



French high speed keyer
Country of origin: France

DATA SUMMARY

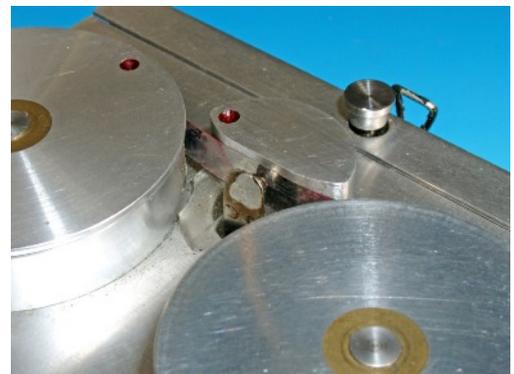
Organisation: French Secret Service.
Design/Manufacturer: Unknown.
Year of Introduction: Believed 1950s.
Purpose: Mechanically operated high speed keyer.
Size (cm): Height 6, length 8 ½, width 11½. (Approximately).
Accessories: Wind up key, electric cable to transmitter, a bottle of nail varnish and a bottle of nail varnish remover.

REMARKS

Developed for the French Secret Service in the 1950s was a high speed keyer, which could principally be used with any agents radio transmitter.
 The mechanically wind-up spring operated keyer used a steel tape, coded by means of stripes of nail varnish. When pressing the start button, the metal tape was pulled over an electric contact by a clock-work mechanism, which might have had a speed governor. After sending the message the steel tape could easily be 'erased' with a rag, moist with nail varnish remover.
 The particular keyer on the photos was found in possession of a caught French agent, active in the GDR.



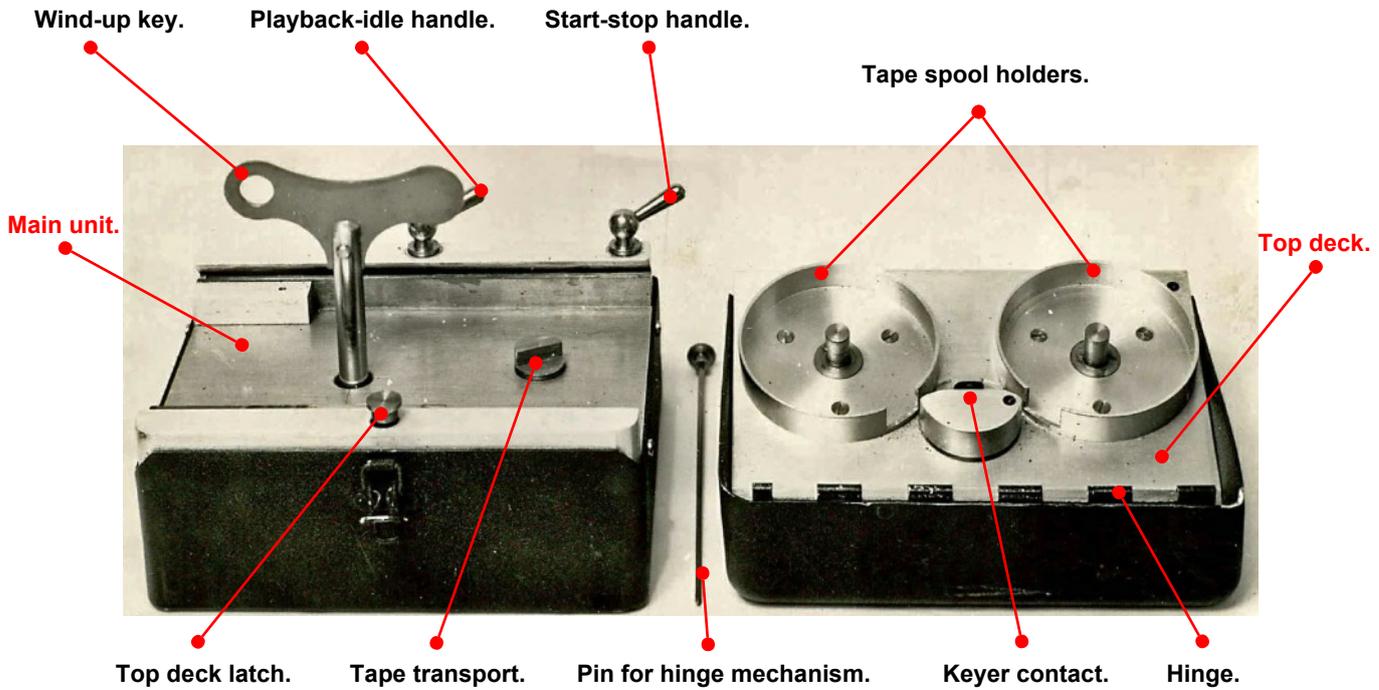
French high speed keyer in transport case (left) with metal tape spools and top deck detached. (right).



Close-up view of the keyer contact and top deck latch.

References:

- Photographs courtesy Detlev Vreisleben, DC7KG, Germany.



The French high speed keyer was comprised of a main unit (left) and a removable top deck (right) which accommodated two spools with a metal tape. The unit was carried in a metal box with a detachable hinged lid. On this photo the top deck was placed on the detached lid.

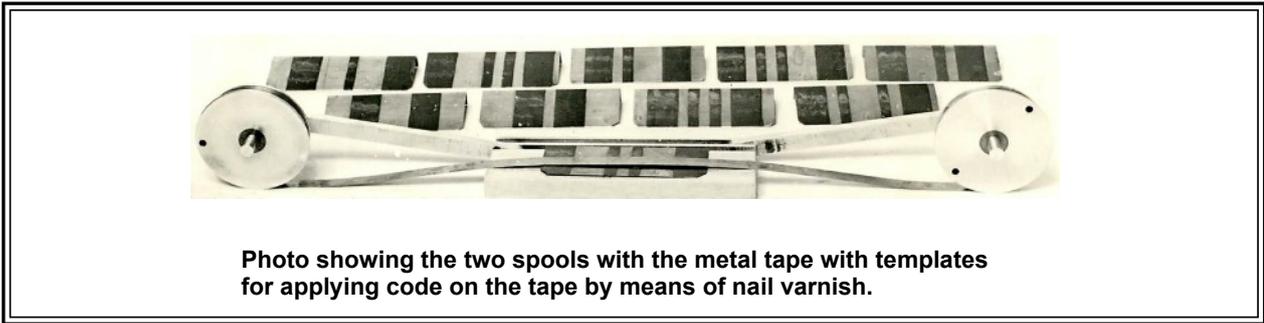


Photo showing the two spools with the metal tape with templates for applying code on the tape by means of nail varnish.



Top view of French high speed keyer.



The high speed keyer in case with lid closed for storage or transport.