

KGB bugs Country of origin: USSR

DATA SUMMARY

Organisation: KGB.
Year of Introduction: 1964/1972/1978.
Purpose: Wireless bugs for covert room surveillance.
Frequency range: 110-120MHz. ('KGB' bug only)
Operating mode: FM.
Aerial: Probably ¼ wave wire.
Power supply: Dry batteries.
Dimensions (mm):

	Height	width	length
'KGB' bug:	10	23	75
Гц5-1:	11	27	95 (estimated)
Гц5-2:	7	17	109 (estimated)

Remarks

Considerable time ago I was given photos from a hitherto unknown source of three different unknown transistorised KGB bugs. Because no additional information was found over the time, it was thought that publication in a Supplement Chapter might reveal the source of the photos and technical details of the bugs. During the preparation of this chapter it was noticed that the Crypto Museum has one of the bugs in their collection, with serial number 642320. (Comparing the first two numbers of the two serial numbers it was believed that this type of bug was manufactured in 1964).

'KGB' bug

The first bug, shown on this page, with serial number 642346 and provisionally named 'KGB' bug*, was probably made around 1964 using an imported Philco 2N499 germanium micro alloy PNP transistor (Introduced in December 1957). The circuit was a free running oscillator, operating on a VHF frequency of around 115MHz, frequency modulated. Interesting is the use of a crystal microphone which was connected directly onto the tuned circuit.

Detail view of Philco 2N499 transistor.



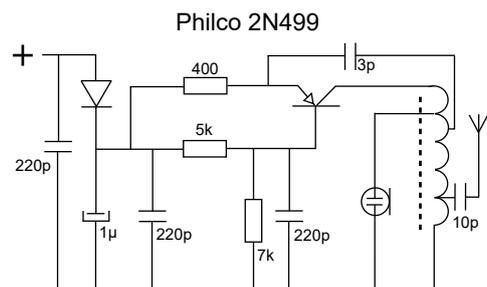
Detail view of silver plated coil.



View of the 'KGB' bug with bottom cover detached.

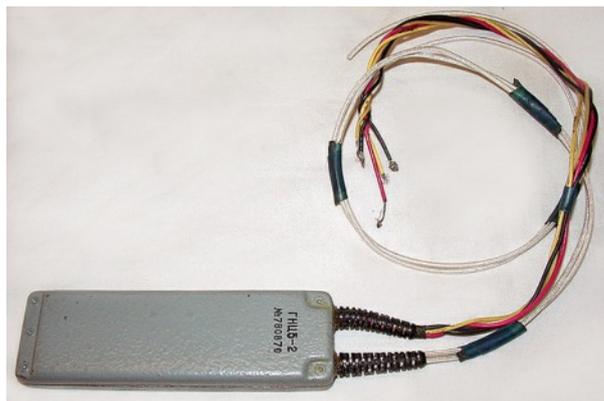


Bottom view of PCB with typical USSR manufactured components and brass tuning assembly.



Circuit diagram of the 'KGB' bug.

Гнц5-1 (sn 720869)



Гнц5-2 (sn 780870)



Гнц5-1 and Гнц5-2

There is not much known of the two KGB bugs pictured above. Both had a metal housing and the actual hermetically sealed circuit blocks were covered in epoxy. The aerial of each model appeared to be a wire dipole. Considering the two separate circuit blocks used in the right hand model, it might be possible that this had speech concealment. When assuming that the first two numbers were associated with the year of manufacture, the first model might be from 1972, and the second model made in 1978, though there is so far no confirmation of this theory.

*) To avoid confusion, the provisional name 'KGB bug', devised by the Crypto Museum, was maintained.

References:

- Requested is information of the source of the photographs and any possible technical data on the 3 bugs in this Chapter.
- Crypto Museum: KGB bug.
- <https://www.cryptomuseum.com/covert/bugs/kgb/index.htm>
- Correspondence with Crypto Museum, June 2020.