

THE PILOT "WASP" RECEIVER

Little has been written about the Wasp receiver, it having been overshadowed by its successor, the Super-Wasp. Both were made by the Pilot Electric Mfg. Co. of Brooklyn, NY, with the Wasp, Type 3-SW, making its debut in mid-1928. The Super-Wasp came a year later; it was well described recently by Marc Ellis in "Radio-Electronics."

The Wasp was one of the first all-wave kits, tuning from 17 to 500 meters. The circuit is quite conventional: a regenerative detector and two stages of audio using UX-201A tubes. The only unusual feature is the use of two 100-pF variable condensers in parallel to control regeneration; one fully open on short-wave, the same one fully closed on the BC band. Personally, I

would have used the extra condenser for bandspread, since I found tuning difficult with the 20-meter coil. The kit price in 1928, with coils, was \$21.75. Its claimed range was 11,000 miles, implying that someone had heard VK2ME from Australia on it. The set made it into Rider's Vol. VII.

Pilot parts were noted for their fine design, and those in this set are no exception. The five plug-in coils are easily identified with color-coded handles. In fact, I rate Pilot coils the best of the many available in the 1928-38 period.

Collectors find the Wasp harder to obtain than the Super-Wasp. The reason, no doubt, is low production compared to the later and better model. -BK

