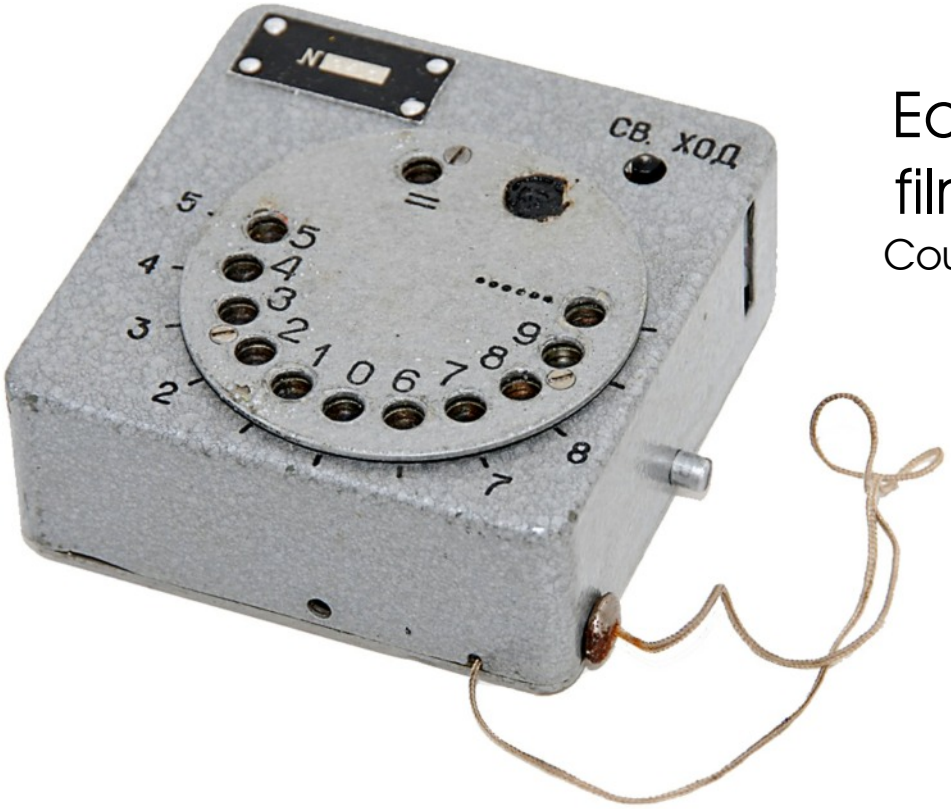


Early R-354 film punch

Country of origin: Russia

DATA SUMMARY

Design/Manufacturer: Unknown.
Year of Introduction: Mid 1960s.
Purpose: Hand operated punch for integrated high speed keyer of the R-354.
Base material: Sliced 35mm photographic film.
Size (mm): Height 29, length 90, width 90.

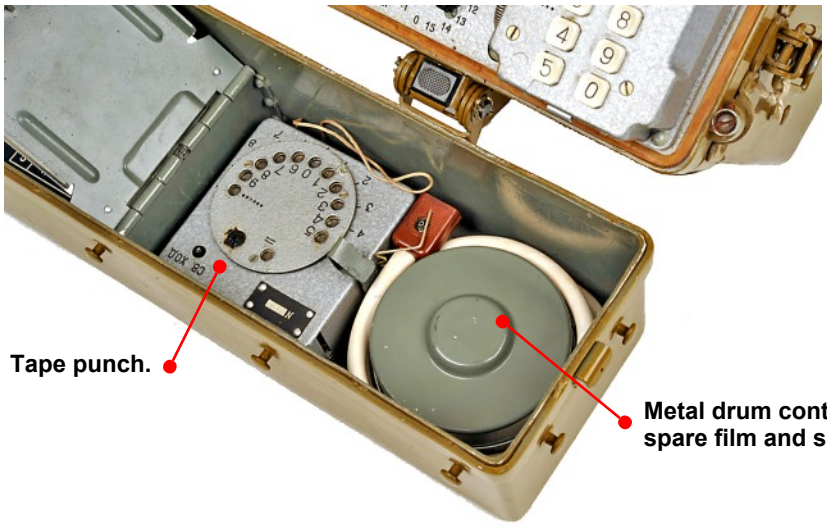
References:

- Photographs courtesy Crypto Museum, Eindhoven, Holland.
- www.cryptomuseum.com

REMARKS

The film punch described in this chapter was issued with the R-354, code name Shmel (Russian: Шмель = Bumblebee), a Russian special forces and agents radio communication set. *). It was used to punch a series of holes into a sliced 35mm photo film to produce a coded message to be used in combination with the integrated high speed keyer of the R-354.
Before using the photographic film in the punch, it had to be sliced by a film slicer. This tool was part of the station and carried in a metal drum along with the film in the top lid of the R-354.
A later issued film punch was much smaller and easier to operate.

*) See the R-354 section in the USSR chapter of WftW Volume 4.



The early R-354 tape punch was stored under a metal flap in the accessories compartment in the top lid of the set. A metal drum, containing 35mm photographic film and a film splicer, was also stored in this compartment.

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Roll of 35mm photo film and film slicer carried in a tin drum.

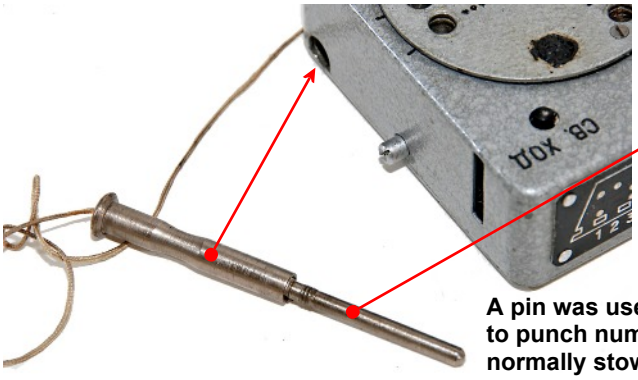
Film slicer.

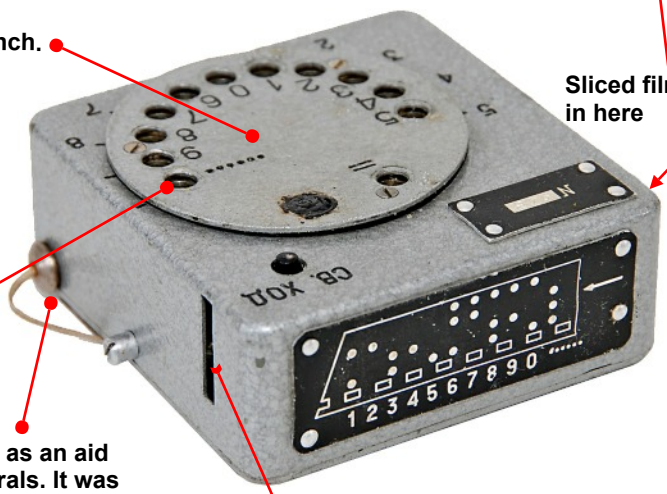
35mm photo film was sliced in two halves. Each half was used as base material for punching a message.

Preparing a 35mm photographic film as a message carrier.

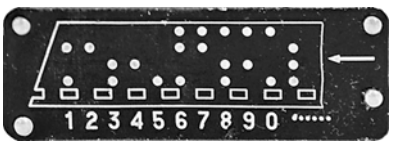
Film punch.

Sliced film in here





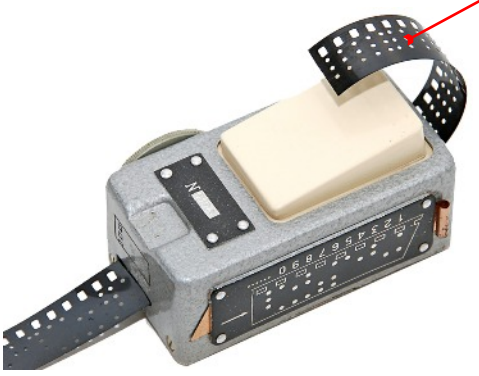
A pin was used as an aid to punch numerals. It was normally stowed in an opening on the right hand side of the film punch.



Numbers were punched into the film using the pattern shown above.

Prepared message.

Integrated high speed keyer, Morse key and numerical key pad.



Later issued film punch.

Special forces/agents transmitter receiver R-354.

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