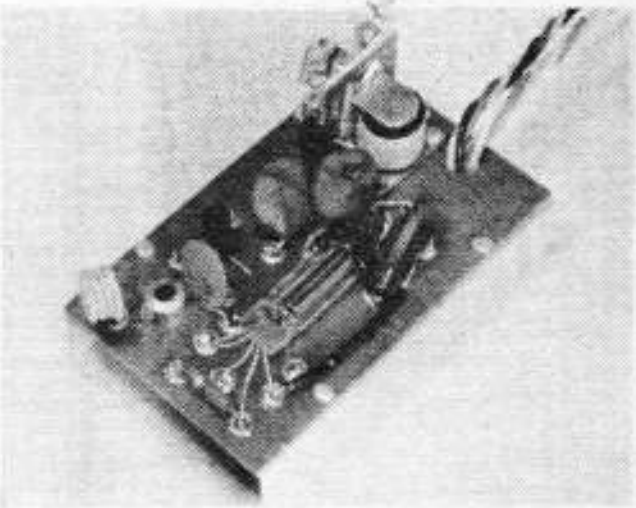
BABCOCK MODELS "MAGIC CARPET"



"Quick Lace" Assembly Kits

Or Ready-to-Use R/C

● Introduction of the "Magic Wand" and "Magic Carpet" line of radio gear to the R/C public represented a couple of significant firsts for Babcock Models, Inc.

It is the first time they have ever offered their equipment in kit form and the first time they have departed from the modulated tone format.

An outgrowth of the kit version is a sizeable price reduction in initial outlay for the prospective consumer. Even the built-up version is considerably

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less expensive than any previously offered single-channel gear.

The receiver pictured was supplied in kit form for this review and thus gave us an opportunity to see how detailed and complete the accompanying instructions were.

A look at the schematic tells immediately that this is a highly advanced and complex circuit. However, a further review of the all inclusive instructions and construction steps make it possible for anyone who can read and use a soldering iron to construct a "Magic Carpet" similar to the one pictured.

The "Magic Carpet" receiver consists of a super-regenerative detector with a stage of audio amplification and a relay control stage using the new Babcock developed "Trans-Flex" circuit. The 1AG4 in the detector stage is designed to give a maximum "hiss-to-quiet" ratio. This is then coupled to a transistor stage of audio frequency amplification which in turn is coupled to a transistor relay control stage. A diode rectifier is so arranged in the circuit to be instrumental in the wide operating range of the relay.

Quench frequency elimination is accomplished by strategic condenser-resistor placement ruling out the necessity of the quench frequency coils present in many hard tube CW receivers.

Another desirable feature found in the "Magic Carpet" is the fail-safe system which is part of the circuit as you build it or have it built.

Factory specifications of what a certain piece of equipment is supposed to do often seem very lavish and are often hard for the builder to match. This is not altogether surprising when one realizes that factory condition are

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ideal. Operating instructions stated that the receiver relay coil should show about 5 volts when a volt meter is hooked across it and while the receiver is on but no signal being received. This reading should then jump to about 25 volts upon receipt of signal.

The receiver would still be in good shape even if the low reading (no signal) went as high as 6 or 7 volts and the high reading (signal received) was no lower than 16 or 17 volts.

We were pleasantly surprised when our low reading was only 3 volts and signal received voltage jumped to 27 volts. Thus our model had exceeded the specifications which the factory feels are ideal!

Something not covered or hinted at by the company is the ability of the "Magic Carpet" to be pulsed. The temptation was too great and so we fired up a pulsing transmitter and sat back to watch. It never missed a beat!

The "Magic Wand" transmitter, though not used for the pulsing test, needs only the addition of a pulser to satisfy the proportional crowd. This is a compact powerful circuit using a 3A4 tube and is simplicity itself built into a truly convenient hand-size cabinet. To top it off a radiation indicator is included as an ever present comforter.

Price of the "Magic Carpet" receiver, which weighs about 2 ounces assembled, is $21.95 in "quick-lace" form and $26.95, factory assembled. The "Magic Wand" transmitter is $19.95 in kit form, and $24.95 assembled.