

Hints for Beginners

N.Z. Short-Wave Club

From the Secretary's Pen

QUITE a number of readers have called or telephoned during the day, but, as I am away most of the time, the best time to ring is between 5.30 and 7 p.m.

A valuable tip to all listeners, whether broadcast or short-wave, is to take the aerial lead off the switch, sandpaper it and the terminal screw of the switch, and replace. It will be found that distant stations come in far louder when the corrosion is removed.

A neat way of keeping coils is to plane and stain a block of wood. On the underside glue a piece of felt, drill holes for the coil pins, and the result is that they are always handy as well as being secure from damage. The idea comes from an Australian radio fan.

A hint for QSL cards (from ZL2HS). Lay them face downwards on the table, apply strips of stamp edging to hinge them together. The top one is then pinned to the wall.

Address club correspondence to A. B. McDonagh, Secretary, New Zealand Short-wave Club, 4 Queen Street, Wellington, E.I.—Yours fraternally, Mac.

Special Amateur Radio Test for New Zealand

STATION W6FDO will conduct a special test for the New Zealand Short-wave club at 6.30 p.m., N.Z.M.T. on September 18 and 25. He will be found on the 75-metre American amateur band. As reports are particularly required, any listener hearing the test is asked to forward a report to the Secretary, New Zealand Short-wave Club, who will forward them for acknowledgment.

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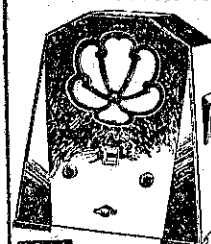
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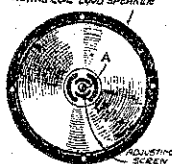
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Curing "Chattering":

If the best results are to be obtained from a moving coil loudspeaker it is essential that the coil should be free to move without touching the walls of the magnet. If the centring is at fault it can be set right in the following manner. Nearly all moving coil loudspeakers have a small screw similar to the one marked "A" in the accompanying sketch, which holds the coil and the cone in position. This should be loosened and the coil moved carefully from side to side until the position is found where it has equal clearance around its circumference. When the central position has been found, tighten up the screw and notice if there is any improvement. Great care should be taken in handling the cone and coil, as the construction of many speakers is very delicate.



A Lead-in Hint: When 7/22 gauge wire is employed for an aerial, and the lead-in is taken direct to the set, it is usually difficult to connect it satisfactorily to the aerial terminal. Its stiffness prevents it from being easily bent around the terminal shank, while on screwing down the terminal the wire springs away. A very simple solution is to obtain a short piece of fairly thick insulated wire of the flexible variety, bare both ends and attach one to the end of the lead-in. This connection can preferably be made by soldering and then covering with insulating tape. The other end may then easily be looped and firmly fixed under the terminal.

The Art of Soldering:

Many constructors, when making soldered connections, simply put together the two parts which are to be joined, dab on some flux (usually about ten times as much as necessary) and then hold the iron (heavily crusted with oxide) against the parts and hope for the best. This procedure is very unlikely to lead to a soldered joint, and, moreover, if the parts are adjacent to ebullient or bake-lift, there is considerable danger of the prolonged heating causing danger to these components. The essence of soldering under circumstances like these is to arrange matters so that the hot iron need be applied only for a very few seconds. This can be done by having the parts properly tinned before they are placed together, and also by having the tip of the iron cleaned and properly tinned also. If the iron has been overheated and has become coated with scales, this should be removed, and if necessary the iron should be filed up with an old coarse file. The two parts to be joined should then be tinned separately. If this is properly done, all that will be necessary to make the join will be to place the two parts together, and apply the iron, with a very small quantity of solder, to the parts. The solder will run within a second or two, and the job is complete.

The incorrect adjustment of grid bias may cause an unnecessarily heavy drain upon the "B" battery and will bring about distortion.



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