

## Book Reviews

### **Magnetic Recording, by S. J. Begun**

Published (1949) by Murray Hill Books, Inc., 232 Madison Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.  $6\frac{1}{4} \times 9\frac{1}{4}$  inches. 223 pages + 7-page glossary + 8-page index + x pages. 146 illustrations. Price, \$5.00.

"Magnetic Recording" is devoted almost entirely to a discussion of magnetic recording, both in its theoretical aspects and practical applications. The book is very timely and will be of great value to those interested in understanding the nature of the magnetic-recording process as well as to those who are interested in the more practical side of designing equipment for various commercial usages. The chapter on the theory of magnetic recording is extremely well written and explains in considerable detail the influence of the various parameters entering into magnetic recording. The discussion of the effect of the direct-current and alternating-current bias is very thorough, and in the case of the alternating-current bias represents, in the reviewer's opinion, one of the most lucid explanations yet offered. The chapter devoted to components of the magnetic-recording system gives a very detailed discussion of the various recording media that have been used to date in magnetic recording. In this chapter, and also in the next one on magnetic-recording equipment, undue emphasis may seem to have been placed on wire-recording systems. This apparent misplacement of emphasis, however, can very well be attributed to the necessary hiatus between the writing of the book and its publication. The very rapid adoption of the powdered iron-oxide coated tape in the last few years has, of course, recently tended to obsolete wire and steel-tape recorders, at least for professional applications.

The book is well illustrated and a very complete description, with appropriate photographs, is given of the various types of commercial recorders that had appeared on the market up to the time of preparation of the manuscript.

The chapter entitled "Applications of Magnetic Recording" describes applications to artificial-reverberation devices, speech-scrambling, recording of transients, applications to telegraphy and telephony, transcription recording, and motion pictures. The treatment of the last item is quite brief and is undoubtedly necessary so because of the rather belated interest of the motion picture industry in the magnetic-recording method.

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