



Emerson Model 455

Country of origin:
USA

DATA SUMMARY

Organisation: SOE

Design/Manufacturer: Emerson Radio and Phonograph Corporation, New York.

Year of Introduction: Late 1941.

Purpose: Commercial radio issued to the French resistance for listening to BBC broadcasts.

Circuit Features: Superheterodyne with mixer/oscillator, IF stage, detector/AVC/1st AF stage and AF output.

Frequency Coverage: 550kHz to 1600kHz.

Intermediate Frequency: 455kHz.

AF Output: Unknown.

Valves: 1R5, 1T4, 1S5, 3S4.

Power Supply: 1.5V LT (Eveready No. 950) and 67.5V HT (Eveready No. 467) dry batteries.

Consumption: LT 250mA and HT 8mA.

Size (cm): Height 9½, length 25.4, width 13½.

Weight (kg): 1.665 kg empty and 2.06 kg with batteries.

Antenna: Loop aerial inside the top cover.

Remarks

The Emerson Model 455 was a miniature dry battery operated medium wave broadcast receiver produced in the USA by Emerson Radio and Phonograph Corporation in late 1941. The receiver chassis was built into an attractive wooden 'Art Deco' cabinet (sometimes referred to as 'jewel-case radio'), manufactured by the Ingraham Company. The set was automatically switched on when the hinged top cover was lifted. A working instructions chart was attached to the bottom cover plate. Being an expensive high end commercial model it may be surprising that this radio receiver was issued to the French resistance. But along with the RCA Victor Model BP-10 it was probably the only alternative and readily available miniature battery operated receiver pending the production of the MCR1.

The first Model 455 radios were delivered in France probably in late 1942, especially in the Marne area. They were also issued to parachuted agents because of its small size. Jacques Brunshwig, alias 'Bordier', 'Perign' or 'Catheau', carried a Model 455 on his jump on 31 March 1944 at drop zone 'Lace (Dentelle)' in the Loir et Cher. One of the parachute delivered Model 455 receivers can be seen in the 'Museum of the Order of the Liberation' in Paris. It was also shown in TV serial 'Now it can be told'.

At the time of compiling this Supplement chapter no circuit diagram and further technical details had been found.

References:

- Historical information courtesy **Eric Pierret, France.**
- Photos: **Stan Feldman** via <http://www.radioattic.com>



General view of Model 455 with its top cover closed, much resembling a jewel case (above) and internal view of the chassis with bottom cover detached (right).



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