

ON TEST

BANG & OLUFSEN BM5 STEREO MICROPHONE

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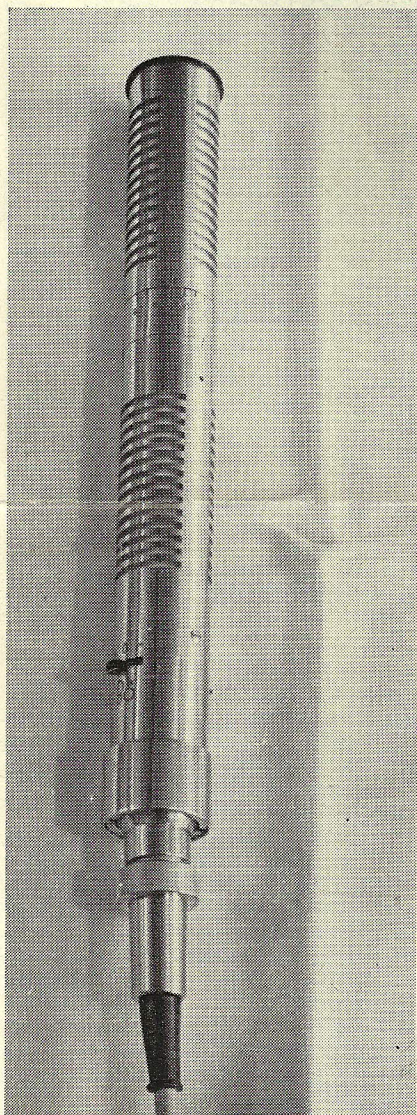


Fig. 1. BM5 microphone for stereo recording.

THE Bang and Olufsen type BM5 microphone is a combination of the BM6 (mono) and the BM7 (stereo addition) microphones, which can be connected together to form a composite coaxial stereo assembly. Both units are high-quality pressure gradient ribbon instruments for balanced or unbalanced microphone inputs with a nominal impedance of 200ohms.

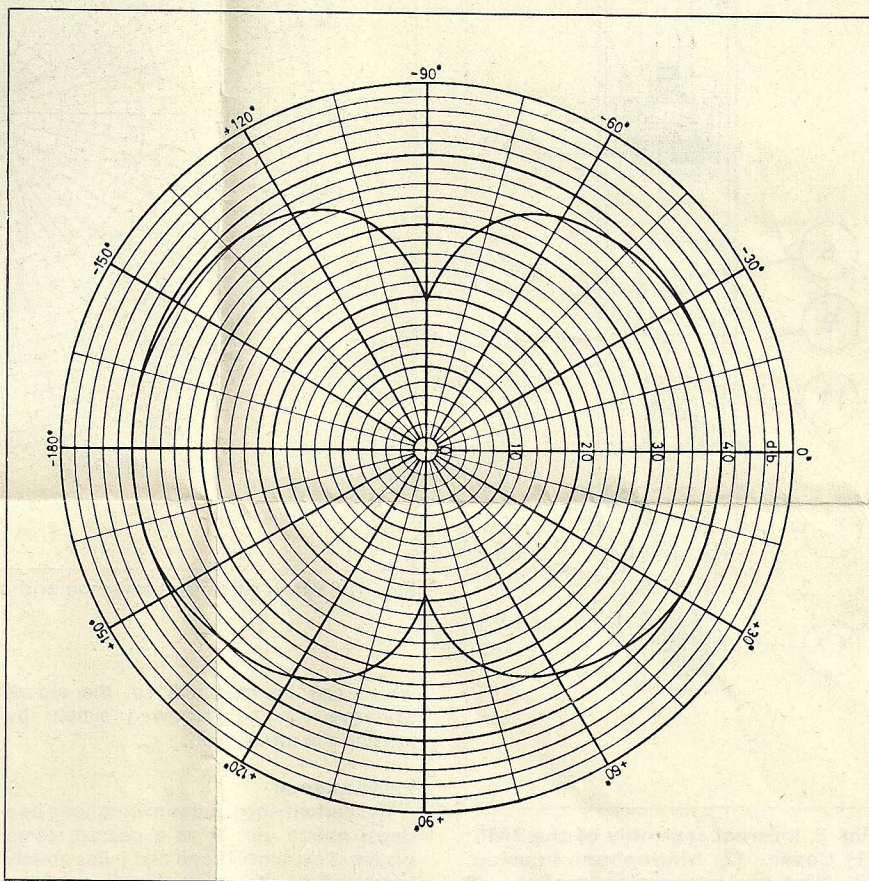


Fig. 2. Polar response of the BM6 mono microphone.

It may be said that this combination of Bang and Olufsen microphone units provides the best of both worlds. Those who require a really high-grade ribbon microphone for only mono recording need only purchase the BM6 unit but can later add the BM7 section for stereo work. The complete system, known as the BM5 is available as shown in Fig. 1. Let us, however, deal with the BM6 (mono) first.

It is an otherwise conventional ribbon microphone with a smooth frequency response and the regular cosine or figure-of-eight polar response shown in Fig. 2. It is designed for really high quality recording of both speech and music and is accordingly provided with a filter system for close speaking.

Ribbon microphones have an exceptionally good bass response but do, however, tend to over-emphasise the

lower frequencies in speech when the speaker is very close to the microphone. It has become the practice therefore to provide a filter to reduce the bass response at the rate of 5 to 6dB per octave below 1,000Hz. The BM6 microphone has this provision which can be switched in or out as required, and the switch simply has two positions—'music' and 'speech'.

In the music position the frequency response of the microphone is 30 to $13,000\text{Hz} \pm 2.5\text{dB}$. The BM6 unit is also fitted with a 'phasing' switch so that the output voltage can be switched in or out of phase with that of the add-on stereo section. For mono use the position of the switch does not matter.

The assembly of the BM6 is shown in Fig. 3. In order to convert the BM6 for stereo use the cap (1) at the top is removed and the add-on stereo section is simply plugged in. The electrical connec-

