

## Tube of the Month

# UV204

In World War I, the General Electric company produced a 250 dissipation triode called the Type P Pliotron. It fits into its socket like a very large fuse. After the War when commercial production began, this tube was designated the UV204 and was sold by RCA. The original tube had the same spherical envelope as the Type P, but soon the cylindrical envelope was adopted. The UV204, like almost all the early tubes, was designed for low frequency as the short-waves were only then being experimented with. This tube was being marketed to the commercial broadcast industry that wasn't interested in short-waves. For hams, this tube was about the only choice for the big gun. QST articles showed large breadboards with push pull UV204s in hartley oscillators. A slightly modernized version, the 204A, was still in use during WWII.

This example from about 1921 has an anode using un-plated metal that looks like it was made from a bean can. Small rods of glass support the filament. The maximum frequency for full input was only 3 MHz. We still use the expression "250 watter" today when referring to this type tube and it's socket.

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