

Tube of the Month

UV202

In March of 1921, RCA announced their new line of transmitting tubes made for amateur and commercial use. This was a time when high DC voltage wasn't easy to get. Receiving sets were all run on batteries. The use of CW was proven in the war and QRP rigs were able to compete with the high power spark transmitters. The first tube that RCA had ready for sale was the UV202. It was similar to the UV201 receiving tube, but slightly larger and rated at a conservative 5 watts. This new "5 watter" operated at about 350 volts and 45 ma and was an instant hit with the hams. Each tube was made at the GE factory with close tolerances that allowed tubes to be run in parallel. An article in a QST from 1924 had 6 of them mounted in a circle. These were relatively low frequency tubes and I have never found the upper frequency of a 202. It was not uncommon to remove the base and wire the tube directly into the oscillator to minimize capacity.

During 1925, the 202 was discontinued in favor of the UX210. The "10" was also used in high power audio amplifiers.

The UV202 could be purchased as the Cunningham C302. Same tube, different marking. The UV prefix indicated that the tube had short pins and required a bayonet socket. The UX prefix indicated that the pins were long and could be plugged into a flat socket. When the first tetrode tubes were made, they had 5 pins and were marked with a UY. These prefixes were discontinued in the US in the late 1920s, but were still in use into the 1940s in Japan.

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