

Book Reviews

The Architects Manual of Engineered Sound Systems

Published (1947) by the Radio Corporation of America, Camden, N. J. 284 pages plus 4-page index. Profusely illustrated. $9\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ inches. Price, \$5.00.

Intended for the use of architects and others interested in the design of sound-distribution systems, the Manual is divided into two principal parts. The first section deals with Definitions, Graphical Symbols, The Microphone, The Amplifier, The Loudspeaker, Controls, Studios and Control Rooms, Acoustics, The Sound Film Projector (16-mm and 35-mm), and Antenna Systems. This section is not intended as an engineering text and the subject matter consequently is treated in an elementary fashion. It is obvious that the viewpoint of the architect and the layout designer is kept in mind. Architectural and engineering specifications for each equipment subject are included. The treatment is, generally, excellent though essentially nontechnical. A possible oversight, perhaps intentional, is noted in the failure to include definite recommendations for available amplifier power requirements in enclosures.

The second section covers Typical Layouts and Specifications. Suggested layouts are included for one or more of the following: Schools, Hospitals, Churches, Auditoriums, Stores, Industrials, and Hotels. Some treatments are very detailed in breakdown of departments. Specifications are set up around RCA equipment.

The Manual does not give the architect every element of information that might be required such as, for example, the correction of acoustic difficulties, although the treatment of the subject conforms to the more-or-less standard method of the elementary text. Neither the acoustic engineer nor the communications engineer is completely by-passed even assuming the architect to be letter-perfect in his acquaintance with the Manual's contents.

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Television—Volume III (1938–1941)

Television—Volume IV (1942–1946)

Edited by Alfred N. Goldsmith, Arthur F. Van Dyck, Robert S. Burnap, Edward T. Dickey, and George M. K. Baker. Published by *RCA Review*, RCA Laboratories, Princeton, N. J. Volume III (1938–1941). 486 pages + xii pages. 288 figures. 6×9 inches. Price, \$2.50. Volume IV (1942–1946) 498 pages + 12-page Appendix + xiv pages. 301 figures. 6×9 inches. Price, \$2.50.

These two books continue the series established in 1936, which reprint the most significant papers published in the field of television by the RCA organization, with the addition of a few original articles.

Perusal of these volumes brings out strikingly the breadth of the field which must be explored and developed to build up the art of television, and the variety of effort expended upon it by one organization. It is handy to have this diversity of material brought together compactly in such a manner. This is especially

true for the motion picture engineer, to whom the changes in his art that may be brought about by the arrival of television constitute a provocative challenge.

The range of material presented has been classified as follows:

Pickup, in which the new development of the image orthicon is described, and the problems of studio and field television are treated.

Transmission, which covers, on the one hand, video signals and their propagation around the building, and, on the other hand, radio in its many aspects over the wide ranges of frequency used for the various purposes in the art.

Reception, comprising discussions on images produced by cathode rays and the methods of their projection, and covering the problems of receiving sets sold to the general public.

Color Television, summarizing work done by the RCA organization in this field.

Military Television, where are assembled the results of RCA television contributions to the war effort.

General, which is an assay of what the impact of this new art of television may be on our daily life in the coming years.

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Correspondence

It is highly desirable that members avail themselves of the opportunity to express their opinions in the form of Letters to the Editor. When of general interest, these will be published in the JOURNAL of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers. These letters may be on technical or non-technical subjects, and are understood to be the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the point of view of the Society. Such letters should be typewritten, double-spaced. If illustrations accompany these contributions, they should be drawings on white paper or blue linen and the lettering neatly done in black ink. Photographs should be sharp and clear glossy prints.

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