

Tube Of The Month

WE 215A

There are those who believe that the miniaturization of vacuum tubes was one of the results of WWII. They missed a war. Radio equipment was used in WWI aircraft and in the trenches of the Western Front. The need for tubes that operated on very small values of battery power was the reason that Western Electric began research on miniature tubes during that War. The VT-5 or 215A was ready for production in 1919 so was never actually used in the War. The “Peanut” tube operated with 1 volt on the filament at .25 amp and 100 volts at 2 ma on the plate. The tube is 2.50 in long and .50 inches in diameter and required its own special bayonet socket.

Up until 1930, the 215A was used in a variety of equipment including small TRF and super heterodyne receivers, crystal oscillators in transmitters and audiometers. Western Electric made very good equipment and just because its old isn't always a reason to use something else. Western Electric finally refused to provide the Navy with the tubes in 1983 after 64 years of production.

Visit the museum at N6JV.com

Norm N6JV

