

Grille  
Country of origin:  
Germany W

**DATA SUMMARY**

**Organisation:** Bundesnachrichtendienst, W. Germany.  
**Design/Manufacturer:** Unknown.  
**Year of Introduction:** Estimated late 1950s/early 60s.  
**Purpose:** Reception and recording of 3cm (X band) and 10cm (S band) pulse radar signals by agents.  
**Power Supply:** 3V dry battery.  
**Size (cm):** Height 10.5, Length 12, Width 3.5  
**Accessories:** Earphone, 3cm and 10cm aerial assemblies with diode detector, cable to aerial assembly, spare recorder cassettes and 3V batteries.

**REMARKS**

‘Grille’ was issued by the Bundesnachrichtendienst to agents operating in the GDR for locating and recording signals from pulse radar systems. It may be speculated that the sound produced by a Grille (German for Cricket), quite similar to that of detected pulse radar signals, led to this name. The set was comprised of a miniature battery operated transistorised tape recorder and two directional aerial assemblies, each with a microwave diode detector for receiving 3cm and 10cm radar signals. The ¼ inch standard magnetic tape was held in a small cassette which would be sent back for investigation after a successful operation. The recorded information on the tape was the PRF (pulse recurrence frequency) and speed of rotation of the radar aerial (hence the requirement of a constant speed drive motor). In addition to the recordings came the agent’s personal observation of the frequency band (3cm or 10cm aerial assembly used during recording) and location of the radar site (if in view), or the approximate direction to the radar site at the point of observation.



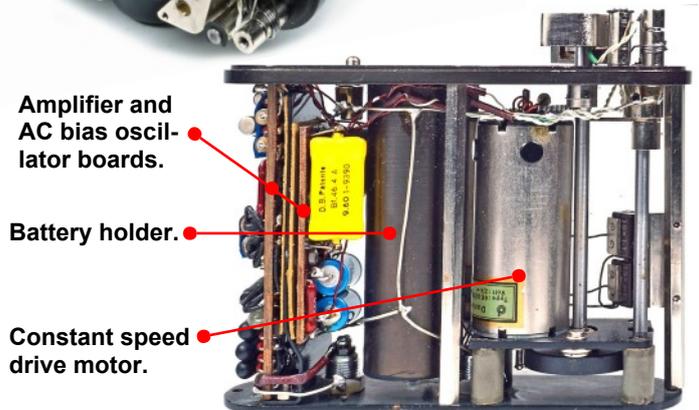
Top view of the recorder with cassette cover opened.



Top and side view of the tape recorder with covers detached.



Tape cassette (left) and recorder. A 3V dry battery fitted into the hole in the centre.



Amplifier and AC bias oscillator boards.  
 Battery holder.  
 Constant speed drive motor.

**References:**

- Colour photographs courtesy Roland Schellin, Germany.
- B/W photograph and information kindly provided by Detlev Vreisleben, DC7KG, Germany.