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THE NEWSPAPER FOR
THE HOBBYIST OF VINTAGE
ELECTRONICS AND SOUND

THE HORN SPEAKER

RADIO NEWS FOR APRIL, 1930

TELEVISION *Through a* CRYSTAL GLOBE

New Cone-shaped Tube Reproduces 4 x 5-Inch Picture, Is Quiet in Operation and Does Away With Need of Mechanical Parts in Home Receiver

By V. Zworykin

Reprinted by courtesy of the Institute of Radio Engineers

THE problem of television has interested humanity since early times. One of the first pioneers in this field, P. Nipkow, disclosed a patent application in 1884 describing a scanning of the object and picture, for which purpose the familiar perforated disk was employed and at present the rotating disk is giving excellent results within the mechanical possibilities of our time. The cathode-ray tube, however, presents a number of distinct advantages over all other receiving devices. There is, for example, an absence of moving mechanical parts with consequent noiseless operation, a simplification of synchronization permitting operation even over a single carrier channel, an ample amount of light for plain visibility of the image, and indeed quite a number of other advantages of lesser importance. One very valuable feature of the cathode-ray tube in its application to television is the persistence of fluorescence of the screen, which acts together with persistence of vision of the eye and permits reduction of the number of pictures per second without noticeable flickering. This optical phenomenon allows a greater number of lines and consequently better details of the picture without increasing the width of the frequency band.

This paper will be limited to a description of an apparatus developed in Westinghouse Research Laboratories for transmission by radio of moving pictures using the cathode-ray tube for reception.

In the author's opinion, if a receiver is to be developed for practical use in private homes, it should be designed without any mechanically moving parts. The operation of such a receiver should not require great mechanical skill. This does not apply to the transmitter, since there is no commercial difficulty in providing a highly trained operator for handling the transmitter, which consists of a modified standard moving (Continued on page 949)

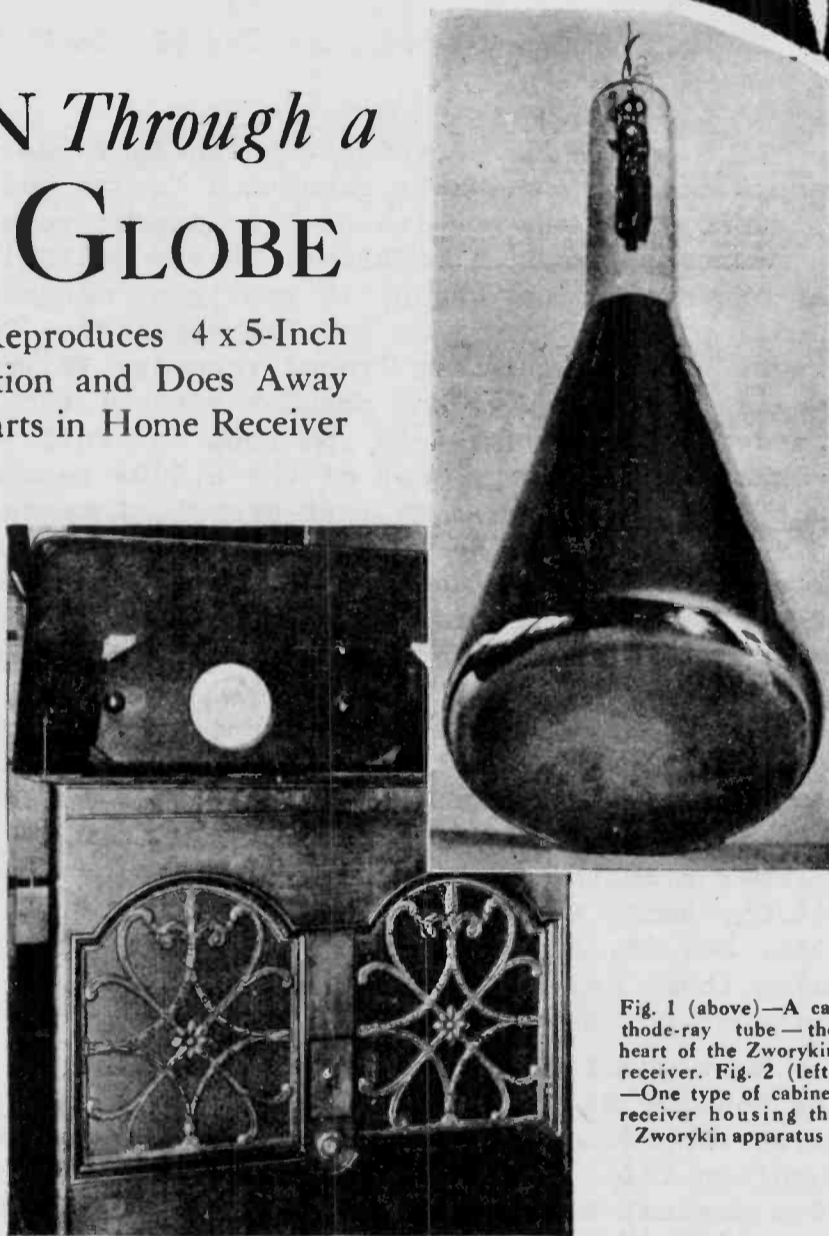


Fig. 1 (above)—A cathode-ray tube—the heart of the Zworykin receiver. Fig. 2 (left)—One type of cabinet receiver housing the Zworykin apparatus

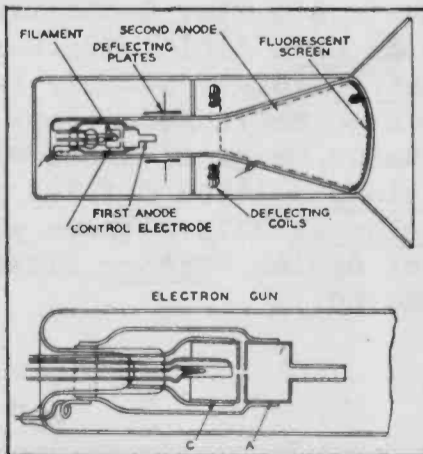
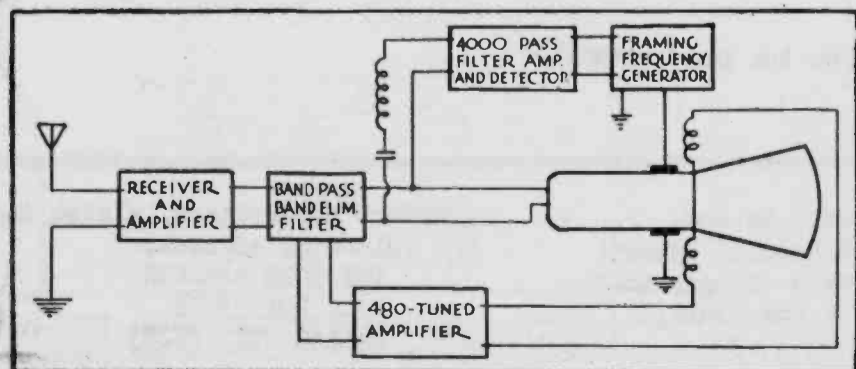


Fig. 3 (above)—Cross-sectional view of cathode-ray tube, including an enlarged drawing of the electron gun. Fig. 4 (left)—Diagram of the band-pass filter which divides the local receiver output into the picture and synchronizing frequencies



picture projector, at the broadcasting station.

The receiver consists of a cathode-ray tube especially designed for this purpose. The principles of the cathode-ray tube are well known from their application for oscillographs. The low-potential type of cathode-ray oscillographs is of the sealed-off type, but the amount of light available from the screen is far too small. In order to give sufficient brilliancy for the picture of 5-inch size, the tube should operate at least at 3,000 volts. For larger pictures still higher voltage is required, since the brightness increases with the accelerating voltage. According to these requirements, a new type of cathode-ray tube was developed. This is shown in Figs. 1 and 3. An oxide-coated filament is mounted within a controlling electrode, C. The cathode beam passes through a small hole in the front part of the controlling element and then again through a hole in the first anode, A. The first anode accelerates the electrons to a velocity of 300 to 400 volts. There is also a second anode consisting of a metallic coating on the inside of the glass bulb. This second anode gives to the electrons a further acceleration up to 3,000 or 4,000 volts. The velocity of the electrons at this is about one-tenth that of light. An important function of this second anode is also to focus electrostatically the beam into a sharp spot on the screen. The target wall of the bulb is about 7 inches in diameter and is covered with a fluorescent material such as willemite prepared by a special process so as to make it slightly conductive. Conductivity is required to remove the electrical charges from the screen supplied by the electron beam. This tube will be referred to hereafter in this paper as the kinescope.

The beam of electrons can easily be moved across the screen either by an electrostatic or an electromagnetic field, leaving a bright fluorescent line as it passes. For this purpose a set of deflecting plates and a set of deflecting coils are mounted on the neck of the kinescope, outside the tube. The plates and coils are adjusted in the same plane, so as to give vertical and horizontal deflection at right angles to each other. As a result of the location of the deflecting elements between first and second anode, the deflecting field is acting on comparatively slowly moving electrons. Hence the field strength required is much less than that which would ordinarily be used to deflect the beam under the full acceleration of the second anode voltage.

The brightness of the line can be controlled to any desired extent by a negative bias on the controlling element. The bias controls the mean intensity of the picture whose lights and shadows are superimposed upon this mean intensity. It is evident that if we apply to this controlling electrode the amplified impulses from

the transmitter and at the same time deflect the beam in synchronism with the motion of the light beam across the picture on the film, the picture will be reproduced on the fluorescent screen. Fig. 2 shows a general view of one type of receiver.

If separate channels are available for each of the synchronizing signals, the problem of synchronization of the receiver with the transmitter is very simple. For horizontal scanning, it is necessary only to transmit the scanning frequency operating the mirror as a sinusoidal voltage and to impress it on the deflecting coils of the kinescope. The cathode beam will follow exactly the movement of the light beam across the film.

For the framing or picture frequency, a voltage is generated at the receiving end and merely controlled by signals from the transmitter. A condenser is charged at constant current through a current limiting device, such as a two-electrode tube, so that the voltage at the condenser rises linearly. The deflecting plates of the kinescope are connected in parallel to this condenser, and therefore, when the condenser is charging, this cathode beam is deflected gradually from the bottom to the top of the fluorescent screen at constant speed. This speed is regulated by the temperature of the filament of the charging tube to duplicate the downward movement of the film. An impulse is sent from the transmitter between pictures, which discharges the condenser, quickly returning the beam to the bottom position, ready to start upward and reproduce the next picture.

For transmission of the complete picture, three sets of signals are therefore required: picture signals, horizontal scanning frequency, and impulses for framing. It was found that it is possible to combine all of these sets of signals into one channel. In this case the photo-cell voltage of the transmitter is first amplified to a level sufficiently high for transmission. There is then superimposed upon this a series of high audio-frequency impulses lasting a few cycles only and occurring when the light beam passes the interval between the pictures.

The picture frequencies together with the framing frequencies are then passed through a band eliminating filter, which removes the picture component of the same frequency as that of horizontal scanning. Following this, a portion of the voltage which drives the transmitter vibrator is impressed upon the signals, passed through the filter, and the entire spectrum is used to modulate the radio-frequency carrier.

At the receiving station the output of the local radio receiver is amplified and divided by a band-pass band-elimination filter into two parts; one the synchronizing frequency, and the second the picture frequency plus the framing frequency. The synchronizing frequency is amplified by a tuned amplifier which supplies current to the deflecting coils of the kinescope, Fig. 3.

The picture and framing frequencies are applied directly to the control electrode of the kinescope.

The same voltage which modulates the light is impressed upon a band-pass filter, which is tuned to the frequency of the a.c. voltage used for the framing impulses. The output of this filter is amplified, rectified, and used to unbias a discharging triode which is normally biased to zero plate current, and which takes its plate voltage from the condenser which provides the vertical scanning voltage. Thus, the picture signals and both synchronizing and framing frequencies are transmitted

on one channel, and fully automatic synchronization is obtained.

Those who are accustomed to the conventional scanning disk type of television notice a number of differences in the appearance of the picture as viewed on the end of the cathode-ray tube. The picture

is green, rather than red (as when a neon glow tube is used). It is visible to a large number of people at once, for an enlargement by means of lenses is unnecessary. The framing of the picture is automatic, and it is brilliant enough to be seen in a moderately lighted room.

Technically, the kinescope type of receiver presents added advantages. The high-frequency motor for synchronization, together with its power amplifier, is not required. The power required to operate the grid of a kinescope is no more than that for an ordinary vacuum tube.

off the record

Re: RESULTS OF RECENT MAIL AUCTION OF COLLECTIBLE PHONOGRAPH RECORDS.

L. R. "Les" Docks, of San Antonio, Texas, reports that supplying record collectors' wants remains a "sound business." Docks' assessment is based upon the results of his largest record auction to date, which consisted of several sections: 78 rpm hillbilly, country-western, western swing, and cajun; 78 rpm jazz, dance bands, swing, "sweet" bands, personalities and popular vocalists; 78 rpm blues, rhythm & blues, gospel and other "race" records; 78 rpm rock 'n' roll, rhythm & blues, rockabilly, and popular hits of the late 1950s (usually found in 45 rpm form); 45 rpm rock 'n' roll, rhythm & blues, blues, rockabilly, novelty. Most of the 6,000+ records offered were sold (although there are some left-overs). Intense interest was apparent in each category offered, but the highest prices, as expected, were brought by 78 rpm blues and 45 rpm rockabilly discs. Some highlights of the auction- records receiving the most spirited bidding, but not necessarily the highest prices, follow (presented by artist, label, and number).

In the hillbilly section; Gene Autry, Victor 23630, \$111.11; Herschel Brown, Okeh 45337, \$41.11; Fiddlin' John Carson, Okeh 45379, \$46.88; Darby & Tarlton, Columbia 15624-D, \$44.77; Ft. Worth Doughboys, Bluebird 5257, \$52.57; Lulu Belle & Scotty, Voque R-718, \$32.11; Narmour & Smith, Okeh 45377, \$32.80; Pine Mountain Boys, Victor 23582, \$41.65; Asher Sizemore, Bluebird 5717, \$51.65; Ernest Tubb, Bluebird 8966, \$41.65; Joe Werner, Bluebird 2076, \$23.70. The last disc is a cajun item, and is representative of a number of cajun records in the auction, most of which attracted several or more bids.

Most popular in the jazz, dance band section were: Don Clark & His Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel Orchestra, Columbia 824-D (Bing Crosby's first recording), \$20.77; Eddie & Sugar Lou's Hotel Tyler Orchestra, Vocalion 1514, \$67.14; Elgar's Creole Orchestra, Vocalion 15477, \$78.92; Five Musical Blackbirds, Perfect 14585, \$40.06; Henny Hendrickson's Louisville Serenaders, Victor 22749, \$30.00; Eddie Lang - Joe Venuti & Their All Star Orchestra, Vocalion 15864, \$47.50; Jack Linx & His Orchestra, Okeh 41014, \$35.00; Guy Lombardo & His Royal Canadians, Personal Record 140-P, \$22.50; Ferd (Jelly Roll) Morton, Silvertone 4038, \$103.17; George McClennon's Jazz Devils, Okeh 8143, \$31.51; Jimmy O'Bryant's Famous Original Washboard Band, Paramount 12312, \$31.11; Red Devils, Columbia 14586-D (blue shellac), \$23.17; Frank Trumbauer & His Orchestra, Columbia 2729-D (blue shellac), \$22.16; Thomas Waller with Tom Morris' Hot Babies, Victor 21358, \$90.02; The Washingtonians, Triangle 11437, \$80.60.

(To be continued)

POSTAL IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT

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Horn Contour

238,310 COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

FIGURE 2

continued

by BRUCE C. EDGAR

SB: What did your first designs of loudspeakers look like?

Voigt: I designed for high flux density on the electro-magnetic moving coil drive. The company blacksmith provided a U-shaped soft iron core, bent, (from memory) out of 2 inch diameter bar. Onto its straight portions went 4 separate coils, each with a carbon lamp across it to take care of the "splash" when switching off, and so, for my earliest high power magnet experiments, I had a 1/4 KW excited field U magnet to experiment with. In due time, I arranged for a pole-tip system suitable for a cylindrical coil. (NOTE, in my school text book at Dulwich, such coils were called Solenoids. Nowadays that word is used to describe such a coil plus iron cores to operate switches, etc.)

In my case the coil actuated a lightweight saucer-shaped aluminum diaphragm, driven via aluminum spokes and supported so as to be able to move very freely. It was surrounded by strips of mother's old carpets to act as a non-resonant baffle.

You will notice that the diaphragms (see Figure 2) I show, are based on the "cap of a sphere" shape, with "spokes" which are tangential to the surface. This arrangement I used on the moving coil mikes I experimented with during the development of the recording system and on the early moving coil loudspeaker drives. It never went into production, as I had no satisfactory method of making the spokes adhere the spun aluminum diaphragm.

When the adhesive between the spokes and the al diaphragm gave way, it would rattle under working conditions. When I had overhauled it carefully and had my moving coil system working, I would "turn up the wick", and, alas, within 5 minutes it would be rattling again!

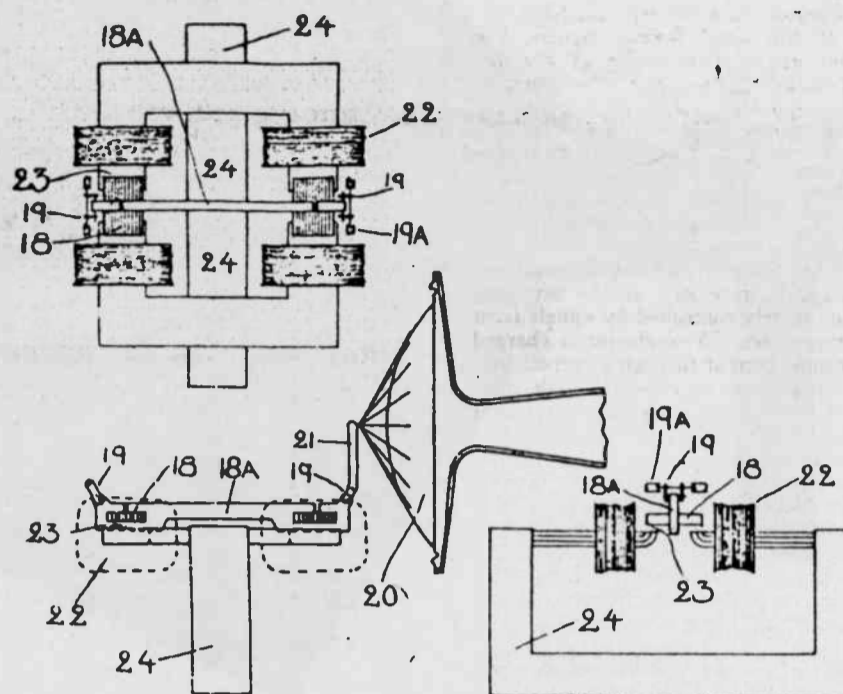
By the time my complete specification of my loudspeaker was under study by the patent examiners, they were aware of the work of Rice & Kellogg, and that anticipated my concept so completely that I removed from the complete spec. and the claims mentioning the moving coil system.

Such removal meant that manufacture for sale was out, but not that I had to give up my "hole in the wall" concept or that I had to give up making experiments with moving coil systems.

SB: Was this your first patent application?

Voigt: No, I had 6 previous patents granted to me, all on wireless devices. I was eventually granted British Patent # 238, 310 for "Improvements to Sound Reproducers". That is the one which would have anticipated Rice-Kellogg if it had been 2 months earlier. As you will see my application date May 20, 1924, so the Rice-Kellogg application should be in March of that year. I was quite unaware of the work of Rice-Kellogg at that time. The news had had not reached Britain.

(Editor's note: Rice and Kellogg were two American engineers, working for General Electric, who developed the first good electromagnetic moving coil loudspeaker. 2)



Early Voigt moving coil loudspeaker portrayed in a patent drawing. (British Patent # 238, 310)

SB: How did your first loudspeaker perform?

Voigt: When it was all ready for test, I was looking forward to hearing something vastly better than any previous loudspeaker. I was, upon switching on, very very disappointed. I had never had anything sounding so "tinny". The highs were strong and the lows very poor.

Upon thinking out why such an unexpected result was occurring, I realised that when calculating the load which the square inches of diaphragm area (piston equivalent) were assumed to be working into, I had used the mechanical ohms figure for a plane audio wavefront.

The disappointing result I was getting, I realised, was due to to that assumption being approximately right for frequencies so high that the wavelength was SMALL relative to the dimensions of the diaphragm, but totally wrong when the diaphragm dimensions were small relative to the wavelength. Under those conditions the air, when exposed to the peak pressure of low frequency sound instead of reacting with back pressure, simply ESCAPED sideways out of the compression region, and ditto all that in reverse during the suction half of the sound cycle.

Evidently, some means of PREVENTING those lateral component motions must be provided, and that is how I came to design my horn. Close to the diaphragm, the obvious way to prevent lateral motion, is to fit a large diameter pipe, but analysis of that obvious way shows that while the to and from flow of the air propagating the sound is prevented from lateral motion, it will propagate with a plane wavefront (at right angles to the inner surface of the pipe) until it reaches the end of the pipe at which the prevention of the lateral component ceases abruptly. That allows the transverse escape there and thus a coupling into an air resistance totally different to the mechanical ohms resistance at the diaphragm.

The parallel pipe thus, basically, only transfers the discontinuity which permits the lateral "escape" near the diaphragm, to a more distant location. IT DOES NOT ELIMINATE THE DISCONTINUITY.

What is worse, is that at the discontinuity, there is a reflection (analogous to that in a transmission line) which travels back to the diaphragm and tends to make the pipe behave rather like an organ pipe!

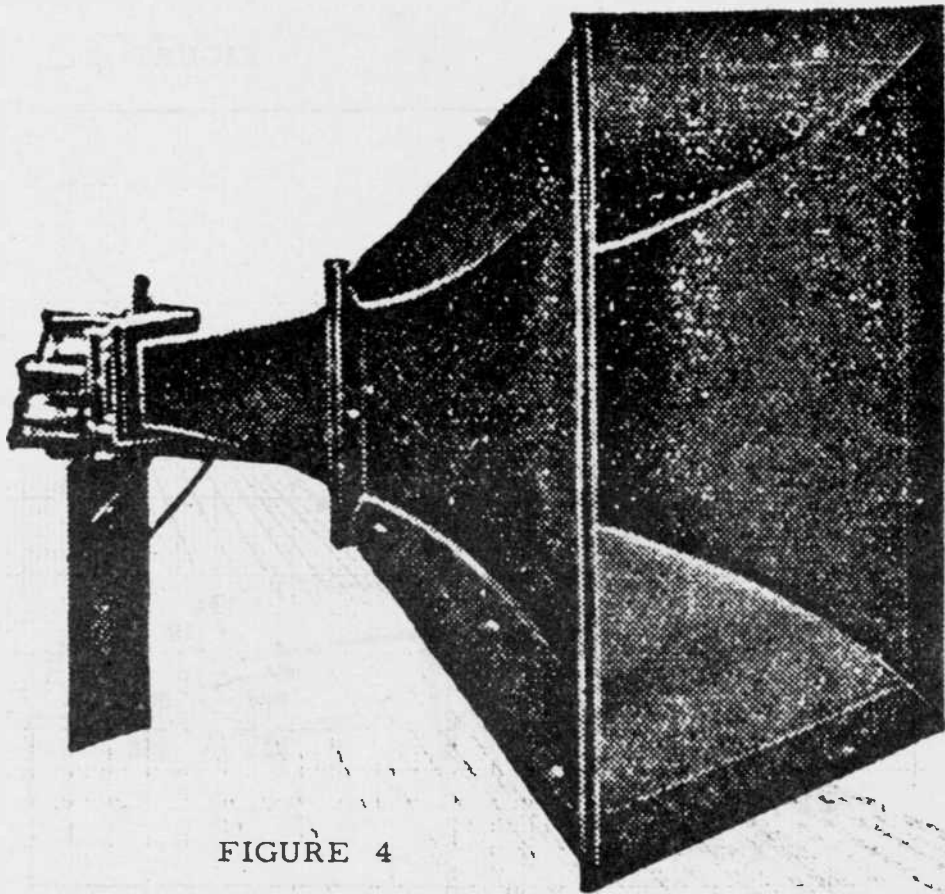


FIGURE 4

angle was reached quite soon, so that it seemed shorter. Later, I learned from our draftsman, that the curve was known in the mechanical world, and that its name was a Tractrix.

SB: How did you come to the conclusion that the wavefronts in a horn must be curved instead of flat?

Voigt: My background was that I was familiar with basic engineering principles. It follows from the most elementary of these, that where the edge of the wavefront rubs on the inside surface of the horn, the wave surface has NO ALTERNATIVE but to orient itself at right angles, i. e., normal to that surface.

Try and imagine the pressure face of a wavefront endeavouring to propagate parallel to the axis, then it will have to leave a gap between its own circumference and the expanding inner surface of the horn. The further forward that wavefront goes, the bigger will the gap become.

AUTOMATICALLY, the pressure wavefront will spread sideways to fill that gap. With such a sideway spread, the volume moving forwards is reduced and thereby slowed down. Such slowing down slows down the wavefront, the effect being greatest where the gap is being filled and least at the furthest distance from the gap. With a circular horn, the expanding gap exists all around the circle, and the furthest distance available to the wavefront is IN THE MIDDLE, i. e., on the axis. Thus, inevitably there is a forwardly bulging wavefront. With a circular horn, will that bulge be 100.000% Spherical? The answer is NO. This will be surprising to most readers, but it is not a serious matter,

So, to sum up, the difference between the tractrix and the exponential with its flat wavefront (theory) is that one was designed by a 24 year old engineer familiar with the elementary mechanics of nature, the other by a skilled mathematician, take your choice!

(Editor's note: On July 5, 1926 Voigt applied for a patent, and he was granted British Patent # 278,098 for the Tractrix Horn in 1927.)

SB: What was the size of your first tractrix horn?

Voigt: The first horn I had made for my lab had a 4 foot square mouth and a 4 inch square throat and was about 5 feet long with a monster magnet. When the 4 foot mouth tractrix was eventually finished, the speaker's frequency range (with the low frequency cut off very gentle) peaked a little before its gradual cutoff but now it was no longer "tinny" in sound, its response went down to below 100 cycles per sec (Hz!) and was still useful at 50 Hz.

My lab had a "cathedral" ceiling, and, from the previous users, (Radio set repair), an erection on to which my monstrous loudspeaker could be raised. It provided the most perfect reproduced sound I had yet heard up to that time. In those days, I did a lot of late work. So, in the evenings up to midnight when the B. B. C. dance music closed down, I had the pleasure of listening to reproduced LIVE music (with NO commercials) from London's leading hotels via the B. B. C.

What the above proved, was that my belief that IF a high average energy efficiency electricity-to-audio transducer could be produced, then the energy response curve would not only be smooth, but that the audio effect would be very satisfying ----- assuming of course, that the polar distribution diagram of the energy did not concentrate parts of the energy into compact beams with the listener located in an area of major concentration.

In my case, the erection on which my 4 foot mouth horn speaker was located ran transverse to the room. The horn's axis was about 9 foot above the floor, and, as I am only about 5 foot, 11 inches tall, my ears will have been about 3-1/2 foot BELOW the level of the axis. About 4 foot from the horn's mouth, along the axis was the wall above the entrance door. So any normal listening to which I was exposed was reflected off that wall, OR it may have come off the back of the diaphragm and been reflected in different ways.

SB: When did your tractrix horns reach public notice?

Voigt: As regards the word tractrix in connections with horns, that did not reach readers of the Gramophone till their November 1933 number when it described a visit to the inventor's exhibition at which Voigt Patents Ltd had a stand (see Figure 4).

SB: How did you construct your cinema horns?

VOIGT: In the drawings I made for the carpenter, the forward flare part was in 4 pieces bolted together, plywood on frames cut to the correct shape. The front was square, and so the sections joined at an angle which from the front was 45° off the vertical. The front opening was 4 foot square while the rear opening of that assembly was 1 foot square. To that could be bolted neck pieces of the length required for their input sources. Now the angle of the ply's relative to each other was not 45°. In fact the angle varied along the length. So I figured out a jig to hold the wood at the appropriate shape and then by sawing vertically, the varying angle would come out automatically. Well, the carpenter could not see the need for that at all. Obviously the angle was 45°, and he had been in the business for many years.

Well, when people know all the answers I do not waste time arguing with them. When I have alerted them I have done my bit. He learned the hard way that horns can look like 45° joints, but they are not. He had an awful job making it fit together.

The curves of those horns were based on the tractrix across the center section. This meant that across the diagonal the tangent would

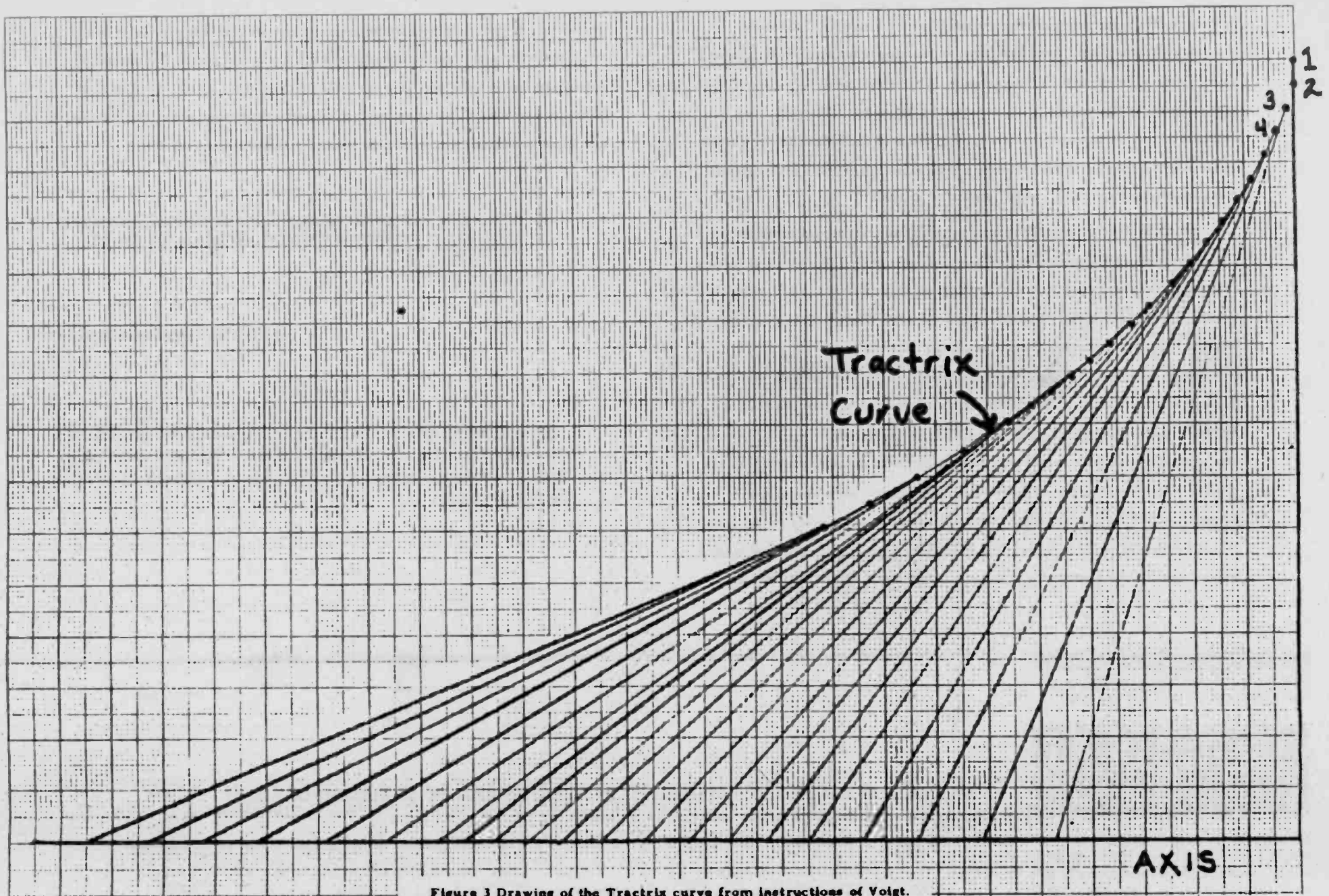


Figure 3 Drawing of the Tractrix curve from instructions of Voigt.

SB: How did you make the transition from a pipe to a horn?

Voigt: Part of the "trick" which is necessary to improve the situation at the output end of the straight pipe is to scrap that shape and put a slight, expanding taper at the diaphragm end. If that taper is "gentle" enough the lateral motion can be reduced so much that it is so slight as not to introduce any major loss of reaction pressure.

The sound wave will, when in a slightly (outward) tapering pipe, no longer travel with a perfectly flat wavefront. Where the wavefront travels along the surface of the taper, it will, quite naturally travel parallel to that tapered surface. On the opposite side, the tapered surface ALSO causes the wave to travel parallel to it. Thus, the wavefront edges will diverge as necessary to fit the gentle divergence of the expanding taper which encloses it. AND, the beginnings of the normal spherical expansion of a sound wave have commenced.

As the area increases, its relation to the lower frequency wavelengths improves, and, while this is beneficial from their point of view when reaching the end of the horn, they have already suffered a little because of the poorer relationship near the smaller diaphragm. AND, if the taper remains gentle, the wavefront in the horn will only expand very slowly making the horn inconveniently long if that benefit is to be preserved.

What is practical, is to increase the outward taper as the distance from the diaphragm increases. This too is desirable; for by the time the wavefront reaches the opening, ESPECIALLY if there is a flat baffle around the opening, the taper should have increased gradually to a 90 degree angle to the axis. The abrupt discontinuity is then reduced to a rounded surface leading to the baffle, and the ill effects are greatly diminished.

SB: How did you draw the horn curve?

Voigt: The curve (see Figure 3) is easily drawn on drawing board paper by starting with the decision of the semi-mouth size at the 90° to the axis taper. Suppose that that size is to be near 30 cms. Place a rule at 90° to the axis and mark the approximate position of the mouth at 30 cms from the axis. (Point No. 1). Mark clearly the first cm from that point toward the axis. (Point No. 2). Keeping the lower end of the rule on the axis, move the lower end of the rule along the axis, keeping the 30 cm rule point near the clearly marked top cm. In fact, let the edge of the rule pass over point no. 2 (which will be 29 cms from the axis.). When point no. 2 is at 30-1/2 cms along the rule, step the motion along the axis and mark the next point, no. 3, at the 29-1/2 cm mark on the rule. Point no. 3 will be near 28 cms from the axis. Move the axis end of the rule along the axis again so that point no. 3 is at 30-1/2 cms along the rule and mark point 4 at 29-1/2 cms along the rule.

A curve will be seen to develop. Continue the above procedure. As the curve flattens out, the steps can be made longer. The wanted curve is the curved line through the points.

As I drew out this curve to make the smoothest possible transition from the nearly parallel taper near the diaphragm, to a 90° angle to the axis, I wondered if I had re-invented the standard logarithmic (exponential) curve mentioned in some advertisements, (this was in the mid twenties.). When I plotted the latter, I found that at the throat where the taper was very slight, the difference was negligible. As the mouth was approached, however, the taper increased faster than the logarithmic, and the 90°

be longer, increasing toward the mouth where it would be 1.414 times the center line tangent. Consequently, on account of making them square as a matter of woodworking convenience, I may have been lucky for if the discontinuity at the mouth at the centerline caused a reflection, that reflector would be ahead in time of the effect of the discontinuity at the corners of the mouth. With a circular mouth, all the effects of the mouth discontinuity get back at the same time.

I once did have a circular tractrix horn made. It was for outdoor use. The flare was an aluminum spinning 3 ft at the mouth. The unit was housed in an aluminum cast box with a side door. The spun flare was, I think, in two parts. It sounded awfully "horny" compared with what I was use to with my wood horns. But there may have been other reasons.

That throat was circular, my wood horns were square. With the latter you might get a vertical and horizontal "eigentone" affecting the the load on the speaker, but they would spread. With the circular casting (very strong) any eigentone would be radial with a concentration at the center. Since the casting was so strong the would have been negligible give and so the damping would have been small. With the wood horns, there was the rear frame (1" thick) and out forward that would be framed with plywood with lots of give and no doubt able to absorb energy. The question of "give" is

important. Where a resonance builds up and a wall gives, energy is bound to be absorbed, and so the trouble will not get out of hand. The aluminum spun flare had not the give that the slightly curved ply on the wood had. In fact with some horns, I had so much give and vibration at some low resonance that I had to reinforce the sides to get the response up to standard.

2. Rice, C. W. and E. W. Keillogg, Notes on the Development of a New Type of Hornless Loudspeaker, Trans. A.I.E.E., 44, pp 461-480, 1925.

(To be continued.)

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- ★ Bass Reflex ★ Horns
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There will be reports on building the many kit speakers and enclosures now available, and a roundup of suppliers for drivers, parts, and kits. Articles range from the ultimate (650 Lbs each) to tiny plastic pipe extension speakers. From time delayed multi-satellites to horn loaded subwoofers, as well as modifications of many stock designs.

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Scott original antenna systems.

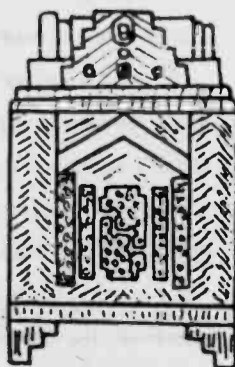
Scott Philharmonic (30 or 33 tube)---complete unit, parts, even rough chassis, etc.

Original Scott literature---Scott News, manuals, console brochures, etc., for that matter any Scott memorabilia.

Zenith 25 tube Stratosphere.

These items are wanted for my personal collection, not for resale.

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Andy

Being the Biographies of
Two Bumptious Black-
faced Broadcasters who
Bring Bliss to Billions

By H. P. W. Dixon

AMOS 'n' Andy are two of the best known radio characters in America, and in the last six months—the time they have been on the National Broadcasting Company networks—they have made radio history in broadcasting at least 150 times, which is the equivalent of three years on the air for an ordinary weekly program.

The story of the program can be told in a paragraph. Amos 'n' Andy, two colored men, operate the Open Air Taxicab Company in Harlem. Each night a microphone picks up the highlights of their day as revealed in their discussions with their associates. Their business ventures, their amusements, even their affairs of the heart, are told in their conversations. The story goes on and on, and it has been asserted that if you listen in three nights in succession, you'll be an Amos 'n' Andy fan. The program is the first daily "comic strip" on the air.

Another paragraph will give all that is necessary of the history of the originators of Amos 'n' Andy. They are, in very private life, Freeman F. Gosden and Charles J. Correll. Gosden is Amos and Correll is Andy. Correll was born in Peoria, Illinois, and grew up with the ambition to become an actor. Gosden, a native of Virginia, was an actor when the

two men met in North Carolina almost eight years ago. They became partners and for a while traveled about staging amateur revues for Junior Leagues and other organizations. Then they teamed together in a theatrical company. In 1925 they appeared for the first time before the microphone. In 1926 they introduced "Sam 'n' Henry" to the radio audience. Two years later they created "Amos 'n' Andy," popularizing them throughout the Middle West. In 1929, the N. B. C., on the lookout for outstanding radio talent, signed them up and subsequently put them on the air under the sponsorship of the makers of Pepsodent toothpaste.

Not even the sponsors realized how popular they were until a strange thing happened. When Amos 'n' Andy changed from the Columbia Broadcasting System to the N. B. C. network, their program was scheduled for 11:00 o'clock, Eastern Standard Time. Parents and children protested. It was too late for the youngsters, and the youngsters who were Amos 'n' Andy fans were numbered in hundreds of thousands.

It was then arranged to present the pair at 7:00 o'clock in the evening (Eastern Standard Time), in order that youngsters might listen in. Then the squall broke.

Seven o'clock, Eastern Time, means 6:00 o'clock Central Time, 5:00 o'clock in the mountains, and 4:00 o'clock on the Pacific Coast. Fans who had become interested in the adventures of Amos 'n' Andy found out that they would either have to give up their jobs or give up Amos 'n' Andy. The storm broke in Denver, where there was virtually a mass meeting of irate listeners. Thousands upon thousands of letters and telegrams of protest were received by the N. B. C. and the sponsors. Something had to be done. The result was that a precedent was established in radio. Amos 'n' Andy continued to go on the air at 7:00 o'clock Eastern Time, but only in the Eastern Time zone. The same evening they went on the air over a Central and Western network at 11:30 P. M. This proved to be the solution of the problem, and while it cost more money there seemed to be no other way out.

Only the President is considered to have right-of-way over Amos 'n' Andy. When it became necessary to eliminate the program for an evening in order to rebroadcast Big Ben in London on New Year's, there were protests. Any rumor that Amos 'n' Andy are going off the air is followed by a flood of letters. Once when the program failed to go on, it was necessary to have the continuity for that night printed in newspapers.

What is the fascination of the program?

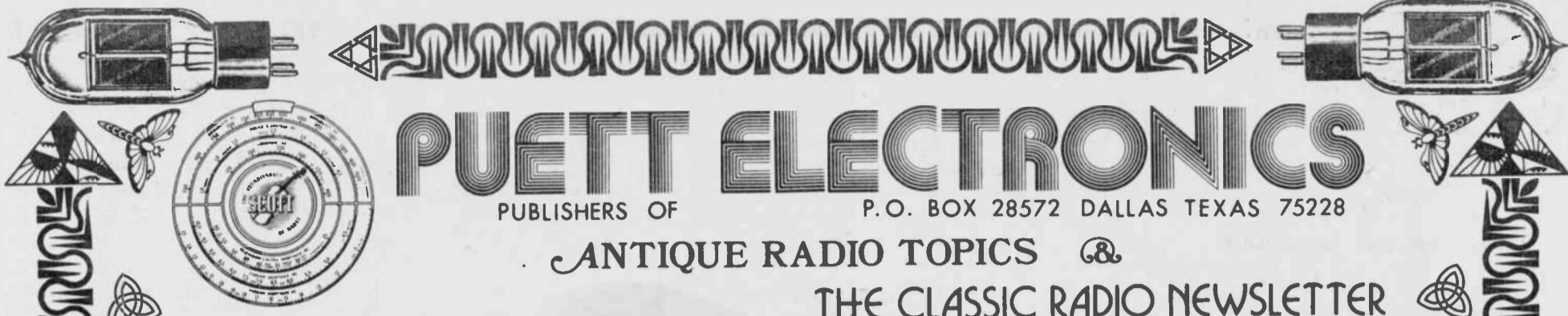
Smart showmen declare it is the continuity of interest. They point to newspaper comic strips as an example of the same technique.

Correll and Gosden have ideas of their own.

"It isn't a wise-cracking program," Correll said in discussing their success. Incidentally, both men are somewhat amazed by it all. "People don't listen in because of the jokes that are told. In fact, the program at times has a decided touch of pathos. Amos 'n' Andy are very human. They have more than their share of faults, and they have many likable characteristics. They are always blundering into scrapes and getting out of them. In other words, they are doing what anyone is likely to do under the same circumstances. The comedy is human. The Negro characterization and dialect merely point it more."

Gosden is very proud of the fact that their sketches aren't considered objectionable burlesques by members of the Negro race. The program is as popular with Negroes as with persons of other races. In fact, the belief is current that they really are Negroes, for, it is pointed out, how else could they so thoroughly understand the characters they portray? Both men, however, are decided blonds.

They make public appearances throughout the country and pack the theaters. It is on record that a member of President Hoover's cabinet personally requested that they make an appearance in Washington. They are almost mobbed if by any chance their identity is discovered on the streets or in public places. They get thousands of letters each week, and—well, the boys are good!



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- (3) HOW TO ELECTRIFY YOUR SET by V. Osgood, conversion of battery sets to AC power, 1927, (36 pages) \$2.95
- (4) HOW TO BUILD HAZELTINES NEUTRODYNE CIRCUIT RADIO RECEIVER, F.A.D. Andrea, 1923, (39 pages) \$2.95
- (5) ATWATER KENT INSTRUCTION BOOK for MODELS 55 - 60 AC RADIO RECEIVERS, 1929, (18 pages) \$1.95
- (6) THE 1934 SHORT WAVE RADIO MANUAL, complete experimenter's set-building and servicing guide, with numerous schematics of short wave receivers of that time period, Hugo Gernsback, Editor, published by Short Wave Craft magazine (240 pages 8 1/2 x 11) \$19.95

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SERVICE Problems

by Ron Boucher

ANOTHER TECHNIQUE

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO I wrote an article about using "O" rings as replacements drive belts for tuning mechanisms in some radios. Sometimes this method is not practical so I had to come up with another technique.

I sometimes make a replacement belt by using nylon string. Firstly, I thread the string around the pulleys in the drive mechanism and tie a knot leaving about 3 inches of string on the loose end. Do not cut off the remainder of the string; leave it on the spool. Now, operate the dial mechanism so that the knot goes around all the pulleys and takes string from the spool and carries it around the pulleys. Keep going until the knot has gone around the pulleys many times and the knot is in the starting position. You now have a belt consisting of several strands of string. Now, cut the string from the spool and tie that end to the 3" piece you left on the knot. Trim off the loose ends on the knot. As the string is being fed onto the pulleys, be careful not to put the string under too much tension or you could have a belt that is too tight.

Next, I usually brush some rubber cement on the belt to bind the strings together to give it traction. At first this makes a sticky mess but eventually it dries and adheres to the belt.

23-25 at the Quality Inn on Highway 183 in Irving, is taking final shape. A Victrola VV IX will be this year's pre-registration prize. Just register before October 16 for your chance to win this example of the popular Victor instrument.

For more information write VRPS at Box 5345, Irving, Texas 75062.

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FIRST AD FREE when you subscribe. (24 issues, 1 year, \$7.50). Most diversified swap sheet in America. ELECTRONICS TRADER, Box 73-HS, Folly Beach, SC 29439.

FOR SALE - ATTENTION - SILVER MARSHALL COLLECTORS. 1924 McMurdo Silver's, Silver Six. extra set long wave coils, working, nice walnut case, no tubes \$125.00. 1927-? S.M. Laboratory Super 8, 2 dial AC set, mahogany case, perfect, no tubes ... \$95.00. 1929 AC S.m. 726 SW All Wave, 2 dial, 11 tube super 15-550 meters, 1st rotary band switch, excellent with tubes, no case, speaker not original ... \$85.00 All plus shipping. Herb Balmer, 610 N-14th, Maryville, KS 66508. (913) 562-5414.

SELL 10 SIGNAL CORPS. RADIO MANUALS; SCR-54/54A, SCR-67/-67A, SCR-69, SCR-74/74A, SCR-79A/99, SCR-105, SCR-109A/-159, SCR-127/130, Wavemeters and Decimeters (phamphlet #28). Amplifiers and Heterodynes (Phamphlet #9). \$150 for the lot. W6ME, 4178 Chasin Street, Oceanside, CA 92054

FOR SALE -- ATWATER KENT BREADBOARD, radio is in good condition, audio transformers open, Send SASE. for list of 20's and 30's radios. Also wanted to buy Federal, Grebe and Kennedy radios. Jerry Finamore, RD 2, Box 623, New Castle, PA 16101. (412) 656-0338.

SEND LARGE 35 cent S.A.S.E. for list of radio magazines, catalogs and literature to: G. B. Schneider, 6848 Commonwealth Blvd., Parma Hgts., OH 44130.

AERIOLA SR (EXC) \$160. HALLICRAFTERS S20R (EXC - WORKING) \$55. WESTERN ELECTRIC CANDLESTICK PHONE AND BELL BOX (WORKING - EXC) \$ 75. TEMPLE "SHIP" SPEAKER (V.G. - WORKING (WEAK)) \$50. PHILCO 84B \$65. PILOT WASP MONARCH (SQUARE TOP MULTIBAND) \$40. EMERSON 415 (1933 BAKELITE AC/DC) (MINT) \$25. GREBE SYNCHROPHASE (AUDIO'S O.K.) \$150. RADIOLA III \$70. (AUDIO OK) \$70. STEWART WARNER 300 \$50. ZENITH 333 (EXC) \$60. RON BOUCHER, 376 CILLEY RD., MANCHESTER, NH 03103 (603) 669-1698. PLEASE INCLUDE SHIPPING COSTS.

RCA TELEVISION CONSOLE MODEL TRK-5, RCA TELEVISION TABLE MODEL SET TT-5, DAVEN TELEVISION AMPLIFIER TYPE T-4, PRESTO RECORDER MODEL J-5 WITH MIKE, A.K. BREADBOARD MODEL 10 WITH TUBES, WESTINGHOUSE RC WITH TUBES AND HEADPHONES, FEDERAL 61 WITH TUBES AND FEDERAL HEADPHONES, NATIONAL ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO. CN239, CLAPP-EASTHAM 1/2 KW SPARK TRANSMITTER, THORDARSON TYPE R - 1 KW SPARK TRANSFORMER, 2 WIRELESS SPECIALTY APPARATUS LEYDEN JARS, KENNEDY - 281 S.W. RECEIVER, NO AMP., CLAPP-EASTHAM LOOSE COUPLER 1914 - VINTAGE BOOK P-153. PHIL WEINGARTEN, 67-61 ALDERTON STREET, FOREST HILLS, NY 11374 (212) 896-3545.

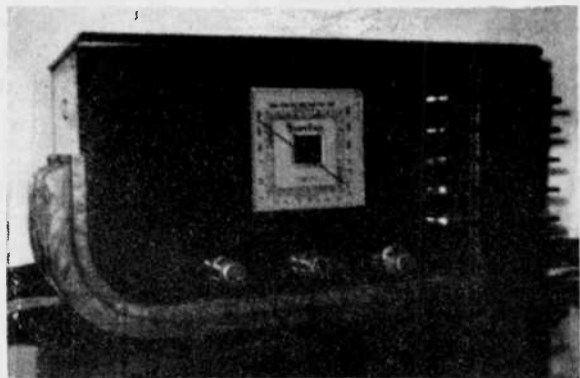
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MORE VRPS CONVENTION CLUB NEWS

The Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society's 1981 Annual Convention, to be held October

Wanted



PLEASE HELP. I LOVE MIRRORED GLASS RADIOS. IF YOU HAVE ONE OR KNOW WHERE THERE IS ONE, PLEASE LET ME KNOW. I'M ALSO INTERESTED IN ANY "WILD LOOKING" RADIOS FROM THE 1930'S LIKE COLORED CELLULOID RADIOS (FADA, EMERSON, ETC.) AND CHROME RADIOS. BARBARA GORTON, BOX 1252, DAYTON, OH 45401. (513) 253-5073.



WANTED: NEED POT FOR BECKLEY RALSTON BATTERY RADIO. RUSSELL SCHOEN, R no. 1, BOX 35, CLENTONVILLE, WI 54929.

CASH -- FOR RADIO RETAILING MAGAZINES, Radio Today, Radio T.V. Retailing, 1925 to 1955, for personal collection. Send your list and prices first letter. Also want Detrola Radio Corp. Advertising, yearly set pamphlets, factory literature, dealer signs, etc. Please no Rider or Supreme info. Or contact me and I will send you my want list. EDWARD BZOVY, 140 North Citrus Ave., Covina, CA 91723.

WANTED "ELECTRIC CLOCK" for Philco Grandfather clock/radio model 570, Bob Westrick, 702 Broadmoor Dr., Annapolis, MD 21401. Call collect (301) 757-5661.

WANTED: EARLY CEILING OR TABLE FANS. ESPECIALLY ODD OR UNUSUAL TYPES. RICHARD CANE, 8391 N.W. 21st ST., SUNRISE, FL 33322.

WANTED: SCOTT radio in Napier console (radio in open on top of console), Scott FM tuner, Scott FM converter, Scott Communications receiver, original Scott literature, Zenith Stratosphere 25 tube receiver. Steve Chapman, 419 Bird Lane, Waxahachie, TX 75165. (214) 937-2726 (home).

CASH FOR DECEMBER 1915 TO DECEMBER 1921 QST'S FOR PERSONAL COLLECTION. KEN MILLER, K6IR; 16904 GEORGE WASHINGTON; ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20853. (301) 774-7709.

WANTED: SCOTT PHILHARMONIC. Prefer Napier console. Dick Howe, 9318 Wickford, Houston, TX 77024 or call (713) 680-9945 collect.

GLASS CASED RADIO (no home brews) have Federal 110, Kennedy V and other fine sets as trade items. Send S.A.S.E. to Leonard Prince, 25 Merrymeeting Drive, Topsham, ME 04086.

MICROPHONES for broadcast archive. Early carbon, dynamic, condenser or ribbon types. Purchase or trade. James Steele, National Association of Broadcasters, 477 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

WANTED: AN IP-501 OR NAVY SE*1420. PLEASE GIVE CONDITION AND BEST PRICE. BOB W6ME, 4178 CHASIN STREET, OCEANSIDE, CA 92054.

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WANTED: WESTERN ELECTRIC catalogs and technical manuals on 1946-1981 telephones and accessories such as plugs and jacks. Also need WE plugs and jacks for residential use. Carleton Sarver, 256 West 88th Street, New York, NY 10024.

WANTED: SMALL SIZE COMMUNICATION TYPE SETS. (no junk). Please write and tell me what you have and the price. William Hemrick, Route 1, Terra Alta, WV 26764.

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WANTED: CAR RADIO VIBRATORS, NEW, CASH PAID. SIGNAL SEEK AUTO RADIOS; FORD CHEVROLET, ETC. MARVIN ROTH, 145 LABELLE, OAK PARK, MI 48237. PHONE (313) 399-5993.

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A-K MODEL 5, RCA VZ1320 or 1325 speaker, dial light hoods for Radiola 17 and 18. Foot for Radiola 60 cabinet. Wilson, 1475 Mossline Drive, Jackson, MS 39211.

WANTED CROSLY 1932 8 tube chassis with speaker. Model: 124. Phone (206) 783-6151. Art Corbus, 5704 11th Ave. NW, Seattle, WA 98107.

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OCTOBER 23-25, 1981

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(3) TEXAS RESIDENTS ADD 5% STATE SALES TAX. (4) YOU CAN USE YOUR MASTER CARD OR VISA TO CHARGE YOUR PURCHASES. VISA CUSTOMERS SEND YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER AND EXPIRATION DATE. MASTERCARD CUSTOMERS SEND YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER, THREE BANK NUMBER AND EXPIRATION DATE.

YOU MAY CALL J.W.F. PUETT AT HIS RESIDENCE BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9:00 AM AND 10:00 PM CENTRAL STANDARD OR CENTRAL STANDARD DAYLIGHT TIME FOR FREE TECHNICAL CONSULTATION - (714) 377-3721 or 371-0717.

ANTIQUE RADIO TUBES - ALL TUBES ARE GUARANTEED - SEE TERMS OF GUARANTEE STATED IN OUR CATALOG.

043	55	104	84	244	88	484	84	124	84	164	84	204	84	244	84	284	84	324	84	364	84	404	84	444	84	484	84	524	84	564	84	604	84	644	84	684	84	724	84	764	84	804	84	844	84	884	84	924	84	964	84	1004	84	1044	84	1084	84	1124	84	1164	84	1204	84	1244	84	1284	84	1324	84	1364	84	1404	84	1444	84	1484	84	1524	84	1564	84	1604	84	1644	84	1684	84	1724	84	1764	84	1804	84	1844	84	1884	84	1924	84	1964	84	2004	84	2044	84	2084	84	2124	84	2164	84	2204	84	2244	84	2284	84	2324	84	2364	84	2404	84	2444	84	2484	84	2524	84	2564	84	2604	84	2644	84	2684	84	2724	84	2764	84	2804	84	2844	84	2884	84	2924	84	2964	84	3004	84	3044	84	3084	84	3124	84	3164	84	3204	84	3244	84	3284	84	3324	84	3364	84	3404	84	3444	84	3484	84	3524	84	3564	84	3604	84	3644	84	3684	84	3724	84	3764	84	3804	84	3844	84	3884	84	3924	84	3964	84	4004	84	4044	84	4084	84	4124	84	4164	84	4204	84	4244	84	4284	84	4324	84	4364	84	4404	84	4444	84	4484	84	4524	84	4564	84	4604	84	4644	84	4684	84	4724	84	4764	84	4804	84	4844	84	4884	84	4924	84	4964	84	5004	84	5044	84	5084	84	5124	84	5164	84	5204	84	5244	84	5284	84	5324	84	5364	84	5404	84	5444	84	5484	84	5524	84	5564	84	5604	84	5644	84	5684	84	5724	84	5764	84	5804	84	5844	84	5884	84	5924	84	5964	84	6004	84	6044	84	6084	84	6124	84	6164	84	6204	84	6244	84	6284	84	6324	84	6364	84	6404	84	6444	84	6484	84	6524	84	6564	84	6604	84	6644	84	6684	84	6724	84	6764	84	6804	84	6844	84	6884	84	6924	84	6964	84	7004	84	7044	84	7084	84	7124	84	7164	84	7204	84	7244	84	7284	84	7324	84	7364	84	7404	84	7444	84	7484	84	7524	84	7564	84	7604	84	7644	84	7684	84	7724	84	7764	84	7804	84	7844	84	7884	84	7924	84	7964	84	8004	84	8044	84	8084	84	8124	84	8164	84	8204	84	8244	84	8284	84	8324	84	8364	84	8404	84	8444	84	8484	84	8524	84	8564	84	8604	84	8644	84	8684	84	8724	84	8764	84	8804	84	8844	84	8884	84	8924	84	8964	84	9004	84	9044	84	9084	84	9124	84	9164	84	9204	84	9244	84	9284	84	9324	84	9364	84	9404	84	9444	84	9484	84	9524	84	9564	84	9604	84	9644	84	9684	84	9724	84	9764	84	9804	84	9844	84	9884	84	9924	84	9964	84	10004	84	10044	84	10084	84	10124	84	10164	84	10204	84	10244	84	10284	84	10324	84	10364	84	10404	84	10444	84	10484	84	10524	84	10564	84	10604	84	10644	84	10684	84	10724	84	10764	84	10804	84	10844	84	10884	84	10924	84	10964	84	11004	84	11044	84	11084	84	11124	84	11164	84	11204	84	11244	84	11284	84	11324	84	11364	84	11404	84	11444	84	11484	84	11524	84	11564	84	11604	84	11644	84	11684	84	11724	84	11764	84	11804	84	11844	84	11884	84	11924	84	11964	84	12004	84	12044	84	12084	84	12124	84	12164	84	12204	84	12244	84	12284	84	12324	84	12364	84	12404	84	12444	84	12484	84	12524	84	12564	84	12604	84	12644	84	12684	84	12724	84	12764	84	12804	84	12844	84	12884	84	12924	84	12964	84	13004	84	13044	84	13084	84	13124	84	13164	84	13204	84	13244	84	13284	84	13324	84	13364	84	13404	84	13444	84	13484	84	13524	84	13564	84	13604	84	13644	84	13684	84	13724	84	13764	84	13804	84	13844	84	13884	84	13924	84	13964	84	14004	84	14044	84	14084	84	14124	84	14164	84	14204	84	14244	84	14284	84	14324	84	14364	84	14404	84	14444	84	14484	84	14524	84	14564	84	14604	84	14644	84	14684	84	14724	84	14764	84	14804	84	14844	84	14884	84	14924	84	14964	84	15004	84	15044	84	15084	84	15124	84	15164	84	15204	84	15244	84	15284	84	15324	84	15364	84	15404	84	15444	84	15484	84	15524	84	15564	84	15604	84	15644	84	15684	84	15724	84	15764	84	15804	84	15844	84	15884	84	15924	84	15964	84	16004	84	16044	84	16084	84	16124	84	16164	84	16204	84	16244	84	16284	84	16324	84	16364	84	16404	84	16444	84	16484	84	16524	84	16564	84	16604	84	16644	84	16684	84	16724	84	16764	84	16804	84	16844	84	16884	84	16924	84	16964	84	17004	84	17044	84	17084	84	17124	84	17164	84	17204	84	17244	84	17284	84	17324	84	17364	84	17404	84	17444	84	17484	84	17524	84	17564	84	17604	84	17644	84	17684	84	17724	84	17764	84	17804	84	17844	84	17884	84	17924	84	17964	84	18004	84	18044	84	18084	84	18124	84	18164	84	18204	84	18244	84	18284	84	18324	84	18364	84	18404	84	18444	84	18484	84	18524	84	18564	84	18604	84	18644	84	18684	84	18724	84	18764	84	18804	84	18844	84	18884	84	18924	84	18964	84	19004	84	19044	84	19084	84	19124	84	19164	84	19204	84	19244	84	19284	84	19324	84	19364	84	19404	84	19444	84	19484	84	19524	84	19564	84	19604	84	19644	84	19684	84	19724	84	19764	84	19804	84	19844	84	19884	84	19924	84	19964	84	20004	84	20044	84	20084	84	20124	84	20164	84	20204	84	20244	84	20284	84	20324	84	20364	84	20404	84	20444	84	20484	84	20524	84	20564	84	20604	84	20644	84	20684	84	20724	84	20764	84	20804	84	20844	84	20884	84	20924	84	20964	84	21004	84	21044	84	21084	84	21124	84	21164	84	21204	84	21244	84	21284	84	21324	84	21364	84	21404	84	21444	84	21484	84	21524	84	21564	84	21604	84	21644	84	21684	84	21724	84	21764	84	21804	84	21844	84	21884	84	21924	84	21964	84	22004	84	22044	84	22084	84	22124	84	22164	84	22204	84	22244	84	22284	84	22324	84	22364	84	22404	84	22444	84	22484	84	22524	84	22564	84	22604	84	22644	84	22684	84	22724	84	22764	84	22804	84	22844	84	22884	84	22924	84	22964	84	23004	84	23044	84	23084	84	23124	84	23164	84	23204	84	23244	84	23284	84	23324	84	23364	84	234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