

Clandestine (Midget) Receivers #16

Country of origin: Poland and Holland



The radio was hidden under a removable section of the parquet floor, with a heavy wardrobe placed on top of it.



A secret radio concealed in an electric stove. (Poland).

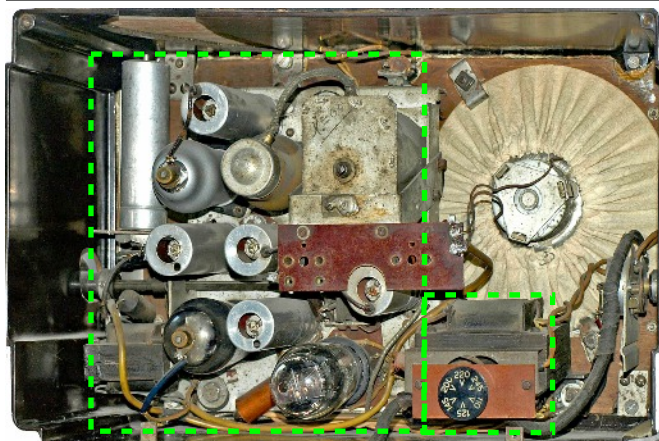
DATA SUMMARY

Design/Manufacturer: 1) Philips Poland model 4-39A radio receiver (Poland). 2) Home made TRF receiver (Holland).

Year of use: WW2 after 1941.

Purpose: Illegal listening in occupied countries to BBC.

Power Supply: AC mains.



Internal view of the Philips Poland model 4-39A broadcast receiver. The green dotted lines show the chassis and AC mains transformer, which were later stripped and fitted into an electric stove. The large loudspeaker was substituted with a pair of headphones.

Remarks



Hidden in a Warsaw apartment, a clandestine radio receiver used by the resistance during World War II was discovered in 2016. An address, associated with the renowned underground courier Jan Kar-ski, had housed the radio for over seven decades. The Philips radio, found during apartment renovations at 6 Czerwonego Krzyża (Red Cross Street), was primarily used by the Polish underground resistance movement ZWZ (The Union of Armed Struggle). Later, the Armia Krajowa (Home Army) utilized the radio to listen to English and French broadcasts from abroad. The main stations they tuned into were the BBC and Radio Londres, which transmitted in French from London to occupied France. Concerns about discovery led to the radio being transformed into an electric stove that could still receive broadcasts and concealed beneath the floorboards with a heavy wardrobe placed on top. The electric stove with concealed radio is now on display at the Warsaw Rising Museum (Muzeum Powstania Warszawskiego), a tribute to the 1944 uprising during which the underground resistance, led by the Armia Krajowa (Home Army), aimed to liberate the city from German occupation.

References

- Warsaw Uprising Museum <https://www.1944.pl/en>
- <https://notesfrompoland.com/2022/02/11/secret-wwii-radio-found-under-floor-in-warsaw-apartment/>
- The Frankenhuis Collection.
- <https://frankenhuiscollection.com/radio-sets-and-bbc-broadcasts/>



The Philips 4-39A was the simplest model of a broadcast receiver produced by Philips Poland factories in the 1938/39 season. It was the first time the company offered a superheterodyne design, allowing reception of stations in the long, medium, and shortwave range. The receiver was built in a Bakelite enclosure with a vertical clock

Philips Poland Season 1938-39	
	Model: 4-39A (AC mains); 4-39U (AC/DC mains). Valves A: AK2, AF2, ABL1, AZ1. Valves U: CK1, CF3, CBC1. Frequency range: LW, MW, SW; IF: 127kHz. Dimensions (cm): 39x18.5x24.5. Weight 7.5kg.
	Model: 4-39B battery powered. 2V and 150V. Valves A: KK1, KF4, KB2, KL4. Frequency range: LW, MW, SW; IF: 127kHz. Dimensions (cm): 50x18x26.5. Weight 8.4kg.

scale in the middle on the front and speaker grilles on both sides. Below the scale was a single knob used for tuning the receiver. On the right side panel, there was a range change knob, and on the left, a volume control coupled with the on/off switch. Please refer to the circuit diagram on the next page.

