Western Electric
ORDER WIRE PANEL
268A

FOR RADIO TELEPHONE BROADCASTING SYSTEMS

A development of Bell Telephone Laboratories, the research laboratories of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and the Western Electric Company

THE Western Electric 268A Order Wire Panel is for use when radio broadcast programs originate at points remote from the main studio, where communication is important between the operator at the remote pick-up point and the operator in the main control room. In the control of broadcasts at hotel banquets, theatres, outdoor gatherings and games, this panel is of particular value. Order wire (telephone) lines are used for this purpose and terminating facilities in the form of the Western Electric 268A Order Wire Panel are available for use in the control room at the main studio location. The use of this panel expedites handling calls and promotes efficient program dispatching.
The 268A Order Wire Panel furnishes terminating facilities for twelve incoming order wire lines including:

1. Twelve combined jack and signal units, one for each order wire line.

2. Jacks for testing and for interchange of order wire lines and program lines in emergencies.

3. Call indicator lamp and key-controlled buzzer which register incoming signals simultaneously with respective line signals.

4. Calling and answering cord.

5. Key-controlled ringing from 20 cycle ringing voltage, or by means of a hand operated generator on an associated telephone panel.

6. Spare jacks for additional lines if required.

7. Jacks for talking and ringing circuit of associated telephone panel.

**Mechanical Assembly**

The component parts of this unit are assembled on a recessed metal panel 19 3/4" wide and 7" high, designed for mounting on a standard relay rack or in an equipment cabinet. The face of the panel is covered by a mat which conceals the panel mounting screws. This mat provides a mounting for the designation strips which identify the telephone line signals or drops as well as the three rows of jacks. Figure 1 shows the arrangement of the apparatus on the front of the panel. A single jack is provided in the center mounting space as a holding jack for the plug of the calling and answering cord when it is not in use. The double plug end of the cord may be left inserted in the double jacks of the talking and signalling circuit at all times. At the back of the panel is a terminal strip for the external connections to the telephone set, 20 cycle ringing voltage, and a 12 volt grounded DC power supply which is required for the operation of the line lamp and the buzzer.

**Circuit Information**

The telephone lines are continuous through the jacks and jack contacts to the respective line signals, and ordinarily the panel is operated without the use of patching cords.
other than the calling and answering cord. However, both the incoming lines and the line signals are available at the respective jacks and it may be found desirable to have patching cords equipped with plugs for testing and for connection of additional telephone lines from spare jacks.

Incoming signals are registered by the line drops, the signal lamp and the buzzer simultaneously. A key is provided for disconnecting the buzzer. The insertion of the plug of the answering and calling cord into the jack of the particular line on which the call is registered automatically restores the line drop, extinguishes the line lamp and disconnects the buzzer, if the latter is used. Then the circuit ordinarily is completed through the calling cord and the key-controlled signalling and talking circuit to the local telephone set such as the Western Electric 260A Telephone Panel.

When an outgoing call is made, the single plug of the calling cord is inserted in the desired line jack and the non-locking key near the center of the panel is depressed. This disconnects the local telephone set and connects the 20 cycle ringing voltage for signalling. The 20 cycle ringing supply may be obtained from any suitable automatic source. Signalling also may be done by means of a hand operated generator such as that provided on the Western Electric 260A Telephone Panel.
SPECIFICATIONS

**General:** Provides terminating and signalling facilities for twelve telephone order wire circuits between the operating points in radio broadcasting systems. Spare jacks and mounting positions for additional lines if required.

**Power Supply:** 12 volts grounded DC supply for the signal lamp and the buzzer and 20 cycle ringing voltage are required.

**Dimensions:** 19” long by 7” high.

**Weight:** Approximately 25 lbs.

**Finish:** 268A-15—Standard—Dark Gray Mat  
268A-3 —Black Mat

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**Distributor in the United States**

**Graybar Electric Company**

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