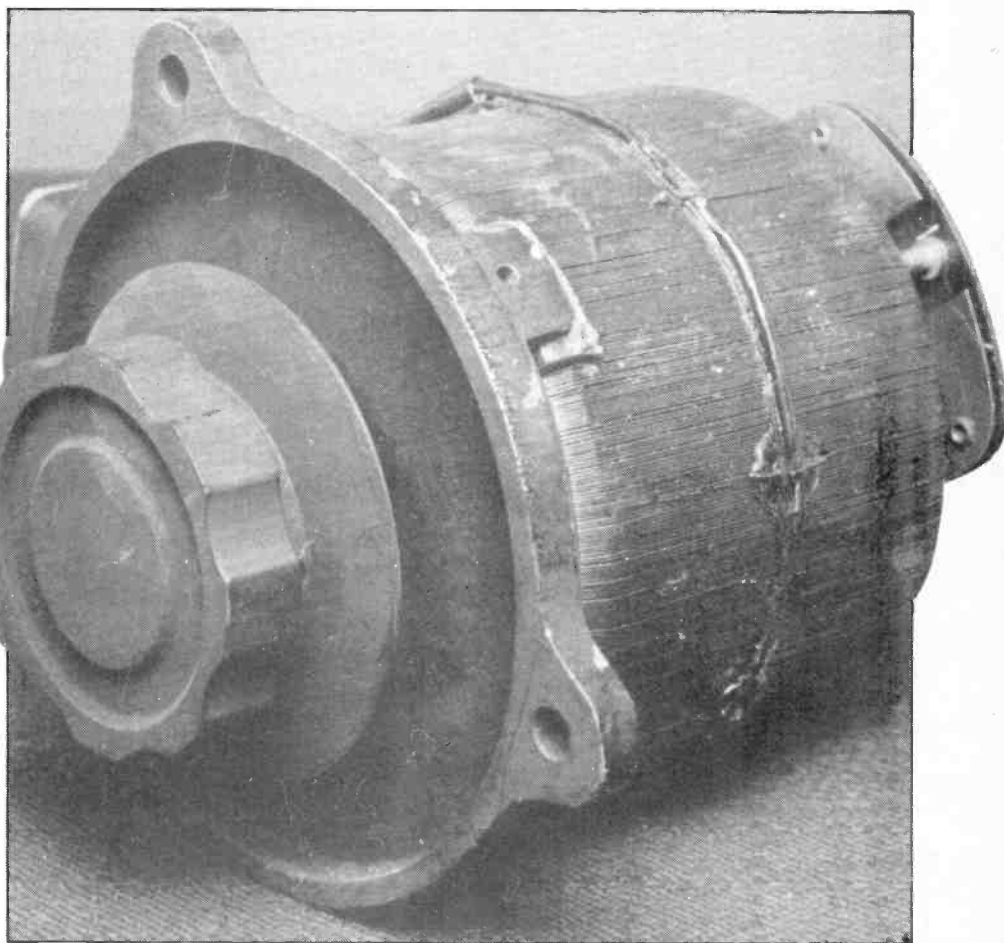


AVO RF signal generator bought as surplus.

tified are still a source of real bargains, particularly if the trader doesn't know what it is and YOU do! Most dealers in 'pre-owned' equipment have a pretty shrewd idea of the identity and resale value of their stock-in-trade but they occasionally pick up 'one-offs' for a song which they pass on at low cost. If you know its true value — and have sufficient documentation to get it going — this could be a way of getting a real bargain. I picked up a video-frame store for £35 which I later found was exactly one hundredth of its original cost (but I must admit I haven't got it going yet!).

Some items are well worth searching out surplus: power supplies and the parts used in them spring particularly to mind. RF cables and connectors are also cheaper bought surplus and in many cases these are in new condition. There are, however, some very bad deals in connectors and cables and these must be avoided at all costs unless you like buying expensive attenuators. Worst of all, looks can deceive and for this reason I shall devote the rest of this article to this subject.

As we all know, most flexible



A Variac (variable tap transformer) of unknown manufacture.