

THE RADIO CODE BY THE WORD METHOD

EPSILON RECORDS

ARCOLA, ILLINOIS

This recording is the condensation of a course of training developed over a period of years by an experienced teacher and well-known radio amateur. Russ Farnsworth, W9SUV (Ex. W6TTB WOJYC), Arcola, Illinois. The ideas leading to the development of such a training program occurred to Mr. Farnsworth while he was employed as a teacher of wireless telegraphy at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago during the early years of World War II. After the war, Mr. Farnsworth, like many other public spirited radio amateurs throughout the world, devoted many hours of his spare time to the teaching of code and radio theory to anyone who wanted to learn. During these years he recognized the need for developing his method of instruction. The method which evolved after years of practical testing has demonstrated its effectiveness. It is unique in that it starts at a moderate rate of speed using simple material and continues at this same speed throughout the course. Instead of increasing the transmitting rate, the complexity of the material is increased, with the gratifying result that the student can develop a high degree of proficiency in less time than would have been required had he been taught by the old and more conventional techniques. The speed chosen for this course is 13 words per minute.

The recording is a simple, but effective presentation of the International Morse Code. It is not slanted to favor any particular group. The Boy Scout, for instance, or the military man will find it just as useful as the person wishing to qualify for a Radio License, or anyone who wishes to learn the code just to satisfy his desires for learning. The entire course is presented in a warm, personable style which creates the illusion that the instructor is talking to each student individually rather than to a large heterogeneous audience.

One of those who had an opportunity to hear the original tapes of this recording was the late Glen Hurlburt, internationally famous composer, radio and TV performer and well-known radio amateur. He stated, "This is the only intelligent approach to this subject I have ever heard!" Many people who know and use the code have previewed this recording. Each has commented without prompting that had this course been available to him when he was learning the code he would have learned more quickly and with less effort.

HOW TO USE THIS MATERIAL

In order to gain full value from this course it will be necessary for the student to work with one unit at a time. In other words, do not attempt the second unit until you have mastered the material presented in Unit 1. Your mastery of a unit can be easily determined by how accurately you copy the exercise at the conclusion of the unit. Do not move to the next unit until you can copy correctly at least 60% of the exercise.

Listen carefully to the introductory remarks at the beginning of Unit 1. The information is basic and is vital to your complete understanding of the subject. CAUTION!! DO NOT ATTEMPT TO MEMORIZE MATERIAL.

ENGINEERING NOTES

In this recording the oscillator producing the tone was especially designed for the task. It was designed to produce a signal with just enough harmonic content to alleviate the fatigue experienced when listening to a pure tone for extended periods of time.

The hand-sending by the instructor was accomplished with an electronic keyer especially built for the purpose to maintain uniformity of rhythmic beats throughout. Exercise material at the end of each unit and the material contained in all of Unit 6 was punched out on a Kleinschmidt tape perforator by Mr. Forest Bartlet, W6OWP, an operating engineer for Press Wireless in Belmont, California.

The script was prepared by the instructor, Mr. Donald R. Farnsworth, whose voice is heard on the recording, and who also served in the joint capacities of producer and recording engineer.

This course was recorded by Epsilon Records at Redwood City, California in October of 1959.