

Proposed design for a 10-kw f-m transmitter, based on survey replies.

Illuminated faces (19).
Stainless faces (20).
Larger faces on meters (25).

5. Tubes

Interviewed: *Future managers and operators.*

Question: *Do you think the tubes should be visible?*

Yes 96%
No 4%

Operators stressed the importance of visible tubes for operational procedure while the managers stated that station visitors would be interested in seeing the tubes.

Interviewed: *Present and future operators.*

Question: *Do you prefer air-cooled or water-cooled tubes?*

Air-cooled 94%
Water-cooled 6%

Others wanted . . . Stand-by (spare) tubes wired to switch into circuit (12); easier tube replacement (8); life of tube guaranteed (5); provide means for using tube heat to heat building (5); standardized tube socket (4); tubes individually metered (3).

Air cooled tubes were preferred because they are less messy and do away with complicated water system plumbing, electrolysis, and sweating. They give less mechanical difficulty, are clean, economical, easy to maintain and compact. Those who spoke out for water-cooled tubes, however, felt that over 5 kw the necessary blowers and fans cost as much to maintain as a water system.

6. Monitors

Interviewed: *Future operators.*

Question: *Should the frequency and modulation monitors be incorporated in the transmitter or furnished as a separate unit?*

Separate 57%
Incorporated 43%

Separate units were preferred because they eliminate shielding difficulties. Of those favoring separate units, approximately 25% suggested that the monitors be incorporated in the console. Five said that monitor meters should be visible from console.

7. Antenna

Interviewed: *Future operators.*

Question: *Do you require any special type of f-m antenna?*

No 71%
Yes 22%
Don't know 7%

Others wanted . . . directional an-

tenna for local requirements (8); de-icers on antenna (4); and electrical storm protection (4).

Interviewed: *Future operators.*

Question: *What type of transmission line do you expect to use?*

Coaxial 83%
Other 17%

Interviewed: *Future operators.*

Question: *What will be the impedance of your transmission line?*

70 ohms 48%
72 ohms 15%
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Others wanted leak-proof insulation (3); and open-line transmission (2).

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Interviewed: *Future managers and operators.*

Question: *Would you like assistance in planning your complete f-m installation?*

Yes 54%
No 46%

Two asked that stations submit design for approval by manufacturer.

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Engineer-trained representatives were requested by five; four wanted servicing calls not included in original over-all expense; three wanted repair service and two asked for periodic calls.

A very common complaint was that the average local distributor was not thoroughly familiar with answers to broadcasting problems. Requests were made for factory representatives, talking the broadcasting engineer's language, to make periodic service calls, and always be available in case of trouble.

General Comments

Interviewed: *Present and future managers and operators.*

Question: *What do you think of f-m?*

Good opinion 64%
Poor opinion 36%

Favorable comments:

Local service better than a-m.
Break for small stations.
Noise-free reception.
Low power consumption.
Better quality reception.
Very good for poor channel a-m stations.

Unfavorable comments:

Over-rated.
Bad for rural areas.
Over-publicized.
Splits audiences with a-m.
Too many technical difficulties.

Interviewed: *Present managers.*

Question: *What is the public reaction to f-m?*

Good 75%
Poor 5%
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Comments:

Noise free feature should receive stronger stress than quality in f-m ads.
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Interviewed: *Future operators.*

Question: *What shape console do you prefer?*

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File drawer for FCC reports (7).
Antenna light signal at console (8).
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Power light indicator (9).
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Adequate drawer space (16).
Space for long-carriage typewriter (18).
Swivel chair designed for console (20).
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Space for log book (21).
Built-in telephones (24).
Adequate knee and leg room (40).

3. Controls

Interviewed: *Present and future operators.*

Question: *Where would you prefer to have your power controls?*

Console 60%
Transmitter 20%
Both 20%

Question: *Where would you like to have your r-f controls?*

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Other featured included . . . guarded controls (8); controls requiring vernier adjustment to be at transmitter, locked (7); concealed transmitter controls (5); console controls grouped according to functions (3).

Interviewed: *Future operators.*

Question: *Do you prefer manual or automatic controls?*

Manual 43%
Automatic 39%
Both 18%

4. Meters

Interviewed: *Present and future operators.*

Voluntary comments:

Black faces (4).
Monitor meters visible from console (5).
Non-reflecting glass on meters (6).
More meters (7).
Sloped meters (7).
Duplicate meters on console (8).
Every important circuit to be individually metered (10).
Meters at eye level (16).

BROADCAST TRANSMITTER DESIGNS

As Determined by a Market Survey



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INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS DIVISION

WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC CORPORATION

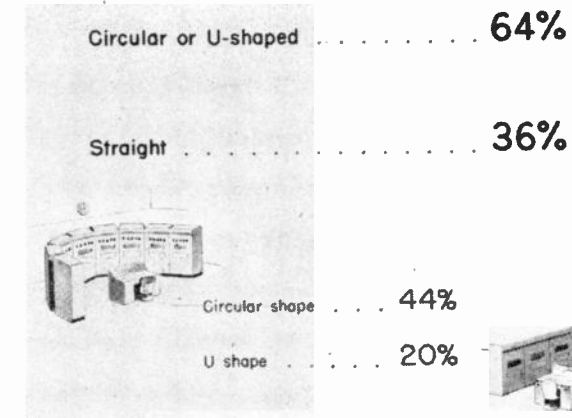
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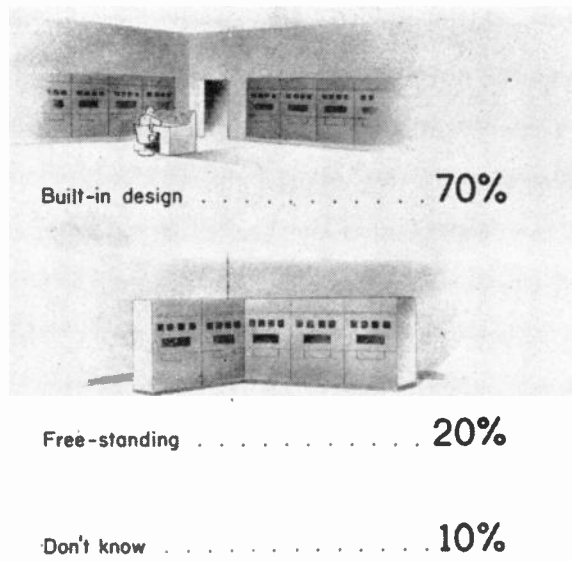
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Printed in U.S.A.





* Circular design is only practical for 10 kw or larger transmitters. For such transmitters, a circular or U-shaped design allows meters at an equal distance from the operator and eliminates parallel errors.



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by M. R. BRIGGS

Manager Broadcast Engineering, Industrial Electronics Division Westinghouse Electric Corporation

Impartial Survey of Present and Future Managers and Operators of 24 F-M Stations on Air and 67 Soon to Go on Air Reveals Vital Equipment Cost, Service and Design Data.

THE DESIGN OF A-M BROADCAST TRANSMITTERS has been, up until a few years ago, a matter of evolution. As many of you probably remember, the first transmitters were bread-board affairs, following amateur practice. Later, pipe framing was used to mount the equipment, with the location of control determined by the mounting of the particular piece. Meters were located wherever convenient. Further development brought forth the individual frame type of construction, with each major unit in a separate frame, the whole transmitter being

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Above, right. Illustrating reply to inquiry regarding preferences for a built-in or free-standing transmitter.

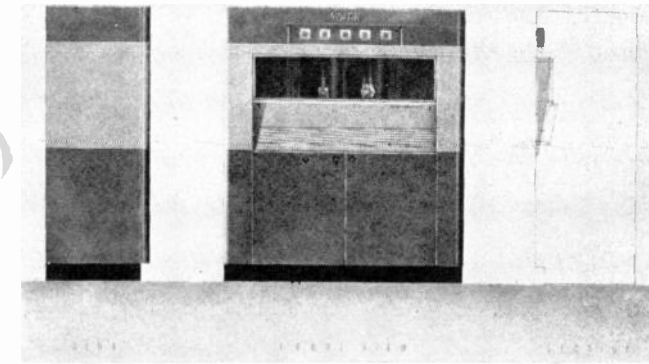
composed of the individual frames bolted together.

The latest a-m designs utilize cubicle type of construction with emphasis placed on accessibility, ease of operation and maintenance. These designs represent mostly the thoughts and ideas of the radio design engineer. If the engineer has had practical experience in the operation of a broadcast

transmitter, it is usually found reflected in the transmitter design.

With the advent of f-m, the design of f-m transmitters appeared not to follow the evolved standard practices of a-m transmitter construction. Circuits were complicated, equipment was reduced in size, and servicing became a major problem.

It was felt that a comprehensive



Proposed design for a 1-kw f-m transmitter, based on survey data.

survey conducted among managers and operators who had extensive f-m experience as well as those who, because of a broad broadcasting background, were familiar with the art, would indicate preferences and requirements directly affecting the design and construction of future f-m equipment. While the survey plans were particularly pointed towards f-m transmitter design, it was believed that many of the comments, preferences and suggestions would be applicable to a-m transmitter designs. The survey results proved that many of the design requirements had dual applications.

The survey, conducted by Cushing and Nevell under our auspices, covered 91 f-m stations and license applicants located in 56 cities and 22 states. Of the stations visited, 24 are presently operating f-m; 67 are prospective f-m operators. Personnel interviewed totalled 162, including 21 present managers, 51 future managers, 28 present operators and 62 future operators. (The term operators includes chief engineers as well as transmitter operators.)

Separate questionnaires, prepared for each of the four classifications of persons interviewed, solicited information and opinions concerning all phases of installations, management, operation and maintenance of f-m equipment. Questions were phrased either to obtain a direct yes or no response, or to invite opinions and suggestions which would indicate definite reactions and trends.

All persons interviewed showed keen interest in the survey, cooperated fully, and offered further assistance if desired. The majority of those interviewed wanted to be informed as to what manufacturer would eventually make use of the findings for the design of equipment. In no case, however, were we disclosed as the sponsor; as a matter of fact, in many cases the agents making the survey did not know for whom it was being done.

The survey contained three main

sections . . . equipment, services, and general comments. Questions, answers and suggestions within these sections were classified by subject matter.

Equipment

1. Transmitter

Interviewed: Future managers and operators.

Question: Will the transmitter station be open to visitors?

Yes 71%
No 18%
Don't Know 11%

Of the present operators interviewed on this subject, 55% stated that their f-m stations were open to visitors. Chief items of interest to visitors include general appearance, oscillograph, tubes, meters, antenna, and operational procedure.

Interviewed: Future managers.

Question: What do you expect to pay for your complete installations?

Price Estimate	Size of transmitter station					
	1 kw	3 kw	5 kw	10 kw	25 kw	50 kw
Don't know . . .	3	3	1	6	1	4
\$ 15,000-25,000	1	1	..	..	..	..
\$ 25,000-30,000	..	2	..	..	..	..
\$ 30,000-50,000	1	..	4	..	..	..
\$ 50,000-75,000	1	..	7	..	..	..
\$ 75,000-100,000	1	2*	1	1	..	..
\$100,000-150,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
\$150,000-175,000	..	..	..	3	..	..
\$175,000-300,000	..	..	1	..	2	..

Interviewed: Future operators.

Question: What power will be available at your transmitter?

220 volts, 60 cycles, 3 phase 65%
230 volts, 60 cycles, 3 phase 8%
440 volts, 60 cycles, 3 phase 6%
Don't know 21%

Interviewed: Future operators.

Question: Will there be an alternate supply?

No 46%
Own generator 21%
Two lines 21%
Don't know 12%

*This estimate includes cost of complete building.

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Price Estimate	Size of transmitter station					
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\$ 10,000-15,000	2	4
\$ 15,000-20,000	5
\$ 20,000-25,000	6
\$ 25,000-50,000
\$ 75,000-100,000	2	..
\$100,000-125,000	1	..
\$125,000-150,000	1	..

Interviewed: Present managers and operators.

Question: When do you plan to buy new f-m equipment?

Do not know 28%
5 years 34%
10 years 8%
10-15 years 6%
Not at all 8%
When more power is desired 16%

Many of those planning to remodel intend to add more power to their station.

Interviewed: Present and future managers and operators.

Question: Do you consider the appearance of the transmitter important?

Yes 89%
No 11%

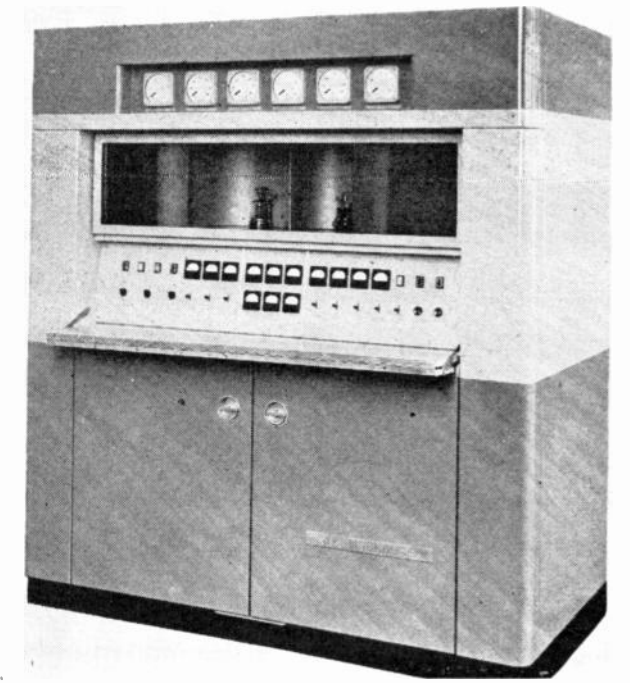
The morale building feature of neat appearing equipment was greatly stressed by chief engineers and by managers. Appearance was also considered an important factor in stations open to visitors. Many managers and operators felt that the prestige of the station is enhanced by its appearance, and an impressive appearance helps convince an advertiser that a good job will be done for his product. However, others emphasized that looks help, but performance counts, and that appearance must not interfere with engineering.

Interviewed: Future managers

Question: Do you favor a conventional or modern treatment in the design and layout of your station?

Modern 84%
Conventional 16%

Typical f-m transmitter designed in accordance with suggestions proposed during survey.



Interviewed: Future managers and operators.

Question: Do you favor a built-in or free standing design and layout in your transmitter room?

Built-in 70%
Free standing 20%
Don't know 10%

Interviewed: Future operators.

Question: Do you favor a straight, circular or a U-shaped design for your transmitter?

Circular 44%
Straight 36%
U-shaped 20%

It was determined that circular or U-shaped design was only practical for transmitter larger than 10 kw. For such transmitters, a circular or U-shaped design places dials and meters at an equal distance from the operator and eliminates parallax errors.

Interviewed: Future managers and operators.

Question: Do you have any preference about the use of color on your f-m equipment?

Yes 96%
Immaterial 4%
*Grey 32%
Blue-grey 30%
Umber-grey 13%
Blue 10%
Green 6%
Brown 3%
Others 6%

Other characteristics were: non-reflecting surface (8¹); colors standardized for chain (4); non-reflecting glass (3); and no chrome (2).

*Grey was used by many people in expressing a preference for blue-grey or umber grey.

Interviewed: Future operators.

Question: Do you prefer a compact or roomy transmitter?

Roomy 96%
Compact 4%

Storage space for spare parts and tools was requested by fourteen, space around hot equipment by three.

Roomy transmitters were preferred especially because they afford easy access to parts, and also permit better ventilating and more thorough cleaning. Engineers, operators and even managers of broadcasting stations were painfully aware of the lack of accessibility in their equipment and were definite in their opinion that future transmitters must be roomier.

Interviewed: Present operators.

Question: Do you think that dust protection is important?

Yes 71%
No 29%

More space to facilitate cleaning was requested by fifteen; use of the precipitron as standard equipment by nine; more efficient screens on blowers by four; and cleaning equipment as part of ventilating system by three.

Operators stressed dust protection, stating that a large percentage of repair and overhaul was due to dust and dirt.

Interviewed: Present and future managers and operators.

Question: What features and special features would you like to have incorporated in your transmitter?

Voluntary comments . . .

Controlled tube cooling after shutdown (2).
Point-to-point wiring (2).
Better quality insulation (3).
Sliding or rolling doors (3).
Wireless link from studio (3).
Legends for controls printed directly on panel (4).

Manufacturer's name on nameplate (4).
Diagrams on transmitter doors (5).
Nameplate legends should be more legible (5).
Standardized design for chain stations (5).
Standardized tube sockets (5).
Trough conduits instead of pipe conduits (5).

Thermostatic control of ventilation (5).
Provision for using tube heat-to-heat building (6).
Greater accessibility to mounting nuts and bolts (7).
Overload alarms (7).
Sturdier and more accessible terminal connections (7).

Diagrams on rollers or door panels (8).
Micro-switch cut-off on doors (8).
Thermometers as standard equipment in cubicle interior (8).
Circuit breakers to replace fuses (10).
Parts not in open vertical arrangement mounted on sliding shelves (11).
Oscillograph (12).
Trough lights on front of transmitter (14).
Inside lights and outlets (15).
Quieter operation of blower system (16).
More adequate ventilation (19).

The general feeling was that circuit breakers give lower maintenance and less trouble than fuses. They also give a visual indication of trouble, and hence a quicker return to normal operation. Some operators suggested circuit breakers for all main circuits and fuses with neon lights for others. A total of 258 out of 274 operators and managers, however, preferred cir-

¹Number of persons offering information.

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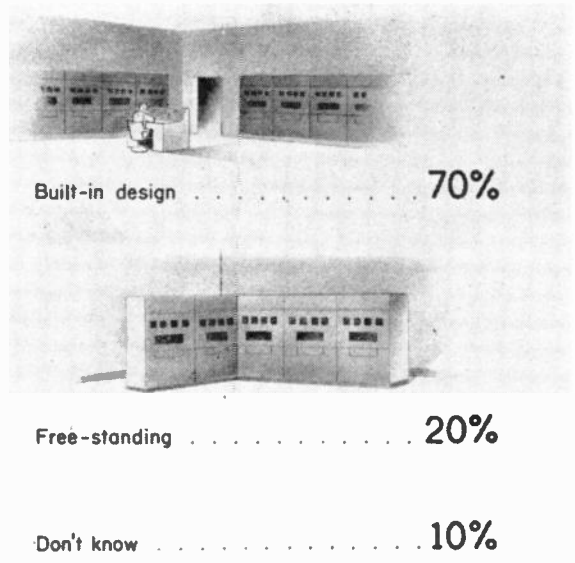
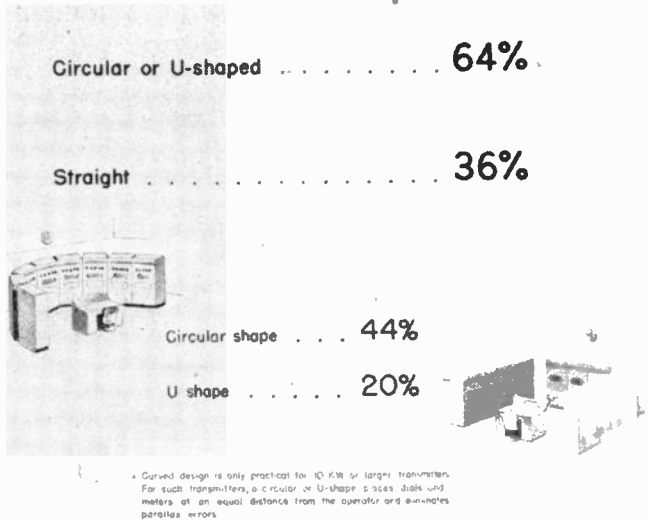
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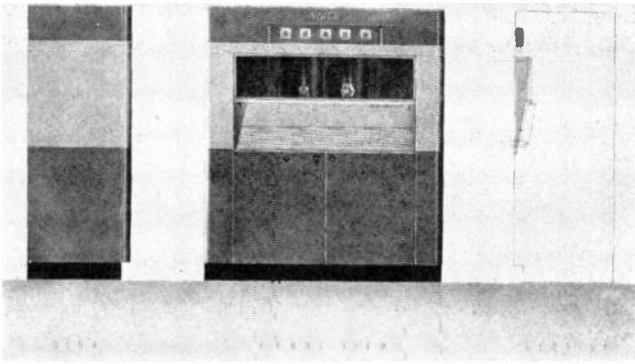
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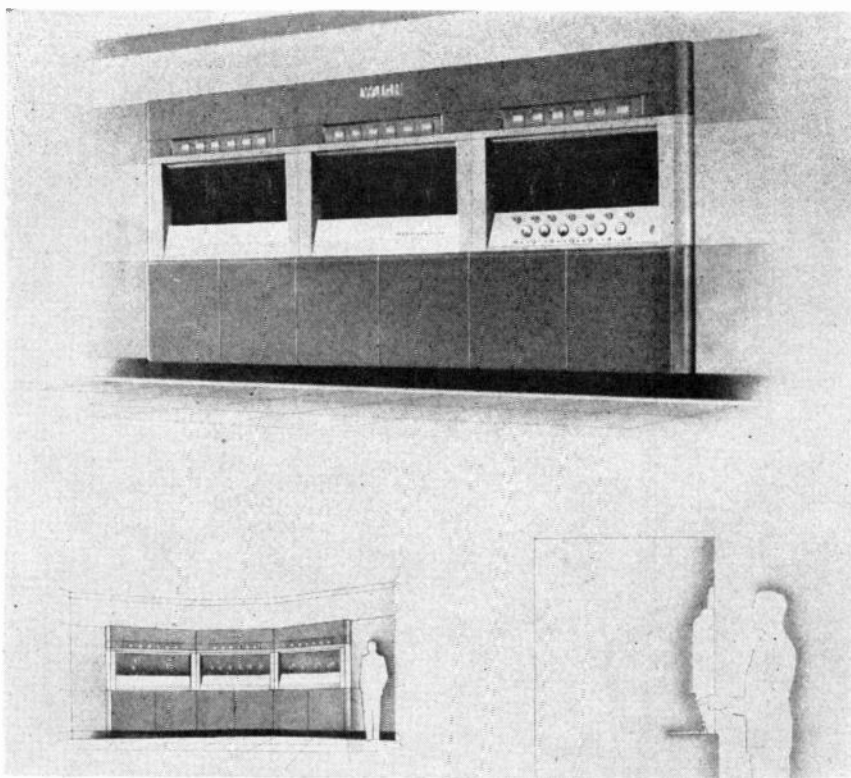
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- Antenna light signal at console (8).
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- Power light indicator (9).
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- Space for long-carriage typewriter (18).
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- Sloped meters (7).
- Duplicate meters on console (8).
- Every important circuit to be individually metered (10).
- Meters at eye level (16).

- Illuminated faces (19).
- Stainless faces (20).
- Larger faces on meters (25).

5. Tubes

Interviewed: *Future managers and operators.*

Question: *Do you think the tubes should be visible?*

Yes	96%
No	4%

Operators stressed the importance of visible tubes for operational procedure while the managers stated that station visitors would be interested in seeing the tubes.

Interviewed: *Present and future operators.*

Question: *Do you prefer air-cooled or water-cooled tubes?*

Air-cooled	94%
Water-cooled	6%

Others wanted . . . Stand-by (spare) tubes wired to switch into circuit (12); easier tube replacement (8); life of tube guaranteed (5); provide means for using tube heat to heat building (5); standardized tube socket (4); tubes individually metered (3).

Air cooled tubes were preferred because they are less messy and do away with complicated water system plumbing, electrolysis, and sweating. They give less mechanical difficulty, are clean, economical, easy to maintain and compact. Those who spoke out for water-cooled tubes, however, felt that over 5 kw the necessary blowers and fans cost as much to maintain as a water system.

6. Monitors

Interviewed: *Future operators.*

Question: *Should the frequency and modulation monitors be incorporated in the transmitter or furnished as a separate unit?*

Separate	57%
Incorporated	43%

Separate units were preferred because they eliminate shielding difficulties. Of those favoring separate units, approximately 25% suggested that the monitors be incorporated in the console. Five said that monitor meters should be visible from console.

7. Antenna

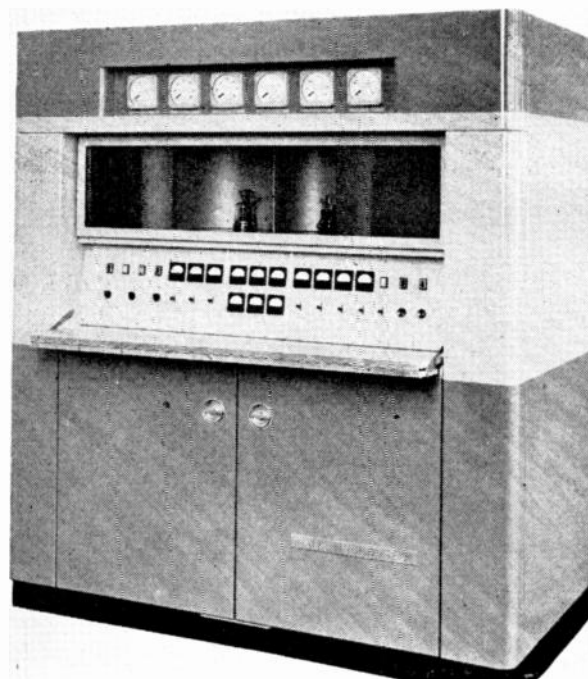
Interviewed: *Future operators.*

Question: *Do you require any special type of f-m antenna?*

No	71%
Yes	22%
Don't know	7%

Others wanted . . . directional an-

Typical f-m transmitter designed in accordance with suggestions proposed during survey.



Interviewed: *Future managers and operators.*

Question: *Do you favor a built-in or free standing design and layout in your transmitter room?*

- Built-in 70%
- Free standing..... 20%
- Don't know 10%

Interviewed: *Future operators.*

Question: *Do you favor a straight, circular or a U-shaped design for your transmitter?*

- Circular 44%
- Straight 36%
- U-shaped 20%

It was determined that circular or U-shaped design was only practical for transmitter larger than 10 kw. For such transmitters, a circular or U-shaped design places dials and meters at an equal distance from the operator and eliminates parallax errors.

Interviewed: *Future managers and operators.*

Question: *Do you have any preference about the use of color on your f-m equipment?*

- Yes 96%
- Immaterial 4%
- *Grey 32%
- Blue-grey 30%
- Umber-grey 13%
- Blue 10%
- Green 6%
- Brown 3%
- Others 6%

Other characteristics were: non-reflecting surface (8¹); colors standardized for chain (4); non-reflecting glass (3); and no chrome (2).

*Grey was used by many people in expressing a preference for blue-grey or umber grey.

Interviewed: *Future operators.*

Question: *Do you prefer a compact or roomy transmitter?*

- Roomy 96%
- Compact 4%

Storage space for spare parts and tools was requested by fourteen, space around hot equipment by three.

Roomy transmitters were preferred especially because they afford easy access to parts, and also permit better ventilating and more thorough cleaning. Engineers, operators and even managers of broadcasting stations were painfully aware of the lack of accessibility in their equipment and were definite in their opinion that future transmitters must be roomier.

Interviewed: *Present operators.*

Question: *Do you think that dust protection is important?*

- Yes 71%
- No 29%

More space to facilitate cleaning was requested by fifteen; use of the precipitron as standard equipment by nine; more efficient screens on blowers by four; and cleaning equipment as part of ventilating system by three.

Operators stressed dust protection, stating that a large percentage of repair and overhaul was due to dust and dirt.

Interviewed: *Present and future managers and operators.*

Question: *What features and special features would you like to have incorporated in your transmitter?*

Voluntary comments . . .

- Controlled tube cooling after shutdown (2).
- Point-to-point wiring (2).
- Better quality insulation (3).
- Sliding or rolling doors (3).
- Wireless link from studio (3).
- Legends for controls printed directly on panel (4).
- Manufacturer's name on nameplate (4).
- Diagrams on transmitter doors (5).
- Nameplate legends should be more legible (5).
- Standardized design for chain stations (5).
- Standardized tube sockets (5).
- Trough conduits instead of pipe conduits (5).
- Thermostatic control of ventilation (5)
- Provision for using tube heat-to-heat building (6).
- Greater accessibility to mounting nuts and bolts (7).
- Overload alarms (7).
- Sturdier and more accessible terminal connections (7).
- Diagrams on rollers or door panels (8).
- Micro-switch cut-off on doors (8).
- Thermometers as standard equipment in cubicle interior (8).
- Circuit breakers to replace fuses (10).
- Parts not in open vertical arrangement mounted on sliding shelves (11).
- Oscillograph (12).
- Trough lights on front of transmitter (14).
- Inside lights and outlets (15).
- Quieter operation of blower system (16).
- More adequate ventilation (19).

The general feeling was that circuit breakers give lower maintenance and less trouble than fuses. They also give a visual indication of trouble, and hence a quicker return to normal operation. Some operators suggested circuit breakers for all main circuits and fuses with neon lights for others. A total of 258 out of 274 operators and managers, however, preferred cir-

¹Number of persons offering information.