### RCA RADIOTRON COMPANY, INC.



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EQUIPMENT SALES
ENGINEERING SERVICE DIVISION

APPLICATION NOTE No. 40 June 14, 1934

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APPLICATION NOTE
ON
HIGH POWER OUTPUT FROM TYPE A

HIGH POWER OUTPUT FROM TYPE 45 TUBES

Because of its use for so many years as a Class A amplifier with a power output rating of only two watts, the 45 is generally regarded as being incapable of handling the high output required of modern receivers. The facts are, however, that the type 45 can be used in push-pull amplifier combinations to provide from 12 to 19 watts output with a total harmonic content of five per cent or less. This output is obtained by the use of a plate voltage of 275 volts (the maximum value) and by supplying some driving power to the grids of the 45's.

During an investigation of the merits of 45's as power output tubes, we operated them as Class A, Class AB, and Class B amplifiers and obtained power output as high as 19 watts. Under the simplest circuit conditions, however, power output of 12 to 13 watts can be expected.

#### DRIVER STAGE

To drive the 45's, the triode 56 and the triode-connected 59 are suitable tubes. Both the 56 and 59 are heater-cathode types of tubes having 2.5-volt heaters which afford freedom from hum. Since both types have relatively low plate impedance, the primary inductance of the interstage transformer can be made high enough to obtain good fidelity.

Table I shows how the driver tubes were used and gives the values of plate-to-plate load, the input-transformer ratio, and input-transformer efficiency for each single and dual driver combination. Where two driver tubes were used they were connected in push-pull. The driver plate voltage was 250 volts in all cases. The grid-bias voltage was supplied from batteries and was -13.5 and -28 volts for the 56 and 59, respectively. The driver can be operated self-biased with no appreciable increase in distortion. The data for the curves showing the current and voltage relations for the 45 vs. the driver input signal were taken under optimum conditions determined with the driver at the grid-current point.

The data of Table I show that for a given grid-bias voltage, the power output obtained is approximately the same whether the driver stage uses one or two tubes. This is because one driver tube will supply enough power to operate the 45's at or under their dissipation limit of 10 watts. A driver stage consisting of a 56 or two 56's is preferable in most cases to one employing a 59 because the power sensitivity of the 56 is better than that of the 59. The



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choice of a single or dual 56-driver stage depends on the method of input coupling to the driver, the overall power sensitivity (available input signal), the interstage coupling-transformer design, and the permissible higher-order harmonics.

The single 56-driver stage gives twice the power sensitivity of the dual stage and can be resistance-coupled to the preceding stage. Furthermore, the percentage of higher-order harmonics is about the same as for the dual stage.

With a dual stage, in comparison with a single stage, the interstage coupling transformer can be of better design at the same cost or can provide the same fidelity at lower cost. The fidelity is good in either case. The coupling of a dual stage to a single preceding stage requires a transformer or an inverter arrangement.

#### OUTPUT STAGE

A push-pull output stage of 45's was operated under conditions for Class A, Class AB, and Class B service in order to ascertain the complete possibilities of the tubes at a plate voltage of 275 volts. The results of these measurements are shown by curves and the data of Table I.

#### Index

#### OPERATING CONDITIONS OF AMPLIFIER

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Driver	Stage	Output	Stage:	2 -	45's

- 1									
Tube	No.	Grid-	Grid-	P	late-Supply	7	Grid-Supply	Se	90
Туре	of	Bias	Bias	Res	istance (Rp	,)	Resistance (R	c) Curve	Table
	Tubes	Method	Volts	·····	Ohms		Ohms		<u> </u>
56	2	Fixed	-56 to -	-76	0		0	1-a	
56	2	Fixed	-56		0		Ó		1-b
56	2	Fixed	-64		0		0	1-c	1-c
56	2	Fixed	<b>-</b> 76		0		0		1-d
56	2	Self	-56 to -	-64	0		775 to 1800	2-a	
56	2	Self	-56		0		775		2-b
56	2	Self	-56		500		775	2-c	2-c
56	2	Self	-56		1000		775		2-d
56	2	F & S	-56		0-1000		0-775	2-⊖	
56	- 1	Fixed	-56 to -	-68	0		0	3-a	
56	1	Fixed	-56		0		0	3-b	3-b
56	1	Fixed	-68		0		0		3-c
56	1	Self	-56		0		775		4-a
56	1	Self	-56		500		775	4-b	4-b
56	1	Self	-56		1000		775		4-c
56	1	F & S	-56		0-1000		0-775	4-d	
59	1	Self	-56		0		775	5-a	5-a
59	2	Self	-56		0		775	5-b	5-b

#### $R_o$ and $R_b$

The total series resistance in the plate circuit of the 45's consists of: (1)  $r_p$ , the plate resistance of the tube; (2)  $R_p$ , the load resistance; (3)  $R_o$ , the equivalent series resistance of the grid supply; and (4)  $R_b$ , the equivalent series resistance of the plate power supply. It will be noted that  $R_o$  in self-biased circuits is the grid-bias resistor.

When  $R_o$  and  $R_b$  are zero, the best plate voltage regulation and the maximum power output are obtained. It is, therefore, advantageous to use fixed bias instead of self bias and to have  $R_b$  as small as possible. If a voltage source of approximately zero resistance is used in place of the regular power supply and resistance is then introduced in series with this voltage source until it has the same voltage regulation as the power supply, the resistance added to the circuit would be the equivalent internal resistance  $R_b$ . In practice, this value is determined by plotting the voltage regulation curve of the power supply and measuring the slope of the line joining the voltage outputs at the zero-signal and maximum-signal operating conditions. The slope of this line represents  $R_b$ , the equivalent d-c resistance of the power supply.

#### Optimum Operation with Two Driver Tubes

The first group, 1-a to 1-d, represents ideal conditions for two 45's driven by two 56's. The grid bias and plate voltage were both taken from a battery supply so that the resistance in both plate circuit and cathode circuit is minimum. This condition is expressed by  $R_{\rm e}$  - 0 and  $R_{\rm b}$  - 0. It is to be noted that under these operating conditions the optimum power output of 17 to 19 watts is obtained.

Normal grid-bias voltage for the 45 with a plate supply of 275 volts is -56 volts. In 1-a to 1-d, operation is shown with grid-bias voltages from -56 to -76 volts. Operation under the conditions of 1-b is as a Class A amplifier drawing grid current after power output exceeds 5.3 watts. Under the conditions of 1-c, operation is as an overbiased amplifier with grid current starting when the power output is 5.3 watts. For 1-d, the 45's are initially biased to 5 milliamperes plate current and operation is Class B with grid current beyond 5.0 watts of power output. 1-a is in the nature of a summary of curves 1-b, 1-c and 1-d.

#### Self-Biased Operation with Two Driver Tubes

Group 2 illustrates the more practical self-bias method of operation. Data for 2-a were taken with variation of the self-bias resistor to produce grid-bias voltages of -56 to -64 volts. The greatest power output was obtained with a bias of -56 volts (see 2-a); hence, this grid-bias value was used as the operating bias for determining the data given in 2-b, 2-c, 2-d and 2-e. Of the conditions represented by 2-b, 2-c and 2-d, that of 2-c is the most practical because  $R_b$  with a value of 500 chms represents the approximate equivalent resistance of a power supply using a type 5Z3 rectifier.  $R_c$ , the grid-supply resistance, is 775 chms for all three cases. The resistance affecting plate-supply regulation is equal to  $R_b + R_c$ . The power output obtained under these conditions is seen to be 13.2 watts with maximum signal. Semi-fixed bias operation with two driver tubes would provide power output

intermediate to that obtained with the fixed-bias method and the self-bias method of 1 and 2. Such operation can be provided by taking the bias voltage from the drop across the speaker field or a choke in the power supply. 2-e is a summary of the measurements of 2-a to 2-d.

#### Optimum Operation with a Single 56 Driver

Group 3 corresponds to Group 1 but applies to a single 56 driver. The data show that approximately the same power output can be realized with a single driver as with a dual driver and, furthermore, that there is some reduction in higher-order harmonics, or sizzle. In this group and in Group 4, only half the input signal to the driver tube is required as compared to that required for cases where two driver tubes are used.

#### Self-Biased Operation with a Single 56 Driver

Group 4 corresponds to Group 2 in that it applies to self-biased operation. However, a single driver is used. This gives only a slight reduction in power output as compared with two driver tubes. Sizzle varies over a wider range in this case than it did for the corresponding case with two drivers and is less in 4-b than in 2-c. The designer should choose between 2-c and 4-b and select the circuit best suited to his particular design requirements.

#### Self-Biased Operation with One or Two 59 Driver Tubes

Operating conditions for the 45's with one or two 59's in the driver stage are shown in 5-a and 5-b. The 59's are connected as triodes and used as a Class A amplifier. Although the 59's are operated well below their maximum output, a comparatively high driver-input signal is required to obtain sufficient signal to drive the 45's to their distortion limit. The higher-order harmonics are usually slightly greater than for the 56 as a driver. Two 59 driver tubes give approximately one watt greater output than two 56 driver tubes under similar self-bias conditions.

#### Effects of Ro and Rb with Fixed-Bias Operation

The resistance ( $R_o$ ) has a greater influence on the power output than  $R_b$ . This is particularly noticeable as the power output approaches maximum and is illustrated by the curves of 2-c and 4-d. It is also shown by the data of Table I. Observe, for instance, 2-b and 2-c which show identical power outputs. In both of these cases,  $R_c = 775$  ohms, but  $R_b = 0$  ohms in one case and 500 ohms in the other case. Notice also 4-a and 4-b in which there is but 0.7-watt difference in the power output for a difference of 500 ohms in  $R_b$ ; then notice the difference of 4 watts in power output between the fixed-bias condition and the self-bias condition of 1-b and 2-b, and the difference of 4.4 watts between the fixed-bias condition and the self-bias condition of 3-b and 4-a. Each comparison illustrates the point that a change in  $R_b$  will not materially affect the power output but that a reduction of  $R_c$  from 775 ohms to zero will allow an increase in power of approximately 30% over that obtained with self bias. Thus, if fixed-bias

operation can be had, 17 watts of audio cutput can be expected from two 45's. In order to obtain a fixed bias, a separate filament-type triode, preferably a 26 or OlA, can be used as a rectifier to supply a bias voltage substantially unaffected by the plate current of the 45's. The grid bias for all of the conditions mentioned is the normal value of -56 volts. Should still greater output be desired, it can be obtained by providing higher fixed-bias voltage in accordance with 1-c, 1-d and 3-c and by operating the amplifier Class AB or Class B. 1-c and 3-c illustrate Class AB operation while 1-d illustrates Class B operation.

#### Selection of Tubes for Output Stage

The pair of 45 tubes used in this investigation had average characteristics. The question naturally arises as to whether or not the tubes should be matched to obtain the reported results. In order to determine this, 45's were selected whose plate currents differed from the rated value by plus and minus 35 per cent. These tubes were operated in pairs under the conditions of 4-b with a single 56 driver, self-biased at -56 volts and with  $R_b=500$  ohms. The distortion did not exceed 7% for any combination of tubes. The zero-signal and maximum-signal grid bias and plate voltage departed less than 5% from the values obtained with the average pair. There was but a slight increase in the higher-order harmonics.

#### Plate-to-Plate Load

When using self bias, it is necessary to use a higher value of plate-to-plate load resistance than with fixed bias or semi-fixed bias in order to lessen plate-current swings, limit distortion, and prevent plate current cut-off at negative signal swings.

The plate-to-plate load is specified for each operating condition shown in the discussion and should be followed fairly closely. Too great a deviation from the specified load will change the operating conditions. For instance, should the plate-to-plate load be too low, the tube dissipation may exceed the maximum rated value of 10 watts; should the plate-to-plate load be too high, the full power output will not be realized. For either case the ratio of the interstage transformer would not be optimum.

#### Summary

As an output tube, the 45 when used in push-pull arrangements and operated beyond its grid-current point can provide power output of 12 to 13 watts for the simplest circuit conditions with comparatively low plate voltage of 275 volts, low distortion, low plate-current swings with resultant economy of transformer design, small input signal to driver, and low cost of tubes and amplifier components. If the user desires power output of the order of 17 watts or greater, it can be obtained by the use of an additional tube to provide the fixed-bias voltage.

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MICS	Higher-Order Per cent	212	4.00 4.00	2.2.2 6.4.7	2.3	20.3	1 %
HARMONICS	Total Per cent	20	വവവ	ໝໝ	ເລ ເລ	လ လ လ	ရှာ ရှာ
POWER	fangizxaM tA attaM	19	17.2 18.8 19.1	13.2 13.2 12.7	17.0	12.6 11.9 11.2	12.8
9 9	TuD-birD tA taioT taer strsW	18	5.3 5.0	5.2	5.5	6.4 8.4	7.3
	lsngi2-,xsM stloV ətslq	17	111	256 252 246	1-1	257 250 250	11,
	ets19-ot-ets19 bsod smd0	16	4240 3400 3490	5420 6000 5810	3900	4710 5060 5520	7350
	Isngi2xsM Flate Current (edut req).sM	15	65.0 71.0 68.0	47.0 43.0 43.0	66.5	47.5 45.0 42.0	41.0
- 45's = 275	D-C Grid Current Ma. (per tube)	14	1.56 1.88 2.00	1.96 2.00 2.00	1.25	1.21 1.35 1.33	3.50
OUTPUT STAGE: 2 - with Plate Volts =	Grid Input Peak Volts (per tube)	13	95.5. 107.5 119.5	105.0	91.5	104.3 99.6 93.3	118.8
OUTPUT S with Pla	Grid Input Peak Power Milliwatts	12	680 887 1000	820 1124 1110	486 656	473 461 464	1940
5.7	Plate-Supply Resistance(R <sub>b</sub> )	11	,000	0 500 1000	00	0 500 1000	.00
	Grid-Supply Resistance(R <sub>C</sub> ) AndO	10	000	775 775 775	00	775 775 775	775
	langi2xsM said birD stloV	6	-56 -64 -76	-75.5 -70.5 -69.5	156	-74.5 -70.5 -68	-75 -76
	Zero-Signal Grid Bias Volts	80	-56 -64 -76	1 1 1	156	156	-56
UT ORMER	Efficiency Frocent	7	81.0 85.4 88.3	86.0 88.8 88.1	79.6	80.8 80.6 79.7	92.0
INPUT TRANSFORMER	Primary 1/2 Secondary	9	3.33:1.0 2.76:1.0 2.35:1.0	2.50:1.0 2.76:1.0 2.76:1.0	1.54:1.0	1.29:1.0 1.38:1.0 1.48:1.0	1.33:1.0
DR IVER Stage	ets[q-ot-ets[q bsod smd0	5	122600 86400 71700	93100 68000 68600	33100 18200	31500 33600 33300	41200
DRI	Isngit Signal stow CMR (per tube)	4	9.25	9.25	9.35	9.25	19.6 19.6
BIAS WETHOD for 45's		69	Fixed Fixed Fixed	Self Self Self	Fixed	Self Self Self	Self
DRIVER		а	2-56 2-56	2-56 2-56 2-56	1-56*	1-56* 1-56* 1-56*	1-59° 2-59°
INDEX		1	15 16.	* 9 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	36 3c	48 40.	5a • 5b •

Note 1: If d.c. is used on filaments of 45's, the 775 values of  $\rm R_{c}$  in Column 10 should be 760 ohms.

\* Also covered by curves of same figure number \* Plate volts = 250 and Grid volts = -13.5 • Plate volts = 250 and Grid volts = -28.0

Note 2: Higher-order harmonics of Column 21 include 10% of fifth and all higher harmonics.



## OPERATION CONSIDERATIONS PUSH-PULL ARRANGEMENT WITH GRID CURRENT

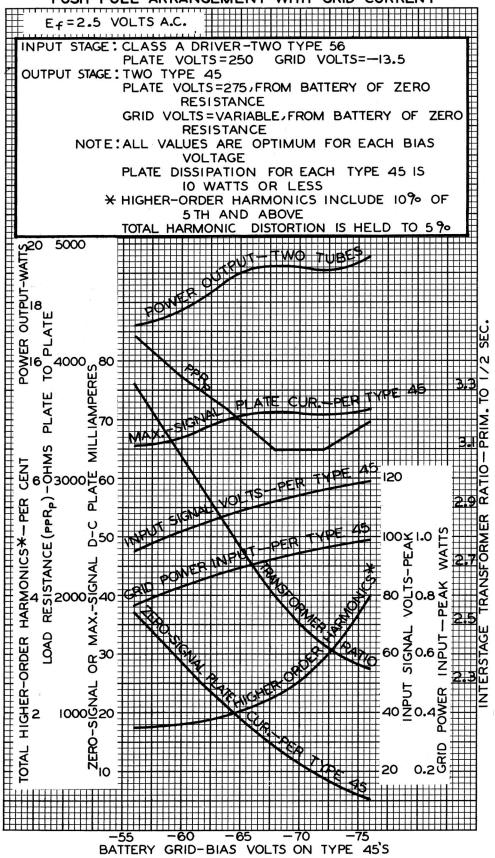
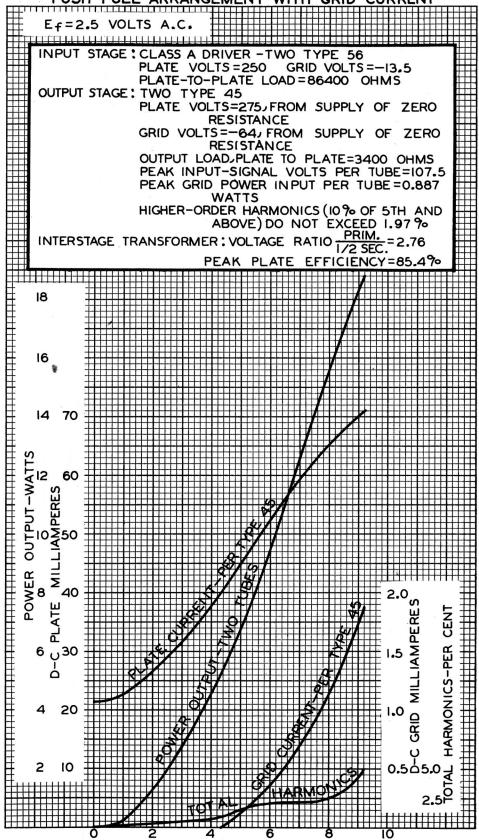


FIG. IA RCA RADIOTRON COMPANY, INC.

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### OPERATION CONSIDERATIONS PUSH-PULL ARRANGEMENT WITH GRID CURRENT

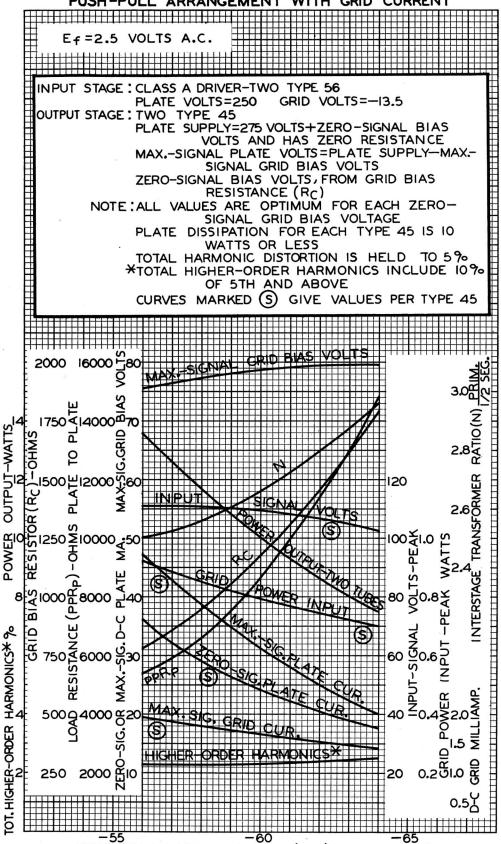


INPUT-SIGNAL VOLTS (RMS) TO EACH DRIVER TUBE FIG.IC

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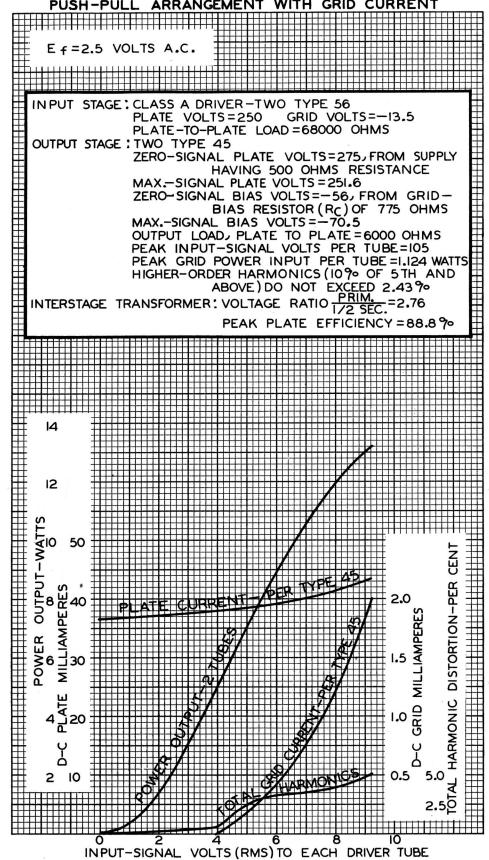




ZERO-SIGNAL GRID BIAS VOLTS (ECO) ON TYPE 45'S

FIG.2A







Ef=2.5 VOLTS A.C.

INPUT STAGE: CLASS A DRIVER-TWO TYPE 56

GRID VOLTS = -13.5

PLATE VOLTS = 250, OUTPUT STAGE: TWO TYPE 45

ZERO-SIGNAL PLATE VOLTS = 275, FROM

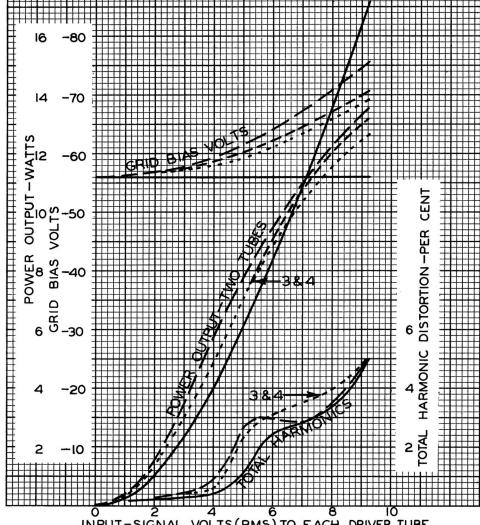
SUPPLY HAVING RESISTANCE (Rb)

SHOWN IN TABLE

ZERO-SIGNAL BIAS VOLTS = -56, FROM GRID-BIAS SUPPLY HAVING RESISTANCE (RC) SHOWN IN TABLE

CURVE	TYPE OF BIAS	R <sub>C</sub>	RЬ	
1	FIXED	0	0	
2 — —	SELF	775	0	
3	SELF	775	500	
4	SELF	775	1000	

Rb & RC EACH BY-PASSED WITH BUF CONDENSER

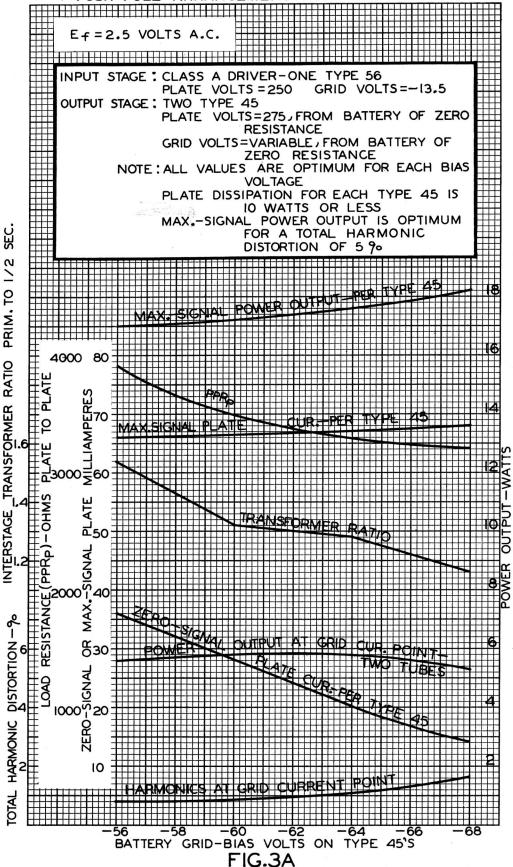


INPUT-SIGNAL VOLTS (RMS) TO EACH DRIVER TUBE

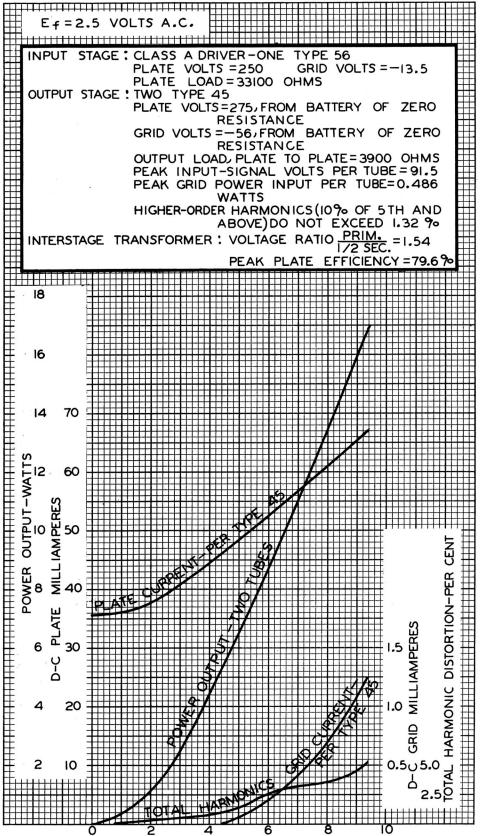
FIG.2E

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INPUT-SIGNAL VOLTS (RMS) TO DRIVER FIG.3B
1934 RCA RADIOTRON COMPANY, INC. DRIVER TUBE



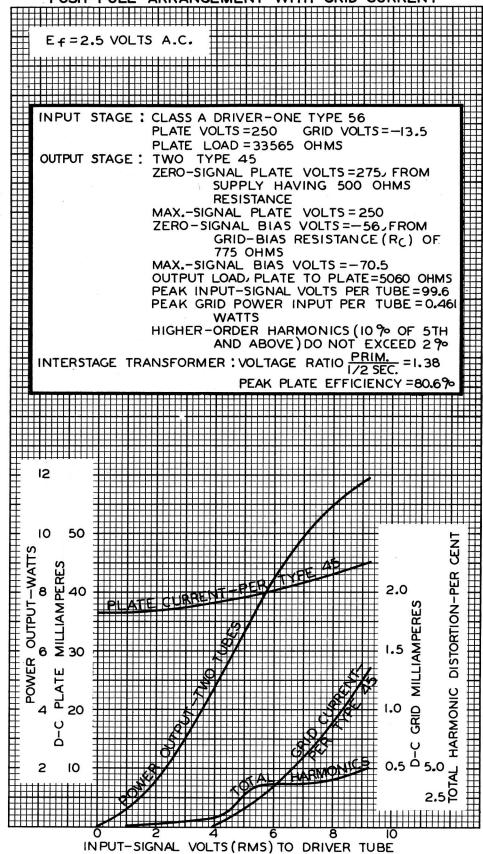


FIG.4B
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Ef=2.5 VOLTS A.C.

INPUT STAGE: CLASS A DRIVER - ONE TYPE 56

PLATE VOLTS = 250
OUTPUT STAGE: TWO TYPE 45

ZERO-SIGNAL PLATE VOLTS = 275, FROM

SUPPLY RESISTANCE (Rb) SHOWN IN

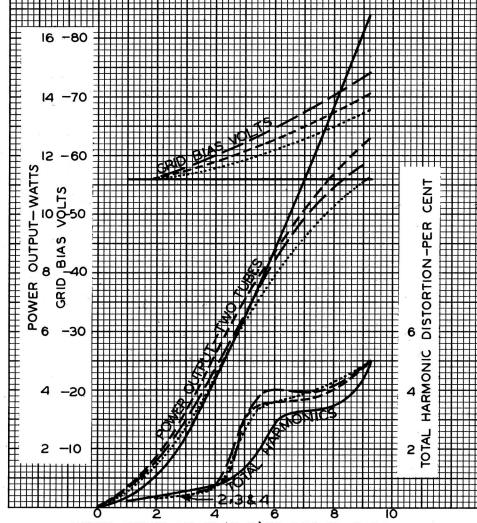
GRID VOLTS =- 13.5

TABLE

ZERO-SIGNAL BIAS VOLTS =-56, FROM GRID-BIAS SUPPLY HAVING RESISTANCE (RC)SHOWN IN TABLE

	CURVE	CURVE TYPE OF BIAS		RЬ	
	-	FIXED	0	0	
	2 — —	SELF	775	0	
ı	3	SELF	775	500	
ı	4	SELF	775	1000	

Rb & RC EACH BY-PASSED WITH 8 HF CONDENSER

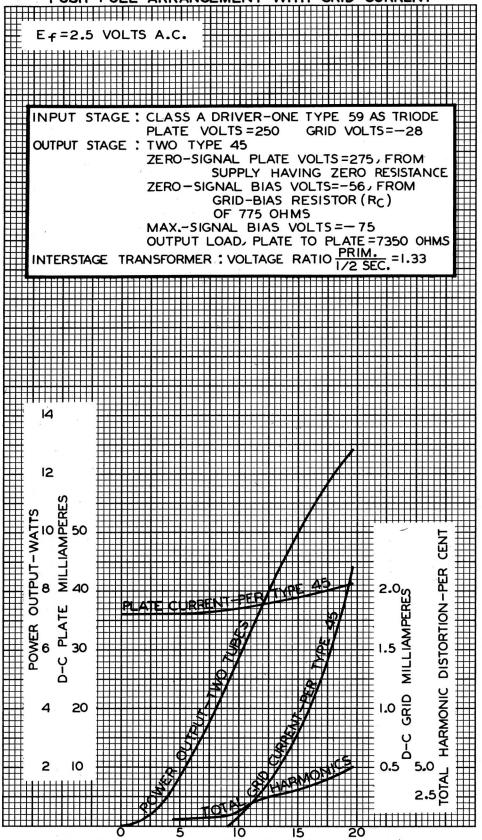


INPUT-SIGNAL VOLTS (RMS) TO DRIVER TUBE

FIG.4D

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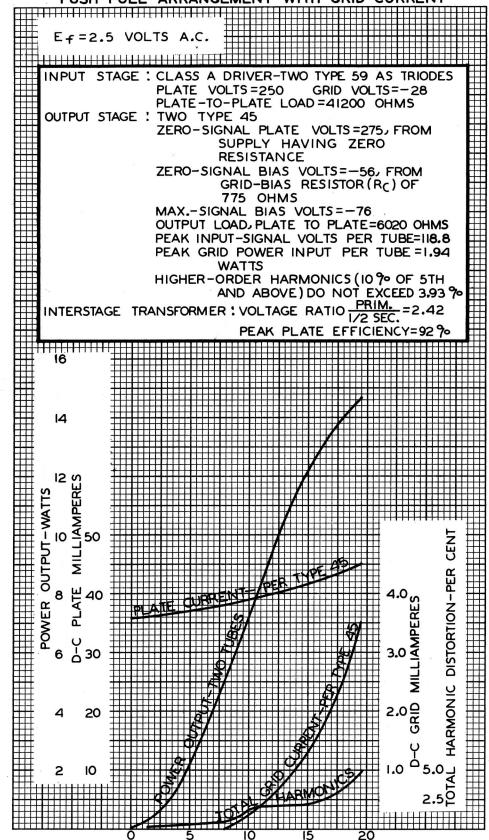


INPUT-SIGNAL VOLTS (RMS) TO DRIVER TUBE

FIG.5A RCA RADIOTRON COMPANY, INC.

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INPUT-SIGNAL VOLTS (RMS) TO EACH DRIVER TUBE

FIG.5B RCA RADIOTRON COMPANY, INC.