

Tube of the Month

8012 - 8025

At the beginning of WWII, 200 MHz was considered UHF. As the War progressed, there was a race to operate at ever higher frequency. With each step in frequency, there would be a few months of advantage until the opposition caught up or went even higher. One of the first big jumps was to 500 MHz. RCA and GE produced several UHF tubes including the 8012 and 8025. The design involved taking a triode of standard construction and making it operate at 500 MHz by minimizing the length of the plate and grid leads. The exhaust stem was put into the top of the tube so as not to interfere with the filament length. This construction makes these tubes very rugged and they could be used in ring oscillators. Electrically the tubes are the same. The 8012 has no base and pins that allow the tube to clip into it's circuit. The 8025 has a standard 4 pin base and more conventional contacts. These tubes had a dissipation of 40 watts.

This design didn't survive for long after the War, but a few devices incorporated them. The 8012 was used in the APQ-9 radar jammer and the 8025 was used in the AN/CRN-2 air transportable glide path transmitter.

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