light output when operated on d-c as on the same current from an a-c source it is advisable to provide d-c operation.<sup>4</sup> A bridge circuit originally designed to supply d.c. for a carbon arc is shown in Fig. 1. Six-ampere bulbs having high crest inverse voltage and high d-c output voltage suitable for this circuit are: Westinghouse Style No. 289416 and General

Electric Cat. No. 189049. (Not all 6-ampere charger bulbs have the proper operating characteristics for this circuit.)

A multiple-winding filament transformer is needed: two of the secondaries supply a single filament each (2.2 v at 18 amp), and the third feeds two filaments in parallel (2.2 v at 36 amp). The a-c line goes directly to the tubes without a transformer. Note that the d-c output cannot be grounded.

To start this circuit, the main switch is closed first. The load switch is closed after the filaments are up to operating temperature. This procedure is necessary because gas-filled tubes with oxide-coated filaments must not have plate voltage applied when cold. In the completed unit shown in the photograph, a "mark time"

switch is employed; one SPST switch closes immediately, and a second SPST switch closes after a 45- $\mu$ s interval.

Two fuses are shown in Fig. 1. The load fuse should be chosen to permit the desired load current to flow and no more than 12 amp. in the main fuse should be used to protect the rating since it

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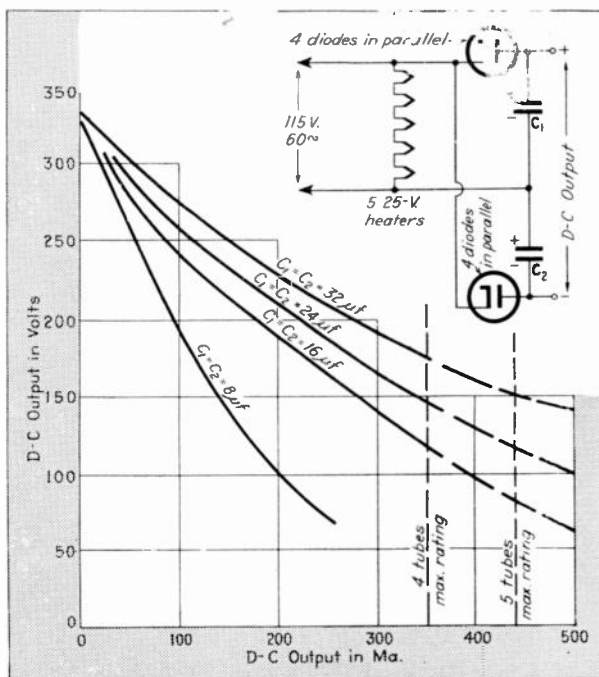
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**Fig. 4—Full-wave voltage-doubler rectifier circuit and performance characteristics. Output terminals cannot be grounded.**

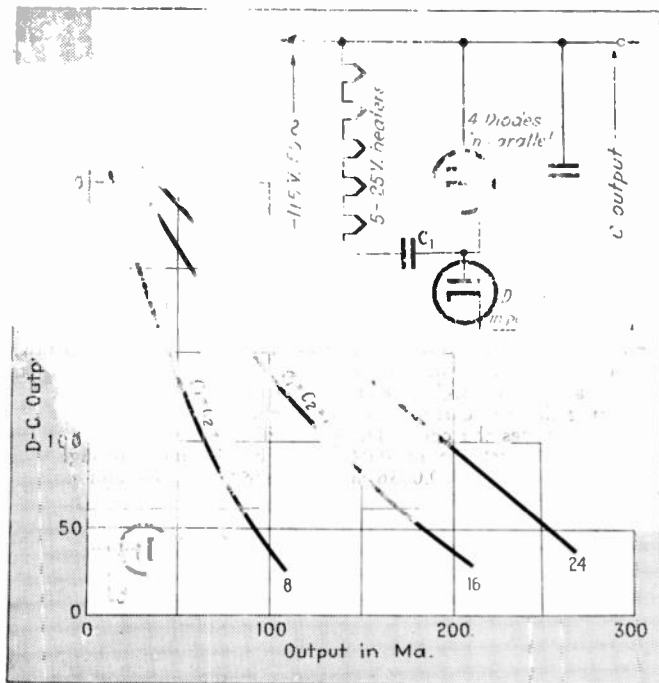


Fig. 5.—Half-wave voltage-doubler rectifier circuit and performance characteristics. One side of output can be grounded.

first coil the core is fixed for use as the d-c filter choke of Fig. 1. The second coil, arranged with a movable core, is connected in series with the load fuse as an a-c impedance. When the circuit is used to supply an arc lamp it has been found possible to put most of the reactance in the a-c side, and to use only a low resistance in the d-c part of the arc circuit.

Porcelain mogul sockets are needed for the 6-ampere bulbs. Due to the high operating temperatures of these bulbs, the use of flame-proof or asbestos-covered wire is recommended for connections.

The characteristics of this gas-type high-current rectifier are shown in Fig. 2. The dashed load lines are for 8, 10, 20, and 40 ohms, while the three solid lines are for a-c input voltages

of 100, 110, and 120 v. From these curves we see that with 110 v. a-c input and a load of 8 ohms, the d-c output is 10 amp and 80 v.

The total weight of the unit, including the steel cabinet, is 39 lb.—about one-fifth the weight of a motor-generator of equal capacity.

#### Half-Wave Transformerless Circuit

Circuits using single 25Z5 and 25Z6 tubes are well known.<sup>6</sup> Often such circuits use a resistance in series with the heater for operation directly from the 115-v line. However, the circuits of Fig. 3, 4, and 5 each use five heaters in series and therefore require no additional series resistor. Only four 25Z5 or 25Z6 tubes are used as actual rectifiers, although five heaters must be used in series across

a 115-volt a-c line. Of course, one heater may be replaced by an 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  ohm resistor.

A single tube—the 117Z6GT—may also be used with these circuits. This is a two-cathode, two-plate tube with a 117-v heater element, requiring no series resistor on a 117 v line.

A half-wave rectifier circuit requires transformers for operation on a 115-volt a-c line is shown in Fig. 3 with its output connected to the d-c side of the circuit. The negative terminal of the output is grounded with the negative terminal of the supply in Fig. 3. Note that all cathodes of the tubes (all eight of the tubes in the circuit in Fig. 3 are connected in parallel.

Comparing the half-wave circuit of Fig. 3 with the full-wave voltage doubler circuit of Fig. 4, we see the following differences:

1. The full-wave circuit requires four anodes (2 tubes) in parallel in each half-cycle. As in the circuit of Fig. 3, there are five heaters rated at 25 v each in series across the 115-v

supply in the full-wave circuit of Fig. 4, four anodes (2 tubes) in parallel in each half-cycle. As in the circuit of Fig. 3, there are five heaters rated at 25 v each in series across the 115-v

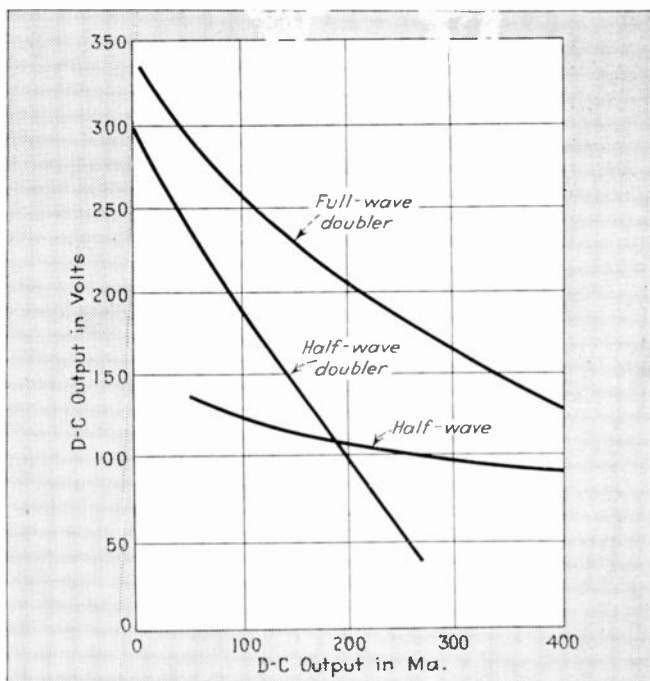


Fig. 6.—Comparison of output characteristics of rectifier circuits in Fig. 3, 4, and 5.

## SUMMARY OF RECTIFIER CHARACTERISTICS

Circuit		Number of Tubes	Circuit in Fig.	Typical D-C Output	Notes
High-voltage gas-type full-wave bridge			1	90 v, 9 amp	Neither side of d-c output can be grounded
Half-wave			2		One side of d-c output is grounded by grounding a-c line
Full-wave doubler	Four 25Z5 or 25Z6				Neither side of d-c output can be grounded
Half-wave doubler	Four 25Z5 or 25Z6	None		150 v, 0.13 amp	One side of d-c output is grounded by grounding a-c line
High-voltage bridge rectifier	Eight 80	8 Fil. 1 Plate	7	2500 v, 0.25 amp	Either side of d-c output can be grounded. For 5Z3 tubes, output current is 0.45 amp

a-c line, although only four tubes are connected in the rectifier-doubler.

### Full-Wave Rectifier-Doubler Circuit

The capacitance marked on each curve in Fig. 4 is half the total capacitance required. For example, the 24- $\mu$ f value at 100 and 500 ma means that two 24- $\mu$ f capacitors are needed. Also note that the maximum output rating for 4 tubes is 350 ma.

If electrolytic capacitors are used in the circuit of Fig. 4, they must be polarized as shown. It is impossible to use a dual electrolytic of the 16-16- $\mu$ f type if the negative leads are common. Such a dual capacitor can of course be used as a single 32- $\mu$ f unit, in series with a similar one correctly connected.

### Half-Wave Doubler Circuit

A half-wave doubler circuit<sup>2, 7</sup> in which one side of the a-c input is

connected to one side of the d-c output is shown in Fig. 5. Capacitor  $C_1$  is rated 150 v d.c., and preferably has a paper dielectric, but  $C_2$  may be either a paper or electrolytic 300-v unit. For light d-c loads  $C_1$  may be a polarized electrolytic capacitor with the negative lead connected to the a-c line. For heavy d-c loads (above about 190 ma at 110 v), the voltage on  $C_2$  reverses, and an electrolytic is not suitable.

### Comparison of Circuits

The three curves in Fig. 6 permit direct comparison of the three circuits, each of which uses a total capacitance of 48  $\mu$ f, and four 25Z5 or 25Z6 tubes as rectifiers. In all cases the full-wave rectifier-doubler gives the highest output voltage and current. Of the three circuits, the half-wave doubler has the poorest regulation and the

half-wave rectifier has the best regulation.

The choice between the half-wave doubler and the half-wave rectifier may be based either on the required d-c output or the regulation, considering that both have one d-c terminal at the same potential as one a-c terminal. The d-c outputs of these two circuits are equal at 190 ma, 110 v. For lower current values, the half-wave doubler permits higher voltages; for

higher output currents, the better regulation of the half-wave rectifier appears advantageous in giving higher output voltage.

In general the vacuum-tube rectifiers are self-protecting to a great extent and require no preliminary heating of their cathodes, so that the circuits of Figs. 3, 4, and 5 may be connected simultaneously to the d-c loads and the a-c line.

(To be continued)

## Square-Wave Testing of Amplifiers

(Continued from page 1)

producing the square waves on the screen. Most three-inch scopes on the market will not give good response when the repetition frequency of the square wave is lowered to 60 cycles. Even the high-frequency end is not as good as expected, although the range usually extends beyond 30 kc. and will do for ordinary audio amplifiers. The best method of obtaining satisfactory results is accomplished by connecting the output of the amplifier to be tested directly to the vertical plates of the oscilloscope, although at times this may not be feasible due to the small magnitude of the output voltage.

In closing, it is important to mention that amplitudes of square waves are seldom measured. The shapes seen on the oscilloscopes are generally independent of amplitude providing no overloading takes place. Here again is a simplification of the ordinary point-to-point method.

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4. Bukstein, "Wide Band Amplifier Design" Radio News, August, 1943.

## THE RADIO TRADING POST

(Continued from page 6)

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