



R.N.A.S. Model Td

Revision 1.02
(Model Td ground receiver).

DATA SUMMARY

Organisation: Royal Naval Air Service.
Manufacturer: R.W. Paul, London, and other makers.
Year of Introduction: Believed 1916/17. *)
Purpose: Lightweight aircraft receiver.
Receiver: Tuner with carborundum detector and a Brown relay electro-magnetic AF amplifier.
Mode: Spark and tonic train telegraphy.
Frequency: 171 - 550 m.
 (The scale was calibrated in feet: 522-1673 ft).
Aerial: Trailing aerial 60 m length.
Power supply: Three 'Ever-Ready' dry cells Type E.
Size (cm): Height 10, length 10, width 29 (estimated).
Weight (kg): 2.3

References

- Royal Air Force W/T Apparatus. Receiver Model Td, F.S. publication 99, Air Ministry, October 1918.
- Particulars of W.T Apparatus in the Royal Air Force, F.S. Publication 110, December 1918.
- The Wireless World, Aircraft Wireless Section, 1920-3.
- Photographs and correspondence with Mike Butt, U.K.



Model Td, S/N 138, held in the collection of the Science Museum in London. Note the four brass lugs at the corners where the receiver was fixed in the aircraft.

REMARKS

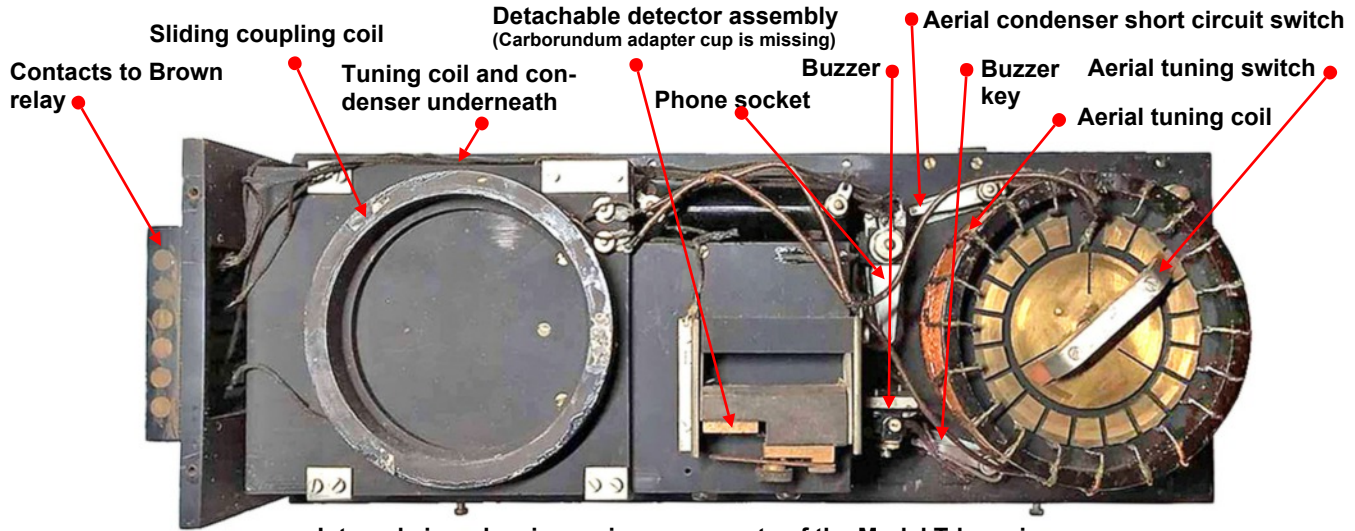
The Model Td was a small and lightweight receiver designed for installation in Royal Naval Air Service and (possibly, but not yet confirmed) in Army Royal Flying Corps aircraft, where only a very limited space was available for wireless equipment. According F.S. Publication 99, it was used with Type 52, Type 53 and French Rouzet spark transmitters. It could also be used as a ground receiver. The receiver was enclosed in a wooden case with an ebonite front panel and a hinged, detachable cover. Dry cells for the detector and testing buzzer, as well as the detector assembly, were accessible through a removable panel at the side of the receiver case. The telephone socket was arranged with two spring contacts, whereby the insertion of the telephone plug automatically connected the cells.

The primary circuit comprised an aerial tuning coil variable by a switch with 19 positions, connected in series with a coupling coil. Through a rack and pinion mechanism, this coupling coil provided a variable degree of coupling to the secondary tuned circuit. It is interesting to note that the tuning scale of this circuit was calibrated in wavelengths of feet, and notation of capacitors in jars (1 jar is equal to 1113 Pico Farads). The detector was a carborundum type, mounted on an ebonite base fitted with two metal tags that slid in aluminium guides. This construction permitted the direction of the potentiometer current to be reversed. Only spark and tonic-train (also known as intermitted continuous waves) telegraphy could be received.

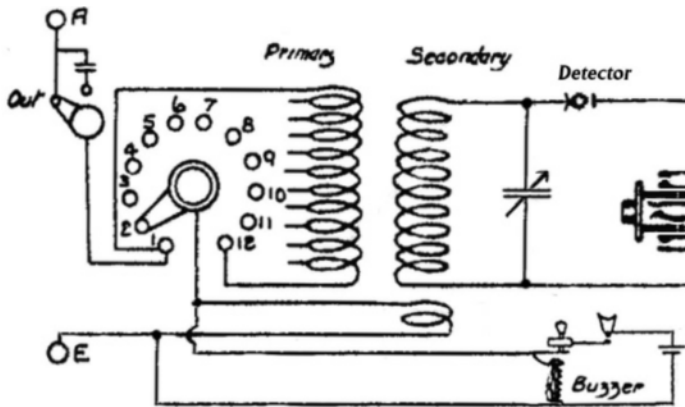
The Td receiver was commonly employed with a Brown relay. The latter served as an electro-magnetic audio amplifier utilized before the introduction of valves. It connected to the receiver through a 6-pt cable and plug, positioned in the aft part of the aircraft to minimize interference from the engine. The connections for the 6-pt plug and cable were consistent across Models Tb, Tc, and Td. Despite the obsolescence of the Td by 1918, it continued to be utilized as a substitute for Type Tb, potentially with a valve amplifier (see page 3).

*) It should be noted that the Army Royal Flying Corps and Royal Naval Air Service were amalgamated in April 1918 into the Royal Air Force. This included both W/T research establishments, which became RAF W/T Establishment at Biggin Hill.

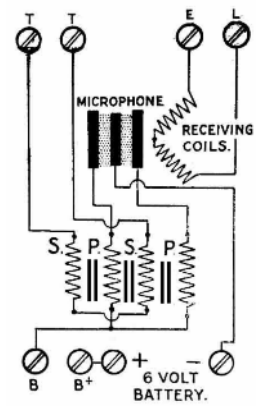
The Naval units of the RAF came to be called 'Fleet Air Arm' in 1924, and in 1937 full administrative control of the Fleet Air Arm was returned to the Admiralty. Although the user handbook (RAF F.S. Publication 99) mentioned in the references was dated October 1918, it is believed that this was a later reprint, and that the receiver had been introduced much earlier, as the Ta, Tc, and Td receivers were declared obsolescent at that time.



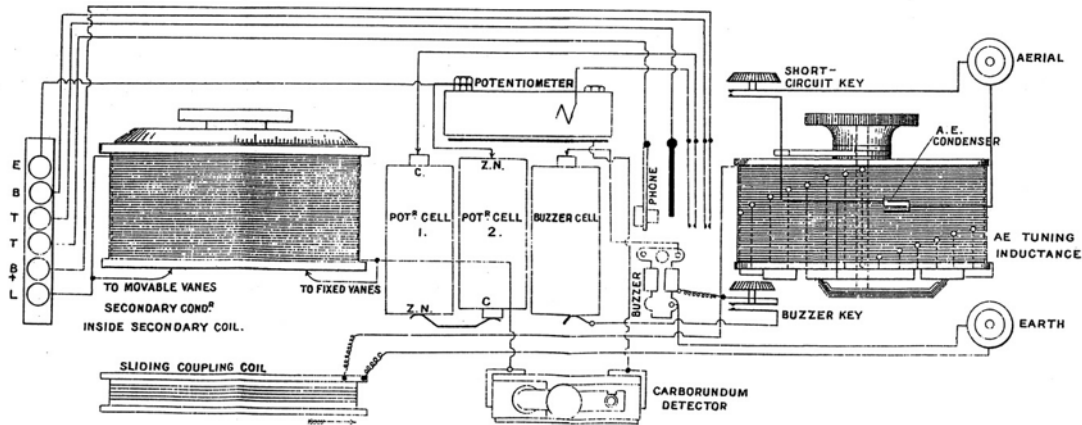
Internal view showing main components of the Model Td receiver.



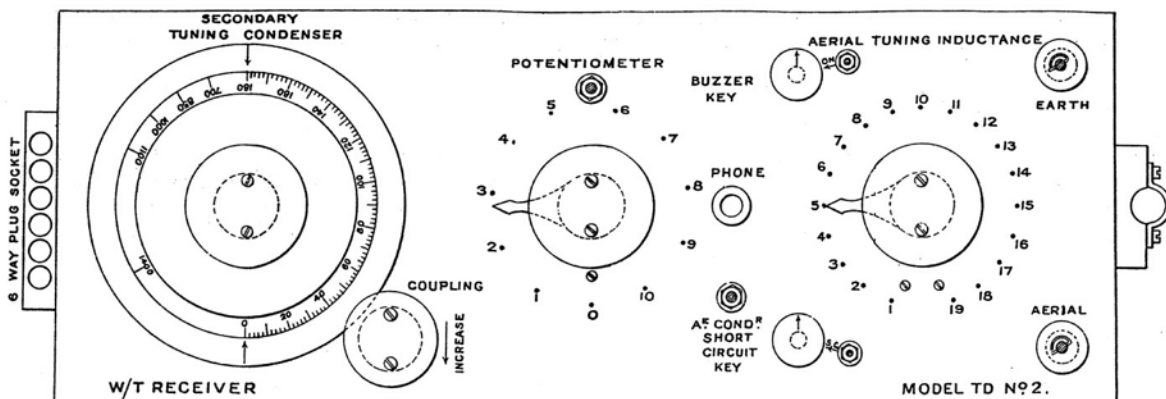
Circuit diagram of Model Td receiver.



The 6-pt socket connected to a Brown relay.



Practical circuit diagram of Model Td receiver.

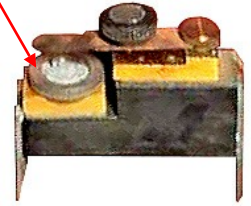


Front panel drawing of Model Td receiver.

Model Td detector assembly

Screwed carborundum adapter cup

The carborundum detector assembly for the Model Td was mounted on an ebonite base fitted with two metal tags that slid into contacts on the receiver. The carborundum was positioned in a screwed adapter cup, which was universal for all service receivers of this type. Despite the need for an additional battery and potentiometer, its exceptional durability and reliability made it most suitable for withstanding the vibrations encountered in aircraft.

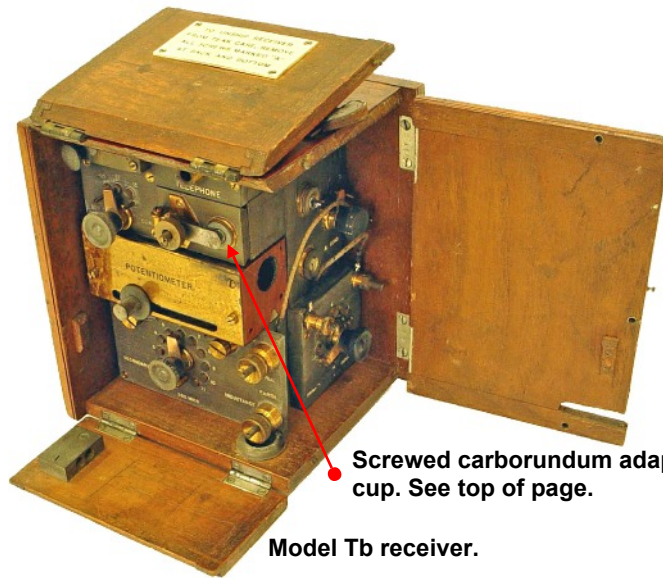
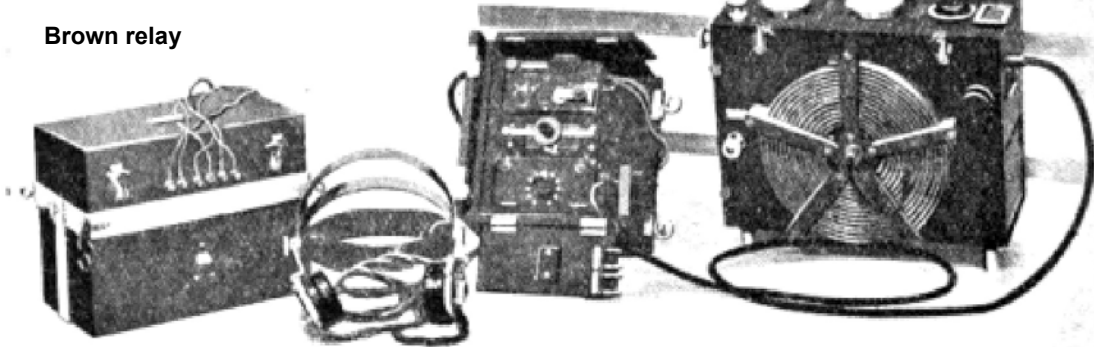


Model Tb receiver with Brown relay and early Type 52 transmitter.

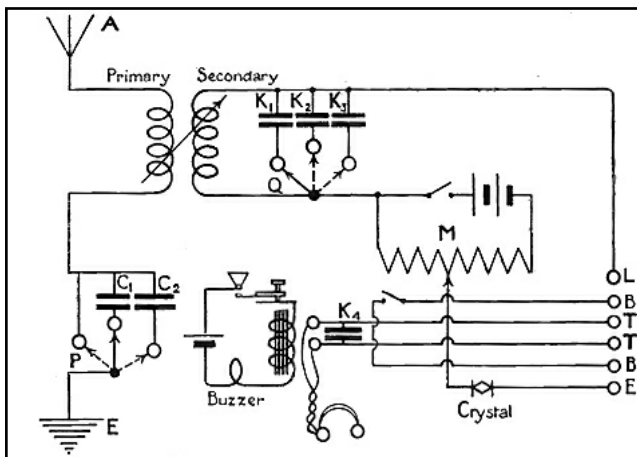
Brown relay

Model Tb receiver

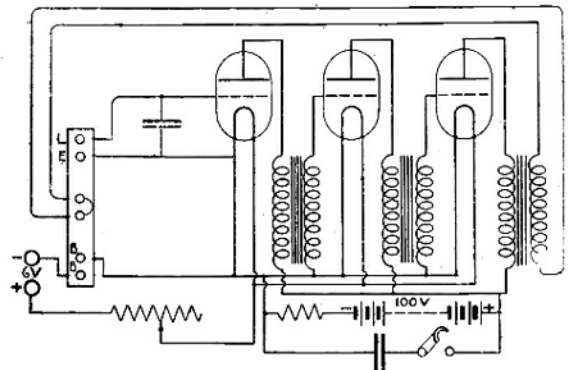
Type 52 transmitter



Model Tb receiver.



Circuit diagram of Model Tb receiver.

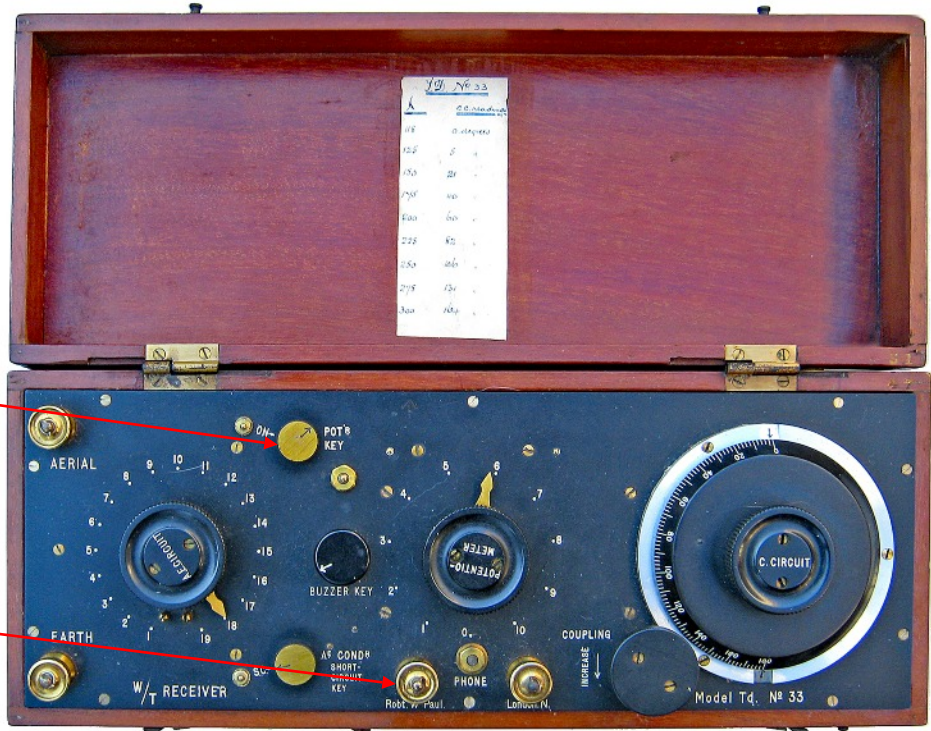


Circuit diagram of a valve amplifier, connected as an alternative to a Brown relay by the same 6-pt cable.

Model Td Ground version (Addition V 1.02)

Knowing the rarity of World War 1 wireless equipment, and already very pleased having located a couple of Model Td receivers for this 'Various No. 6' section, I was surprised to receive an e-mail from Mike Butt with photos of his mint Model Td. This receiver was an early version (s/n 33) with a different layout of controls and terminals, and no terminal block for a Brown relay. Mike also observed that there were no fixings for mounting in an aircraft or any holes where these could have been fitted, which indicate its possible ground use. He also noted that the buzzer, detector assembly and 3 dry cells were behind a pull-out wood panel with a leather strap on the front of the case.

Front panel view of Model Td ground version made by Robert W Paul in London.



Potentiometer key and switch. In the aircraft version, the potentiometer cells were disconnected when the headphones jack plug was detached.

The headphones connections were screw terminals, not a jack socket.

The front panel of the wooden case showing a detachable panel which provided access to the three dry cells, buzzer adjustment and carborundum detector assembly. This panel has positions for two spare carborundum cups inside.



It is believed, but not yet acknowledged, that this panel was also fitted in the aircraft version.

Buzzer
The letters 'Z' (zinc) and 'C' (copper) referred to the polarity of the Type E dry cells.
Carborundum cup
Dry cells for buzzer and potentiometer
Detector assembly
Detachable panel

Photographs and information courtesy Mike Butt.

An internal view of the Model Td ground receiver, removed from its wooden case. Photo taken as seen from the bottom.

