



Clandestine Midget Receivers - 1

Country of origin: Holland

DATA SUMMARY

Design/Manufacturer: Radio amateur.
Year of Introduction: Mid- to the end of WW2.
Purpose: Listening to BBC broadcasts on 200kHz (1500M).
Circuit Features: TRF with reaction.
Frequency Coverage: Fixed 200kHz (1500meter).
AF output: High impedance headphones.
Valve: B415 or equivalent triode.
Power Supply: 4V accumulator or 4½V flashlight battery.
Size (cm): Height 2, Length 10½, Width 5.
Weight: 98 gram. (Dimensions and weight of cigar box set.)

Remarks

In the German occupied countries during WW2 it was forbidden to listen to Allied radio broadcasts and eventually all broadcast receivers in these countries were confiscated. As a substitute small and easy to conceal receivers were constructed by many amateurs. On this page is depicted three versions of a simple one-valve receiver design: built in a tin cigar box, a small wooden cube, and in a matchbox. Based on the same design, using a B415 or similar triode valve and a few small parts, powered by just 4 volt, it was tuned to 1500 meter for listening to the BBC long-wave broadcast transmitter. The receivers on this page were built by a Dutch radio amateur M.P.Rooth, PA0MPR, from Rotterdam.



Wooden cube version of the midget receiver. Note the small handle on the side for reaction control.

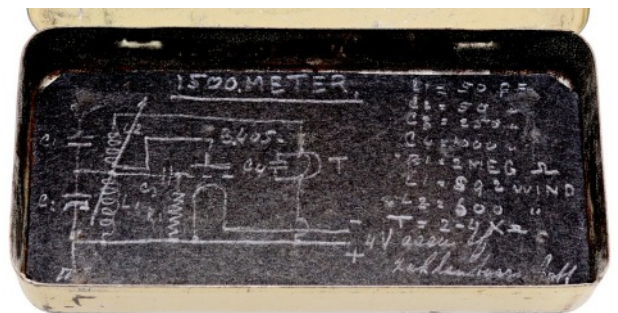


Internal view of tin cigar box midget receiver (above). Note the rectangular tuning coil and adjustable reaction coil on top. Fine tuning was by an improvised capacitor, comprising two insulated copper plates which can be seen above the coils.



Even a matchbox offered enough space to house all the parts for this version of the midget receiver. Note the same type of tuning coil and adjustable reaction coil as used in the tin cigar box.

A pencil drawn circuit diagram of the receiver was glued on the inside bottom of the tin box (below).



References:

- Information and photographs from the collection of the Amateur Radio Museum Jan Corver, Budel, Holland.
- See also <http://www.jancorver.org>