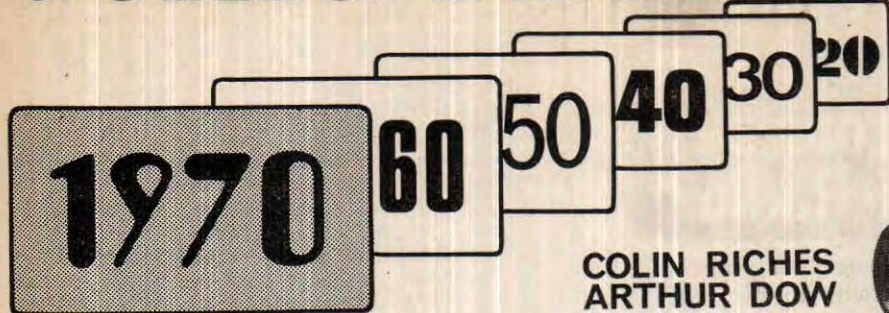
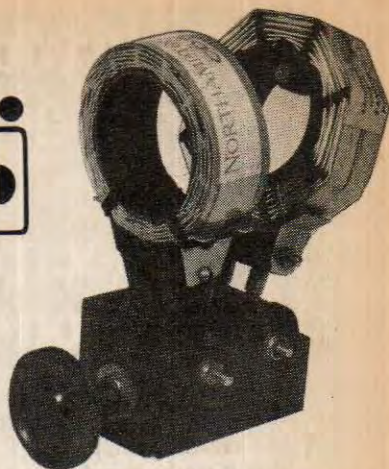


GOING BACK...



COLIN RICHES
ARTHUR DOW



MR. J. TURNER tells us that he managed to purchase a Marconiphone model V2 receiver at a local auction. He has restored it to working order and it performs very well—especially on long waves. Tuning is accomplished by sliding in various ebonite slabs—each covering a different range. Each contains an “embedded” coil which is tuned by copper “spades.” There is a “regenerator unit” which does not seem to fulfil any useful purpose and Mr. Turner would like to hear from any readers who can comment on this. The valves are of the D.E.R. type (dull emitters). The h.t. supply is 90V and l.t. 3V. The set still bears its original transfers and is in very good condition throughout. Inside the lid there is an ivory plate giving the serial number of the set as “installation no. S/A 2535.

Mr. Turner would like any information on this set that readers could supply.

We found a reference to the V2 in a catalogue kindly lent to us by Dr. Brodribb—another vintage radio collector. It reads: “The Marconiphone V2 gives excellent results as a long-range instrument. By its reflex circuit, two valves do the work of three. It holds a remarkable record of results from overseas stations, including America. Cost of upkeep is comparatively negligible, and is perfectly simple to operate.”

In c1926 the V2 could be obtained from Upfield and Sons (Motors) at Hastings, for the sum of £10.5s.

The receiver complete with accessories, including two D.E.R. valves cost £14.11s.2d and a dry cell combination including two D.E.3. valves cost £14.13s.8d. There was also a Marconi royalty of £1.5s to pay.

Our old friend Chris Petsikopoulos from Greece tells us he has recently returned from holiday and writes:

“During that time I had the opportunity to make a great search which brought great finds, the most important of all was a French radio-set of the era 1917-1918, made by “DUCRETET”, Paris, providing a 100 watt spark Transmitter and crystal detector receiver connected in a common tuning circuit through a change-over switch.

The tuning circuit consists of an Oudine coil with a slider for the aerial and a variable capacitor used only for reception, this meaning that the transmitter works on a standard wave length (450m). The whole unit is housed in a compact wooden case 17 x 12 inches, and is in nice condition. In the case are housed the tuning coil, variable capacitor, send-receive switch, mica condenser, high tension coil with interrupter, and a 10 amp. meter. Also connectors for key and headphones. On top of the set are aerial-earth connectors, crystal detector, and spark-gap. Connectors for 12V d.c. are on the right side of the case.

Connecting a 12V battery, a 100 foot aerial and an earth, the set was able to work. The aerial was

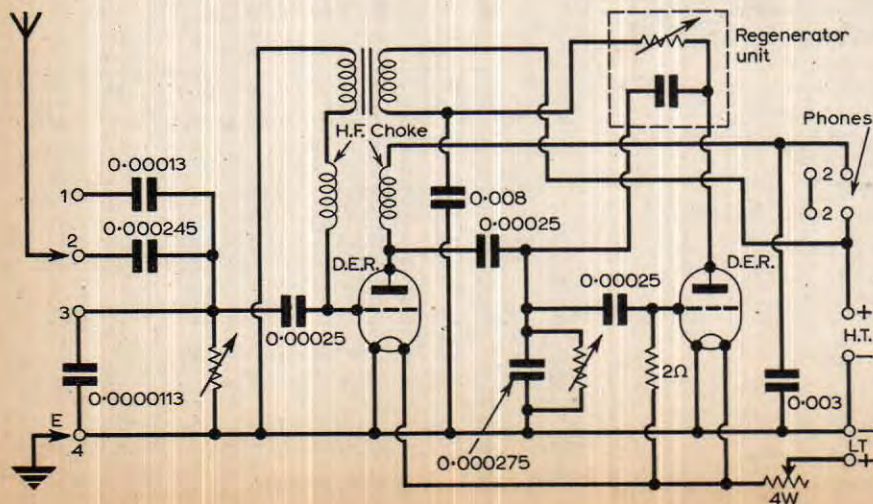
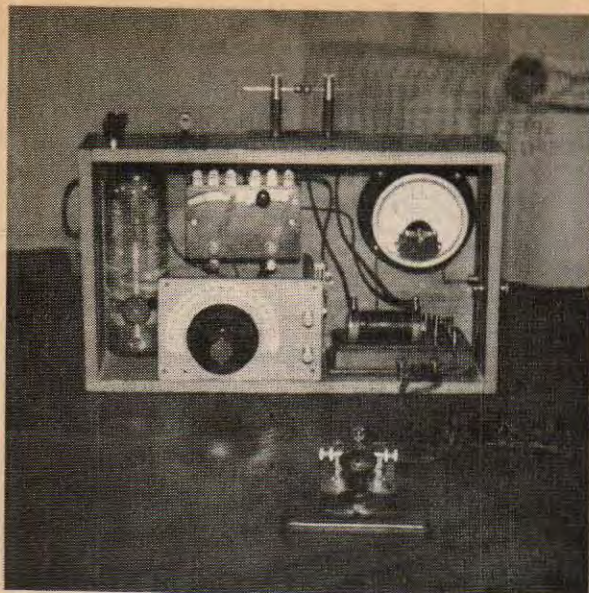


Fig. 1: The circuit of the Marconi V2 receiver re-drawn from the information supplied by Mr. J. Turner.



Chris Petsikopoulos' "Ducretet" Tx/Rx.



The "Thomson-Houston" receiver.

tuned with the slider for maximum current, 5-6 amp., giving a nice audible buzzing signal in a range of about 5-8 miles depending on the position of the car which was used for checking the range. The receiver has a range from 250-600m and the reception of several broadcasting stations was able with good volume, the only difficulty being in finding a sensitive position on the crystal although the change-over switch provides a third position where the tuning circuit is off and the buzzing of the interrupter is then used to adjust the detector.

Shown are pictures of the above set and of a 1922 two valve Heterodyne made by "Thomson-Houston", Paris, valves are type R-5 of "La Radiotechnique" still working. The set is accompanied with a band switching frame aerial covering a wave length from 400m to 3,000m in three ranges."

Mr. H. E. Hunt, 68 Oundle Road, Thrapston, Northants, quotes some prices he noticed for making one's own components.

"Your feature "Going Back" has caused me to reach for Vol. IV of "The Amateur Mechanic" whose mildewed covers contain the inspiration that set me building my first "Wireless Telegraph" set (1920-21).

There is no "Components List" because there were no components in those days but a "Specification of Materials" and I quote that portion for the variable condenser only:—

	s.	d.
1 sq. ft of 1/4 inch teak (to make box)	6	
1 sq. ft. of thin sheet zinc	2	
2 small nuts and bolts	2	
1 knob (off rubber stamp or screwdriver)	-	
2 small brass terminals	3	
8 ins. electric light flexible wire	2	
6 old quarter plate negatives	-	

Total cost 1 3

(The last item was for di-electric, not P.C.Bs.) These were the days of ebonite, teak, brass turning and 2lb. soldering irons (gas heated).

Such was the success of this "Long Distance Receiver"—Poldhu, Eiffel Tower and numerous spark transmitters were received—using a 6ft. twin spreader aerial, 50ft. long and 30ft. high, that I was able to obtain parental financial backing (30/-) to build a single valve receiver.

The valve was an ungettered one of Dutch manufacture (15/-) which not only furnished sufficient light to work to but formed the nucleus of a receiver that occupied one half of the work bench.

But what a new world it opened up, the Hague concerts on Sundays, and England's first and unsurpassed comper P. P. Eckersley from 2.MT. at Writtle, Essex on Tuesday evenings.

There were also at this time some excellent telephony transmissions from local Northampton amateurs (2.TV.-5XH-5XG).

I started using the d.c. mains for h.t. long before eliminators were on the market, except that one had to put up with a complete loss of signals every time a tram passed 200 yards away.

One could write a book on the early days of amateur "wireless" but for myself I must hurry off to change an under-rated thyristor in the speed control of my wheel chair (or something like that). Tempus fugit!!

FUTURE PLANS

Let us tell you why you should know about some of our future plans in *Practical Wireless*.

First, our autumn issues are being planned as the best yet; secondly, we will be doing what no other magazine has ever done before; thirdly, if you don't find out about these and order your copies in advance, your newsagent is very likely to sell out before you get there.

Naturally, we cannot tell you everything now, but we can tell you what to look for next month, and in the following issues. Want to know more? Then keep your eyes on our "Leader" page and turn to pages 320, 334, 335 and 350 for further details in this issue.