

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

"SUN" (Tauranga): If your set can pick up a fair number of the smaller Australian "B" stations at good speaker volume, then it should give good results when used in conjunction with a short-wave converter. A separate super-heterodyne designed specially for short-wave work would give better results, but the improvement would not be warranted by the greatly increased outlay. Adaptors are now definitely out of date; the best of them are far inferior to a good converter from the point of view of performance.

H. U. (Auckland): I am using a commercial aerial eliminator, and find that it gives results that are in every way superior to those obtained from using an ordinary outside aerial. Should this be so? By the way, I would like to

thank you for your recent suggestion as to where I would find the fault in my receiver. As you suggested, the fault was due to an "open" electrolytic condenser. This has been replaced, and the set is now functioning well.

A.: With your type of set a small aerial often gives more satisfactory results than a large one, because the selectivity is greatly improved. Also, there is probably a tendency in your set for the r.f. stage to oscillate when the aerial is removed altogether, and when a short aerial is used, this valve is much nearer to oscillation point, and hence is more sensitive than when the first tuned circuit is fairly heavily damped by attaching a long aerial. At the same time, you have given no details of the outside aerial you are using, and so it is difficult to know whether the results you are getting are as good as they should be.

"FEED BACK" (New Plymouth): I built the "Viking Junior" described in the 1934 "Radio Guide" in January last, and found it oscillated much too fiercely on all bands. However, this trouble soon righted itself, but has now appeared again after nine months of normal working. I have tried replacing the valve and checking the coil socket for poor connections.

A.: Try connecting the aerial to the top of the grid winding through a .0001 mfd. fixed condenser. If this stops the set oscillating altogether, then replace it with a .00005 mfd. condenser of the preset type. If, however, the set still oscillates too strongly, then the strongest possibility is that the grid leak is faulty. Try replacing it with one of 2 megohms.

"INTERESTED" (Pukekohe): I have recently purchased a six-valve all-wave commercial superhet. Is it of suitable type for long-distance reception?

A.: Yes, quite suitable.

2. My aerial is about 85ft. high and 85ft. long overall, yet I find that if I disconnect the aerial and attach the earth lead instead, reception on the short waves is just as good.

A.: Did you move the lead-in well away from the earth lead when you tried this experiment? Also, your earth cannot be a very good one, or at least the lead itself must be fairly long. Try connecting a .0001 mfd. midjet condenser in series with the aerial and adjusting it on each shortwave station for best results.

"TONE" (Taumarunui): There is evidently a pushpull input transformer in your receiver, and if this is the case

then the crackling noise you mention is more than likely due to a defective primary winding. The next component to suspect is the smoothing choke, if there is one in your set. Try shorting the plate of the detector valve momentarily to chassis. If the primary of the pushpull transformer is defective, this may cause it to "open up" completely, thus providing a definite indication of the trouble.

"DIG" (Dunedin): While listening on the shortwave bands, I am annoyed by interference from passing motor-cars. Can this be stopped?

A.: Only by erecting an all-wave aerial system with the flat top as high above and as far as possible away from the road. If you could erect an aerial of this type, you will find that the signal-to-noise ratio would be greatly improved.

2. Can I attach headphones to my set, and if so, in what way?

A.: You have not stated what type of valve (or valves) your set uses in the output. If you will supply this detail, we will outline the method of attaching phones.

Note: With reference to your third query concerning your proposed aerial system, it would be a better plan if you could erect two 45ft. masts at right angles to the road and as far as possible from it, and sling the flat top of a noise-reducing all-wave aerial between them.

THE official journal of Russian amateurs ("Radiofront") says that the Luxembourg station is not the only high-power station with a Luxembourg effect; and they suggest some kind of limit to transmitting power because the Moscow 500-kilowatt transmitter blots out their reception of many western European stations.

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