

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

"E.H.P." (s.s. Waimarino) writes: "Just to let you know the success I have had with the 'Selectivity Unit' as described in the last three issues of the 'Radio Constructor's Guide.' It's worth its weight in gold to anyone with an unselective set and there must be quite a few using a battery set as I am, who are tired of trying to get a wave-trap that doesn't reduce sensitivity—and I have tried a few. The set I use is a two-valver using detector and one audio so that with it dx is impossible until the locals have closed down. But with the unit, how's this for dx? On Saturday, July 11, within a few miles of Lyttelton not only was I able to log and report KGMB, Honolulu, but I was able to listen to him for over an hour. Without the unit 3YA and 3YL both spread all over the band. Again at my home in Mount Eden, Auckland, on Saturday the 18th, using an aerial 150 feet long and 45 feet high, I heard KSL, Salt Lake City, while 1YA and 1ZM were both working, without a trace of either of them. Also I find that it will cure my superhet. of cross modulation, being able to cut out the whistles caused by 1ZB. I built the unit on a 5 x 4 inch base with a 5 x 4 inch panel. I would like you to mention this unit in the 'Record' to let others know how good it is."

"MANAPOURI" (Manapouri): There is a possibility that the B batteries are getting a bit weak and that one section is giving its voltage intermittently. If a fresh battery, in place of the block where the 22½ volt tap was taken, can be tried and does not cure the trouble, it is a case for a serviceman.

"A.H.N." (Pipiriki): The series arrangement of the Daniel cells would do quite well for the three valves, but if there should be a necessity for extra current it would be best to increase the copper plate and if the zinc is in the form of a plate, increase it, too. If the zinc is in the form of a block there is usually enough area in the shapes cast to do for these sets. The copper grows in size while the zinc diminishes, with use.

"A NOTHER T.R.F." (Clyde): The pre-selector unit is described in the "1936 Radio Constructor's Guide," on page 121, and the cost of building should be little, as the only components that must be bought are the two-gang condenser, a piece of former and a little wire.

"ALL-WAVE" (Allanton): The twisted pair for the double doublet can be three or seven strand rubber-covered lighting wire, which is obtainable at any

electrical contractors. The cheapest way to buy is by the coil of 100 yards, and split it up among your friends. This is a single wire and is easily twisted; there are twisted wires available, similar, but only the larger firms have stocks of this.

"E.W. NTH. AUCKLAND" (Wellsford): The German short-wave stations are usually much louder than Daventry, due to their greater power for one thing, and the other bands you mention are not so good, at their best, as the lower ones. Hence you will see that your reception is probably normal for this time of the year. The British stations will be using greater power shortly, so that we should have much better reception.

"J.M." (Crushington): The symptoms given by you of your set point to a faulty component, and it would be well for you to get the serviceman who installed it to have a look at it. The symptoms are not sufficient to tell you how to do it yourself.

"J.B." (Auckland): We are afraid that you have set yourself a nasty little problem wishing to receive 20-metre signals with an elevated loop. The size of the loop and the turns are linked together with the size of tuning condenser to be used. Unless the loop were tuned the response would not be too good. Then there is the question of the feeder-line from the set to the loop, and balancing if one wishes to use the loop for directional work. Its rather too difficult for any but an experienced person.

"EGMONT" (Midhurst): Either diode will act for AVC in the 2B7.

A: That field coil seems to be too hot for our liking as its temperature is in the region of 170 degrees. However, if you can find out if that particular make runs at that temperature don't worry further as some are constructed for those temperatures. A cooler running field would allow higher voltages on the main set.

A: Numbers of filter condensers sizzle when the set is first turned on due to the high voltages until the other valves warm up and take current.

"NZ315W" (Wellington): The use of capacity coupling in the "Sky-Hawk" is quite feasible, but there is a better all-round performance with the inductive coupling. Selectivity and sensitivity are decidedly greater all round.

A: The particular transformer you have will not be successful with the secondary carrying current but, if the secondary is left open, and the primary used for the choke portion it will do excellently.

"CURIOUS" (Frankton): The various components you mention are all good but it is not fair to ask components by different makers to work together and to expect them then to line up and also track with the dial. Whichever components you favour, stick to the one coil kit condenser and dial that have been designed together. The differences in the condensers call for differences in the dials, therefore the condenser coil and dial must go together.

A: No, the sensitivity control controls the actual sensitivity as the name implies, but a tone control could be fitted as you suggest. But make the set first and see whether you need it. We don't think you will want it when you have heard the set and become used to the faithful reproduction.

"MRS. A.M.W." (Geraldine): The difficulty you have with regard to the numbers where stations can be heard on your set is one which a number of people have to put up with. These sets are not marked in any way which corresponds to wavelength or kilocycles and each maker of this type of set puts on numbers which unfortunately correspond with no other maker. Hence, it is not possible to give a table which will correspond with even a few makes. Your set numbers for instance will not be even the same as all the other sets of the same make as your own! All the modern sets, however, have either wavelength or kilocycles marked on the dial and are fairly accurately calibrated, so that they will always be able to be used to find stations from published lists, as they are marked with a standard measure.

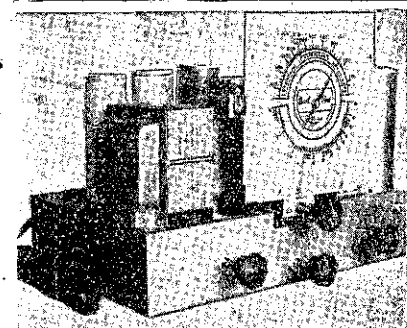
PROGRESS was reported in New York's anti-noise campaign due to the voluntary co-operation of "Tin-Pan-Alley." Practically all the metropolitan hotel orchestras under the leadership of Enoch Light, well-known baton wielder, offered to co-operate; and, subsequently db. meters (noise level indicators) were used to determine the most comfortable bearing levels for playing popular tunes in the ballrooms and restaurants of the respective hotels.

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