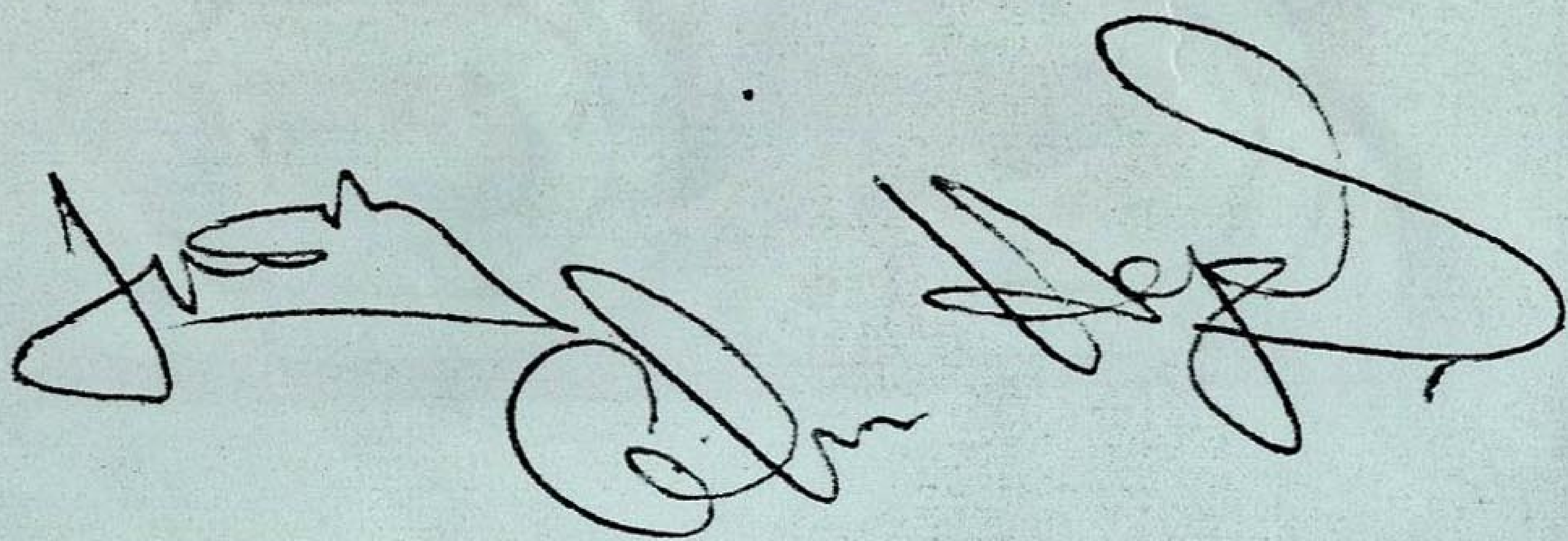


"WOT TIME
'IS IT'"



RADIO NOVA - COLM HEYES.

TOPPIL

Quite a time since my last item in W.R for which I can only apologise and say that these delays are due to my being overworked and underpaid and generally having too much on my plate.

Having got that over with, a roundup of news from London and surrounds:

The DTI have been out and about in London most days, and currently (27/6/85) only Asian Peoples Radio can be heard. LONDON GREEK RADIO and VOICE OF THE IMMIGRANT were both raided last night, LGR lost their tx and VOI lost their studio. Soul/funk stations HORIZON and SOLA as well as SKYLINE are off air following raids: Sola have been off now for about three weeks, as have LONDON WEEKEND RADIO run by ex-RFL John Dawson.

On a slightly more humorous note: IE London station RADIO IMAGINE were raided on 24/6, but due to the position of the tx site only the transmitter and the car battery powering it were lost, both were hidden at the top of a tree! Incidentally, Asian Peoples Radio were raided at the beginning of the month only two hours after switching on!

A number of new stations have appeared: HMR to Harlow on 94MHz Wednesdays with a 'loud rock music' format. RADIO CONTRAST to N London on 90MHz, live, and regularly raided. JBC on 97MHz with a reggae format (times not known). There is also an unid. station from Billaricay on 103.2MHz, any info???? E.X.P to Guildford on 93MHz stereo Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 2000-2400. Format is album music Mondays, reggae Tuesdays and rock Wednesdays.

In the meanwhile at the Glastonbury Festival, RADIO AVALON were on 1296kHz and 91.2MHz FM. AM quality was described as 'lumpy' but otherwise no problems were encountered despite heavy rain and a very muddy site. Reggae station DBC were also present on 103.5MHz but suffered from rf breakthrough in their studio. They hope to be on air during the Notting Hill Carnival in London.

Finally for all the older radio nuts: RADIO JACKIE might be returning to the air on 227m in mid-July. Has the radio bug bitten again or doesn't the radio-taxi business pay so well?

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TECH SPOT: Self-oscillating 807 SW tx.

This is the first of a series of articles on transmitters and similar things covering some of the equipment used by SW and FM stations. This month it is the Self-oscillating 807 tx, possibly the easiest and cheapest SW tx to build.

The circuit consists of a single valve 807 oscillator producing about 10-15 watts. Audio modulation is provided by an ECC81 double-triode and 6L6 modulator. Tuning and loading is done through a Pi-network. That, quite simply, is it. The total cost for building this type of tx is about £20 depending on how many secondhand components are used (old valve receivers are useful for some parts and a chassis). The valves and bases can be obtained from Colomor Electronics of Goldhawk Road, London who run a mail-order service, while the HT supply -assuming no mains electricity is available- has to come from a battery inverter. Old valve PMR equipment is good for these, ie Pye Cambridge/Westminster, Practical Electronics printed a design for a battery/mains inverter which -with a few mods- would be suitable.

The Diagram: in this design only half of the ECC81 double triode has been used and a high audio input (about 1 volt) will be needed. For lower level inputs the whole valve should be used and I'll print the mods necessary next week/month.

The CHOKE (CH) should be any choke with a DC resistance less than 150ohms and inductance greater than 2H (2-10H). The secondary winding from a mains transformer might work.

The PI-TANK coil should be formed from 12 turns 14-16swg wire on a 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ " diameter former (plastic waste pipe will do). TC1 should be 2x500pf airspaced variable capacitors ganged-up and TC2 a single airspaced capacitor; a good source is an old valve radio tuner.

The CRYSTAL should be the large MOD type and there are quite a number available for popular frequencies.

Finally operating the tx: switch on, adjust the 30pf variable to the lowest value at which the circuit will work, close TC2, adjust TC1 for lowest reading on the meter, adjust TC2 for highest reading, go back and adjust TC1 for lowest reading again and so on until there is no difference in the meter readings. The tx is now operational. Although I have put in a 100mA meter, a 250mA might be better and the final current should be about 100-150mA. If arcing is noticed across the tuning caps, possibly due to over-modulation or too-high voltage for the capacitors, adjust TC2 back slightly until it stops.

This type of tx can be modified for MW use by increasing the number of turns on the Pi-tank and the values of the capacitor and choke on the 807.

NB: the design shown is suitable for 48m. For 41 remove a turn or two from the coil.

That's it: D.I.Y radio in one easy lesson. Next month: modifications and alterations to the design, plus hints on aerials.

73 Steve West.

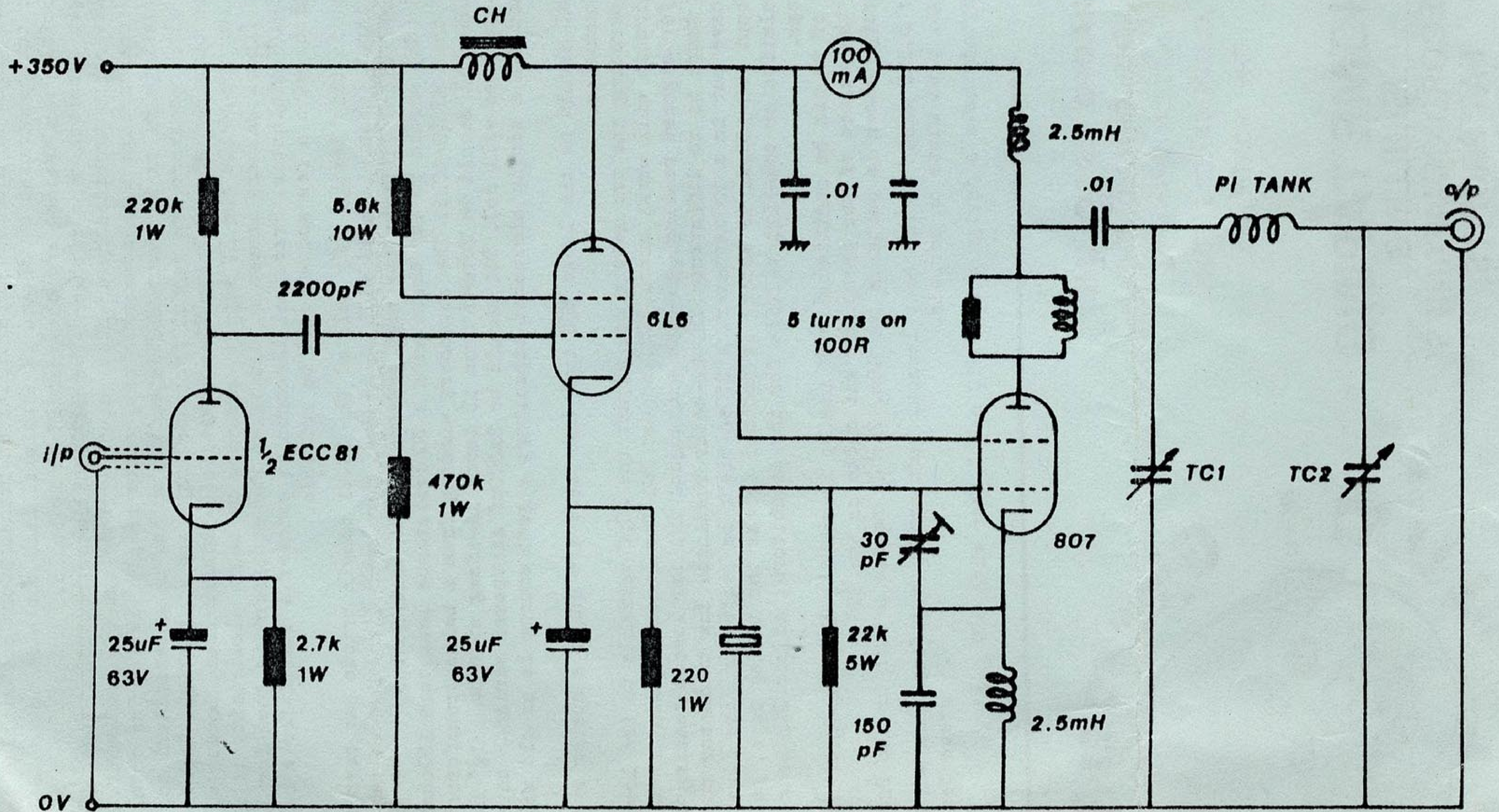
PS Does anybody have a design for a 6BW6 oscillator with 807 p.a???

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