

## Tube Of The Month

# WE 708A

Science fiction writers started featuring “Flying Saucers” especially after WWII. To me a saucer isn’t an ideal shape for space travel. I wonder if Western Electric’s WE708A from 1942 was their inspiration. It was certainly “alien” looking. This tube resulted from the need for SHF amplifiers and mixers running grounded grid for stability. The grid needed to provide isolation between the tuned circuits. Western Electric solved this by making the entire case the grid, which could be bolted down to the chassis. To isolate the filament and plate, the leads were small coaxial lines. The body was made of steel and the tube was evacuated from the glass tip out the top.

The 708A was used in the Navy’s ASC aircraft radars and the SE, SG and SJ shipboard systems.

More photos at <http://n6jv.com>.

