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HI-FI SYSTEM
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eference could be detected audibly between the Altec, which uses a ratio detector, and a top quality, Armstrong-type tuner. On weak signals, cars passing near the listening post were more noticeable with the Altec, and over-all background noise was a little heavier.

Input possibilities to the tuner are PHONO and SPARE — in addition, of course, to FM or AM. The SPARE feeds through the tone controls, the PHONO is for magnetic or variable reluctance cartridges and operates through both record compensating and tone controls. Three input connections are provided on the chassis preamplifier unit: a PHONO, which is identical with the one on the tuner, and two SPARES which can be used, for instance, for radio and television.

Output from the amplifier is tapped for 4, 8, and 16 ohm speaker systems.  

Fig. 4. Basic bass and treble control range possible for FM, AM, and SPARE inputs.

The fidelity of the system is excellent. The Altec engineers speak of their system as the Cadillac in the field, and that is just about it. Good, conservative design produces good, clean sound. It is not a sports car, nor a hot rod jalopy.

Note that from the SPARE connection on the tuner to the loudspeaker, the Altec has more gain than most amplifiers. See the discussion of this feature in connection with the report on the Weathers pick-up on page 94.

We liked the simplicity of the Altec controls. Once in a great while we might wish

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