



'Pivoňka' (Peony) keyer

Country of origin: Czechoslovakia

REMARKS

The Pivoňka (named after the designer, translated Peony) was an electronic semi-automatic high speed Morse key, also known as 'elbug'. The elbug was based on a lever that rotated around a vertical pivot. Pushing the paddle, mounted on one end of the lever, to the right and holding it there caused contact on the other end of the lever to a stationary contact, making a string of dots. A string of dashes was made by pushing the lever to the left. The paddle could be removed and stored in the keyer enclosure when not in use or during transport. See also Supplements *Chapters 10 Neptun, 11 Neptun II and 45 Lipan*.

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). Produced under project number TI 509 1.

Year of Introduction: Early 1960s.

Purpose: Electronic semi-automatic Morse key for agents; Used with a number of agents sets.

Power Supply: 2x 1½V AA battery.

Size (cm): Height 4, Length 11 (without paddle), Width 11.

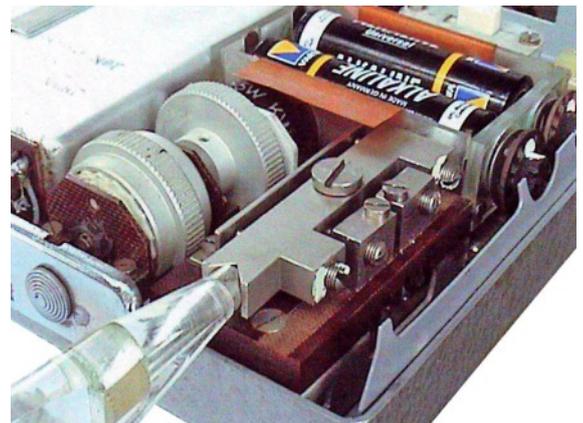
Accessories: Cable for connecting to transmitter, ear-phone.



Pivoňka used with a Czech agents 'Lipan' transmitter and unknown receiver.



Top view of elbug keyer with top cover removed showing a Siemens high speed keying relay (left), battery compartment, on/off switch, sockets for connecting the transmitter (centre top) and earphone (centre right). The two pre-set potentiometers at the right hand side behind the battery compartment were for setting of volume and pitch of the side tone in the earphone. The keying speed and dot-dash ratio could be set by the two knobs left of the key arm. The press button on top left was for providing a continuous tone for tuning the transmitter.



Detail view of the lever and paddle mechanism. During transport the paddle could be removed.

References:

- Photographs and technical details by Manfred Bauriedel, DK4NQ, Germany and Walter Zemann, OE1WZB, Austria.
- Additional information from Miro Hornik, OM3CU, Slovak Republic.
- Top left photograph of a Pivoňka keyer courtesy Crypto Museum, Holland. For more information and a circuit diagram see www.cryptomuseum.com