



Replica of Kričač build in 2015 by Janez Červek.

Kričač Country of origin: Slovenia.

DATA SUMMARY

Organisation: Slovenian partisans in WW2.

Design/Manufacturer: Radijski center OF.

Year of Introduction: 1941.

Purpose: Propaganda transmitter.

Transmitter:

Circuit features: MO, RF power amplifier.

Frequency coverage: 6-10 MHz.

Valves: 80, 6J5, 6V6, 6L6, 6L6.

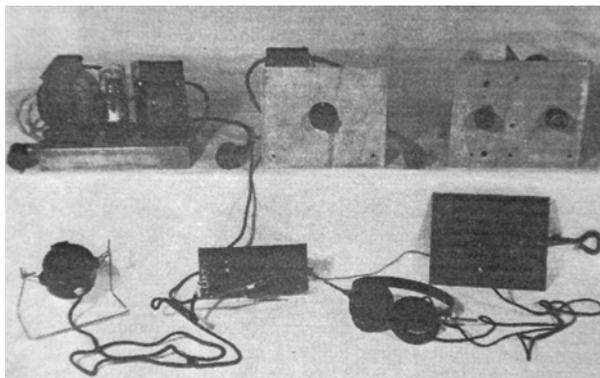
RF output: 6W.

Power Supply: 220 AC mains. Output 400V DC and 6.3V AC; power consumption 50W.

Size (cm): Height 18, Length 13, Width 16 (each of the three units).

Weight: 7kg.

Accessories: Microphone, headphones, aerial wire, earth lead, interconnection cables.



A replica of Kričač made in 1976 by the Institute Josef Stefan in Ljubljana, based on the data and instructions from Milan Osredkar, one of the constructors and operators of the station in 1941. This replica is on display in the Museum of Modern History in Ljubljana.

References:

- Photographs, scans, text and technical details for this chapter were kindly provided by Janez Červek, S57J, Slovenia.
- For much more detailed information and the full story of Kričač, see <http://www.s57j.com>
- '99d - Radiotehnika v slovenskem osvobodil boju', written by Vida Tom in 1976/77.

The story of Kričač By Janez Červek, Slovenia.

Kričač (English translation: shouter or screamer) was a propaganda transmitter operated by OF (Osvobodilna Fronta. English translation: Liberation Front) in the capital Ljubljana. The transmitter was constructed in the autumn of 1941 and started broadcasting on 17 November 1941, continuing transmission on the same time, initially on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, until April 1942. The crew of the station consisted of a technician, program managers and an announcer. For safety the transmissions were held each time from a different location. The transmitter was constructed in three small units: transmitter, modulator and power unit, which made it easy to handle, transport and conceal. They were brought from one location to the next, carried in suitcases and shopping baskets.

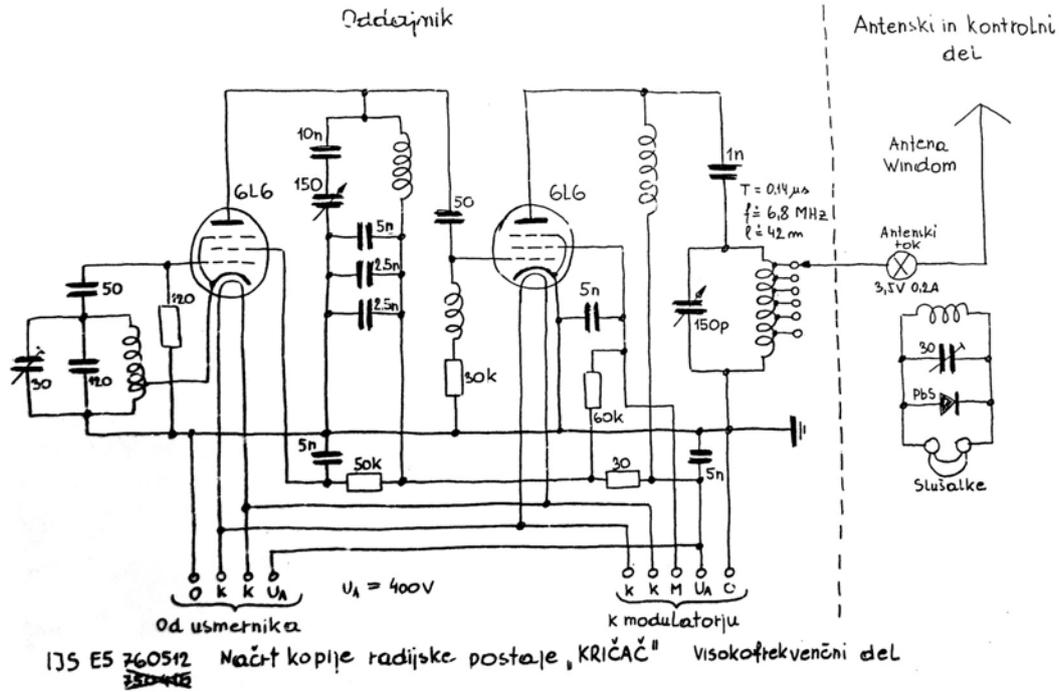
Needless to say that the Italian occupation force put in every effort to locate the station and capture its crew. A first attempt was the setup of 25 radio receivers spread all over the city, reporting the signal strength of Kričač to their headquarters via telephone lines. After this ill fated attempt, parts of the public electric mains were switched off in February 1942. This was, however, soon nullified by powering the transmitter from accumulators. Other attempts such as unexpected raids and road blocks to prevent the transport of the transmitter were even less successful. At the end of February 1942 the Italians brought in a number of radio direction finders, but due to technical issues this appeared to be a difficult task.

After months of unsuccessful searching for Kričač, on 14 March 1942 the Italians eventually decided to confiscate all the broadcast receivers in Ljubljana, which was an easy task as each receiver was registered. As there were no more listeners, the station eventually ceased broadcasting on the 5th of April 1942.

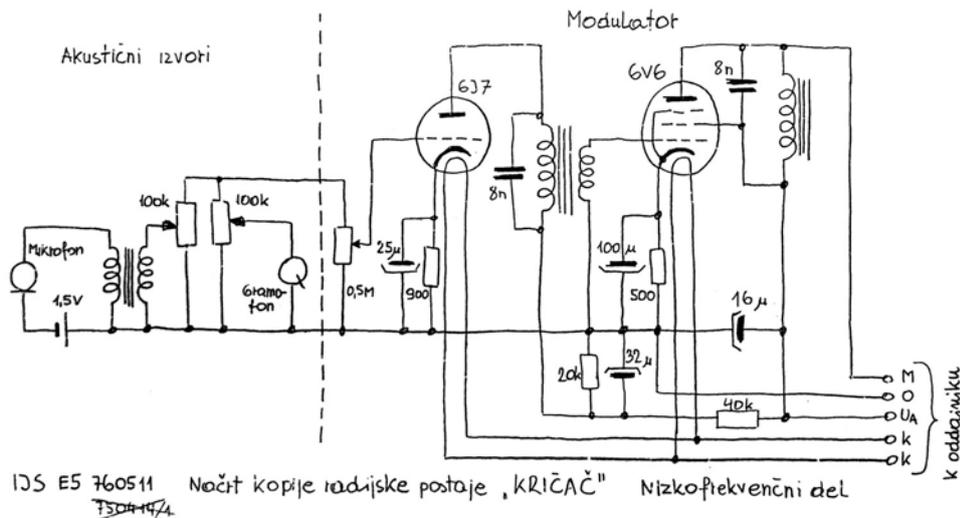
The transmitter was handed over to the Partisan Units, where it was modified several times, depending on its deployment. A member of the station crew, initially courier of the transmitter to other locations, was Vida Tom, code name Jelka, the author of the book '99d Radio techniques in Slovenian liberation struggle'.



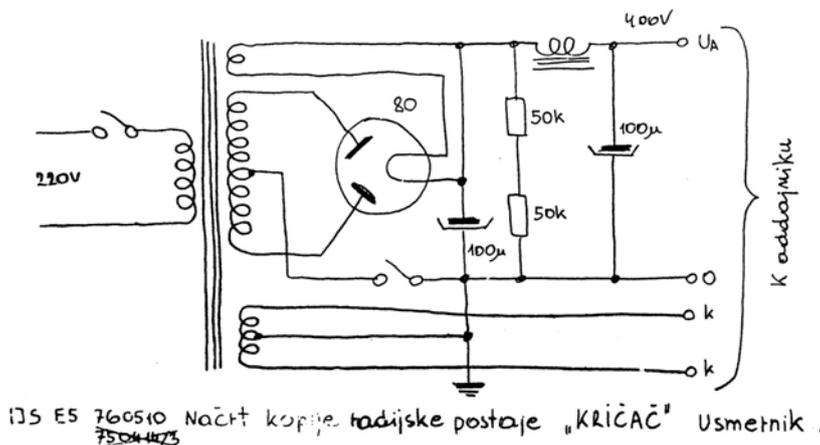
Chassis view of a replica Kričač transmitter unit (left), modulator unit (centre) and mains power unit (right), constructed by Janez Červek.



Circuit diagram of the Kričac transmitter. The modulation quality was checked by taking a small part of the RF output to a rectifier, fed to a pair of headphones.



Circuit diagram of the Kričac modulator unit. Note that 'Heising' (choke) modulation was used.



Circuit diagram of the Kričac mains power supply unit.