



## British SW Converter

and an unknown SW converter.  
Country of origin: England

### DATA SUMMARY

**Organisation:** MI  
**Design/Manufacturer:** Not known.  
**Year of Introduction:** Believed early 1960s.  
**Purpose:** Listening to 'number' stations by agents.  
**Aerial:** Wire.  
**Power Supply:** Believed 1½V (A 3V dry battery split into two halves).  
**Dimensions (cm):** height 2.3, length 6, width 12 (estimated).

### REMARKS

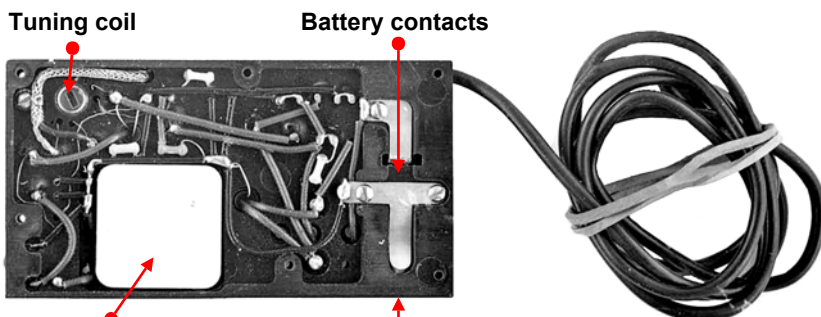
Believed to be inspired by the West German 'BND SW Converter' (see Chapter 34) and functionally identical was a British designed shortwave converter. It enabled listening to transmissions of the so called 'number stations' in the range of 3 to 6MHz via a normal medium wave broadcast radio receiver. The actual frequency was dependent on a crystal, and the frequency to which the broadcast receiver was tuned (usually around 1500kHz). A fixed screened cable of about 1m in length connected to the broadcast receiver.

The British SW converter was interesting from the constructional point of view as it was comprised of a block of plastic material where the actual components were located in milled compartments on both sides, covered by a front and rear plate. The battery (believed to be one of two cells in a standard 3V dry battery with paper shell removed) was inserted in an opening at the side and automatically switched on when a crystal was inserted. The rather short cable of about 30cm in length was plugged into a socket at the side of the converter.

### References:

- With many thanks to Detlev Vreisleben who provided copies of the original GDR photographs of captured SW converters.
- WftW Volume 4 Supplement Chapter 34.

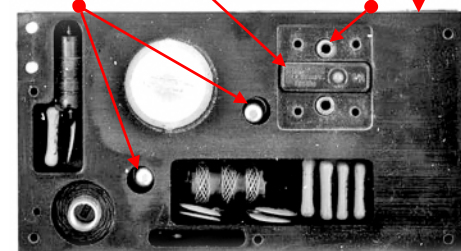
Bottom view with cover detached



Tuning coil Battery contacts

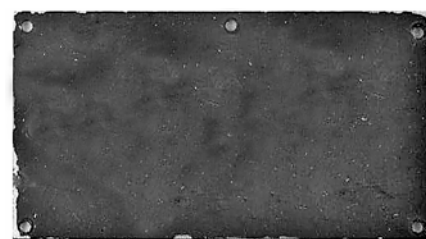
Tuning capacitor Battery insert here

Battery on/off switch Transistors Crystal socket

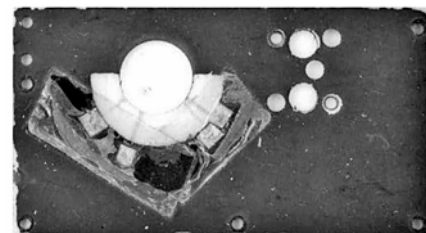


View of front with cover plate removed.

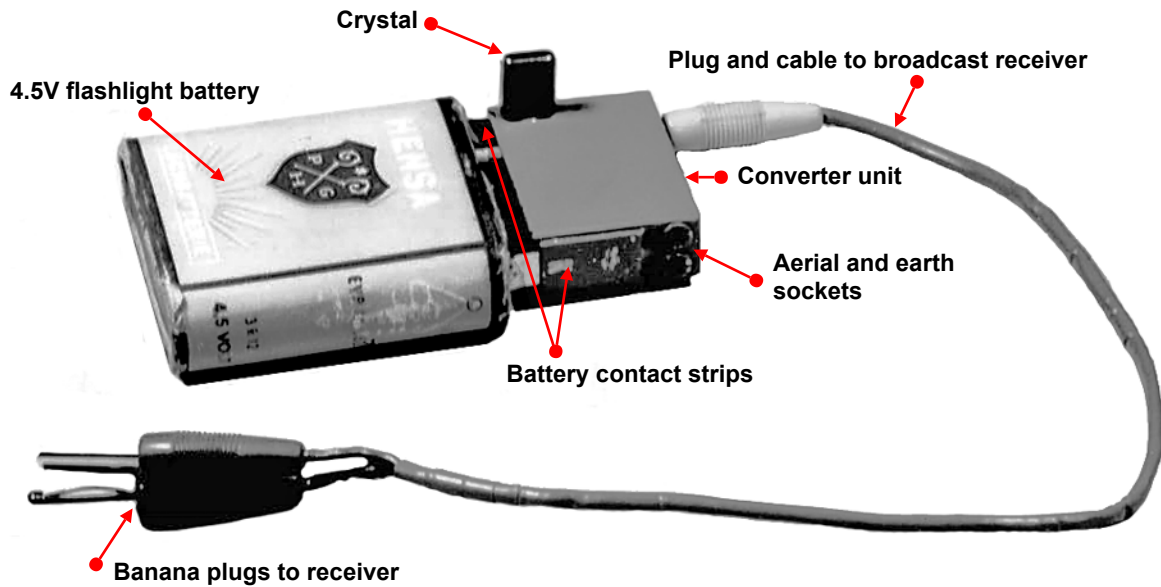
Banana plugs to broadcast receiver



Bottom cover plate.



Front cover plate.



## Unknown SW converter (believed to be British).



**Flashlight battery of east-German manufacture with date 1972.**

### REMARKS

Functionally similar to the British and BND short wave converter was a miniature version, believed to be of British manufacture. Powered by a very common and inconspicuous to buy  $4\frac{1}{2}$ V flashlight battery, the terminals at both sides slid into contact strips at the side of the converter. This allowed further miniaturisation.

The Paul Gustav Hensel Battery Factory was a company in the GDR located in Bischofswerda. The company PGH existed until nationalization in 1972 and then moved into VEB Batterie- und Elementefabrik Bischofswerda. The company logo was based on the coat of arms of Bischofswerda, in which three of the six-pointed stars were replaced by the initial letters P, G and H. Batteries were sold under the brand name HENSA. (Wikipedia)