Western Electric

343AA Vacuum Tube

Classification—Filamentary, Forced Air-Cooled Triode

This tube may be used as an audio-frequency amplifier or as a radio-frequency oscillator, amplifier or modulator. This tube is similar to the 343A water-cooled tube, in electrical characteristics but is equipped with fins attached to the anode for forced air cooling.

Dimensions—Dimensions and outline diagrams are shown in Figure 1 and are:

Maximum overall length	21 3/16"
Diameter of bulb	4 1/8"

Mounting—This vacuum tube should be mounted only in a vertical position with the filament terminals at the top in a Western Electric 154A or similar socket. The metal jacket of the socket encloses the anode fins so the forced air stream is restricted to the fins. The photograph above shows the tube mounted in the metal container of the socket.

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Filament—Tungsten

Filament voltage	21.5 volts, a.c.
Nominal filament current	57.5 amperes
Average thermionic emission	8.0 amperes

Average Direct Interelectrode Capacitances

Plate to grid	23.5 $\mu\mu f$
Grid to filament	16.6 $\mu\mu f$
Plate to filament	1.9 $\mu\mu f$

Characteristics—Performance data given below are based upon a typical set of conditions. Variations can be expected with different circuits and tubes.

Figures 2 and 3 give the static characteristics of a typical tube plotted against grid and plate voltages. Figure 4 gives the constant grid- and plate-current curves. In Figure 5 the static grid current characteristics are shown. Figure 6 shows the filament resistance and emission characteristics.

Average Characteristics at plate voltage of 10,000 and plate current of 0.50 ampere.

Amplification factor	40
Plate resistance	5920 ohms
Grid to plate transconductance	6750 micromhos

Operation

Maximum Ratings

Max. direct plate voltage	18,000 volts
Max. direct plate current	1.5 amperes
Max. plate dissipation	5000 watts
Max. grid dissipation	200 watts
Max. r-f grid current	20 amperes
Max. frequency for the above ratings	4 megacycles
Max. plate voltage for upper frequency limit of 16 Mc	5000 volts
Max. plate voltage for frequencies between 4 and 16 Mc in proportion	

Class A Audio Amplifier or Modulator

Direct plate voltage	12,500 Max.	10,000 volts
Grid bias	−170	−130 volts
Direct plate current	0.40	0.30 ampere
Plate dissipation	5000 Max.	3000 watts
Load impedance	12,000	20,000 ohms
Undistorted output	650	400 watts

Class B Audio Amplifier or Modulator for Balanced 2 Tube Circuit

Direct plate voltage	12,500 Max	10,000 volts
Grid bias	−200	−150 volts
Direct plate current per tube		
No drive	0.25	0.22 ampere
Max. drive	1.3	1.3 amperes
Plate dissipation per tube	5000 Max.	5000 watts

Load resistance, plate-to-plate	8600	7600 ohms
Load resistance per tube	2150	1900 ohms
Approximate maximum output—2 tubes	18,000	15,000 watts
Recommended power for driving stage	750	750 watts

Class B Radio-Frequency Amplifier

Direct plate voltage	15,000 Max.	12,500 volts
Direct plate current for carrier conditions	0.70 Max.	0.70 ampere
Grid bias	−350	−300 volts
Approx. carrier watts for use with 100% modulation	3500	2900 watts

Class C Radio-Frequency Oscillator or Power Amplifier—Unmodulated

Direct plate voltage	15,000 Max.	12,500 volts
Direct plate current	1.00	1.25 amperes
Grid bias	−500 to −700	−450 to −600 volts
Nominal power output	10,000	10,000 watts
Plate dissipation	5000 Max.	5000 watts

Class C Radio-Frequency Amplifier—Plate Modulated

Direct plate voltage	7500 Max.	5000 volts
Direct plate current	1.0	1.0 ampere
Grid bias	−400	−300 volts
Max. direct grid current	150	150 milliamperes
Nominal carrier power output	5000	3300 watts

Operating Precautions

Mechanical—Figure 1 shows the overall dimensions and basing arrangement for the tube.

As the tube weighs approximately 35 pounds, it shall be handled only by the fins and not by the bulb. Holes near the top of two opposite fins are provided so that the special tool supplied with the socket may be used for carrying the tube. If handled by the bulb the copper-to-glass anode seal may be broken.

The tubes should not be subjected to mechanical shock or excessive vibration. Mechanical vibration may cause breakage of the tungsten filaments. Care should always be used in handling the tube to avoid glass scratches, as these may develop into cracks which result in leaks.

A free circulation of air must be provided to insure adequate cooling of the glass during operation.

Forced Air Cooling

The forced-air supply connections should be properly insulated because of the high potentials used. The tube should be inserted into the container and the air circulation started before any voltages are applied.

The cooling facilities should be such that the temperature of the anode, indicated by a thermometer having a non-metallic column mounted in the tube thermometer well with the bulb protected from the air stream, is less than 120° C. The amount of air required will vary from 400 to 600 cu. feet per minute depending upon the anode dissipation and ambient temperature. An air pressure interlock is required for protecting the tube if the air flow is insufficient. The interlock should be adjusted to remove all voltages from the tube in case of failure of the forced-air supply. In no case should the rate of flow be such that under prolonged operation at conditions of maximum

dissipation the temperature rises above 120° C. The forced air shall be supplied at the bottom so that the air is forced upward through the anode fins.

Electrical—Overload protection should always be provided for the plate circuit. A suitable fuse or circuit breaker should remove the plate voltage if the plate current exceeds 3 amperes. Although the tube is sufficiently rugged to withstand momentary overloads, a prolonged overload caused by inefficient adjustment of the circuit, may damage the tube. When adjusting a new circuit or installing a new tube, reduced plate voltage or a series resistance of 1000 to 5000 ohms in the plate circuit should be used until it is operating properly.

The filament should always be operated at the rated voltage, measured at the tube terminals. A 5% decrease in filament voltage reduces the thermionic emission approximately 35%. Either direct or alternating current may be used for heating the filament. If direct current is used, the plate and grid circuit returns should be connected to the positive filament terminal, and the connections to the filament terminals should be reversed periodically. If alternating current is used, the circuit returns should be connected to the center tap of the filament heating transformer winding or to the center tap of a resistor placed between the filament terminals. A resistance of 50 to 75 ohms of 100 watt rating is suitable.

Some provision should be made, when the filament is cold, to limit the initial surge current to a value of approximately 120 amperes. This may be done by inserting additional resistance in the filament circuit when voltage is first applied or by using a transformer having sufficiently high reactance. The cold resistance of the filament is approximately 0.035 ohm.

Audio Amplifier or Modulator

Class A—Peak grid drive equal to or less than the grid bias.

Grid bias may be obtained from the drop across a resistance in the plate current return or from a battery or rectifier supply.

Plate dissipation allowable for this type of service is generally lower than is safe for other uses since the energy is dissipated in the plate in smaller areas due to relatively high voltage drop in the tube.

The plate dissipation is equal to the plate voltage multiplied by the normal plate current. Performance data are based upon the use of a resistance load. Undistorted output is calculated on the basis of 5% second harmonic distortion.

Class B—Grid bias practically at cut-off and grid driving voltage higher than the bias.

Two tubes may be used in a balanced circuit. An adequate driving stage and an input transformer with good regulation must be used so that the grid current drawn during positive grid swings does not produce appreciable distortion. The output transformer must transform the load impedance to the proper value. The power output obtainable will be determined by the quality of the transformer used and the amount of distortion which can be tolerated. The output can be increased or the distortion decreased by the use of degenerative feedback. The grid bias must be held constant and therefore cannot be obtained by grid leak or series resistor methods. A battery or other source having good regulation is necessary.

The power required of a modulator for complete modulation of a Class C amplifier is one-half the direct power input to the plates of the Class C amplifier.

Radio-Frequency Oscillator or Power Amplifier

Class B—Radio-Frequency Amplifier—Grid bias practically at cut-off.

The Class B radio-frequency amplifier is used to amplify a modulated radio-frequency carrier wave without appreciable distortion. It operates similarly to the Class B audio am-

plifier except that only a single tube need be used, the tuned output circuit serving to preserve the wave shape. The push-pull circuit, however, eliminates the even order harmonics and thus increases the efficiency slightly.

Class C—Radio-Frequency Oscillator or Power Amplifier—Grid bias below cut-off.

Unmodulated

This type of operation is suitable for telegraphy, or the production of a continuous flow of radio-frequency power for purposes other than communication.

Plate Modulated

This type of operation is for use when the modulating voltage is superimposed on the plate supply voltage and to obtain good quality the output power should vary as the square of the plate voltage. For complete or 100% modulation, the plate voltage varies from zero to twice the applied direct value during a cycle of the audio frequency. With no modulation applied, the plate voltage, is of course, the direct value and the carrier power output is one-fourth of the peak power output under 100% modulation. In this case, since the plate voltage varies with modulation, the direct value must be rated lower than for other types of operation.

High Frequency Ratings

The frequency limits specified under maximum ratings are based on the tube being used as an oscillator. The tube may be used at full rating up to 4 megacycles. When operating at higher frequencies, the dielectric losses, charging currents and lead-in heating may be increased to an excessive degree. The plate voltage and hence plate input must be reduced gradually as the frequency is increased beyond 4 megacycles. Between 4 megacycles and the limit of 16 megacycles the maximum allowable plate voltage is reduced proportionately from 18,000 volts to 5,000 volts.

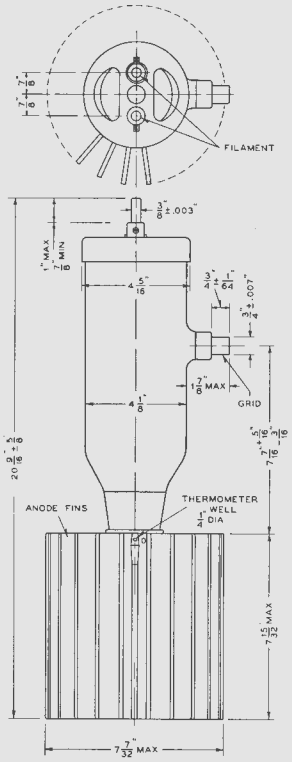

FIG 1

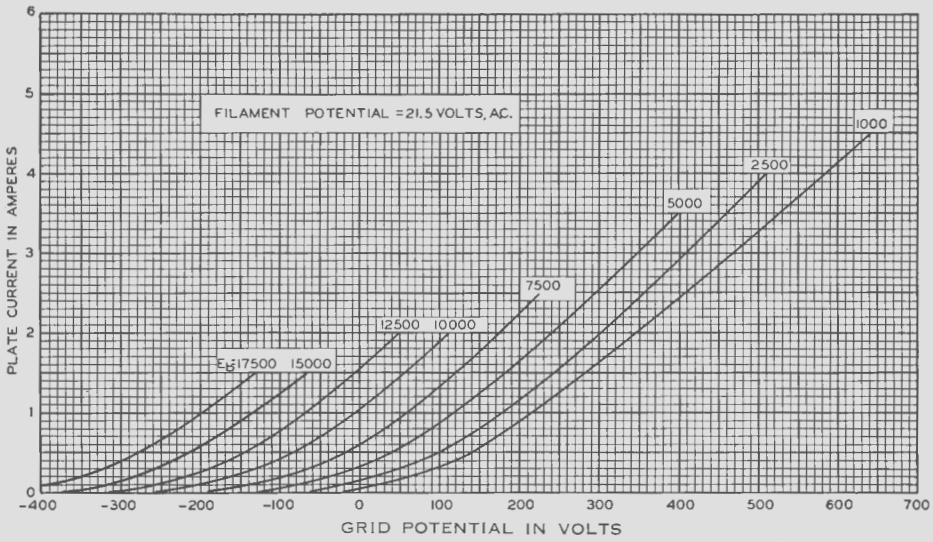

FIG. 2

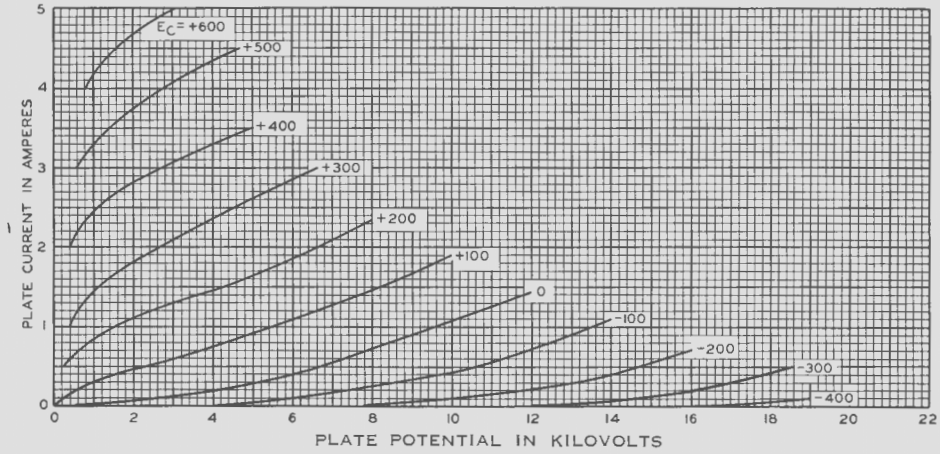

FIG. 3

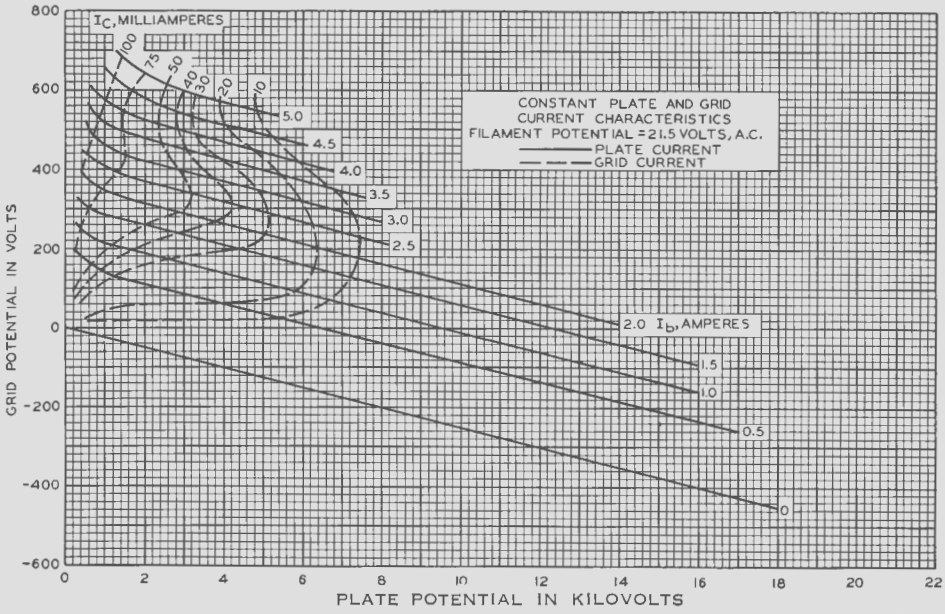

FIG. 4

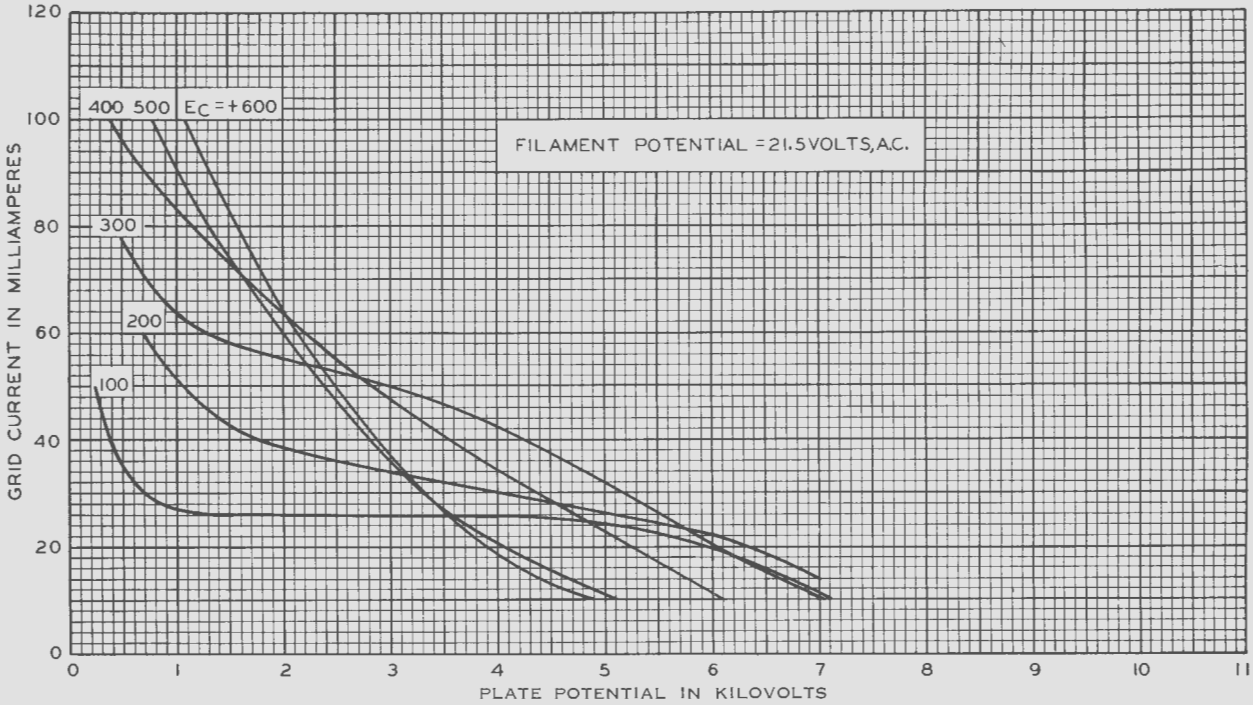
FILAMENT POTENTIAL = 21.5 VOLTS, A.C.
400 500 E_C = +600
300
200
100
GRID CURRENT IN MILLIAMPERES
PLATE POTENTIAL IN KILOVOLTS
0
20
40
60
80
100
120
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11

FIG. 5

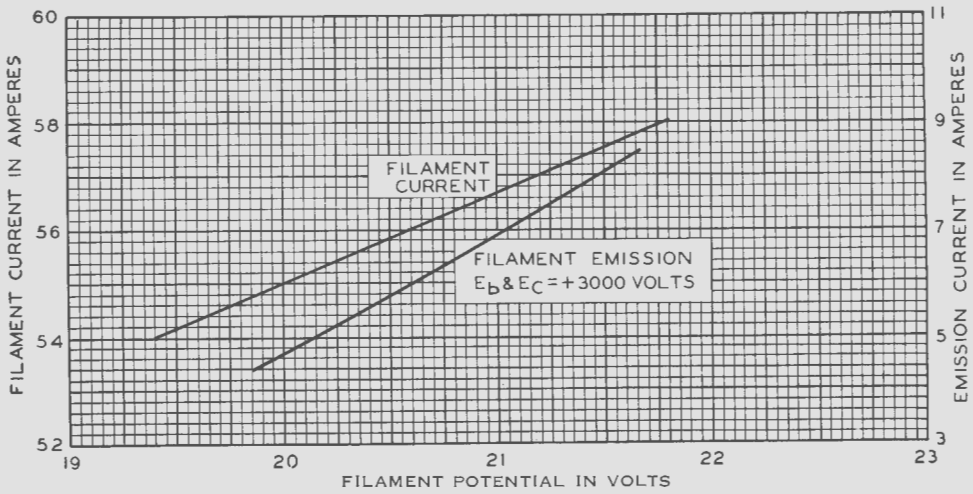
FILAMENT CURRENT
FILAMENT EMISSION
E_b & E_C = +3000 VOLTS
FILAMENT CURRENT IN AMPERES
EMISSION CURRENT IN AMPERES
FILAMENT POTENTIAL IN VOLTS
52
54
56
58
60
3
5
7
9
11
19
20
21
22
23

FIG. 6