ACCURACY

As the output of this instrument is a signal voltage of a certain frequency and a certain amplitude a certain amount of accuracy of those two factors may be expected.

Frequency is primarily determined by the "notch" network and thus the precision of the components in this network. Nominal tolerance on the precision resistors is 1%, on the condensers 2%. The influence of the 5% resistors is at most, a tenth of the effect of the precision resistors, so their maximum contribution is not more than 1/2%. Allowing for temperature effects, stray capacities and phase shift of the amplifiers at the frequency limits, the maximum frequency error is expected to fall within 5% of the indicated frequency.

Output voltage depends on a number of factors. Meter calibration is the task of the constructor and it should be borne in mind that many standard meters are subject to frequency errors. Iron vane and dynamometer instruments rarely maintain their rated accuracy above 150 cycles. Rectifier instruments begin to drop at about 5 to 10 kc. The output voltage is further affected by the attenuator. Here 5% resistors are used and the resultant accuracy should fall within 5%. The attenuator accuracy also depends on the load resistance, particularly on the 3 volt range, where a 12 KΩ load makes the output 1/2 db less than indicated and a 2000 Ω load causes a 3 db error.

On the 1 volt range and below, a high impedance load will be subject to twice the indicated voltage (6 db high) if the internal load is not used.

On the 10 volt range however, loading, while lowering the output voltage, will not cause error because the meter indicates the output voltage directly. Loads of less than 10 KΩ may increase the distortion and very low resistance loads effectively short out the 6CL6 output and cause oscillation to cease, when the output control is set at maximum.

The meter and its circuit contribute additional inaccuracies at voltages differing from the calibration voltage. The meter movement may deviate as much as 2% of the full scale value due to the discrepancy between the nominal meter curve on which the scale is based and the characteristics of the particular movement in an instrument. The meter rectifiers are non-linear at low voltages but this deviation is effectively compensated for by the third diode. Considering all the factors affecting the accuracy of the output voltage, it is expected to fall within 5% of indicated value.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

This manual is written to enable the owner of this instrument to successfully assemble and operate it. It is not an exhaustive treatise on the subject of Audio Generators and their use. Further information may be obtained from the many fine textbooks and excellent magazine articles available from most libraries. A few of these sources are listed below.

Harris; Electrical Measurements, Wiley 1952
Terman and Pettit; Electronic Measurements, McGraw-Hill 1952
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