

A RIBBON THAT VIBRATES USED IN NEW "MIKE"

Announcement has been made by the RCA-Victor Company of the perfection of a new microphone which is said to respond with fidelity to all frequencies in the audible range up to 14,000 cycles per second. The new instrument is of the velocity type, which means that it responds to the motion of the air resulting from sound rather than to the pressure of air due to sound. In place of the usual diaphragm the new microphone utilizes a sensitive duralumin ribbon which vibrates exactly with the movement of the air set up by the sound wave.

It is well known that if a very light disc or ribbon be placed in the way of a sound wave, and if the angle made by the plane of the disc or ribbon bears a certain relation to the direction of the wave, the ribbon or disc will tend to set itself at right angles to the wave. This principle is used in the calibration of other microphones because the intensity of the wave can be computed from the amount the disc turns out of its original position.

But the disc, or ribbon, responds to the intensity of the sound without regard to direction, that is, whether the air is moving in one direction or in the opposite. In a sound wave the movement of the air is back and forth. Hence a device like that would respond to twice the frequency if the disc were used as microphone.

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