

POPULAR WIRELESS, November 27th, 1926.

REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER.

**THE STATION MASTER—By PERCY W. HARRIS**

# Popular Wireless

Every Thursday

PRICE

3d.

No. 234. Vol. X.

Scientific Adviser : SIR OLIVER LODGE, F.R.S.

November 27th, 1926.



## Special Features In This Issue

WHEN X's ARE USEFUL

THE IMPORTANCE OF LAYOUT

SOME COMMON FAULTS

HOW TO MAKE FIXED RESISTORS

AN H.F. INTERVALVE COUPLING UNIT

SPECIAL EIGHT-PAGE SUPPLEMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTOR

**Edited by Percy W. Harris**

Our cover photograph this week shows the transmitting plant of W R N Y which is owned and operated by the "Radio News" of America.



# STERLING CONDENSERS

## STERLING "MINILOSS"

(Square Law Type)

Ideal condensers for "low-loss" working, fitted with a slow motion movement, perfectly smooth in operation and with no "back-lash" action. "Pyrex" glass plugs insulate the fixed plates. These plugs are outside the electrostatic field, reducing High Frequency losses to the minimum.

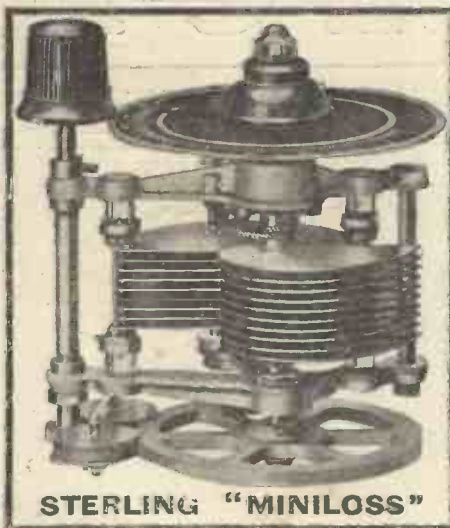
00025 mfd. 14/-    00005 mfd. 15/-  
0001 mfd. 16/-

## STERLING VARIABLE Square Law Air Condensers

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Give "Straight line" tuning, are perfectly adjusted and give a delightfully smooth variation. They have the highest possible Maximum to Minimum ratio and are suitable for low loss working.

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0001 mfd. 10/6



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Recognised by radio experts as the highest achievement in electrical efficiency and mechanical construction. Every Sterling Condenser is made on highly-scientific lines to fulfil its specific purpose to the utmost limit.

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2 mfd. ... 2/6	1 mfd. ... 3/10
25 mfd. ... 3/-	2 mfd. ... 4/8
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## STERLING DOUBLE & TRIPLE Types (each unit 00025 mfd. cap.)

Specially suited for simultaneously tuning two or three circuits respectively. An added refinement is found in the balanced double condenser, a movable balancing vane enabling the operator to compensate for any slight differences in capacity or inductance in the two circuits.

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Double Type  
(Square Law)

Balanced Type  
(Square Law)



Fixed Type



Mansbridge Type

Panel Mounting  
Type with Vernier  
(Square Law)



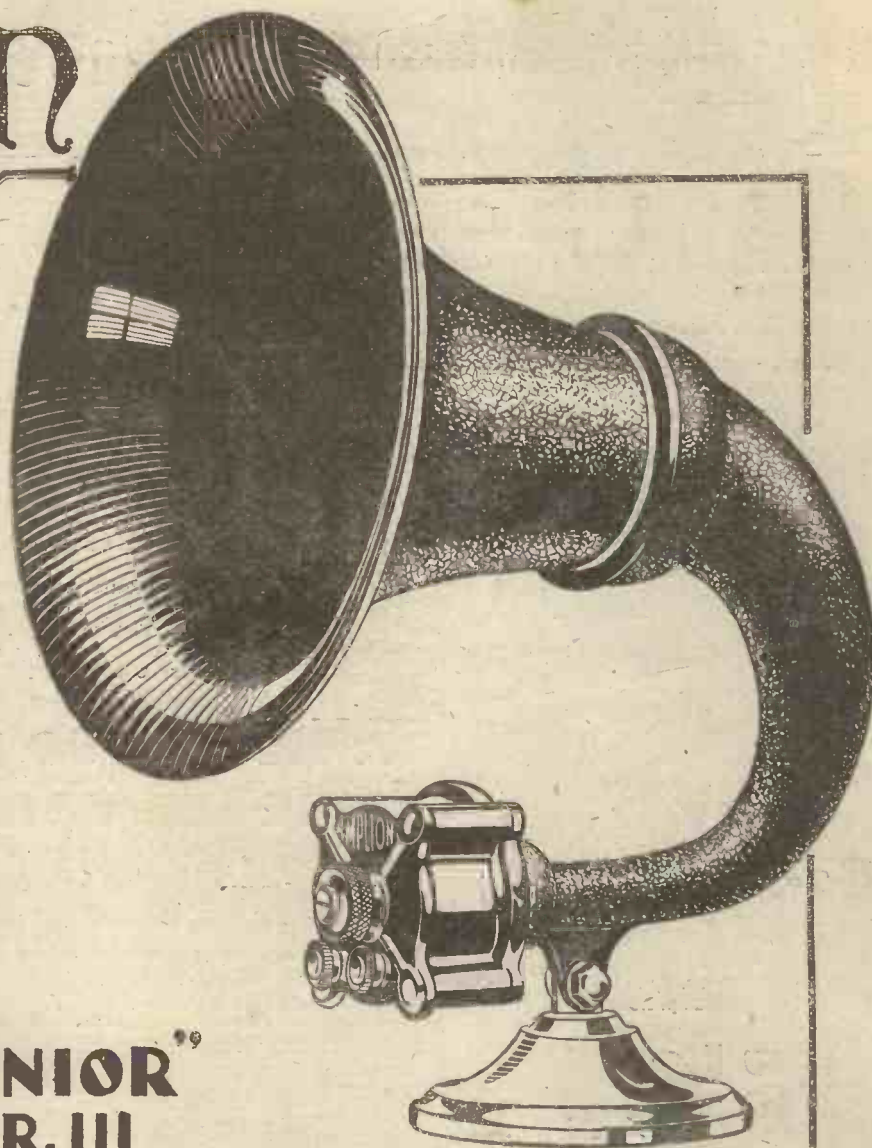
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## For Dull Emitter Valves

**N**OW that the Dull Emitter Valve has finally ousted the extravagant bright emitter from the market it has been necessary to evolve a new type of Accumulator suitable for two and three-valve Sets. The present day demand is for an accumulator small in size, light in weight, low in price, which will hold its charge for weeks and even several months without attention. The ordinary Accumulator was good enough for bright emitter valves consuming 75 ampere each. Its plates never had a chance to become sulphated. No sooner was the accumulator charged up than the Set began to drain away its energy. After a week or so a further charge was necessary. But to put an ordinary accumulator to serve a 2-valve Set equipped with Dull Emitters is a waste of money. The plates are almost certain to sulphate if the accumulator is not given a regular charge—whether it is exhausted or not.

The unusual construction of the new Oldham O.V.D. (patent applied for) makes it the ideal Accumulator for small Receiving Sets. Its low initial price, coupled with the few pence only required for recharging, will enable every user to lower his maintenance costs immediately.

## Where else can you find these seven features?

### Type O.V.D.

2 volts—for use with Dull Emitter Valves. Fitted with the new Laminode Plate. Dimensions 6 ins. by 3 ins. by 2½ ins. 10 amp. hours.

# 5'6

**Charged ready for use  
Add acid only**

### Other Oldham Accumulators

Your Dealer can show you a wide range of other Oldham Accumulators—all made under the Special Activation Process. Ask to see particularly the Oldham H.T. Accumulator, which is made under expanding bookcase principles. With its handsome lid and base, it is the finest H.T. Accumulator on the market. Price 10d. per volt. Catalogues free—write to-day.

- 1 Charged ready for use**  
Every O.V.D. is charged ready for immediate use at the factory. It is only necessary to add acid and wait half an hour or so for the cell to be ready for use. No tedious and annoying delay while the cell is put on charge.
- 2 Laminated buckle-proof plates**  
The plates are laminated for extra strength and to permit the free circulation of the electrolyte. Standard plates are used which cannot shed their active material. No separators are required.
- 3 No leaking away of charge when not in use**  
In the ordinary accumulator the positive and negative plates are closely interleaved together. Some local action therefore is inevitable when the accumulator is standing idle. In the O.V.D. the plates are welded together in sets of three with a generous space between the positive and the negative groups. This eliminates interaction and enables the plates to hold their charge even for months without attention.
- 4 Large coloured terminals**  
Even the external appearance of the O.V.D. is distinctive and workmanlike. Note its generous coloured moulded terminals, indicating correct polarity at a glance. A man's size terminal which will grip any wire quickly and securely.
- 5 Quick charging and slow discharging**  
Never before has it been possible to combine these two requirements in an accumulator. The usual way to ensure a slow discharge has been to use a

### Quick charging and slow discharging (continued)

thick plate. But thick plates need a prolonged charge. Compare a thick plate, if you like, to a thick mass of absorbent material plunged into a liquid. It will take a long time for moisture to penetrate to its inmost recesses. But cut the material into strips and they absorb moisture at once. This, in non-technical language, is the principle of the Laminode Plate. It is the equivalent of a thick plate, but the electrolyte can flow through it immediately and get to work upon its several surfaces without hindrance. Any O.V.D. Accumulator can be recharged within 8 hours—speedy charging won't harm its plates.

# 6

### Stout glass cell

The glass cell used in the O.V.D. offers further evidence—if such were needed—of the care and forethought put into its manufacture. Crystal clear and robust, it has ample mud space at the bottom to trap all the sludge.

# 7

### Plates made under the Special Activation Process

The secret of the popularity of Oldham Accumulators among wireless enthusiasts lies in the efficiency of the plates made under the Special Activation Process. This process, because it produces a plate active right through, not merely on its surfaces only, gives that smooth unfluctuating current flow that is so essential for good broadcast reproduction. And at the same time it ensures a length of service which is truly remarkable.

Special Activation Process Batteries  
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## “WELL FOUND”

When the tall Clippers in all their pride raced for the wool and tea markets of the world, they had to be well found and seaworthy.

And being well found didn't end with having good “sticks, rigging, and running gear,” it implied a tip top condition from the varnish on the truck down to a clean bottom.

It was attention to details more often than not which decided the issue of these stern chases—the details which, as far as one could see, “didn't matter.”

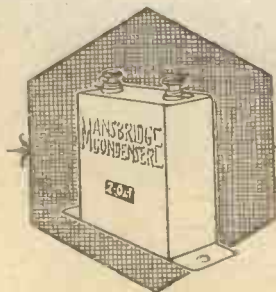
It is, perhaps, a far cry from Clippers to Condensers, but it is certainly a fact that many people regard Condensers as being a detail that “doesn't matter.”

And still more numerous are the people who say that cheap condensers seem to give just as good results as expensive ones.

The fact is that cheap condensers do *not* give as good results as expensive ones. If they did, we should not be interested from any point of view in making the more expensive variety.

And the second fact—namely that the Dubilier Condensers sold number more than all other makes put together—points to the fact that the great majority of people value a well-found wireless set and insist on seeing that it is equipped with Dubilier Condensers.

Do you?



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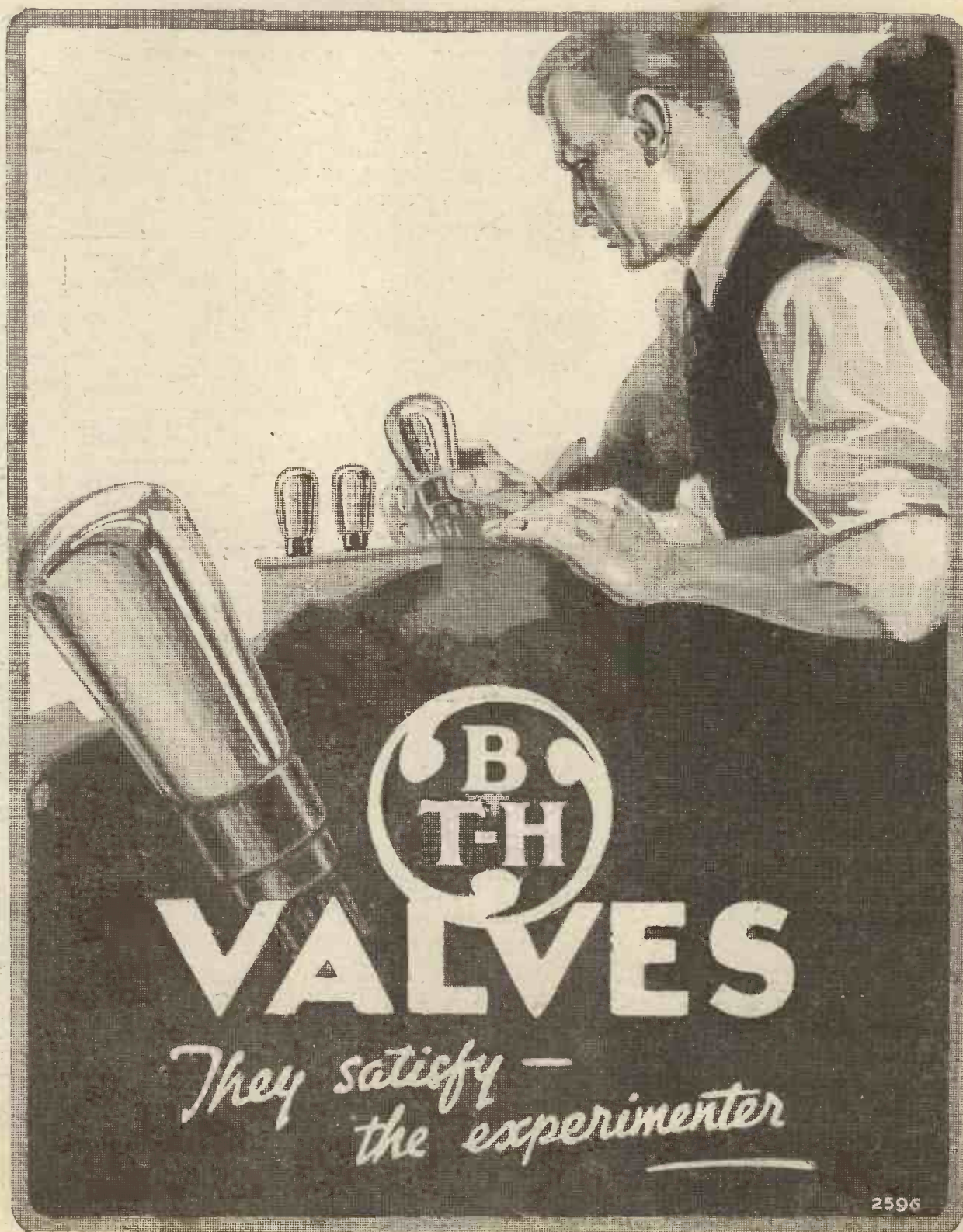


REGD No 154011

**20**  
for  
**11½d.**

*"It's the Tobacco that Counts"*

P.1379



**B  
T-H**

# VALVES

*They satisfy —  
the experimenter*

2596

**Sold by all good Radio Dealers**

*The British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd.*



# EDISON BELL RADIO

**A REALLY HAPPY XMAS**

will be assured by installing this Edison Bell new model "GEM" 2-valve set in your home now.

## SPECIFICATION

Size 12 x 10 x 4" deep. Solid oak case, fitted ebonium panel with grid bias and filament rheostat complete.

It has a Valve Detector with one stage low frequency amplification. Reaction is controlled by a novel lever movement, simple and effective.

Grid Bias battery is provided, also coils suitable for a range of 280-500 metres. Coils for higher wave-lengths can also be supplied at extra cost.



## SIMPLICITY

Even a child can use this instrument without incurring risk of danger. A slight turn of the dials and you receive perfect broadcast music on a loud speaker — on headphones foreign stations can be tuned in.

**PRICE £3-0-0**

(Valves, batteries and Marconi Licence extra.)

Ask your dealer for attractive new season's catalogue or write direct to the company for same.

**EDISON BELL LIMITED, LONDON, S.E.15**  
and at Huntingdon.

**TESTED 500 VOLTS**  
**FLAT TYPE**



**TESTED 500 VOLTS**  
**UPRIGHT TYPE**



**INSIST ON EDISON BELL CONDENSERS**

**THEY ARE BRITISH MADE AND GUARANTEED BY A NAME WITH 30 YEARS REPUTATION BEHIND IT**

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### GUIDES FOR WIRELESS CONSTRUCTORS

*The Two Latest Numbers Now On Sale Everywhere.*

#### MODERN LOUDSPEAKER SETS

This book contains straightforward, amply illustrated directions for constructing three of the latest valve sets. The first is a two-valve household loudspeaker set. The second is a sensitive three-valver incorporating a novel reflex principle which will receive European stations with ease. The third set described is a four-valver including every possible modern refinement.

**CONSTRUCTORS USING THESE BOOKS CANNOT GO WRONG.**

#### PICTORIAL BLUE PRINTS

This book consists of an up-to-date and comprehensive range of blue print diagrams drawn in a simplified pictorial style so that the amateur constructor cannot possibly go wrong when building up a set on the lines of any of the circuits with which the book deals. There are 11 circuits in all.

**6<sup>D.</sup>**  
**EACH**

**AT ALL NEWSAGENTS AND BOOKSTALLS EVERYWHERE.**





## Now Grannie can listen!

"THAT Wireless". Grannie used to say, "was no good—she never *could* hear what 'the man was saying!'" That was before the **Brown** Crystal Amplifier came. Now she sits and listens to the Loud Speaker working from the little Crystal Set. For hours and hours! Now she appreciates the boon broadcasting can be. Mostly everyone, now, can work a Loud Speaker from a Crystal Set without the use of a single valve. If you live within fifteen miles of a B.B.C. Station (or eighty miles from Daventry) the **Brown** Crystal Amplifier will enable you to

obtain pure, faithful Loud Speaker reproduction from your Crystal Receiver. No Valves. No accumulators. Just the Crystal Amplifier connected to your Set and the Loud Speaker. The only accessory needed is a  $4\frac{1}{2}$  volt dry battery. What more ideal way of enjoying the broadcast? You get the results of your friend the valve-user without any of the worry, trouble and expense his accumulators cost him.

See your Dealer about the Crystal Amplifier to-day. Get him to demonstrate it on one of the nine **Brown** Loud Speakers. You'll be sure to want one for yourself.

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—for  
faithful  
Radio  
interpretation.



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20 inches high  
2000 or 4000 ohms.  
£6 0 0



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120 ohms. £5 5 0  
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## An economy which is no economy

**F**ROM hedge to hedge the ploughman slowly cuts the furrow. Yard by yard the gleaming steel turns over the rich brown earth. In one working day Hodge and his two companions may be able to plough a whole acre. Over the horizon is to be found quite a different scene. A fussy little tractor, cutting several furrows at one time, is noisily eating up the ground at an amazing pace. In fifty minutes this machine will do as much work as a man with two horses can do in a whole day.

The tractor works under a big handicap—its initial cost is many times greater than the cost of a pair of horses. But in spite of this, mechanical ploughing is rapidly driving the horse from the land. Sensible farmers no longer look at first cost—they seek results. The extra expense of the tractor is amply justified by the big reduction it can make in the cost of ploughing and by its superior work.

There are still tens of thousands of wireless

enthusiasts who could take this lesson to heart. They are still using bright emitters or foreign dull emitters—like the two horse plough—they are low in first cost. But although they may be cheap to buy, they are not economical to use. They are extravagant in current and last only a comparatively short time.

Compare, on the other hand, the wonderful new Cossor Point One taking only one-tenth of an ampere. An accumulator which would last a 2-Valve Set fitted with Bright Emitters for ten hours would last more than 200 hours if Cossor Point One Valves were substituted. 190 hours of free Broadcasting every time your accumulator is charged. Think of the money you will save in charging costs alone.

But economy is not the only advantage you get with Cossor Point One Valves. They are fitted with a kalenised filament which throws off a terrific stream of electrons without visible glow. The destructive effect of heat has been eliminated. Most valves—even dull emitters—come to an untimely end because their filaments have become brittle through excessive heat and are readily fractured. The Cossor kalenised filament, on the other hand, retains its lifelong pliability, is abnormally tough and is capable of resisting hard knocks with ease. No valve will outlast a Cossor.

See your Dealer about these remarkable Valves—he has them in stock in three types.



The new Cossor Point One  
No. 210D. With Black Band. An  
ideal super-sensitive De-  
tector. Consumption 1 14/-  
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No. 210H. With Red Band. Pre-  
eminent among H.F.  
valves. Consumption 1 14/-  
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The new Cossor Stentor Two  
No. 215P. With Green Band. For  
Power Valve use—ideal  
for Super Sets. Consumption 18/6  
amp. at 1'8 volts



# Cossor Point One





# Popular Wireless

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## RADIO NOTES AND NEWS.

The Royal Charter—"P.W." Radio in Rhodesia—More Curious Atmospheric—Marconi and Mussolini—Remarkable Daylight Reception—"The Ranger."

### The Royal Charter.

THE draft of the Royal Charter, settling the lines upon which broadcasting will be conducted after December 31st, 1926, has now been issued. It has aroused much comment, but all I am going to say about it is this. We read that the Chairman is to get £3,000 per annum; the vice-chairman, £1,000; and each other governor is going to get £700. But what is John Listener going to get out of it? That is the acid test.

### Free Wireless for the Blind.

THE House of Commons was dramatically stirred by the first reading of the Bill to provide free wireless licences for the blind. Captain Ian Fraser, the sightless M.P., walked up the floor of the House and handed in the Bill, and in a brief speech he asked for the support of all parties, in the hope that the Bill would become law by Christmas. By tense silence during the ceremonial, and by warm cheers at the end, the House marked its approval of the measure—and of the man.

### Remarkable Daylight Reception.

MY recent remarks upon how well KDKA was coming over in daylight, brought me numbers of letters from readers who have been getting this station. One Leeds business man picked him up in an hotel, where the aerial was just an odd length of insulated wire hung from an upper window, using a portable 2-valver (Reinartz and L.F.).

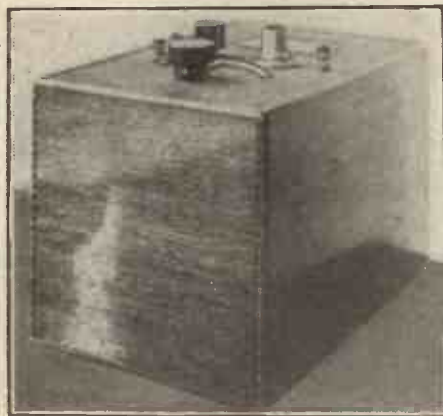
It was this reader, too, who, getting loud-speaker results one night, left the dials set, and next day (Sunday) could distinctly hear KDKA at 3.15 p.m. Not at enjoyable strength, of course, but still, it was KDKA's telephony, on two valves, in the middle of the afternoon!

### More Curious Atmospheric.

YOU remember that queer instance of the "atmospherics" in the 'phones, caused by cat-stroking, that I related two weeks ago. Well, I've had so many letters about similar cases, that I'm beginning to believe that these fish-eating, fur-licking pussy-cats that ornament our hearthrugs, are nothing more or less than generating stations! Apparently, when programmes are dull, dozens of listeners draw a spark from Fluffy, or Tiddlums, or Satan (or whatever the name is), listen to it in the 'phones, and think nothing of it!

### Clicks from a Dog.

ONE Lambeth reader noticed the same effect when "someone standing near-



On the left is a close-up of 2LO's new wave-meter. Above is Captain Eekersley, examining it with interest.

by happened to draw a comb through their hair." This was repeated several times, the set being a 2-valver, Det. and L.F.

But one Heaton Moor reader carried out a little test one night that must have been really funny. He says: "I was listening in on a crystal set, when I touched our dog's nose, and was surprised to hear a loud click in the 'phones! This was repeated many times for experiment that day, but I have never been able to do it since."

### "The Ranger."

NUMBERS of British and foreign stations on the 'phones, and the local excellent on the loud speaker," seems to be the general experience with the "P.W." Ranger, described in October 23rd issue.

One Birmingham reader says, "Best two-valve's worth I've ever struck." And, after all, how many of the multi-valvers get much more than can be tuned in with this two-valve straight circuit?

### Helping the Hospitals.

I'VE only got one kick coming against "P.W." writes a London reader, "and that is that now it's so splendidly enlarged for threepence, it takes up too much room to keep all back numbers. Do the hospitals want them?"

Just to make sure I called up St. Thomas's and one or two others—any I could think of. They all said the same: "If readers will kindly send them along, we shall be only too delighted to have them."

### More "Beam" Tests.

I HEAR that tests with South Africa from the new "beam" wireless station at Bodmin, have been a great success. Communication to and

from the corresponding stations near Cape Town was carried out over long periods, and it is expected that this link in the Imperial Wireless Chain will soon be ready for public service.

### "P.W." Radio in Rhodesia.

A RHODESIAN reader who built the short-wave set described in "P.W." by G20D (Mr. E. J. Simmonds, of Gerrard's Cross), recently picked up signals sent from this well-known British amateur

(Continued on next page.)



## NOTES AND NEWS.

(Continued from previous page.)

station. On a QSL card to G2OD, he says: "Receiver used: Your own 'P.W.' (Det. and L.F.)."

Remarks: "Suits me fine!"

This is not the first time that Mr. Simmonds's signals have been picked up thousands of miles away, on a set that was built from the article which he wrote for "P.W."

Sir Oliver Lodge.

**S**AY what you will about talks in general, the fact remains that sometimes a talk can be the most stimulating and enjoyable feature in the programme.

The wonderful one-ness of atoms and solar systems, expounded in the friendly, grave voice of Sir Oliver Lodge, for instance, may not have appealed to every listener. But I have been astounded to learn how keen and universal is the intellectual enjoyment of listening to a great man, dealing with a great subject. Sir Oliver is not only *doyen* of English scientists, but he certainly has the *flair* for broadcasting, the incomparable power of personality.

Transmitting Without a Licence.

**R**ECEIVING wireless programmes without a licence is asking for trouble.

But *transmitting* without one is not merely asking for it, but getting it! A Cheshire man who had tried this on was fined £10, and £5 expenses, and the magistrates ordered the apparatus to be forfeited. Moral: "The licence must be taken before the ether is shaken!"

A Loud Speaker 300 Years Old.

**T**HE Dear Old Dad of all loud speakers is claimed by Vienna. Three hundred years ago this ancient megaphone was used to shout orders for the defence of the city against the invading Turks. Now it is installed near the top of the cathedral, and is used by the Fire Brigade to signal an outbreak of fire. Recently one of the firemen rigged up a wireless set to while away the night watch, and he used this Venerable Vox for his loud speaker. The three-centuries-old veteran pushed out the programmes in perfect style!

Dominion Premiers Lost.

**Y**OU wouldn't think that motor-coachfuls of Dominion Premiers could fail to find the Rugby wireless station, with its 800-feet masts, would you? Yet so it was! Hopelessly lost, the coaches drove up to a Warwickshire shepherd.

One of the party got out and explained: "I am the Postmaster-General."

The shepherd promptly replied: "Oh, yes! And I'm the Prince of Wales!"

So, after this question of identity had been satisfactorily cleared up, the shepherd took the Premiers in tow, and finally brought them to the Rugby station, all safe and sound. A few moments later the Premiers were exchanging messages with the Antipodes, whilst the shepherd was chuckling over his experiences with rulers of Empire.

Professor Fleming's Portrait.

**T**O commemorate the 42 years of Professor Fleming's service in the Chair of Electrical Engineering at University College—during which period he

hitched up the first valve to a wireless set—his portrait is to be painted by Sir William Orpen.

The committee of the Portrait Fund will welcome any gift, however small, for it is felt that doubtless many listeners would like to associate themselves with this recognition of the Professor's pioneer wireless work. Subscriptions should be sent to Professor W. C. Clinton, University College, London, W.C.1.

New Wave-lengths.

**T**HE B.B.C. announce that the Union Internationale de Radiophonie notify six revisions of the decisions previously made with regard to the wave-lengths of Continental stations. They are as follows:

	New wave-length.	Fixed previously
Frankfort	428.6	394.7
Hamburg	394.7	428.6
Leipzig	357.1	322.6
Breslau	322.6	357.1
Königsberg	303	241.9
Münster	241.9	303

Marconi and Mussolini.

**M**USSOLINI, who is quite unmoved if they try to stab, shoot, or bomb him, is not unmoved at the latest success of his countryman, Senatore Marconi. In a telegram of congratulation upon the opening of the "Beam" service, he says: "Permit me to express to you . . . my own feelings of profound and affectionate admiration." And so say all of us.

## SHORT WAVES.

Truly, many are the uses of radio. Failure to answer an SOS message broadcast throughout the United States resulted in a man being declared officially dead, and a divorce was granted to his wife or widow—"News of the World."

This must not be taken as a precedent.

Wireless has this advantage over the schoolmaster: What it says never comes in at one ear and goes out at the other. Not when you use headphones—"Daily Herald."

We understand that a man who had been deaf for over twenty-five years recently heard a jazz band on the wireless. We hope this will be a warning to him.

"Wireless howlers a nuisance in London." The B.B.C. 2 L O cate them—"The Star."

By the use of headphones and a specially constructed microphone an experimenter has listened to the sounds made by grubs while devouring apples. It is understood that the noise they made when spitting out the pips came through at loud-speaker strength—"Electrician."

A special programme was broadcast recently under the title of "The Inns of Old London." A case of Listen Inn.

"But when the Canon says the wireless is a way of the spirit I do not quite know what he means."—Extract from letter in newspaper. Perhaps some of our readers who listen in at their clubs could enlighten us on this point.

The Popular Radio Weekly says: "3 L O is enterprising, too. The London Station, 2 L O, broadcast noises of several animals from the Zoo. So far we have only had comedy musicians."

"Do they really pay you to be funny, dad?" asked the young son of a comedian, after hearing his father on the wireless.

"Yes, my boy," replied the great man.

"Well, why aren't you?"

Popular Wireless, November 27th, 1926.

Heard at the B.B.C. Concert.

Phyl: "See that fellow with the stick? He's the conductor!"

Bill: "You don't suppose I should take him for the *insulator*, do you?"

The Latest.

**I** SAW a funny thing in one of the motor-ing papers the other week. An "expert," was writing about wireless, and about the disgraceful way the technical radio papers kept their readers in ignorance of the latest advances, and as an instance he gave the new American system of push-pull amplification!

Those who remember this old stunt (it was useful before power valves came in), will realise that somebody has been pushing the expert's leg!

"P.W." Presents Silver Cups.

**"POPULAR WIRELESS"** is giving the first prize—a silver cup—in both sections of the Constructor's Competition, to be held in connection with the Hull Wireless Exhibition. Full details are being announced locally, and a list of successful competitors will be given in the Hull and district newspapers on Dec. 10th. The Exhibition opens on December 4th.

## TECHNICAL TERMS ILLUSTRATED.

The Earth.

**A** HARD-LOOKING young woman of Perth,

Had never been kissed from her birth;

Till she came into some money,

Then—wasn't it funny?—

Men said, "You're the best girl on!"

To-night's National Concert.

**T**HE fourth of the B.B.C. National Concerts will be held in the Albert Hall to-night (Thursday).

Sir Edward Elgar himself is conducting the Orchestra and the programme will consist entirely of selections from Sir Edward's own works.

A Gentle Reminder.

**I** SAY—just one word before I close down to-day. About this Christmas business.

This "X" number of "P.W." is not only the Christmas Number, but it's the biggest number, the best number, and altogether the most dinky, astonishing, and bargain number that ever graced a bookstall.

Worth Extra!

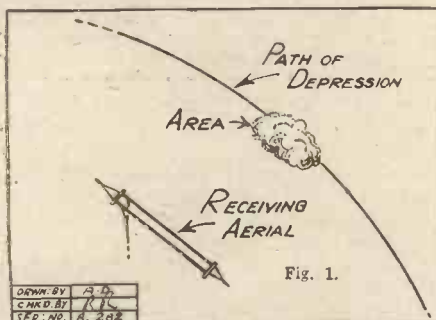
**I**F they want to charge you extra for the Christmas Number, repudiate them with scorn. It certainly would be worth the extra, but 3d. is the price, so don't go and pay more! But be sure and have your three circular metal discs all ready, and go to the shop good and early. For if your copy of "P.W." is sold—well, you'll feel that way, too!

ARIEL.



# WHEN "X's" ARE USEFUL

HOW many readers are vitally aware of the fact that their receiving sets possess the inherent power of affording weather forecasts which very often prove to be really amazingly accurate? By this, of course, I do not mean to imply that some genius has discovered a method of connecting up the set to an ordinary barometer, and of reading off the state of the weather as one reads the intensity of the valve current from an ammeter dial. Such a means of weather prediction is rather too easy to be true.



But, nevertheless, it is a feat quite possible of achievement to read the forthcoming state of the weather by carefully observing the behaviour of the set under various atmospheric conditions. All radio set owners, and especially users of multi-valve receivers, know only too well of the existence of various types of atmospheric disturbances which are fundamentally electrical in nature, and which, for convenience, are usually referred to under the one class of "atmospherics," "statics," "strays," or "X's."

Atmospherics are the bugbear of the long-distance radio worker, amateur and professional alike, and it is very natural that one of the modern trends of radio research should be in the direction of the total elimination of these unwanted disturbances.

## The Radio Barometer.

The annihilation of atmospherics is not yet an accomplished feat, despite the great amount of careful thought and experiment which has been given to the subject within recent years, and therefore the ordinary radio amateur has just got to sit tight and put up with the nuisance until more efficient and universal filter circuits and other devices for eliminating atmospheric disturbances have been discovered.

By J. F. CORRIGAN, M.Sc., A.I.C.  
(Staff Consultant.)

But everything, it is said, possesses some use or other, and even the atmospheric curse under which all radio receiving installations labour may often be applied usefully in an endeavour to obtain reliable information as to the forthcoming state of the weather.

The radio receiver, in short, can be made to undertake the functions of a barometer simply by observing the type of atmospheric disturbance to which it is subjected at any particular time. Atmospherics, as the reader will well know, may, for ordinary purposes be divided into two general classes with respect to their source of origin. First of all, there is the ordinary type of atmospheric disturbance which produces violent clicks and gratings in the headphones of the receiver, especially in hot thundery weather. This "close range" type of disturbance is due to various electrical leakages between the earth and the clouds.

## Simple Weather "Rules."

There is another type of atmospherics, however, which is far more mysterious in its origin. It is the "high altitude disturbance," and atmospherics of this type are more prolonged in duration in the 'phones than the "close range," or "low altitude" variety. Apart from the fact that the high altitude atmospherics are due to some type of continual electric disturbance in the upper regions of the earth's atmosphere, very little is known about them.

The enthusiast who wishes to read the forthcoming state of the weather in the cacophonous symphony of atmospheric disturbances which pass into the receiver may easily do so after a little observation and the application of a few simple rules. Needless to say, such "rules" are quite general ones, but nevertheless they are very useful to memorise when one embarks upon a day by day study of the weather's effect on atmospheric generation.

**Rule No. 1.**—If atmospheric disturbances suddenly arise in the 'phones, or if those already audible suddenly increase in number and intensity (especially intensity) it may be inferred generally that the state of the weather is about to change for the worse.

**Rule No. 2.**—If the opposite phenomena to the above occur (that is to say, if the

disturbances suddenly cease, or even fairly rapidly decrease in number and intensity) an immediate favourable change in the weather may be expected.

**Rule No. 3.**—If, however, atmospheric disturbances picked up by the receiver appear to remain fairly constant over a period of one or two days, the weather conditions may be expected to remain unchanged.

## Meteorological Depressions.

With regard to the last "rule," during settled summer weather it is a fairly frequent experience to have a continual slight display of atmospherics in the 'phones over a period of many days. Such audible disturbances, of course, signify the occurrence of disturbed weather conditions somewhere or other within the set's "atmospheric range," but the meteorological "depression," if we may employ that term, which is responsible for the creation of the atmospherics will, under the above conditions, be moving along a curved path, all the various points of which are approximately the same distance from the receiving aerial.

Consider the diagram, Fig. 1, however. The area enclosed by the dotted lines



The barometer should be carefully watched and compared with the observations taken during listening periods.

represents the immediate area of the meteorological depression. Its path is represented by the curved line. Now, if we imagine the area within the dotted lines to be an area responsible for the generation of atmospherics, it is easy to see that, provided the depression travels along its

(Continued on next page.)



## WHEN "X's" ARE USEFUL.

(Continued from previous page.)

appointed path, it will not come materially nearer the receiving aerial. Thus the frequency of atmospheric disturbances picked up by the receiving aerial, and their intensity, will remain fairly constant.

If, however, as in Rule 1, the depression area considered as an atmospheric generator moves directly towards the receiving aerial, the result will be that the number and intensity of the atmospheric disturbances will increase, thus foretelling the coming unfavourable weather change.

### Predicting Thunder.

And, of course, as in Rule 2, if the opposite state of affairs takes place, and the depression moves away from the receiving aerial, the atmospheric disturbances picked up by the set will decrease in number and intensity.

Sudden thunderstorms which arise quite locally during hot weather are predicted by violent atmospheric crashings in the 'phones of the receiver. And it is not difficult to understand the reason for this effect. The presence of highly charged thunder clouds in the immediate neighbourhood gives rise to electrostatic discharges or electrical leakages. A proportion of such invisible or silent leakages collects upon the aerial and is discharged to earth, causing crashing noises in the 'phones of the set.

Now as to the various general types of atmospheric disturbances which may be distinguished with the aid of any ordinary receiver. Violent crashings, as we have just seen, signify thundery weather almost immediately. On the other hand, atmospheric noises of the "grinding" variety point to an approaching, but not immediate, change for the worse in the weather conditions.

### "Sizzling" Noises.

"Sizzling" noises in the 'phones which are due to atmospheric disturbances, provided they are not too frequent, nor of great intensity, may be taken to predict no weather change. Such atmospherics as these are frequently due to the passage of a distant meteorological depression area at right angles to an imaginary line drawn from the receiving aerial in a horizontal direction.

Sizzling noises which are of frequent occurrence, however, very often predict rain, unaccompanied by thunder. Sometimes, however, these peculiar sizzling noises occur in cold weather when frost is about, and they are more prominent in industrial districts. Their exact cause is obscure. One explanation is that they are due to the deposition of minute particles of dirt-contaminated moisture, each of which has received an electrical charge from the atmosphere, and which gives that charge up on reaching the receiving aerial. Sudden frosts and imminent falls of snow are preceded by this atmospheric change, and therefore there is very probably a large amount of truth in the above supposition. Often, during winter-time, the sizzling noises take upon themselves a peculiar rhythmic character, especially at those

times at which the weather is about to become colder.

Quite a fascinating study may be made by noting the influence of the weather upon the types of atmospheric disturbance received, and, indeed, a good deal of very valuable data may be compiled by the amateur who has the necessary patience to take up the matter systematically. Any ordinary valve set suffices, in most cases, for the work, and even a crystal set will often record the more prominent atmospherics. But it must be remembered that many crystal rectifiers have the property of filtering out all but the very strong atmospheric disturbances to quite an appreciable extent, and therefore for the work mentioned above a crystal receiver is by no means an ideal instrument.

Needless to say, the aerial must be an out-of-doors one, and it should be situated as high as possible. The length of the aerial does not matter particularly; nor does the actual type of aerial employed. It is a well-known fact that most atmospheric disturbances are generated on all wavelengths (within certain limits), and therefore in taking up the study of weather forecasting by means of the radio set, there is no need to trouble about any particular mode of tuning the receiver. Manipulate the tuning

controls so that the set brings in the local station satisfactorily, and any atmospherics present will soon show themselves.

In many cases, however, and particularly in those where the receiver is situated near to the local station, searchers after atmospheric indications will have to "stretch out." In this case, the best thing to do is to concentrate on receiving a fairly distant station. And without a doubt, if there are any atmospherics within range you will soon hear them!

### Effect of Wave-trap.

A well-constructed wave-trap, besides cutting out the local station, will quite frequently minimise a good deal of the atmospheric disturbances received by the set. Hence it is necessary when searching for atmospheric indications with a set fitted with a wave-trap for the purpose of eliminating the local station, to detune the wave-trap so that it works inefficiently and allows the local broadcast to be heard faintly. Under such circumstances, the trap will have no appreciable eliminating influence on atmospherics, and although the set will not produce its most efficient broadcast reception, it will be in a sensitive state for the reception of the desired disturbances.

## HINTS ON TERMINALS.

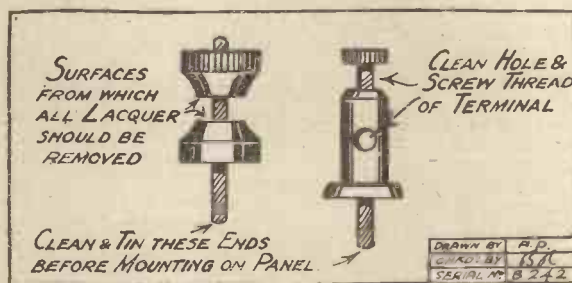
By J. F. C.

IT is difficult to imagine a more hardly used radio article than the average terminal. Such vitally indispensable articles of radio practice suffer a good deal in general arrangement and management, and yet they very seldom complain, or give rise to well-defined trouble.

A terminal is a simple thing. But, like every other simple device, there is a right way and a wrong one of using it.

In the first place, many constructors find a difficulty in making neat soldered con-

nections to the ends of the terminal shafts when they are mounted in position on the panel. This is chiefly due to faulty tinning. It should be remembered that most terminals are turned out on to the market in a heavily lacquered condition. Rub the end of each terminal vigorously along a rough file until the end is perfectly bright and clean. Also, tin the end before the terminal is assembled. By these means subsequent soldering operations will be rendered much easier.



to be removed from their business surfaces. Many reception troubles have been caused through the imperfect removal of this insulating lacquer coating.

Many, for some mysterious reason or other, will persist in placing the terminals in H.F. circuits very close together. This is bad practice. Place all H.F. terminals as far apart as is conveniently possible. You will thus minimise the chance of any stray leakages taking place across the panel.

Another trouble with some sets is that their terminals are placed too near to the edge of the panel. Under these conditions, the terminal shafts projecting downwards underneath the panel may possibly touch the woodwork of the cabinet, thus resulting in electrical leakage, and an improper fit of the panel into the cabinet.

### The Best Type.

Another disadvantage of placing the terminals too near to the edge of the panel is that when drilling the necessary holes the ebonite is often very liable to break away at the edges.

Large, solidly made terminals are, as a general rule, more reliable in action than are their smaller brethren, and on this account their use is preferable whenever feasible.

And finally, nickel-plated terminals look well on a set, but nevertheless, if the receiver is to be used in city atmospheres, there is nothing like a good honest lacquered brass terminal for keeping its bright appearance.



# An H.F. Intervalve Coupling Panel

THERE are three methods in general use for coupling an H.F. amplifying valve to a detector, or to a second H.F. amplifier, and there are conditions under which each method in turn is to be preferred to either of the other two.

The first of these utilises what is known as *resistance* or *resistance-capacity* coupling.

Fluctuations in the current flowing out from the first valve set up voltage variations across a resistance, which should have a

By C. E. FIELD, B.Sc.  
(Staff Consultant.)

The third method makes use of an H.F. transformer, the primary winding of which is connected in the plate circuit of the first valve, the secondary being joined to the following grid and filament. In this case a blocking condenser and grid leak are required only before the detector.

It is obviously a great convenience to be able to change quickly from one type of coupling to another without having to alter the wiring of the receiver, or to introduce complicated switching arrangements.

## Simple Method.

One method of carrying this out consists in connecting up a ordinary way for the reception of plug-in H.F. transformers, and making a special adaptor by means of which an anode resistance or a series of tuned coils can be inserted in the same socket. This, however, calls for a series of special coil plugs, or a somewhat complicated adaptor, the construction of which is probably beyond the scope of the average amateur.

The intervalve coupling panel described here makes use of the simple expedient of permanently connecting in parallel sockets for the reception of standard types of plug-in coil, transformer, and anode resistance. The only switching introduced is a simple break-key to disconnect the plate of the first valve from the following grid or grid condenser when transformer coupling is employed, the key being operated by the insertion of the transformer.

A diagram of connections is shown in Fig. 1.

## The Shorting Key.

Assuming the use of conventional types of plug-in coils and transformers, and cartridge anode resistances of the Dubilier type, the components may conveniently be

mounted on an ebonite panel measuring 7 in. by 6½ in. This should be drilled as indicated in Fig. 2, the method of mounting the components being clearly shown in the photograph of the front of the panel.

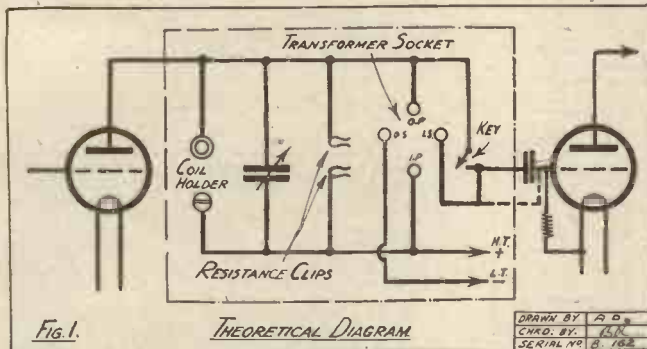
If a Dubilier anode resistance is employed, special clips should be made, as shown in the photograph, out of spring brass or copper strip, and mounted 1½ in. apart, connections being taken from the ends of the fixing screws at the back of the panel. This arrangement occupies less space than do the clips and terminals supplied with the resistance.

For the construction of the key previously referred to, two strips of spring brass or copper ⅛ in. wide, and 2½ in. and 2 in. long respectively, are required. These should be bent and drilled as shown in Fig. 3, and screwed on to a piece of hardwood, well dried and soaked in wax, measuring 1½ in. long by 1 in. wide.

In this connection it should be remembered that when waxed wood is employed for any purpose, it should be waxed before being finally cut to size, for the waxing causes the wood to shrink considerably.

## Automatic Action.

The longer strip, when secured in position, must be given a slight upward set, so that it is normally pressing upwards against the



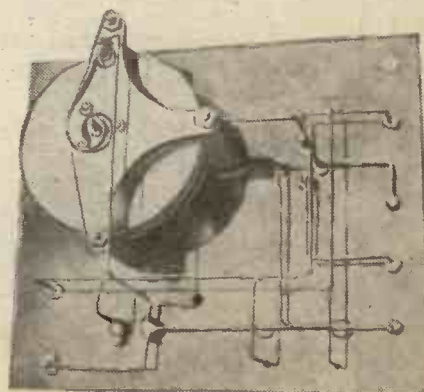
value of from 50,000 to 100,000 ohms, connected in the anode circuit, giving rise to voltage impulses on the grid of the second valve. The corresponding amplified variations in the plate current of this valve are handed on in a similar manner to the grid of the detector, or the next H.F. stage.

## Tuned Anode Coupling.

A blocking condenser is necessary between each pair of H.F. valves in order to prevent the positive voltage of the H.T. battery from getting on to the valve grids, and a grid leak must be employed to prevent the grids from accumulating a charge of negative electrons.

Before the detector valve, the blocking condenser also serves the purpose of rectifying grid condenser.

The second method of coupling H.F. valves is known as *tuned-anode* coupling, and is perhaps the most popular for the reception of short-wave broadcasting. The circuit in this case is exactly similar to that employing resistance coupling, except that each anode resistance is now replaced by a tuned circuit, consisting usually of a plug-in coil shunted by a variable condenser.



The single nature of the panel wiring can be seen by the above photograph.

other, which is slit with a saw-cut for about half its length in order to provide two contact points, and thus ensure a good connection.

(Continued on next page.)

## AN H.F. INTERVALVE COUPLING PANEL.

(Continued from previous page.)

In order to ascertain the height of the mounting block, a transformer should be pressed home into the socket, and the block then made to the same height as the underside of the transformer spool above the panel. When the key is in position and the transformer inserted, the bottom key spring will then be deflected by about  $\frac{1}{4}$  in., due to the bent-up portion at the end.

Connection may be made to these strips either by securing the wire under the head of one of the fixing screws, or by soldering it directly on to a clamped portion of the strip.

### Wiring Up.

Five terminals are provided on the panel. Numbering from left to right, these are connected respectively to the H.T. positive, L.T. negative, plate of first valve, grid condenser of second valve, and grid of second valve (i.e. to the other terminal of the grid condenser).

The simplicity of the wiring will be evident from the photograph of the underside of the panel and the wiring diagram in Fig. 4; point-to-point connection being as follows.

Terminal 1 (H.T. +) is joined to one plug-in coil terminal, one anode resistance clip, inner primary transformer winding, and moving plates of variable condenser.

Terminal 2 (L.T. -) to outer secondary transformer winding.

### Low Loss.

Terminal 3 (first valve plate) to the other plug-in coil terminal and anode resistance clip, outer primary transformer winding, fixed plates of variable condenser, and one key spring.

Terminal 4 (second valve grid condenser) to the other key spring, and the inner secondary transformer winding.

Terminal 5 is only made use of when transformer coupling is employed between two H.F. stages. It must then be strapped to terminal 4, thus short-circuiting the grid condenser, and connecting the secondary winding of the transformer directly to the second valve grid.

It will be obvious that in a circuit of this kind there is a risk of introducing considerable unwanted capacity, giving rise to instability and loss of efficiency. The following points, therefore, cannot be too strongly emphasised.

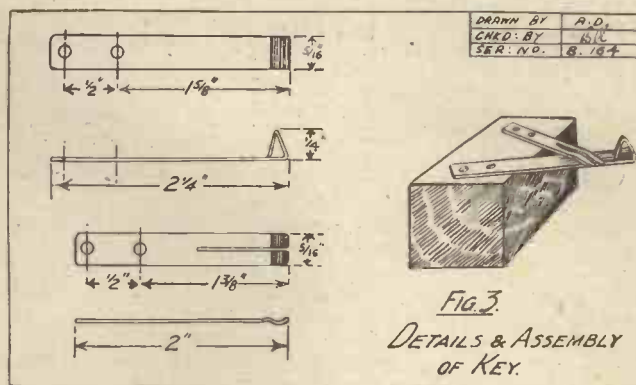


FIG. 3  
DETAILS & ASSEMBLY  
OF KEY.

The coil holder should consist of a separate brass pin and socket, or should be of the low-capacity type, as made, for instance, by Lissen Ltd.

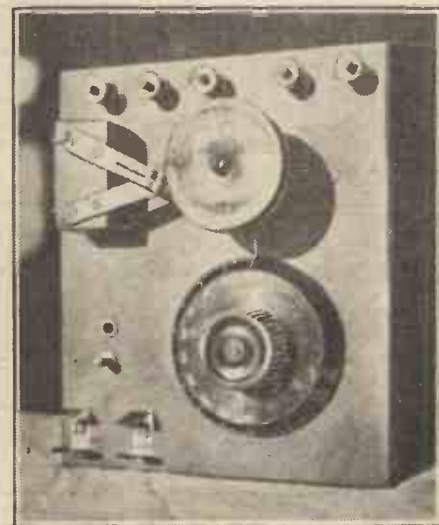
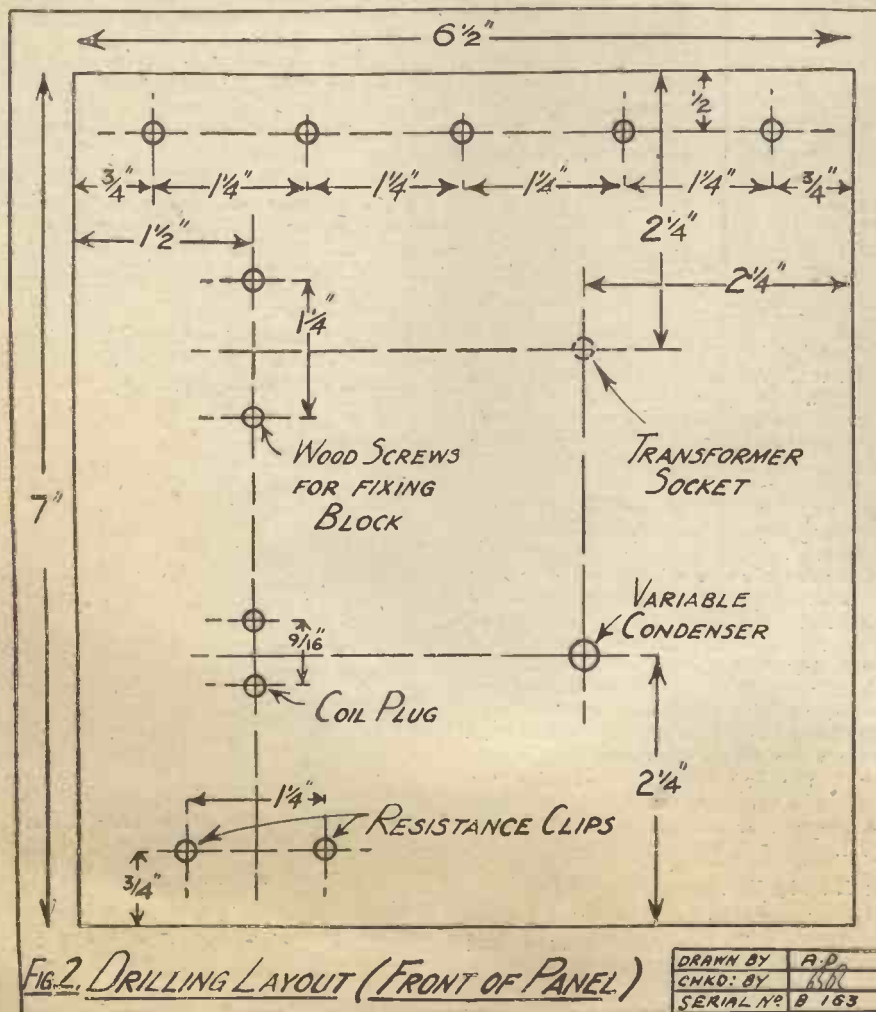
Separate valve pins, and not an ebonite valve holder, should be employed for the plug-in transformer.

A condenser should be chosen having a very low minimum capacity. This will be the case if, when in the all-out position, there is a clear space between the edges of the fixed and moving plates. The maximum capacity should be .00025 mfd.

### An Important Point.

The condenser is then suitable for tuning the primary transformer winding, and will be no detriment if the latter is required to be aperiodic.

When using the panel, it is necessary simply to insert the resistance, transformer, or coil, according to which type of coupling



The coupling unit forms a neat and compact item in the experimenter's workshop.

is desired, the condenser being kept all-out unless it is required to tune the anode coil or transformer winding.

A word of warning must be given here, however.

When the transformer is plugged-in, unless the key opens before the four legs have made contact with the sockets, it is possible for the two windings to be connected in series with the valve filaments, across the high-tension battery.

The high-tension should therefore be

(Continued on next page.)



# THE TELEPHONE TRANSFORMER

By J. F. C.

**T**ELEPHONE transformers are instruments of a bygone age. At least, so far as the average crystal set owner is concerned, they are. But nowadays one sees whole consignments of these articles on the market at very low prices, and it is certainly worth while for the keenly interested enthusiast in crystal and valve reception to procure one of these articles, and to conduct a few experiments with its use.

Transformers of this type, which are obtained from one or other of the various suppliers of surplus War Office goods, are generally articles which have been taken from old pattern Government receivers.

windings of the transformer led to each pair of terminals respectively.

A transformer mounted in this manner will be seen at Fig. 1 showing diagrammatically the mode of making the necessary connections from the primary and secondary windings of the transformer to the baseboard terminals.

The average resistance of the primary winding of a telephone transformer is of the order of 4,000 ohms. This winding is connected directly to the set. The telephones are included in the secondary circuit of the transformer (Fig. 2), the secondary transformer winding having a resistance of approximately 120 ohms.

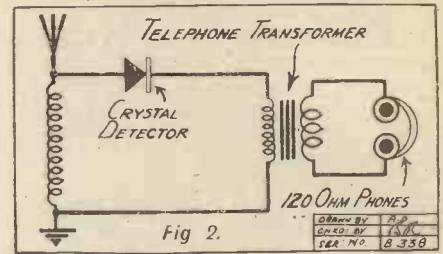
## L.R. 'Phones.

Of course, when a 4,000-ohm pair of headphones is used with the receiving set, there is no advantage to be gained by the use of a telephone transformer. It is only in those cases in which the experimenter has at his disposal one or more pairs of low-resistance (120 ohm) 'phones that a transformer of this type comes into real service. Most low-resistance 'phones in the possession of amateurs are little used nowadays. A telephone transformer, however, will immediately place these discarded 'phones on an equal level with the high-resistance ones.

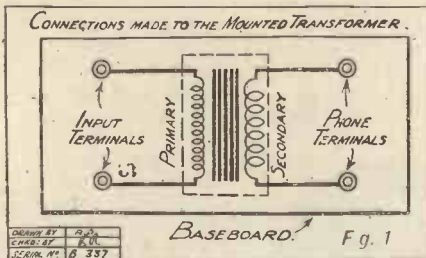
Some experimenters in crystal reception claim that the use of low-resistance 'phones in conjunction with a telephone transformer results in a better clarity being given to the signals, and a complete freedom from local interference, such as generator hum. It is doubtful, however, as a general rule, whether these claims can be substantiated.

However, be this as it may, there are many useful pur-

poses which a telephone transformer will serve in crystal and valve reception, whether by headphone or loud speaker, and as these articles are to be readily obtained nowadays at a fraction



of their original cost, it is certainly well worth while investing a "bob" or two on one of them, if only for the purpose of making a closer acquaintance with the properties of this useful type of radio component.



Usually they are in good order, and can be relied upon to give a long period of useful service.

## Preliminary Preparations.

Having obtained a telephone transformer of this description, the article should be mounted. The most convenient method of effecting this end is to utilise some old discarded wooden base for the purpose. A pair of terminals should be placed at each end of the wooden base (the transformer itself being mounted in the middle), and connections from the primary and secondary

## AN H.F. INTERVALVE COUPLING PANEL.

(Continued from previous page.)

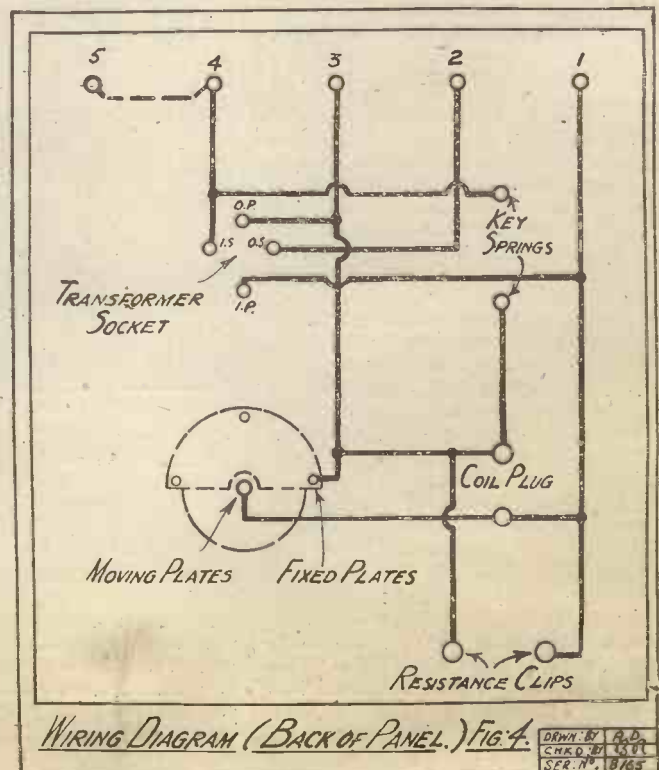
switched off before inserting the transformer.

As an additional safeguard, one transformer leg may be cut short, so that it does not enter its socket until the key has broken circuit.

It will be realised, of course, that similar arrangements could be incorporated in the permanent wiring of a receiver without the necessity for introducing a separate panel.



A good example of the trend of radio design in America. The model illustrated is a multi-valve Grebe receiver.





A NEW type of aerial was submitted to me recently which, although I have not yet had time to test it myself, is claimed to have great advantages in regard to its property of picking up electro-magnetic waves. This aerial may be described briefly as being of the spiral-spring type, but with the convolutions of the spiral metallicity connected together. For example, suppose a spiral spring be taken and a bare copper wire passed down the centre, the copper wire then being stretched across a room and acting as a support for the spiral spring which is threaded upon it. So long as the copper wire and the spiral spring are both clean, there will be a reasonable chance of the convolutions—or, at any rate, many of them—making electrical contact with the copper wire. But after a little time it is certain that, owing to dirt and corrosion, the contacts will become very bad, and, in effect, the aerial will be equivalent to the more or less familiar type consisting of a spiral metal spring strung upon an insulating cord.

#### A Novel Aerial.

In the new aerial, however, the convolutions are separately and individually soldered or spot-welded to the main longitudinal conductor, the whole resembling somewhat closely the grid of a valve, except that the longitudinal conductor is within the spiral instead of being external to it, as it usually is in the valve grid.

It will be seen that the result is the same as though a large number of metal wire rings were separately soldered to a straight conductor, except that by utilising a spiral spring in the manner indicated above the labour of producing the product is infinitely reduced.

For electrical purposes, the aerial must be regarded, however, as a straight conductor with a large number of metal rings electrically attached to it at small and regular intervals. I understand that this arrangement is patented, but there would appear to be no reason why experimenters should not try similar arrangements for themselves.

#### Avoiding Interaction.

The lay-out of a set is a matter of much more importance than is commonly appreciated by the amateur constructor, especially the beginner. It is often stated in articles describing the construction of particular types of receivers that the components should be arranged in such and such relation to one another, and it is, perhaps, not unnatural that the beginner should regard these instructions as being capable of a fairly liberal interpretation. If he happens to have a panel of a somewhat different size or shape from that described in the instructions, he sets to work to rearrange the layout so as to suit the panel.

It is true that in many cases a perfectly good result can be obtained with an arrangement quite different from that used by the author of the article in question; but, at the same time, it should be borne carefully in mind that there are some rearrangements which may make little difference, whilst there are others which may make all the difference to the efficient functioning of the set.

So far as possible, the components should be arranged in a regular sequence

## TECHNICAL NOTES.

### A Weekly Feature Conducted by

Dr. J. H. T. ROBERTS, F.Inst.P.  
(Staff Consultant.)

from the H.F. to the L.F. end, and conductors carrying H.F. currents should not be brought into proximity with conductors carrying L.F. currents. Similarly, of course, H.F. conductors should be kept away from earthed conductors. Long leads should be avoided as far as possible, and the parallelling of leads is particularly objectionable. I have already mentioned in some recent notes the importance of avoiding interaction in the case of L.F. transformers, and the same applies in the case of H.F. transformers.

In order to emphasise the importance of a correct lay-out (that is to say, an

should not be dismantled and components and wiring rearranged.

#### New Type of Loud Speaker.

I recently mentioned an invention in connection with loud speakers which I believe is novel, although on that point I am not quite certain. However, beyond describing the idea for the information of readers of this journal, and examining some experimental models, the invention, although patented, was shelved owing to the pressure of other work.

The idea, in brief, was to employ a double-sided electro-magnetic system for a loud-speaker unit employing the same or similar coils and a similar magnetic system, except that the latter was provided with pole-pieces at the two opposite sides of the unit. The unit is then fitted with two diaphragms facing the two pole-pieces respectively.

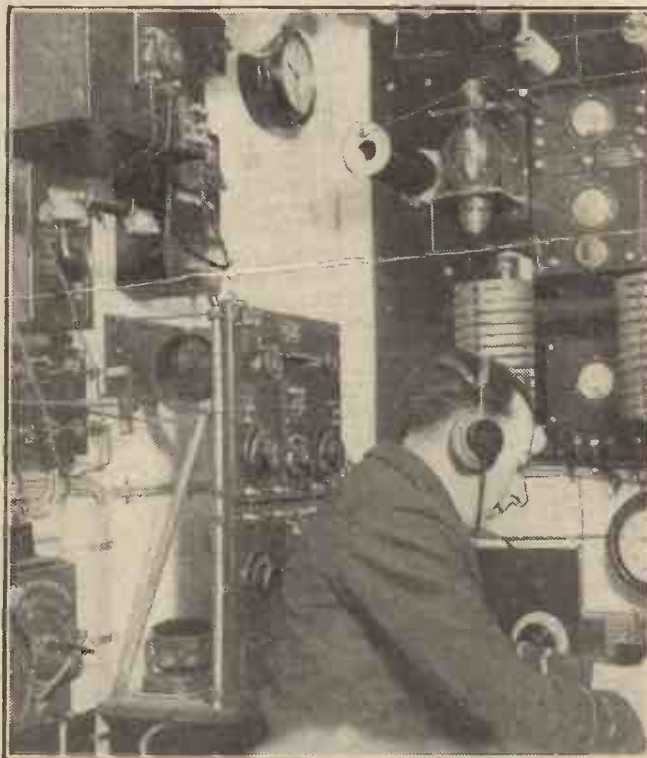
It can be shown, theoretically, that with proper arrangements the addition of the second diaphragm does not seriously detract from the power available for functioning the first, and it evidently gives a considerable additional means of communicating sound energy to the air.

I notice that in the United States a new type of loud speaker has been placed on the market using a double-cone loud speaker, the unit being at the centre of the two cones, fitted on opposite sides. Whether it employs the system mentioned above, or not, I cannot say.

#### In Phase.

It is interesting and important to note that with the double-diaphragm arrangement mentioned above the two diaphragms are in phase; that is to say, they both move inwards together and outwards together, so that when a wave of compression is being generated at the one a wave of compression is also being generated at the other, and similarly with the waves of rarefaction. In the case of a single-cone loud speaker it might be argued that the sound proceeds from both sides of the cone; but here it should be observed that when a wave of compression

is being generated at one surface of the cone, a wave of rarefaction is being generated at the opposite surface which may to some extent neutralise the effect of the first-mentioned.



The wireless cabin of ss. "Jervis Bay" which kept in daily touch with Sydney (Australia) on its recent voyage to Plymouth.

arrangement based upon a careful consideration of the foregoing principles), it should be sufficient to mention that a set which is found to be operating badly, or to break into howling on the slightest pretext, may frequently be corrected and put into perfect condition by removing the components from the panel, or baseboard, rearranging them in the proper way, and re-wiring. So if you are using a lay-out which is different from that in the book, and you are not getting the results which you were led to expect, it is always a question worth considering as to whether the set

If there is anything in "P.W." that you do not like, please tell us about it when writing.



# How to make Fixed Resistors

By OSWALD J. RANKIN.

IF the filament potential of a modern dull-emitter valve is permanently set at the makers' specified figure, no further

3.5 volts, the voltage to be dropped, or "resisted," is .5, and if this is divided by the current consumption of the valve, which is .1 ampere, we get

$.5 \div .1 = 5$  ohms.  
Now for the length and gauge of resistance wire. From the table it will be seen that No. 28 gauge is a likely proposition, this giving a resistance of 4 ohms per yard; thus, for a resistance of 5 ohms we shall require  $1\frac{1}{4}$  yards. But the smaller the gauge of wire the greater the resistance per yard, and since our aim is compactness, it would seem better to use a shorter length of finer wire, such as No. 30 gauge, which gives a resistance of 5.58 ohms per yard.

In this case we can use less than a yard, but what of the current carrying capacities of these finer wires? Will the resistance become overloaded, and heat up when in use? This may be quickly ascertained by glancing at the third column in the table, where it

will be seen that the safe load capacity of No. 30 gauge wire is .15 ampere. Our valve takes only .1 ampere, so there is, of course, a large margin of safety.

Having now decided upon the gauge and approximate amount of wire, we will pass out of the "office" into the workshop, and find the exact amount by carrying out a practical test with the voltmeter. It is assumed, of course, that one cuts off a length of wire several inches in excess of the amount indicated in the table, for it is always better to cut off too much than too little.

## A Similar Test.

There are two methods of carrying out this simple test, one is indicated in Fig. 1, where the correct length of wire is found, carefully noted for reference, and then wound on a suitable former. The other method is shown at A B in Fig. 2; here the whole length of wire is first wound on a former of the same diameter as the former ultimately used, the coil then being tapped until the best position is found, when the number of turns in circuit are then carefully noted and rewound on a former of suitable length.

To proceed with the first-mentioned test (Fig. 1), place the valve in a spare holder, connect one filament terminal to one side of the accumulator with a length of copper wire, and the other filament terminal to the other side of the accumulator with the selected length of resistance wire, which, assuming No. 30 S.W.G. Eureka wire and a dull-emitter requiring a resistance of 4 or 5 ohms, should be about 30 or 36 inches in length. Arrange this wire so that it lies flat on the bench, in worm fashion, connect the voltmeter across the two filament

(Continued on next page.)

adjustments are necessary, for the valve will function efficiently at all times providing the accumulator is kept up to the mark. This means, of course, that we can use a very simple and compact form of fixed resistance or "resistor," in place of the usual variable resistance, or "rheostat," and the result is a great saving of space on the panel or baseboard of the set, and fewer control knobs. Moreover, a number of fixed resistors may be easily made up at home at a trifling cost.

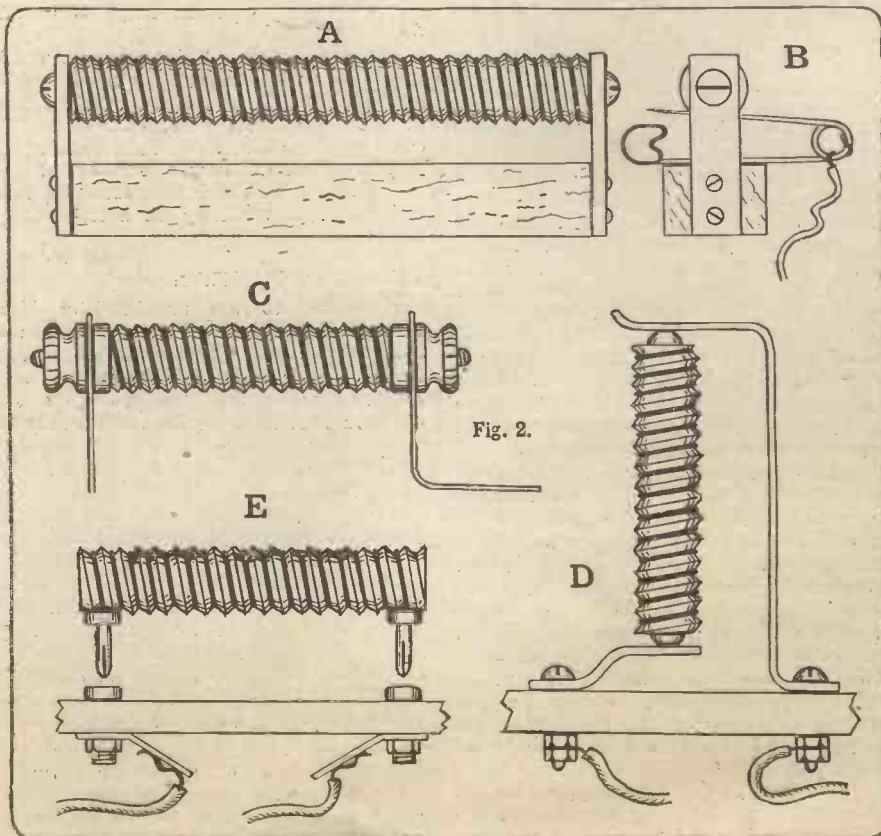
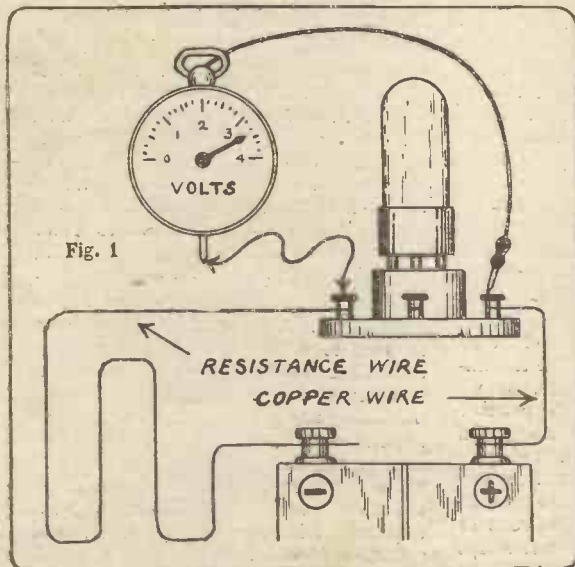
## The Wire to Use.

To find the approximate length and correct gauge of resistance wire to use it is only necessary to study the figures on the valve, glance at the table given below, and observe the simple rule: resistance equals the voltage to be dropped divided by the filament current.

EUREKA RESISTANCE WIRE.

Size S.W.G.	Ohmic Resistance per yard.	Current Capacity
18	.37	4.0
20	.66	3.0
22	1.10	2.0
24	1.77	1.5
26	2.65	1.0
28	4.0	0.75
30	5.58	0.5
32	7.35	0.50

Thus, assuming a 4-volt accumulator and a valve requiring, say, .1 ampere at





## HOW TO MAKE FIXED RESISTORS.

(Continued from previous page.)

terminals; and gradually decrease the length of the wire until the voltmeter accurately registers the voltage specified by the makers of the valve. If now the exact length of wire is carefully measured, and noted, it is a simple matter to cut off similar

having a corresponding number of threads, and fill the threads with the same gauge of wire.

Diagrams C to E (Fig. 2) show three simple methods of mounting resistors arranged on the latter principle; at C the ends of the rod are fitted with small terminals, which, of course, are connected to the ends of the winding, so that if fairly stiff wire is used for wiring up the set, the resistor needs no other support than the actual connecting wires. Round-headed screws may be fitted in place of the terminals, the device then being placed between two spring brass clips, in grid-leak fashion, or mounted vertically, as shown at D. The resistors may also be arranged on the plug-in principle as indicated at E, so that when removed from the sockets they act as switches for cutting off the filament current.

When the correct length of resistance wire is found by the Fig. 1 method, the design and general arrangement of the former is of little importance, since, as we have seen, the number of turns are not taken into account, and providing the turns are well spaced the wire may be wound on plain rods or tubes, or on flat strips of any suitable insulating material. If insulated wire is used the turns may, of course,

its edges notched in order to separate the turns of the winding. If good, dry hardwood is used, the most suitable method of notching the edges is to procure a long  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. Whitworth bolt (screwed up to the head), place this in the fire until it becomes red hot, and then press the edges of the former lengthwise on the thread. The impression left by the heated thread forms the necessary spacing notches, which may be deepened, if necessary, with a small three-cornered file or a hacksaw. Such a resistor may be mounted in many different ways. The plug and socket system will be found most effective, since, as pointed out above, the component then serves a double purpose.

### Converting Existing Rheostats.

The possibilities of the open coil resistor may interest some readers. Such a device, in multiple form, is shown at K, where the wire is first wound over a pencil and then stretched out in spring fashion and attached to the sides of a simple frame built up from strips of hardwood. The coils might be enclosed in small insulated tubes provided with metal end-caps so as to resemble ordinary grid leaks.

The problem of converting existing rheostats into fixed resistors is also worth considering. One simple method is shown in Fig. 4, where an ordinary rheostat is connected up in place of the length of resistance wire in Fig. 1, and carefully adjusted until the required voltage is registered. The position of the arm will, of course, depend upon the type of rheostat to be converted. Assuming one-third of the entire winding sufficient to give the required resistance, we then obtain three separate resistors by simply dismantling the rheostat and cutting the ring into three equal sections. Each section might then be flattened out, again tested, and finally screwed down to the baseboard of the set and connected to the valve.

### Scope for Experiment.

The compressed carbon type of filament rheostat does not lend itself so readily to the purpose. At its best it is never so reliable as the wirewound resistance, and

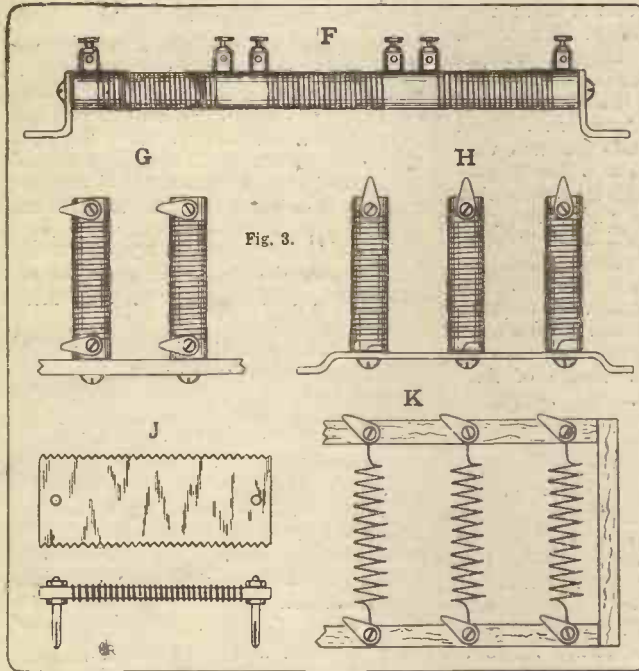


Fig. 3.

lengths and make up any number of resistors for use in conjunction with valves of the same type.

### Mounting the Resistor.

Before passing on to the winding and mounting of the resistor, we will consider the second method of finding the correct amount of wire (A B, Fig. 2). Here the former receives first consideration. This is made from a  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -in. length of  $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. ebonite rod, which is screwed  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. Whitworth. Each end of the rod is previously drilled and tapped to take 8 B.A. screws, small brass links then being fitted as shown. The windings lie in the threads cut on the rod, the ends being secured under the links or screwheads. The lower ends of the links are then screwed to the ends of a rough wooden base, and a connection is taken from one of the links to one filament terminal on the valve holder. One accumulator terminal is connected, via a flexible lead, to a small safety-pin which is inserted between the wooden base and the under side of the winding in the manner shown at B (Fig. 2), so that the moving limb will make contact with any turn of the winding. The other side of the accumulator, and the voltmeter, are connected as shown in Fig. 1, the pin then being moved about until the desired voltage is obtained. The number of turns between the valve filament terminal and the pin are then counted; it is then only necessary to prepare another former

lie close together.

Diagram F (Fig. 3) shows how a multi-resistor may be wound on a single length of rod or tube, the windings being connected to small terminals which also form the contact points for circuit connections, and diagram G shows how a number of resistors might be fitted with soldering tags and mounted vertically on a small strip of ebonite.

### Multi-Resistor Possibilities.

Returning to the multi-resistor idea, there is no reason why we should not connect one side of each winding to a common lead, or busbar, for in most sets the resistances are "tapped" off the common L.T. negative lead. This may be effected by mounting the resistors on a strip of sheet brass in the manner shown at H, and connecting the lower ends of the windings to same. The strip may then be screwed down to the baseboard and connected to the L.T. lead at any convenient point. Such a method will only apply in cases where the resistors are all connected to the same L.T. lead. Different types of valves may be used providing the resistors are wound to conform with their requirements, and the upper end of each resistor correctly joined to its respective valve socket.

Diagram J depicts a simple flat type of resistor former which consists of an odd piece of hardwood, fibre, or ebonite, having

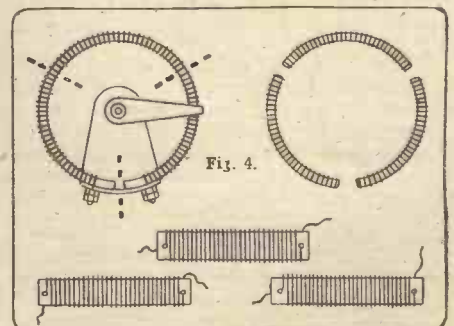


Fig. 4.

if it cannot hold its own as a variable resistance it would indeed stand a poor chance as a fixed resistor. Readers are therefore advised to adhere to the more reliable method of using wire, even at the expense of a little inconvenience and loss of space. The wirewound fixed resistor has come to stay, and experimenters will do well to devote a little effort towards improving present designs.



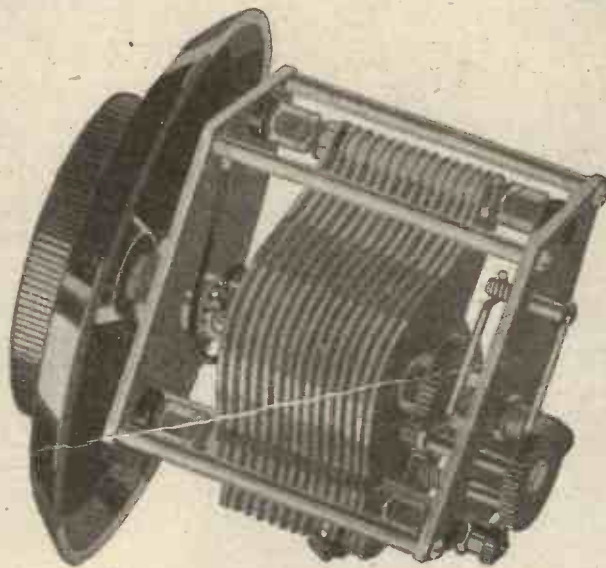


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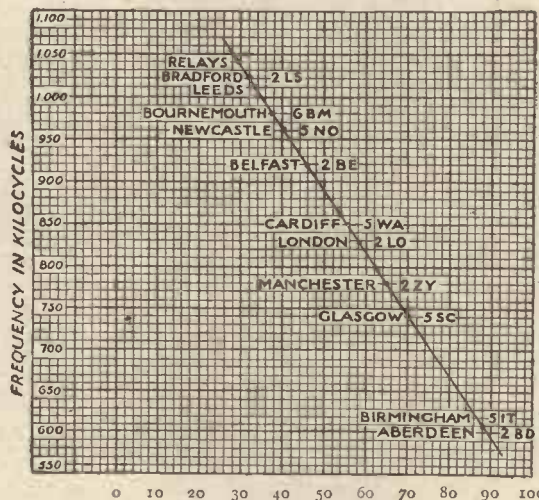
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A typical tuning curve is shown below :—

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The following table shows the new wave lengths of the B.B.C. stations with their corresponding frequencies :—

Call Sign	Station	Wave Length	Frequency.
2 BD	Aberdeen	491.8 metres	610 k.c.
5 IT	Birmingham		
5 SC	Glasgow	405.4	740 "
2 ZY	Manchester	384.6	780 "
2 LO	London	361.4	830 "
5 WA	Cardiff	353	850 "
2 BE	Belfast	326.1	920 "
5 NO	Newcastle	312.5	960 "
6 BM	Bournem'th	306.1	980 "
2 LS	Leeds	297	1,010 "
	Bradford	294.1	1,020 "
Other Relays		288.5	1,040 "

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6. A pigtail flexible connection ensures perfect

contact between the frame and the moving vane system.

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# The IMPORTANCE of LAYOUT

THE term "layout" is such an often-used one that probably not one of my readers is unfamiliar with it, but I wonder how many fully realise what it is intended to convey. "Oh," you say, "it merely means the position of the various components in a receiver." Yes, it means that, but not merely that, for it also embraces each lead and connection made between those various components.

Let me explain. Most are familiar with the circuit employed in a one-valve set with one H.F. stage, and most of you, probably, realise that there can be all kinds of designs, flat panel, American type, and so on, incorporating that circuit. With those designs all sorts of layouts are possible, but you will find in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred that the layout decided upon by any one experienced constructor will be very similar to that employed by any other constructor who knows what he is doing. In short, the components are so arranged that the stages come in their proper sequence and the wiring is simplified as much as possible.

No one in his senses would put—in the case of an American baseboard design—the variable condenser on the right, the aerial on the left and the coil holder up near the aerial terminal. This would leave long tuning leads between the condenser and the rest of the circuit and would be asking for inefficiency.

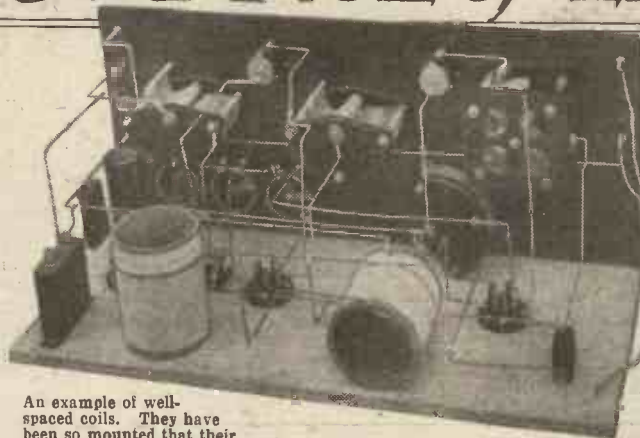
That is an obvious case, but where more complicated receivers are concerned, or where ultra-sensitivity and efficiency have to be considered, layout plays an extremely important part. And here, when I say layout, I also include *panel* layout, or the relative position of the controls.

## Arranging the Controls.

Where easy control is to be obtained, the various tuning dials, rheostat knobs, etc., must be placed ready to hand so as to simplify the handling of the set as far as possible, but, unfortunately, a compromise between extreme operating efficiency and appearance has to be made in a great many cases, or the set would look very strange and unorthodox. However, as far as possible, the operation side of the question should be considered before that of mere appearance, because, to a large extent, the success or failure of the set, however well made the components may be and however good the *circuit*, will depend upon the ease with which the set can be handled, quite apart from the efficient arrangement of the interior of the receiver.

So the first thing to do when you decide to build a wireless set and have chosen the circuit and type of panel (either upright or flat), is to think carefully over the layout from all points of view.

Take your components and place the control dials on the panel in the positions you would like them to occupy—the positions that appeal to you most from the point



An example of well-spaced coils. They have been so mounted that their magnetic fields will not interact.

By K. D. ROGERS.

(Assistant Technical Editor.)

of view of handling the set. Then re-arrange them until the *appearance* and efficiency point of view are merged and you have the best compromise between the two, bias always being given towards the efficiency part.

Then place the interior components in position, as you think they will fit in best with the layout of the panel, and you

visualise the various connections as you move the components about and should avoid long plate and grid leads like the plague. From a sheer efficiency point of view I like to layout most of my components in the exact order in which they occur.

In other words, imagine you are a wireless signal and follow its path, dropping the components into position as you go along and keeping all "live" wires (H.F. and L.F.) as short as possible. It is not an easy task to get things *exactly* as you would like them and still to make the set look nice, but by carrying

out the operation as described you will make a much better job of it than by studying appearance alone or by merely laying out the components *equally* so that the baseboard and panel are evenly covered.

## Short Leads Essential.

When the components have been placed in their final positions, the wiring up can be commenced, and here it is best that the filaments, all L.T. wiring in fact, be done first. This is because in the majority of sets these connections can be tucked away anywhere and arranged so that maximum space is left for the other wiring. The L.T. wiring is at earth potential so can



Members of the Tottenham Wireless Society demonstrating coil winding during the recent radio exhibition held by that Society.

will probably have a shock. Maybe the coil holder won't clear the variable condenser or the L.F. transformer, and so on, and you will have to rearrange things again.

## Well-Spaced Components.

All this takes a long time to describe, but it can be carried out quite rapidly in practice and is not nearly so tedious as it sounds.

This time arrange things so that they have ample space between them—keeping to the original panel layout as far as possible. This part of the business must be done much more carefully, for you should

be carried along all round the set if desired, without causing any trouble.

Not so the grid and plate leads, which should be as short as possible and well separated—grid and plate leads *never* being allowed to run parallel to each other unless they are a considerable distance apart. In this respect, the word "never" should be your maxim if possible, but if "sometimes" has to be employed, it should be very seldom.

I recently had a case of the most annoying kind, which shows how careful one must be even when hooking up an apparently "harmless" receiver. I had occasion

(Continued on next page.)



## THE IMPORTANCE OF LAYOUT.

(Continued from previous page.)

to try out a circuit which employed three valves, all resistance-capacity coupled and using no reaction whatever. There it was, one valve, the detector, acting on the anode bend principle, resistance-coupled to another and this latter resistance-coupled to a third. That was all there was to it—apparently.

On the face of it it looked as if a nice compact receiver could be built, and as no reaction was employed and the plate circuits of the valves were quite aperiodic, I did not expect any trouble. Furthermore,

In other words, reaction was taking place and the set was not far from oscillation. Consequently, tuning was sharp and the H.F. component in the plate of the detector got mixed up with the L.F. and so caused serious distortion. The build-up of amplification was remarkable and on spark the set would have been ideal. But it was no good for telephony.

### Watch the Wiring

More careful spacing cured the trouble and now the set, with the same components and valves, is operating perfectly. Purity of reception is obtained and the tuning is as it should be—flat. This is, of course, a detail, for the set is solely intended for local loud-speaker work, and for such has finally completely justified its existence.

That, I think, is a very unusual example of the effect of thoughtless layout. The



A portion of the crowd assembled at the Memorial Hall, Dayton, Ohio, to listen to the broadcast of the Dempsey-Tunney fight.

no components capable of giving out a magnetic field (except the wire itself) were employed.

I built the set, beautifully compact but not crowded, and ideal from an operating point of view. On test I received about 30 per. cent. more amplification than I expected, but—and a very big but it was—the results were anything but pure. What was happening? The set was resistance coupled, had matched valves and impedances and all that sort of thing, and yet, although amplification was good, results were not at all satisfactory.

### An Unexpected Effect.

The tuning of the set gave me the clue. Instead of being flat on the local station—two miles away—as I had expected, it was dead sharp, almost like a super-het. and with two degrees on the '0005 aerial condenser (the only one) all trace of the station was lost. Connections throughout the set were perfect, so only one thing could be causing that sharpness—the set was all but oscillating, at H.F.

What had happened was that the first valve plate lead ran alongside the aerial lead (the set was loose-coupled with aperiodic aerial coil of 50 turns) for about 1½ in., and this, together with the self-capacity of the valve and the fact that a negative bias was employed on it in order to use the anode bend principle, was sufficient to cause an H.F. feed-back.

In other words, reaction was taking place and the set was not far from oscillation. Consequently, tuning was sharp and the H.F. component in the plate of the detector got mixed up with the L.F. and so caused serious distortion. The build-up of amplification was remarkable and on spark the set would have been ideal. But it was no good for telephony.

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## SOLDERING TAGS.

By HUMPHREY PURCELL.

**S**OLDERING tags are fashionable. They "came in" with square wire, but even though one may prefer to wire up with the easier, and equally efficient, No. 18 S.W.G. round wire, there is a definite advantage in using them.

The alternatives to the use of soldering tags are either to screw down the looped wire under a nut and washer, or to solder direct on to the shank of the terminal or component with which contact is desired.

The screw-down method might, at first sight, seem at least as efficient as the use of soldering tags, because in the one case there is only one joint with a simple mechanical contact, as compared with a double joint consisting of the mechanical contact between the tag and the fixing nuts, and the additional soldered contact between the wire and the tag. But there is a difference between the value of a screw-down contact on to a loop of wire and a screw-down contact on to a tag. When screwing down a loop of wire it is seldom possible to use great pressure, because to do so may either splay out the loop or twist the wire out of the direction in which it is desired that it should run. When a tag is used, to which the wire is to be soldered later, there is no restriction as to the force that may be used in screwing down, and the nuts will bite into the tag, thus giving a greater area of contact than is possible with a loop of wire.

### Direct Soldering

Soldering direct on to the end of a terminal does of course give a very satisfactory contact when it is properly done, but the practice introduces several complications:

1. A poor connection is easily made, due to faulty adhesion of the solder to the terminal, and if this should occur, the chance of its escaping detection is greater than when the joint is made by means of a tag.

2. The application of heat to the terminal may loosen its hold on the panel.

3. If the terminal should work loose in course of time, there is danger that the wire may break away, with disastrous results.

4. The joint is mechanically weaker than when a tag is used, and a joint of this kind cannot be relied on to hold components (such as fixed condensers) in position.

5. If the set is not intended to last for ever, the task of dismantling will be more troublesome.

### Simplifying the Wiring

Soldering tags have, therefore, the advantages that they simplify the task of wiring up, and add strength to the structure of the set if they are used properly. Suitable tags of plain brass, or tinned brass, should be used; they should be provided with a small hole at the end, into which it is possible to insert the connecting wire, if a right-angle bend is made in this about ¼ in. from the end. It is remarkably easy to get a good blob of solder to cover this contact, so that the wire and the tag are for all practical purposes one piece of metal. Needless to say, the tag should always be held between two nuts, and should not be used between one nut and the panel.





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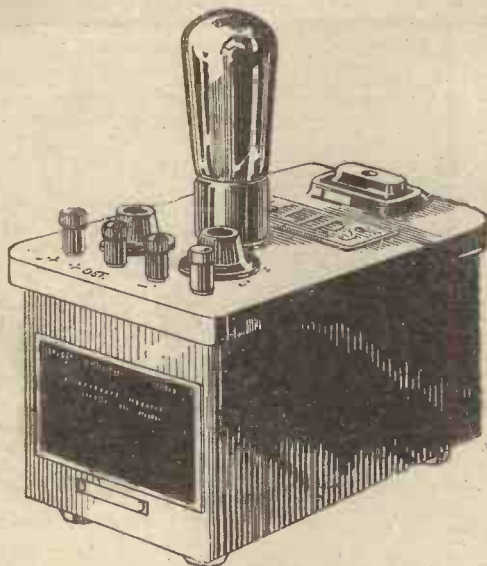


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# SOME COMMON FAULTS.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

THE following is a brief account of some of the faults which commonly occur in receiving sets and the best means of repairing them. The partial or total failure of a receiver may be due to some very small cause which could easily be put right if the owner only knew the proper way of going about the business.

A fall in signal strength is a very common mishap. Unfortunately it may be due to one of many causes, and it is therefore advisable to run over these points to see whether everything is in order. First examine the batteries; the H.T. battery especially is a frequent source of trouble. Test the battery with the aid of a flash-lamp which is placed across each 3-volt tapping at a time. Faulty cells should be short-circuited with a piece of wire.

## Causes of Fading.

The accumulator should be tested under actual working conditions. Otherwise the voltmeter gives a misleading indication of its true state, because when the accumulator is switched off the set its voltage rises rapidly.

Then examine the earth connection. In dry weather the soil around the earth plate loses its conductivity and sets up a high resistance in the oscillatory circuit. The result is a mysterious falling off in signal strength. The remedy is to prepare a solution composed of a quarter of a pound of common salt to three gallons of water, and

to pour this solution over the soil in the neighbourhood of the earth plate.

The peculiar phenomenon known as fading may be due to several causes. When it occurs during the reception of a distant station it may be due to atmospheric or geographical conditions, unfortunately beyond human control. If it occurs when the local station is being received it is probably due to a faulty grid leak or possibly the swaying of the aerial. Try the effect of a grid leak with a lower resistance and tighten the aerial.

## Eliminating Distortion.

Scratchy sounds are apt to be very troublesome, and the source of the trouble is often difficult to trace. Scrape the valve pins free of oxide with a penknife, clean the switches with a soft rag. If the vanes of the variable condenser are bent at all, carefully adjust them so that they do not cause a "short." Make sure that the H.T. battery is not run down: dry batteries when in an exhausted condition are apt to produce annoying buzzing and crackling. Examine the leads to the headphones. When the flex is frayed partial short-circuits often occur.

Distortion is a very serious fault and is generally due to too much reaction or a fault in the L.F. amplifier. On no account use more reaction than is absolutely necessary, and when receiving the local station it is better to do without it altogether.

Make sure that the transformer used is a reliable one. If not it must be scrapped, and the owner would be well advised to exercise great care in the choice of its successor. The chief point to remember is that the L.F. valve must always be kept working on the straight portion of its characteristic curve; therefore use a high anode voltage of 100 volts or so with about 4 volts on the grid as negative bias.

Occasionally distorted signals are due to a neighbour's carelessness or ignorance in allowing his set to oscillate. In such cases a tactful note, together with helpful advice on the subject of reaction, will generally put matters right.

# IS EBONITE WORTH WHILE?

By HUMPHREY PURCELL.

THE present fashion is to mount as few components and terminals as possible on the panel itself, and at the same time to space things out more and more. The 3-valve or 4-valve set of to-day frequently measures 24 or 30 inches in length, and, as everyone knows, ebonite is sold by the inch. To buy a really good ebonite panel for an up-to-date set may cost fifteen or twenty shillings, and it may then carry merely a couple of variables, a rheostat, and a jack or two.

What is the advantage of an ebonite panel? It looks pretty when it is new; but the colour fades, and it shows up dust badly. It is fairly strong; but the panel is no longer required to bear any great weight. It is "safe" electrically; but no severe electrical strain is applied to it. All the parts that touch the panel nowadays are at earth potential. Some of them may be connected to L.T. minus and others to H.T. plus, but it is not necessary to use ebonite to guard against a leakage of direct current. Dry wood is quite satisfactory.

## Points at "Earth Potential."

Let us consider the points of a set that require careful insulation. The aerial terminal: there is no need for this to be on the panel; it may be on a small piece of ebonite at the back of the set, or it may be provided on the coil itself if auto-coupling is employed in the aerial circuit. Valve holders, coil mounts, neutrodyne condensers, grid condensers, grid leaks: these are all arranged to mount on the baseboard, and are adequately insulated. Variable condensers: the later types are constructed so that the fixed plates do not come in contact with the panel, and the moving plates are usually connected to earth (or to one of the batteries, which are, of course, at earth potential). Rheostats: many are suitable for baseboard mounting, but in any case they are at earth potential, as are telephone jacks or terminals.

There is really nothing that requires a big sheet of ebonite. A terminal strip, or even two, will be necessary, but for the rest, a piece of  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. mahogany or oak, nicely figured and polished, will be just as efficient as the most expensive black stuff, and if well selected and fitted, will probably improve the appearance of the set.



The standard broadcast receiver at the South Kensington Science Museum which is demonstrated regularly for the benefit of the public.



# BROADCAST NOTES.

FROM OUR BROADCASTING CORRESPONDENTS.

The Dead Hand—Xmas Programmes—A Question of Cash—Broadcast News Service—Opera News.

## The Dead Hand.

AS prophesied in this page, the new Constitution of British Broadcasting has departed radically from the recommendations of the Crawford Committee. The point which the latter placed pre-eminently in the foreground was freedom from Post Office interference on the programme side. The new Licence devotes several clauses to making sure that no such freedom is attained. The censorship of the Post Office officials is to be much more intrusive and absolute than it has been under the regime of the company.

The assurances of the P.M.G. in the House of Commons have not quieted misgivings. It is notorious that the inner junta of officials at the Post Office were determined to make Broadcasting a permanent subsection of their Department. So far at least as the written constitution is concerned they have succeeded in flouting both Parliament and public opinion. But the Corporation would be well advised to exploit the collateral assurances of the P.M.G. to the utmost.

The only really satisfactory feature of the new documents is the inclusion of Mr. Reith as first Director-General. Even this is qualified by the obvious blunder of not putting Mr. Reith on the Board of Governors. The real reason for this, of course, is that the Post Office officials are terrified of Mr. Reith, and they feel the need of placing him under a constitutional handicap. Where they have miscalculated, however, is in failing to recognise that handicaps of this kind only spur him to greater effort, and a more relentless policy.

## Christmas Programmes.

Among the programmes already arranged for the Christmas period are the following: Humperdinck's Opera, "Hansel and Gretel," for Tuesday, December 21st; a special Radio Pantomime for Boxing Day; Bach's Christmas Oratorio, Sunday, December 26th.

On New Year's Eve there will be a special transmission reminiscent of the many and varied phases of Broadcasting during the four years of the B.B. Company.

## Variety Events of Interest.

National Wireless Week programmes did succeed in proving one thing conclusively, and that was that the real trouble in connection with B.B.C. variety and vaudeville is lack of money. The variety shows of the special week were all first class. They were organised and gathered by the normal staff. The only difference was that a reasonable amount of money was available.

On Wednesday, December 1st, there will be a special performance of Felgate King's Revels of 1926, a concert party including the following artistes: Elsie Mayfair, Gladys Holliday, Anna Clive, Henry Hearty, Charles Baines, and Felgate King. Holt's Saxophone Octet will make their micro-

phone début on Thursday, December 2nd. Marie Dainton, of music-hall fame, will be heard on Tuesday, December 7th.

## A Question of Cash.

Exposures in POPULAR WIRELESS were largely instrumental in arousing such a volume of public opinion against the original plans of the Treasury that at the last minute the Government yielded, and the financial arrangements of the new Broadcasting Authority are much more satisfactory than there was any reason to anticipate. There is established, of course, the dangerous principle of the "right to raid" before the service is developed. But in practice the Corporation should not be unduly hampered, especially as it can



A good example of a camouflaged American radio receiver: the Bosch "Ambaroda".

borrow up to £500,000. The money available for current expenditure during 1927 will be of the order of £800,000. There should, therefore, be no further delay in at least some of the ambitious programme projects the B.B.C. has been impatiently nursing for months past.

## Broadcast News Service.

According to its constitution the new Corporation can collect and distribute its own news. It is understood, however, that the policy of the Broadcasting Company in this respect will be closely pursued. There is no present intention to set up in opposition to the press or the news agencies. Negotiations are actually in progress for another agreement similar to that which has enabled the company to provide its attenuated news service during the past four years. It is hoped that the new agree-

ment will allow a considerable extension of present facilities. For instance, it is almost certain that at the next Derby a narrative account from the course will be broadcast. Other similar occasions will be the subject of descriptive broadcasts, if impending discussions are successful. If they are not successful, then the Corporation may have to fall back on its own resources and enter into a cut-throat competition with the press. This is regarded as a most unlikely eventuality.

## The Prime Minister's Son.

On Saturday, December 4th, Mr. Oliver Baldwin, the Prime Minister's son, will broadcast through all stations from Birmingham one of his own short stories. He is reported to have an excellent microphone voice and manner.

## The German at Dundee.

A sign of stiffening Post Office surveillance is contained in the announcement that at the last minute a talk on the League of Nations by a German professor at Dundee was cancelled by the Post Office after acceptance by the B.B.C.

## Clamour About Cackle.

The wise B.B.C. decision to eliminate a large proportion of the public dinners from programmes has led to protests from interested quarters. Some parliamentary pressure is now threatened. It is to be hoped that interference of this kind through parliament will not be successful. If it is, there will be a new and grave menace to the entertainment value of the programmes.

## Chief Obah Mehewhe.

London will provide an absolute novelty programme on Wednesday, December 8th, when Chief Obah Mehewhe and a group of his Yoruba tribe of natives from Central Africa will put on a typical native show. There will be a call to morning prayer, a march of the tribe to battle, a return from victory; after which the chief will broadcast a special message to British listeners in his own tongue. This will be translated by another member of the tribe who has acquired some little knowledge of English.

## Opera at Aberdeen.

The current revival of the quality of broadcasting from the Scottish stations is reflected in the announcement that on Saturday, December 4th, Aberdeen will give a repeat performance of the concert opera, "The Romance of Spain," written by Norman Ingram with music by Vincent Thomas. The chorus will be from the Lyric Opera Company, and the soloists will include Miss Alice Moxon, Miss Dorothy Forrest, and Mr. Stuart Robertson. The opera will be under the direction of Mr. Irvine S. Cooper.

## New York Calls Britain.

THE surprise birthday greeting from America, which was relayed to listeners during the closing programme of the B.B.C.'s Birthday Week, was by common consent the best American relay we have had. Reception was exceptionally good, and as the speech was addressed to us over here, it was far more significant than just a chance-heard American programme. I hope the Keston receiving station will continue to look out for a chance to snap up these overseas programmes now and then.





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L. 121

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## A 32-METRE CRYSTAL CONTROLLED TRANSMITTER.

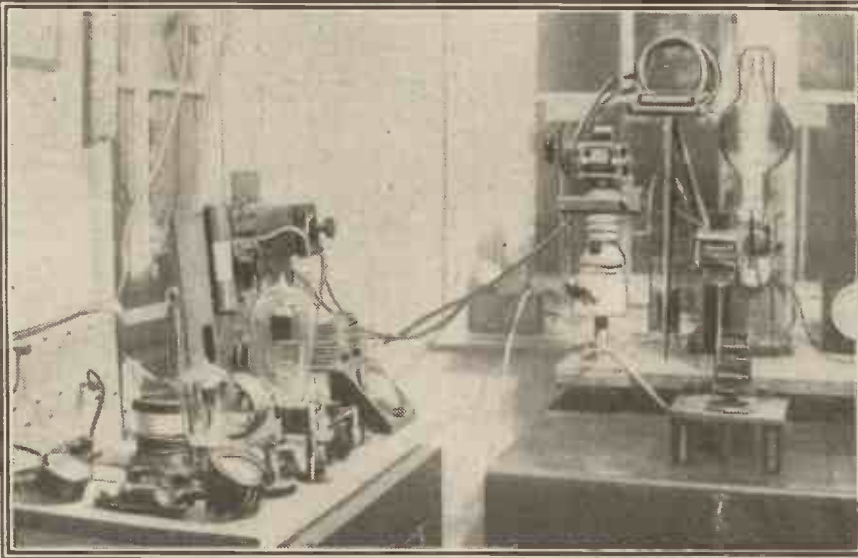
By E. J. SIMMONDS, M.I.R.E., F.R.S.A.  
(Staff Consultant.)

THE following short description of the quartz crystal transmitter which has been in operation on 32.2 metres at Radio G 2 O D for some time now will be of especial interest to those readers who have so kindly forwarded reports on the transmissions.

The photograph here reproduced shows the lay-out of the apparatus, which consists of four stages of H.F. couplings progressing in input powers from 6 watts in the first stage to 100 watts in the final stage, which is inductively coupled to the aerial system. The first

mitter, neutralising is not quite as straightforward as it would be at broadcast frequencies.

The aerial proper is an elevated horizontal half-wave oscillator-radiator, fed at the voltage node by two parallel radio-frequency lines, which are balanced so that the current readings in each feed wire are exactly equal. Numerous reports from all parts of the world have been received on these transmissions, and on Sunday last between 18.00 and 19.30 G.M.T. two-way communication was maintained with places as far apart as Singapore, Cape Town, and Australia. All



Mr. Simmonds' latest short-wave receiver, some interesting details concerning which are given in the accompanying article.

stage, which is seen on extreme left, consists of an L.S.5 valve with 300 volts on the anode, controlled by a quartz plate in the grid circuit in the usual way. The output from this stage is passed to the next valve, an Osram Det. 1. In this stage, by choosing suitable valves of negative grid potential and plate voltage, and the use of filter coils on the anode circuit, the frequency is doubled—that is, the wave-length of the first crystal controlled valve is halved. This arrangement allows the use of crystals of longer wave-length, and consequently greater mechanical strength.

The output of this frequency-doubling stage is passed to the third stage, which is a 250 Osram valve run at a relatively low input power; and finally the output of the third stage is passed to last stage, called the "power amplifier."

This valve is one of the special short-wave valves developed by the Osram Company for operation at high frequencies.

The last two stages of amplification are carefully neutralised and balanced in much the same way as the H.F. stages are neutralised in a broadcast receiver, although in view of the frequencies used in this trans-

reports received on these transmissions emphasise the extreme steadiness of the frequency and purity and quality of note, which qualities are the outstanding characteristics only possible where some form of crystal control is embodied in the transmitter.

## THE RADIO WATER-DIVINER.

By A. J. BOYINGTON.

THIS possibility was suggested at the World Power Conference at Wembley, in 1924, by Mr. Oskar Taussig, of Vienna, that radio waves can be used to discover something about rock strata, ore deposits, or water channels deeply buried in the earth, without actually digging down to them.

As far back as 1910, another Austrian—Dr. Heinrich Locwy—discovered that when

a radiating aerial or antenna is brought within reasonable distance from a conducting body, the presence of the latter in the field of the radiation will affect the shape and nature of the field and may affect the nature of the radiation itself.

Mr. Taussig proposed a practical application of Dr. Locwy's principle by equipping a small dirigible with radio transmitting apparatus and aerial, and surveying the world's great deserts from the air, with a view to determining the character of their mineral and water deposits. The surface soil of these areas, being dry, will not act as a conductor—consequently the working of the transmitter will be unaffected.

### A Step Further.

But supposing that the airship crosses a location where there exists a considerable body of underground water. This water will form a conductor and its reaction on the transmitter will be to alter the wave-length of the aerial, or what amounts to the same thing, it will alter the capacity between aerial and earth. As this alteration can be detected and measured, Mr. Taussig believes it possible to locate those parts of any desert where drilling would be most likely to develop supplies of water.

The possibility may be carried a step further in the detection of metalliferous strata by transmitting waves downward into the earth and detecting the upward reflection of these same waves from underground conducting layers. The latter may be water-saturated strata, or they may be ore-bearing beds having a higher conductivity than is normal for barren rock.

### German Inventor's Success.

The plan is undoubtedly interesting. A German inventor named Pastor has already developed a "mine-finder," which operates on the reflection principle and has succeeded in detecting the presence—from the surface—of metallic ores underground.

To carry out the same project from the air, however, involves difficulties which are not at first apparent. The mere surface of the ground may act either as an absorbing or reflecting layer, while rock strata—though similar in composition—may differ among themselves in conductivity. Much exhaustive experimental work must be carried out before the aerial water-diviner becomes a certainty, but there is more than a chance that radio will play no insignificant part in causing the desert to "blossom as a rose."



A two-valve set made by the Lorenz Co., of Germany.

# EFESCA



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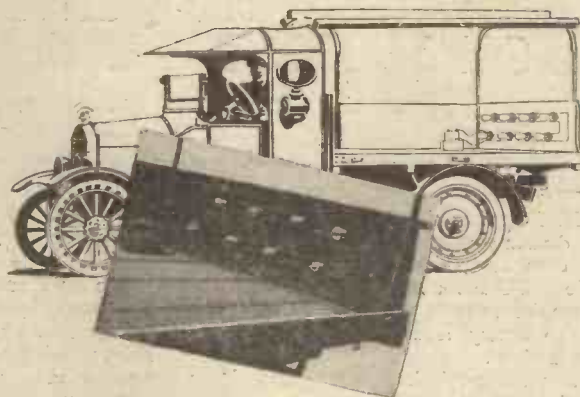
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# The RADIO CONSTRUCTOR

Edited by PERCY W. HARRIS, M.I.R.E.



This valuable eight-page supplement, devoted to the interests of amateur wireless constructors, appears every week in POPULAR WIRELESS. Tell your friends about it, for it is only in "P.W." that they will find the radio articles by the leading constructor expert, Mr. Percy W. Harris.

FIRST of all this week I want to thank the almost innumerable correspondents who have written to me giving me the results they have obtained from the Hale circuit. A selection from these letters will be published next week, and many more would be printed but for the limitations of space.

That the Hale circuit will give thousands of readers just what they want for local reception I have not the slightest doubt, for the combination of purity with volume given by this receiver is unequalled by any other combination.

I notice, too, that readers are now recording results which, had I listed them in the first article, might have appeared as exaggerated claims. This gives me an opportunity of publishing a few opinions on the subject of test reports, and the policy of "The Radio Constructor" in regard to them.

Every home constructor, whether he writes for the Press or keeps his results for a limited circle of friends, must submit to a number of temptations when he builds a successful receiver. Human nature being what it is, we are all rather liable to exaggerate our results in the enthusiasm which comes from achieving that success.

Unfortunately radio conditions differ from day to day, hour by hour, and are rarely the same at a given time in two places separated twenty or thirty miles from one another.

Again, the immediate surroundings of the receiving installation, the size, shape and disposition of the aerial, the efficiency or otherwise of his earthing system, and the individual skill of the operator, all represent factors which make for a wide difference between results obtainable by Mr. Jones and those by Mr. Brown.

Wireless receivers can be reported upon in regard to sensitivity, selectivity, and quality. So far as sensitivity is concerned, in skilled hands and with the use of an accurately calibrated wave-meter, stations can be found and made clearly audible which otherwise would not be picked up at all. With some very sharp tuning sets, fitted with reaction control, no little skill is required to get the best results, both in regard to sensitivity and selectivity.

## On the Loud Speaker.

Then there is the question of that much worn phrase "picked up on the loud speaker." I am afraid in very many test reports that have appeared in the past the picking up on the loud speaker, while being a true statement in so far as the operator preparing the test report did not use telephones throughout the experiment, has created the impression that the station so picked up has been of sufficient strength to provide entertainment in the average living-room by means of the loud speaker.

Frequently the results "on a loud speaker" have been so faint that, unless one were standing close up to the horn, they would not have been heard at all. Frequently, too, owing to the variations in natural conditions which occur from night to night and hour to hour, it has not been possible to repeat such

tests on two successive evenings, and I have often known cases where on one evening really genuine loud-speaker strength, sufficient for any living-room, has been obtained on a foreign station, while on the following evening the best that could be obtained was a faint whisper from the horn on the same station.

Though, by taking readings over a number of evenings, it is possible with many receivers to compile a test report giving a very large number of stations as received at "loud-speaker strength" due to the conditions previously outlined, the impression given by such test reports is that once the receiver has been built by a constructor he can turn from degree to degree and obtain the list of stations at full loud-speaker strength.

## For Average Conditions.

Many an excellent receiver has been prejudiced in the eyes of the public by test reports which have not been reproducible in the manner suggested on the first reading, and by awakening expectations which have not been fulfilled have done much more harm than good.

The test reports which have been appearing, and which will appear in connection with sets described in "The Radio Constructor," will endeavour to reflect their average conditions such as are likely to be met with by the majority of readers of these pages. Many will get far better results than I shall indicate, and such people are to be congratulated for their local conditions, and other factors which place them above the average.

Among the hundreds of letters received from readers giving their views on the subject of modernising existing receivers a very large number have asked for details of how to bring the "Four-Valve Family Receiver" up to date. Laboratory tests on this set have shown me that results comparable with those of some of the best of modern receivers can be obtained with relatively few changes, and in this week's issue a short article shows how grid bias can be fitted. In next week's issue a long article, fully illustrated with photographs and diagrams, will describe how semi-aperiodic aerial coupling, neutrodyning for the H.F. stage, grid bias, and separate H.T. for H.F., detector and two note magnifiers can be fitted, together with jack switching. These changes make for a much higher efficiency all round, and will ensure the user obtaining really modern results for the expenditure of less than thirty shillings.

Before closing this week's chat I must also thank the many readers who have given me expressions of their views on the subject of their ideal set. I hope shortly to collate many of these letters, and give you some kind of an analysis of their contents. Meanwhile I am delighted to find that my new receiver, "The King of the Air," to which I have already referred, fits in so well with what so many people ask for.



This is the time of the year to examine your aerial.  
Test all your guys and balyards for rot!

*Percy W. Harris*





# A USEFUL STAND FOR TEST WORK

AND OTHER HINTS.

BY THE EDITOR.

WHEN new circuits appear the first desire of most experimenters is to "hook them up," and try them out as speedily as possible. If the circuit turns out to be a desirable one, then the work of building it into a finished receiver can be undertaken at leisure or by following

during operations. The wood being soft deal, components such as fixed condensers, grid-leak holders, L.F. transformers, and the like, can be screwed down in a moment and just as easily removed. So many components are now sold mounted upon their own insulating bases that circuits can be rigged up very quickly and with a minimum of trouble. The condenser stands, by the way, are often useful for holding other one-hole-fixing components, such as neutralising condensers, filament rheostats, variometers and many other devices.

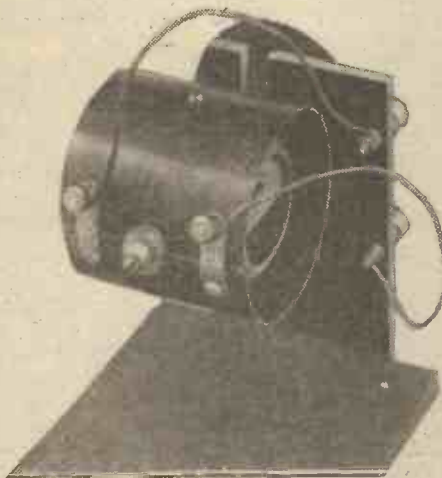
Unless a considerable amount of experimental work is being done with a particular circuit, it is not usually necessary to solder connections or make neat wiring; unless, of course, you are dealing with some neutralised circuit where the actual disposition of every wire is important. In such cases the whole design must be worked out with great thoroughness, but such work is generally too tedious for the general experimenter.

## Circuit Wiring.

The wiring up of the circuit with the components in place is often hindered by the absence of suitable lengths of wire, and

indeed one can waste a great deal of material in this way. Home constructors do not generally realise the great utility of the small brass "pinch-on" tag, which gives a useful finish to a wire without soldering and with the minimum of effort. These tags can be purchased from most wireless dealers at about 2d. per dozen, and are an excellent investment.

The method of fitting is to bare the end of the insulated wire, lay it on the tag and pinch over the projecting fingers, with pliers. I keep a whole boxful of leads



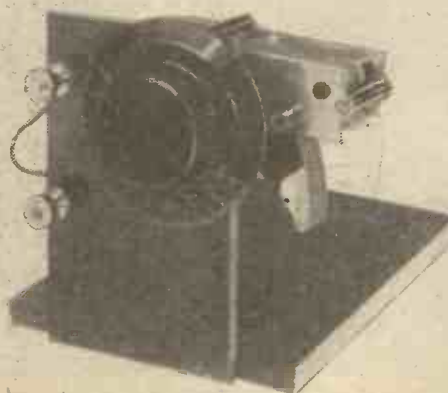
Variometers can be used in the same way.

the published design. Here are a few ideas which will help you in quickly rigging up the circuit for trial without robbing yourself of apparatus which you will subsequently need for the finished receiver.

## The Condenser Stand.

One of the most useful devices I possess is a stand made to hold any variable condenser temporarily in position. It consists, as you will see from the photographs reproduced herewith, of a simple baseboard cut from a board, an ebonite front panel (slotted), and a pair of terminals. A suitable baseboard can easily be found, while the ebonite is any scrap from an old set or from your "junk box." The slot is made  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. wide, so that any of the "one-hole-fixing" condensers can be slipped in and the nut tightened in a moment. Flexible wires join the fixed and moving plates to the terminals.

Two or three of these stands will be found extremely useful when trying out a circuit, as whenever desired, the particular



A one-hole-fixing condenser mounted.



A small baseboard, an odd piece of ebonite, and two terminals are all that is required.

finished off in this way, and although the cutting and "tagging" of these leads originally occupied an hour or so, the initial investment of time has yielded a rich dividend in subsequent time-saving.

The experimental board should have permanently mounted at one end and behind a terminal strip with an adequate supply of terminals fitted with nuts. You will generally require low-tension negative and positive, high-tension negative and, say, three high-tension positives, while provision should also be made for at least three pairs of grid-bias terminals, if you are doing experimental work with multi-valve circuits.

## Semi-Permanency.

You will find, by experience, that quite a considerable amount of apparatus will be kept permanently mounted on the board. For example, the detector and two note-magnifying stages will stand for many circuit arrangements. I find it useful to keep such apparatus on the board but without transformers, arranging flexible leads with spade terminals so that any make of transformer can be connected in a moment or two, without cutting and fitting special wires. It is also convenient to keep a couple of resistance stages "alongside" ready for comparison purposes.



# The STATION MASTER

ON a number of occasions recently, and again when answering readers' queries at a big London store, I have been asked for a design of receiver which would enable the user to sit quietly in a room and listen to a wide variety of stations without interference from the nearest, and without using a loud speaker for the purpose. In a phrase, what was needed was a long-distance "telephone" set, with real simplicity of control.

Of course, for high selectivity and simplicity of control a super-heterodyne has many good points, but the large number of valves generally necessary, the complicated make-up, together with the large demand made upon the H.T. battery, and not the least the expense involved, generally put the super-heterodyne out of the ordinary man's way.

Sitting down to think about the matter, it occurred to me that by cutting out the note-magnifying stages we should still get ample strength for telephone use, while the other advantages, simplicity of control and selectivity, would be retained. Furthermore, a five-valve set should be amply sufficient in this form, and a five-valve set is neither expensive to run nor particularly expensive to build, especially if, as in the set to be described, due precautions are taken to keep the costs down.

## All in One.

Now, self-contained sets have great charm for me, and one of my first requirements in laying out the design was to find some way in which the receiver could be built in which both batteries were inside the cabinet without making it too bulky. Batteries themselves cannot be reduced in size, so the space would have to be saved elsewhere. In one direction a saving of weight and bulk could be effected by using a two-volt battery, particularly as good two-volt valves of all types are now available in a number of makes.

It so happens that one manufacturer is now producing a "super-heterodyne unit" containing many of the essential parts of this receiver in a very small compass. The simplified unit referred to is extremely compact, and contains the combined oscillator and detector unit, the intermediate frequency transformers, and the necessary fixed condensers and grid leaks with the valve holders mounted on the top.

Additionally there are required two variable condensers, the potentiometer, jack, on-and-off switch, and a Mansbridge condenser. On carefully laying out the parts I found it possible to get the five-valve super-heterodyne equipment into a space generally occupied by a three-valve set, and by obtaining a cabinet slightly deeper than usual, the batteries could be placed behind, while still making a very compact instrument.



By PERCY W. HARRIS, M.I.R.E.  
Designed for headphone listening, this self-contained super-heterodyne brings all Europe to your ears. The complete cost with all valves, batteries, etc., is under £16.0.0.

There are several other points of interest in the design. For example, by adopting a fairly new type of cabinet with a special front, it is possible to use not only a slightly smaller ebonite panel than would otherwise be required for this size of cabinet, but any irregularities in cutting the panel—and many home constructors find trouble in obtaining a neat edge—is covered up by

the overlapping woodwork. Furthermore, the "cut away" effect is very pleasing, and will be definitely preferred to the older type of panel presentation by most people.

## How It Works.

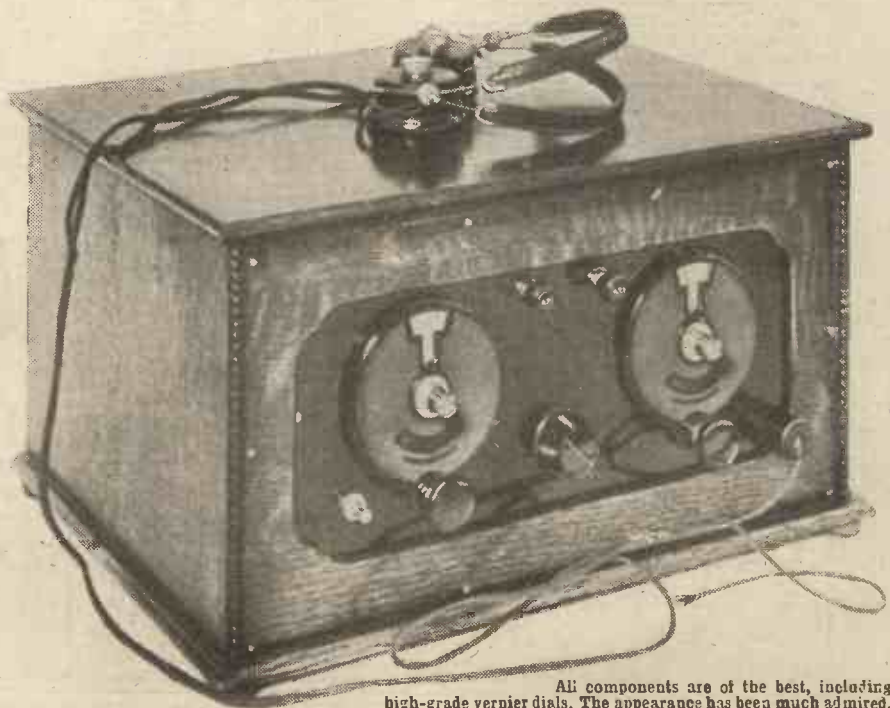
Seeing that we are using a complete unit for the supersonic portion there is no need to go into details of the circuit, but for the benefit of those who have not previously handled a super-heterodyne, a few notes will be useful on the general principles of working.

Although the name "super-heterodyne" may seem formidable to the beginner and suggestive of technical mystery, this type of receiver is one of the easiest to operate, but it is not always the most easy to design and construct. To obtain long-distance results it is necessary that our signals should be magnified by H.F. amplifiers before being detected, and, indeed, most of the energies of designers during the last three years have been devoted to evolving new and more efficient means of H.F. amplification.

The valve itself is, of course, a magnifier, and it would seem easy to arrange a number of valves one after the other so that each should magnify signals passed on from the previous one. If, for example, we tune our aerial circuit to the wave-length we wish to receive, then the valve will magnify the small current set up and, if these currents induce further currents in the next stage, still greater magnification will be obtained.

It will be observed that to carry out this amplification each stage must be separately tuned to the wave-length we desire to receive, and this means that in most sensitive receiving sets there are several tuning controls—one for each stage of magnification.

(Continued on next page.)



All components are of the best, including high-grade vernier dials. The appearance has been much admired.



## THE STATION MASTER.

(Continued from previous page.)

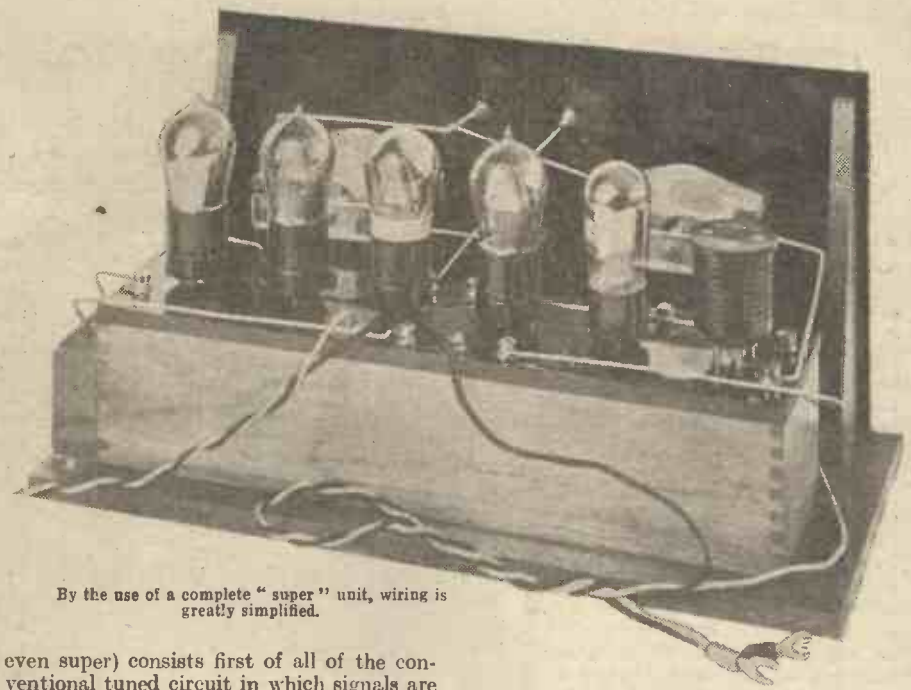
tion. Within the last year or so attempts have been made to simplify the handling of such receivers by joining all the variable condensers to one shaft so that all can be rotated at the same time.

This method is known as the single control method, and if carefully matched condensers and equally matched coils are used, and if, furthermore, certain precautions are taken in the initial stages, it is possible to obtain a practical receiver using several stages of H.F. amplification with only one tuning control. However, such receivers are generally expensive, and completely dependent upon accuracy of matching, and personally I have never felt very enthusiastic about them. It is much easier and far less expensive to use two or three controls, and it is probable that many experimenters will still prefer this method until the technique is still further improved.

### Fixed Tuning.

Now, it will be obvious that if our receiver is designed to receive one wave-length only, then the various stages could be tuned to that particular wave-length and left so set. Such a receiver once tuned would always give us good signals from that particular station, but the simplicity so obtained would hardly be worth while seeing that we should be limited to one station only.

In the supersonic heterodyne receiver the real merits of a single frequency in amplification are taken advantage of, while the ability to tune to any desired wave is obtained by a very ingenious special device. For simplicity's sake we can say that a supersonic heterodyne receiver (generally abbreviated to super-het. or



By the use of a complete "super" unit, wiring is greatly simplified.

even super) consists first of all of the conventional tuned circuit in which signals are picked up.

This may take the form of a small frame aerial across which a tuning condenser is placed, or it may be the conventional tuned circuit such as we use in conjunction with an outdoor aerial. In view of the extreme sensitivity of a super-heterodyne receiver it is usually the former as, with the frame aerial a much higher degree of selectivity is obtained than with the outdoor type. Against this must be set off the reduction in general sensitivity which a frame aerial gives.

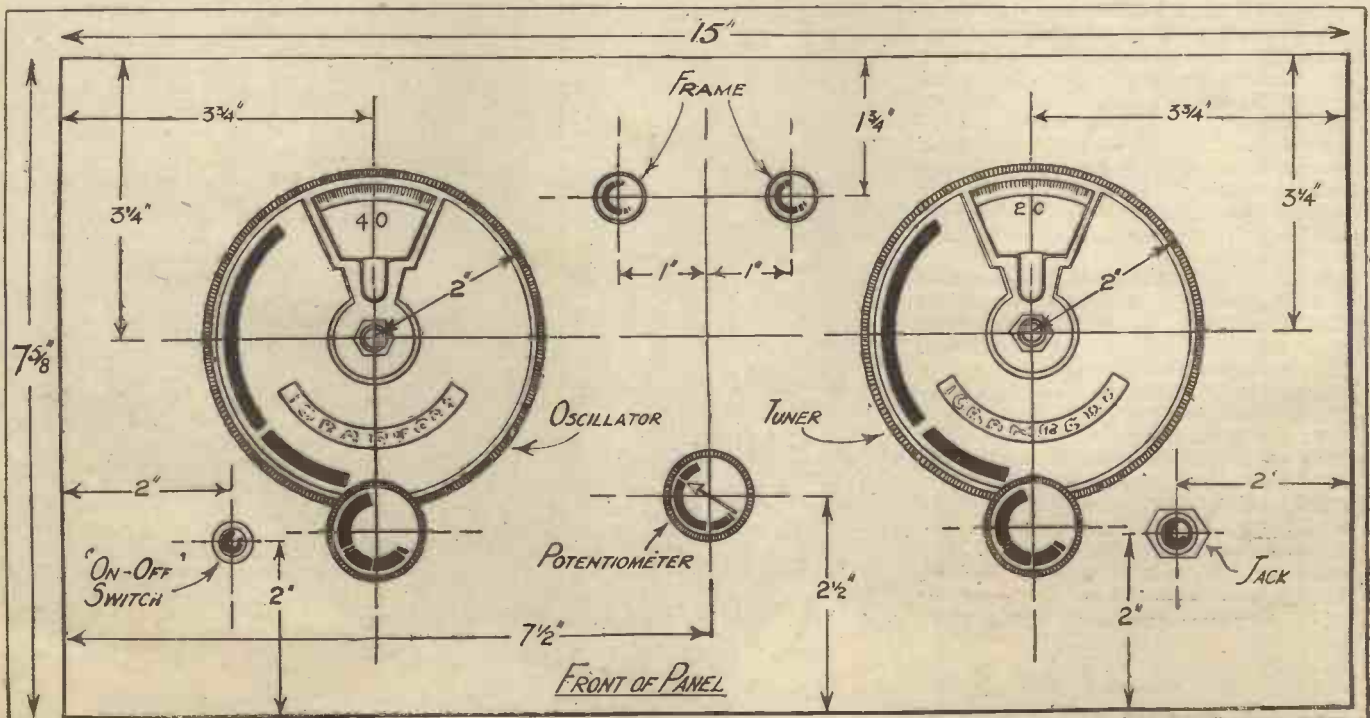
### The Inventors.

The frequencies to which the first tuned circuit is adjusted range over all the wave-

lengths that we commonly desire to receive, and therefore if we wish to obtain high-frequency amplification of an efficient type by ordinary methods, each stage of high frequency would have to be simultaneously tuned with the first tuned circuit. By a highly ingenious method, invented by Dr. Lucien Levy and Edwin H. Armstrong about the same time, the oscillations set up in the tuned circuit are combined with separately generated oscillations from a special valve so as to produce a still different frequency which is kept the same for all wave-lengths.

Thus, we may have oscillations on a 300-metre wave-length giving a frequency of

(Continued on next page.)



Although the actual panel shown is smaller, a standard 16" x 8" panel is equally suitable.



## THE STATION MASTER

(Continued from previous page.)

1,000,000, and by our oscillating valve we can produce simultaneously oscillations of a frequency of 1,100,000. The 1,100,000 frequency can be superimposed upon the 1,000,000 frequency, and there will be produced "beats" which can be rectified by a detector valve and will produce a frequency of only 100,000 cycles corresponding to a wave-length of 3,000 metres. This new "beat frequency" carries the modulation of the received signals, and if we put this through an amplifier designed to amplify at 3,000 metres and at no other frequency, we can utilise the method which does not require special tuning other than the initial tuning in the 3,000-metre wave-length.

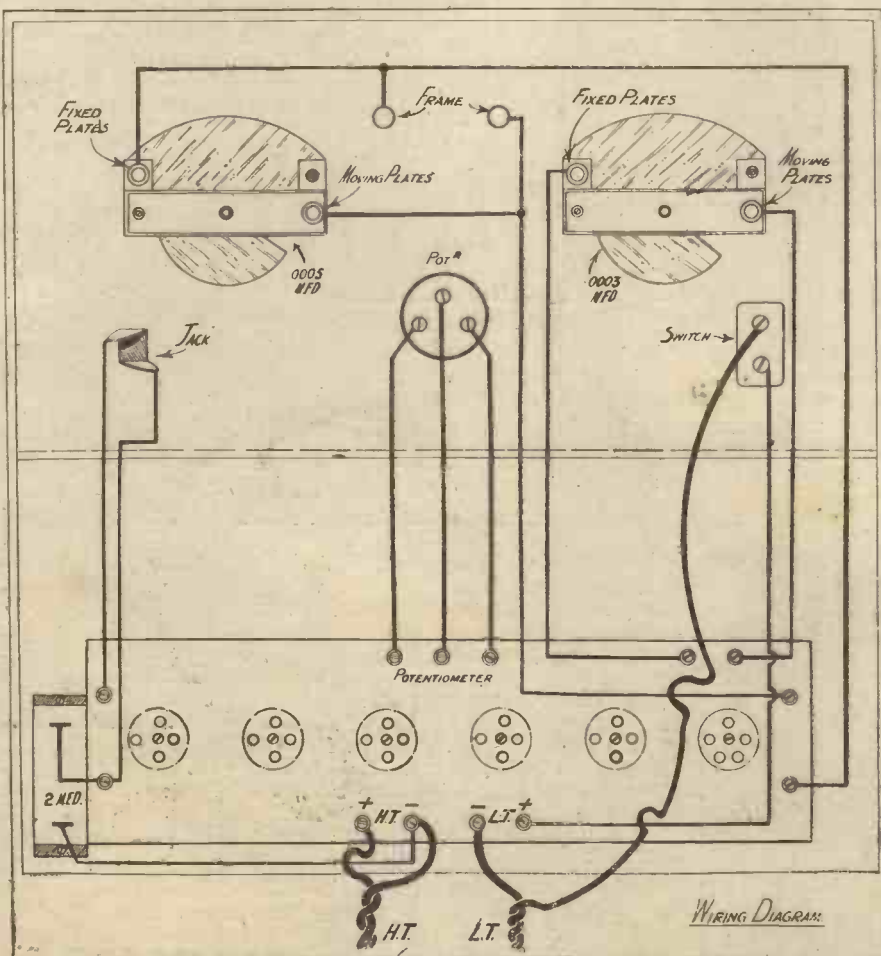
### The Oscillator.

Now let us assume that we wish to tune to a wave-length of 600 metres, corresponding to a frequency of 500,000. When we change our tuning, at the same time we change the tuning of our oscillator to produce a frequency of 600,000, and again the beat note will be produced. This beat note will be the same as before, viz., 100,000, corresponding to a wave-length of 3,000 metres above referred to. In this way the amplifier which has been tuned once and for all to 3,000-metre signals can be used

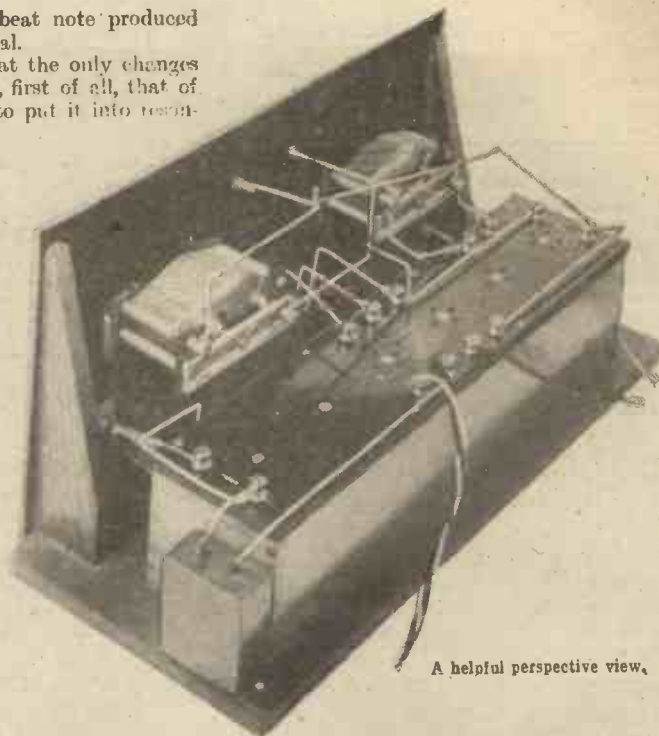
again to magnify the beat note produced from the 600-metre signal.

You will thus see that the only changes necessary in tuning are, first of all, that of the first tuned circuit to put it into resonance with the incoming signal, and secondly that of the oscillator to keep the difference of frequency between the two sets of oscillations always the same, namely, the 100,000 or 300 metres frequency. No matter what wave-length we wish to receive within the range of the instrument, we are only required to readjust the oscillator to keep the beat frequency the same.

You are now in a position to understand the general principles of a super-heterodyne receiver. It consists, then, of a tuned circuit into which are induced oscillations from a separate oscillator valve to produce the beat note. The beat note is then rectified, giving what is called the intermediate frequency signals, and these are magnified with a fixed amplifier to correspond with the frequency of the beat note.



Wiring is of the simplest character. Note that the conventional terminal strip is unnecessary.



A helpful perspective view.

### PARTS REQUIRED.

One McMichael supersonic Unit. (L. McMichael, Ltd.)

One special cabinet to take a panel measuring 16 by 8 by  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. The cabinet illustrated is made by the Unica Cabinet Company.

One ebonite panel 16 by 8 by  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. Any good guaranteed ebonite.

Two variable condensers, one of .0003 mfd. and one of .0005 mfd. These illustrated are the Bowyer-Lowe "Popular," but any good make of variable condenser of the value given will do, provided the securing nut of the one-hole-fixing method does not project too far from the front, so as to foul the vernier dials.

Two vernier dials. Those shown are the Igranic Indigraph, but any other suitable vernier dials can be chosen if the reader so desires.

One potentiometer; 300 or 400 ohms, any good make, will do here. That shown is a Yesley.

One on-and-off switch. Here again you have a wide variety of choice. That shown is an Igranic.

One single circuit open jack. Bowyer-Lowe, Igranic, Ashley, or any other well-known make will do.

Two terminals. I have used the Belling-Lee bakelite covered terminals, which give a smart appearance.

One plug to suit jack. As plugs and jacks are now standardised any good make will suit.

Suitable baseboard to fit in the cabinet. Most cabinet-makers supply these with the cabinet.

One 60-volt high-tension battery.

One 2-volt accumulator.

Five valves, 2-volt variety. (See notes next week.)

One suitable frame aerial.

One 2-mfd. Mansbridge condenser.

Two yards two colour twin flex.

Most of the components can be obtained in different makes, which will naturally vary a little in price, but if the parts used in this particular layout are adopted, the total cost will not exceed £18.

(Continued on next page.)

## THE STATION MASTER.

(Continued from previous page.)

After they have been amplified at this intermediate frequency by two or three stages of high-frequency amplification, they are rectified in the usual way and passed out of the telephones direct or through the intermediary of audio-frequency amplifiers to our loud speaker.

We can, of course, choose a wide variety of frequencies for the intermediate frequency amplifier, and indeed the commercial intermediate frequency transformers used in these amplifiers are designed for widely different wave-lengths. Some are tuned to a frequency corresponding to 10,000 metres, others to one corresponding to 2,500 or 3,000 metres.

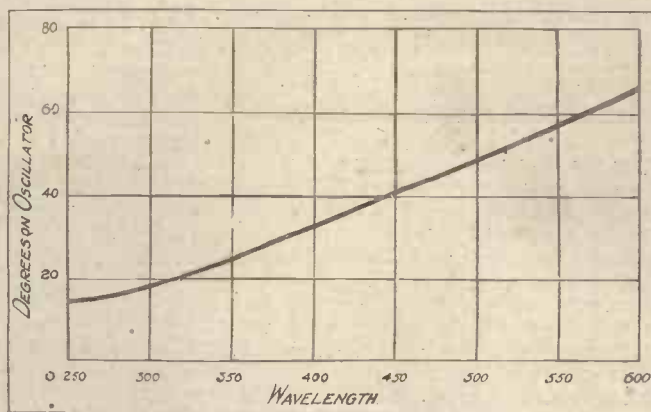
### Intermediate Frequencies.

There are advantages and disadvantages in the various frequencies, but so long as we are careful to choose one which does not

intermediate frequency, three intermediate frequency stages, a second detector and two stages of note magnification. By several ingenious adaptations it has been found possible to combine the functions of the first detector and oscillator in one valve, and sometimes only stage of audio-frequency magnification is used.

In the present receiver, which is designed purely for telephone work, economy of valves has been sought after. There are but five valves, the first acting as a combined oscillator and first detector, the second, third and fourth are intermediate frequency amplifiers, and the fifth as the second detector.

In order to give the greatest simplicity of construction a special unit has been incorporated in the set. This unit contains within a small compass all the intermediate transformer, condensers, oscillator coils, etc., going to make up the super-sonic portion of the outfit, together with valve holders and terminals. This unit is made by Messrs. McMichael, Ltd., and



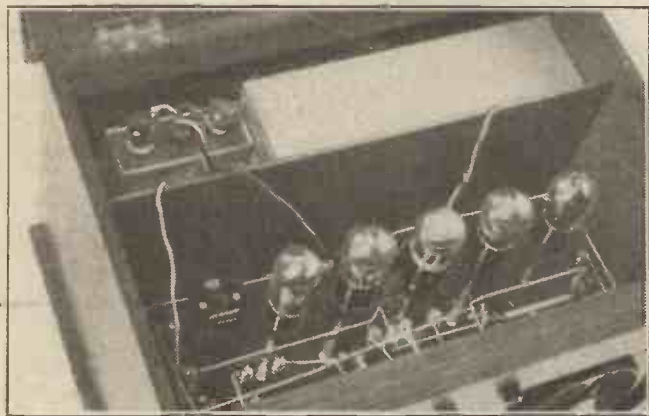
Approximate tuning guide for the oscillator dial.

range with a .0005 mfd. condenser. Actually the instrument with such a frame should tune from about 260 to well over 600 metres.

Although the supersonic portions are contained in a very neat box, properly wired up and sealed by the manufacturers, it must not be imagined that the layout of the remainder of the wiring is unimportant. Although it may surprise many readers, it is a fact that this set had to be re-wired three times before it would give satisfactory working, for the length of the condenser leads and their relation to one another was found to be highly important. I would advise you, then, to follow very carefully the actual wiring of the set shown, as it is the result of very careful experiment and test.

### Constructional Hints.

Seeing that the drawings give you all dimensions, the drilling will present no difficulty, particularly as the components on the front panel are, as usual in most of my



H.T. and L.T. fit into their own section behind the "super" unit.

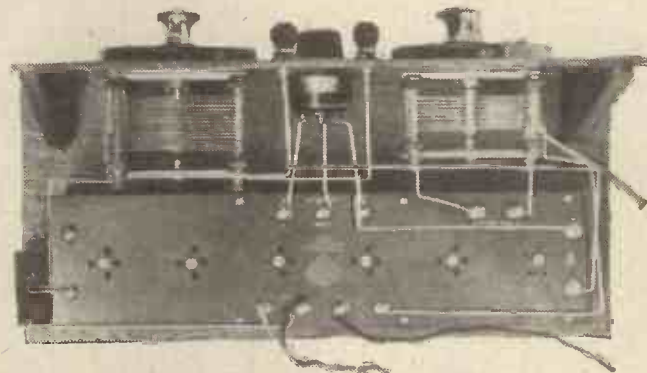
happen to fall on one which is occupied by a loud signal, such as that from high power station which is liable to give interference, we have quite a large variety of efficient wave-bands to choose from.

Many super-heterodyne receivers consist of a first detector, a separate oscillator valve for rectifying the beat note to produce the

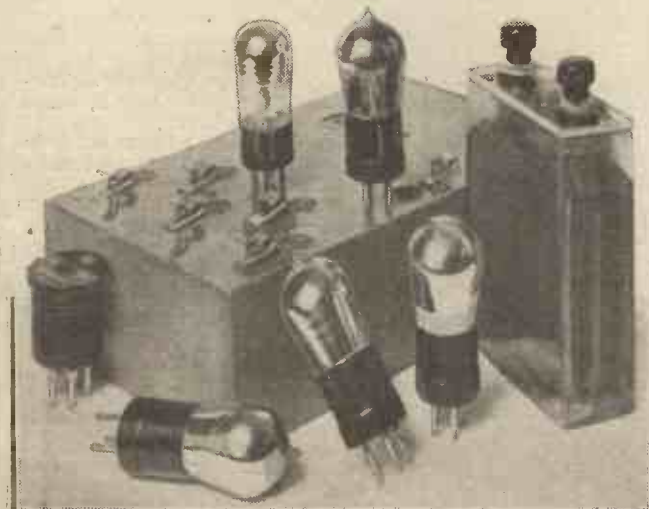
greatly simplifies the construction of the set.

### Frame Aerials.

For the time being I may mention that you can buy from the



Keep to this disposition of wires for simplicity.



The only accessories needed. The plug-in unit is supplied with the "super" kit.

London Electric Wire Co. 100 ft. of frame aerial wire, consisting of very flexible copper wire silk insulated and identical with that used on the most expensive frame aerials, for 3s. 6d. Next week I will show you how to make a good frame.

One hundred feet wound on a frame of about the size shown in the photograph, will give you a frame aerial to cover the ordinary broadcast

sets, of the one-hole-fixing variety. Condensers, which mount with three fixing screws, are equally suitable.

Some variable condensers of the one-hole-fixing variety have a very large nut in front which prevents the Indigraph dial being mounted in the proper way, but the Bowyer-Lowe "Popular" one-hole-fixing condenser will be found satisfactory in this regard, particularly if the last few threads of the centre bush, which project in some cases after the locking nut has been screwed on, are carefully removed with a file.

### NEXT WEEK:

Further Details and Hints. Valve Notes. Test Report and Frame Aerial Construction.





# MODERNIZING the FAMILY 4 VALVE SET

I HAVE received, in response to my invitation in the first issue of "The Radio Constructor," many letters from readers regarding the modernising of their existing sets. A very large number have written me, asking what can be done to modernise the "Four-valve Family Receiver," which they very kindly say has given them excellent results, and in many ways gives all they require. They do not wish to scrap the set, but if there are any minor improvements which can be made, they are only too anxious to effect them.

## The Original Set.

The "Four-valve Family Receiver" was designed several years ago, before the home constructor had such a wide choice of valves and before the selectivity problem became really acute. Improvement in the Four-valve Family can be effected in several ways and with very little expense, increasing both efficiency and quality. The first change which I would strongly recommend is that for introducing grid bias.

In the original receiver a slight bias is given to the grids of the note magnifying valve by a voltage drop in the filament resistance which is placed in the negative lead. For example, when the set was first produced practically everyone was using four-volt valves on six-volt accumulators. By placing the filament resistance in the negative lead and by joining the L.S. of the L.F. transformers to the negative low-tension lead, a drop of two volts for grid bias was obtainable in the filament resistance.

In the sets I now design I always place

## Simple Changes that Make for Efficiency.

By PERCY W. HARRIS, M.I.R.E.

the filament resistance in the positive lead, and provide a separate grid bias battery, for there are so many varieties of valves in use, that one can no longer rely upon the use of a filament resistance to give sufficient grid bias. In any case with modern power valves much more grid bias is necessary than can be obtained by this means.

On this page you will find two photographs of the front and back of panel respectively of the original "Four-valve Family Receiver," as reproduced in the original description. On the photographs I have marked clearly the positions for the terminals for grid bias, and the changed connections behind the panel have also been indicated.

## Other Improvements.

This is the simplest change that can be effected for making an improvement in the set, and is given at once so that readers who desire to obtain the benefit of modern valves and grid bias can do so. However, in the next issue, I will show a number of very important improvements in design, both in the high and low-frequency sides, which will enable readers to bring this set much more up to date with relatively small expenditure.

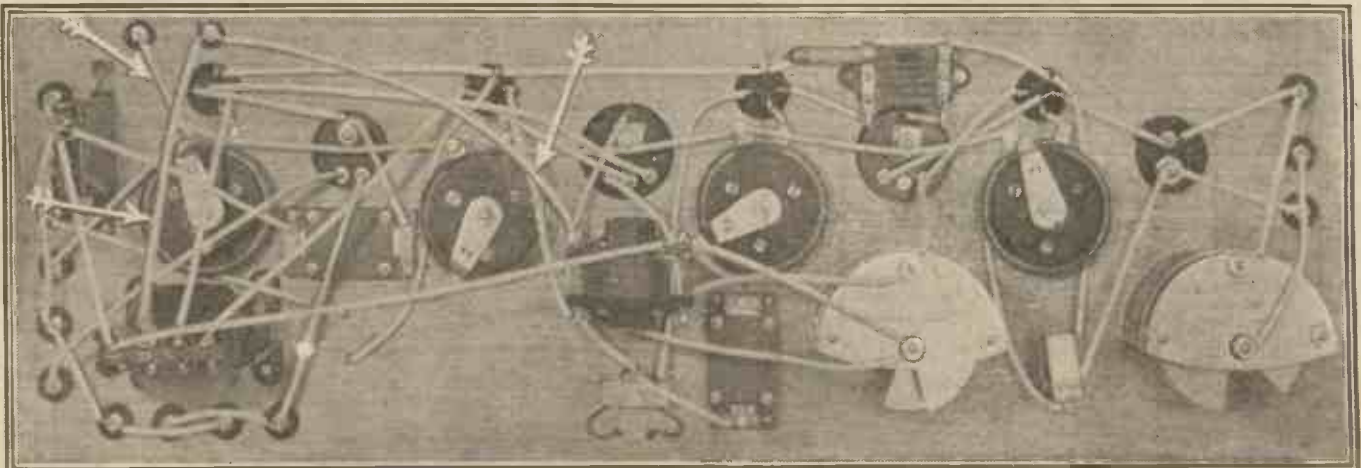
To indicate what these changes will be, and in order to give the more advanced reader an opportunity of making the changes himself at once, I may say that the H.F. side will be neutrodyne, still using plug-in coils and retaining the advantage of reaction, while plug and jack switching will be introduced so that different voltages can be used for the H.F., detector and note magnifying valves. This cannot be done with the present arrangement, which has a special method of switching precluding the use of separate H.T.

## A Quality Hint.

Meanwhile readers who are not quite satisfied with the quality they are obtaining in the Four-valve Family set, due to transformers not being suited to one another, may try the scheme of connecting either a 100,000 ohm resistance or a quarter megohm grid leak (whichever they happen to have on hand) across the secondary windings (I.S. and O.S.) of the second L.F. transformer.

In many cases the inclusion of this resistance or grid leak makes a very considerable improvement in quality without much reduction in signal strength, or, if there is a reduction, the improvement in quality much more than compensates for the loss of strength.

In using the simple grid bias arrangement described in this article, the same grid bias is used on both magnifying valves, which may be of the small power type, the high tension being raised to about eighty or a hundred. Grid bias in this case can conveniently take the form of a  $4\frac{1}{2}$  volt flash-lamp battery.



A photograph of the original set, with arrows showing the changes necessary for applying grid bias to the note magnifying valves. Note the two additional terminals marked "G.B." in the heading photograph.





*Note.—In this section Mr. Harris will discuss each week interesting points from the large correspondence he regularly receives. Readers are invited to write to him on matters of interest, and extracts from their letters, together with Mr. Harris' comments, will be published from time to time. It must be pointed out, however, that general and technical queries cannot be answered in this section, but should be addressed to the Technical Query Department, complying with the conditions laid down under the heading "Technical Queries" in each week's issue of POPULAR WIRELESS.*

MY "Hale" letter bag is already very, very large, and naturally, as one would expect in the case of a receiver by a vast number all over the country, a certain number of difficulties have arisen.

For example, in their enthusiasm to "get started," many readers have made up the set without taking precautions to see that everything is correct. I have before me five or six letters from readers who report disappointing results, and in describing their "hook-up" either state in words or indicate in the diagram that they have not yet used grid bias.

Owing to the fact that in many receivers the addition of grid bias, as I have previously indicated in "The Radio Constructor," does not make any appreciable difference in signal strength, but merely makes a slight improvement in quality, and, what is very important, cuts down the consumption of high-tension current, they have rather looked upon its application in the Hale circuit as a kind of "finishing

touch" which can be left till a later period.

Grid bias in the Hale circuit is essential for its successful working, and makes a tremendous difference to the reaction control, quality and general efficiency. For example, two or three readers have stated that they can hear quite good signals with the cat's-whisker removed from the crystal

#### SPECIAL ARTICLES NEXT WEEK:

#### Neutrodyning the "Four-Valve Family" Set

(Fully Illustrated),

AND

#### How to Make a Four-Shilling Frame Aerial.

surface. Unless they are right underneath the shadow of the station this should not be so, save when the closest reaction is being used.

It is one of the tests of satisfactory adjustment in the Hale circuit to see whether any signals can be heard when the cat's-whisker is lifted from the crystal surface, or in the case of a permanent detector, when the two crystals are separated. With proper grid bias nothing whatever should be heard in the way of signals, for the valve is used purely as an amplifier and not as a detector. Whatever valve you use, a few experiments with grid bias will be well worth while.

Some other queries indicate that the reaction coil has been connected the wrong way round. It is not generally known that even when the reaction coil is reversed oscillation can be produced when the two coils are tightly coupled, for a capacity reaction can then

be set up, which is sufficient to produce oscillation.

If all is well with the Hale circuit, and the correct size of reaction coil is being used, one can bring the set gently into oscillation and out again with such delicacy that one hardly notices the point at which oscillation is reached. Before such a state of affairs is possible, however, the right size of the coil must be chosen, and the correct grid bias, for the particular high-tension value used.

In indicating the results obtained with the high voltage and a power valve I was, of course, dealing with the reception on a loud speaker. When the Hale is being used for telephone reception there is no need to use such high voltage, and 60 will be generally quite sufficient.

#### The "Hale" on a Frame.

Certain other queries relate to the use of frame aerials, indoor aerials and other substitutes for the long outdoor wire supported on a pole. One or two readers have written to say that they have very poor results when using a frame. The reason for this is that the average frame aerial connection does not provide for any reaction, which is one of the most important points in the Hale circuit. However, if the circuit is properly arranged wonderfully good results can be obtained on a frame, but the frame must be tapped, otherwise a reaction effect cannot be obtained.

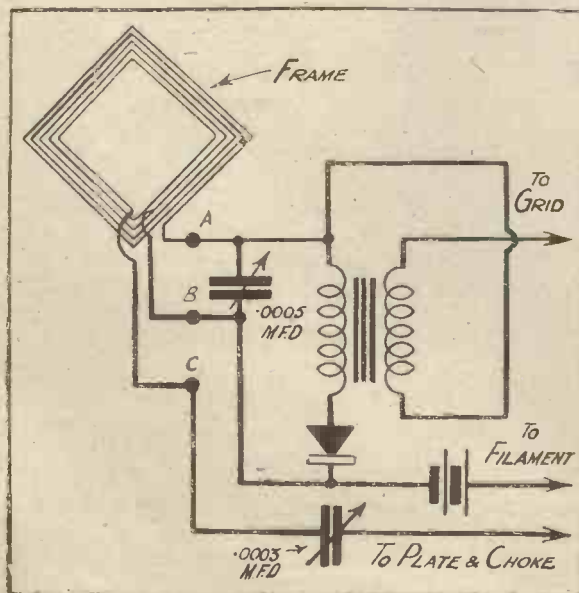
For the benefit of those readers who wish to use a frame aerial with the Hale circuit I give on this page a diagram showing the connections which have to be changed when using a frame aerial with the form of circuit published on page 488 of the 30th October issue. From this diagram it will be seen that the tapped frame takes the place of both the tuning coil and the reaction coil in the Reintartz reaction circuit. The frame can be of any convenient type, but theappings should be taken about a third of the way from one end.

The connections will then be as shown in the diagram—i.e. the end of the frame nearest the tapping to the reaction condenser, the tapping to moving plates of the condenser, grid bias battery and crystal, and the other end of the frame winding to the fixed plates of the condenser and the low-frequency transformer, etc. The best position for the tapping will probably be found by trial, but if you begin your experiments as suggested you will find it will be somewhere near the point suggested.

#### Indoor Aerials.

It should not be forgotten that in this connection only a portion of the frame (approximately two-thirds) is used for tuning purposes, so that the wave-length range with the particular variable condenser will not be so great as it was before. However, if it is a home-made frame, or if it is desired to construct one specially for the purpose, use about one-third more turns than normal.

So far as other aerials are concerned, such as the wire round the picture rail, a wire round the loft, and other forms of indoor aerials, they all work excellently and with much higher selectivity than with the outdoor type, but of course with a reduction of strength. It will generally be found that a much smaller reaction coil is needed with the indoor aerial, and a few experiments are recommended before final decision is taken.



How to use the Hale circuit with a frame aerial.





## THE **MH** SUPERSONIC BLOCK UNIT

The new **MH** Supersonic Block Unit comprises all the necessary components for the Supersonic part of the Receiver, requiring only the addition of a FRAME AERIAL, TUNING CONDENSER, AUTODYNE TUNING CONDENSER, POTENTIOMETER, VALVES, BATTERIES, and 'PHONES to give you a complete Super-Het ready for reception. It will have an immediate appeal to the home constructor who doubts his ability, or who has not the inclination to wire up correctly and operate the **MH** Supersonic Units.

Within half-an-hour of reaching home with your purchase you will be able to listen-in.

### THE **MH** SUPERSONIC BLOCK UNIT

undoubtedly offers the most attractive way of building a Super-Het. A guarantee of effective working is given, and the guarantee holds good for 12 months providing the seal remains unbroken.

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This price includes a 5-point Auto Oscillator for the Broadcast Wavelength.  
5-point Auto Oscillator for Daventry Wavelength. Price 12/6 Extra.

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**BRITISH, BEST and CHEAPEST**  
in the Long Run

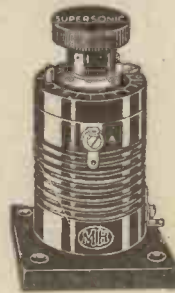
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The illustration shows the design of the **MH** Supersonic Transformer.

Price 21/-

The **MH** Supersonic Outfit comprises the following:

PRICES:		each
3 <b>MH</b> Tuned Transformers (Intermediate) ..	21/-	
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Supplied in case complete together with full size Blue Print—Layout Diagram and Booklet of Instructions.  
Price £5-5-0, or separately at above prices



# CURRENT TOPICS.

BY THE EDITOR.

The Royal Charter—The P.M.G.'s Powers—More Money Available—  
The Listeners' Remedy.

THE Government have issued a White Paper containing the drafts of the Royal Charter for which the Postmaster-General proposes to apply for the incorporation of the British Broadcasting Corporation and of the licence and agreement, the terms of which have been mutually agreed upon between the Postmaster-General and the B.B.C.

It is stated in the Royal Charter that more than two million people have applied for and taken out wireless licences, and "in view of the widespread interest thereby shown in the broadcasting service and of the great value of the service as a means of education and entertainment, we deem it desirable that the service shall be developed and exploited to the best advantage and in the national interests."

Power is given to the new Corporation to acquire any undertaking, stations, plant, and assets which may be necessary, to erect and equip stations, to compile and prepare, print, publish, issue, circulate and distribute, whether gratis or otherwise, such papers, magazines, periodicals, books, circulars, and other literary matter as may seem conducive to any of the objects of the Corporation.

The new B.B.C. may collect news of and information relating to current events in any part of the world and in any manner that may be thought fit, and to establish and subscribe to new agencies. It can acquire by registration, purchase, or otherwise copyrights in any literary, musical, and artistic works, plays, songs, gramophone records, news, and other matter!

## More Money Forthcoming.

The Corporation is going to be established for a period of ten years. The governors of the Corporation are eligible for office for five years, but may seek re-election at the end of that period, and the remuneration for their services is as follows:

Chairman . . . . .	£3,000 per annum.
Vice-chairman . . . .	£1,000 " "
Other governors . . . .	£700 " "

With regard to finance, the Corporation is to pay to the Postmaster-General a royalty of £10 per annum in respect of each of the stations, while the Postmaster-General is to pay the Corporation:

1. In respect of the first million licences or fractional part thereof issued against payment in the year, 90 per cent.

2. In respect of the second million licences or fractional part thereof issued against payment in the year, 80 per cent.

3. In respect of the third million licences or fractional part thereof issued against payment in the year, 70 per cent.

4. In respect of all additional licences issued against payment in the year, 60 per cent.

A deduction of 12½ per cent on account of the cost of collection of licences will be made from the amount of all sums received by the Postmaster-General in respect of

licences before the calculation of the percentage to be paid to the new B.B.C.

The agreement states that the Postmaster-General has agreed to pay the company £620,000, being as to £548,464 the agreed contribution or payment by the Postmaster-General to the revenue of the company in respect of the period from March 31st to December 31st, 1926, and as to £71,536 in respect of share capital to be repaid in full. These sums are in full satisfaction of all claims on the part of the company against the Postmaster-General.



Mrs. Philip Snowden, one of the governors of the new B.B.C.

A supplementary estimate of the Civil Service and Revenue Departments includes a vote for an additional sum of £295,000 for broadcasting!

A perusal of the White Paper shows that the Postmaster-General's authority over the new B.B.C. is to be supreme. His powers of control appear to be much greater on the whole than those contemplated in the report of Lord Crawford's Committee, whose recommendations have generally been followed.

## A Bright Spot.

A tremendous amount depends upon the capabilities of the new governors. The "Times" has pointed out that it is not easy to understand why Lord Clarendon, who has been doing first-rate work and gaining invaluable experience at the Dominions Office, should suddenly have been removed to this entirely novel field. We admit it is very difficult to understand indeed!

And the same difficulty arises when we look at the names of the other governors. But the one bright spot is that the chief executive officer, who is to be called Director-

General, will be Mr. J. C. W. Reith, who has the whole technique of broadcasting and the management of broadcasting at his finger-tips.

It appears that the governors of the new Corporation will be able to call upon the services of as many committees as they may think fit to appoint, and in turn the committees may themselves appoint sub-committees; and so on paper, at any rate, the new B.B.C. should be well supplied with sound advice and intelligence.

It would seem that the Corporation will receive more money than the B.B.C. has hitherto received from the Post Office, for, instead of the retention by the Post Office of half the amount of revenue derived from licences, there will be a new scale (which we have printed above), and this ought to leave the Corporation richer than the B.B.C.

## P.M.G.'s Powers.

The Postmaster-General's powers over the new B.B.C. are, in our opinion, far too sweeping; for example, it is provided that the Postmaster-General may from time to time require the Corporation to refrain from broadcasting any particular matter. Now, this gives the Government a unique hold over the censorship of broadcast news. Supposing another General Strike breaks out, the B.B.C. can repress, at the command of the Postmaster-General, legitimate news which the public is entitled to receive, and it may even, for its own ends, colour that news and so give an entirely erroneous impression of current events.

Furthermore, the Postmaster-General can revoke the licence if, in his opinion, the Corporation does not adequately perform its duties. In other words, the Postmaster-General is in a position of being the master holding the big stick, and if the Corporation does not behave itself to the liking of the Postmaster-General then it can be turned out of office.

## The B.B.C. Pie.

There are so many points in connection with this new Royal Charter which show that the Government have got their fingers well into the new B.B.C. pie and intend to keep them there, that it would take many pages of this journal to enumerate them. But there the matter is, and we can only hope that this new B.B.C. Corporation will prove half as successful as the old B.B.C., and that it will not, under this new band of governors, be turned into a highbrow, pedantic institution for feeding the public with what it considers should be "good" for the public.

Primarily it should remember that it is an entertainment industry, and its chief business is to provide its clients with entertainment. The only remedy listeners will have against the new service is to let their licences lapse and not take them out again. And next year if the new B.B.C. does not live up to the standard the present B.B.C. has maintained, there will undoubtedly be a very severe falling off in the number of licences taken out.

## "The Radio Constructor,"

Edited by PERCY W. HARRIS.

Tell Your Friends About  
"P.W.'s" Eight-Page Supplement.



**BROADCASTS BY 'TONE' & 'POWER'**  
*The 'Boon' Companions of Osram Valves*

**'TONE'  
AND  
'POWER'**

**START THEIR TOUR**

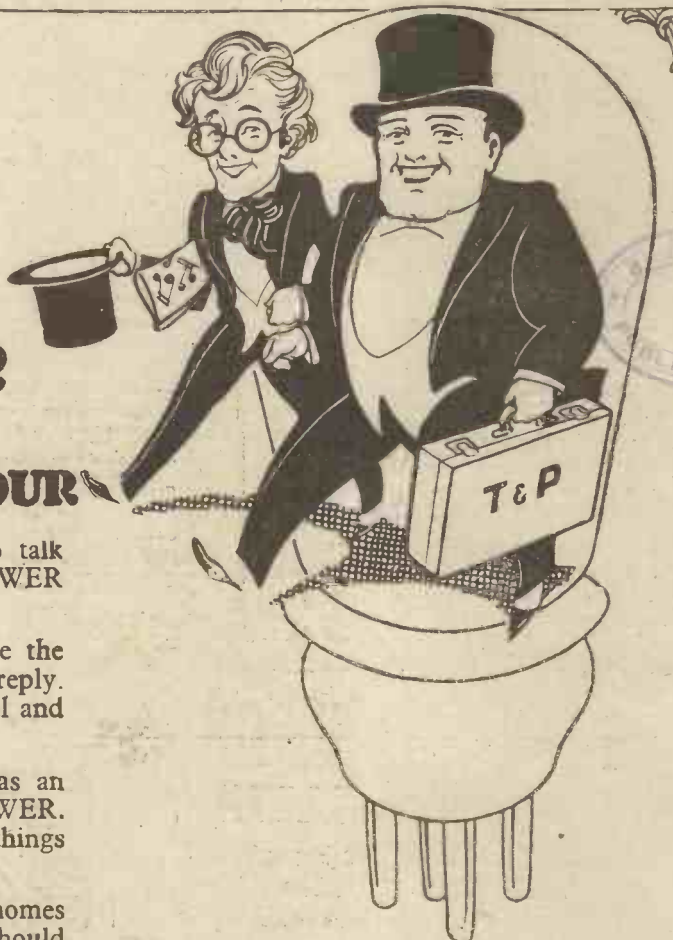
"It seems to me we ought to talk more about ourselves," said POWER to TONE one evening.

"Well, it's up to you to make the noise," was TONE'S laconic reply. "My job is to keep you musical and in good voice."

"That's just where we score as an inseparable pair," replied POWER. "Power and tone are the two things all listeners want."

"They only need us in their homes to show them how their sets should work—Let's ask them to invite us now."

Bring Power and Tone into your home to-night by buying—



**Osram  
Valves**

*for* **TONE & POWER**

*The G.E.C.—your guarantee*



The

Cosmos

Resistance  
Coupling Unit

for Real purity of reproduction

Even the advertisements of the best Transformers plead guilty to imperfect amplification over the whole musical range. Real purity of reproduction can only be obtained with resistance capacity coupling. The "Cosmos" coupling unit with a suitable valve is as effective as an ordinary transformer-coupled stage. It avoids all distortion and effects considerable economies in first and operating cost. Designed primarily for use with the "Cosmos" S.P. Blue Spot Valves, it can be used successfully with any valve having an amplification factor of 30 or more.

**Additional Advantages:—**

1. Maximum possible amplification per stage.
2. Economy in filament consumption. S.P. Blue Spot Valves consume 0.09 amps.
3. Economy in H.T. battery consumption. Less than 1/20th of normal.
4. Immunity from breakdown caused by complete or partial failure of the windings of transformers or chokes.
5. Small space and light weight.

A high-tension battery of 120 volts is adequate with this unit and "Cosmos" Shortpath Blue Spot Valves.

Ask your dealer for copy of folder 4117/7.

**METRO-VICK SUPPLIES LTD.**

"Metro-Vick" House, 155, Charing Cross Rd., London, W.C.2 <sup>R</sup>  
P63

Type "O." The Unit alone. Price 8/6

Type "V." The unit incorporating the "Cosmos" Spring Valve Holder. As illustrated. Price 10/6

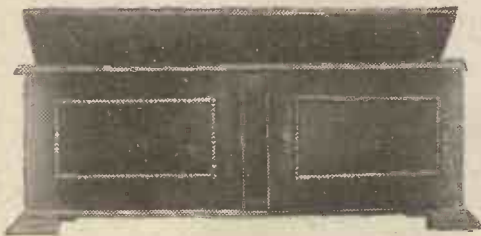
Suitable Valves for use with this unit are:

For 2-Volt "Cosmos" SP18/B at 14/-

For 6-Volt "Cosmos" SP55/B at 18/6

**CAXTON 4-VALVE CABINET**

Made for Sets "All Concert Receiver,"  
"Fieldless Coil Three Valve Set,"  
"Any Valve Low Frequency Amplifier."  
Special Cabinets made to customer's measurements.  
Prices Quoted.



Cash with Order. Fumed Oak	...	£1 5 0
Dark or Jacobean Oak	...	£1 10 0
Real Mahogany	...	£1 14 0
Detachable 7" deep Base Board to mount 16" by 8" panel to slide out of Cabinet front.		

The two beaded front doors as illustrated, placed 2 ins. in front of the enclosed panel at 10/- extra.

**Ebonite or Radion Panels** Supplied and perfectly Fitted at low extra cost.

All Polished with the new enamel that gives a glass hard surface that cannot be soiled or scratched. SENT FREE.—Catalogue of standard Wireless Cabinets in various sizes and woods.

Packed and delivered free in U.K.

NO. C2

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OUR latest production, the C.E. PRECISION FLOATING VALVE HOLDER, shows great improvements upon others. By its use, the distortion due to vibrations transmitted to valve filaments is entirely eliminated and a receiver fitted with it acquires a perfectly clear background which facilitates the reception of distant stations. Of very low capacity and entirely non-microphonic, the C.E. PRECISION FLOATING VALVE HOLDER is ideal for its purpose. Made from Bakelite and fitted with soldering tags and terminals.

2/3 each.

C.E. PRECISION RHEOSTATS AND POTENTIOMETERS have so frequently been specified by the Wireless Press that they need little description. The special care taken in their production ensures a perfectly smooth and silent action. Bakelite formers; silvered dials; fitted with soldering tags and terminals.

7 and 15 ohms	-	2/9 each
30 and 50 ohms	-	3/- each
Dual Rheostats & Potentiometers	-	3/9 each



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THE main constructional work has now been described, but before the system is ready for operation there are one or two accessories to be constructed, the most important being the *Filament Control Panel*. This is a device by means of which any valve may be supplied with current at various voltages so that we can use at the same time an R valve (70 amp. 4 v.), a D.E.R. (35 amp. 1.8 v.), a D.E.3 (46 amp. 2.8 v.), and a D.E.5 (25 amp. 6 v.). This flexibility of filament current supply is highly desirable in an experimental system, and one has but to experience the ease and certainty with which these various adjustments can be made in order to appreciate the great utility of the panel. As the various voltages are selected without the use of large series resistances, there is no great waste of current.

#### A Master Rheostat.

An additional control of current is provided by the master rheostat, which should have a resistance of about 30 ohms and be capable of carrying several amperes without overheating. Although current to the valves is cut off by pulling out the supply plugs, a further safeguard against short circuits is provided in the fusebox. The fuse should be adjusted to blow out when passing current of some predetermined value a little in excess of that required for all the valve filaments.

The ebonite panel, 9 by 5 inches, should be drilled as indicated in Fig. 12. The marking out of the four lines of five  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch holes should be done carefully so that the

# THE INTERPLEX.

## PART III.

The Final Article on a Very Interesting Experimental System.

By J. ENGLISH.

supply plugs will fit properly in the sockets. The distance between the centres of the holes in each line of five must be exactly  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch.

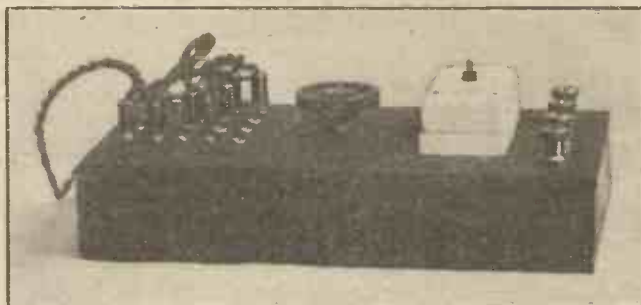
A good method of making connection to the rear of the sockets is to drill four  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch holes,  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch apart, in a 3-inch length of brass or copper strip not more than  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch wide. When this is placed over the shanks of the sockets underneath the panel and the nuts tightened up, a sound electrical connection is made to every socket. The panel is then wired up as shown in Fig. 12.

The completed panel is screwed to a wooden framework resembling a flat box without top or bottom. This is constructed from  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch wood and when finished measures 9 by 5 inches and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches deep. The filament control panel is screwed underneath the bottom board of the cabinet with the group of sockets to the front and the four terminals for connection to L.T. supply at the back.

As a complement to this panel we need four supply leads complete with plugs at each end. For these we require two 18-inch and two 24-inch lengths of heavy lighting flex, sixteen Ealex plugs in pairs of black and red, and sixteen separators.

sockets A and B of any line of five gives 2 volts, in B and C, or C and D, 4 volts, and in D and E, 6 volts. Sockets B and D are positive and A, C and E negative, so that reversing a plug in any pair of sockets reverses the polarity of the filament

By using black and red discs behind the filament sockets on the valve panels corresponding with the black and red bodies of the plugs, it is easy to differentiate between positive and negative filament connections. Placing a supply plug in



The L.T. unit showing how neatly the various connections can be made.

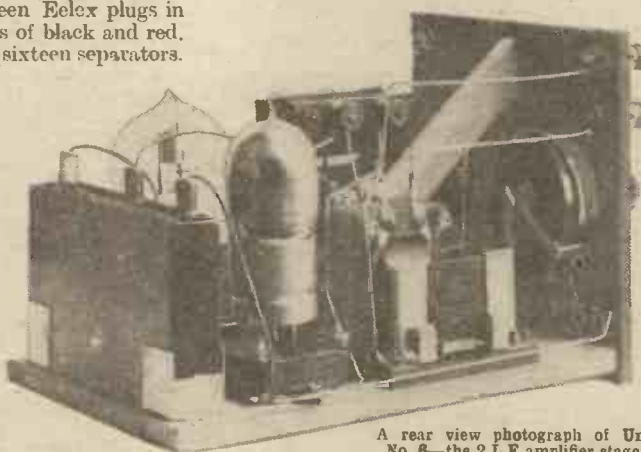
connections, which reversal is often required and can be performed here in a moment.

#### Testing the Battery Circuits.

Four single leads are also required for anode current supply, and these should be long enough to reach the H.T. battery wherever it is situated. In my own installation, supply batteries, both H.T. and L.T., are placed beneath the operating table, where they are out of the way yet easily accessible. These four leads are furnished at each end with an Ealex plug with different coloured bodies corresponding to the coloured discs of the H.T. sockets on each valve panel, so that the various



The Interplex installed in the author's wireless "den."



A rear view photograph of Unit No. 6—the 2 L.F. amplifier stage.

From these materials plugs at the ends of each lead are built up as indicated in Fig. 13, and it will be observed from the photograph that the supply leads so formed are very neat and the method of current supply both safe and efficient.

leads may be quickly identified when plugging into the H.T. battery.

Except for a few sundries, the system is now complete and ready for operation. Before commencing any experiments, however, it would be well to test the current supply arrangements, all four filament circuits and H.T. positive leads.

The method of connecting the L.T. supply is shown in Fig. 12, while the

(Continued on page 767.)



# The Vital PERFORMANCE

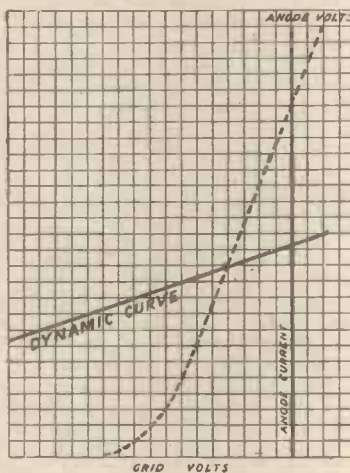
**S**UPERB reproduction, great volume and long range represent PERFORMANCE. When you put S.T. valves into your set, it springs into life as if by magic. Signals you have never heard before bring music to your room from foreign lands. Your choice of programmes becomes immeasurably wider. One minute you may be receiving Belfast, the next Madrid, and then Rome, and each one comes in without any effort. There is no question of using reaction right up to the limit, and non-technical members of your family will get the same result. How is it that S.T. valves give such a fine performance? Their characteristic curves tell the whole story to those who can appreciate them. Range is largely a matter of good H.F. valves, and the S.T.21, S.T.41, and S.T.61 are magnificent H.F. amplifiers. They have amplification factors of 16, 13, and 20 respectively, but in addition these factors are obtained without unduly increasing the impedance. The merit of a valve is a function of the product of its mutual conductance and amplification factor, while the amplification obtained from an H.F. valve is a function of the tangent of its dynamic curve. Every S.T. valve is designed on the basis of its dynamic curves, which represent actual operating conditions, and which are much superior to those of ordinary valves. The dynamic curve is associated with the energy output of the valve (the only fact we are interested in) while an ordinary or static curve represents energy wasted *inside* the valve. If you compare the S.T.61 with the old R. valve you will see that the S.T.61 will amplify more than three times as well.

The detector valve follows the H.F., and here we require two qualities: a sharp bend on the dynamic grid volts—grid current curve involving also an adequate positive grid current, and secondly, high amplification and an anode impedance of the right value. Since the grid voltage swing is small at this stage, the H.F. valves are to be recommended here, and the S.T.22, S.T.41, and S.T.61 give excellent results. If, however, anode bend rectification is employed it is preferable to use the S.T.23, S.T.42, and S.T.62.

The first L.F. stage is covered by the valves S.T.22, S.T.42, and S.T.62, although in certain cases the latter two are best replaced by S.T.41 and S.T.61, it being impossible to regard valves being only suitable for special purposes. Where only one L.F. valve is to be used, it is preferable to use a power valve for the last stage.

The S.T. power valves, S.T.23, S.T.42, and S.T.62, for use chiefly in the last stage are designed to give a very long dynamic curve which is as straight as an arrow. The result is glorious volume combined with a perfect sensation of reality. The design of these valves is not merely a matter of scientific skill, but the ability to use the latest patented inventions. A long filament and correct spacing of the electrodes affect the impedance, while the position, correct number of turns, and size of the grid affect other constants of the valve. There are a dozen features which have contributed to the effective design of S.T. valves, but, as in the case of any other valve, these factors give improvements as regards performance which are clearly visible in the right characteristic curves of the valve. That is why S.T. Ltd. are proud to publish widely the curves of S.T. valves.

"IT'S THEIR CURVES THAT COUNT."



## TYPES and PRICES.

2 VOLT.		4 VOLT.		6 VOLT.	
H.F. S.T.21	14/-	H.F. S.T.41	14/-	H.F. S.T.61	18/6
0.1 amp.		0.1 amp.		0.1 amp.	
L.F. S.T.22	14/-	Power S.T.42	18/6	Power S.T.62	18/6
0.1 amp.		0.1 amp.		0.1 amp.	
Power S.T.23	18/6	Super Power S.T.43 0.25 amp.	22/6	Super Power S.T.63 0.25 amp.	22/6
0.15 amp.					



# Features

## LIFE

**T**HE most brilliant performance of a valve when first used in your set will not satisfy you unless those results are going to last.

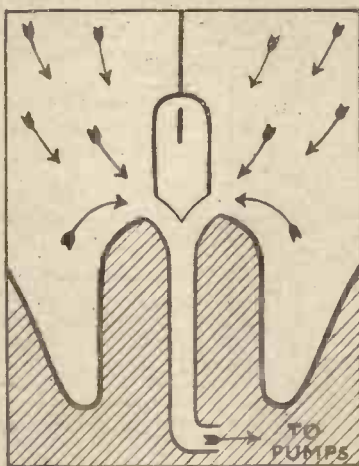
Some foreign motor-cars give excellent results to begin with, but they are practically useless after a couple of years. A Rolls Royce car, however, will give the same results after a few years as when new. The real cost of a valve is not the initial one, but the replacement and upkeep costs.

This fact was always in the mind of the designer of the S.T. valve, and all the causes of valve failure were scrutinised. He came to the conclusion that both mechanical and electrical causes were responsible. A valve fails because (a) the filament burns out, (b) the filament breaks, (c) the filament touches the grid, (d) the emission from the filament decreases, (e) the vacuum deteriorates. These troubles often occur together.

The filament, for example, burns out often because it becomes mechanically weak in one spot; it may get very thin at one point and the wire may melt. This cannot happen with the torodium filament in the S.T. valve, which works at the lowest temperature of any filament used. Mechanical breakage is almost impossible because torodium retains its elasticity throughout its long life. The filament is not under tension, and there are no violent stresses set up by rapid heating and cooling when the valve is switched on or off. When you put an S.T. in its holder there is a just perceptible delay before signals reach full strength, which indicates that torodium heats up slowly, its very low specific heat protecting it from strain. Rapid switching on or off of a filament cannot possibly harm S.T. valves.

The risk of the filament touching the grid is very great in valves where the distances are very small,

but the S.T. valve is designed so that there is adequate spacing, the desirable relatively low impedance being obtained in a different way, viz. by a very long filament and the use of "flat" electrodes of large surface area.



A very common fault of dull emitter valves is that the emission falls off, i.e., the filament does not burn out, but the valve ceases to function properly and signals go weaker or become distorted. This may be due to the material of which the filament is made changing in character. Most valves sold in this country have thoriated tungsten filaments, and evaporation of the thorium from the tungsten causes the valve to relapse to the state of a bright emitter. Torodium, however, works on an entirely different principle, and retains its emission month in and month out. Its coefficient of emission is, moreover, the highest of any known material.

Anode current may, however, fall off owing to a deterioration of vacuum. The slightest trace of oxygen, water vapour or other gases may cause the emission from an otherwise perfect filament to fall off. Practically all the gases in the valve bulb may be pumped out, but some may remain occluded (i.e., absorbed) in the metal electrodes and, after some weeks, may ooze out and spoil the vacuum. The S.T. valve, however, is exhausted by the Barguet process, which removes every trace of any gas, not only in the bulb, but in the electrodes themselves. In many cases it's the vacuum that's vital, and not only does this special process produce the highest vacuum known to science, but it never deteriorates. We see, then, that not only do S.T. valves give superlative performance, but they are:

**"BUILT LIKE THE PYRAMIDS—To LAST."**

If you cannot buy a valve from your local dealer, write direct to us or call. All valves sent by post will be insured by us against breakage. C.O.D. orders executed on receipt of postcard.

**S.T. LIMITED,**

**2, Melbourne Place, Aldwych, London, W.C.2.**

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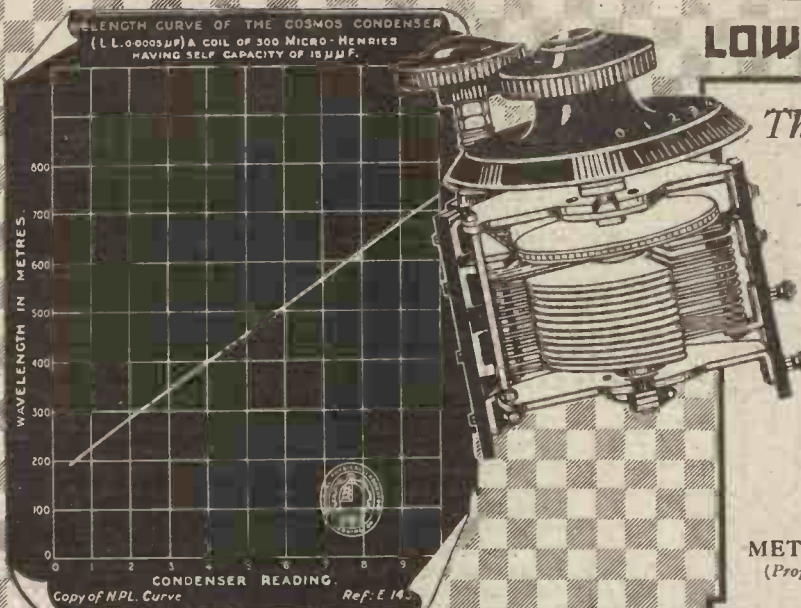
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RADIO  
**ST**  
VALVES



# Cosmos

## SQUARE LAW CONDENSERS LOW LOSS SLOW MOTION



### The Condenser you want for precise tuning

The National Physical Laboratory Curve shown here demonstrates the STRAIGHT LINE characteristics of the "Cosmos" Square Law Condenser. Its other fine points include the permanent absence of BACK LASH, its adaptability for REMOTE OPERATION and its MODERATE COST.

'00025 mfd. 14/9 '0005 mfd. 15/6

Without the slow motion device prices are:

'00025 mfd. 12/- '0005 mfd. 13/-

**Insist upon having a  
"Cosmos" Condenser.**

METRO-VICK SUPPLIES, LIMITED

(Proprietors: Metropolitan-Vickers Elec. Co., Ltd.),

Metro-Vick House,  
155, Charing Cross Road,  
LONDON, W.C.2.

## Solve Your H.T. Problems

by building

### Mr. P. W. Harris's H.T. Charging Unit

(described in supplement to "P.W.", Nov. 6).

If you build the Charging Unit designed and described by Mr. P. W. Harris, all your H.T. problems will be definitely and finally solved. You just connect the unit to your set and the battery—and forget it! It simplifies and makes home charging practical. Build one yourself.

Here are the parts:

1 Sifam Milliammeter 0-100 m.a.	£1	10	0
1 Utility D.P.D.T. Switch, Lever pattern, nickel-plated.		4	0
1 Cosmos Double Type Filament Rheostat, total resistance 18 ohms.		3	0
1 W.B. Valve Holder.		2	3
4 Mark III Terminals, nickel-plated.		1	0
1 Special Keystone Filament Transformer.	£1	1	0
1 Coil of Keystone Wire, Twin Flex, Adaptor for Lamp Sockets, Screws, etc.		2	6
1 "Red Triangle" Ebonite Panel, 9 x 6 x 1 in., matted and drilled.		15	0
1 Polished Mahogany Cabinet, with baseboard.		12	6
Marconi Royalty.			
When ordering, please specify voltage of your mains.	£4	19	4

Wire your set with



### "Ledex" Screened Wire

During the past few months much has been done to eliminate the problem of direct "pick-up." The question of the magnetic influences produced by the actual wiring in a set, though, has until now been ignored.

"Ledex" wire consists of 16 gauge H.C. tinned copper wire, insulated with rubber and two cotton coverings. A jointless covering of pure lead completely shields the wire and protects it from all external influences. Easily cut and bent. Available in either red or blue. Price per foot

2d.

### "P.W." Spider still running!

The demand for this Set is still remarkable. Thousands have built it the safe PILOT way. Have you? Finished Instrument (Aerial tested and guaranteed, less coils and valves) 12 0 0  
Marconi Royalties 1 17 6  
Complete PILOT Kit of parts 6 16 9  
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Let us put your name down for an early copy of the new 24-page edition of the 'Pilot Manual' now at press. Fully illustrated, it gives details of the latest Receivers and much other useful information. Post free 6d.



### THE PILOT MANUAL

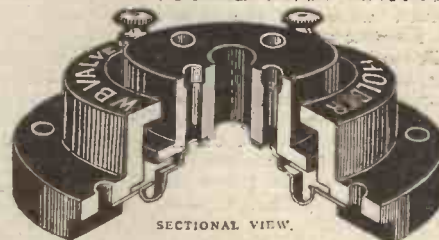
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LOW LOSS  
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with Terminals

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Manufactured by WHITELEY, BONEHAM & CO., LTD.,  
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## Important to Advertisers

### Our Issue for Dec. 11

will be a SPECIALLY ENLARGED CHRISTMAS GIFTS NUMBER with many new and important features.

SECURE YOUR SPACE NOW  
NO INCREASE IN RATE



# THE INTERPLEX.

(Continued from page 763.)

connection from H.T. negative to E.T. negative or positive may be made between the batteries themselves, preferably through a fuse or some current-limiting device, such as a high resistance shunted by a

condensers will be required, and in my own installation a 2 mfd. fixed condenser is connected across each anode tap, these condensers being mounted in the box containing the H.T. batteries.

When all the supply arrangements have been tested and found correct, a preliminary test can be commenced. This will necessitate the addition of all the usual accessories such as

valves, 'phones, coils, chokes, etc. Even if the experimenter has a deep pocket, it would not be wise to start

off with a hugestock of such accessories, but to acquire them as he goes along. There are amateurs, however, who are not happy unless surrounded by as many odd pieces of apparatus as possible.

Returning to the subject of operation, it would be impossible to give here an example of every use of the Interplex system, but in order to convey some idea of how it is operated we will first consider briefly its use as a multi-circuit receiver. No doubt this function is of more general

interest and is best illustrated by Figs. 14, 15 and 16, showing how units are connected up to form three well-known circuits. When joining up units short connections are made with lengths of square tinned wire, longer connections being made with ordinary insulated flexible wire terminating in spade terminals.

(Continued on next page.)

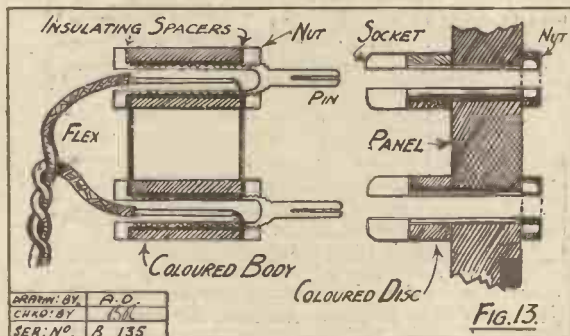
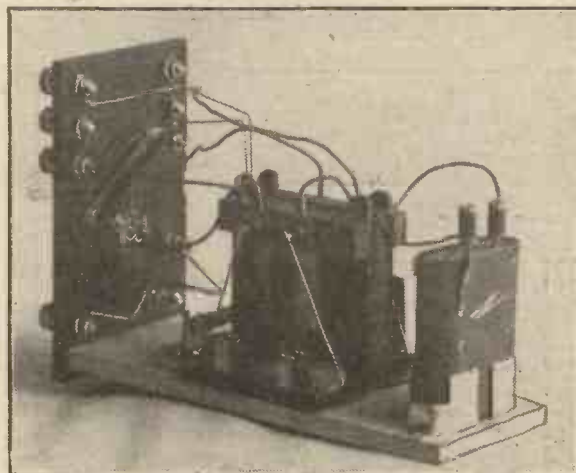


Fig. 13.

condenser. If the H.T. negative lead is brought up and plugged into a socket on the F.C. panel, it is easier to introduce components, where required, between the anode and filament batteries.



Unit No. 5. Note the small variable condenser on the panel.

As regards the use of fixed condensers across the anode taps, this will depend largely upon the nature of the experiment, but in the majority of cases such con-

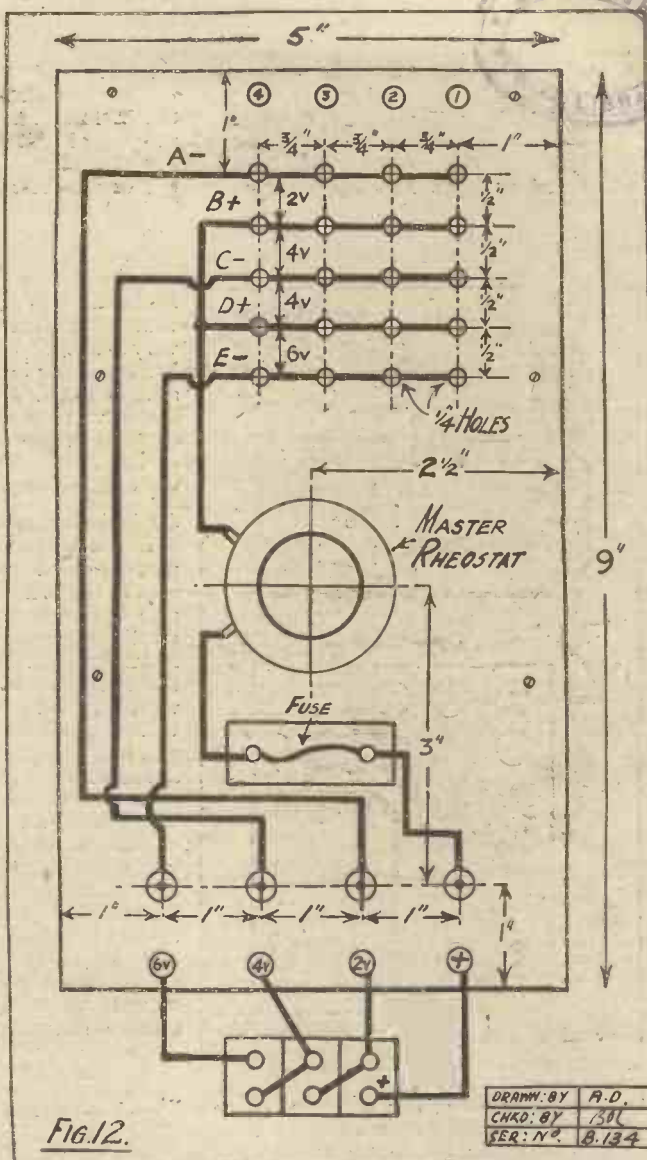


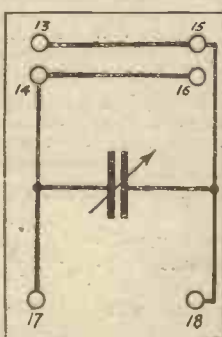
Fig. 12.



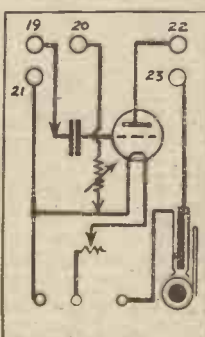
No. 1.



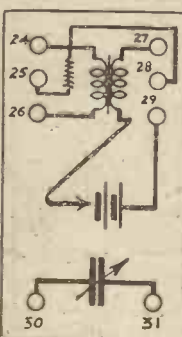
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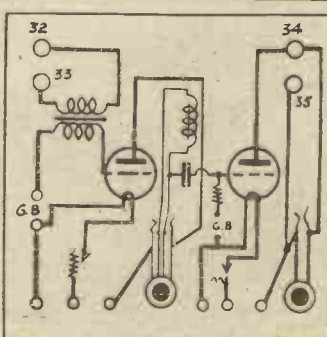
No. 3.



No. 4.



No. 5.



No. 6.

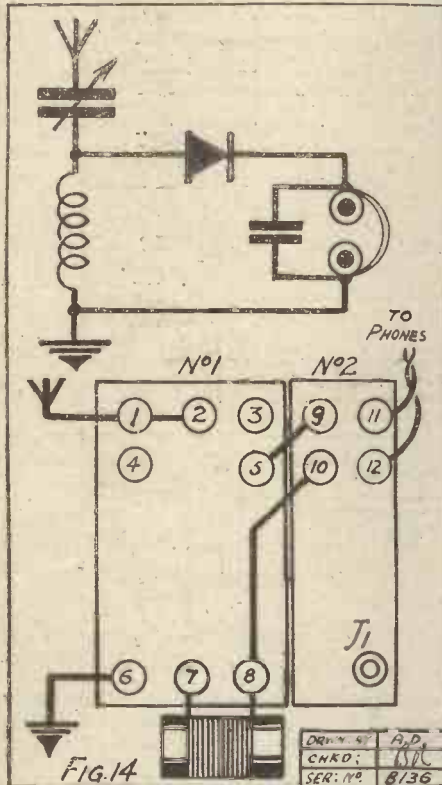
THEORETICAL DIAGRAMS SHOWING INTERNAL CONNECTIONS OF UNITS

DRAWN BY A.D.  
CHKD BY B.L.  
SER. NO. 8.144

## THE INTERPLEX.

(Continued from previous page.)

The first example, Fig. 14, is a simple crystal receiver with series condenser tuning. The 'phone leads can be connected to terminals 11 and 12, but a better plan



is to use a length of flex having a 'phone plug at one end and connected at the other to a 'phone box containing the by-pass condenser and terminals for the 'phones or loud speaker. The 'phone plug can then be placed in any jack as desired. There is ample scope here for ideas for 'phone boxes incorporating switching arrange-

ments, etc., and such a device is always of value.

Audio-frequency amplification can be added to the circuit of Fig. 14 by inserting the input plug of Unit No. 6 into the jack of Unit No. 2. This forms one of the best receivers for distortionless loud-speaker reception of the local station.

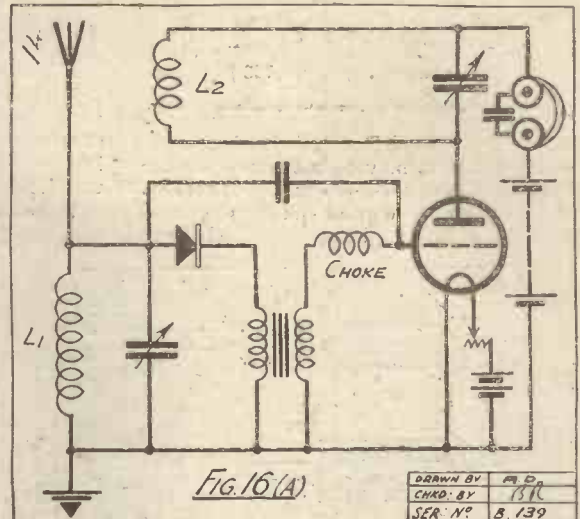
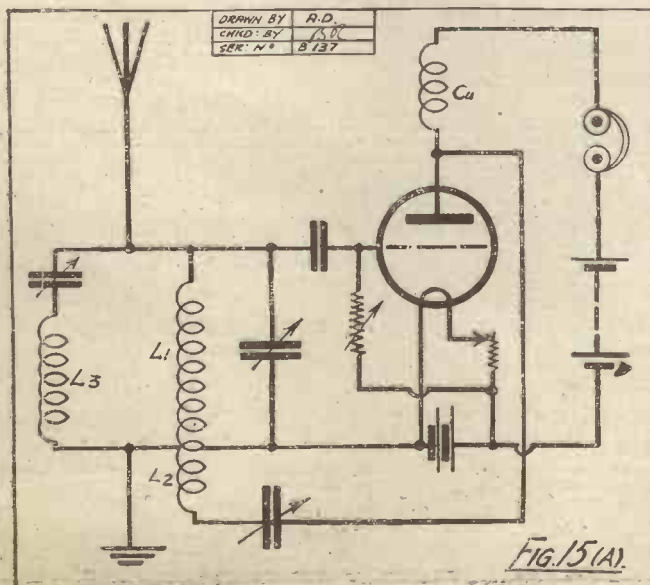
Fig. 15 (A and B) indicates the connection for a modified Reinartz one-valve receiver, with the addition of an acceptor wave-trap. Connections to batteries have been left out for sake of simplicity, and, as in diagrams to follow, only the terminals of the units are shown, as this is sufficient to indicate the methods employed.

### An Adaptable System.

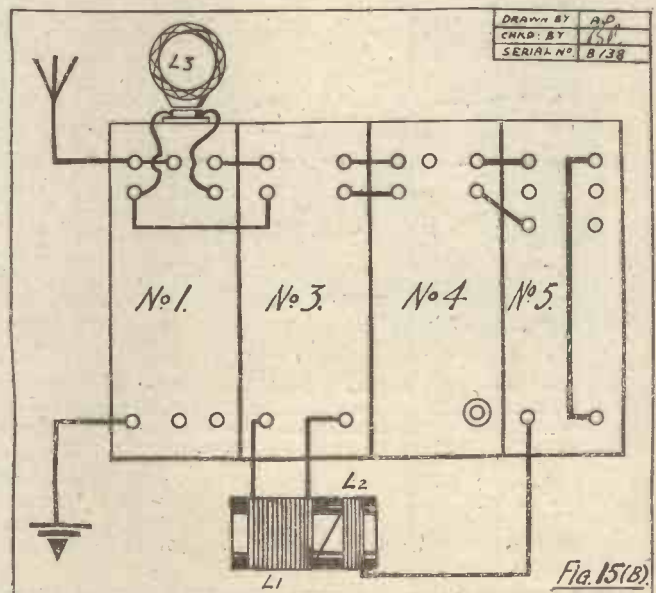
It will be noticed that the primary of the transformer in Unit No. 5 is used as the radio-frequency choke, the variable condenser of the same unit being the reaction control condenser. Also, Unit No. 3 forms the basis of the grid tuning circuit, the condenser of Unit No. 1 being the wave-trap condenser. The control of the valve is effected in Unit No. 4, the value of grid leak and grid condenser being adjusted as required.

The connections necessary to build up this circuit are few and simple, and there is ample scope for experiment with the receiver so constituted, which is admirably suited for DX work. Signals can be brought up to loud-speaker strength by the addition of Unit No. 6 as described above.

Fig. 16 (A and B) shows the connections for a one-valve Trindyne receiver. Notice how Unit No. 3 is used to form a tuned anode reaction circuit.



The Interplex system is admirably suited for working out ideas for original circuits. New circuits are very rarely discovered by the haphazard connection of apparatus, and embryo inventors should work out their ideas on paper first, rejecting all that is obviously unsound. Then the final project can be tried out on this system, and in this way much time will be saved that would otherwise be wasted in pursuit of fruitless ideas. I might add that the



Coils  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  can be mounted in a two-coil holder for convenience of coupling.

The three simple examples given above will, no doubt, be sufficient to give a general idea of how the system is used as a multi-circuit receiver. The rapidity and ease with which various circuits can be connected up should appeal to the man who likes to try out all the latest circuits and new forms of old ones.

Trinadyne circuits, evolved on paper, were all tried out and worked into practical form on the original Interplex system.

Anyone who designs and constructs much radio apparatus will find the system ideal for working out details of receivers, and it is possible to get a close approximation to the layout of the proposed instrument.

### A Useful Device.

It will be noticed from the examples given above that Unit No. 1 is the foundation of all aerial tuning circuits, while Unit No. 3 forms the basis of other tuned circuits, such as tuned anode, grid, and coupled circuits.

An accessory that, in conjunction with

(Continued on page 770.)





## Ideal Evenings with your Wireless Set

FOR real wireless enjoyment—purity of reproduction, freedom from distortion and ample volume of tone are, of course, essential.

Use "HART" BATTERIES with your set for both Low and High Tension supply and "wireless" will reveal new charms to you; their steady voltage, low resistance and exceptional reserve of power ensuring reception at its best.

Discard your dry batteries to-day and substitute the "HART" "RAY" type of High Tension Accumulator (20 volts 14/8, 30 volts 22/-, 60 volts 44/-). The marked improvement in reception will certainly surprise you.

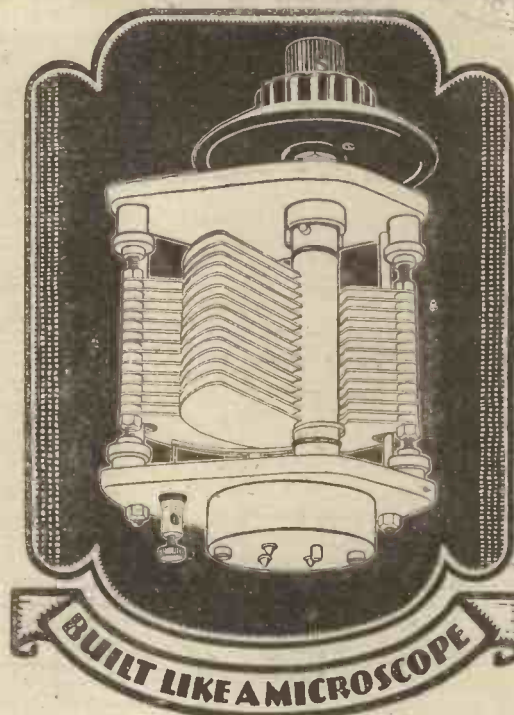
# HART

## THE BATTERY OF QUALITY

There are models of "HART" Batteries for all Low and High Tension Circuits. Write to Dept. "P.W.5" to-day for illustrated lists and full particulars.

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Goodall Ad.



HERE IS the last word in Variable Condensers. Geared movement combined with low-loss design—made by a famous firm of scientific and radio instrument makers, built with the precision and finesse that only makers of scientific instruments know how to impart.

A TYPICAL FEATURE is the unique smoothness of the 200-1 ratio geared vernier control that enables the minutest adjustment to be made. There is not the slightest trace of backlash. The condenser is solidly built of brass with porcelain insulation. A dust-proof case is provided for the gear mechanism, and the stout stamped endplates are entirely insulated from the rotor vanes by ebonite and from the fixed vanes by porcelain, making hand capacity negligible. Connection to the rotor vanes, which are of decrement shape, is made by a soldered pig-tail to the spindle. Definitestops are provided. Fixing is by the one-hole method.

CAPACITIES.	.0001 m f d.	.0003 m f d.	} £1 2s. 6d.
	.0002 "	.0005 "	
	.00075 "		

Obtainable at all radio dealers or direct

**W. G. PYE & CO., GRANTA WORKS,**  
MONTAGUE ROAD, CAMBRIDGE  
Manufacturers of Scientific Instruments and Radio Apparatus

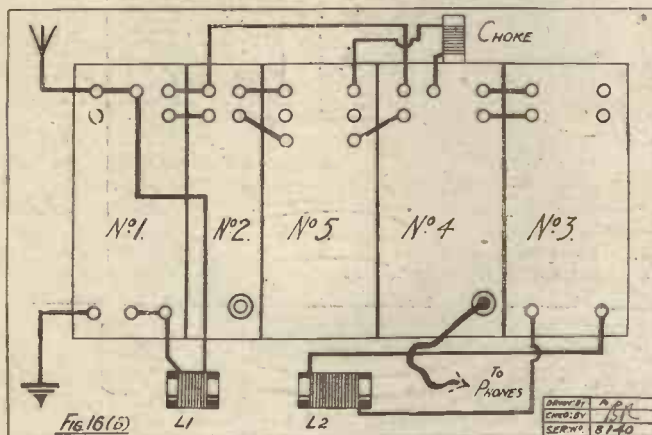




## THE INTERPLEX

(Continued from page 768.)

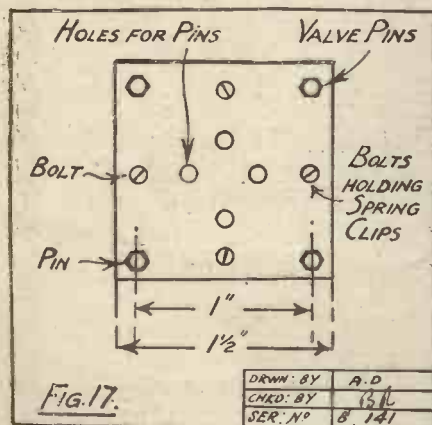
Unit No. 3, constitutes the foundation of several forms of H.F. coupling is the device illustrated in Fig. 17. On a square of ebonite are mounted four valve pins, 1 in. apart, the four holes in the middle being drilled so that a plug-in type of



transformer can be inserted. The pins of the transformer engage with spring clips behind, these contacts being connected to the valve pins shown in the figure, and contacts from H.T.C. valve holders are useful here.

### The H.F. Adapter.

If a Unit No. 3 is placed between two Units No. 4, this adapter can be connected to the terminals 22, 23, 13, 14, or 15, 16, 19, 21, giving respectively the circuits A and B of Fig. 18. When the



second valve is a detector, terminals 19 and 20 are shorted.

This adapter may be used to couple a crystal detector circuit to a radio-frequency valve, and if the primary or secondary windings of the transformer are tapped, then it is an easy matter to build up the couplings required for such circuits as the Neutrodyne, Rice, etc.

Apart from the pleasure and information that can be obtained from the use of the installation as an experimental receiver, it has other uses of great value to the experimenter interested in more serious

work. For example, Unit No. 4 can be used for the determination of valve characteristics and other valuable data. Also, Units No. 3 and No. 4 can be used for the plotting of resonance curves, etc.

### A Final Refinement.

A guide to the connections for using Unit No. 4 as a valve-testing panel is Fig. 19, which includes a potentiometer panel, another useful accessory used in my own installation.

Many uses can be found for the Universal Valve Unit, and there is no reason why a similar unit built on a larger scale should not be used for experimental transmission on low power.

In concluding, I hope that, even if the reader is not tempted to make up the entire system, he will have gleaned from this description of it some idea that will be useful in his own experimental set. On the other hand, I feel certain that anyone who builds an installation on the lines indicated above will be amply repaid for his trouble, and he will

never go back to the untidy "hook-up."

## CHECKING YOUR WIRING.

By D. K.

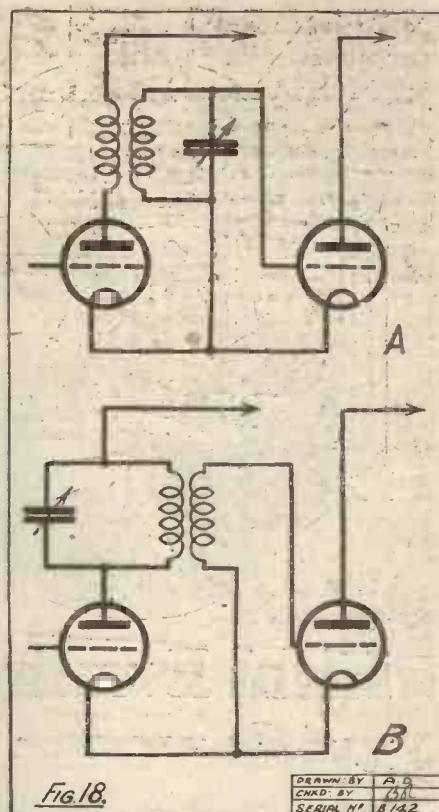
IT is surprising, even after four years of broadcasting and the home-construction of wireless sets, how frequently one hears of cases where valves are burnt out owing to the H.T. getting across their filaments because wrong connections have been made in the receiver. It is, in the writer's opinion, far more excusable to make a wrong external battery connection than make an error in the internal wiring of a set. If the wiring is properly checked up before the set is tested there should be no chance of a mistake passing unnoticed.

That is the reason why point-to-point lists of connections are published with constructional articles, but even if such lists were not available, it is a simple matter to check over even a complicated set.

### The Checking List.

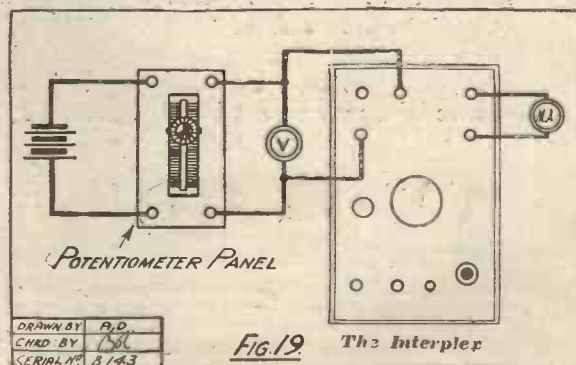
Assuming that the point-to-point list is not provided the constructor must fall back on either the practical wiring diagram or the theoretical circuit. The writer prefers to work from the latter, but it makes no odds which is used.

When the wiring has been completed, the constructor should carefully clean up the set and then set to work on the checking process—which must be done methodically. In the first place, he should take either the theoretical or practical diagram and make



a list of the main points of his receiver—LT+, L.T.—, H.T.—, H.T.+ terminals, A and E, and so on, and then he should write against them all the points with which they make connection, marking the lines off on the diagram as he goes on. When he has finished, any lines not marked off should be noted and he is ready for the actual checking on the receiver.

Many points will, of course, overlap, but that will only emphasise the checking. For instance, the earth lead will be found in most cases to go to L.T.+ or L.T.— and to one set of valve filament sockets. This will be duplicated when the L.T. leads are dealt with, but it is advisable not to omit the



L.T. terminals from the list even if some of the points are duplicated.

The list should be taken as written, and the points and their connecting wires noted on the set, each joint being tested for strength and cleanliness as the constructor goes on. After this, which does not take so very long, he can rest assured that the set is wired as described in the diagram, and he can go ahead with the practical test, feeling sure things are all right "down under."





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**IMPROVED  
1927 MODEL  
H.T.  
ACCUMULATOR  
60 VOLTS  
60"**

**SUPPLIED FULLY CHARGED**

A dry battery has but one life. When it is down it is done. Why not use a C.A.V. H.T. Accumulator, which can be recharged over and over again? It saves in service, and moreover gives clearer reception with greater volume.



*100  
Guineas  
for a  
Name!*

**HAVE  
YOU  
ENTERED**

**WRITE FOR FULL PARTICULARS**

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Owing to the various special features of our H.T. Accumulator we desire to give it a distinctive name, and invite suggestions.

FIRST PRIZE . . . . . 75 GUINEAS  
to the entrant of name adjudged the best.

SECOND PRIZE . . . . . 25 GUINEAS  
to the trader from whom the First Prize winner purchased his Accumulator.

## For D.X. results this coming Winter ~ resolder all joints with

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SOLDERING  
SET—complete**

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All Hardware and Ironmongery Stores sell FLUXITE in tins, price 8d., 1/4 and 2/8.

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**ULTRA LOW-LOSS**

Straight Line Frequency Condenser  
Cone Bearings. Braced Vanes. Positive Collector. A real precision job.

Condenser only, '0003uF., '0005uF. . . 9/-

Condenser with plain Dial, Standard 10/6

1/2" dial shaft . . . . . 6/-

New Vernier Dial . . . . . 6/-

Reduction Ratio 16-1, No Backlash.

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**HIGH & LOW TENSION  
ACCUMULATOR HIRE SERVICE**

Here's a way of improving reception, saving money, time, and trouble for all valve set users who live within 12 miles of Charing Cross. Write now for particulars of the unique service.

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Phone North 0623 (3 lines).



Rotax High Tension Accumulators greatly improve Loud Speaker reception, eliminating the uncanny noises caused by partly run down dry batteries and may be hired ready for use.



Our Low Tension Hire Service effects a considerable saving if you add the depreciation in value to the cost of having your own accumulator skilfully recharged.





# Apparatus Tested

Traders and manufacturers are invited to submit wireless sets and components to the "P.W." Technical Dept. for test. All tests are carried out with strict impartiality in the "P.W." Test room under the supervision of the Technical Editor, and the general reader is asked to note that this weekly article is also intended to provide a reliable and unbiased guide as to what to buy and what to avoid.—EDITOR.

## SUPERIAL SIMPLE-STRIP.

**ALTHOUGH** soldering is quite a simple task the fact remains that many constructors hesitate to tackle it; indeed, if it were not possible to assemble a wireless set without soldering, it is probable that there would be a much smaller number of home-made sets in use. Quite an efficient alternative to soldering, however, is the use of "Simple-Strip," a product of the New London Electron Works, Ltd. It is  $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. strip copper heavily tinned, in which oval holes are stamped. These holes are very close together, but the material is tough and pliable and retains sufficient strength to stand against very rough handling.

"Simple-Strip" can be cut quite easily and bent with the fingers into any desired shape. Owing to the holes being oval no difficulty is experienced in getting the material to lie snugly under terminal nuts, even if slight miscalculations in length of

load are made. Of course, "Simple-Strip" can be soldered, if desired, and, as a matter of fact, it takes solder as well as does tinned copper wire.

In view of its large surface area it forms a very efficient conductor, and a receiver connected up with it offers a very attractive appearance.

Superial "Simple-Strip," as it is called, is sold in packets containing 12 ft. at 2/- per packet.

## THOSE MARCONI VALVE BOOKLETS.

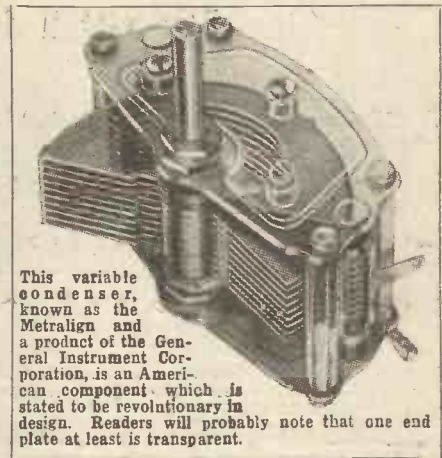
The Marconiphone Co., Ltd., recently published two very interesting booklets—"The Story of the Marconi Valve" and "The Marconi Valve Booklet." These publications will interest all valve enthusiasts, and we expect that many copies of the November 20th issue of "P.W." are now minus the coupon which appeared on page 657. This coupon entitles any reader

of "P.W." to obtain either one of the booklets gratis and post free. Unfortunately a printer's error occurs in it, and the following asterisked statement should have appeared at the bottom of the coupon: \* "Strike out what is not required." In some copies this appears partially corrected, and in others it is omitted altogether. Readers are welcome to a copy of either booklet, by writing to the company at 210, Tottenham Court Road, W.1.

## A PRICE CORRECTION.

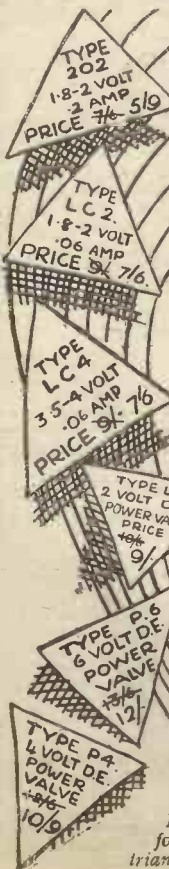
Will readers please note that the price of the Eureka Orthocyclic Variable Condenser is 15s. 6d., with a capacity of .0005 mfd., and not 13s. 6d., as was stated in the advertisement columns of our issue for November 6th. With a .0003 mfd. capacity the price is 14s. 6d.

(Continued on page 774.)



This variable condenser, known as the Metralign and a product of the General Instrument Corporation, is an American component which is stated to be revolutionary in design. Readers will probably note that one end plate at least is transparent.

## The BRITISH reply to the foreign challenge. prices still lower

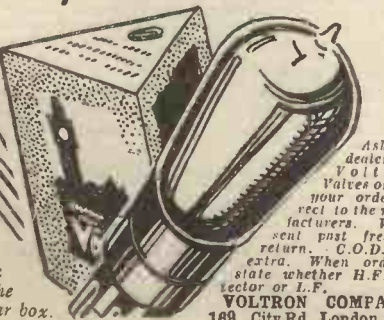


RENOWNED for reliability, the British basis of quality is the recognised standard of excellence. But to secure this, the once accepted necessity for paying high prices rules exclusively no longer. Instance Valves—by the advent of Voltron you can now buy a **BRITISH DULL EMITTER VALVE** for **5/9**. Not only British made, the quality of Voltron Valves is British, therefore supreme. But the price is low.

Close electrode construction, a filament of high emissive value and Voltron special 3 stage pumping ensure absolute uniformity, freedom from microphonic noises and a long life of full, clear-toned service. The guarantee is exceptionally generous. W. G. of Burnage, Manchester, writes of Voltron Valves:—"I feel I cannot speak too highly of them. My set has been brought to life with them. I thought my results were good enough before, but it was dead compared with my present results."

# VOLTRON

"Buy British and be Sure"



Look for the triangular box.

Ask your dealer for Voltron Valves or send your order direct to the manufacturers. Valves sent post free by return. C.O.D. 4d. extra. When ordering state whether H.F. Detector or I.F. **VOLTRON COMPANY,** 169, City Rd., London, E.C.1.

## THE LATEST INVENTION

### The New Magnetic MICROPHONE BAR AMPLIFIER

An efficient NON-VALVE NOTE AMPLIFIER which yields Three-to Ten-fold Amplification from the 'Phone Terminals of any Crystal or Valve Set.

**NO ACCUMULATORS REQUIRED: NO H.T. BATTERIES.**

Six pairs of Wireless Head-phones, or any 2,000-ohms Loud Speaker may be operated from a single 3-volt Dry Battery.

### LOW CURRENT CONSUMPTION.

The Magnetic Microphone Bar Amplifier uses less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an ampere, one 3-volt dry cell, at a cost of 3/-, lasting upwards of 300 working hours. No Diaphragms. No Distortion. No Fragile Parts. Nothing to get out of order. No microphonic noises. Unaffected by vibration. Compact and easily portable. **ANYONE CAN ADJUST IT!** Amplified Speech and Music as clear as from a good Valve Set. A boon to persons of impaired hearing.

**PRICE 38/- Complete.**

No separate Transformer required.

We stock components, valves and accessories of every description for sets described in this and in all other Wireless Publications. We have a highly organised and efficient Mail Order Department and guarantee not only safe but prompt delivery. Why waste time and money when you can send your order direct to us. Your enquiries will receive our careful and prompt attention.

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# WHAT IS THE IDEAL H.T. SUPPLY?

**CONVENIENCE,  
CLEANLINESS,  
LOW FIRST COST,  
ECONOMICAL SERVICE,**

all these excellent qualities combine to make the **H.T. Dry Battery** the ideal form of high-tension current supply for the Broadcast Listener, but—

for **RELIABILITY** and  
**STEADY PERSISTENT SERVICE**  
it must be a  
**SIEMENS H.T. DRY BATTERY**



REG. TRADE MARK.

**SEE THAT IT BEARS THIS  
TRADE MARK!**

Our new Catalogue No. 650, "Siemens Radio Batteries," will assist you in the selection of the correct size of battery to be used for any radio purposes, at the lowest operating cost. It also contains a large amount of practical information on the CARE and MAINTENANCE of radio Batteries.

A copy will be sent post free on application to

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## What you look for in a Loud Speaker

A Loud Speaker which renders music, song, and speech—faithfully—with a pure, clear tone—and, if required, sufficient volume for dancing. A Loud Speaker with such a handsome appearance that it is an artistic addition to the furnishing of the home. That is what you look for—and that is what you will find in the

**BE**CO

### ROSE BOWL

#### Hornless Loud Speaker

Perfect in performance—beautiful in appearance. Moreover, it matters not whether the bowl is empty—or filled with water and flowers—the splendid tonal purity, volume, and clarity are in no way impaired. 8½" high. Brim 10¼" diameter. Obtainable finished in: Nickel Plate, £5/5/0. Oxydised Silver or Antique Brass, £5/17/6.

Deferred payments can be arranged on application to the address below.

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Other "Beco" Models from 52/6.

If your dealer cannot supply write to:

Dept. P.W. **BRITISH ELECTRICAL SALES ORGANISATION.**  
625, Australia House, Strand, London, W.C.2  
Telephone. City 7665. Telegrams: "Becospeker, Estrand, London."



## APPARATUS TESTED.

(Continued from page 772.)

### THE BROWN CRYSTAL AMPLIFIER.

We have recently had a "Brown" Crystal Amplifier under observation, and at the conclusion of a series of tests carried out in varying localities, we are able to form a definite opinion as to its capabilities.

It is contained in a polished case provided with a lid, and on to which are mounted six terminals. To two of these must be connected a small 4½-volt dry battery—the only source of local power required. The other four include two terminals for the loud speaker and two for connecting up to a crystal set by its telephone terminals.

Beneath the lid are two levers for adjusting the instrument. These levers are not finicking little things, but each moves over a distance of two or three inches, and neither is at all a critical control. Even so, very precise instructions are provided, showing exactly how these levers should be handled to get best results, instructions that anyone who can read could understand.

Now, whenever crystal signals are comfortably strong in telephone receivers, this Brown amplifier will bring them up to good loud-speaker strength. Good in both volume and purity too. We have never heard such pure, mellow, microphonic amplification before as that given by this instrument. And volume is excellent, notwithstanding the fact that only the one tiny battery is used.

In view of the fact that such results are obtainable, it is surprising that Messrs.

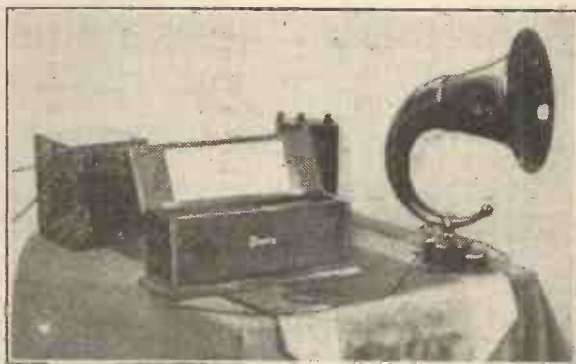
Brown have managed to keep their new amplifier within such practical bounds of stability and robustness; indeed, it is rather wonderful and once again testifies to the supremacy of the S.G.B. people in this particular branch of radio. In our opinion, the Brown Crystal Amplifier is far and away above everything else of the kind, and, moreover, it is a precision instrument fitted with "man-in-the-street" controls. Eliminating, as it does, both valves and accumulators, at £4 4s., it is a proposition that requires serious consideration.

### THE "ELECTONE" AUTOMATIC CONTROL.

One of the cutest little gadgets we have seen is the "Electone," an automatic switching device due to Messrs. Frederick J. Gordon & Co., Ltd., 92, Charlotte Street, London, W.1. It consists of a small clock around the face of which are situated 24 plug sockets. Six plugs are provided and at whatever point a plug is inserted the clock movement closes a switch inside for a period of half an hour. The "Electone" is placed in series with one of the L.T. battery leads, and this switches the L.T. on and off in accordance with the plug positions.

If a plug is inserted in the socket opposite eight o'clock the set is switched on a few minutes before eight, and switched off again a few minutes after eight-thirty. If another plug was inserted at the eight-thirty point, the set would carry on till nine o'clock.

The device is quite small and neat in appearance, and as it is essentially a clock, does not look out of place by or on top of a receiver. The clock movement is not a Benson one, of course, but it is robust and keeps excellent time. Certainly the "Electone," combining as it does a clock with an automatic switching device, is one of the most useful radio accessories we have seen. With one of these little instruments the amateur can leave his set in the morning, and have music turned-on and-off for the benefit of the household without any but his own hands touching a single switch, even a dial. We have had an "Electone" in use for several weeks now, and not once has it failed to do its duty. There is a slight noise when it switches off or on, but otherwise it is perfectly silent. In our opinion, it forms one of the best solutions to the problem of distant control so far placed before the radio public, and should command a very ready sale at 27/6.



The Brown Crystal Amplifier, which is described on this page.



# Sing a Song of



Sing a Song of Sixpence and thirteen bob as well;  
I am the Gramo-Speaker, as clear as any bell.  
I'm bought at any dealer's, for just this little sum,  
And fitted to your gramophone—I give no end of fun.

My owner fitted me one day with horn of his design,  
And many a day, I've heard him say my voice is very fine.  
I saved him quite a deal of cash in many, many ways,  
For I'm a real Loud-speaker and last for countless days.

The children in the nursery hear me with shouts of joy,  
But the maid who's in the kitchen says I am no simple toy;  
I tell her all there is to hear in clear and vivid tones,  
And she can work and hear my voice without the use of phones.

I am the Gramo-Speaker, as clear as any bell,  
A genuine Loud-speaker—which you can prove as well;  
Then get you to your dealer's shop and ask to see just "me,"  
The efficient Gramo-Speaker that's made by




Price

13/6

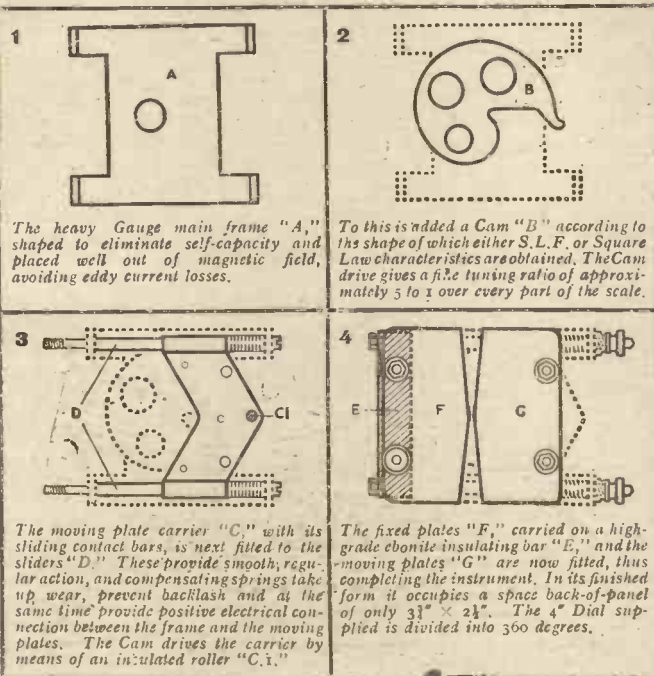
This price does not apply to Irish Free State.

## TMC

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Every part of Ripaults Lateral Action Condenser was designed to achieve sharp, crisp tuning and a greater degree of selectivity than ever before was possible. This result has been successfully accomplished. Ripaults Lateral Action Condensers put within your reach extraordinarily efficient tuned circuits, while tuning itself is made infinitely easier. In up-to-date sets *Lateral Action* is the secret of the skilful tuning that brings in stations "all round the dial."

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Patent Applied for

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Manufactured & guaranteed by Ripaults Ltd., 1, King's Rd., London, N.W.1



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Dear Student.

I am sure you must have a friend who would be only too pleased to hear of our System of Postal Tuition, and as you have had experience of its efficiency you would be doing your friend a good turn and this college also if you were to advise your friend to get in touch with us. He may be engaged in commerce or he may be in a technical trade, or he may wish to get into either one or the other.

No matter what his trade or profession may be it is possible that we may be able to help him forward in it. If he has any ambition at all let him write to me and mention his aspirations; it shall have my personal attention, and if I cannot help him I will say so honestly; if I can help him I will show him the way. My advice is absolutely free; he will incur no obligation whatever. I am only too pleased to give the help that years ago I needed myself.

So successful have our students been these late years that we have had to add a wing on to the College, and the wing itself is nearly as big as the College. Thousands of people who thought they were in a rut or had come to a dead end have been helped to the front by my advice.

Write to me at this address. (Dept. 106). The Bennett College, Sheffield.

Yours faithfully,

*J. Bennett*

F.R.S.A., M.I.Mar.E., A.I.Struct.E., etc.

P.S.—We specialise in preparation for all examinations, commercial or technical.



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# RADIOTORIAL

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The Editor will be pleased to consider articles and photographs dealing with all subjects appertaining to wireless work. The Editor cannot accept responsibility for manuscripts and photos. Every care will be taken to return MSS. not accepted for publication. A stamped and addressed envelope must be sent with every article. All inquiries concerning advertising rates, etc., to be addressed to the Sole Agents, Messrs. John H. Lile, Ltd., 4, Ludgate Circus, London, E.C.4.

As much of the information given in the columns of this paper concerns the most recent developments in the Radio world, some of the arrangements and specialities described may be the subject of Letters Patent, and the amateur and the trader would be well advised to obtain permission of the patentees to use the patents before doing so.

Readers' letters dealing with patent questions, if sent to the Editor, will be forwarded to our own patent advisers, where every facility and help will be afforded to readers. The envelope should be clearly marked "Patent Advice."

## TECHNICAL QUERIES.

Letters should be addressed to: Technical Query Dept., "Popular Wireless," The Fleetway House, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4.

They should be written on one side of the paper only, and MUST be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

Queries should be asked in the form of the numbered questions: (1), (2), (3), etc., but may be accompanied by a short letter giving any necessary additional particulars as briefly as possible.

For every question asked a fee of 6d. should be enclosed. A copy of the numbered questions should be kept, so that the replies may be given under the numbers. (It is not possible to reproduce the question in the answer.)

BLUE PRINTS. A series of 20 Blue Prints can be obtained from the Query Dept., price 6d. per Blue Print.

Only a limited number of circuits are covered in this series and full details of the circuit arrangements available in Blue-Print form are published fortnightly in the advertisement columns of this journal.

All other back-of-panel diagrams are specially drawn up to suit the requirements of individual readers at the following rates: Crystal Sets, 6d.; One-Valve Sets, 6d.; One-Valve and Crystal (Reflex), 1s.; Two-Valve and Crystal (Reflex), 1s.; Three-Valve and Crystal (Reflex), 1s. 6d.; Four-Valve Sets, 1s. 6d.; Multi-Valve Sets (straight circuit), 1s. 6d. Except SUPER-HETERODYNE DIAGRAMS, all of which irrespective of number of Valves used, are 2s. 6d.

If a panel lay-out or list of point-to-point connections is required an additional fee of 1s. must be enclosed.

Wiring diagrams of commercial apparatus, such as sets of any particular manufacture, etc., cannot be supplied. (Such particulars can only be obtained from the makers.)

Readers may submit their own diagrams, etc., for correction or for criticism. The fee is 1s. per diagram, and these should be large, and as clear as possible.

No questions can be answered by 'phone. Remittances should be in the form of Postal Orders.

## Questions and Answers

### A 2-valve Amplifier.

E. A. B. (Tatsfield, Surrey).—"I have a good one-valve set in use, which has given such excellent results that now I intend using a loud speaker. I wish to retain the one-valve set as the first part of the new receiver. To get really good results I shall need three-valves in all, so could you recommend me a 2-valve amplifying circuit?"

(Continued on page 778.)

## THE PERFECT TUNING UNIT.

### THE NEW J.B. TRUE TUNING S.L.F.

Corrected S.L.F. type giving most even spacing of stations possible.

No crowding anywhere on scale.

Double reduction Friction drive, ratio 60-1.

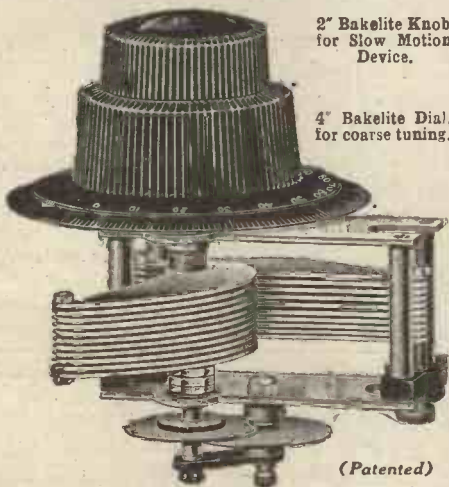
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## "EKCO"

### H.T. UNITS

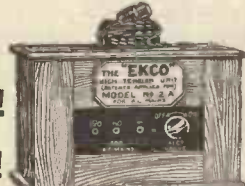
### SCRAP DRY BATTERIES!

By obtaining H.T. Current from Electric Supply Mains (D.C. & A.C.) by just attaching adaptor to Electric Light Lampholder.



Model 2A-D.C.

SAFE!  
SILENT!  
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"Wireless World," 11/8/26.  
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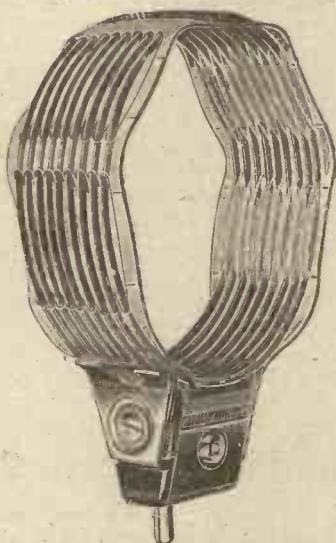
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A user of Igranic Coils has written to tell us that he has built a receiver with which he can receive ALL wavelengths from 10 to 100 METRES when using IGRANIC PLUG-IN COILS. With other makes of coils he could not receive the short waves. IGRANIC SHORT WAVE COILS are made in four sizes for wavelengths from 10 to 100 metres.

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No. 2 (turns) ..	2/6
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are used gain greatly in selectivity and general reception efficiency.



The more supports there are between the fixed and moving vanes the greater is the leakage.

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are constructed with but one purpose in mind—to give to the user really dependable and lasting service.

NEUTRON VALVES will make a decided improvement in your reception—they are built to give greater volume, realistic reproduction of voice and music and to ELIMINATE VIBRATION AND OTHER CONDITIONS THAT IMPAIR RECEPTION. They are positively NON-MICROPHONIC.

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**Red Spot**  
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4-volt '06 amps  
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Full 60-volt

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The powers of this wonderful crystal are known the world over—no better crystal is or has been made. Of all Radio dealers complete with cat's-whisker. Price

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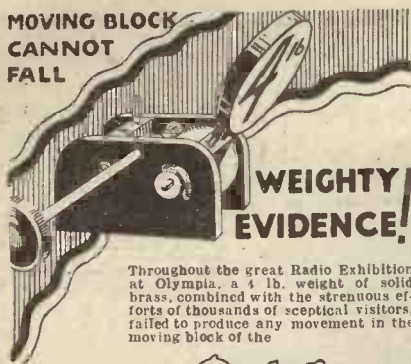
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Sole Distributors for U.K. and Ireland:  
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All Export enquiries for Continent and Australia  
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Of all good  
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The helical interlocking gears make it absolutely impossible for the moving block to fall, even with the heaviest coil made.

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Cheapest in long run. Each cell gives 1.4 volts. Full instructions sent with each delivery. Price per dozen cells, complete, 3/9. Alternatively: Zincs, 1/-; Sacs, 1/6; Jars, 1/3 per dozen. Carriage extra. Orders for 21 and over carriage paid. Trade enquiries invited.—Wet H.T. Battery Co., 23, Coldharbour Lane, Camberwell, S.E.5. Phone: Brixton 2539.

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Headphones Re-wound or Re-magnetised, 4/6. Loud Speaker Re-wound, 4/6. Transformers Re-wound, 5/-. Re-magnetising only 2/-. All work guaranteed. Postage extra. Write for trade terms.—H. R. P. Co., 1, Cottrill Rd., Spurstow Terr., Hackney, E.3.

# RADIOTORIAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(Continued from page 776.)

I am thinking of using a 25/- L.F. transformer and I am uncertain whether to follow this with another transformer-coupled stage, or whether to use the last stage resistance-coupled. I understand that very great purity is obtainable in this way, and I shall be glad if you can tell me whether the volume would be such that the loud speaker would be working at full strength, or whether for this purpose I should need to use two transformers?

As your present receiver is already giving excellent results, you should be able to work a loud speaker comfortably with two additional valves. In view of the fact that your transformer is a good one, we recommend you to follow it with one stage of resistance-capacity, which would give great clarity of reproduction, and, provided you are using an ordinary good aerial, the signal strength will leave nothing to be desired.

You will find that the "P.W." blue print, No. 15, shows a circuit of exactly the kind you require. The back of panel diagram in this instance is that of a flat panel type, but as the blue print shows the circuit in theoretical form, and also the connections in pictorial form, you should have no difficulty in making any slight modifications that may be necessary to fit the proposed cabinet.

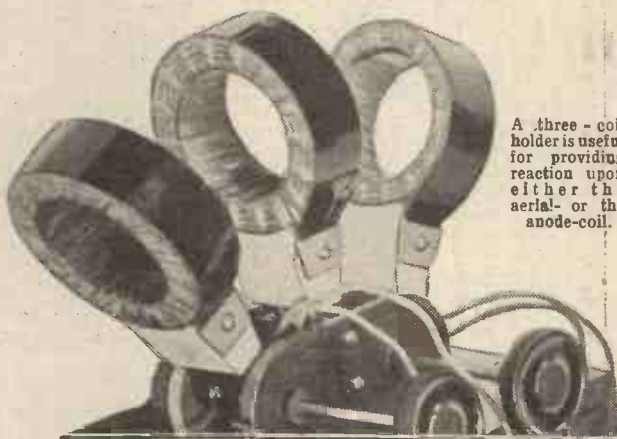
## AERIAL OR ANODE REACTION.

"ALTERNATIVE REACTION" (Stratley-on-Thames).—I have a straight three-valve receiver in which the first valve is employed as H.F.

amplifier, working upon a tuned anode principle. The other valves are detector and L.F. amplifier respectively, and the reaction coil is connected between the primary of the L.F. transformer and the plate of the detector valve. I am told that by using a 3-coil holder (instead of the 2-coil holder at present employed) I could have the reaction coil coupled to either the aerial coil, or the anode coil, at will. (At present it is coupled only to the aerial coil in a two-way coil holder.) How should the coils be arranged in order to give this form of alternative reaction?

The method of using a three-coil holder (see accompanying photograph) is only effective where the set in question allows plenty of room for the two outer coils to open right out, at an angle of 90 degrees from the centre coil. (Both the outer coils must be capable of movement, although the centre coil is fixed upright.)

(Continued on page 780.)



A three-coil holder is useful for providing reaction upon either the aerial or the anode-coil.

# "NO CRYSTAL SET IS COMPLETE WITHOUT THIS WONDERFUL ATTACHMENT"

Extract from an entirely unsolicited testimonial recently received from a customer situated 80 miles from Daventry.

The WONDERFUL ATTACHMENT referred to is the

# MAGNETIC MICROPHONE BAR AMPLIFIER

(Patent No. 248581/25.)

Not only will this marvellous device give really good LOUD-SPEAKER RESULTS from CRYSTAL RECEPTION of average strength, but it is absolutely the ONLY means of increasing the strength of weak signals in headphones without using valves.

Works perfectly on one or two dry cells.

A BOON TO DEAF PERSONS

EQUALLY EFFICIENT ON  
VALVE SETS

If your dealer cannot supply order direct  
from Sole Manufacturers and Patentees



(Two-thirds  
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NOT a Microphone Button.

NO Valves, Accumulators or  
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LONDON, W.1. Phone: Museum 8974.



## RADIOTORIAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

respectively were 35 and 150, now we have to use 100 and 300. I might mention the aerial and earth are all that is to be desired, as we have examined same.

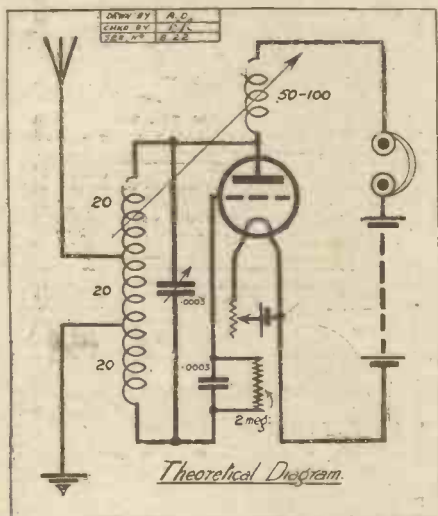
The fault complained of is a very unusual one, and appears to be due to a break in the circuit of the aerial tuning condenser. From your description we think that one of your condensers leads or joints has broken, leaving this condenser disconnected.

The wires and terminals should, therefore, be examined carefully, and when the break is remedied it should be possible to work again with the 35 and 150 coils, for the local and 5 X stations respectively.

### THE ULTRA COIL.

P.S. (Pendleton, Manchester).—Having been very successful with the "P.W." Ultra Crystal Set, I should like to try an Ultra coil in a one-valve receiver. What are the connections?

The connections for Ultra coil tuning of a 1-valve set are shown in the accompanying diagram. The



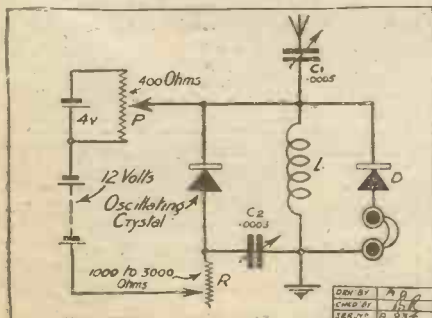
construction of a set of this kind was fully described in "P.W." No. 222 (September 4th, 1926, issue).

Note.—Back numbers of POPULAR WIRELESS are obtainable from The Amalgamated Press (1922), Ltd., Back Number Dept., Bear Alley, Farringdon Street, E.C.4. Price 4d. each, post free.

### REACTION WITH A CRYSTAL SET.

"CRYSTAL CRAZY" (Slough, Bucks).—Is it really possible to oscillate and obtain reaction with a crystal set? If so, how is it done?

It is quite possible to obtain reaction and oscillation effects, using for that purpose a crystal instead of a valve. A specially chosen "Oscillating Crystal" has to be used, in an additional circuit that includes



resistances and batteries. Such an arrangement can be added to an ordinary crystal set which has the tuning condenser in series, as shown by the accompanying diagram.

(Continued on next page.)



## DRY BATTERIES ARE SAFER

THINK of the perfect ease with which dry batteries are handled—and especially COLUMBIA. They are safe, clean and convenient. They can be tucked away in a cabinet and no care need be given to acid and glass casings. COLUMBIA give better, longer and more economic service and dispense with the trouble and expense of frequent accumulator renewals. Use dry batteries for every radio need, and always COLUMBIA.

The right battery in the right place naturally means a great deal to your reception. Therefore "How to get the most out of your radio batteries" is a little book which will be most useful to you. It is packed full of really practical and interesting information. These booklets are sent free on request.



Send for "How to get the most out of your radio batteries," and "Choosing and using the right radio batteries." It is astonishing what will result in marked economy in operation and improved quality of reception when you have a little definite knowledge as to the correct use of your radio batteries.

# Columbia

Ask your Dealer for COLUMBIA High Tension Battery No. 4780 60 volts, a special size with large radio cells. Or COLUMBIA High Tension Battery No. 4770 45 volts (extra heavy duty) for long service and economy. COLUMBIA "A" Dry Cell Batteries for Dull Emitter valves will meet heavy current demands and give much longer service than other batteries. All COLUMBIA BATTERIES are fitted with spring clip terminals to ensure quick and secure connections.

ASK ANY GOOD DEALER FOR COLUMBIA.

J. R. MORRIS, 15-19, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C.2.

Telegrams: Colcarprod, London.

Telephone: Gerrard 3038.

Scottish Representative:

John T. Cartwright, 3, Cadogan Street, GLASGOW.



## SIX COUNTRIES

### IN DAYLIGHT

We have received the following testimonial:—

"I do not know whether you know that this particular valve is the finest in the world for use in a reflex set, it easily gives double the volume of any other I have ever used.

This is due of course to the remarkably low impedance, which is the lowest I think of any valve made."

#### —AND ON ONE VALVE

"I had some wonderful results on a new single valve reflex unit yesterday, using one of these valves, tuning in, in daylight, stations from six different European countries, as well as a number of British stations and 22 amateur transmitters.

It is one of those cases where one would not believe unless heard, as the use of this valve in any reflex set will at once double the volume. I may add that I am just over three miles from 2 Z.Y. and I have to detune to bring the volume reasonable on a large Brown H.Q. and Amplion Radiolux Speakers."

**THE BENJAMIN RANGE.**  
S.P. 18 RED 14/ Fil. Volts 1.6 Amps .3  
S.P. 18 GREEN 14/ Fil. Volts 1.6 Amps .3  
S.P. 18 BLUE 14/ Fil. Volts 1.6 Amps .09  
D.E. 55 18/6. Fil. Volts 5.5 Amps .09  
S.P. 55 BLUE 18/6. Fil. Volts 5.5 Amps .09  
S.P. 55 RED 22/6. Fil. Volts 5.5 Amps .25

## BENJAMIN SHORTPATH VALVES

THE BENJAMIN ELECTRIC LIMITED  
Braxwood Works, Tottenham, London, N.17.

## RADIOTORIAL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

### STARTING A SPIDER-WEB COIL.

S. E. J. (Billericay, Essex).—I have a spider-web former and some 26 D.C.C. wire to make a 50-turn coil for a crystal set. I know the way to wind the coil, but how is the wire held in place at the beginning of the winding?

Starting the winding of a Spider-Web Coil.



All that is necessary is to make one or two holes in the former and thread the beginning of the wire through these, to make it fast.

### RESTORING DULL-EMITTER VALVES.

J. F. M. (Ireland).—How can I restore dull-emitter valves which have lost their sensitivity?

This depends upon the type of valve, and fortunately many '06 amp., and similar types, are curable after this sort of mishap. In any case, the procedure is to burn the valve at the correct voltage for about half an hour or more without any H.T. on the plate. This will bring some of the special chemicals to the surface of the filament, and normal electron emission will result.

Another way is known as "flashing," but it is decidedly risky. It consists in connecting one filament leg of the valve to one side of the H.T. battery, and just brushing the other H.T. connection on the other filament leg. This should have the same effect as the above.

If the "brushing" is not done quickly, and the filament is connected too long to the H.T., it will burn out. One method of ensuring that too much current does not pass when "flashing" a valve in this way is to do the flashing from a fixed condenser.

All that is necessary is to connect a very large fixed condenser (say, 1 mfd. or more) across a high-tension battery of 100 volts or so. Disconnect the H.T. battery, and then connect the filament legs across the fixed condenser.

This latter will, of course, discharge itself via the filament, and as the current is limited by the capacity of the condenser there is no danger of applying the current for too long a period.

**UNUSUAL BARGAIN.** Brand new TANGENT L.F. Transformers No. 6510. Ratio 3-1. Usual price 12/6. Our price, 7/- post free. Money refunded if dissatisfied. Partridge & Wilson, 217a, Loughborough Road, Leicester.

## DX COILS ARE BEST

As supplied for the "P.W." 14-Valve Set.

### COILS FOR THE SPIDER

(See "P.W." Nov. 13.)

SPECIAL AERIAL COIL	4/-
MATCHED ANODE	2/6
REACTION	1/2
MOUNTED CHOKE, No. 250	6/-
" " " 500	8/6

Send P.O. 4/- for Special Aerial Coil for cutting out your local Station

**JOHN T. NICHOLS.**  
4 & 5, GLEBE ROAD, DALSTON, E.8.

## EVERY LOUDSPEAKER

### DESERVES MULLARD MASTER VALVES

— Ask for —  
Mullard P. M. Power Valves.

### TRANSFORMERS REWOUND

Transformers, Phones, Loudspeakers, Rewound and Repaired to Maximum Efficiency. All One Price 4/- each. Don't discard if burnt out. All work guaranteed for 12 months. Write for trade terms. TRANSFORM CO., 115, LINKS RD., TOOTING, LONDON, S.W.17.



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GENUINE EBONITE  
Experts choose it!  
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STOCKED BY ALL THE BEST DEALERS  
TRELLEBORGS EBONITE WORKS Ltd. Audrey House, E.C.4

"ADVANCE" 60-VOLTS.  
**H.T. BATTERIES 7/9** POST FREE  
Tapped every 3 volts.  
Guaranteed long life and silent working.  
G. FORSTER, Carlton House, Regent St., LONDON.

### SENT ON 7 DAYS APPROVAL

AGAINST CASH  
200 Fuller Sparta Loud Speakers  
Makers price £4 15 0  
To Clear at 50/- each.

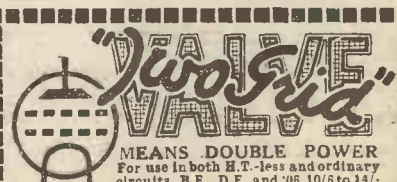
These 4,000 ohms Speakers are brand new and in original packing cases (as received from makers) and are fully guaranteed. Another MAUDE Bargain. Maude Rubber Co., 58, Praed St., London, W.2

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Re-wound and re-magnetised 5/- per pair. Loud Speakers repaired 5/-. Transformers re-wound 5/- each. All work guaranteed and tested before delivery. Write for Trade Prices. Phone: Clerk, 1795. MASON & CO., 44, East Road, City Road, N.1.

### HEADPHONES 3/9

Post Free  
Product of leading British Manufacturer, 4,000 ohms, aluminium headbands, very light and comfortable to wear. Do not be misled by the low price, these are a good article and were specially manufactured for broadcast reception. To be cleared at the very low price of 3/9 post free. Also a few 7ft. cords at 1/2 post free, from C. WILDE, WILLESBOROUGH, ASHFORD, KENT.



MEANS DOUBLE POWER  
For use in both H.T.-less and ordinary circuits, B.E., D.E. and '06, 10/5 to 14/-. Send card for Radio press reports and booklet. This valve can be used in any set without alteration and will give 50% to 150% increase in power.  
ANELOY PRODUCTS,  
Eton Works, East Dulwich London, S.E.22.  
CALLERS: 36a, Forest Hill Road, East Dulwich.



## CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters from readers discussing interesting and topical wireless events, or recording unusual experiences, are always welcomed; but it must be clearly understood that the publication of such does in no way indicate that we associate ourselves with the views expressed by our correspondents, and we cannot accept any responsibility for information given.—Editor.

### The Simmonds Short Wave Set.

The Editor, POPULAR WIRELESS.

Dear Sir,—On September 20th I finished a short-wave set similar in design to that shown by Mr. Simmonds in "P.W." No. 230 (October 30th). Results are certainly excellent, all parts are British, and all connections thoroughly soldered. So far I have heard KDKA four times (I enclose confirmation [copy of] from KDKA) and WGY twice. Also 3TN and 3AL, Australia, on C.W. Morse.

On telephony I have got—British: 2BWZ, 2WN, 2NM, 2UG, 2BM, 21T, 5TZ, 5DA, 5WK, 5WW, 5DT, 5TZ, 5DC, 5AZ, 5ZG, 5US, 5HJ, 6UZ, 6IA, 6QO, 6MU, 6MO, 6TX, 6KK, 6OH, 6TR, 6UT, 6KS, 6UP.

North Ireland: 6QO, 6MU.

France: 1AE, 8ART.

Italy: 8AU.

U.S.A.: KDKA, 2XAF(WGY).

Germany: Koenigswusterhausen.

Australia: 3TN, 3AL (Morse).

All between 30 and 70 metres.

I am, yours,

London, E.C.3. G. M. MITCHNER.

### The "Hale" Receiver.

The Editor, POPULAR WIRELESS.

Dear Sir,—I notice in your editorial of the Radio Constructor this week that you ask readers to write and give you their experiences with the "Hale" receiver described last week.

On Thursday evening of last week, as soon as I reached home, I wired up the circuit roughly and with an old Phillips D.E. Power valve and 120 v. H.T. and 1 v. bias 2LO was tuned in with a strength on the L.S. that can only be likened to a 3-valve set (v. 2) and with crystal quality. Members of my household begged me to make up the set in a proper cabinet and scrap my two-valve Reflex set ("P.W." Combination and I.F. amplifier), which I have had in use now for about two years. This I have done, and on Sunday morning I was able to get Hilversum for an hour on the L.S., and after it had closed down Koenigswusterhausen came in also on the L.S. even more strongly, then Radio-Paris. Several evenings this week I have had an evening's hunt and so many stations come tumbling in that I hesitate to write them down in case I should be thought guilty of prevaricating. One thing I should like to do, and that is, make the set more selective. If this can be done perhaps you will tell us in the near future.

Two of my neighbours have decided to scrap their existing sets and build the "Hale."

Many thanks for introducing such a fine circuit to "P.W." readers, and may I express a Coue-ism, that Every Day, etc. Yours faithfully,

Gwynne Road, S.W.11. J. A.

### More than "Astounding!"

The Editor, POPULAR WIRELESS.

Dear Sir,—I beg to write in appreciation of your wonderful circuit in "P.W." October 30th. I refer to the "Hale" receiver. I wired this up on Sunday and added one stage of L.F. in the ordinary way, and I am absolutely astounded at the volume and purity. I am always "playing" with my set, but know very little about wireless except how to wire up from a diagram. Your circuit gives greater volume and purity than the four-valve (1-v-2) which I pulled down in order to try it, and in fact is miles better than any circuit I have ever tried.

You hesitate in your article to use the word "astounding." The circuit, in my humble opinion, is poorly described by the adjective, and I thank you for giving us the chance to try it, and I look forward to a further article on it. I am able to get many other stations, but have great difficulty in bringing them in clearly, as the least touch on the reaction sends the set into violent oscillation, but directly I loosen the reaction a shade I lose the station. My only other trouble is continuous crackling between each item, and I cannot trace this to H.T. transformers, loose contacts, or anything like that. Is this a peculiarity of the circuit?

For the sake of curiosity I am at some time going to try a further stage of transformer-coupled L.F.; and by what the present two-valves are doing, while I write, I should imagine the addition of a further L.F. will about blow the horn off the loud speaker. I am using 2 Cossor valves and a Red Diamond permanent crystal (2s.) which I haven't touched since Sunday, and two quite cheap transformers. Well, I must close, or I'll bore you stiff; but, by jove, you've found a wonderful circuit. Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,

D. MACKENZIE.

34, Church Street, Croydon, Surrey.

## OPERATE YOUR RECEIVER FROM THE LIGHTING MAINS

# "Goltone"

(REGD.)

## HIGH TENSION BATTERY ELIMINATORS

effectively overcome the troubles and worries associated with High Tension Batteries and ensures always a Convenient, Constant and Reliable H.T. Supply at a negligible upkeep cost.

Simply plug-in to any convenient lampholder.

Gives increased volume and purity of tone.

Saves its first cost in a short time.

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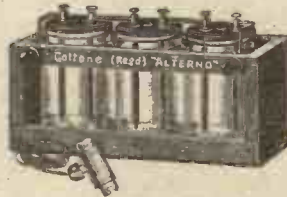
J. W. G., Fulwell, Sunderland:—"I am delighted with the results. I did not think my set could do what it does with the Eliminator instead of Dry Cells. The increase of volume is great, and no trace of hum whatever."

G. J. Church Road, Acton, London:—"The Eliminator is giving great satisfaction. It is being used within a short distance of an Electricity Station, and the set is perfectly silent, there being not the slightest suspicion of hum. It is the best we have seen."

S. & Co., London:—"I should like to say I find the Eliminator excellent—no hum, and giving wonderful volume."

P. S., Westcliff-on-Sea:—"I have found it far superior to dry batteries, and the increase in volume and clarity is surprising."

## HOME SERVICE ACCUMULATOR CHARGING SETS



No Technical Knowledge or Attention Required.

Clean, reliable and convenient. Simply plug-in to any adjacent lampholder. Complete with Adaptor, Connecting Cords and full instructions.

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for testing High and Low Tension Batteries.

British Made.

DOUBLE READING to 10 Volts and 120 Volts.

POCKET TYPE. Centre Zero Reading, as illustrated. Patent. App. Price 10/6  
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Cases for above . . . . . 1/6 each

PANEL MOUNTING TYPE. Centre Zero Reading. Flush Type. Patent App. Diameter of Dial 1 1/2 ins. . . . . Price 12/9  
Panel Mounting Push Buttons, 1/6 pair.

See List No. R/116 for full range.

### "INDISPENSO." (Direct Current.)

For Charging High Tension Accumulators at no extra cost when light is in use.

Price complete 6/-

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Charges the High Tension Accumulator at negligible cost. Price complete 21/-

### "Goltone" "PENDELTON."

(Alternating Current.) Charges the Low Tension 2, 4 or 6 volt Accumulator economically and effectively at minimum cost.

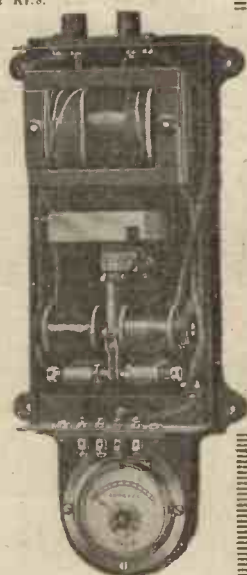
Requires no renewals. Charging rate approx. 2 Amps. Price £2:12:6

Fitted with Ammeter, as illustrated, Price £3:7:6

Please state voltage and frequency of Lighting Mains when ordering.

"Goltone" Products are stocked by the Leading Stores.

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Large fully illustrated 48-page Radio Catalogue post free on request. Traders should enclose Business Card for Trade Terms.

Ward & Goldstone  
PENDLETON MANCHESTER LTD.





## Above the snow-line



Dividing that which is below from that which is above it, there is a constancy which heeds not time nor circumstance, the overwhelming silent strength of snow clad peaks.

The Mullard Ever-Rest wire wound anode resistance is above that standard line which is drawn in your mind wherever a purchase is made.

A resistance of finely drawn metal, wound on covered and interlaid with strong woven fibrous material, eliminates all self capacity and also renders the metallic wire free from all mechanical shock. Different from all others it is not dipped in wax, this allows a perfect distribution of heat.

**Mullard EVER-REST Wire Wound Anode Resistance (80,000 and 100,000 ohms) - - - 5/-**  
Complete with Holder 6/6

Other Values to Specification.

Mullard Grid Leaks and Condensers.  
Type Grid B 0.5 to 5.0 megohms - - - 2/6  
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Type MA Condenser .0001 to .0009 mfd. - - - 2/6  
Type MB Condenser .001 to .01 mfd. - - - 3/-

Leaflet P.W. free on request.

# Mullard EVER-REST

WIRE WOUND ANODE RESISTANCE

The MULLARD WIRELESS SERVICE Co., Ltd.  
Mullard House, Denmark St., London, W.C.2.

## BRINGING THE SUPER-HET UP-TO-DATE.

From a Correspondent.

ALTHOUGH it is a comparatively short time ago since the super-het became popular with British amateurs, the earlier types are already becoming out-of-date.

Nowadays it is generally recognised that a series of untuned intermediate transformers must necessarily lead to inefficiency. It is almost impossible for the maker to match a set of transformers and filter so exactly that no discrepancy creeps in. Consequently owners of super-hets with untuned intermediate stages must carry out a few alterations.

### Tuned Intermediates.

There is no need to scrap the untuned transformers and fit the tuned type. This would be most expensive, and a lengthy business to change all the multitudinous connections of a super-heterodyne receiver. Instead the reader should buy some good vernier condensers to fit to his transformers.

These condensers should be as small as possible in order to save space. Take care that they come from manufacturers of good repute and are of the low-loss pattern. They should be connected across the primaries of the transformers.

### Increased Purity

When everything has been finished switch on the valves and turn the vernier condensers to zero. Tune in some distant station which is noted for its clear and pure transmissions, such as San Sebastian. Then adjust the first transformer vernier until signals reach their maximum strength. Repeat this operation in turn to each of the other verniers. Return to the first vernier and make the final adjustment. After this there will be no further need to touch the transformer condensers again. The reader will be surprised at the great increase in clarity and tone.

### Long Wave Reception.

The older super-hets were only arranged to deal with the broadcasting wave-lengths. To bring the set up to date and to receive stations on the higher wave-lengths, like Daventry and Hilversum, a different type of oscillator coupler must be installed; the best way to do this is to use the plug-in coupler so that the high or the low wave-band may be received at will by the simple operation of changing the coupler. The reader is advised to obtain one of these couplers, which are marketed by many wireless manufacturers.

In conclusion, the reader should take advantage of the new valves of superior efficiency now on the market and to bring his super-heterodyne up to scratch in this respect. Particularly, he is recommended to use a really good power valve in the L.F. stage. This has a great effect on the purity of reception, and is well worth the extra few shillings expended.

20/-  
down



## Great New Wireless Offer

Our wonderful 2-valve set with loud speaker and headphones installed free in your own home—anywhere—by our own Installation Engineers for £12 cash; or £1 down and 20/- a month for twelve months only. And we guarantee satisfaction.

There is nothing else to buy—the set is complete with all accessories.

When our Engineers have installed the set just switch on and enjoy perfect and powerful loud-speaker reception. You are also entitled to two free calls from our Engineers after the set is working.

The General Radio set is British made, unsurpassed in efficiency and purity of tone. It has no superfluous controls and is as easy to work as turning on the light.

Send a postcard to-day for free illustrated catalogue No. 4W and full particulars of this offer.

*General Radio*

GENERAL RADIO CO. LTD

RADIO HOUSE

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**WET H.T. BATTERIES.**  
BUY BRITISH. Complete Units 3/6 per doz. All goods BRITISH MADE BY BRITISH LABOUR. Jars 1/3. Zincs 1/-, Sacs 1/8 per doz. Carriage and Packing extra. Trade inquiries invited. Demon Battery Co., 59, Badlis Rd., Walthamstow, E.17

## A HOME FOR YOUR WIRELESS SET

OUR STANDARD CABINETS

are DUSTPROOF and house the whole apparatus, leaving no parts to be interfered with. All you do is UNLOCK & TUNE IN. Made on mass production lines, hence the low price. Provision is made to take panels from 16 x 7 up to 30 x 18 in.

Carriage paid and packed free England and Wales. Thousand's supplied with full satisfaction.

MAKERIMPORT Co.

From £4 15 0  
Write to-day for descriptive pamphlet and suggestions for adapting your receiver or panel in our Standard Cabinets.  
Immediate Delivery  
Dept. 5, Melville Chambers,  
50a, Lord St., LIVERPOOL.

## BUILD A LOUDSPEAKER

WITH OUR NEW SEAMLESS MOULDED CONE (Prov. Patent 25069/26.)

and a BROWN A. or LISSENOLE. You will obtain PERFECT RESULTS. Successful Construction for a minimum outlay is ensured with our Specialities. Illustrated Lists and full particulars for Stamp.



GOODMAN'S, 27, FARRINGTON ST., E.C.4.



## "DRY JOINTS."

Their Cause and Prevention.  
By G. V. C.

THE art of soldering must necessarily be one of the accomplishments of every amateur who tackles the construction of a set. He may wire the major portion of his set by means of nuts and screws (and wire) and make a good job of it, but there is doubtless some component that is not so provided, and therefore the soldering iron, solder, and flux are essential acquisitions.

It is quite probable that a former acquaintance with these tools has made him adept at making seemingly good soldered joints, which, even from a close inspection, would make one pronounce "O. K."

However that may be, there is no getting away from the fact that the wiring of many sets after a period of, say, six months, literally "falls to pieces."

From a careful examination of the wiring so deteriorated, it is evident that the breaks are not due to someone pulling on the wires or that the set has been dropped, but rather to the solder crumbling.

### Too Much Bismuth.

It is a fact, however startling, that much of the solder sold to-day by wireless dealers for wireless work has far too high a percentage of bismuth mixed with it.

Unfortunately, most amateurs are not sufficiently expert to judge good solder from bad, and the fact that the wireless dealer says it's solder, and they see it has the appearance of that metal, is sufficient for most of them without inquiring further.

A careful amateur or one who "knows" will examine the stick of metal (it is nearly always sold in the form of "blowpipe" solder), and if it has a fairly bright surface, appears to have been cleanly "cast," and offers a fair resistance to bending, will judge it good.

On the other hand, if it lacks a certain amount of lustre, has "cast" lumpy with a rough surface, and is fairly soft to bend, then he will refuse it, for he knows it will cause bad joints and will amalgamate unsatisfactorily with the wires.

Now, the reader may ask "How can I protect myself against the possibility of buying this solder?"

### Tinman's Solder.

This can be done in two ways. The first and most obvious is to purchase the solder from a reliable firm, or from an ironmonger who supplies the local builders with solder for zinc roofing, etc.

The second and least known way is to obtain tinman's solder, which is cast in sticks about the thickness of one's forefinger. It is very unusual to get this latter type in a poor quality, so that one can have the satisfaction of knowing that this solder is as good as the best sold as "blow-pipe."

Its only disadvantage is that it takes longer to melt than its thinner brethren, but this is more than offset by the fact that it will give a joint that will at least stand the hand of time.

(Continued on next page).

ALWAYS  
BUY

**TUNGSTONE**  
Pure Lead Grid  
**Accumulator**

HIGH  
TENSION

## 3 a.h. ACTUAL AND GUARANTEED

otherwise heavy cost constantly recharging. BEWARE of High Tension with Voltage only Stated. Amp. Hour is the Absolute Essential. Absolutely refuse High Tension with Wood Separators between Plates creating filament noises and the primary causes of early destruction of entire Battery.

LOW TENSION CELLULOID 2-VOLT CONTAINERS (EXCEPT TUNGSTONE) CONTAIN CAMPHOR WHICH THE ACID ATTACKS CREATING CONSTANT FOAMING. ALSO HOLDS THE BEAT.

Manchester Evening Chronicle.

February 8th, 1929.

### THE TUNGSTONE H.T. BATTERY

After having one of the above in use for two months, I shall never go back to the dry battery, although I have had excellent reception from the large-sized cells.

After my experience with this battery I can speak with confidence about it. The makers' claims appear rather far-reaching, but each one is fully borne out in practice. The battery is quiet in working, and testing the voltage as the set was working on the Newcastle's transmission last evening the voltage was 60.

My batteries have not an easy time by any means, as on some evenings I have had five valves (three of them power valves) working, and the fact that the battery has stood up speaks well for the units.

The cells are small, but the plates are large, and are prepared in a special manner which the makers claim give them a tremendous holding capacity. The whole sixty volts occupy little more space, than a dry battery of the same capacity, so that it can safely be called "the box of stored-up energy."

TUNGSTONE High Tension 60 Volt Battery 3 a.h. is sold in the United Kingdom on monthly payments over an extended period. Apply for particulars. Further interesting information on points of this advertisement are to be found on pages 58, 59 and 67 to 73 of the Illustrated Booklet "Photography tells the Story" which will be sent free on application to the TUNGSTONE ACCUMULATOR CO., LTD., St. Bride's House, Salisbury Square, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4. T.A.42

Birmingham Mail.

February 10th, 1926.

### HIGH TENSION ACCUMULATOR.

Lately I have been experimenting with a Tungstone H.T. accumulator, 60-volt 3 a.h., and the results have been so satisfactory that I have no hesitation in saying it is worthy of recommendation. The makers claim several advantages for this accumulator, namely its light weight (23 lb.), particularly standardisation and interchangeability of parts, perfect rubber insulation between each cell, etc., but what the average wireless enthusiast will appreciate more than anything else is the perfectly quiet and steady flow of current to the plate, with the result that there is no distracting cackle on the phones or the loud speaker.

Nott. Evening News & Journal.

December 19th, 1925.

### TUNGSTONE H.T. ACCUMULATOR.

When superlative claims are made concerning the quality of an article we invariably approach it with a caution and a certain amount of diffidence. It was therefore, after thorough tests, a real pleasure to find that in no sense whatever has the Tungstone H.T. accumulator been over-rated.

The accumulator gave an unvarying and reliable discharge at uniform rates over long periods of continuous or intermittent work with no drop in voltage.

**RADIO** **REGISTERED** **PANELS**

Inches

7 x 5.1/-	6 x 6.1/-
7 x 6.1/3	8 x 5.1/2
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**CROXSON'S**  
TRADE MARK

1/2 in. thick  
Post Free.

Money back guarantee that each and all Panels are free from surface leakage. Megger test infinity. Callers cut any size. Quotations by post, or 'phone Clerkenwell 7853. Samples and prices post free to the Trade.

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VALVE HOLDER.  
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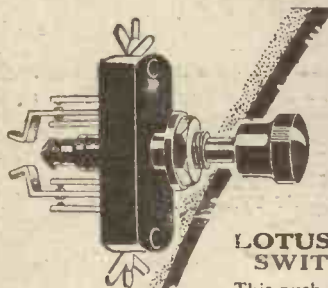
**LITTLE WIRELESS GADGETS**  
**MAP**  
THE VERNI-NOR, 6d.  
Postage 11d. each.  
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**ALL**

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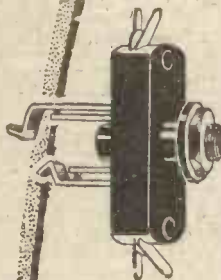
# The latest in Jacks & Plugs



## LOTUS JACK SWITCHES

This push-pull switch is designed to occupy the minimum space, being only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. deep. Of the finest Bakelite, it has nickel silver springs and contacts of pure silver. Soldering contacts can be made to suit any wiring.

PRICES:  
No. 9, as illustrated .. 4/-  
Others from .. 2/9



## LOTUS JACK

Designed to take up the least space, the depth back of panel being  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. Made from best Bakelite mouldings with nickel silver springs and pure silver contacts. One-hole fixing. Soldering contacts can be brought into any position.

PRICES:  
No. 3, as illustrated .. 2/6  
Others from 2/- to 3/-

## LOTUS JACK PLUGS

Designed for use with Lotus Jacks. Made from best Bakelite mouldings and nickel-plated brass. To fix, the wires are placed in slots and gripped in position by a turn of the screw cams.

PRICE 2/-

# LOTUS

## JACKS-SWITCHES-PLUGS

Garnett, Whiteley & Co., Ltd.  
LOTUS Works, Broadgreen Road, Liverpool.

## "DRY JOINTS."

(Continued from previous page.)

Another cause of dry joints is a certain class of soldering "tag," and for that matter of terminal too.

Both are often nickelled.

The former are sold as "tinned soldering lugs," and the latter—well, as "attractive" terminals.

Both will take solder well—until you happen to pull on the wire, then the plating comes away with wire attached, and you see a greyish powder left on the surface.

It is considered these facts speak for themselves, and as a precaution the reader is either advised to see that he leaves well alone and buys reliable terminals and tags, or else scrapes every vestige of nickel from those so plated, before tinning them and attaching the wires.

Flux is another thing that books could be written on, and while it is not possible to criticise any particular make, it is assumed the reader is not so ignorant as to use "killed spirits of salts."

## Soldering Fluxes.

The forms soldering fluxes take are many and varied, and while many amateurs stick to one popular brand, "Fluxite," there are a few who use nothing else but "Baker's Fluid" or else pure resin.

There is something to be said for all brands, but there is little doubt that "Fluxite," having been in the running for a great number of years, will continue doing so, as it has proved its worth.

Resin is the only flux recommended where two fine wires have to be joined, especially as far as fine instrument work is concerned, because, owing to the small corrosive action of even the best patent brands of flux, the wires (some few thousandths of an inch in diameter) may get eaten through.

## THE INEVITABLE EBONITE.

By R. H. BLACKMORE.

EBONITE is, or, rather, should be, composed only of sulphur and rubber.

The raw rubber, which will be familiar to most as the substance used for soling crepe-soled tennis shoes, is passed between two smooth steel rollers which are revolving in a horizontal position.

Here it is so crushed and heated that it takes on the appearance of a yellow-tinted semi-transparent jelly; this is known as mastication. When this process has been carried far enough, the worker in charge of the machine adds the requisite amount of sulphur to the rubber, which has now layered itself around one of the rollers.

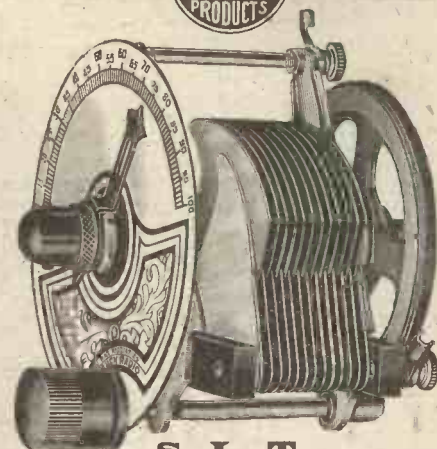
The sulphur is, so to speak, ground into the rubber, and the mixing process is continued till all the sulphur is absorbed and a homogeneous mixture produced.

The plastic mass is skilfully cut from the revolving rollers and passed to the calendaring department. It may be noted here that the best class of ebonite has a sulphur content of between 30 and 35 per cent., the rest being pure rubber.

(Continued on page 783.)

Britain's Best **RADIO** in Radio

**LAMPLUGH**  
PRODUCTS



## S-L-T STRAIGHT LINE TUNING CONDENSERS

separate stations on all wavelengths. Lowest minimum capacity and the most positive slow-motion control.  
Prices:—'0005 13/- '0003 12/6 '0002 12/-  
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For every Constructor.  
Estimates to your OWN sizes and LISTS FREE.  
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How often have you wished for a multi-valve Set, but have been discouraged by the cost? Our Catalogue "P" tells how almost any well-known Receiver can be yours for a small initial payment. Everything is guaranteed. Let us know your requirements and we will advise you. Write to:

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Blowpipe Soldering Iron for Flexible Gas Tube.  
"Dwarf" size, 3/11; Larger sizes 6/9 & 7/6.  
Post Free. Straight or Haircut Bit, as desired.  
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AS GOOD AS NEW!!

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**ALL BRIGHT & DULL EMITTERS**  
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As specified for Radio Constructor H.T. Battery Charger Unit, in "P.W." issue, Nov. 6, 200/250 volts. A.C. current, 50 cycles, 1 amp. Satisfaction guaranteed, 9/6 each, post free.  
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## SAVE YOUR VALVES

PRICE  
complete  
2/-

New  
Bulbs  
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**"SAVEIT"**

SAFETY FUSE  
COSTS PENCE  
A. H. HUNT, LTD.

WANDER PLUG  
SAVES POUNDS  
(Dept. 12), Croydon, Surrey



# Invaluable to EVERY Amateur and Constructor.

## The "POPULAR WIRELESS" BLUE PRINTS of TESTED CIRCUITS

Every wireless amateur and every wireless constructor will find these "POPULAR WIRELESS" Blue Prints absolutely reliable. They have been most accurately drawn, and every circuit has been tested under normal broadcasting conditions by the technical staff of "Popular Wireless." It will be seen from the complete list given below that the series covers a very wide field. The veriest tyro will find each print most straightforward to follow and the receivers most easy to construct.

### P.W. BLUE PRINT Number

1. DETECTOR VALVE WITH REACTION.
2. UNIDYNE DETECTOR VALVE WITH REACTION.
3. 1-VALVE L.F. AMPLIFIER.
4. CRYSTAL DETECTOR WITH L.F. AMPLIFIER.
5. H.F. (Tuned Anode) AND CRYSTAL, WITH REACTION.
6. H.F. AND CRYSTAL. (Transformer Coupled, without Reaction).
7. 1-VALVE REFLEX WITH CRYSTAL DETECTOR (Tuned Anode).
8. 1-VALVE REFLEX AND CRYSTAL DETECTOR (Employing H.F. Transformer, without Reaction).
9. H.F. AND DETECTOR (Tuned Anode Coupling, with Reaction on Anode).
10. H.F. AND DETECTOR. (Transformer Coupled, with Reaction).
11. DETECTOR AND L.F. (With Switch to Cut Out L.F. Valve).
12. DETECTOR AND L.F. UNIDYNE (With Switch to Cut Out L.F. Valve).
13. 2-VALVE REFLEX (Employing Valve Detector).
14. 2-VALVE L.F. AMPLIFIER (Transformer Coupled with Switch to Cut Out Last Valve).
15. 2-VALVE L.F. AMPLIFIER (Transformer-Resistance Coupled with Switch for Cutting Out Last Valve).
16. H.F. (Tuned Anode), CRYSTAL DETECTOR AND L.F. (with Switch for Last Valve).
17. CRYSTAL DETECTOR WITH TWO L.F. AMPLIFIERS (with Switching).
18. 1-VALVE REFLEX AND CRYSTAL DETECTOR, with 1-VALVE L.F. AMPLIFIER, Controlled by Switch.
19. H.F. DETECTOR AND L.F. (with Switch to Cut Out the Last Valve).
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(BRITISH) HIGH PRICES.

Close electrode construction, a filament of high emissive value and Voltron special 3 stage pumping, ensures absolute uniformity, freedom from microphonic noises, and a long life of full clear tuned service. The guarantee is exceptionally generous. 2V... 2.5/6 4V... 10... 5/6 2V... 10... 6/6 4V... P.4 2V... Power 7/11 Power... 8/6 Post 6d. EACH.

CHOKES—Cosmos H.F. 6/6; Lissen H.F. or L.F. 10/- each. Success L.F. or H.F. 10/- ea. A.J.S. 15/- with unit 20/-.

**WARNING!** SEE K. RAYMOND'S NAME ON PRESENTS. THIS WILL ASSURE YOU GETTING THE GOODS I ADVERTISE. PLEASE ASK "IS THIS RAYMOND'S?"

AMPLION, Large stocks of LOUD SPEAKERS. 38/- 48/- 68/-

ALL CABINET MODELS and attachments stocked

**DON'T FORGET TO READ THIS:**

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"May I be allowed to congratulate you on the wonderful 2-valve set which you are selling for 24/19/6 complete."

"I was fortunate enough to purchase one of these sets this week, and after very thorough tests it has proved to be perfect in every detail, giving very fine clear results, and I shall be only too pleased to recommend this set to all my friends."

"Yours faithfully,"

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**ORDERS BY POST MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY SUFFICIENT PAY.**

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**VALVES.**—Cosmos S.P.18, Red or Green, 14/- New Blue Spot, 14/- All Mullard, Ediswan, Osram, Marconi, Cosor, Bright, D.E. and Power, 8/-, 14/-, 18/6, 22/6, 24/6, 30/-, £2. Mullard EM 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 stocked.

**BURNE-JONES** (Magnum) Screened Coils, as delivered. Baseboard, N. Condensers, 5/-, Twin Sq. L.F. Variable, 22/6. "Magnum" West End Depot.

**GRAHAM-FARISH**

WEST END DEPOT.

Sold on Money Back Guarantee

Fixed Condensers, 1/-, 1/6; -0003 and Grid Leak, 2/-

For Series and Parallel, Grid Leaks, 1/3 each.

**HEADPHONES**, all 4,000 ohms, N. & K. Standard Pattern, 7/11 per M.

& K. Genuine, new light-weights, 11/6, 13/6. Dr. Neaper, 10/6 and 12/11.

Teletalkers, adjustable, genuine (20/- model), 14/11.

**PHONES:** Brown's Featherweight, 20/- Brown's A Type (Reed) 30/-, B.T.H., 15/-, Sterling, 20/-, Western Electric, 20/- All makes stocked.

Grand Value in NON-MICROPHONE VALVE HOLDERS. Board Mounting, 1/6.

Detex. Calibro Dials, 5/9; Detex Vermo Dials, 4/6; Ekeo H.T. Units, 5/9; Gemma Tone Control, 6/6; Star "R" Coils for Reinartz, B.B.C., 2/6; 5XX, 3/6; Ormond Neutralizing, 4/- (for Base or Panel).

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This variable Condenser is simply marvellous value. It cannot be equalled in price or quality. 0005 or 4/11 By Post 5/11. With VERNIER 1/- extra.

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TEST MODEL NOW READY.

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S.L.F. 0005, 11/6; 00035, 10/6. Brass-Valves, 4 in. dial, 10/6. Gear, Sq. Law, Twinings, stocked.

**OUR NOTED 1-VALVE AND CRYSTAL SET**, in solid polished cabinet, complete with valves, 'phones, H.T. and L.T. Units, Aerial Equipment, Daventry Coil. Extraordinary value, 45/11. Carriage, 2/-.

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Amplifiers in or COMPLETE handsome with valves, polished box, H.T. and L.T. 1 valve, 16/11. Units, 44/6. Carriage 1/6. Carriage, 2/-.

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1/6 each less no vernier.

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0005, 12/-; 00025, 11/-.

**SQ. LAW LOW-LOSS** 0005, 0005 for Base.

Six, 16/11 each. Ormond

**Friction Dial**, 10/-.

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**IGRANIC TRIPLE-HONEY-COMB INDUCTION COILS.**

30, 2/9; 40, 2/9; 50, 2/9; 60, 3/-; 75, 3/3; 100, 3/6; 150, 3/9; 200, 4/-; 250, 4/6; 300, 4/9; 400, 5/6; 500, 7/-; 750, 9/6; 1,250, 14/-; 1,500, 16/-.

**ALL PARTS STOCKED.**

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Tapped Primary metres, Aerial Coils, 8/-.

H.F. Transformers (Split Primary and reaction) 10/-.

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**ALL CIRCUITS, PARTS, COILS & SETS STOCKED.**

**RADIO MICRO VALVES**

04 3 v. 6/11; 25, 2 v. 6/11. Power 3, 8/6; Power 1, 9/11. (Power are 3-4 volts).

Post 6d. each.

**ACCUMULATORS**

2-v. 40, 7/11; 2-v. 60, 9/6; 2-v. 100, 12/6; 4-v. 40, 11/1; 4-v. 60, 12/1; 4-v. 80, 13/6; 6-v. 60, 28/6; 8-v. 60, 35/6. Also another good make, 1/6 extra on each of above.

Post 1/-.

**CALL HERE FOR** Lissen, Benjamin, Radio Micro, Voltron, Cosmos, Mullard, Ediswan, Marconi Cosor, Osram, Jackson (J.B.), Dubilier, McMichael, Success, Beard & Fitch, Bowyer Lowe, Lewcos, Igranic, Eureka R I, Ormond, Utility, Forno, Edison Bell, Ferranti, Polay, Newey, P.M., Magnum.

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Accessories extra (Carriage 4/6)

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## ELECTRADIX No. 202

**DISTANT CONTROL FILAMENT SWITCHES.** On or off at any distance consume no current. Reliable and robust. Best British. In polished oak case, 15/-; Watertight brass, 17/6. Worth treble.

**110-v. ELECTRIC IMMERSION HEATERS.** Brand new, nickel-plated, with flex and plug. Boils water, eggs, milk, etc., in a few minutes. Two in series for 220-v. Sale price, 5s.

**220-v. ELECTRIC TOASTERS,** nickelled, brand new, with flex and plug. List, 35/-; Sale, 7/6.

**HOTPLATES, 100-v. LARGE, 200-v. SMALL SIZE.** Aluminium frame. Brand new. List, 35/- and 45/-; Sale, 7/6.

**110-v. ELECTRIC MASSAGE VIBRATOR SETS.** Work off 220-v. in series with lamp. Nickel finish with 5 applicators for muscular treatment. All in leatherette padded case. Brand new. List £4 5s. Sale price, 21/6. 110-v. or 220-v. Soldering Irons. Workshop pattern. List, 35/-; Sale, 7/6. 110-v. or 220-v. Electric Irons. List, 21/-; Sale, 10/-.

**H.T. FROM THE MAINS. D.C. UNITS, EVER-READY SIZE** for 200/220 volt supply, 3 taps, any ranges 50 to 120 volt, 35/-; contain special filter A.C. units, 25.

**INSTRUMENTS.** Valve Characteristic Testers: Pol. Sloping Cabinet, 3 Moving Coil Meters on panel 7 1/2 in. x 9 1/2 in., socket and adapter for testing valves in situ. Worth £10. Sale £4 10s. each.

**4-RANGE WESTONS,** panel 2 1/2 in., dial 0-6a, 0-24 m/a, 0-120 m/a, 0-240 m/v. Cost £4. Sale, 40/-.

**12-RANGE RADIO TEST SET.** B52T cabinet, mounted moving coil, with ranges, 120-v., 0-6 v., 0-3 m/a, 0-12 m/a, 0-120 m/a, 0-6a, 0-300 m/v. A necessity. Sale, 55/-.

**DIXON ULTRA ONE-METER.** The 55 range set. Instrument and 4 multipliers, 78/-; The Radio Star. A.C. Tester, 108/B21, has 4 ranges, 120 v., 6v., 200 m/a and 4 amps., for 40-100 cycle mains, and cheap at 45/-.

**PANEL MOVING COIL MILLIAMMETERS.** All ranges stocked. State max. load and send 21/-; Accuracy guaranteed. B11 ditto, 10/6 each.

**D.C. MAINS, 2-VALVE RECEIVERS,** 1 det., 1 L.F., 200/1,800 metres, with 100/250 v. D.C. H.T. 3-tap Unit in same cabinet. Reaction coupling, micro-vernier condenser tuning. Tested all B.B.C. stations on aerial. With valves and phones, £7 5s. The bargain of the year.

**CRYSTAL SETS,** with H.R. phone, 10/-, 15/-, and 25/-; **MARCONI 2-VALVE SET,** enclosed cabinet and all range coils, 58/-.

**R.A.F. 3-VALVE SET,** enclosed cabinet, all range coils, and valves, 80/-.

**G.E.C. 5-VALVE SET,** and valves, 25.

**MARCONI 2-VALVE AMPLIFIER,** in mahogany case, 35/-; 3-valve, 50/-.

**SUPER-HET 7-VALVE R.A.F. AMPLIFIER.** £5 10s.

**300 SURPLUS** nearly finished 1-valve and crystal det. sets. Straight from makers' factory (closed leather pattern case). Ebonite panel with nickel fittings, detector, valve-holder, L. and S. wave switch, double spade tuning, two H.F. chokes, T.C.C. condenser, terminal and plug sockets. All new, fixed and partly wired, with wiring diagram and Osram valve. List price, £7. Sale, 10/-; Finished complete and tested on aerial, 31/-.

**NEW SPEAKERS.** "T.M.C." 14/-; Western Electric, 17/6; Concert "Serenade," adj. tone, non-resonant horn, 3-guinea model, 30/-; Fuller's "Sparta" £4 Model for 50/-; Magnavox Sterling, 50/-; Texas Cone Speakers, 40/-; Headphones, 10/-.

**250-WATT VALVES, 40/-.** **X-RAY VALVES, 30/-.** Battery Home Chargers, £3 5s. Automatic Remote Switches, in polished case, 15/-; 8-way Lucas Switches, 4/6. Relays, 80 D., 4/-; Navy Stabilising Gyroscopes, 15/-; Mains H.T. Unit, D.C. 3 taps, 35/-; A.C. 25. Transformers only, 25/- each.

**H.T. GENERATORS,** 6/1,000-v. T.V.T. pattern, contain mica condensers, vibrator, plugs, etc., output 30 m/a. Cost £12. Sale Price, 25/-; post, 1/-; Rectifiers, 2-valve for converting A.C. to D.C., any voltage 250 to 2,000 volts. Cost £10. Sale, 20/-; post, 1/3. H.T. motor generators, all voltages in stock.

**SPARK COILS,** 1-in. 5/6, 2-in. 15/-, 10-in. 27.

**HIGH-FREQUENCY AMPLIFIERS,** 5,000 metres complete with rheostat and potentiometer, Marconi 7-valve, £7 10s. For Super-hets. The R.A.F. 7-v. in mahog. cab., is a snip at 25.

**R.A.F. 4-WAY SWITCH PLUG AND SOCKET** for L.T. and H.T., with 4-way cord and push switch for L.T. The nearest plug and socket made for batteries to set. Cheap, 4/6 pair. 4-way cords only, 9d.

In our New Winter List, containing over 500 Illustrations, you will find 1,000 Wonderful Bargains, 4d.

**ELECTRADIX RADIO3,**  
218, UPPER THAMES STREET, E.C.4.

Phone: City 0191.

Open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## THE INEVITABLE EBONITE.

(Continued from page 786.)

In the calendering room the ebonite mixing is passed between huge steel rollers in order to obtain sheets of a given thickness. The sheets are then cut to size and conveyed to the vulcanising department. It is at this point of the process that the advent of radio has changed works practice in the manufacture of sheet ebonite. In pre-broadcasting days the next step was to roll tinfoil upon both sides of the unvulcanised sheet. The tin-protected sheets were layered one above the other inside a small tank of water, and the whole box of tricks placed in a large strong iron pan fitted with a screw-down lid. Steam was admitted to the pan at a pressure of about forty pounds to the square inch, and the whole allowed to stand at this pressure for a given time. Sometimes twenty-four hours was necessary for complete vulcanisation.

### Leaky Surface.

When the "cure," as vulcanisation is technically termed, was complete, steam was turned off and the pan opened. The tinfoil was stripped from the surface of the sheets, which now resembled the ebonite of commerce. The beautiful polished surface produced by tinfoil proved to be a snare and a delusion, for it was found that the H.F. currents of wireless leaked left and right over the fairly conductive layer of tin sulphide with which the surface of the ebonite was coated.

This was the main reason that the unfortunate amateur was once so urgently advised to scrape the surface of his panel with a safety razor blade or some similar lethal weapon. The advent of matt-finished ebonite led to a cessation of this temper-destroying recreation.

The pleasing appearance of the old type of polished material still lingered in the minds of home constructors, and it was not long before ebonite manufacturers began to produce an ebonite with a polish quite equal to the old, but having a truly non-conductive surface.

One of the principal methods of achieving this object consists of taking the calendered sheets of "uncured" ebonite and placing them inside steel moulds, which are then placed within the shelves of a hydraulic press, the shelves of which can be steam-heated.

### Matt Ebonite.

Pressure is then applied, probably over a ton to the square inch, and steam is turned on. The press is left till the ebonite contents are semi-vulcanised—that is, till they are very similar to the rubber of a motor tyre in appearance and feel. The moulds and ebonite are then removed and the ebonite is placed inside a vulcanising pan and there given a long enough cure to finally convert it into hard ebonite.

In order to obtain a non-conductive polish, the matt sheets are sent to the polishers, who, either by hand or machine, scour the sheets with fine emery. The conclusion of the process is the obtaining of the glassy finish by polishing the sheets on rapidly revolving cloth discs of different fineness of cloths.

The sheets are then sawn up into the appropriate panel sizes and passed out into the world of radio, there to fulfil their destiny.

## Simple Soldering at Last!

Soldering is now something that every novice can do, for "Flusolda" has come to the aid of expert and novice alike. With a tin of "Flusolda" at your side, a perfect, clean joint becomes merely a matter of applying a clean fluid and heating it.

Put on a little—  
**FLUSOLDA**  
(Patent Applied For.) (Regd.)  
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