

## Tube of the Month

# MARCONI-OSRAM MR4

During World War I, the General Electric Company was very active in manufacturing tubes and high power Alexanderson alternators for the American and British armed forces. After the War, General Electric was strongly encouraged by the U.S. Military to organize a new, all American, company that could control long distance communications. In 1919, the Radio Corporation of America was incorporated in Delaware. In Britain a similar arrangement was formed by General Electric under their Osram brand and the Marconi Company's Wireless Telegraph Co. Ltd. Marconi-Osram was founded in 1919 and began to develop lines receiving and transmitting valves.

Early transmitting and rectifying valves from "M.O." often used the same size and shape of envelope. The 1922 offerings include the high voltage rectifier MR4. Early high voltage tubes couldn't incorporate existing sockets. The "baseless" tubes were common in America and Europe. Flexible high voltage insulated wire was also not available so glass beads were used to make leads. These early valves are rarely seen outside of the U.K.

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