



UFT-421 Country of origin: GDR

### DATA SUMMARY

**Organisation:** MfS (Ministry of Security)

**Design/Manufacturer:** VEB RFT Messtechnik.  
Dresden, GDR.

**Year of Introduction:** Late 1960s.

**Purpose:** Covert surveillance by Stasi, (GDR Secret Police) and VoPo. (Volks-Polizei = People's Police)

**Circuit Features:** Conventional crystal controlled four channel VHF FM transceiver.

**Frequency Coverage:** Two versions: 66-88MHz and 146-174MHz.

**RF output:** 400mW.

**Tone call:** 1750Hz.

**Power Supply:** 2 stacked 7.2V NiCd batteries.

**Power consumption:** Rec. 20-35mA; Trans. 145mA.

**Size (cm):** Height 3.5, Length 21, Width 12.

**Weight:** 500g

**Accessories:** Remote control unit with cable, vibrator unit, loudspeaker/microphone, dipole wire aerial, rod aerial, carrying bracket, two rechargeable batteries.

### REMARKS

The UFT-421 was a body wearable fully transistorised VHF FM transceiver produced by VEB RFT Messtechnik, Dresden in the GDR during the late 1960s and well into the 1970s, until succeeded by the much smaller Czechoslovakian Tesla PR-35 'Faun' in 1977. (See Chapter 120). The UFT-421 was produced in two versions differing only in frequency coverage: 66-88 MHz and 146-174 MHz. It was primarily used for covert operations and surveillance by the Stasi. With its slightly curved shape the set could be worn inconspicuously hidden under the clothes on the body using a bracket with elastic straps. A cable, usually running through the operator's sleeve, connected the radio to a remote control unit carried in the hand of the operator. The loudspeaker/microphone was concealed in the housing of a commonly used commercial broadcast transistor radio.



Shipping/storage box with a complete UFT-421 excluding the battery charger.



Top panel of the main unit, showing channel selector, microphone/speaker connection and aerial socket.

### References:

- This chapter is an abridged version based on a full account of the UFT-421, described in [www.cryptomuseum.com](http://www.cryptomuseum.com)
- Photos taken from a UFT-421 held in the collection of the museum and information from their website was published with kind permission of the Crypto Museum, Eindhoven, Holland.



Located on the remote control unit was the volume control, and two control switches positioned at either side of the unit. The transmitter was controlled by a three-position momentary switch (above). The transmitter was off in the centre position. The other two positions were: *SmT* (Senden mit Tonruf - transmission with tone call), and *SoT* (Senden ohne Tonruf - transmission without selective call).

The receiver was controlled by a second three-position switch located at the other side of the control unit. In the centre position the receiver was switched off. The other two settings were: *EmR* (Empfang mit Rauschsperrung - reception with squelch on), and *EoR* (Empfang ohne Rauschsperrung - reception with squelch off). The volume control thumb wheel was on the left.



The loudspeaker/microphone of the UFT-421 was disguised as a commercial 'Mikki' medium wave transistor broadcast radio, using only the enclosure. These radios were commonly used in the GDR at the time and would not attract much attention to the public. It allowed the operator to hang around, pretending to be listening to a broadcast transmission, whilst in reality receiving instructions or passing status information.



Original 'Mikki' medium wave transistor radio here in a different (crème) colour.



A vibrator unit was used for silent calling. It was normally carried in the pocket.



Metal carrying bracket used to attach the UFT-421 to the body under the clothing.



Two different types of aerials were issued with the UFT-421: a rod antenna and a wire antenna (shown above). The latter was an open dipole which could easily be hidden under the operator's clothing.