

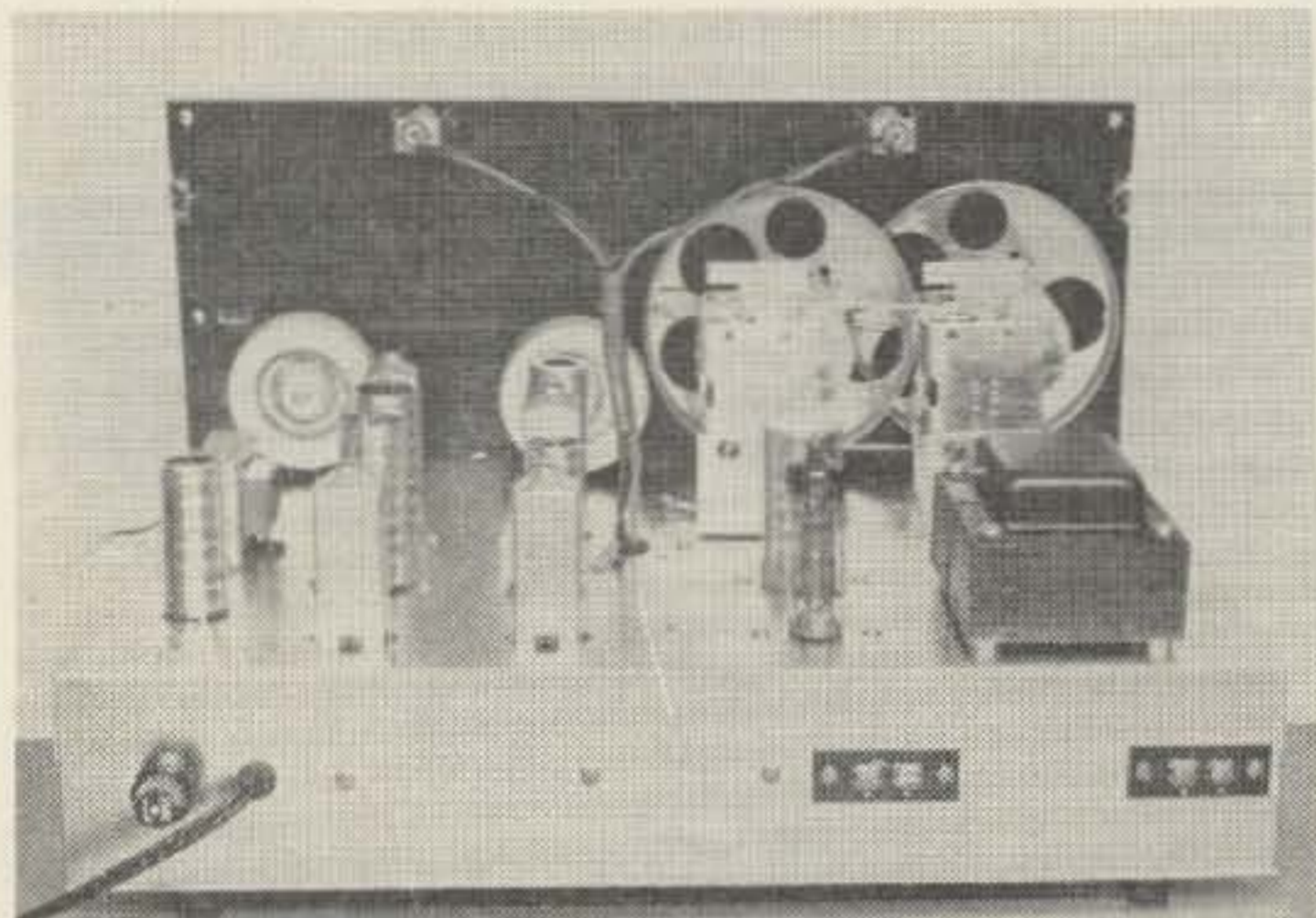


# 73 Tests

## Knight R-55 Receiver

Don Smith W3UZN

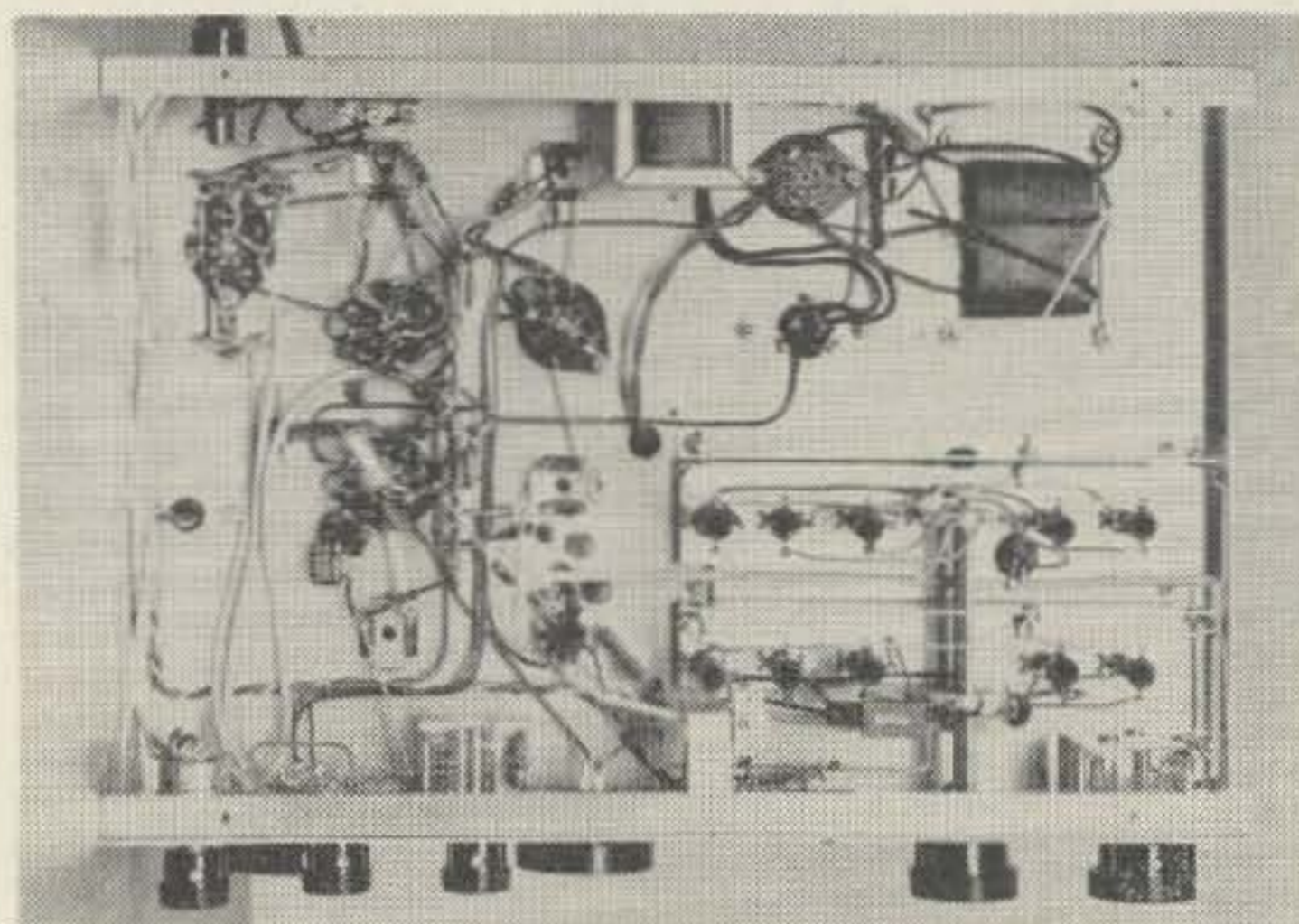
THE new amateur is faced with quite a problem when buying a receiver. Of course it is nice to be able to walk into the store and buy one of the \$600 ham-band-only receivers, but most of us have to start a lot more modestly. Look then, if you will, at the Knight R-55 receiver. This is a general coverage receiver, which means that even if you finally decide to go for one of the multi-hundred dollar communications receivers, you still will have plenty of use for this.



There are so many times when a general coverage receiver is needed that a ham shack certainly is incomplete without one. There are the obvious uses such as listening to the short wave broadcast stations, which can become a hobby all by itself. Or you can use it as a tunable *if* for a VHF converter . . . you can't do that with the bandspread receivers. WWV and CHU run interesting time programs, though I prefer the material broadcast by CHU, which

seems to have a better program director. If you decide to try RTTY you will want a receiver to copy press and weather stations. Let's not forget the broadcast band either. Plus a hundred other uses if you do any experimental work at all, or engage in three-way contacts or cross-band contacts. You can quickly check for harmonics, parasitics, and things like that. You may get the idea that a general coverage receiver is necessary . . . it is.

The Knight R-55 has several advantages. First of all is that \$67.50 price. It comes in kit form, but all the hard work is already done and the instruction manual is so simple that the rest is a breeze. It covers from 530 kc to 33 mc, which includes all of the short-wave broadcasting bands, and all of the ham bands from 160 through 10 meters. It also covers from 47-54 mc, which is the six meter amateur band. It is ac operated, using a power transformer, and has a separate BFO oscillator tube, fly-wheel tuning and an antenna trimmer for matching the receiver to your antenna.



The kit is a pleasure to assemble. All wires are color coded and cut to the right length. All resistors are mounted on cards with their part number printed so you can't make a mistake, even if you are color blind. The manual is full of clear diagrams and pictures to eliminate any question about what goes where or when to put it in. Figure about ten hours for the whole job.

Now, about the results. I was surprised and pleased to use the R-55. The bandspread is ample on all amateur bands and both sensitivity and selectivity were fine. Even up on six meters there were stations coming in with

### R-55

Tuning ranges: 530 kc to 1.9 mc Band A  
1.8 mc to 6.3 mc Band B  
6.0 mc to 14.5 mc Band C  
11.5 mc to 33. mc Band D  
47 mc to 54. mc Band E

IF frequency: 1650 kc

Sensitivity: 80 meters = 4uv 40 meters = 6uv  
20 meters = 8uv  
15 meters = 7uv 10 meters = 6 uv  
6 meters = 10uv

Antenna impedance: 52 ohms

Power consumption: 60 watts @ 117 vac

Dimensions: 11" deep, 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide, 8 $\frac{5}{8}$ " high

Weight: 19 lbs.

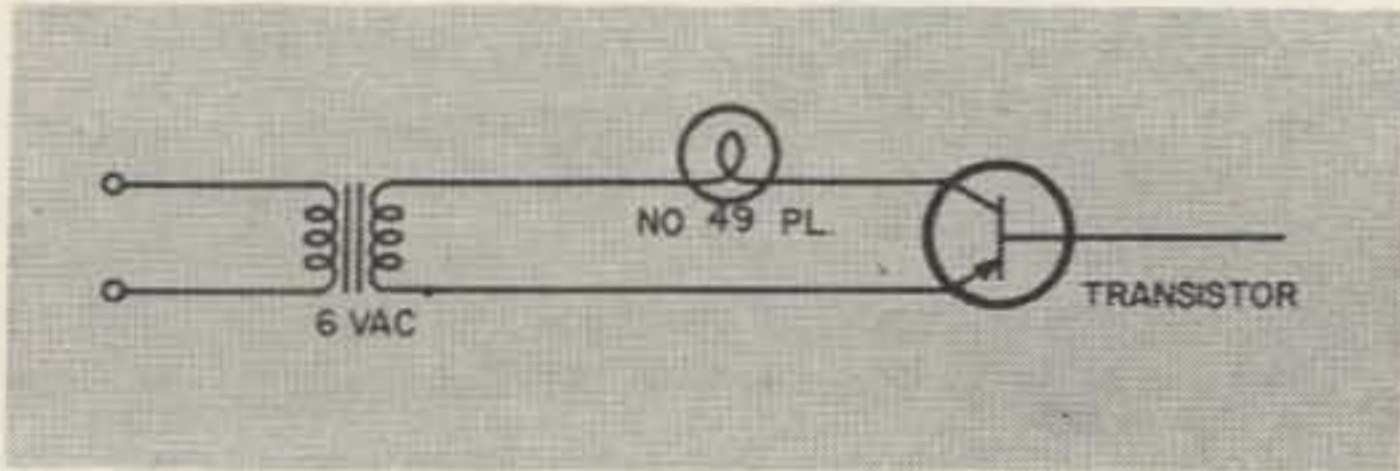
Price: \$67.50

good signals. I suspect that one of those Nu-visor pre-amplifiers would help a lot there, though. On the other bands the R-55 was easy to tune and fun to use. For \$67.50 this is quite a deal.  
 . . . W3UZN

## Using Old Transistors

Don't throw away your old transistors they may be useful in more ways than one. Usually when they burn out it is between collector and emitter. Sometimes base to collector is the bad section.

Here is the way I do it—start out with 5 v or 6 v ac to a pair of test leads and a pilot light such as a #49 something with low current drain so you will not ruin what is left of the transistor.



Check any two terminals of the transistor at a time collector to emitter, base to emitter etc. until you find two that pass current to the pilot light. Clip the unused wire and you have a diode for various purposes. If you don't have any results only thing to do is to throw the transistors away, it happens now and then. A word of caution—if for example the base emitter sections are okay and it is a P.N.P. transistor the base would be plus output and emitter negative etc. I have used them for relays noise limiters and the power type can be used for battery chargers—be sure to keep within voltage ratings.

. . . K8BYO

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