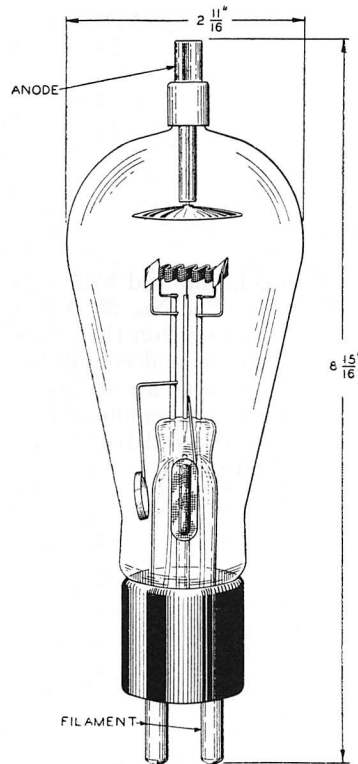


## 258A Vacuum Tube



### Classification

The No. 258A Vacuum Tube is a half-wave, thermionic, mercury-vapor rectifier for use in rectifying circuits designed to supply direct current from an alternating current supply.

### Base and Socket

The No. 258A Vacuum Tube employs a two-prong base suitable for use in a Western Electric No. 138A or No. 139A Socket or similar type socket. The arrangement of electrode connections to the base terminals is shown above. The anode terminal is located at the top of the bulb and is arranged for a special quick-release connector. The tube can be mounted only in a vertical position with the base end down.

### Rating and Characteristic Data

Filament Voltage.....	2.5 Volts, AC
Nominal Filament Current.....	7 Amperes
Approximate Anode-Cathode Potential Drop when Conducting.....	15 Volts
Maximum Peak Plate Current.....	1.1 Amperes
Maximum Peak Inverse Potential.....	6,500 Volts
Safe Operating Ambient Temperature.....	10 to 50 Degrees C

The anode-cathode potential drop is substantially independent of the plate current. The exact value varies from tube to tube and during the life of a given tube. Within the specified ambient temperature range and plate current range, it will vary from 5 to 25 volts.

**Typical Rectifying Circuits**

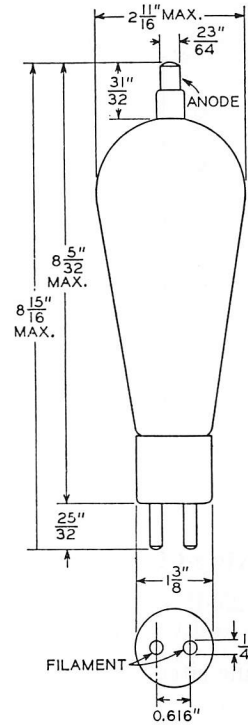
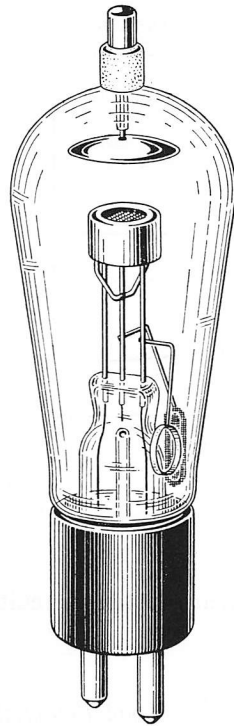
For specific circuits the following ratings apply:

Type of Circuit	Number Tubes	Load Potential Volts	Load Current Amperes
Single-Phase, Half-Wave.....	1	2,000	0.4
Single-Phase, Double Half-Wave.....	2	2,000	0.8
Single-Phase, Double Half-Wave (Four Tube Series Circuit).....	4	4,000	0.8
Three-Phase			
(Six Tube Series "Y" Circuit).....	6	6,000	1.0

**General Features**

Rectifier units with improved regulation and high efficiency are obtained by the use of thermionic mercury vapor rectifying tubes. The No. 258A Vacuum Tube has special features of anode design which insure its satisfactory operation throughout a long life under the maximum peak inverse potential and peak plate current load conditions. Flash overs at the anode, which are much more prevalent with this type of tube, are eliminated by special design features. The special mesh type, oxide coated cathode has a large emitting area and is capable of supplying an electron current considerably above that required for the maximum peak plate current. This insures a long life with full space current rating.

## 258B Vacuum Tube



### Classification

The No. 258B Vacuum Tube is a half-wave, thermionic, mercury vapor rectifier for use in rectifying circuits to supply high voltage direct current from an alternating current supply. It is the same as the No. 249B electrically but is equipped with a different type base.

### Base and Socket

The No. 258B Vacuum Tube employs a two prong base suitable for use in a Western Electric No. 138B, 139A, or similar type Socket. The arrangement of the electrode connections to the base terminals is shown above. The anode terminal is located at the top of the bulb and is arranged for a special quick release connector.

The tube should be mounted only in a vertical position with the base end down.

### Rating and Characteristic Data

Filament Voltage.....	2.5 Volts
Nominal Filament Current.....	7.5 Amperes
Approximate Direct Anode Cathode Drop when Conducting....	15 Volts
Maximum Peak Plate Current.....	1.5 Amperes
Maximum Peak Inverse Potential.....	7,500 Volts
Maximum Operating Ambient Temperature Range.....	0 to 50° C.

The anode cathode potential drop is substantially independent of the plate current. The exact value varies from tube to tube and during the life of a given tube. Within the specified ambient temperature range and plate current range it will vary from 5 to 25 volts.

# Western Electric

## Vacuum Tubes

### Half-Wave Mercury Vapor Rectifiers

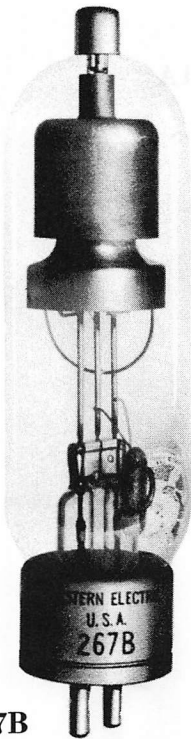
249B  
253A

255B  
258B

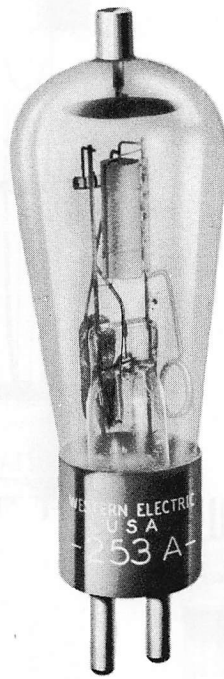
266B  
266C

267B  
315A

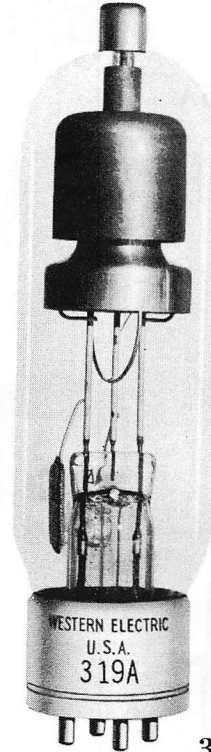
319A  
321A



267B



253A



319A



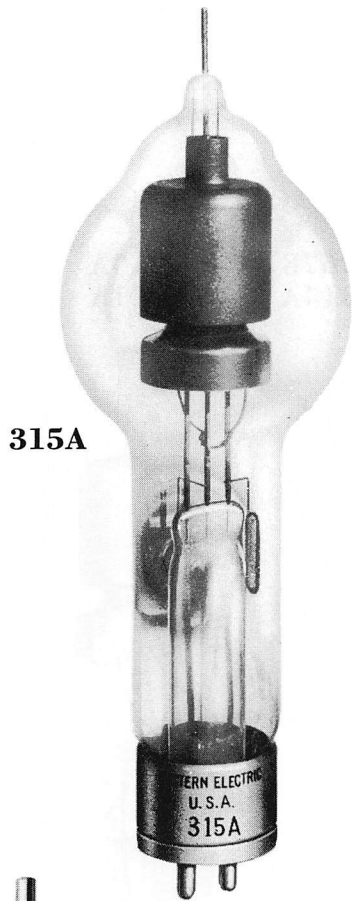
249B



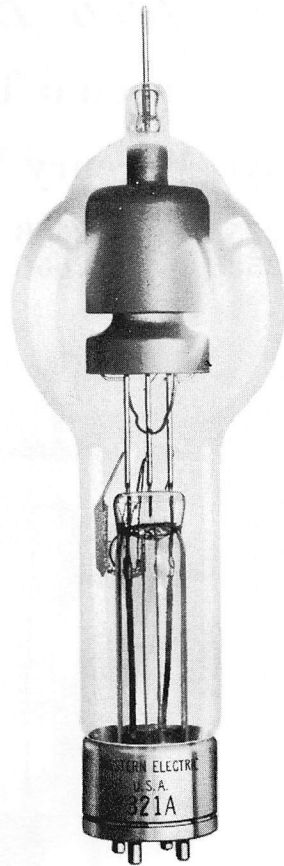
258B

#### NOTE:

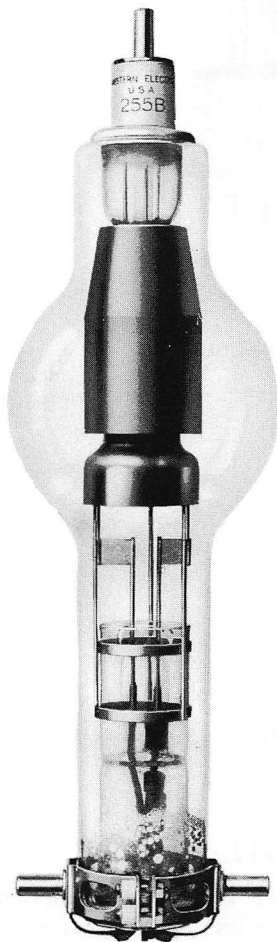
This combined bulletin supersedes data sheets previously issued for the individual tubes.



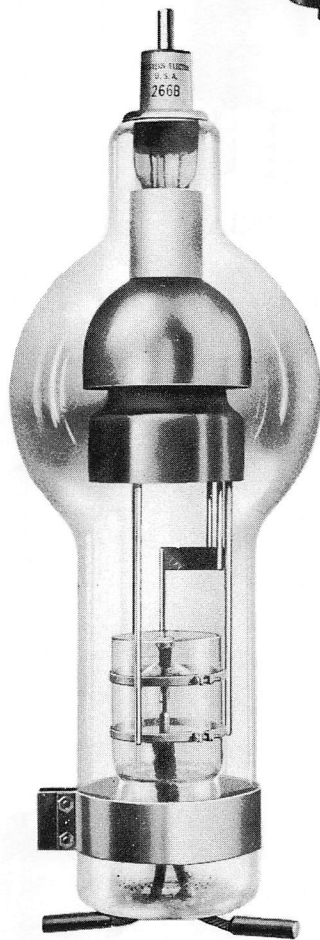
315A



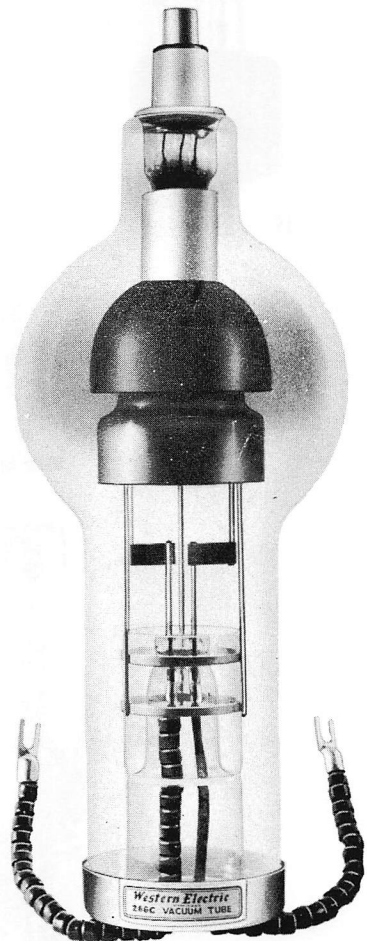
321A



255B



266B



266C

---

## **Classification**

These tubes are half-wave, thermionic, mercury vapor rectifiers designed to supply direct-current from an alternating-current supply.

**Mounting**—The tubes should be mounted only in a vertical position with the base or filament end down. Free air circulation must be provided. No object should touch the glass bulb.

**Filament**—The filaments are designed to operate from alternating current sources. The voltage should be maintained to within 5% of the rated value. Operation of the filaments at a voltage above the upper limit will definitely reduce the life of the tubes while a decrease in voltage below the lower limit may cause immediate failure.

## **Normal Filament Heating**

The anode voltage should not be applied until the filaments have reached a satisfactory operating temperature. When normal filament voltage and circuits with good regulation are used, the minimum time required is specified on the individual tube data sheet as the “Required Heating Time.” It is also necessary to allow sufficient filament heating time to evaporate any visible mercury deposits from the upper parts of the tubes.

When the tubes are put into operation at low ambient temperatures, an extended filament heating time is necessary to raise the mercury vapor pressure to a satisfactory operating value. This time is given in graph form on the individual tube data sheet for tubes requiring such heating when operating within the recommended ambient temperature range. A filament heating period of 30 minutes or more should be allowed when the tubes are used for the first time or if they have been subjected to extensive handling or prolonged standing.

## **Accelerated Filament Heating**

In certain applications it may be desirable to reduce the “Required Heating Time” designated for normal filament voltage. This may be accomplished by applying an overvoltage to the filament for a short period after which the rated filament voltage and the anode voltage is applied. The recommended open circuit overvoltage and the corresponding period of application are given on the individual tube data sheet. These ratings apply when the regulation of the filament supply circuit is  $10\% \pm 4\%$ .

## **Tube Voltage Drop**

The tube voltage drop is substantially independent of the anode current. The exact value varies but under the specified operating conditions will normally be between 5 and 25 volts.

## **Maximum Anode Current**

The maximum permissible instantaneous and average anode current ratings are limitations on the current values that the tubes can carry safely in the direction in which they are designed to conduct and should not be exceeded. The current ratings specified under “In-phase Operation” apply when the filament and anode voltages are in phase, or where the relative phase angle is ignored. The “Quadrature Operation” ratings may be used when the circuit is designed so that the phase angle between the filament and anode voltage is approximately 90 electrical degrees. With this type of operation, the filament current goes through zero near the center of the anode conduction period, resulting in a balanced operating condition for the filament, which permits the higher anode currents.

## **Maximum Peak Inverse Anode Voltage**

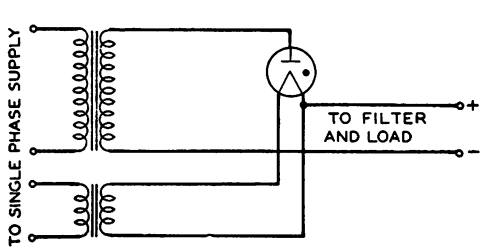
The maximum permissible peak inverse anode voltage is a limitation on the instantaneous value that the tubes can stand safely in the opposite direction to that in which they are designed to conduct. If this voltage is exceeded an arc-back may result which may injure the tubes. The maximum direct output voltage available is not fixed but will depend upon the type of circuit used.

Tubes of the same type may be operated in parallel if some provision is made to insure a proper division of the load current. Current dividing reactors or ballasting resistors in series with each anode may be used for this purpose. The size of the reactors or resistors will depend upon the circuit design.

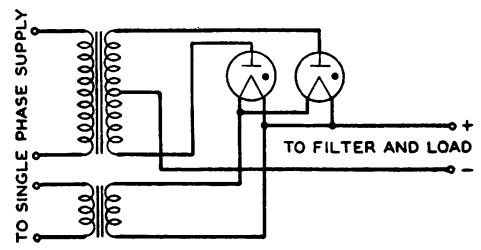
In most cases the termination of useful life of these tubes is due to the loss of filament activity which frequently results in arc-back. Failures of this kind should be safeguarded by proper overload protection to prevent injury to other tubes in the set and to auxiliary equipment. In most circuits this requires a quick acting high-voltage fuse in each anode lead or an equally fast primary fuse or circuit breaker.

**Circuits**

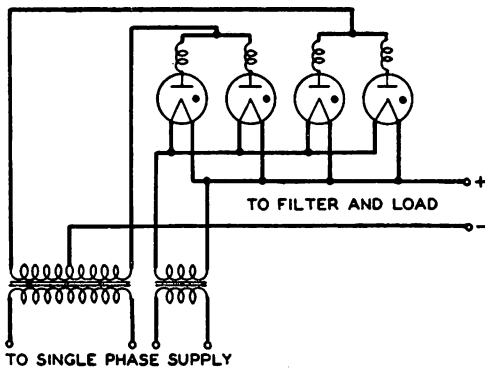
These tubes may be used in any conventional rectifier circuit subject to the current, voltage and temperature ratings. Typical circuits are shown below. The approximate direct output current and voltage for each type of rectifier circuit where tubes are operated at maximum permissible anode current and inverse voltage is given on the individual tube data sheet. The values listed are average values of the pulsating current and voltage for an unfiltered circuit.



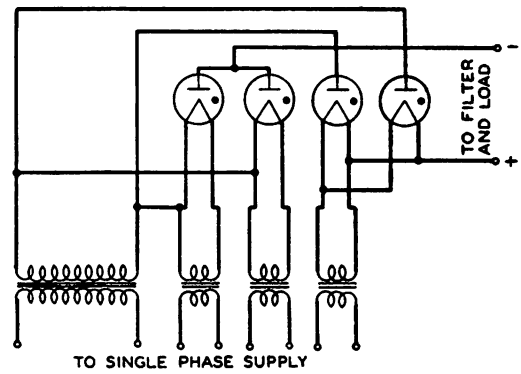
SINGLE PHASE, HALF-WAVE  
CIRCUIT A



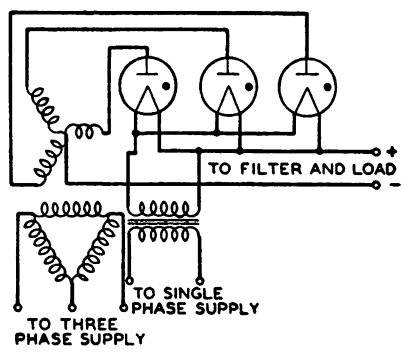
SINGLE PHASE, DOUBLE HALF-WAVE  
CIRCUIT B



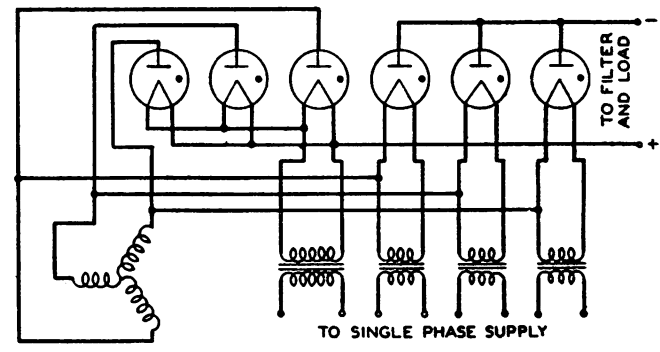
SINGLE PHASE, DOUBLE HALF-WAVE IN PARALLEL  
CIRCUIT C



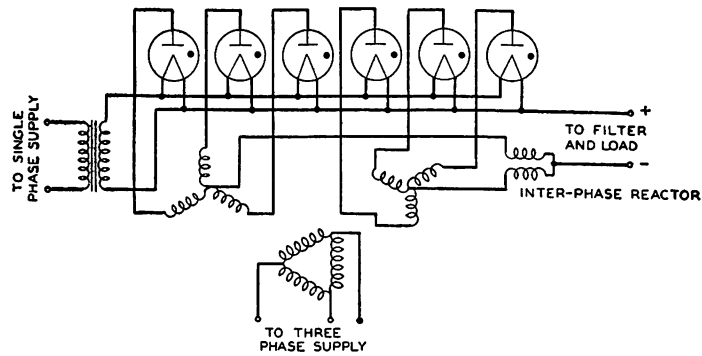
SINGLE PHASE, DOUBLE HALF-WAVE  
4 TUBE SERIES CIRCUIT  
CIRCUIT D



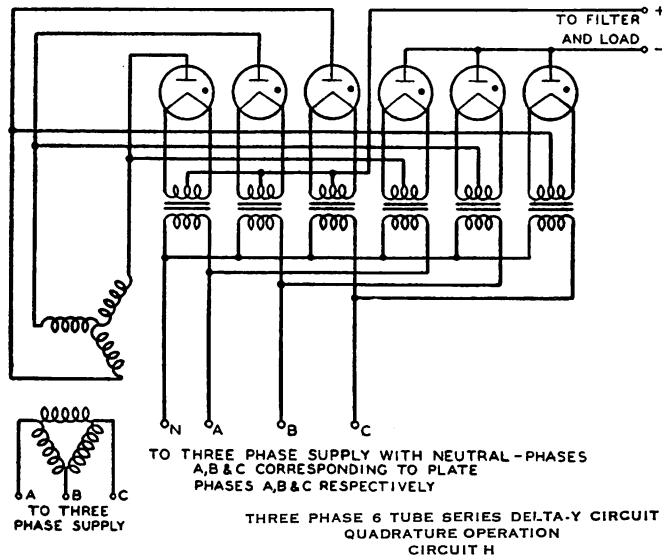
THREE PHASE Y CIRCUIT  
CIRCUIT E



THREE PHASE, 6 TUBE SERIES CIRCUIT  
CIRCUIT F

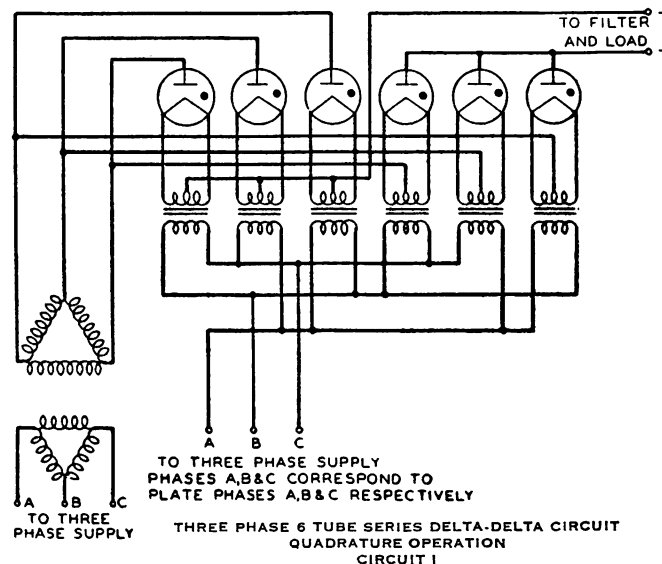


THREE PHASE, DOUBLE "Y" INTERCONNECTED  
CIRCUIT G



TO THREE PHASE SUPPLY WITH NEUTRAL - PHASES  
A, B & C CORRESPONDING TO PLATE  
PHASES A, B & C RESPECTIVELY

THREE PHASE 6 TUBE SERIES DELTA-Y CIRCUIT  
QUADRATURE OPERATION  
CIRCUIT H

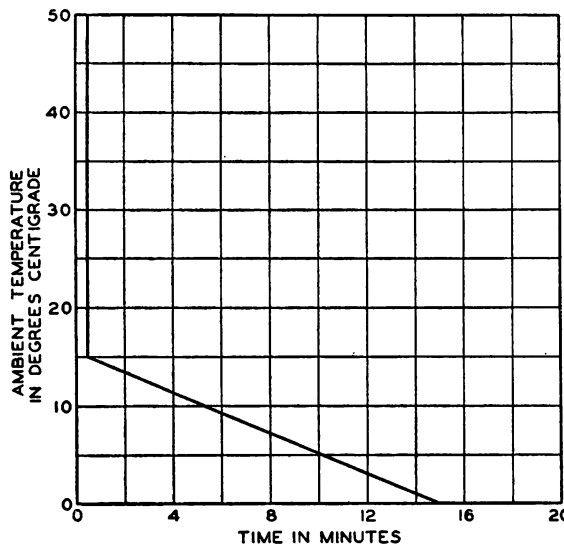
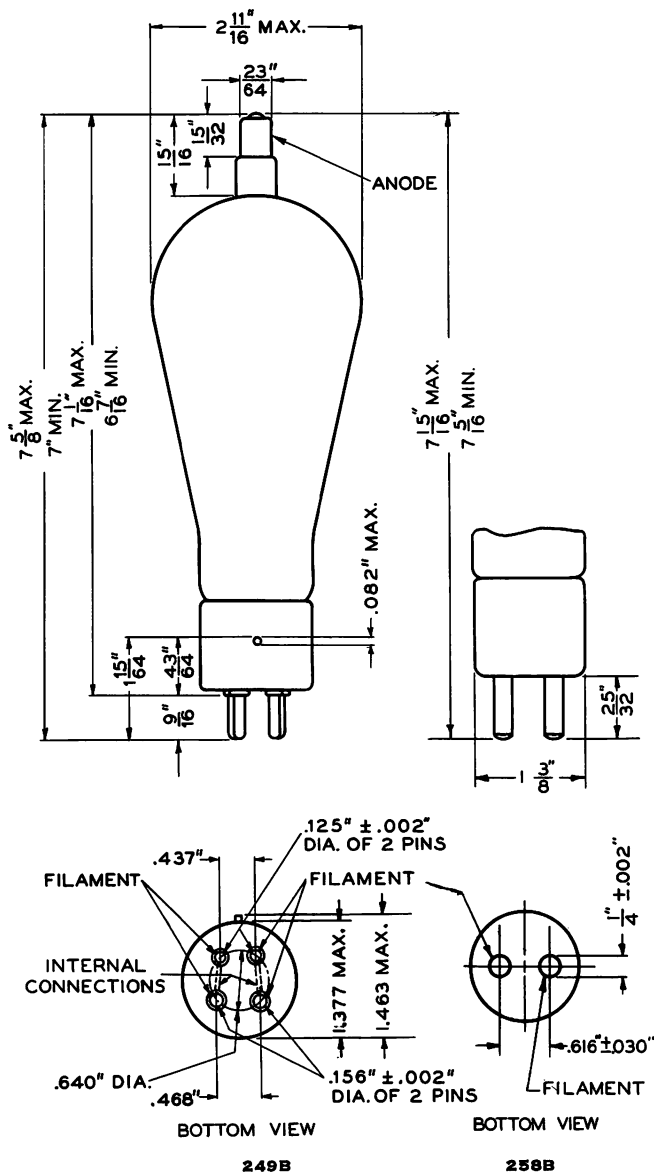


TO THREE PHASE SUPPLY  
PHASES A, B & C CORRESPOND TO  
PLATE PHASES A, B & C RESPECTIVELY

THREE PHASE 6 TUBE SERIES DELTA-DELTA CIRCUIT  
QUADRATURE OPERATION  
CIRCUIT I

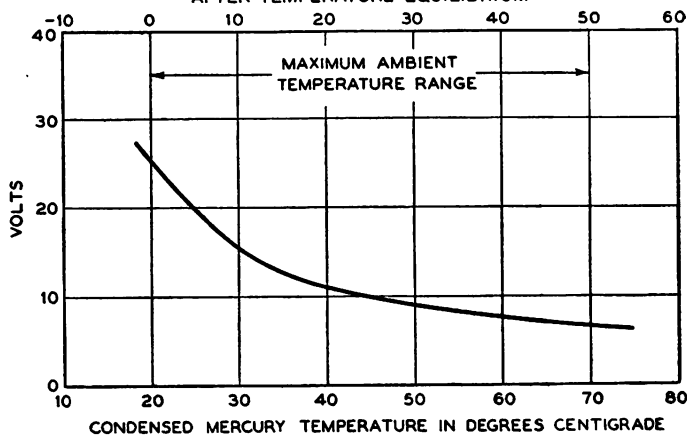


## 249B and 258B Vacuum Tubes



MINIMUM FILAMENT WARMING TIME VS. AMBIENT TEMPERATURE

CORRESPONDING AMBIENT TEMPERATURE IN DEGREES CENTIGRADE AFTER TEMPERATURE EQUILIBRIUM



TUBE VOLTAGE DROP VS. TEMPERATURE FOR A TYPICAL TUBE

### Ratings

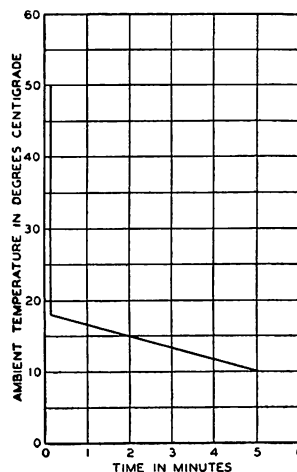
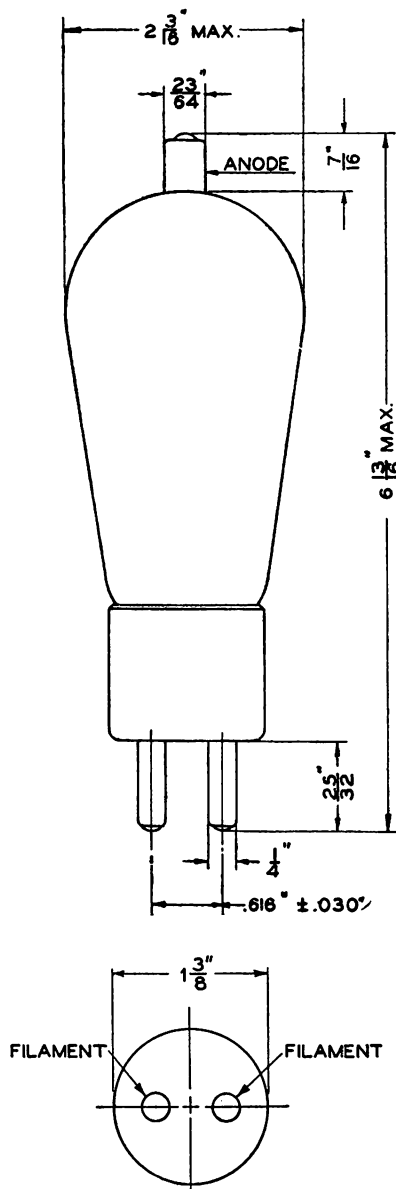
<b>Filament</b>	
Voltage	2.5 volts
Nominal Current	7.5 amperes
Required Heating Time	15 seconds
Accelerated Filament Heating	
Recommended open circuit over-voltage	50%
Corresponding period of over-voltage application	8 ± 2 seconds
Tube Voltage Drop—Approximate	15 volts
Maximum Instantaneous Anode Current	2.5 amperes
Maximum Average Anode Current	0.64 ampere
Max. Time of Averaging Anode Current	5 seconds
Maximum Peak Inverse Anode Voltage	7.5 kilovolts
Maximum Ambient Temperature Range	0 to 50°C.

**Mounting**—The 249B tube requires a W. E. 143B or similar socket and the 258B a W. E. 138B, 139A or similar socket. A spring clip anode terminal connector is required. Mount in vertical position only—base end down. A clearance of at least 2 inches should be allowed between the bulb and any adjacent object.

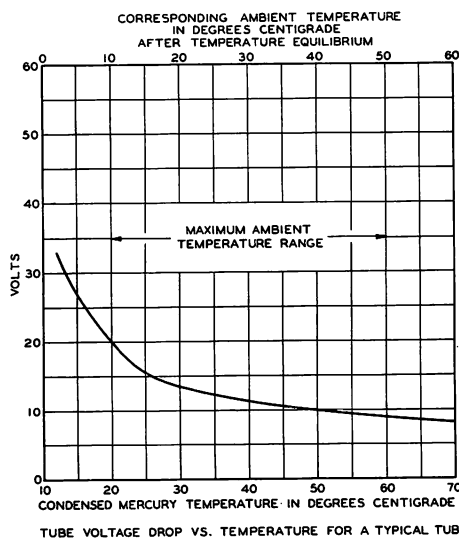
### Circuit Outputs:

Circuit Designation	Number of Tubes	Output Voltage Load Current	
		At 7.5 kv. Inverse Voltage	In DC Amperes
A	1	2300	0.64
B	2	2300	1.28
C	4	2300	2.56
D	4	4600	1.28
E	3	3500	1.92
F	6	7000	1.92
G	6	3000	3.2

## 253A Vacuum Tube



MINIMUM FILAMENT WARMING TIME VS. AMBIENT TEMPERATURE



TUBE VOLTAGE DROP VS. TEMPERATURE FOR A TYPICAL TUBE

### Ratings

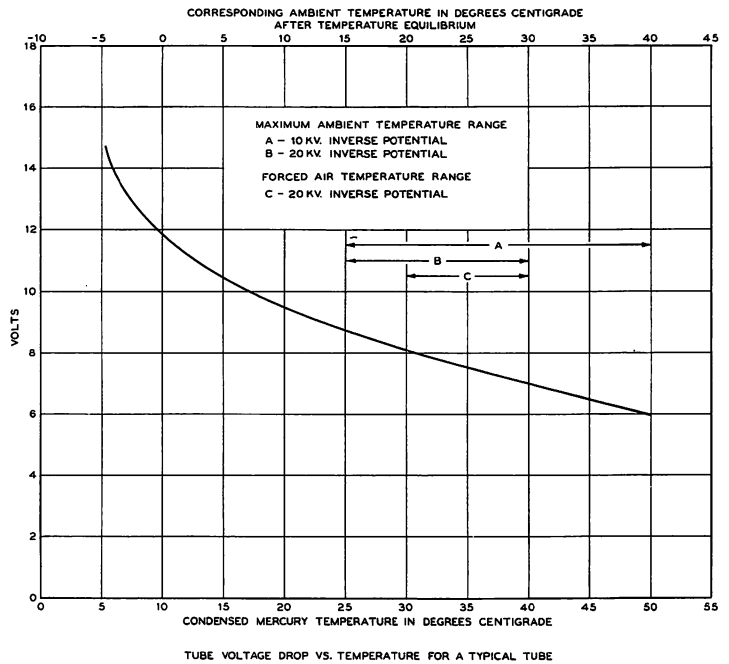
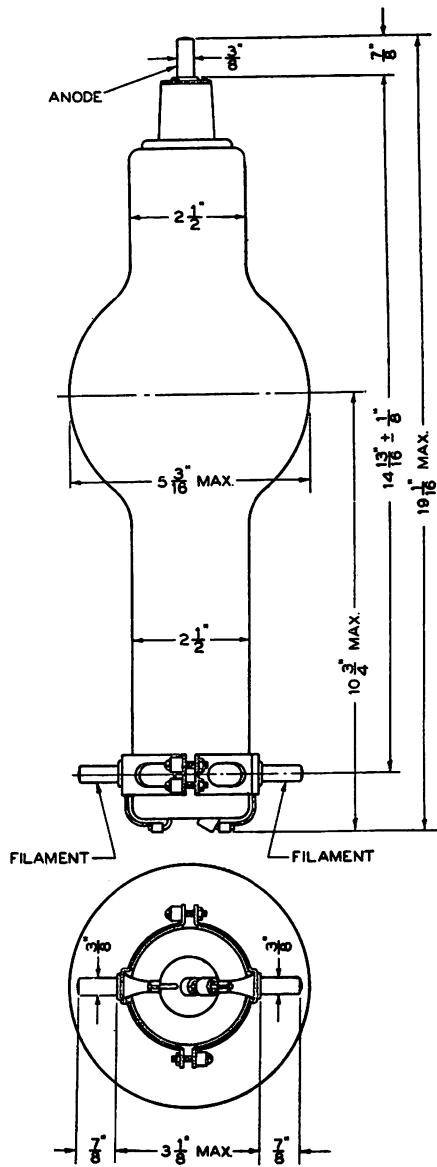
<b>Filament</b>	
Voltage	2.5 volts
Nominal Current	3.0 amperes
Required Heating Time	10 seconds
<b>Accelerated Filament Heating</b>	
Recommended open circuit over-voltage	50%
Corresponding period of over-voltage application	$6 \pm 2$ seconds
<b>Tube Voltage Drop—Approximate</b>	15 volts
<b>Maximum Instantaneous Anode Current</b>	1.0 ampere
<b>Maximum Average Anode Current</b>	0.25 ampere
<b>Max. Time of Averaging Anode Current</b>	5 seconds
<b>Maximum Peak Inverse Anode Voltage</b>	3500 volts
<b>Maximum Ambient Temperature Range</b>	10 to 50° C.

**Mounting**—W. E. 138B, 139A or similar socket. A spring clip anode terminal connector is required. Mount in vertical position only—base end down. A clearance of at least  $1 \frac{1}{2}$  inches should be allowed between the bulb and any adjacent object.

### Circuit Outputs:

Circuit Designation	Number of Tubes	Output Voltage	Load Current
		At 3500 volts Inverse Voltage	In DC Amperes
A	1	1000	0.25
B	2	1000	0.50
C	4	1000	1.00
D	4	2000	0.50
E	3	1500	0.75
F	6	3000	0.75
G	6	1400	1.25

## 255B Vacuum Tube



### Maximum Peak Inverse Anode Voltage

at 15 to 30° C. ambient temperature	20 kilovolts
at 15 to 40° C. ambient temperature	10 kilovolts
at 30 to 40° C. forced air temperature	20 kilovolts

This is the temperature of the forced air applied to the bulb where the free mercury condenses. Approximately 6 cu. ft. per minute from a 1 inch nozzle and directed just above the support collar is recommended.

**Mounting**—Special mounting is required. Mount in vertical position only—filament end down. A clearance of at least 4 inches should be allowed between the bulb and any adjacent object. Connection to the anode terminal should be semi-flexible.

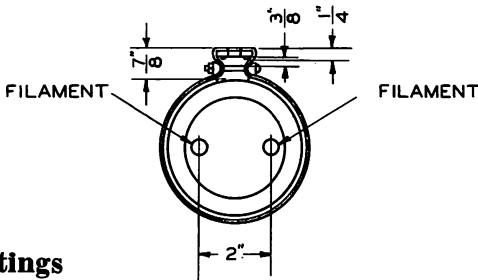
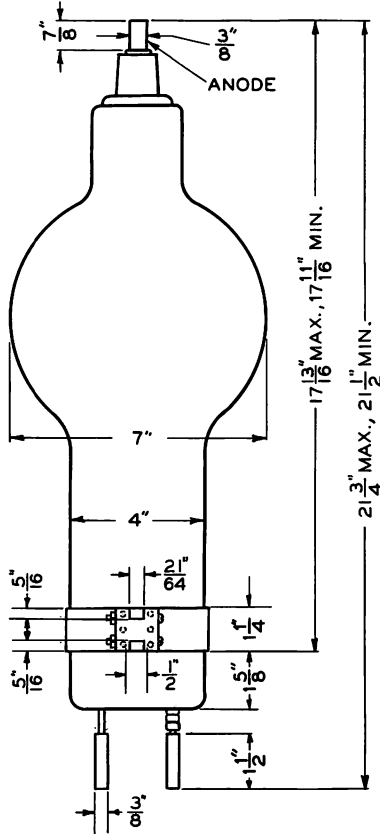
### Ratings

<b>Filament</b>	
Voltage	5.0 volts
Nominal Current	19.0 amperes
Required Heating Time	120 seconds
Accelerated Filament Heating	
Recommended open circuit over-voltage	50%
Corresponding period of over-voltage application	25 ± 5 seconds
Tube Voltage Drop—Approximate	10 volts
Maximum Instantaneous Anode Current	
In-Phase Operation	8 amperes
Quadrature Operation	16 amperes
Maximum Average Anode Current	
In-Phase Operation	2 amperes
Quadrature Operation	4 amperes
Max. Time of Averaging Anode Current	30 seconds

### Circuit Outputs:

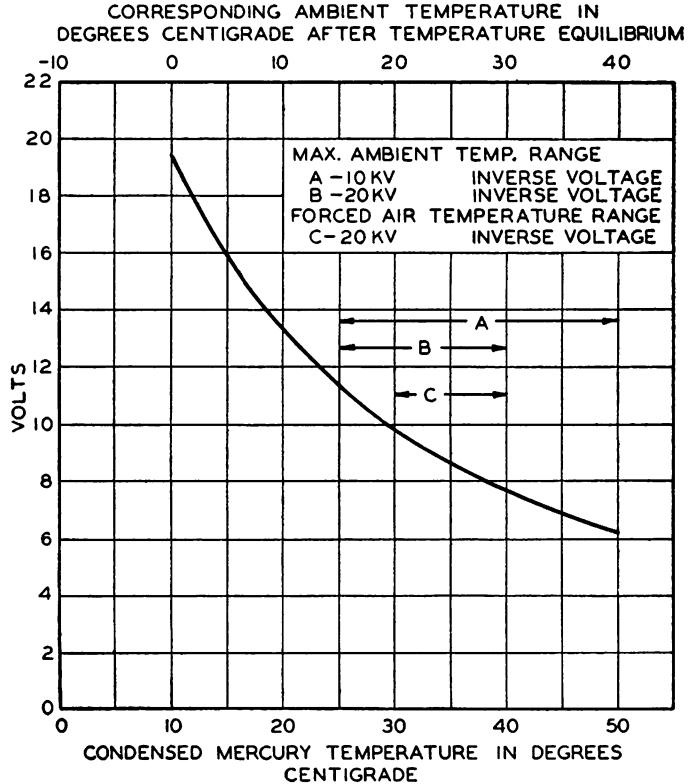
Circuit Designation	Number of Tubes	Output Voltage		Load Current—DC Amps.	
		At 10 kv. Inverse Voltage	At 20 kv. Inverse Voltage	In-Phase Operation	Quadrature Operation
A	1	3000	6000	2	4
B	2	3000	6000	4	8
C	4	3000	6000	8	16
D	4	6000	12000	4	8
E	3	4500	9000	6	12
F	6	9000	18000	6	—
G	6	4000	8000	10	20
H	6	9000	18000	—	12
I	6	9000	18000	—	12

# 266B Vacuum Tube



### Ratings

<b>Filament</b>	
Voltage	5.0 volts
Nominal Current	42.0 amperes
Required Heating Time	300 seconds
Accelerated Filament Heating	
Recommended open circuit over-voltage	50%
Corresponding period of over-voltage application	30 ± 5 seconds
Tube Voltage Drop—Approximate	15 volts
Maximum Instantaneous Anode Current	
In-Phase Operation	20 amperes
Quadrature Operation	40 amperes
Maximum Average Anode Current	
In-Phase Operation	5 amperes
Quadrature Operation	10 amperes
Max. Time of Averaging Anode Current	60 seconds
Maximum Peak Inverse Anode Voltage	
at 15 to 30° C. ambient temperature	20 kilovolts
at 15 to 40° C. ambient temperature	10 kilovolts
at 30 to 40° C. forced air temperature	20 kilovolts



TUBE VOLTAGE DROP VS. TEMPERATURE FOR A TYPICAL TUBE

This is the temperature of the forced air applied to the bulb where the free mercury condenses. Approximately 8 cu. ft. per minute from a 1 inch nozzle and directed just below the support collar is recommended.

**Mounting**—Special mounting is required. Mount in vertical position only, filament end down. A clearance of at least 4 inches should be allowed between the bulb and any adjacent object. Connections to the filament and anode terminals should be flexible.

### Circuit Outputs:

Circuit Designation	Number of Tubes	Output Voltage		Load Current—DC Amps.	
		At 10 kv. Inverse Voltage	At 20 kv. Inverse Voltage	In-Phase Operation	Quadrature Operation
A	1	3000	6000	5	10
B	2	3000	6000	10	20
C	4	3000	6000	20	40
D	4	6000	12000	10	20
E	3	4500	9000	15	30
F	6	9000	18000	15	—
G	6	4000	8000	25	50
H	6	9000	18000	—	30
I	6	9000	18000	—	30

## 266C Vacuum Tube

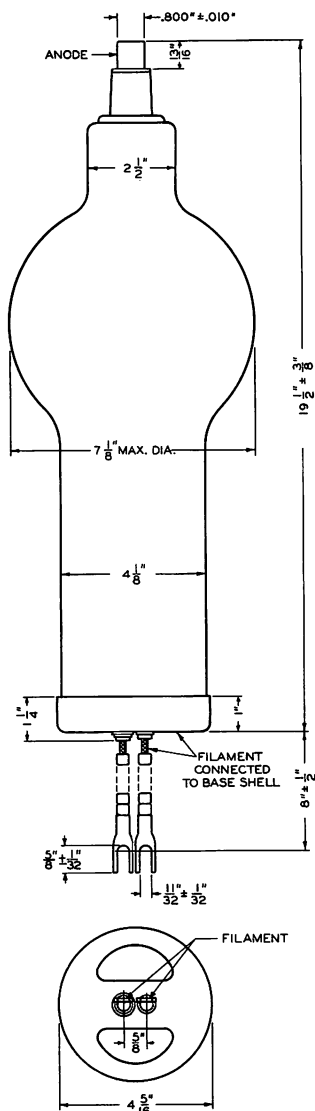
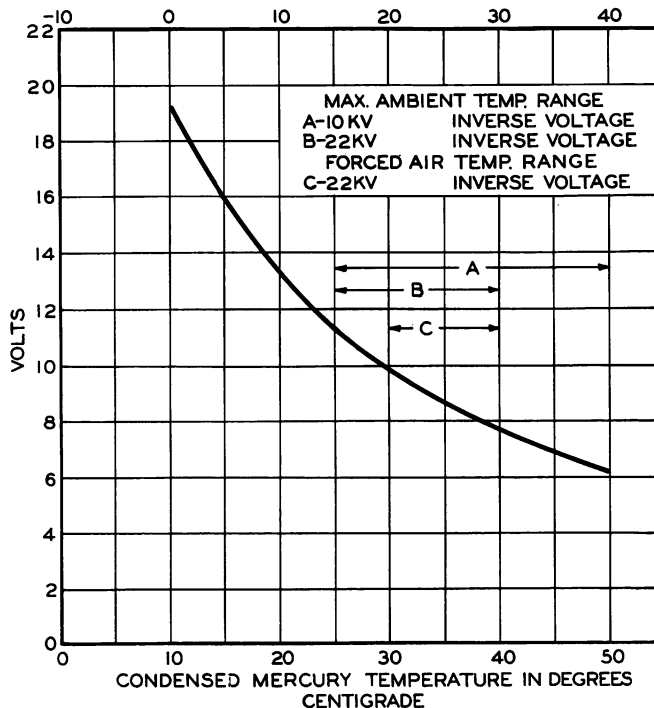


FIG. 1

### Ratings

Filament Voltage	5.0 volts
Nominal Current	42.0 amperes
Required Heating Time	300 seconds
Accelerated Filament Heating Recommended open circuit over-voltage	50%
Corresponding period of over-voltage application	30 ± 5 seconds
Tube Voltage Drop—Approximate	15 volts
Maximum Instantaneous Anode Current In-Phase Operation	20 amperes
Quadrature Operation	40 amperes
Maximum Average Anode Current In-Phase Operation	5 amperes
Quadrature Operation	10 amperes
Max. Time of Averaging Anode Current	60 seconds
Maximum Peak Inverse Anode Voltage at 15 to 30° C. ambient temperature	22 kilovolts
at 15 to 40° C. ambient temperature	10 kilovolts
at 30 to 40° C. forced air temperature	22 kilovolts

CORRESPONDING AMBIENT TEMPERATURE IN DEGREES CENTIGRADE AFTER TEMPERATURE EQUILIBRIUM



TUBE VOLTAGE DROP VS. TEMPERATURE FOR A TYPICAL TUBE

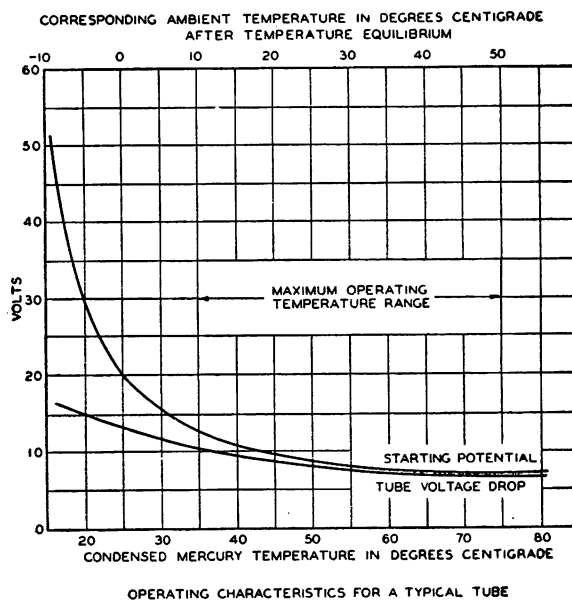
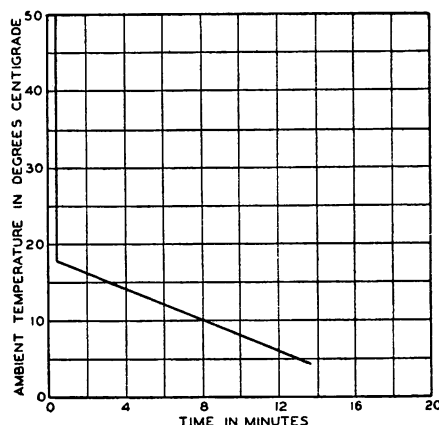
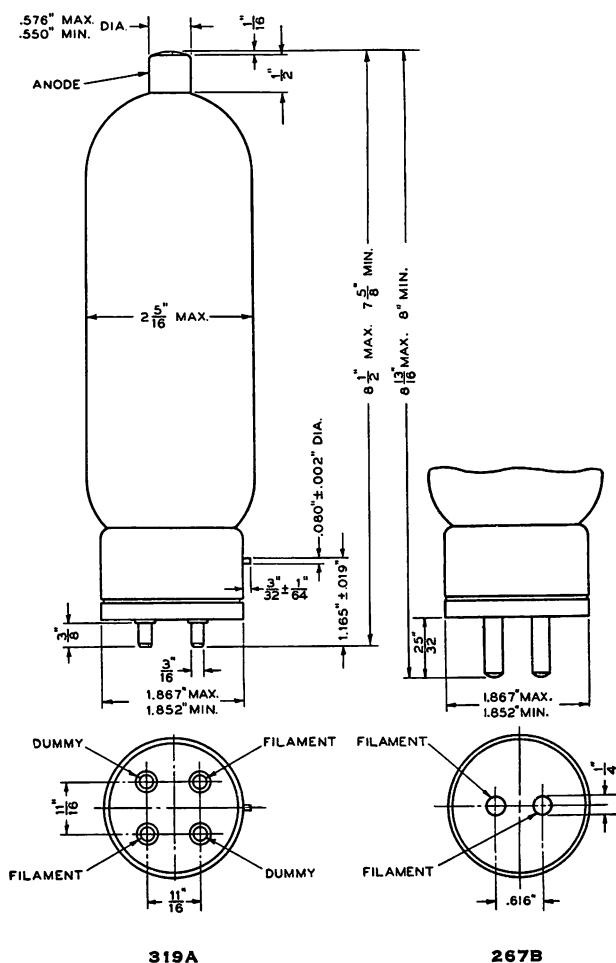
This is the temperature of the forced air applied to the bulb where the free mercury condenses. Approximately 5 cu. ft. per minute from a 1 inch nozzle and directed 1/2" above the filament base is recommended.

**Mounting**—Special mounting is required. Mount in vertical position only, filament end down. A clearance of at least 4 inches should be allowed between the bulb and any adjacent object. Connection to the anode terminal should be flexible.

### Circuit Outputs:

Circuit Designation	Number of Tubes	Output Voltage		Load Current—DC Amps.	
		At 10 kv. Inverse Voltage	At 22 kv. Inverse Voltage	In-Phase Operation	Quadrature Operation
A	1	3000	6500	5	10
B	2	3000	6500	10	20
C	4	3000	6500	20	40
D	4	6000	13000	10	20
E	3	4500	10000	15	30
F	6	9000	20000	15	—
G	6	4000	9000	25	50
H	6	9000	20000	—	30
I	6	9000	20000	—	30

## 267B and 319A Vacuum Tubes



### Ratings

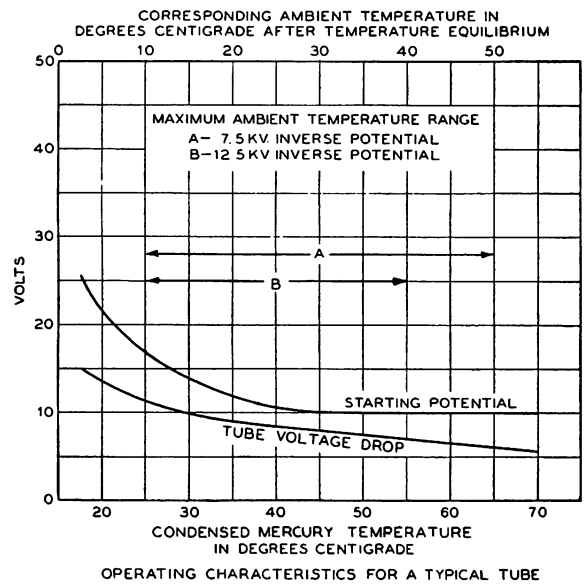
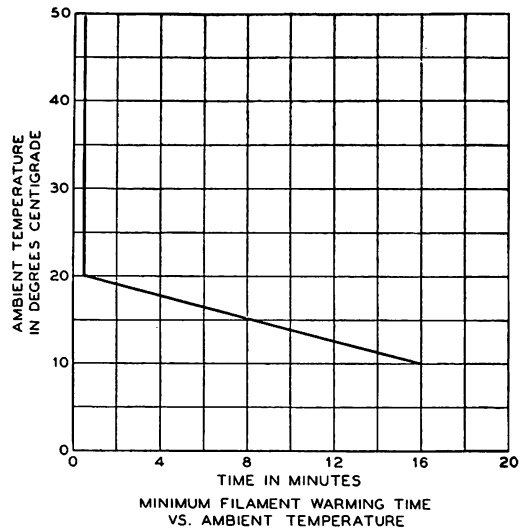
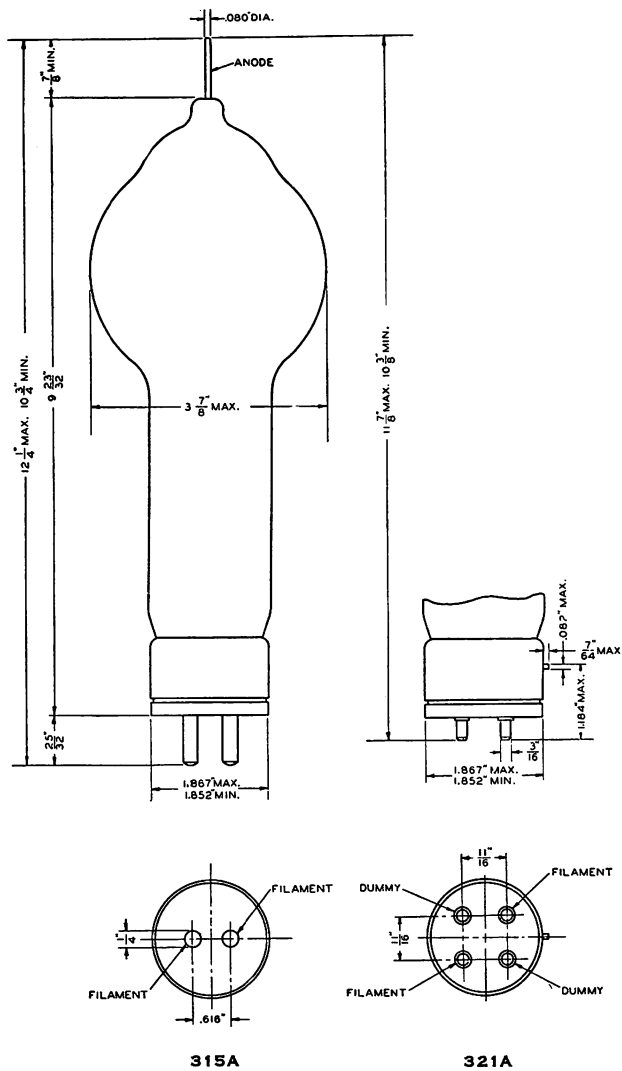
Filament Voltage	5.0 volts
Nominal Current	6.75 amperes
Required Heating Time	30 seconds
Accelerated Filament Heating Recommended open circuit over-voltage	50%
Corresponding period of over-voltage application	8 ± 2 seconds
Tube Voltage Drop—Approximate	10 volts
Maximum Instantaneous Anode Current	
In-Phase Operation	4 amperes
Quadrature Operation	8 amperes
Maximum Average Anode Current	
In-Phase Operation	1 ampere
Quadrature Operation	2 amperes
Max. Time of Averging Anode Current	15 seconds
Maximum Peak Inverse Anode Voltage	7.5 kilovolts
Maximum Ambient Temperature Range	10 to 50° C.

**Mounting**—The 267B tube requires a W. E. 138B, 139A or similar socket and the 319A tube a W. E. 148A or similar socket. A spring clip anode terminal connector is required. Mount in a vertical position only—base end down. A clearance of at least 2 inches should be allowed between the bulb and any adjacent object.

### Circuit Outputs:

Circuit Designation	Number of Tubes	Output Voltage At 7.5 kv. Inverse Voltage	Load Current—DC Amps.	
			In-Phase Operation	Quadrature Operation
A	1	2300	1	2
B	2	2300	2	4
C	4	2300	4	8
D	4	4600	2	4
E	3	3500	3	6
F	6	7000	3	—
G	6	3000	5	10
H	6	7000	—	6
I	6	7000	—	6

### 315A and 321A Vacuum Tubes



**Ratings**

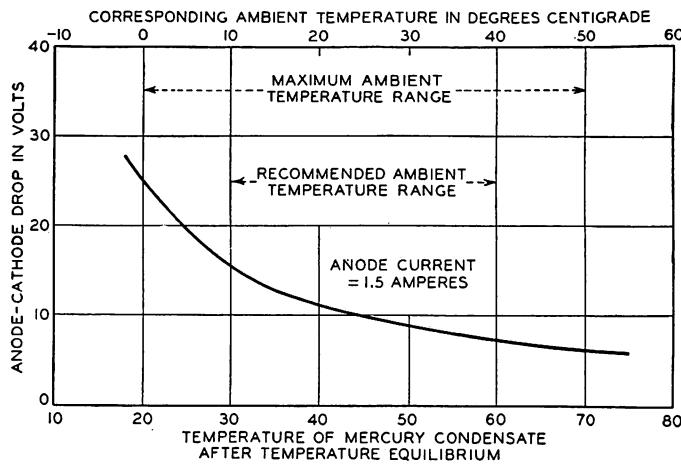
Filament Voltage	5.0 volts
Nominal Current	10.0 amperes
Required Heating Time	30 seconds
Accelerated Filament Heating Recommended open circuit over-voltage	50%
Corresponding period of over-voltage application	15 ± 5 seconds
Tube Voltage Drop—Approximate	10 volts
Maximum Instantaneous Anode Current In-Phase Operation	4 amperes
Quadrature Operation	8 amperes
Maximum Average Anode Current In-Phase Operation	1 ampere
Quadrature Operation	2 amperes
Max. Time of Averaging Anode Current	15 seconds
Maximum Peak Inverse Anode Voltage at 10 to 40° C. ambient temperature	12.5 kilovolts
at 10 to 50° C. ambient temperature	7.5 kilovolts

**Mounting**—The 315A tube requires a 138B, 139A or similar socket and the 321A a W. E. 148A or similar socket. A special anode terminal connector is required. Mount in a vertical position only—base end down. A clearance of at least 3 inches should be allowed between the bulb and any adjacent object.

**Circuit Outputs:**

Circuit Designation	Number of Tubes	Output Voltage		Load Current—DC Amps.	
		At 7.5 kv. Inverse Voltage	At 12.5 kv. Inverse Voltage	In-Phase Operation	Quadrature Operation
A	1	2300	3800	1	2
B	2	2300	3800	2	4
C	4	2300	3800	4	8
D	4	4600	7600	2	4
E	3	3500	5800	3	6
F	6	7000	11500	3	—
G	6	3000	5000	5	10
H	6	7000	11500	—	6
I	6	7000	11500	—	6

The anode cathode potential drop as a function of the temperature is shown in the accompanying curve for a typical No. 258-B Vacuum Tube when passing rated space current. The recommended operating temperature range is also shown on this curve.



**Typical Rectifying Circuits**

The No. 258B Vacuum Tube may be used in any standard rectifier circuits subject to its current, voltage and temperature limitations.

For specific circuits the following ratings apply.

Type of Circuit	Number of Tubes	Load Potential Volts	Load Current Amperes
Single Phase, Half-Wave.....	1	2300	0.5
Single Phase, Double Half-Wave.....	2	2300	1.0
Single Phase, Double Half-Wave (4 tube series circuit)	4	4500	1.0
Three Phase, (6 tube series "Y" circuit).....	6	7000	1.3

**General Features**

The mercury vapor type of rectifying tube has the desirable property of a low and almost constant potential drop between the cathode and anode when the tube is passing current. Due to their low potential drop a much more efficient rectifier system can be had than is possible by the use of most high vacuum rectifier tubes, whose potential drops are relatively high. The constancy of the potential drop with space current makes possible rectifying systems whose regulation depends almost entirely on the regulation of the plate transformers.

The No. 258B Vacuum Tube employs an improved oxide coated mesh type filament encased in a metallic shield which insures a uniform cathode temperature. The mechanical construction is such as to preserve the active materials for long operating periods at high inverse voltages as well as during shelf life and shipment. These features make possible the maximum operating life. The No. 258B Vacuum Tube has an increased rating over the No. 258A and may be used to replace it.