

WITH THE COLLECTORS

The Paragon Regenerative Receiver

BY JOSEPH C. WOYCHOWSKI

I read the article on the Paragon Regenerative Receiver, shown in Figure 1, in the August 1996 issue of A.R.C. with great interest. Thank you for publishing it.

However, it occurred to me that not all collectors are fortunate enough to find the RA-10 and the DA-2 as a pair. Quite often, just the RA-10 can be found. The RA-10 is a very well thought out design, offering excellent antenna tuning and selectivity. It should not be ruled out if it is found alone. It is a great choice as a crystal set! (At least until its companion is found.)

To operate the RA-10 with a crystal detector, I use the hookup shown in Figure 2. The detector can be an old time galena crystal. However, a 1N34 or 1N60 diode is quick and easy to use. The detector is connected between binding posts "G" and "W." A 2,000 ohm headset connects to the "TEL" binding posts. For good reception the "E" (Earth) binding post should be connected to a good ground (such as a cold water pipe) and the "A" (Antenna) binding post to a 50' outdoor antenna with lightning protection. After completing the hookup, place the "coupling" at "50" and set the top antenna tap switch on the 3rd or 4th tap from CCW. Place the bottom antenna tap switch at full CCW. By adjusting the center "tuning" variable condenser, you should hear a station.

By adjusting the remaining controls and taps, you will maximize the signal. This will take a bit of

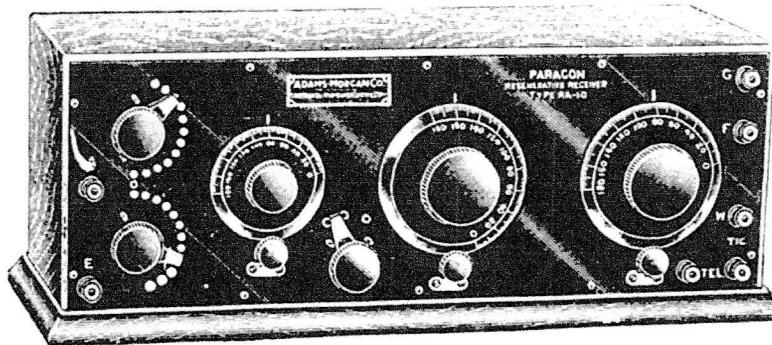


Figure 1. The Paragon Type RA-10 Regenerative Receiver

practice, but adjacent stations can be tuned selectively by using antenna tap switch combinations. Figure 3 shows the various antenna and tuning tap positions available to the user. Keeping a log charting

tap positions and knowing settings will aid in finding stations for future use. I was able to tune WOR at 710 kHz, loudly, while rejecting WFAN at 660 kHz fully! Few other sets I have tested will allow me to make this claim! Other tuners, such as the Grebe CR-3 Special, can be successfully hooked up by this same procedure. Good luck!

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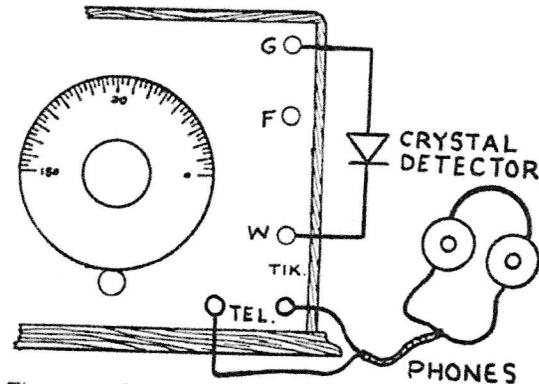


Figure 2. Connections for operating the Paragon RA-10 Tuner with a crystal detector.

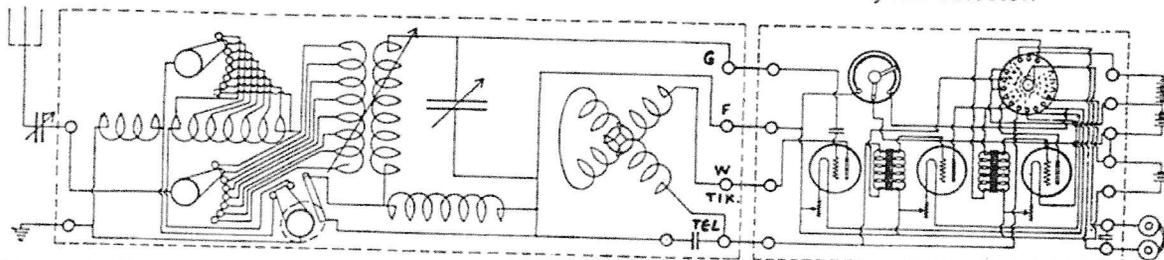


Figure 3. This schematic diagram of the RA-10 tuner (left) and the DA-2 detector/amplifier (right) shows the many antenna and tuning tap positions available to the operator.