

Engineering News

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Technical Letter No. 139

WIND NOISE REDUCTION IN MICROPHONES

Wind noise in microphones used in outdoor events has long been a problem for the sound engineer.

There have been wind screens designed for given microphones but these would not generally fit other microphones, and in most cases improvised screens were far from satisfactory - usually attenuating the high frequency response, and in the case of directional microphones, upsetting the polar response or "discrimination" of the microphone.

This latter effect can sometimes be serious, preventing the use of the screen altogether.

Altec has made available, free of charge, two simple but effective polyester foam screens for the 681A, 682A, 684A and 688A series of Dynamic Omnidirectional microphones, and a larger model for the 683A, 685A and 689A cardioids. These screens give approximately 11 db of wind noise attenuation with no attenuation of high frequency response, and without upsetting the discrimination of the cardioids.

A new wind screen, the 170B, has been developed for the M-20 and M-30 system, that is extremely effective in wind noise reduction - approximately 24 db, (2 db better than the 170A), without deteriorating the HF response, or discrimination in the case of the M-30 usage.

An exploded view, Fig. 1, is shown to aid in the installation of the 170B wind screen.

Remove the condenser microphone from its base by unscrewing it counter-clock-wise.

CAUTION: Extreme care should be exercised when handling the condenser microphone unit. Under no circumstances permit anything to touch the contact end of the microphone - the end unscrewed from the base - as this portion of the microphone unit is very delicate.

Slip the split ferrule over the base with the split end towards the cord on the base. Replace the condenser microphone in the base, inside the ferrule. The wind screen may now be slid over the condenser microphone and pushed down over the ferrule. It will be noted that the ferrule is split to provide tension on the wind screen and holds it firmly in place regardless of the position of the microphone and still allows it to be used with any base or stand accessory.

An additional advantage will be found when using the 170B wind screen on a microphone at close range. The "Pops", or explosive sound produced by most people when pronouncing the letter "P" and sometimes "B" in certain words, is effectively reduced and increases the ease of close proximity work.

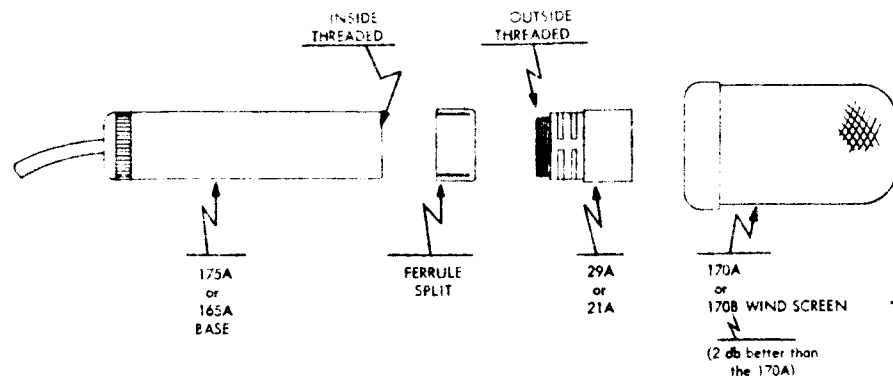


FIGURE 1

Litho in USA

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