

Statement, page 2

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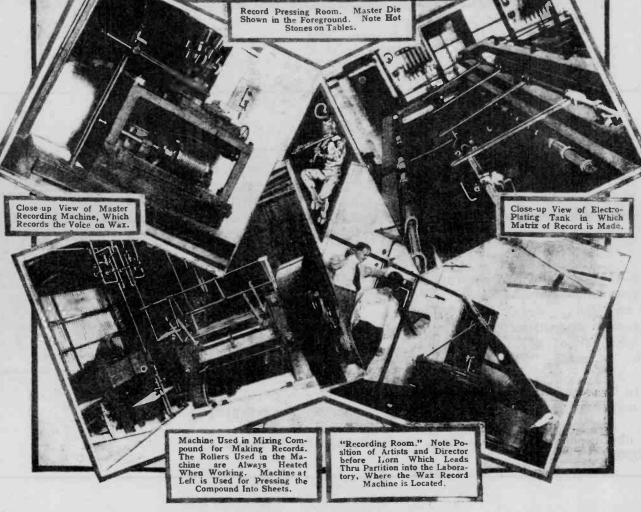
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THE HORN SP

How Phonograph Records are Made

ALEXANDER H. KOLBE

Texas



PHONOGRAPH record making is an art, and it is with great care, difficulty and expense that they are produced by the American manufacturers. Thru the kind and able assistance of Mr. A. C. P. Russen, Newark, N. J., engineer and expert on machinery for making not only phonograph records, but music rolls, this article together with the accompanying illustrations was made possible.

Manufacturers of phonograph records HONOGRAPH record making is an

Manufacturers of phonograph records absolutely refuse to disclose their secret of making such discs. For this reason alone, photographs have never before been published in this country in connection with an article such as this. The many excuses given out are that every maker of phonograph records, design their own machinery, lay out their own electrical apparatus and often use special mechanical and automatic machines of their own invention.

Talking to the "First" Record

Talking to the First Record

The first step in the manufacture of a phonograph record is the making of original wax discs which are about one-half inch larger in diameter than the finished record to be produced and about three-quarters of an inch thick. These discs are formed by using a fairly soft

The original wax composition of wax. discs are placed on the recording machine, which to all purposes is a phonograph except that it is more delicate in construction and that the action of the needle is reversed, that is, instead of the needle falling into a groove, it is forced by the transmitting diafram into the soft wax.

Let us now consider the making of this first impression. The recording room is so arranged that the best results will be obtained. The recording machine is placed in a separate room and only the receiving horns project into the recording room. Special attention is given to the seating arrangements in the recording room. Seats for the orchestra are arranged in a semi-circle. Each chair differs in height to suit the needs of the individual instruments to be played in order that the air vibrations will be most effective in registering thru the diafram on the recorder. In making vocal selections, special attention is given to the distance separating the singer and the machine. Let us now consider the making of this

How a Matrix Is Made

The most important factor in the making of records is the first soft wax record or master. The impressions on the wax are very delicate and therefore the record

could not be used directly in producing other records. The next step in the manufacture of records is carried out in what we shall term the electrolytic department. The equipment in this department consists of large rectangular tubs lined with lead of large rectangular tubs lined with lead and filled with a solution the same as used for electrotyping. Suspended on two round brass rods running across these tubs are anodes, usually copper plates, with two wires hooked over the rods, making it possible for the entire plate to be submerged in the solution. Parallel with these bars and midway between is another round bar of the same size on which swivel-connections, evenly distanced apart, are located. Suspended vertically from each of these swivels is a small rod with a long end hanging into the solution below the swivel, and a short end above the solution and the swivel. At the ends of these rods in the solution are the wax discs. See diagram herewith.

The object of the above arrangement is to have the discs maintain a continuous pendulum motion in the solution. This motion is produced by a rod which continuously moves back and forth.

To explain how the small particles of copper are taken from copper plates or anodes and deposited on the wax discs would involve a scientific discussion of

great length. It is sufficient to know that great length. It is sufficient to know that the action is due to the electric current plus the chemical action of the solution. The electric current, circulating thru the anode bar and anodes over and across to the wax discs hanging on the swivel arm, carries small particles of copper and deposits them on the wax discs with such class adhesion that they nile up in a mass close adhesion that they pile up in a mass over the face and grooves of the wax over

G eat care is exercised in keeping up an even, continuous flow of electric current. After an immersion of twenty-four hours the wax record is covered with a hours the wax record is covered with a coating or sheet of copper. The copper sheet is stript off very carefully and the rough edges of the copper discs are trimmed off that portion which projects outside and beyond the diameter of the wax discs. This disc becomes the master matrix and from it reverse duplicates are produced. The copper impressions stand out on the master matrix where they are deprest in the wax record.

Making a Matrix from a Matrix

Making a Matrix from a Matrix

After coating the back and edges of the master matrix with wax so that the copper particles will cling only to the part not waxed, these impressions are suspended in the same manner as the original wax disc. After twenty-four hours the discs are stripped again, the same operations being carried out. The second copper disc is called the mother matrix, and by treating the mother matrix the same as the master matrix there is produced what is termed the pressing matrix. The latter

by treating the mother matrix the same as the master matrix there is produced what is termed the pressing matrix. The latter is used to press records for the trade. The inaster matrix is carefully guarded by the producing concern. These steps are all shown in the accompanying diagram.

The product, after passing thru these stages of manufacture is ready for the pressroom. In this department there is a steam rolling mill consisting of two or three steam-heated rollers supported in proper frames and driven by gearing. On the top of this machine there is a hopper into which the composition entering into the finished product is placed. The materials used in the ordinary black record consist chiefly of shellac with portions of rotten stone and lampblack. These are carefully pulverized and screened free from metal or other foreign matter. The composition is placed in the hopper and heated and mixed by the rolls to a consistency a little stiffer than bread dough.

Great care is exercised to get a resultant mixture that will produce a hard, glossy record impervious to slight changes of temperature. A mixture too soft would tend to warp records.

The mixture is flattened out into strips

temperature. A mixture too soft would tend to warp records.

The mixture is flattened out into strips by another set of heated rolls. Rectangular strips about five inches wide and 3-16 of an inch thick are cut and sent to the pressroom. These strips are placed between dies consisting of two square steel plates into the faces of which round depressions have been turned equal in depth to one-half of the thickness of the finished record plus the thickness of the copper matrix. A separate lipt ring holds the matrix by its outer edge face up, so that matrix. A separate lipt ring holds the matrix by its outer edge face up, so that when this ring is screwed down the matrix becomes a part of the one-half mold.

Records Are Stamped in Presses

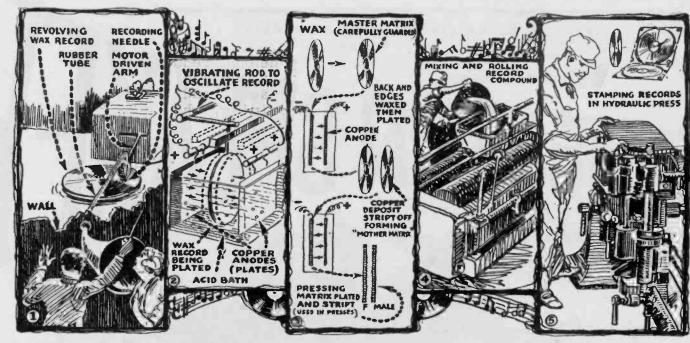
The composition squares of shellac stock are cut into smaller squares. These pieces are laid on a warming plate until warm enough to proceed. Then the printed paper circle is placed over the central pin face down, and later face up, in the die against the matrix. A hole is then punched into the soft composition. Both halves are placed together and kept in position by the central pin and two

The complete die is placed in the hydraulic press, the dies being warm and the stock pliable. As the two half-dies are prest together, the lump of stock is flattened until it flows to fill the entire opening plus a little that overflows, the latter forming a slight fin around the outlatter forming a slight fin around the out-side edge of the record midway of its thickness

The tables of the hydraulic presses are raised by water pressure coming from a small pump producing 500 pounds pressure to the square inch. Each record is therefore subjected to from 40,000 to 50,000

tore subjected to from 40,000 to 50,000 pounds total pressure.

The finished record is placed in a trimming lathe and the fin or overflow is shaped off. After this process the record is tested on an ordinary phonograph. After testing and labeling the records are ready for the trade.



Viewed from Left to Right, Illustrate the Successive Steps Followed in Making Phonograph Records. The Original War Record on Which the ded, is Placed in an Electro-Plating Bath; Fig. 3 Shows How the Copper Deposit is Stript Off, and This in Turn Placed in an Electro-Plating Bath, the Second Matrix Being Stript Off and Used as the Stamping Die in Producing the Records, as Shown at Fig. 5.

Science and Invention for December, 1921

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Radio Age is reprinting the Grebe Synchrophase Manual in original brown inks and on high quality paper (not a photocopy). This manual is loaded with history of the company and is documented with many photos, 71 pages. Definitely will enhance your collection \$11.25 ppd.

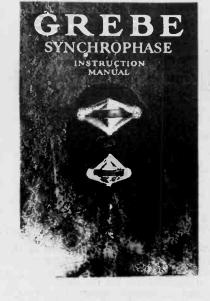
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Amplification zwithout Distortion

First there was a concern for reception any kind of reception, legible or not. as the art advanced, a preoccupation with tone became the vogue, during which time massive electro- dynamic speakers vied with flimsy permanent magnet type, creating another of the synthetic controversies so much admired by our earlier media writers.

One of the longest running editorial controversies turned on the virtues of the four types of audio amplification circuitry-- i.e., ordinary transformer coupled, impedance coupled, push pull and resist-ance coupled. This controversy raged from Zeh Bouck and Henney (who, incidentally, was a very articulated publisher) to Lynch and Priesley in the early 30s.. They resolved nothing, of course, and such sophomoricism died a natural death under the avalanche of rapid new discoveries and advances in early radio knowledge, but they did make for readers being con-fronted with the necessity of thinking, of crystallizing their own thoughts, of taking a

1 have constructed and experimented with about 50 of the early AF amplifier circuits and found that Henney was correct when he editorialized that the impedance type was the most inferior. Harris was correct when he wrote that the ordinary transformer type was the easiest and the cheapest to produce and that mnufaturers would push that type.

While some of the claims advertised by Daven, Alden (Na-Ald), Thor, et al., were puffered as is still the fashion, it can be easily demonstrated that the resistance coupled audio amplifiers could produce the purest tones; and with the proper tubes, could produce sound to fill a hall. They were clean in design, practically foolproof and worked with any circuit reflex, regenerative, TRF and superhet.

The accompanying free hand sketches offer a handful of the better RC circuits. The parts and components required can usually be found in your "junk box", so, some odd Thursday when it's raining, why not have a go at constructing and playing around with one or two?

Simply stated, RC audio amplificatio is an early system for intensifying current variations through the magnifying action of the various tubes of the day. The signal from one tube is passed onto the next tube through the functioning of a high resisance included in the plate of the preceding tube.

With an incoming signal the plate current of the first tube necessarily varies in amplitude, which causes changes across the potential existing on the terminals of the following resistor. This varying potential is applied to the grid of the next tube through a coupling condenser (also called an isolating condenser in the early days). This condenser isolates the grid from the high positive potential applied to the first tube. The fourth resistor is a conventional grid leak, preventing choking by an accumulation of change in the grid. excessive

One of the virtues of the RC amplifier is that once you have decided on the circuit you prefer, the value of the com-ponents remain constant. this is not true of the other three types, especially push pull.

The ordinary transformer coupled and impedance coupled audio amplifiers may be considered allied, in that the latter has two windings, in which the coefficient of the coupling and the turns ratio are nearly unity. The later models of Alden's "Truphonic" amplifier would be a good example here. The impedance acts as an auto transformer, the same winding acting as primary and part secondary at the same time.

trans-In the ordinary former coupled amplifier, the maximum amplification per stage is equal to the amplification constant of the tube, multiplied by the turns ratio of the transformer. The voltage of the secondary bears the same ratio to the input or primary voltage as the number of turns in the secondary bears to the turns of the primary. In other words: v1/v2=n1/n2 where: v1

voltage; nl and n2 = primary and secondary turns.

This step up voltage occurs only under certain theoretical conditions, which are never attained in actual practice. However, the maximum voltage attainable in a transformer coupled amplifier is: K= u(n2/n1) where: K = total voltage amplification and u =voltage amplifying constant of

All early transformers were noted for their distortion, simply because they could not produce the same amplification at all frequencies. This led to further experiments which produced the other three types of audio amplifier circuitry, with the RC becoming the most popular for nearly a decade. The relationship be-tween input and output of the RC circuitry is practically linear. What distortion may occur is due to stresses imposed by unfavorable tube characteristics. While amplification per stage is not so great as that of a transformer coupled type, results per dollar was and is the ultimate standard of efficiency. Nevertheless, the resistance coupled audio amplifier ranks first.

The early push pull amplifiers actually increased output very little more than ordinary transformer coupled circuits, but the PP circuitry was capable of killing distortion, using a higher plate voltage without overloading the tubes and, of course, using matched tubes. The use of C bias was mandatory.

Three stages of RC amplification are quite sufficient for most purposes, giving amplification generally greater than a 2 stage transformer coupled amplifier. Two stages inputted from an efficient re-flex tuner will operate a speaker easily. More than three, stages is not recommended with reflex and superhet sets. Four stages have been proven to be the practical limit and a switching arrangement for cutting out the last tube should always be provided, as it only required for very weak signals, or if you wish to fill a hall. Further, if you do use a fourth stage, don't use the OlA, instead, use 16A, 12A or 71A. When using the 16A, a coupling resistor of 100K is suggested.

RC amplifiers can be added to a transformer coupled stage, using only the first AF trans-

former and shunting the second. Using both transformers will distortion. Also, result in when utilizing a stage of transformer coupled AF, two stages of RC need only be used.

As for RF amplification, the RC circuitry is not very efficient on 200 to 550 meters. This is because the coupling resistor is virtually shunted by the plate to filament capacity of the preceding tube. In effect, a by-pass about the resistor through which RF current detours. RC amplification, however, is effective on waves above 2,000 meters, which makes it quite satisfactory as an IF amplifier in superhet circuits of the early days.

Variable resistances are although you not necessary, will find one RC circuit amid accompanying sketches utilizing such. The values are all uncritical, as you will note. Any value between 50K and 150K gives almost unchanged

the most efficient. When inputting from a reflex or transformer coupled stage, 50K is recommended for the first RC stage.

While the Olas was generally used itother otubes will perform quite satisfactorily, and include such tubes as 99, "N", WD-12, D2, D3 and Meyers-the latterr being an excellent tube for RC circuits, but there doesn't seem to be too many

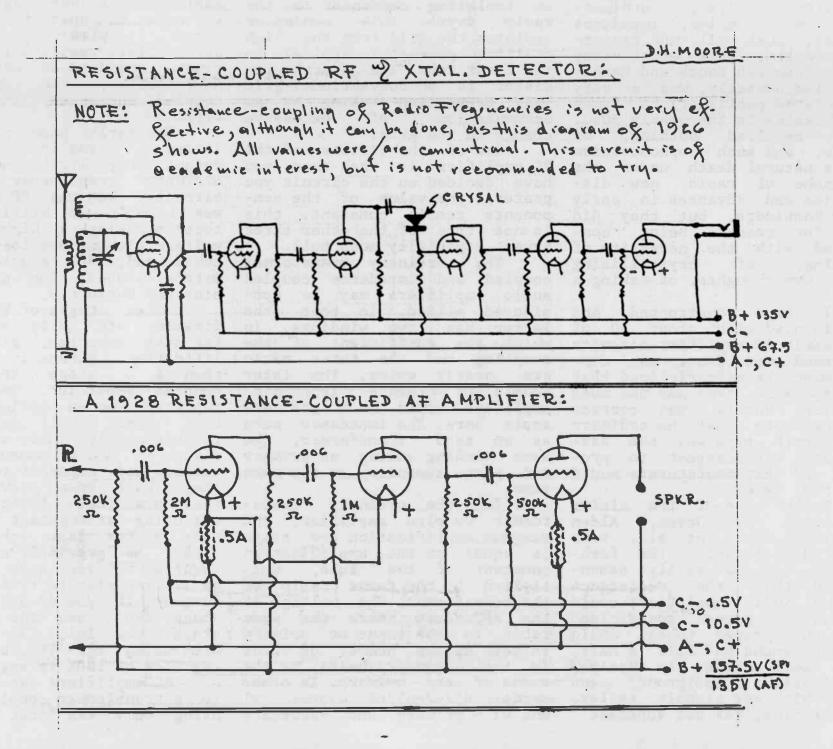
available these days.

Because plate inductances and their accompanying feed back are eliminated, the RC circuit is probably the most stable of all amplifying circuits or arrangements. But it should be stressed that only absolutely GOOD tubes should be used in all stages. Weak or "orphan" brand tubes are a wastage, and will almost always result in acoustic howl. Howling has been known to occur in three and four stage RC circuits when the last tube can be amplification; 100K is usually cut in or out via switch. When

this occurs, the last coupling resistor should be increased to the highest value giving best reults. Grid leaks can also be fine tuned for greater stabil-

RC amplification functions with the effects of a negative bias being applied to audio frequencies - i.e., the varying positive charge on the coupling side of the isolating condenser induces similar negative fluctuations on the grid side. This causes the plate current to "modulate down", to decrease when the amplifier is working. Thus, no extra bias is necessary.

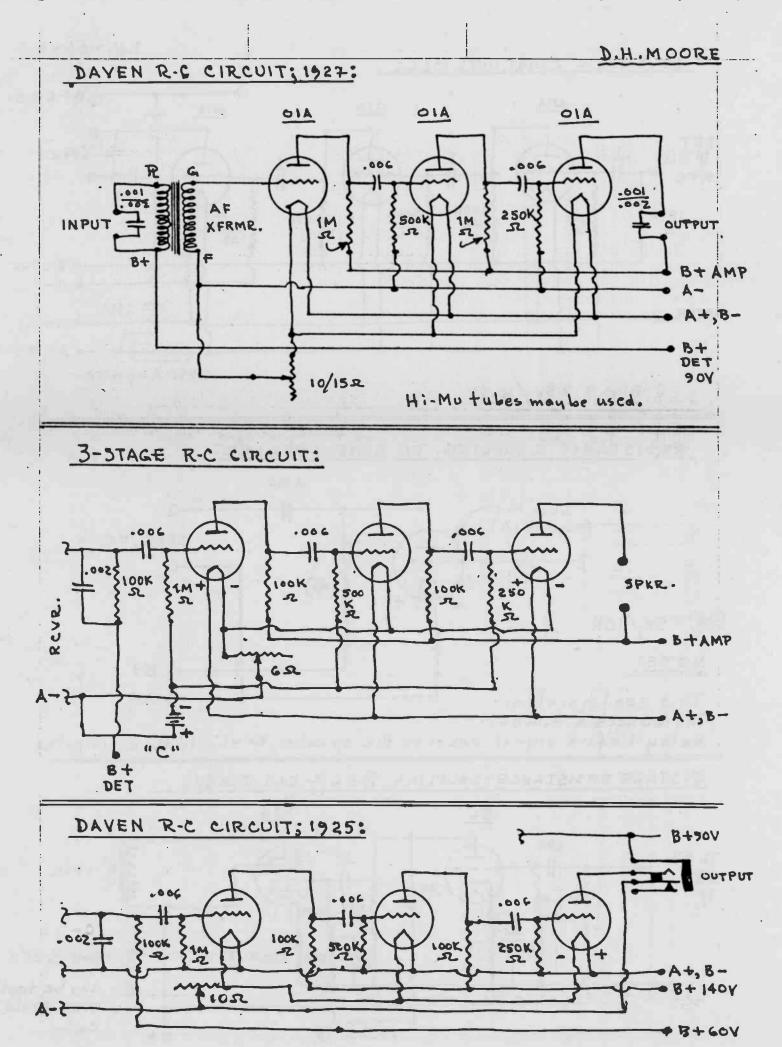
Plate voltages of at least 100V should always be used. One may go up to twice the maximum potential recommended by the tube manufacturer, as the actual applied voltage is greatly reduced by the coupling resistance which is in series with the plate supply. I have impressed 140V on the plates of OlAs with excellent results.



When inputting from a DFT cillates in a normal manner. tube plate voltage of the de-Because of the increase in tector should be doubled or plate voltage, phone jacks tripled. Detector plate poshould never be inserted into tential should be increased the detector circuit. It is until the tube detects most good practice to one insert a refficiently or as in the case sistance of from 5K to 50K in

the comparatively low resistance of early phones and speakers.

resistance coupled Any amplifier circuit is coupled to any type or make of receiver in efficiently, or. as in the case sistance of from 5K to 50K in exactly the same way, regard-of regenerative receivers, un- series with the speaker leads, less of any diversity of cir-til the set regenerates or os- to lower plate current, due to cuitry. Here, then, is a pro-



ject, I believe, is interesting with us.

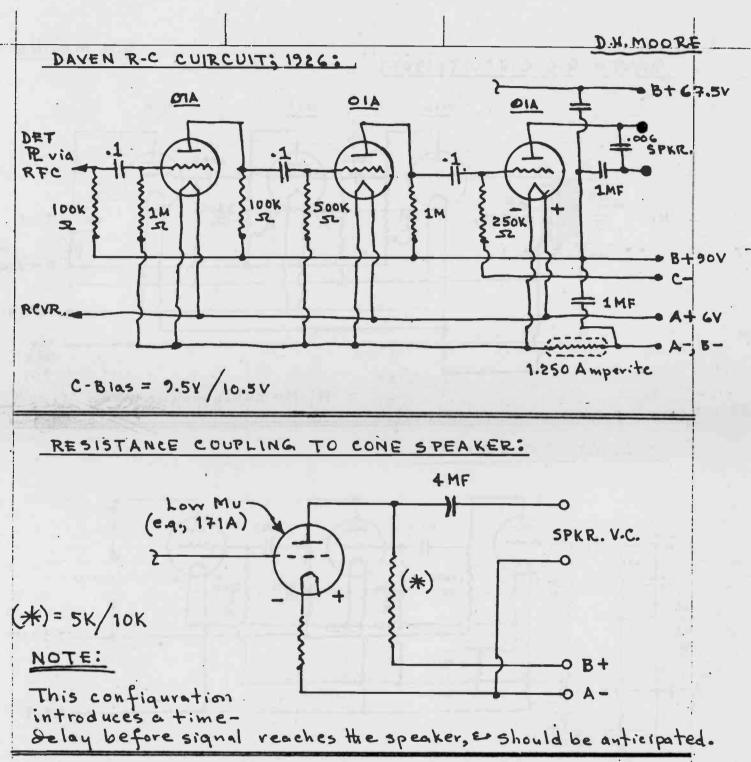
to experience how it was done.

References: (While there March, 1929

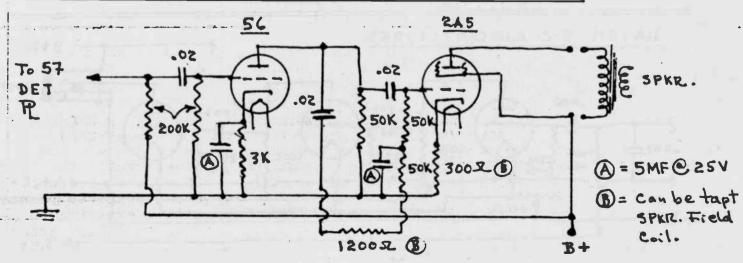
NOTE: This article selected are numerous references to RC AMATEURS' HANDBOOK, Vo from a work in progress: amplifiers scattered through 2, 1926

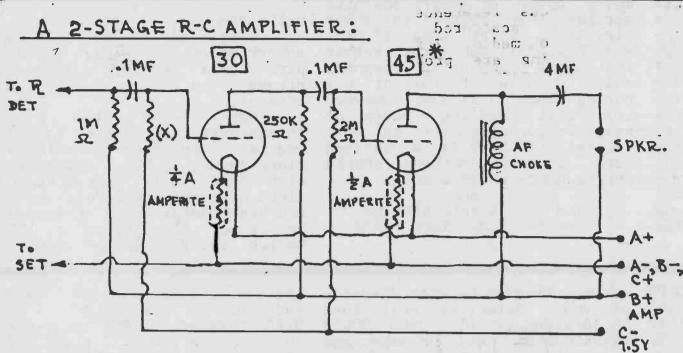
VINTAGE RADIO NOTEBOOKS of D. early radio media, I find that RADIO WORLD, Math. Moore, who has been very the following are probably the Noteber, 1927; December, 1930 kind to share his experiences most authoritative. - dhm)

CITIZEN'S CALL BOOK. Vol.



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(X) = BEST VALUE BY EXPERIMENT.

B+ = 135/180YDC.

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gain; 180V (max.) TP.

T. R. F. Receiver Sensitivity

A loss in selectivity and sensitivity often occurs in many of the less expensive models of tuned-radio-frequency receivers after they have been in operation for a year or so. The difficulty usually occurs in receivers of the type employing two 24's, a 47 and an 80; or a 57, 58, 47 and an 80 or 82.

A current and voltage check on the tubes will indicate everything to be in good shape. but a close inspection of the set will reveal that the two-gang condenser unit is attached to the chassis by two machine screws and that this fastening forms the only electrical contact between the condensers and chassis. Rotor plate wipers, if present, do not have ground leads to the frame in most cases.

This is the source of the trouble and may be remedied by soldering a heavy wire between the condenser frame and the chassis, and realigning the set. The low-resistance path between the condenser assembly and the chassis makes it possible to peak the set critically and thus permits it to be operated near the oscillation point again.

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Atwater-Kent 40 and 42

"We have had several of these sets in the shop afflicted with an apparently incurable howl, while heating up. Changing tubes and testing condensers gave no hint of the trouble. On checking the audio wiring we found that the secondary of the audio transformer was connected backwards—that is, the blue wire, or F, to the grid and the black wire, or G, to the grid return. We have run into the same trouble when the primaries have been reversed."—Charles E. Anderson, Claysville, Pa.

RADIO NEWS FOR MAY, 1932

Service



by F. Cecil Grace

In the repair of antique radio equipment, it is some-times difficult to make soldered connections. Readers therefore, be interested to know that a two part. silver filled. electrically conductive epoxy is now being made for the watchmaker trade, for repairs quartz watches. Any two metal objects cemented together this material, called "WIRE-BOND .001" are elec-I have tronically connected. used it successfully to put a new phone tip on a headphone cord of the type made of metal and cordage (for extreme flexibility). This is a difficult repair to make by any other method I know of.

It should also be useful in the repair of radio and audio frequency transformer and chokes, and the coils of earphones, loudspeakers, and phonograph pickups, in cases where an end of the winding has broken off the terminal, although I have not yet tried any such repairs. Perhaps someone will experiment and write a "how to do it" article.

WIRE-BOND .001 is made by

Zantech Incorporated and is sold by mail by Marshall Swartchild Company, 109 North P. O. Box 726, Chicago, Illinois 60690 for \$19.95, plus shipping. For this you get one syringe of epoxy part A, one of part B, 8 inches of .002" diameter gold wire (useful for extending broken ends of the winding), one mixing spatula, and one ceramic plate on which to do the mixing, and instructions for use of the material in the repair of quartz watches. When you've used up the epoxy, you can get refills for \$14.95.

The instructions describes some repair methods for the motor coils of quartz analogue watches that result in short circuiting a few turns of the windings. This does not bother the motor because it responds only to pulses of current occuring once a second. However, any coil handling radio or audio frequencies will not work properly if there is a shorted turn, so these methods should not be used in radio work.

F. Cecil Grace
Box 459, Gracie Station
New York, New York 10028

Mailbox

Hello JIm

I realized to day that my subscription was going to expire this month. Enclosed please find enough for 2 year renewal.

Have found some great things over the summer including a Silvertone grandfather clock-radio, RCA Regenoflex with fair WD-11 tubes. Was on cloud nine when all four tubes and both audios were found to be good. Also found a 1939 Philco receiver with wireless

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coils. Provide us with diameter of your defective coil form \$1.50 each. - 11. USED POWER TRANSFORMERS Send us make and model of radio. Also need size of old transformer. We will quote. - 12. We cannot provide WD-11's but we can provide WD-11A's made with 864's in WD-11 bases. Work better than WD-11. \$15.00 each or 2 for \$25.00. - 13. DIAL LAMPS - any type. 25 cent each or 5 for \$1.00. - 14. Crystal set items galena xtals \$1.50 each . xtal detector ass'y w/xtal \$3.50 detector ass'y w/xtal \$3.50
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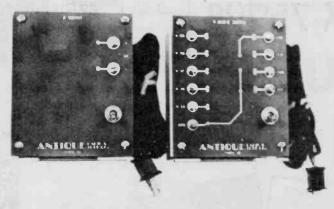
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remote control like new com- trying to find out about the plete with owner's manual. It LEUTZ SUPER DX EIGHT and SUPER works very well. Also have a DX SEVEN TYPE L SUPERHETRODYNE Philco chairside with model remote speaker in a small console cabinet that has a flat cable interconnecting units.

All in all not too bad for the summer. Hope all is well your way. My best to you for the New Year.

Best regards, Rick Taylor 7136 E. Lea Road Chattanooga, TN 37421

Dear Jim.

Enclosed is check for the amount of \$8.50 to renew my subscription THE to HORN SPEAKER. Ihave been down here in Florida 2 years now and I did pick up a few more radios, sealed in bee's wax. WESTINGALE ELECTRIC CO. tube set using 99's a W.E. 1922 broadcast mike with the brass broadcast mike with the brass case. Also found a Fisher spark medical unit with two quenched spark gaps and last but not EDITOR. One of our subscrib-least a W.E. 92.A amplifier ers should have a schematic of

RECEIVER, they were made by C. R. LEUTZ INC. about 1922. The DX EIGHT uses 99 type tubes the both DX SEVEN uses 201A tubes. Well that's all for now. Maybe, one of your readers can help me.

Thank you, Julius H. Pilger, K2KCB 104 Conner St. S.W. Live Oak, FL 32060 (904) 362-6901

Dear Jim;

I need a wiring diagram of RCA Radiola AR 182 super hetrodyne or Super VIII. wiring diagram must consist of the internal parts such transformers, coils and condensers. And of the internal tube circuit which

> Thanking you, Russell F. SChoen R # 1, Box 35 Clintonville, WI 54929

W.E. 92.A amplifier ers should have a schematic of least a W.E. 92.A amplifier ers should have a schematic of with all tubes in place and W. the unit, which is usually E. 555 speaker unit. I am still called a "catacomb."

Editorial Group, Itd. P.O. Box 521, Pulo Alto, Calif.

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June, July and August issue of 1979

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