balancing, condenser is now adjusted until the signal is WEAKEST.

The Selectivity Control

The action of the selectivity control may now be checked. With the receiver tuned exactly as it was when adjusting the phasing condenser, the selectivity control should be rotated and it will be found that the signal will be loudest at a certain setting. This setting is usually found with the pointer nearly vertical. The setting giving this maximum response is that at which the selectivity of the crystal filter is minimum. Since even at this minimum selectivity the crystal filter is much more selective than the straight super, the signal will be weaker than that obtainable when the crystal is cut out.

When a pure steady signal is carefully tuned to a single signal peak, the selectivity control should have practically no effect upon signal strength. If there is any form of modulation, however, the signal will be loudest when the selectivity control is set for minimum selectivity, since this adjustment allows a greater width of signal or modulation to be passed.

Final I.F. Adjustment

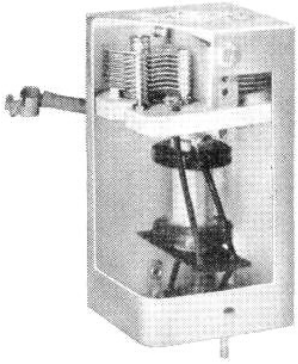
The final adjustment of the I.F. transformers may now be made. Set the control for maximum selectivity, carefully tune in a steady signal until it is exactly on the crystal peak, and adjust each of the I.F. transformer tuning condensers for maximum signal strength. In almost all cases where the I.F. amplifier has once been aligned to the crystal, this check is all that would be required, and it is not necessary to put the crystal in an external oscillator. Even if the I.F. amplifier is considerably out of alignment, the crystal frequency may be found by employing a strong local signal from a monitor or frequency meter, slowly tuning across it while listening for a peak in the audio beat note. If the peak is found at a very high audio pitch it will be necessary to change the tuning of the beat oscillator so that the audio peak will be well inside the limits of audibility. It is probable that if the peak signal is found at all, the I.F. amplifier will not be far out of tune and the readjustments required will be small.

Where the I.F. transformers are tuned with air dielectric condensers, the adjustments when once made are permanent and need only be checked when new tubes are substituted, provided of course the receiver is not subjected to severe mechanical shocks or vibration. I.F. transformers tuned by compression type mica dielectric condensers, on the other hand, should be checked frequently, since the capacity of such condensers is changed by temperature and humidity fluctuations. These statements are equally applicable to the beat oscillator circuits.

Checking Crystal Action

The crystal response, or crystal activity, may be easily checked as follows: With the signal tuned in exactly as mentioned in the previous paragraph and the selectivity control set at maximum selectivity, disconnecting the filter (by turning the phasing knob to "0"), should weaken the signal slightly. There will, of course, be a great increase in tube hiss, background noise and interfering signal, but the actual strength of the desired signal should be weaker. It is possible, of course, to obtain a louder signal in the straight super connection by resetting the selectivity control and this is quite normal. The fact that a signal is weakened when using the crystal filter is relatively unimportant, inasmuch as the filter is only used when interference or static is present, and such interference will be made about 100 times weaker, thereby greatly improving the readability of the signal.

A crystal which is found to be a poor resonator should be carefully removed from the holder and both crystal and plates cleaned with alcohol, gasoline, carbona, ether, or some similar fluid. In reassembling the holder care must be taken to see that the crystal is free between the plates; that is, that there is a suitable air gap (usually two or three thousandths) between the plates and the crystal and that the crystal is free to move sideways in any direction. The fibre pieces may be removed if desired as they serve only to protect the crystal in shipment.



The I.F. transformer illustrated at the right has two air dielectric condensers isolated from each other by an aluminum shield and mounted on a low loss ceramic base. The coils are Litz wound on a polystyrene form and thoroughly impregnated with liquid Victron.

These features contribute to the exceptional stability of the HRO and account in one detail for its acceptance as the communication receiver ideal for long periods of peak performance under adverse conditions and in all types of climate.