

Merkur

Country of origin:
Czechoslovakia

DATA SUMMARY

Organisation: ŠTB - Štátna bezpečnosť (Secret State Police) and Správa 1 - rozviedka (Government, Department 1, espionage).

Design/Manufacturer: Správa 6 - spojovacia technika (Government, Department 6, communication technics).

Year of Introduction: Mid 1960s.

Purpose: Agents.

Receiver:

Circuit Features: Mix, Osc, IF, Det, 2x AF, BFO, Calibrator. (AM R/T-MCW, FSK and CW)

Frequency Coverage: 4-8 or 8-16MHz in a single range.

Intermediate Frequency: Believed 468kHz.

Transistor types: Unknown.

Power Supply: 9V from Sirius III power unit.

Size (cm): Height 6, Length 14.8, Width 9.9.

Accessories: Crystal earpiece, power connector.

Remarks

The 'Merkur' was a fully transistorised miniature shortwave receiver, designed and produced about 1965 (known as project number TI 534) in Czechoslovakia by Správa 6 - spojovacia technika 1. It was primarily developed for use with the 'Sirius III' transmitter.

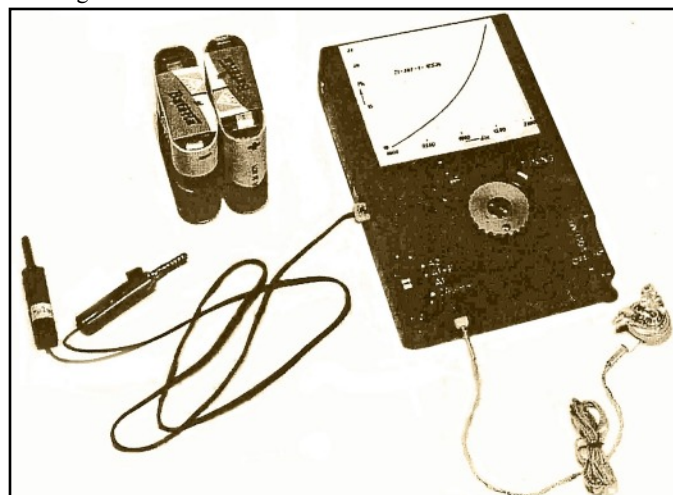
As the Merkur had no band-switching, two variations were produced with a different frequency coverage: 4-8MHz and 8-16MHz.

The tuning scale of the Merkur was divided into 100 equal gradations, with an individual calibrated tuning graph attached to the front panel. The crystal controlled calibrator provided check points on every 500kHz (1MHz for the 8-16MHz version) point on the dial.

Noted is a stand alone receiver with a similar appearance to the Merkur, but without the 9-point plug fitted on the front panel. No further details are yet known; it is possible that this receiver had a different designation.



Prototype or earlier version of the Merkur receiver with project number TI 534-P, used with the Sirius III. The tuning graph of the receiver in this picture is missing. See also the Sirius III in Chapter 9.



A stand alone receiver having a similar appearance to the Merkur powered by two in series connected 4½V batteries. It was mentioned as used with the Sirius III transmitter.

References:

- Photograph and general (technical) information was kindly provided by Miro Hornik, OM3CU, Slovak Republic.
- More information on Miro's website: www.om3cu.sk
- Colour photographs courtesy Detlev Vreisleben, Germany. Photo on top taken from collection Immo Hahn, DJ9CI, Germany.