

1954 Russian Raduga (Rainbow) Field Sequential Color Set



In 1954 Russia built its first color sets. Named "Raduga", which means rainbow, the sets used the field sequential method. This information is from various Russian websites, one of which has a [description](#) (in Russian) of the system. The system was experimental, and only a few sets were made. Here are a [technical manual](#) and a [page describing the set](#) (in Czech). Here are photos of a surviving set at the [Popov Museum](#) in St. Petersburg, Russia.

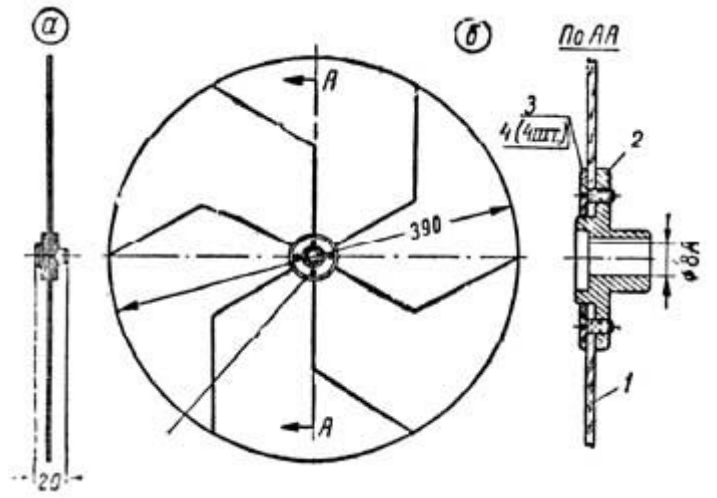
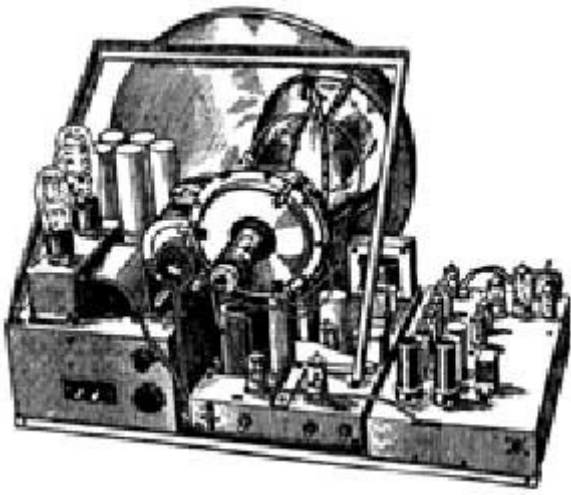
ЦВЕТНОЕ ТЕЛЕВИДЕНИЕ



На экране телевизора — советский кинофильм «Овод», поставленный по одноименному роману Э. Войнич.







That Ain't All

Russians to Have Color TV in '53

By Eddy Gilmore

MOSCOW, U.S.—The Soviets will have color television in 1953.

Announcing this, they said experiments have already been successfully completed and the first sets will go on sale next year.

The year 1953 is going to see a revolution in television in the U. S. S. R. In addition to color television, the authorities expect to bring about the following:

Elimination of the outside aerials which the Russians say make the architectural scheme of buildings and houses look ugly.

Installation of a combination television screen-loudspeaker which plugs into the wall.

The operation of three Moscow television stations.

Production of sets with screens ranging from 230 millimeters to half-meters, simple in operation and running on fewer tubes than today's models.

(That would mean 9-inch to about 20-inch viewing screens. In the United States, 17-inch and 21-inch models currently are most popular, but up to 30-inch screens are available in more expensive sets.)

THE SCREEN-LOUDSPEAKER unit is going to be tremendously important for this country because it will mean that millions of people will start viewing the programs.

First of all, the Russians are installing what they call "television relaying centers" in apartment houses in many parts of the country. Eventually, they'll be everywhere in the Soviet Union.

If a relaying center has been installed, all the apartment house resident needs to do to get television reception is to buy one of the screen-loudspeaker units and plug it into the wall.

This screen-loudspeaker unit is not complicated, has but few parts and costs much less than the regular television set, it has been announced.

(This apparently would operate in a fashion similar to hotel radio systems, which have a central receiver, with only a loudspeaker and selector switch in each room.)

THE RUSSIANS have decided against "adaptors" to regular television sets for the color television. The announcement said color reception would be over regular color sets, although the color transmissions can be received in black and white over today's ordinary sets.

The engineers also expected to install what they call "street television" next year. The screens for this will be three meters by four, about 10 by 12 feet.

Next year the Russians expect to build a number of television stations throughout the country. They have worked out a model design which allows for the simultaneous transmission of three separate programs. This will be standard for most cities and towns.

The Literary Gazette recently reviewed the television situation in the country and, while giving it high praise, said criticisms could be voiced.

"If all the efforts of everyone concerned with television were integrated," it said, "then very much of what is to be done in 1953 could be done today."

Washington Post, Sept. 11 1952

Courtesy of John Pinckney