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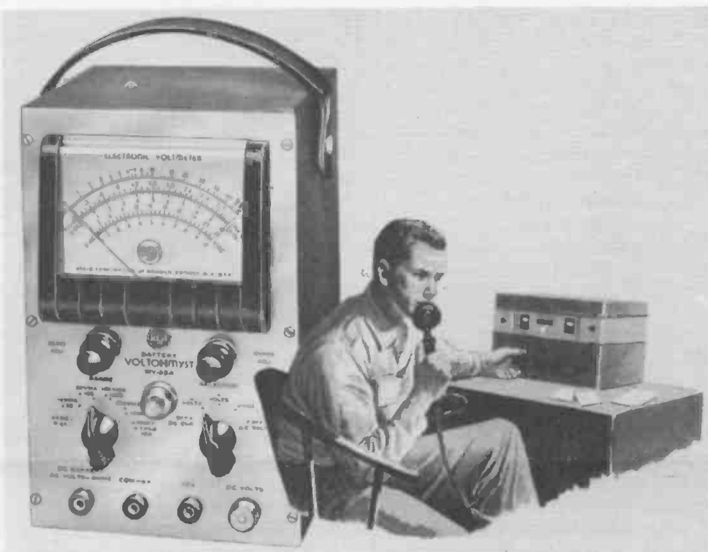
A SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE FOR DESIGNING AUDIO MODULATORS

RCA WV-65A BATTERY VOLTOHMYST*



This popular instrument is particularly suited for a wide number of Amateur circuit applications. It can be used for accurate measurements of ac and dc voltage, for dc current, and for resistance. As a working tool, it belongs in every Ham Shack.

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RCA VOLTOHMYST* ELECTRONIC METER IS HIGHLY VERSATILE IN HAM SHACK

By A. M. SEYBOLD, W2RYI
RCA Tube Department

Several million man-hours of work are spent each year by radio amateurs in building and repairing ham rigs. Part of that time is consumed in a sort of happy leisure, with the old soldering iron filling the shack with the pleasant odor of hot rosin flux. Likewise, some of those hours are burned away in the white heat of trying to finish a gimmick for testing a new idea or trying to get the rig back on the air to meet a sked or hit the zero hour for a contest. But, no matter what the project on hand may be, or whether your bench is in the cellar between the laundry tubs and the furnace, or "upstairs" with sound-proofed walls and carpeted floors, work-shop activity is a mighty important part of amateur radio.

Your tools for that work determine how pleasantly the time at the bench can be spent. Actually, minor miracles can be performed with a screw-driver, pliers, a hand drill, a file, and an old soldering iron. If your mechanical equipment fills the bill for the jobs you have on hand, how about the electrical end of the business?

The end product of your efforts is electronic equipment. If you have a tool that can get down into the circuit you're working on and give the right dope on what's going on, you're going to end up with a rig that does what it's supposed to when it's supposed to. If you have one electrical tool that is capable of working in a variety of circuits, that tool belongs in the important category represented by screw-drivers and pliers, and it belongs on your bench in a position just as accessible. I have been using an

(Continued on Page 3, Column 2)

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MODULATOR DESIGN MADE FLEXIBLE BY APPLICATION OF BASIC FORMULAS

By A. G. NEKUT, W3LIL
RCA Tube Department

In most amateur applications the problem of choosing a suitable audio modulator circuit is affected at the start by certain fixed conditions in the ham shack. Usually, for example, the modulator plate-supply voltage is fixed by the power supplies available. Often the modulation transformer available has an "impedance" rating that may not fit the value of plate-to-plate load resistance published under the typical operating conditions for the modulator tubes desired. It is the purpose of this article to present simplified design formulas which will aid in the design of a satisfactory modulator stage.

Because efficiency and economy of operation are usually of the utmost importance, this discussion will be limited to push-pull circuits using (1) beam power tubes, (2) power pentodes, or (3) power triodes operating in the positive grid region. Screen-grid type tubes may be operated under either high-bias class AB_1 or class AB_2 conditions; triode types operate, of course, under high-bias class AB_2 or class "B" conditions.

Let us start off with values of dc plate voltage (E_{bs}) and dc plate current (I_{bs}) of the fully loaded class "C" rf stage which is to be plate modulated. These values have been either computed [1] or obtained from published class C telephony operating conditions for the desired tube type.

The average audio power (W_a) in watts required to fully modulate this input power with sine-wave modulation is obtained as follows[2]:

$$\text{Required average audio power } W_a = \frac{\text{dc plate voltage } E_{bs} \times \text{dc plate current } I_{bs}}{1.7} \quad (1)$$

where E_{bs} is in volts and I_{bs} is in amperes.

The ac load resistance (R_a) in ohms presented to the modulation transformer secondary by the rf stage is given by

$$\text{AC load resistance } R_a = \frac{0.85\, E_{bs}}{I_{bs}} \quad (2)$$

Equations (1) and (2) allow for an efficiency factor chargeable to the modulation transformer and arbitrarily set at 85%. No specific allowance has been made for

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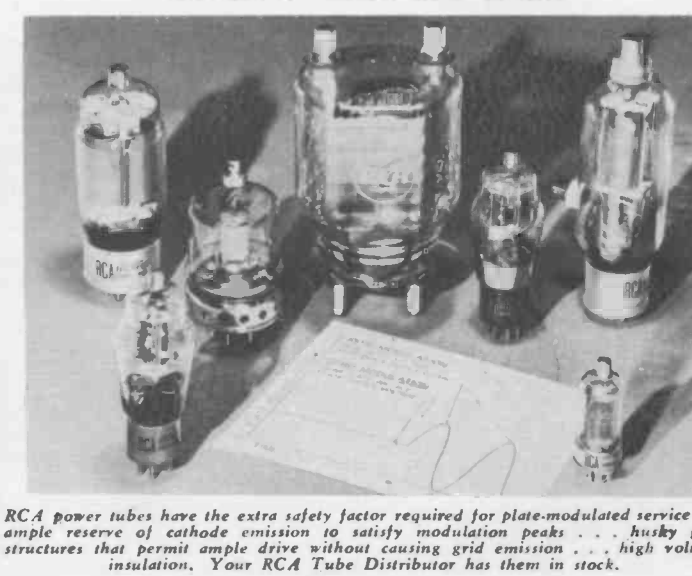
IT'S SAFETY FACTOR THAT COUNTS



RCA power tubes have the extra safety factor required for plate-modulated service . . . ample reserve of cathode emission to satisfy modulation peaks . . . husky grid structures that permit ample drive without causing grid emission . . . high voltage insulation. Your RCA Tube Distributor has them in stock.

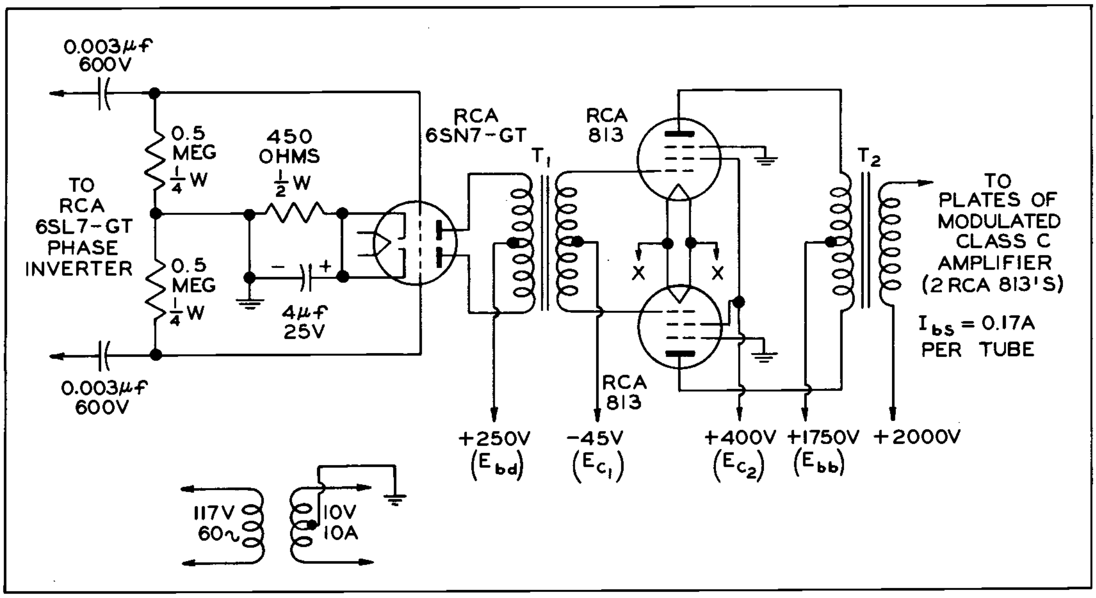


Figure 1. Modulator circuit designed from calculations given in text. It has not been built, and therefore, test data are not available.

Notes:
1) All power supplies returned to ground.
2) E_{c1} to be obtained from a source of good regulation (internal impedance equal to or less than 200 ohms).
3) The 250-volt supply may be obtained from a tap on bleeder for E_{c2} supply. Minimum bleeder current should be approximately 0.05 amperes.
4) T_1 = Driver Transformer—5-watt audio level—Total primary to ½ secondary turns ratio = 3.
5) T_2 = Modulation Transformer—400-watt audio level—one-half primary to total secondary turns ratio = 0.8.
6) E_{c2} and Ebb supplies should be adequately bypassed to ground for audio frequencies. Radio-frequency bypass capacitors at tube socket may be required under some conditions.

MODULATOR DESIGN

(Continued from Page 1, Column 4)

screen-modulation power which is usually negligible if a screen-voltage tap is available on the modulation transformer. If a dropping resistor is used to supply the screen with modulated voltage, the screen current per tube of the modulated stage should be added to I_{bs} before W_a and R_s are computed. It should be noted that satisfactory plate modulation of screen-grid tubes often results if the screen is fed from an unmodulated voltage source through an audio choke or a high resistance.

Design Procedure

Let us assume that the dc plate supply voltage for the modulator stage (E_{bb}) is fixed, and the design problem is to select suitable modulator tubes and a modulation transformer to meet the conditions imposed above. The following approximate relations will be used:

For E_{bb} in range from 400 to 750 volts	For E_{bb} in range from 1250 to 3500 volts	
$I_b = \dfrac{0.75\,W_a}{E_{bb}}$	$I'_b = \dfrac{0.71\,W_a}{E_{bb}}$	(3)
$W_p = 0.25\,W_a$	$W_p = 0.21\,W_a$	(4)
$W_{in} = 0.75\,W_a$	$W_{in} = 0.71\,W_a$	(5)
$R_{pp} = \dfrac{1.3\,E_{bb}^2}{W_a}$	$R_{pp} = \dfrac{1.7\,E_{bb}^2}{W_a}$	(6)

$$r = \sqrt{\frac{R_{pp}}{4R_s}} \quad (7)$$

In the above relations, I_b is the max.-signal dc plate current *per tube* in amperes, W_p is the max.-signal plate dissipation *per tube* in watts, W_{in} is the max.-signal dc power input per tube in watts, and W_a is the audio power output for *two tubes* (push-pull stage) also in watts, all for sine-wave modulation. R_{pp} is the plate-to-plate load resistance presented to the modulator tubes, and r is the turns ratio of the modulation transformer defined as

Modulation transformer turns ratio
$$r = \frac{\tfrac{1}{2}\text{ total number of primary turns}}{\text{number of secondary turns}} \quad (8)$$

It is assumed, of course, that the primary of the modulation transformer is center tapped and that the secondary feeds the class "C" rf stage to be plate modulated.

Modulator Tube Selection

Suitable modulator tubes (either screen-grid or triode types) may now be selected on the basis of maximum ratings[3] for either class AB_2 or class B audio service (or class C telegraphy ratings if audio ratings are not given) that are equal to or in excess of the values found from equations (3) to (6). It is evident from inspection of equations (6) and (7) that the selection of E_{bb}, R_s, and W_a automatically fixes the modulation transformer turns ratio, r. If a transformer having a different turns ratio is already available in the ham shack it will be necessary to change either one or all of the three quantities listed in order to make use of this transformer. If the turns ratio of the available modulation transformer is lower than the value given by equation (7), it is possible to operate the modulator tubes into a lower than optimum value of R_{pp}. However, unless E_{bb} is lowered also, this mode of operation is very inefficient and equations (3), (4), (5), and (6) are no longer valid. It should be noted that

Modulation transformer turns ratio
$$r = \sqrt{\frac{Z_p}{4Z_s}} \quad (7a)$$

where Z_p is the rated "impedance" of the total primary winding and Z_s is the rated "impedance" of the secondary winding.

After a suitable tube type has been selected, the published "Average Plate Characteristics" curves ("plate family") for this type should be used to determine suitable operating values. For screen-grid tubes a value of screen-grid voltage—and suppressor-grid voltage, if required—which can be readily obtained in the ham shack from a power source having good voltage regulation must be selected. A straight (load) line is drawn on the "plate family" curves connecting the point determined by "Plate Amperes" = 0 and "Plate Volts" = E_{bb} to the point determined by "Plate Volts" = 0 and "Plate Amperes" = I'_b where

$$I'_b = \frac{4E_{bb}}{R_{pp}} \quad (9)$$

The optimum value of grid-No. 1 bias may now be obtained from the relation

$$\text{Optimum grid bias } E_{c1} = -\frac{(e_1 i_2 - e_2 i_1)}{(i_1 - i_2)}, \quad (10)$$

where the values of e_1 and e_2 are convenient intermediate values of grid-No. 1 voltage taken from the intersection of the load line with the bias curves, and i_1 and i_2 are the corresponding plate currents. In this equation it is assumed that the "e" and "i" points chosen lie on a linear portion of the tube's dynamic transfer characteristic and that the plate current of the non-working tube of the push-pull connection is zero. For this reason, the values of "e" and "i" chosen for equation (10) should lie well up on the load line but should not include points near the "knee" of the curve where some non-linearity may usually be expected. The plate dissipation under zero-signal conditions (W_{po}) may now be checked. Proceeding vertically upwards from E_{bb} on the "plate family" curves, read the value of plate current I_{bo} at the value of E_{c1} computed from equation (10). Then,

$$\text{Zero-signal plate dissipation } W_{po} = E_{bb}\,I_{bo} \quad (11)$$

This value of W_{po} (zero-signal plate dissipation per tube) should not exceed approximately 1/3 to 1/2 of the maximum rated plate dissipation of the tube. If the value of E_{c1} found from equation (10) is not sufficiently negative to limit W_{po} to the desired value, it may be made more negative at the expense of only a slight increase in distortion at max.-signal levels; small-signal operation will produce larger amounts of distortion, but this mode of operation is generally of no consequence in modulator designs for voice communication. The peak af grid-No. 1-to-grid-No. 1 voltage (E_{gg}) in volts may be obtained from

$$\text{Peak af grid-No. 1-to-grid-No. 1 voltage } E_{gg} = 2\,(e_{gm} - E_{c1}) \quad (12)$$

where e_{gm} is the instantaneous grid voltage obtained from the "plate family" curves at the intersection of the load line with the knee of the curve. If the tube chosen is a filamentary type and if the "Aver-

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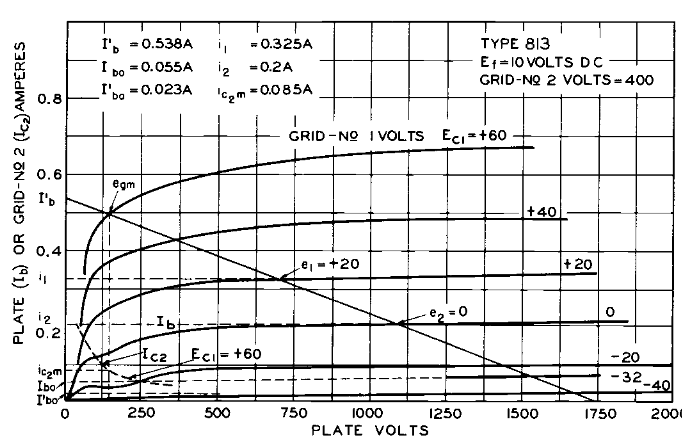

Figure 2. Average plate characteristics of the RCA-813.

MODULATOR DESIGN

(Continued from Page 2, Column 4)

age Plate Characteristics" curve is shown for a dc filament voltage (E_f), the grid bias value E_{c1} found from equation (10) should be made more negative by $\frac{E_f}{2}$ volts when the tube is used with an ac filament-voltage supply. This new value for E_{c1} should not be used in any of the calculations, however.

Driver Stage

A suitable driver stage and the turns ratio of the driver transformer may now be determined from the following considerations. If no current is drawn by grid No. 1 of the modulator tube, any conventional resistance-capacitance-coupled push-pull or phase-inverter voltage amplifier, comprising either triodes or pentodes, capable of supplying the required value of peak af grid-No. 1-to-grid-No. 1 voltage E_{gg} to the modulator circuit may be used.[4] If current is drawn by grid-No. 1 of the modulator tube, the following approximate relations are useful. For conventional low- and medium-mu triodes for the driver stage in push-pull class A or AB_1 connection

The driver transformer turns ratio $r_d =$

$$\frac{2.4E_{bd}}{E_{gg}} \qquad (13)$$

and

Driver tube max. allowable plate resistance

$$R_{pm} = \frac{r_d E_{bd}}{6.7 i_{gm}} \qquad (14)$$

where r_d is the driver transformer turns ratio and is defined as

$$r_d = \frac{\text{total number of primary turns}}{\frac{1}{2}\text{ number of secondary turns}} \qquad (15)$$

E_{bd} is the plate supply voltage of the driver stage, i_{gm} is the instantaneous grid current drawn by grid No. 1 of the modulator tube in amperes at the value of e_{gm} used in equation (12), and R_{pm} is the maximum allowable driver-tube plate resistance in ohms. Tubes with values of R_p higher than indicated by equation (14) may be used but somewhat higher distortion will result. For single-ended class A driver circuits using conventional low- and medium-mu triodes

$$r_d = \frac{1.2\ E_{bd}}{E_{gg}} \qquad (16)$$

Equations (14) and (15) also apply in this case. The power rating of the driver transformer should be adequate to handle at least the rated power output of the driver tube(s) in conventional class "A" (or AB_1 as the case may be), audio power-amplifier service.

The final value to be determined in computing tube operation is the screen-grid dissipation. Useful relations for approximating the value of average screen current (I_{c2}) in amperes and screen dissipation (W_{c2}) in watts at max.-signal levels are

Average screen current $I_{c2} = \frac{i_{c2m}}{4}$ (17)

Screen dissipation

$$W_{c2} = I_{c2}\, E_{c2} \qquad (18)$$

where i_{c2m} is the instantaneous value of screen current in amperes flowing when the instantaneous grid-No. 1 voltage is equal to e_{gm}, and E_{c2} is the dc screen voltage.

Modulation Transformer

Before proceeding with an example to illustrate the use of the relations given above, a brief discussion of modulation transformer "impedance" ratings may prove useful. Modulation transformers are usually rated in terms of primary

(Continued on Page 4, Column 1)

BATTERY VOLTOHMYST

(Continued from Page 1, Column 2)

RCA WV-65A Battery VoltOhmyst for that kind of work, and I'd like to nominate it for a permanent position in the screw-driver league. Let's have a look at some of the things this compact little battery-operated VoltOhmyst does for me.

DC Voltage Measurements

For measuring dc voltages, it's wonderful. The input resistance for all dc voltage scales (0-3 through 0-1000) is 11 megohms. This high value makes it possible to take voltage readings on even high-resistance circuits like avc lines and the control-grid circuits of a resistance-coupled audio amplifier. The insulated probe used for dc voltage measurements is shielded and contains a one-megohm isolating resistor which permits reading dc voltages at points such as the grid of a grid-leak self-biased oscillator where there is appreciable rf. The case of the meter is a good rf shield, so if the ground return is made to the outside of the box rather than through the pin jack normally used, dc voltage readings can be taken right next to a high-power plate tank with no error introduced by the rf field. Whenever it is necessary to make dc voltage measurements in the presence of heavy rf voltages, I pull out the "common" jack connector, and connect the ground return wire to the outside of the instrument case. I've used the Battery VoltOhmyst on my transmitters for 3.5, 14, 28, and 144 Mc, and have had no evidence of rf getting into the case at any of those frequencies.

By the way, the accessory RCA High-Voltage probe, WG-284, permits one to read up to 3000 volts dc full scale on the 30-volt position, 10,000 volts on the 100-volt position, and 30,000 volts on the 300-volt position. This probe gives an extremely high-resistance method of examining high dc voltages, and has come in mighty handy for work on my 14,000-volt kick-back television supply.

Some other places where this instrument has come in handy for reading voltages are as follows: bleeders and voltage dividers, grid-leaks, screen-dropping circuits, tube sockets, bias lines, and voltage regulator tube circuits.

DC Measurements

The dc current range of the Battery VoltOhmyst will handle most of the jobs a ham encounters. All scales, from the 0-3 milliampere to the 0-10 ampere settings, operate directly through the meter and do not require battery current. In the dc current-measuring position, the VoltOhmyst case is electrically isolated from the test leads. This feature permits current measurements to be made in high-voltage circuits without danger of shock from the meter case. For extra safety, the case can be grounded.

AC Voltage Measurements

The ac voltage scales on the Battery VoltOhmyst are also operated without the use of the internal battery supply. For these measurements also, the case is isolated electrically from the test leads. The sensitivity of the meter is 1000 ohms per volt. Measurements of power-transformer voltages, filament supplies, low-impedance audio circuits, and low-frequency rf potentials can readily be made.

For rf-voltage measurements and for low-frequency readings in high-impedance circuits, accessory RCA Crystal Probe, WG-263 is available. The probe connector goes right on the dc fitting, and the dc scales are used; they give readings of some values in the convenient RMS volts. The ac voltage sensitivity of the Battery VoltOhmyst is increased markedly by the use of this accessory, which makes it possible to do such things as track audio signals through resistance-coupled amplifiers and follow rf signals through the multiplier stages of transmitters.

Resistance Measurements

Because of the amplification obtained with the vacuum tube bridge circuit when the ohm scales are used, a wide range of resistance readings, from 0.1 ohm to 1000 megohms, is available. Consequently, the VoltOhmyst is an extremely versatile tool for checking resistor values when equipment is being built or repaired. Leakage paths in wiring can be checked, and leakage in transformers, sockets, capacitors, and other components can be found readily. If leakage paths or resistances above 1000 megohms are to be studied, use of the voltage probe and an external dc supply makes it possible to measure resistances in the order of tens-of-thousands of megohms.

Just recently my 10-meter transmitter went off the air during a QSO. The HV plate-supply fuse blew. I checked the plate line with the VoltOhmyst expecting to find a dead short, but the only evidence of a defect I could find was 50 megohms of leakage. I tracked this leakage with the meter to a lead-through bushing. There a fire-charred path had formed in the insulation. Of course I replaced the bushing and got the rig back on the air, but later I checked the defective part to see what had happened. Up to 400 volts, that leakage path stayed 50 megohms, but above 400 the charred path would arc through and produce a dead short. The VoltOhmyst had done a quick, sweet job in locating that screwball defect which would not have produced even the slightest deflection on an ordinary non-electronic volt-ohm-multiammeter.

Portability

Another good feature of the Battery VoltOhmyst is its portability. When you move the instrument around on the bench, or place it in a convenient spot at the transmitter or receiver, you don't have to juggle a power line or look for an extension cord, or reposition the meter to make measurements. The device is all set to go wherever it is put in either a vertical or horizontal position. For the boys with the mobile rigs and the field-day set-ups, the Battery VoltOhmyst comes right off the bench in the shack into the great outdoors and packs along as a sensitive, accurate, compact servicing tool that can be counted on in any emergency.

Specifications of the WV-65A Battery VoltOhmyst

DC Voltmeter:	
Six Ranges	0-3, 0-10, 0-30, 0-100, 0-300, 0-1000 volts
Input Resistance	11 megohms constant for all ranges
Sensitivity (max.)	3.7 megohms per volt on 3-volt range
AC Voltmeter:	
Five Ranges	0-10, 0-30, 0-100, 0-300, 0-1000 volts
Sensitivity	1000 ohms per volt
Ohmmeter:	
Six Ranges	0-1000, 0-10,000, 0-100,000 ohms, 0-1, 0-10, 0-1000 megohms
DC Ammeter:	
Six Ranges	0-3, 0-10, 0-30, 0-100, 0-300 milliamp. and 0-10 amp.
Voltage Drop	450 mv. for full scale deflection
Power Supply:	
Batteries	Four 1½ volt RCA-VS036, Two 45 volt RCA-VS055
Tube Complement	2 RCA-1C5GT, 1 GE-NE51
Finish:	
Panel	Etched brush chrome
Case	Gray wrinkle
Dimensions	9½" high, 6¼" wide, 5½" deep
Weight	9 lbs. (incl. batteries)

MODULATOR DESIGN

(Continued from Page 3, Column 2)

and secondary "impedance" and audio power (or more properly KVA) capability. The peak ac voltage (E_{pm}) that may be applied to ½ of the modulation transformer primary is

Peak ac voltage across primary $E_{pm} =$

$$\sqrt{\frac{W_t Z_{pm}}{2}} \qquad (19)$$

where Z_{pm} is the maximum impedance rating of the entire primary in ohms and W_t is the rated audio-power-handling capability of the transformer in watts. Similarly, the peak ac voltage (E_{sm}) permissible across the transformer secondary winding (equal to the dc plate voltage of the plate-modulated rf amplifier for 100% modulation) may be found from

Peak ac voltage across secondary $E_{sm} =$

$$\sqrt{2 W_t Z_{sm}} \qquad (20)$$

where Z_{sm} is the maximum secondary-impedance rating of the transformer. Of course, any voltage (and impedance) lower than these maximum rated values may be used. However, in order not to exceed the ac current ratings implied in the audio power and impedance ratings of a transformer having a fixed turns ratio, the power-handling capability of a transformer should be reduced approximately in accordance with the relation

$$W'_t = \frac{W_t R_s}{Z_{sm}} \qquad (21)$$

where R_s (as defined previously for equation (2)) is *less* than Z_{sm} and W'_t is the reduced audio-power-handling capability of the transformer. The dc current ratings of both primary and secondary windings are assumed to remain constant when the transformer is operated at other than rated impedance levels, although a reduction in primary dc current may allow some increase in ac current (allowing W'_t as given in equation (21) to be increased somewhat) and a reduction in secondary dc current may allow a slight increase in both E_{sm} (as given in equation (20)) and W'_t. For modulation transformers of the "multimatch" type it is assumed (unless information to the contrary is published by the manufacturer) that full power-handling capability has been preserved by proper design for all rated impedance values.

Example

As an example, let us assume that the class "C" rf amplifier to be modulated is a push-pull circuit using 2 RCA-813's with a dc plate voltage (E_{bs}) of 2000 volts and a dc plate current (I_{bs}) of 0.17 amperes for each tube or 0.34 amperes for both. From equation (1), we obtain

Required average audio power $W_a =$

$$\frac{E_{bs} I_{bs}}{1.7} = \frac{(2000)\ 0.34}{1.7} = 400 \text{ watts}$$

From equation (2), we obtain

AC load resistance $R_s =$

$$\frac{0.85\ E_{bs}}{I_{bs}} = \frac{0.85\ (2000)}{0.340} = 5000 \text{ ohms}$$

If we assume that it is desired to operate the modulator from a 1750-volt supply, equations (3) to (5) yield

Max.-signal dc plate current per tube $I_b =$

$$\frac{0.71\ W_a}{E_{bb}} = \frac{0.71\ (400)}{1750} = 0.162 \text{ amperes}$$

Max.-signal plate dissipation per tube $W_p =$

$$0.21\ W_a = 0.21\ (400) = 82 \text{ watts}$$

Max.-signal dc power input per tube $W_{in} =$

$$0.71\ W_a = 0.71\ (400) = 284 \text{ watts}$$

Inspection of the maximum ratings in the technical data[5] for power tubes shows that either the RCA-813 or the RCA-810 types will easily fulfill all requirements. If a 400-volt screen supply having good regulation is available, the 813 may be chosen to advantage, because this choice will ease the driver stage requirements somewhat in comparison to those required for the RCA-810. Equations (6) and (7) give us the required modulation-transformer impedance and turns ratio ratings.

Plate-to-plate load resistance $R_{pp} =$

$$\frac{1.7\ E_{bb}^2}{W_a} = \frac{1.7\ (1750)^2}{400} = 13{,}000 \text{ ohms}$$

Turns ratio of modulation transformer $r =$

$$\sqrt{\frac{R_{pp}}{4R_s}} = \sqrt{\frac{13{,}000}{4\ (5000)}} = 0.806$$

The load line can now be drawn on the curve of "Average Plate Characteristics" shown in Fig. 2 after I'_b is obtained by means of equation (9) as follows

$$I'_b = \frac{4E_{bb}}{R_{pp}} = \frac{4\ (1750)}{13{,}000} = 0.538 \text{ amperes}$$

From equation (10) after points e_1 and e_2 have been selected, we obtained

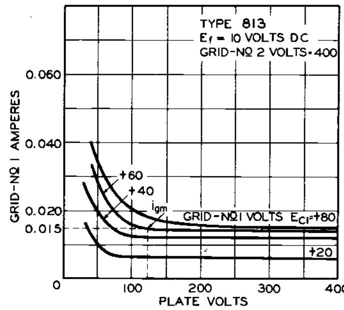

Figure 3. Grid characteristics of the RCA-813.

Optimum grid bias $E_{c1} = -\left(\frac{e_1 i_2 - e_2 i_1}{i_1 - i_2}\right)$

$$= -\left(\frac{20\ (0.2)\ -0\ (0.325)}{0.325\ -0.2}\right) = -\frac{4}{0.125} = -32 \text{ volts}$$

The value of I_{bo} at a grid bias of −32 volts is obtained from the family of average plate characteristics and then, from equation (11), we determine

Zero-signal plate dissipation $W_{po} =$

$$E_{bb} I_{bo} = (1750)\ (0.055) = 96 \text{ watts}$$

Because this dissipation value is in excess of ½ the maximum plate-dissipation rating; that is, greater than $\frac{125}{2}$ or 63 watts, a higher grid bias must be chosen. If a grid bias of −40 volts is used, the zero-signal plate dissipation is

$$W_{po} = E_{bb} I_{bo} = (1750)\ (0.023) = 40 \text{ watts}$$

which is a satisfactory value.

From equation (12), we can determine

Peak af grid-No. 1-to-grid-No. 1 voltage $E_{gg} = 2\ [e_{gm} - E_{c1}] =$

$$2\ [60 - (-40)] = 200 \text{ volts}$$

For ac filament operation, an actual bias of −45 volts is required because the average plate characteristics were taken with a dc filament power supply of 10 volts.

If we assume that a push-pull driver stage having a plate supply voltage (E_{bd}) of 250 volts would be most desirable, then from equation (13) we obtain

Driver transformer turns ratio $r_d =$

$$\frac{2.4\ E_{bd}}{E_{gg}} = \frac{2.4\ (250)}{200} = 3$$

From Fig. 3, at the value of instantaneous grid-No. 1 voltage obtained from the plate family curves at the intersection of the load line with the knee of the curve, $e_{gm} = 60$ volts. At a plate voltage corresponding to the intersection of the load line and the curve of $e_{gm} = 60$, the value of instantaneous grid-No. 1 current (i_{gm}) is 0.015 amperes.

Hence, from equation (14) the maximum allowable plate resistance of the driver tube (R_{pm}) is given by

$$R_{pm} = \frac{r_d\ E_{bd}}{6.7\ i_{gm}} = \frac{3\ (250)}{6.7\ (0.015)} = 7460 \text{ ohms}$$

An RCA 6SN7-GT in push-pull class "A" connection will meet the requirements for a driver tube. From Fig. 2 the instantaneous screen current (i_{c2m}) is found to be 0.085 amperes.

From equations (17) and (18), we obtain

Average screen current $I_{c2} =$

$$\frac{i_{c2m}}{4} = \frac{0.085}{4} = 0.021 \text{ amperes}$$

Screen dissipation $W_{c2} =$

$$E_{c2}\ I_{c2} = 400\ (0.021) = 8.5 \text{ watts}$$

This value is well within the ratings for screen power input for the RCA 813. All the pertinent design information for the modulator is given in Table I. Fig. 1. is a typical circuit based on these values.

TABLE I
AUDIO MODULATOR USING 2 RCA-813's IN CLASS AB_2

Values are for 2 tubes

DC Plate Voltage	1750 volts
DC Grid- No. 3 Voltage	0 volts
DC Grid- No. 2 Voltage	400 volts
DC Grid- No. 1 Voltage*	−45 volts
Peak AF Grid- No. 1 to Grid- No. 1 Voltage	200 volts
Zero-Signal DC Plate Current	0.046 amperes
Max.-Signal DC Plate Current	0.324 amperes
Max.-Signal DC Screen Current	0.042 amperes
Effective Load Resistance (Plate-to-plate)	13,000 ohms
Max.-Signal Power Output	400 watts
Output Transformer Turns Ratio, r	0.806
Driver Transformer Turns Ratio, r_d	3
Driver Tube	6SN7-GT (or equivalent)

* For AC filament operation

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FOOTNOTES

1. "Simplifying the Calculation of Transmitting Triode Performance" by E. E. Spitzer, "Ham Tips". Nov.-Dec. 1948.
2. Although it is true that considerably less average audio power than the value of Wa given above is required for voice modulation, the peak power capability of the modulator must be adequate if severe distortion at the voice peaks is to be avoided. It is necessary, therefore, to compute the modulator circuit constants for sine-wave signal conditions. Somewhat lower values of plate dissipation than those calculated later will result if voice modulation is used exclusively and this fact may therefore be considered in selecting suitable modulator tubes on the basis of their maximum plate dissipation rating (and, incidentally, in choosing the dc current rating of the modulator plate supply). It is well to remember, however, that if the modulator tubes are chosen with a plate dissipation rating that is only "just sufficient" for voice modulation, a sustained whistle into the "mike" or several seconds of rf, audio circuit, or acoustical feedback, will produce excessive plate dissipation and may result in tube failure.
3. See footnote 2.
4. See pages 196ff in RCA Receiving Tube Manual, RC-15.
5. RCA Tube Handbook HB-3; Headliners for Hams, HAM-103.