

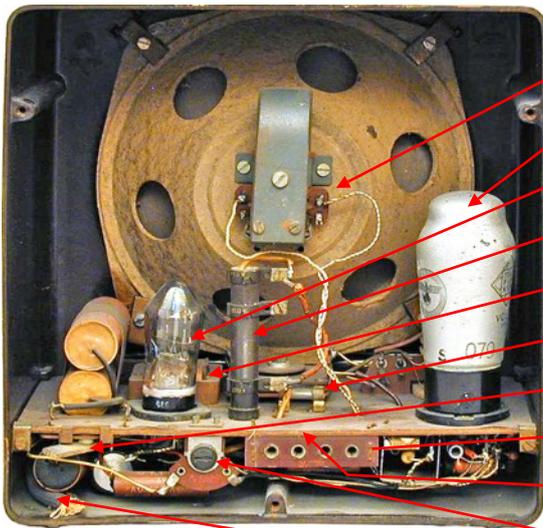
Deutschen Kleinempfänger DKE 1938



As many components of the DKE 38 were used in various prisoner of war and political prisoners secret radios, depicted in a number of WftW Supplement Chapters, this page will give details of the simplicity of its design and mechanical construction. Due to the large number of DKE 38s produced, non-functional radios were 'organised' by prisoners employed in concentration camp repair workshops.

The DKE 38 (Deutschen Kleinempfänger 1938, translated *German small radio 1938*) was a model in the range of 'Volksempfänger', radio receivers developed at the request of Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels in the early part of the 1930s. The purpose of the Volksempfänger-program was to make radio reception technology affordable to the general public, but basically intended for propaganda. The DKE 38 was built by more than two dozen German radio manufacturers, all using the same design. In the time period 1938-1944 2.4 million receivers of this type were produced. Minor changes in the design (e.g. substitution of the choke) were carried out during the production.

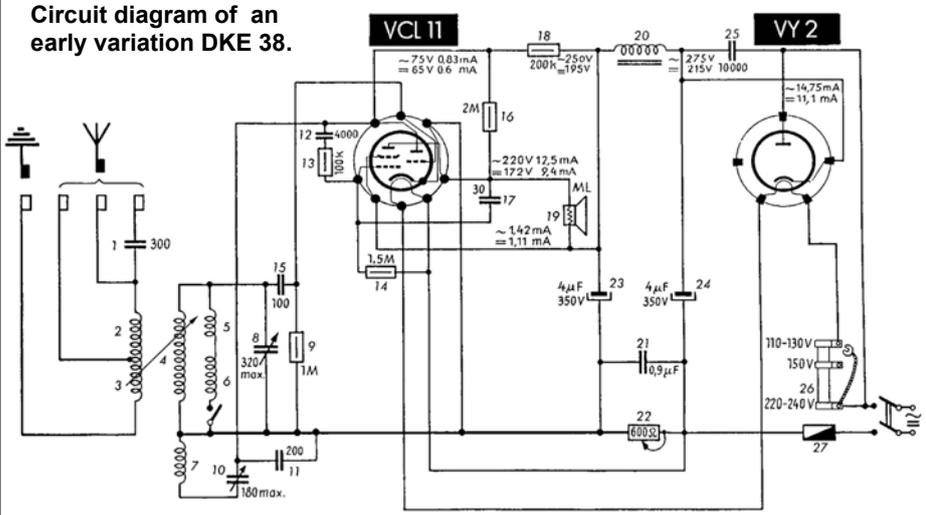
With its minimalist design only 25% of steel and copper was used compared to the earlier VE 33 Volksempfänger; after World War 2 it was still produced, having the Swastika and German eagle on the front omitted... The receiver had 3 controls: volume (left) which was basically a variable coupling of aerial coil; reaction control (right); tuning (centre) medium wave (white dial) and long wave (red dial). An internal switch automatically selected the frequency range. It operated on AC and DC mains with only 15W power consumption.



- Loudspeaker
- VCL 11 valve
- VY 11 rectifier
- Mains Voltage selector
- Choke
- Fuse
- On-off switch
- Aerial and earth sockets
- Paxolin chassis
- Anti-hum control
- Mains lead

Explanation of components and controls of the DKE 38 as seen from the back with the cardboard cover detached (left).

Circuit diagram of an early variation DKE 38.



Front page of DKE 38 user instructions leaflet.

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