



Clandestine Midget Receivers #11

Country of origin: Norway ('Det illegale Norge' exhibition 1945) pt III

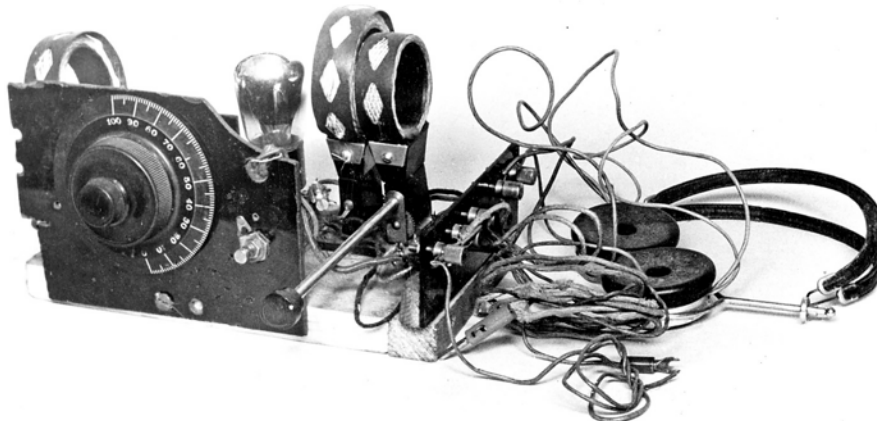


SOAP PACKING BOX.

There was no information about who constructed this 'soap packing box radio' but the idea was genius, whoever it was. Under a layer of soap bars was hidden a radio receiver accessible from underneath.

VOLT METER.

A 1-valve shortwave radio receiver was built inside a large voltmeter. It too aroused great interest during the exhibition in 1945. It was later fully described in an article in the NTM yearbook VOLUND 1956.

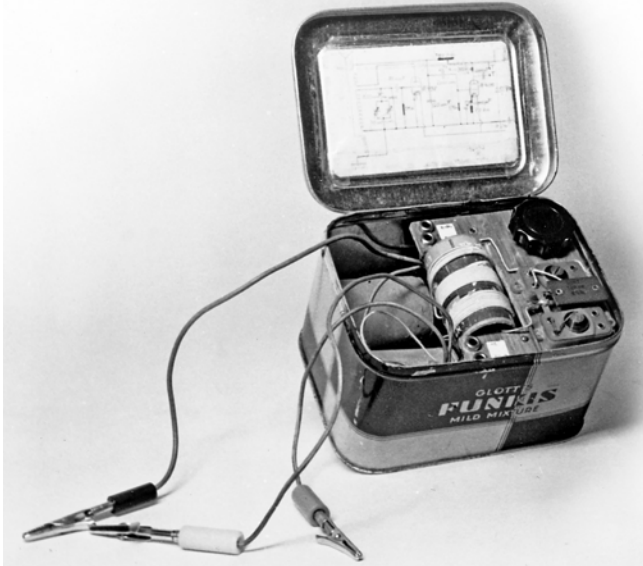


1-VALVE RECEIVER.

With this simple reaction-coupled long-wave radio receiver teacher Sig. Grimstad from Kleppholmen in the west of Norway was able to listen to the daily radio broadcasts from London at the end of 1942 until the liberation. The device stood on the kitchen shelf; the battery was charged by a windmill.

TOBACCO TIN.

Thorbjørn Pedersen concealed his 2-valve home made shortwave radio receiver in a tobacco tin. (Left). It was never discovered.



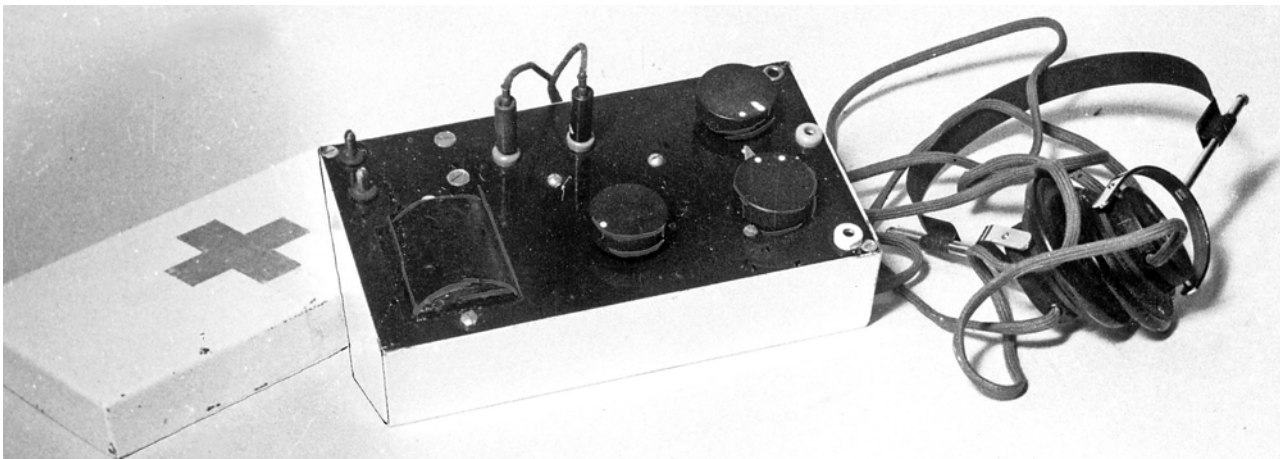
PORTABLE GRAMOPHONE.

Alfred Gjerkås build a 2-valve shortwave receiver inside a 'Columbia' brand portable gramophone. When the headphones were removed and the turntable in position, this 'gramophone' was indistinguishable from other gramophones.

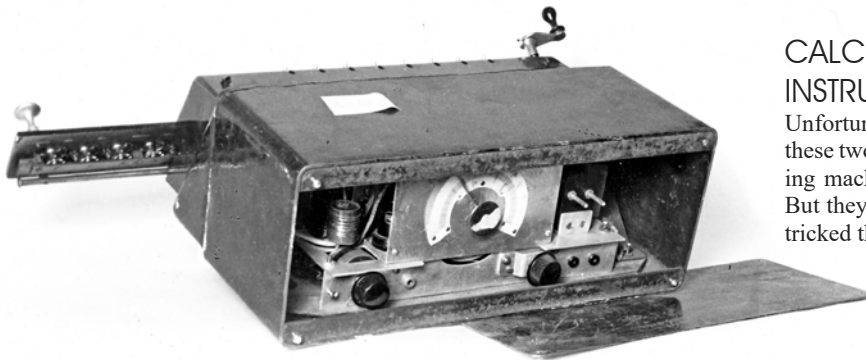


With the turntable lifted, the portable gramophone was ready for receiving Allied broadcasts transmissions. The lead and plug reveals that the receiver was mains powered. (Above)

With the turntable in its normal position the sockets and controls of the concealed radio receiver were fully covered. (Left)



FIRST AID KIT. A 2-valve shortwave receiver concealed as a first aid box, build and used by engineer Ralph Eide from Oslo. This was most likely a version of a Kongshavnerer. (See Chapters 108 and 242).



CALCULATING MACHINE and SURGICAL INSTRUMENT COOKER.

Unfortunately, there was no information about the maker of these two radio receivers, disguised as a mechanical calculating machine (left) and surgical instrument cooker (below). But they both contribute to the concealment techniques that tricked the Gestapo and its collaborators.



Hollow birch firewood logs were the hiding place of a number of Kongshavnerer radio receivers



The 'Det illegale Norge' exhibition in 1945 also contained a birch wood log with a hidden receiver made by Mr Kongshavn for Postmaster Rasmussen in Oslo. This was a brilliant hiding place which withstood the test of a raid at the Postmasters house. The birch wood with the radio inside was laying together with the other logs beside the fire.



Mr Kongshavn from Elektriks Bureau told that he made around 200 illegal radios during the war, affectionately known as 'Kongshavnerer'; around 20 of them were hidden inside birch wood logs. (See Chapters 108 and 242).

Traffic Chief Ingvald Lied from the Oslo Post office had his little radio receiver hidden under the floor. There was parquet flooring laid in his living room and by moving one of the planks aside, the radio came to view. '...no one could find it...' Mr Lied said.

At the 1945 exhibition a radio mounted inside a matchbox was on display, build by Mr Kenneth Danielsen for Clifford Thuestad from Mandal, which enabled him to receive the London news on 1500 meters. Its construction was simple: 4-5 meters of insulated copper wire and a crystal detector - '...simple thing, but London news could be heard and that was the main thing...' said Thuestad.

Also in the collection of the Norsk Teknisk Museum (NTM) were, and probably still are:

- a 2-valve receiver made by Thorbjørn Johansen, Oslo
- a 2-valve receiver by the name of "Ragnhild"
- a 1-valve receiver by the name of "Grini 3"
- a 1-valve receiver produced by Westend Electronic business, Oslo, where 300 of the type were made.

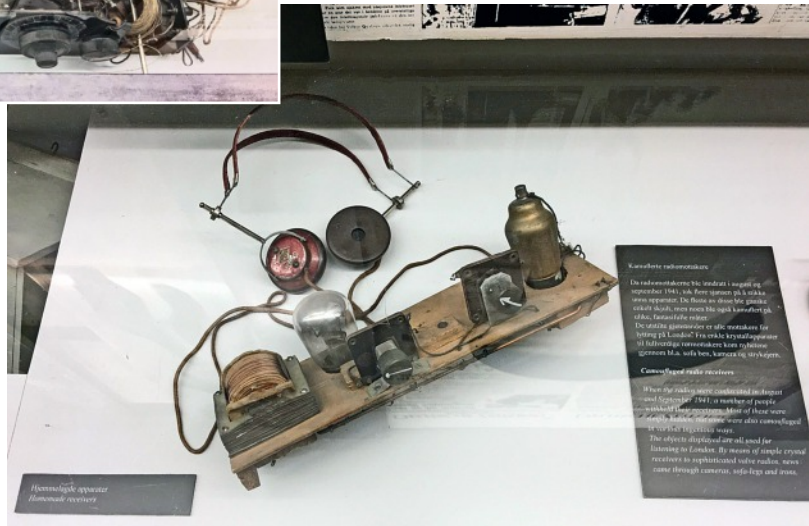
To finish off, it should be mentioned that the NTM also has a couple of receivers in its collection that were widely used during the war in Norway but manufactured abroad. One is from Sweden, known as 'Svenskesuperen' (Chapter 245) and also the 'Sweetheart' from England (left). (Chapter 250).



Type 31/1, also known as 'Sweetheart' hidden in a toilet-case.



Showing behind glass on display a few examples from the NTM collection which survived the sinking of the exhibition vessel in 1945: the ubiquitous commercial directory, nest box radio and the 1-valve long wave receiver constructed by Sig. Grimwald. These colour photos were obviously not taken at the 1945 exhibition.



At the press reception of launching the book 'De illegale avissene' ('The illegal press', shown in front of the photo) written by Hans Luihn in 1960, a number of illegal broadcast receivers from the NTM collection were shown. Apart from the electric iron were shown the nest box radio, box camera, portable gramophone, thermos flask, varnish tin and two other unknown illegal radio receivers.