

Tuning coil

Probably wires to pencil valve

Terminals to batteries and aerial

Bottom half of the broom with the RF transmitter, microphone and modulator

'Broom' bug Country of origin: Czechoslovakia

DATA SUMMARY

Organisation: ŠtB - Štátna bezpečnosť (Secret State Police) and Správa 2 - kontrarozviedka (Government, Department 2, counter-espionage).

Design/Manufacturer: Správa 6 - spojovacia technika (Government, Department 6, communication technics).

Year of Introduction: 1950s.

Purpose: Wireless bug for covert room surveillance.

Frequency range: Covered in two ranges: 4.8-5.8 MHz and 6.8-11.2MHz.

Operating modes: AM voice.

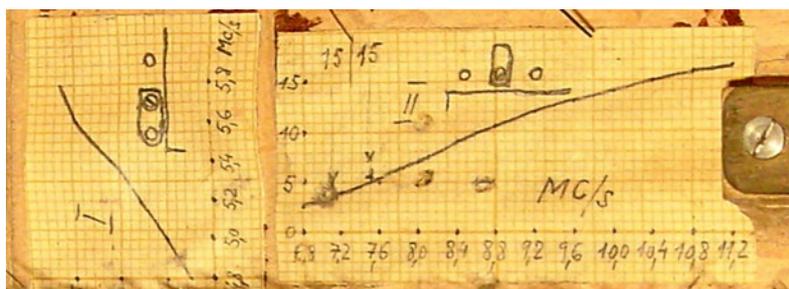
Aerial: Believed hidden in the broomstick.

Power supply: Dry batteries concealed in the broom.

Remarks

As a piece of inconspicuous cleaning utensils, a broom was cunningly modified to house a wireless bug. Probably constructed in mid-1950s, the electrical circuit was believed to be based on a subminiature triode pencil valve. Remarkable is the choice of short wave as operating wavelength. Though it is likely that the bug was used for covert room surveillance, further operational and technical details could not be found, neither a more accurate date of its deployment. The calibration curves spread over a 45 degrees scale, but no such device is to be seen on the pictures.

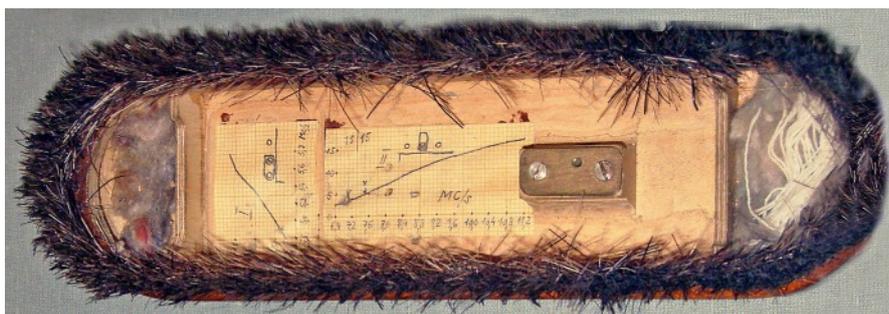
The actual broom was divided into two parts: the bottom section containing the actual transmitter, probably with the microphone; the top section held the dry batteries. It is believed that the aerial was concealed in the broom stick.



Calibration curves for tuning the transmitter in two ranges, set with shorting two terminals in the bottom half.

References:

- Photos and information courtesy Jan and Alois, Czech Republic.



Top half of the broom, with battery compartment and calibration curves for tuning the two ranges. The broomstick, which was attached to the top half, probably carried the aerial wire, connected to the copper terminal.