

murphy A 138 R a new radiogram



specification

Pearson Bros
LONG ROW (Nottm.) Ltd.

A 138 R 8 valve radio gramophone superhet receiver for A.C. mains. 200-250 volts, 50-60 cycles.

CONSUMPTION On radio 100 watts. On gramophone 115 watts.

WAVE RANGES 16-50 M. 190-550 M. 1000-2000 M.

GRAMOPHONE EQUIPMENT Lightweight moving coil pick-up. Automatic record changer. Special amplifying stage for gramophone reproduction. Illuminated turntable compartment.

VALVE ARRANGEMENT Triode-hexode frequency changer; variable-mu pentode I.F. amplifier; double-diode triode detector and L.F. amplifier; triode phase-splitter; twin high-power beam tetrode push-pull output valves; gramophone pre-amplifier; power rectifier.

DIMENSIONS Height: 34 in. Width: 28 in. Depth: 17 in.

PRICE £92 . 8 . 11 including Purchase Tax. Weekly or monthly payments arranged.



your **murphy** dealer

murphy A 138 R RADIOPHON

*An account of the **murphy** A 138 R a new radiogram*

MANY YEARS AGO a man wrote an essay which he entitled "The Psychology of the Gramophone." "Always," he said, "always with the gramophone we have to make allowances. There are qualities of the orchestra which never survive on the gramophone; the sharpness of the attack on the strings, the clearness of their different parts, and the full distinction between strings and wood wind; pizzicato is usually unpleasant, seeming to intrude between you and the music; while the bass parts are apt to be a mere rumble."

Had Arthur Brock lived another quarter century his views on the radiogram might well have been equally luke-warm. That is, unless he limited his listening to a very few, very highly priced instruments. *Or to the Murphy A 138 R.* For, if one faces facts squarely, many lesser radiograms are instruments that merely serve to amplify the failings of the gramophone proper.

"Unfair!" says the owner of a 'lesser' radiogram. "The record is responsible for those distorted sounds you hear. It sets upper and lower limits to the sound frequency range. That's why notes above and below these limits sound so curious. As for the background accompaniment of scratching noises—that's also the fault of the record." And a shrug of the shoulders absolves his precious instrument of all blame. "Unfair?" we reply. "Such excuses have had their day. The quality of records has improved enormously; frequency range has increased, surface noise has almost vanished. The best disc recordings now compare favourably with radio reception from a local station on a first class wireless set. It is the radiogram's turn to face the music". And that is why we made the Murphy A 138 R. Knowing that existing radiograms were simply not good enough, we threw aside all our old chassis, circuits and cabinets. We started from "scratch" by developing a new type of noiseless moving coil pick-up, and ended by designing something entirely new round it. True, we used certain existing components to prevent the price from becoming prohibitive. But in all other respects we set our caps at the moon.

You will *not* have to make allowances for the A 138 R. You will *not* (as so many radiogram enthusiasts do unconsciously) have to turn up the volume higher for

records than for radio to increase the bass and so mask the distortions of the higher notes. Flute answers clear high flute without a trace of raggedness. The bass is free of boom or Arthur-Brockian rumbles. Pizzicato is as pizzicato as Beecham would have it in his most stringent mood. "Music comes sweetly from the trembling string" wrote John Freeman. And now you can hear it—thank goodness.

Yes, in our Design Department we are proud of this model, because we feel it is an outstanding piece of equipment. We believe that such an impressive specification has never before been offered in the big production radiogram market.

THE START OF IT ALL—THE PICK-UP

Those of our readers who are radiogram enthusiasts need no telling that to a very great degree the pick-up *is* the "gram"; that it makes or mars the sound produced from records; and that no amount of human ingenuity used in the design of the amplification stages can mask the distortions and scratching noises that start from an inferior pick-up. So it is not strange that we began the A 138 R by developing a new pick-up. The requirements of the ideal type are well known among the . . . er . . . "cognoscenti." It should have light weight, low bass resonance, very high or very well damped top resonance (or, better still, both), good waveform and low inter-modulation. It must also be robust, not too complicated, operate on auto-stop satisfactorily and preferably use an interchangeable steel needle.

We began experimenting with a moving coil pick-up in 1942. And only now does the final article make its first public appearance in the A 138 R. It will take H.M.V. "Stylus" or Columbia "99" needles, 0.036 in. diameter. No needle screw or clamping device is needed as the needle is held in place by a magnetic field.

We consider it is outstanding even among pick-ups of the most ambitious class. When you listen to it we think you will be very impressed by the low scratch level and the remarkable freedom from distortion.

12 WATT POWER OUTPUT—TWO LOUDSPEAKERS

"Ah! But what about the low output of the moving coil type of pick-up?" says

the radiogram expert. We have overcome that disadvantage by introducing a separate valve as a gramophone pre-amplifier and a pentode amplifying stage in both the gramophone and radio circuits. And we have given the A 138 R the unusually high power output of 12 watts—much more than is necessary for normal radio reproduction. A negative feed-back and two loudspeakers are used to handle this output satisfactorily.

A SENSIBLE WELL

As you would expect in an instrument of this calibre, the automatic record changer will handle a mixed bag of eight 10 in. and 12 in. records without any fuss—giving you about 40 minutes of uninterrupted listening. The well is illuminated and has plenty of elbow room. The end walls are curved at the base. This makes dusting much easier, and reduces casualties among records. The lid over the well has a counter balancing mechanism which ensures that it "stays put" at whatever angle you put it.

THREE WAVEBANDS

On the radio side there have also been developments but to explain them would involve you in a nightmare of technical jargon. So we will be brief. The radio is a 7 valve superhet. You will get any worthwhile station you care to listen to on Long, Medium and Short wavebands. You will get it clearly and it won't slip away. Quality of reproduction? Excellent.

A NEW TRADITION IS BORN

With the "works" of the A 138 R so far in advance of other instruments, we couldn't let the cabinet lag behind. In any case we believe that something ought to be done about radiogram cabinets. They are by tradition "heavy" looking pieces of furniture. In many of them an impressive amount of wood (often complete with elaborate carvings) is used to achieve the monstrous dignity of a Victorian sideboard—and, possibly, to give the customer a sensation of getting "more for his money." The A 138 R cabinet gets right away from traditional design. You might accuse us (and we wouldn't resent it) of returning to the simplicity and fine proportions of early Georgian furniture with its delicacy and strength. In any case we think you'll agree this cabinet in walnut of two contrasting shades sets a charming precedent for future radiograms.