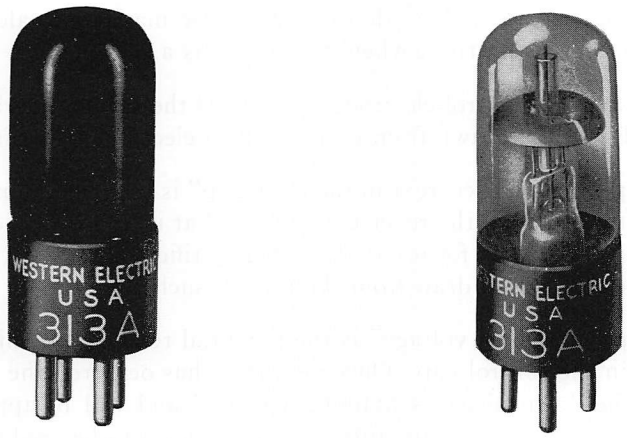
Western Electric

313A Vacuum Tube



Classification—Double gap, cold cathode, gas-filled tube for use as a relay, rectifier or voltage regulator in special circuits.

The elements of the 313A tube consist of two similar control electrodes and one anode. The conduction path between the control electrodes is known as the control gap. The conduction path between either control electrode and the anode is known as the main gap.

The glass bulb has been given an opaque coating so that the discharge is not visible while the tube is operating. In the photograph at the right the coating has been removed to show the tube elements.

Dimensions—The dimensions and outline diagrams are given in Figs. 1 and 2. The overall dimensions are:

Maximum length	$3\frac{13}{32}$″
Maximum diameter	$1\frac{3}{16}$″

Mounting—The 313A vacuum tube employs a standard four-pin thrust base suitable for use in a Western Electric 143B or similar socket. The arrangement of electrode connections to the base terminals is shown in Fig. 2.

It may be mounted in either a vertical or horizontal position.

Ratings

Maximum peak control-electrode current	30 milliamperes
Maximum average control-electrode current (averaged over 1 second)	10 milliamperes
Maximum peak reverse current in main gap	5 milliamperes

Characteristics

Nominal control gap breakdown voltage	70 volts
Nominal control gap sustaining voltage	60 volts
Nominal main gap breakdown voltage	175 volts
Nominal main gap sustaining voltage	75 volts
Transfer current	5 microamperes (max.)
Nominal deionization time	
Main gap	10 milliseconds
Control gap	3 milliseconds

The "maximum peak control-electrode current" is the maximum value of current which may be drawn from either control electrode when it is acting as a cathode.

The "maximum average control-electrode current" is the maximum value of current (averaged over 1 second) which may be drawn from either control electrode when it is acting as a cathode.

The "maximum peak reverse current in the main gap" is the maximum value of current which may be drawn from the anode in the reverse direction, that is when it is acting as a cathode. The reverse current rating is intended for use in designing rectifier circuits and is the maximum inverse current which it is permissible to draw from the tube in such circuits.

The "control gap breakdown voltage" is the potential required to initiate ionization, thereby starting conduction in the control gap. Once ionization has occurred the potential across the gap will be reduced to the "control gap sustaining voltage" and will be approximately independent of the current. It is this property of the tube which enables it to be used as a voltage regulator.

The "main gap breakdown voltage" is the potential required to start conduction in the main gap when no ionization is occurring in the control gap. After breakdown, conduction will take place at the "main gap sustaining voltage" and will be practically independent of current.

The "main gap sustaining voltage" is substantially independent of current when the current passes through the tube in the forward direction. When the current passes through the main gap in the reverse direction the sustaining voltage increases rapidly with increasing current. It is this asymmetry in the properties of the main gap of the 313A tube which enable it to be used as a rectifier. The current voltage characteristics of the main gap of a typical 313A tube in both forward and reverse directions as shown in Fig. 3. This curve was obtained with a cathode ray oscillograph.

When the anode potential is maintained at a value intermediate between the "main gap breakdown and sustaining voltages" the passage of a small amount of current in the control gap will produce ionization sufficient to initiate conduction in the main gap. It is this property of the tube which enables it to be used as a relay. The amount of current in the control gap required to initiate conduction in the main gap is known as the transfer current. This quantity varies considerably from tube to tube and during the life of a given tube but will in general be less than 5 microamperes and usually only a few tenths of a microampere.

The deionization time is the time during which the voltage must be removed from the tube in order that the discharge shall not be reestablished when the voltage is restored. This time increases with increasing applied voltage and with increasing current through the tube before the deionization period. This rate of increase of deionization time is such that the tube will not deionize with a 60 cycle sine wave main gap voltage if the load is inductive or if the peak voltage is near the main gap breakdown voltage or the current near the maximum rated value.

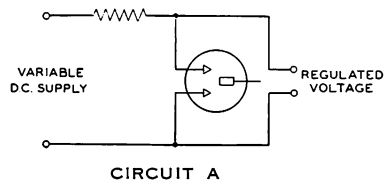
The "transfer time" is the time during which the control gap must be energized in order that the discharge may transfer to the main gap. It depends upon the amount of current flowing in the control gap and on the main gap voltage. For a control gap current of 10 microamperes the "transfer time" is approximately 200 microseconds.

Typical Circuits

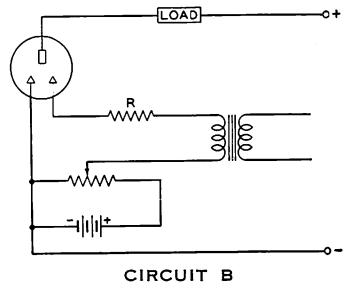
Circuit A shows a circuit using the control gap of the 313A as a voltage regulator.

Circuit B shows a circuit using the 313A as a relay. The anode voltage should be intermediate between the main gap breakdown and sustaining voltages and the control anode may be biased at any desired potential less than the control gap sustaining voltage. The resistance R, in the control anode circuit should be of the order of 100,000 ohms. This circuit possesses a "lock-in" feature, since the anode potential must be removed momentarily to restore the tube to a non-conducting condition. When supplied from alternating current this circuit does not possess a "lock-in" feature unless the frequency of the supply voltage is so high that the tube is not allowed a sufficient interval to deionize.

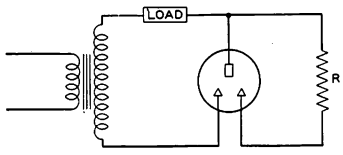
Circuit C shows a circuit using the 313A as a rectifier. The rectifying properties of the main gap are used but the control gap should be connected into the circuit as indicated through a high resistance. This will cause conduction in the forward direction to begin at a voltage much below the main gap breakdown voltage. It is important to note that as a rectifier the 313A tube possesses a unique property not common to other rectifiers in that its impedance is infinite for voltages below the breakdown voltage. In many applications that is of importance since the tube may be used to pass current at the higher potentials without placing a bridge across the line for signals of lower voltage.



CIRCUIT A



CIRCUIT B



CIRCUIT C

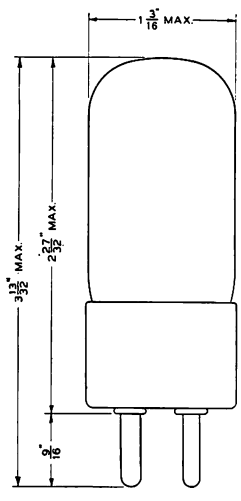


FIG. 1

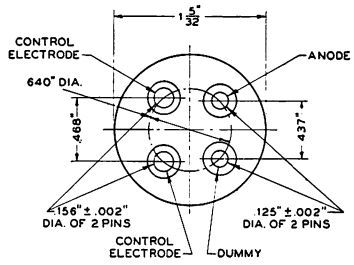


FIG. 2

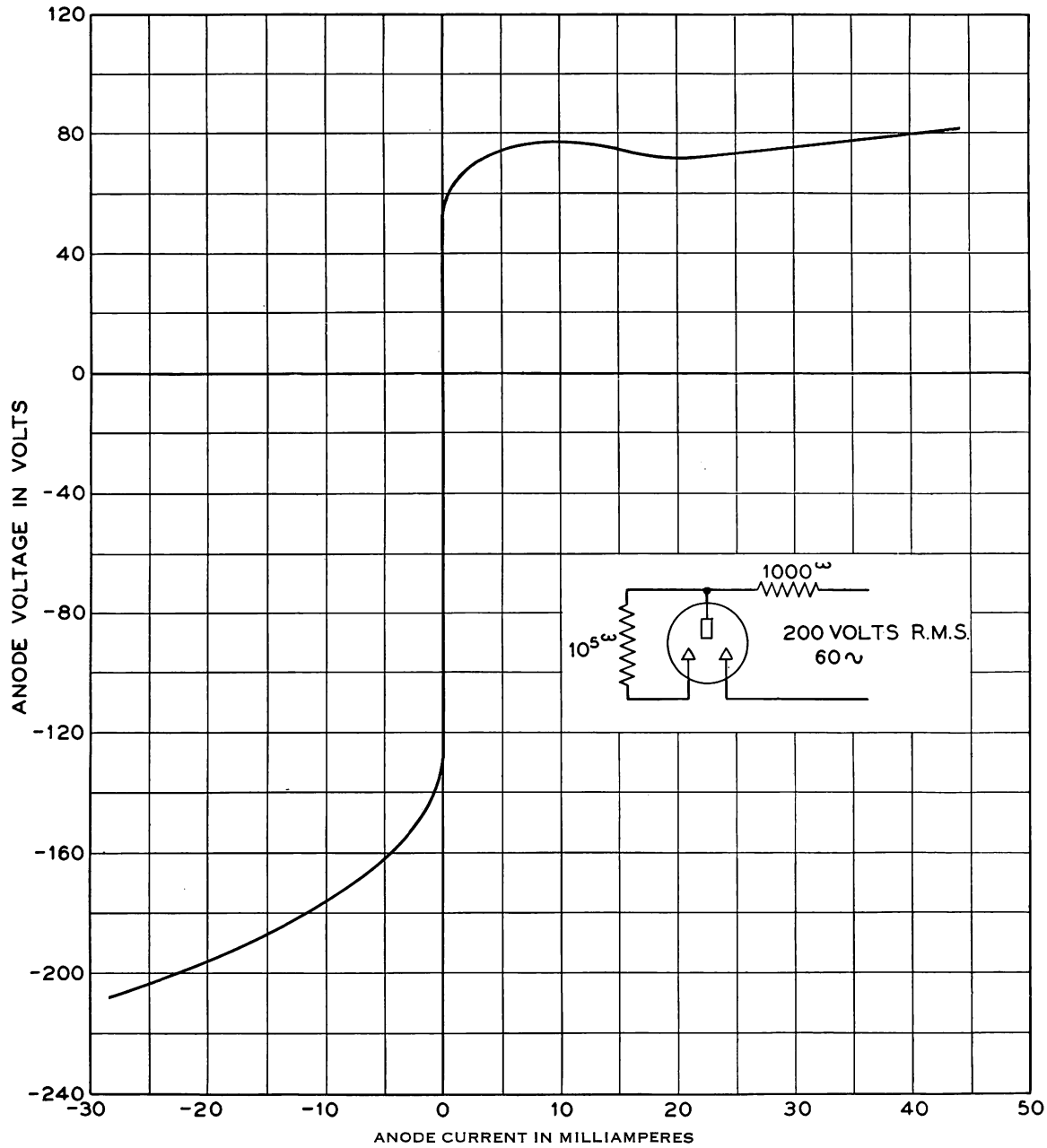

120
80
40
0
-40
-80
-120
-160
-200
-240
ANODE VOLTAGE IN VOLTS
-30
-20
-10
0
10
20
30
40
50
ANODE CURRENT IN MILLIAMPERES
1000Ω
10⁵Ω
200 VOLTS R.M.S.
60~

FIG. 3