

Clandestine Midget Receivers #15

Country of origin: Belgium/Holland



'Teaspoon box' clandestine receiver at about its actual size with reduced size of hinged lid below. ('Lepeltjes' is Dutch for teaspoons).



'Teaspoon box' receiver

Enclosed in a pressed brass teaspoon box was a miniature shortwave radio, powered by 220V AC mains. The design utilized miniature E1F acorn-type valves and trimmer condensers that were produced at Philips in Eindhoven. These components, 'liberated' by Philips employees, formed the basis for the construction of many similar illegal receivers. Needless to say, this construction was hazardous due to the exposed AC mains voltage.

Remarks

Shown in this chapter is a commercial radio stripped down to its chassis and fitted into a homemade wooden ornament box. Additionally, two miniature clandestine receivers, constructed by Philips employees with photos at almost actual size, are presented as examples of the miniature radio receivers built during World War II for clandestine listening to shortwave transmissions of the BBC. For more information on illegal Philips receivers, refer to WftW Supplement Chapters 151, 152, 153, and 225, available as free downloads at www.wftw.nl.

DATA SUMMARY

Design/Manufacturer: Home constructed by Engineers and radio amateurs.

Year of Introduction: WW2 after 1941.

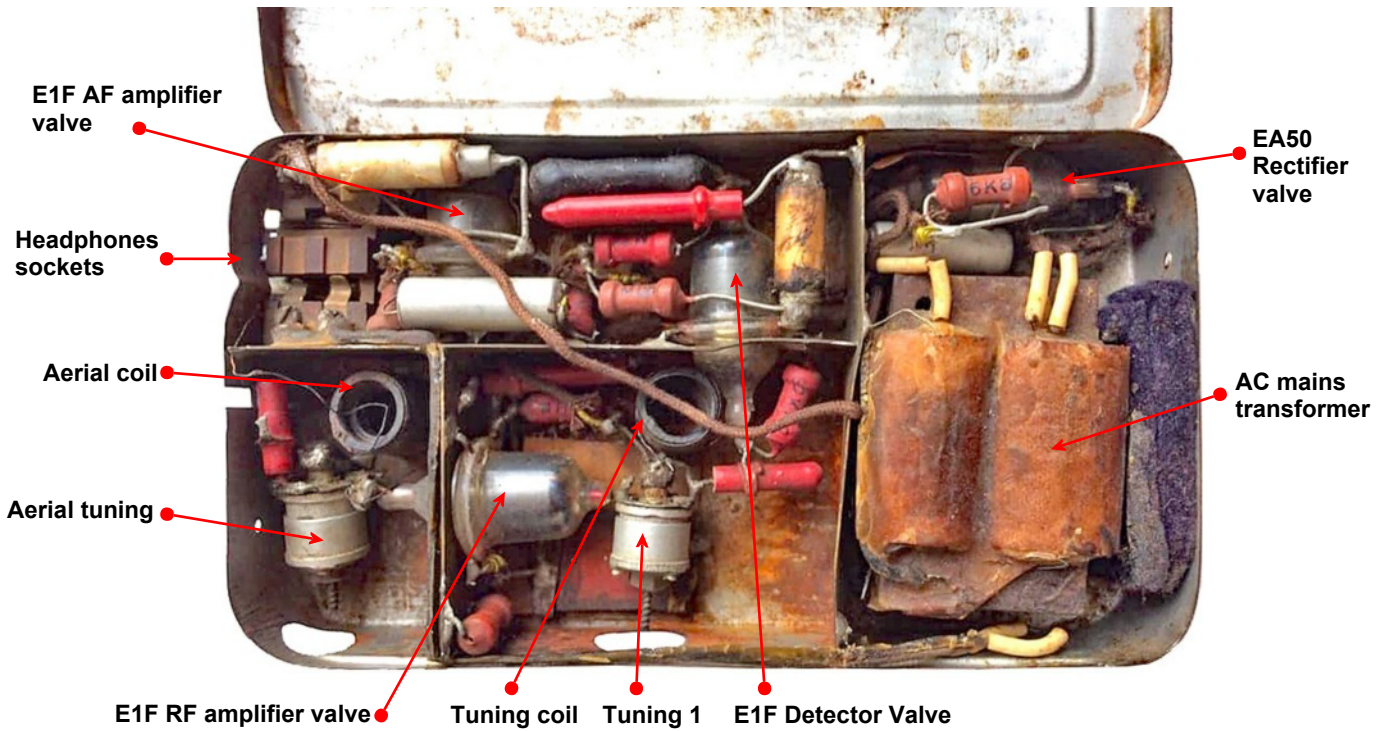
Purpose: Illegal listening to Allied broadcasts in German occupied countries.

Receiver: Often simple designs operating on short wave. In all cases headphone reception.

Power Supply: AC mains.

'Tobacco tin' receiver

Built into a Lieftink 'Aroma' tobacco tin was another miniature receiver, built by Philips employee using three A1F miniature acorn valves and an EA50 valve HT rectifier. Pictures of this receiver, from a hitherto unknown source, were earlier published in WftW Chapter 152 without any detailed photos.



Internal views of an AC mains powered clandestine receiver built in a tobacco tin.



© This WftW Volume 4 Supplement is a download from www.wftw.nl. It may be freely copied and distributed, but only in the current form.

A 'Suprema' model 6A radio chassis hidden in a home made ornamental box.



The chassis taken from a Suprema model 6A was hidden in a home made wooden ornamental box, during the war years placed on top of a cupboard in a home at the town of Staden, Belgium.



The radio receiver was operated by two keys and a brass knob. The tuning scale and reduction gear were removed.

This clandestine broadcast receiver was concealed in a small home made wooden box with copper decorations, made to fit the chassis of a 'Suprema' broadcast receiver. Not known, though believed that the loudspeaker was substituted by a pair of headphones. This receiver was primarily used for listening to 'Radio België' broadcasts from BBC London. The radio is currently on display at 'Klein Engeland, The Secret War Museum', located in Houthulst, Belgium.

Photographs and information courtesy 'Collectie Klein Engeland, The Secret War Museum'. Website: <https://kleinengeland.be/>



View of the receiver chassis as seen from the rear side of the wooden box. Compare the chassis with that of the picture below right.

Original 'Suprema' model 6A.



The Belgian 'Suprema' model 6A broadcast receiver was manufactured in 1937/38. It covered medium and long wave and was powered from AC mains. The receiver was built by Suprema, believed to be located in Antwerp, using the chassis of an SBR 374A. It comprised a superheterodyne circuit with an RF stage, mixer, IF stage (123kHz), which was also used as an AF stage in reflex, and an AF output stage. The valves used were 6D6, 6A7, 6B7, 42, and 80.



Internal view of the 'Suprema' model 6A, with its back plate detached, showing the chassis with tuning scale and the large loudspeaker.

Photographs and information courtesy Dirk Bladt, Aarschot and Hugo Sneyers, Tongeren, both in Belgium.