



Dávač

Country of origin: Czech Republic

DATA SUMMARY

Organisation: ŠTB - Štátna bezpečnost (Secret State Police) and Správa 2 - kontrarozviedka. (Government, Department 1, espionage)

Design/Manufacturer: Správa 6 - spojovacia technika. (Government, Department 6, communication technics)

Year of Introduction: 1959.

Purpose: High speed Morse keyer for agents.

Construction features: Fully transistorised endless tape based recorder with play back.

Power supply: Derived from Sirius I transmitter.

Size (cm): Height 5, Length 19, Width 7.2.

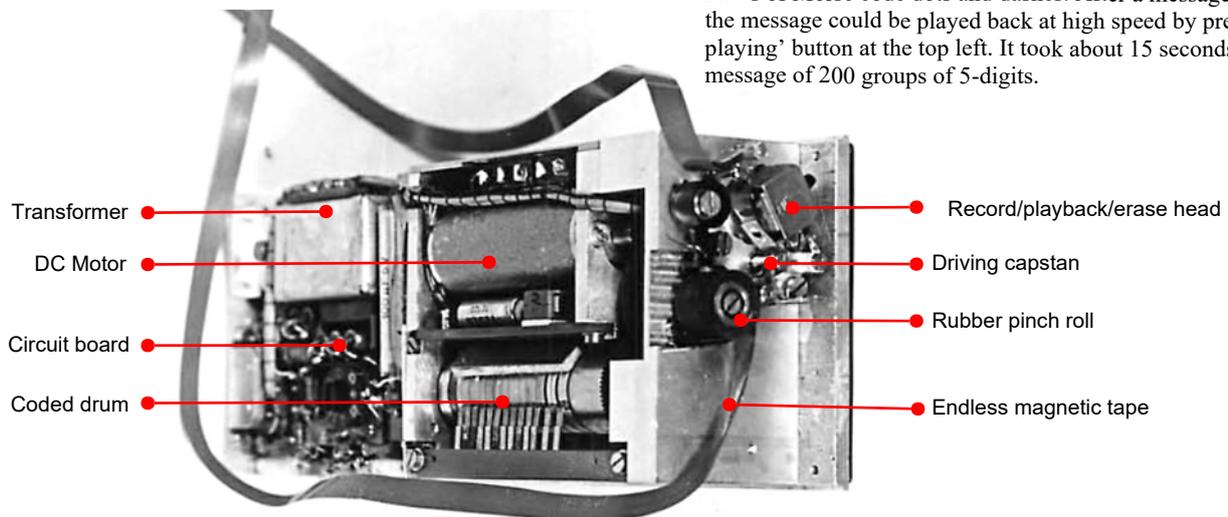
Weight (kg): 1.4.

Remarks

Dávač, also known as TI-485 and Sirius D, was a high speed Morse keyer developed in Czechoslovakia by Správa 6 - spojovacia technika, used by ŠTB and Správa 1 (espionage). It was normally associated with the Sirius I transmitter and later succeeded by the Měsíc (See Chapter 76). The keyer was connected to the Sirius I transmitter by means of a short connector with a rectangular 6-pin plug on either side. Power was also derived via this cable. Only (pre-coded) numerical messages consisting of the digits 0-9 could be transmitted. These were recorded on an endless magnetic tape.

Operation of the Dávač was straightforward. After connecting the transmitter, it was switched on by sliding the 'on/off' switch to the right. By pressing the 'erasing' button the tape was fully erased and run for approximately 15 seconds during which a direct current was applied to the recording head.

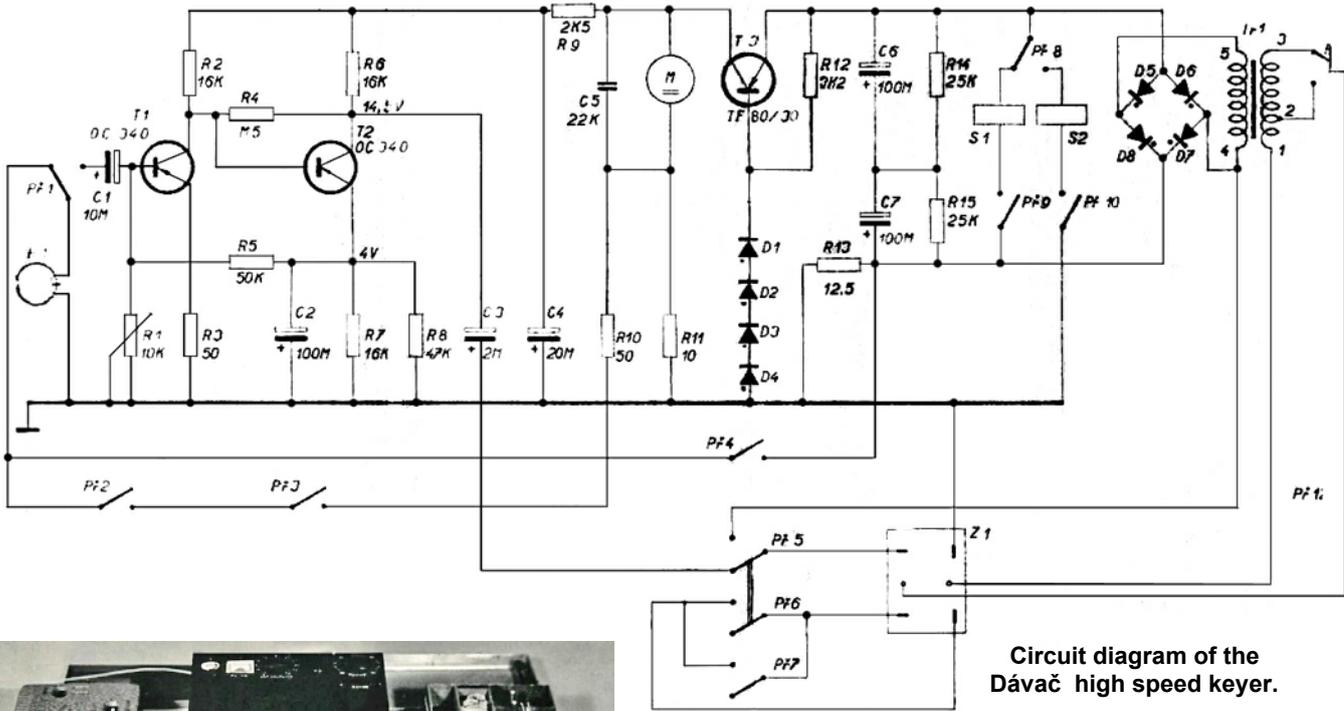
Once the tape was erased, a new message could be recorded. The 'start' button was pushed to initiate a recording session. Each time one of the number-buttons was pressed, the tape advanced and a rotating drum caused the selected number to be recorded on tape as a series of Morse code dots and dashes. After a message was recorded, the message could be played back at high speed by pressing the 're-playing' button at the top left. It took about 15 seconds to send a message of 200 groups of 5-digits.



Bottom view of Dávač high speed Morse keyer. At the top centre was a DC motor which drove the coded drum and the recorder. Below was a coded drum comprising 10 notched rings, each of which represented a numerical character in Morse code. At the right was the recorder assembly which could be accessed from the side of the unit. It comprised an endless magnetic tape held in a small compartment, a rubber pinch roll, driving capstan, two tape guide capstans and record/playback/erase head.

References:

- Photographs, circuit diagram and all information for this chapter courtesy Crypto Museum, Eindhoven, Holland.
- For more information about the Dávač keyer, including the manual, go to www.cryptomuseum.com
- The colour photo of Dávač was taken by Detlev Vreisleben, DC7KG, Germany.



Circuit diagram of the Dávač high speed keyer.

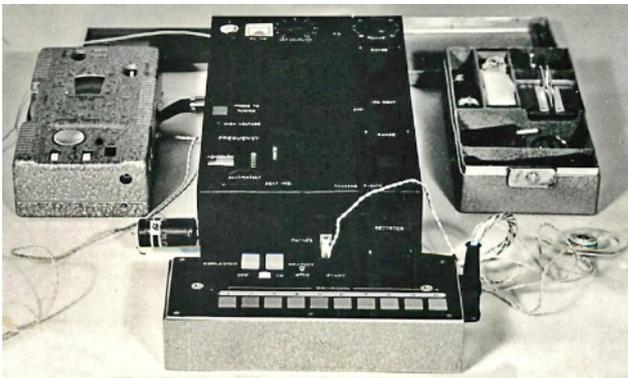
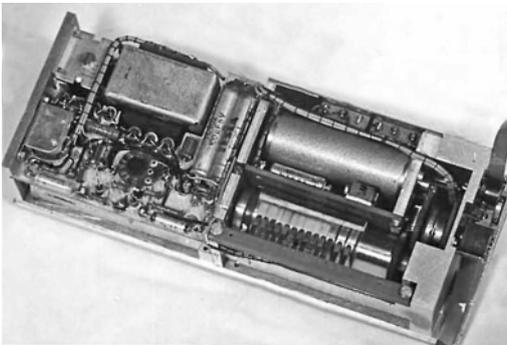


Photo left: Dávač high speed keyer connected to a Sirius I transmitter (centre top) via the rectangular 6-pin socket at the right hand side. On the left a Pluto receiver and a spares box to the right.



Endless tape record/playback assembly of Dávač (above) and Mesic (below).



General construction of Dávač (above) and Mesic (below).

The operating procedure, general principle of operation and electronic circuit of the Dávač and Mesic high speed Morse keyers was similar though its construction differed considerably. The main differences are tabulated below:

- The tape recorder assembly of the Dávač was fitted at the left side; in Mesic at the left hand top side.
- The motor and coded drum differed in construction; they were mounted side by side in the Dávač, and in line in Mesic.
- The numerical buttons of the Dávač were raised and placed in line; the buttons of Mesic were recessed and had two rows.