



Měsíc 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: Mid 1960s.

Purpose: High speed Morse keyer for agents.

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

Power supply: Derived from Sirius III transmitter.

Size (cm): Height 6, Length 14.8, Width 9.

REMARKS

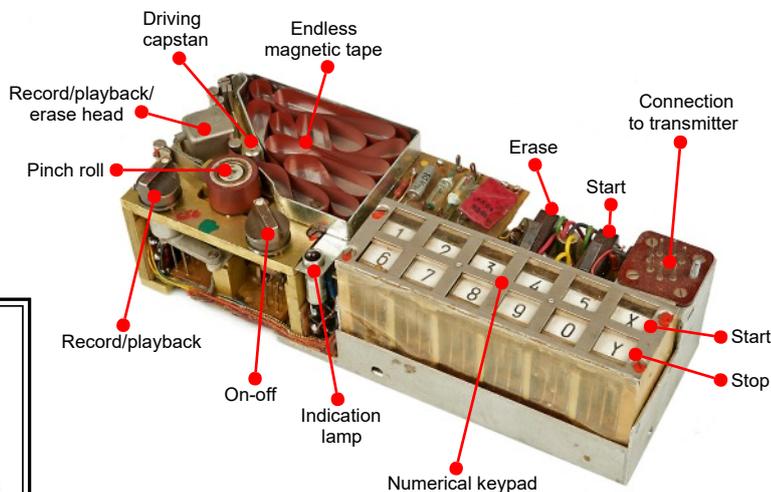
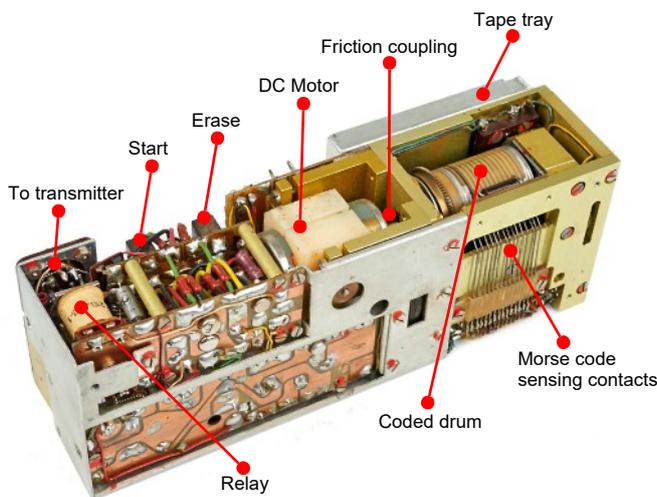
The Měsíc ('moon') was a high speed Morse keyer. It was developed in the mid-1960s in Czechoslovakia by Správa 6 - Spojovacia technica for use by the secret intelligence agency (ŠTB) and Správa 1 (espionage). It was normally used in combination with the Sirius III agents radio set described in Chapter 30.

The keyer was principally based on the same principle as its predecessor Dávač, but with a different mechanical layout. The principal differences between both keyers are shown in Chapter 75, page 2.

The Měsíc could play back pre-recorded messages consisting of 200 groups with five digits in just 15 seconds.

The keys 0-9 were used for entering a pre-coded numerical message. The X and Y keys were for start and stop respectively. Two smaller buttons, just above the keypad were for the start and erase functions. After pressing the erase button the tape was erased by applying a constant direct current to the recording head, whilst the tape run for 15 seconds. Recording was done by applying an intermittent DC to the head. In playback mode, the signal from the head was amplified and passed on to the transmitter where it was further processed. See the block diagram in Chapter 30, page 2

Although the Měsíc differed mechanically considerable to Dávač, the electronic circuit was almost identical. The number-keys were in two rows as opposed to a single row in Dávač and recessed so that they could not be pressed accidentally. It had a different socket for connection to the transmitter. The endless tape was in a triangular compartment on top, whereas it was located at the left side on the Dávač.



References:

- Photographs and all information for this chapter courtesy Cryptomuseum, Eindhoven, Holland.
- For more information on the Měsíc keyer, please see www.cryptomuseum.com
- Photo at the top of this page (cut out of a larger picture) taken by Detlev Vreisleben, DC7KG, Germany.