

QUESTIONS: ANSWERS

FRANK KEE.



DX12HB (Havelock North): I have been using 230 type valves made by X, and I am changing to the same type made by Y. Will it be necessary to re-neutralise the set?—No.

2. Would a valve of the same make but with a burnt-out filament do to plug in the r.f. socket when neutralising?—Yes.

3. Must a Beverage aerial be in a straight line from the aerial terminal of the set, or can there be an angle with a short lead to the set?

A.: The lead in can come away at an angle. It is not absolutely necessary that the Beverage aerial be run in a direct straight line.

S. J.W.S. (Invercargill): A description of the short-wave adapter appeared in the 1930 "Guide." The superhet. type appeared in the 1931 "Guide," and it is likely there will be an adapter in the 1932 "Guide." Your set is quite a well-known one for doing ability.

CURIOUS (Timaru): We regret we cannot supply circuits. If you will look through your back numbers you will probably find one fairly close to what you require. A s.g. set, if properly adapted, will not radiate.

NEW CHUM (Dunedin): 250 volts are quite suitable on the plates of 245 valves. Yes, the transformers will be suitable, but we cannot make comparisons between makes. You could use the inductor dynamic speaker with the "Radio-Gram."

J. B.G. (Hamner Springs): All four valve sets are very broadly tuned. The Shielded Five would certainly be better, but we should advise you to wait for the new four-valve set which will appear in the "Radio Guide." The Shielded Five is rather out of date.

MULTI-MU (Otago): Will I be doing any harm by taking an extension speaker direct from the plates of a valve?

A.: No, but it would be a better plan to take the lead from the plates of the valve through an output transformer and then on to your extension speaker. By doing that you would prevent direct current flowing through the wiring of your house, which is wasteful and for that matter dangerous, but when you come to the voice coils you are past the 25-1 step-down transformer, and it is no wonder that the reproduction is weak. Transformers do not always strengthen signals. A certain amount of matching must take place before any improvement is noticeable. However, by using the transformer you are keeping back the plate current from flowing in the extension wire, which is desirable.

C. B.R. (Temuka): A half amp trickle charger would certainly not shorten the life of your battery. If anything, it should lengthen it, because you are charging constantly at a low rate, which is advisable. You have probably struck a bad battery and have been unfortunate.

CRONA (Napier): A noise similar to static has developed in my set. It is still present when I take out the two r.f. valves.

A.: Take out the detector valve and see if it stops; go on from that to the audio valve and you will find out exactly in which place it is. It is probably due to a broken-down condenser or a defective transformer. The trouble may possibly be in a valve itself. Are you quite certain that all your connections are solid.

G. P. (New Plymouth): In my five-valve set I am using four PM6's and one A615 as detector. Is that a good combination?

A.: We wish you had heard our ejaculation when we read your question. The answer is no, no, no. In fact, we think you could not have found a worse combination. PM6 is a power valve. How long do your batteries last, two weeks? You should use 221's in all stages, except the last, where you use a PM6. A615 would be quite satisfactory for detector.

2. I pick up a great deal of noise from the trams. Is there any way of mitigating the noise?

A.: In reality there is very little you can do. See that your aerial is at right angles to the power noises; try a different earth, and if necessary use a shielded lead-in wire.

3. My aerial has been up for four years. Would it be to my advantage to erect a new one?

A.: We doubt it, providing corrosion has not taken place and your insulators are reasonably clean.

RADIO Trician (Te Awamutu): When and in what centre nearest Te Awamutu will the next radio serviceman's examination be held?

A.: That is more than we can tell you. Full particulars will be announced in the "R.R." when they are available.

2. What conditions or regulations have to be complied with in entering for the exam?

A.: Before you can be granted a certification you must have had three years' experience in radio as a trade or professionally, and be cognisant of the regulations appertaining to the installation of radio sets as well as the technical practice entering into their servicing.

3. Where can the syllabus be obtained?

A.: Write the Registrar, Radio Serviceman Examination, c/o the New Zealand Employers' Federation, The Terrace, Wellington. We are sorry we cannot give names and models of sets, as, although there would be certain advantages from the reader's point of view in doing so, there is always a possibility of trouble so far as the trade is concerned.

RADIO (Wellington): Would a seven-valve super het. be better than a nine-valve for dx work?

A.: We see no reason why it should.

2. If an electric set earths through the mains, should it have a separate earth?

A.: Try it with a separate earth. Sometimes it will go better.

3. My lead-in is three feet from a stray wire. Would this have any effect on reception?—Probably not.

A. H.S. (S. Cant.): Writes regarding an inquiry of D.C.D. (Auckland), stating that the circuit he required appeared in "Wireless Weekly" of November 27, 1931.

A. E.S. (Rewa): On adding another audio stage my set squeals. Removing "C-1" improves matters slightly.

A.: Take the grid bias battery into the set itself and so shorten the grid-lead. Your layout is not of the best. Probably this alteration will clear things up. Try reversing the primary connections to the second audio transformer. Your aerial system appears to be quite satisfactory.

H. A.I. (Hamilton): No. The circuit for extra stage of an r.f. s.g. for the "Radiogram Five" has not been published. If you wish for it, however, we shall post it to you. It is not a

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"Radio Amateur Handbook" (Handy's 9th edition), 6/6.

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"Collins's Wireless Diary, 1932," 4/6 (on its own).

"Radio News," Oct., Nov., Feb., March. 2/- each.

"Q.S.T.," Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb. issues. 2/- each.

"Audel's Radioman's Guide," 6/9. (Recommended for servicemen's exam. with "Modern Magic Carpet," 5/-.)

"Radio Amateur Call Book," 6/6. (Please note there is a rise of approx. 63 per cent. on all American publications, and don't blame us.)

Scott's Broadcast Time Chart (including log and complete list of world's long and S.W. stations), 7d.

"Wireless: The Modern Magic Carpet," by Ralph Stranger, 5/-. (New stocks just arrived—The "Radio Record" and Mr. Dawson, Philips Lamps, say no set owner should miss this.)

"Radio Call Book and Technical Review," (formerly Citizens' Call Book Quarterly), 2/.

Mack's List of World Short-wave Stations, 7d. (Don't miss this.)

"101 Hook-ups" ("Radio News"), 2/11.

"Radio Physics Course," by Ghirardi—revised and enlarged. Answers every question on Radio, Electricity, Television and Talks. First lot sold out sight. More stock arrived. 30/-.

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"Wireless Weekly," 32-page call-sign booklet for broadcasters, amateurs and short-waveers, 4d. (Useful.)

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OUR LOCAL AGENTS:

Auckland: F. R. Jeffreys, 466 Queen St.

Napier: Storkey's Bookshop.

Palmerston North: Radio Supplies & Service Co. (E. B. Borham), 245 Main St.

Blenheim: Tomlinson & Gifford.

Nelson: Keith Walker, Baird's Buildings.

Timaru: J. H. Healey, Bookseller.

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(1) Be specific and brief, tabulating, if possible.

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(3) We do not design circuits, but accept suggestions for feature articles.