

# THE SILVER-MARSHALL 738 SHORTWAVE CONVERTER

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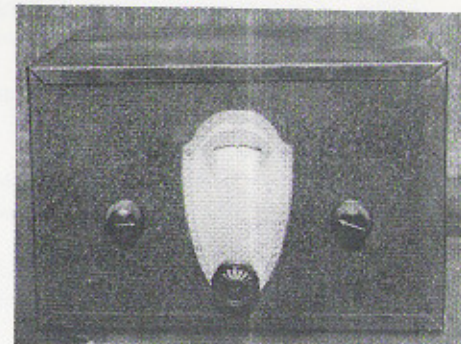
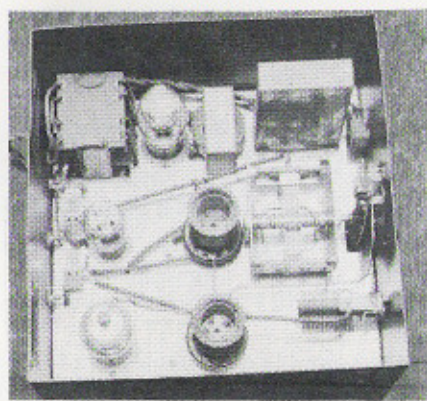
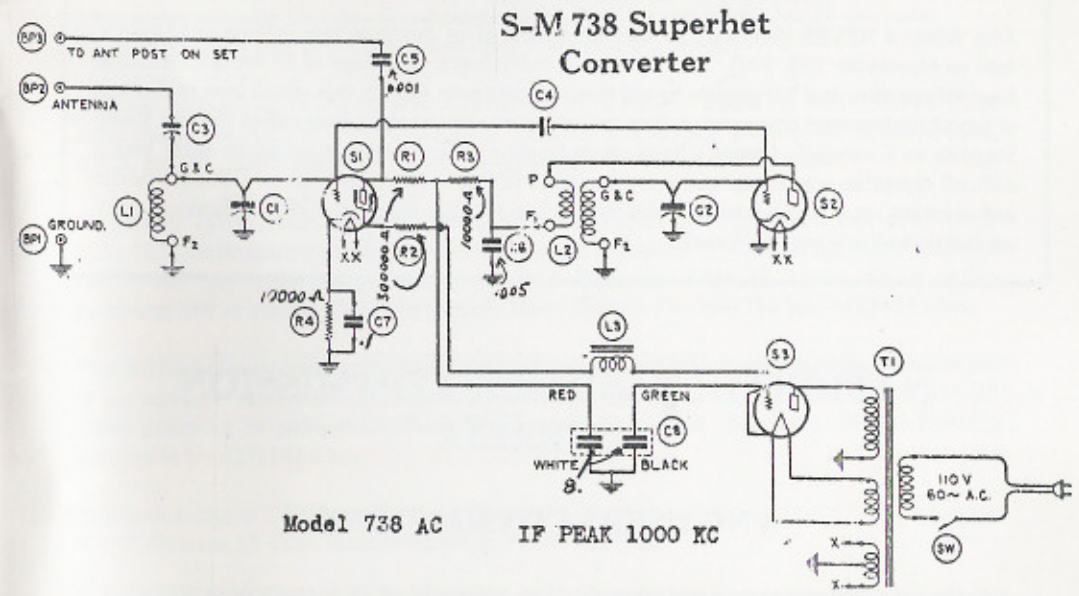
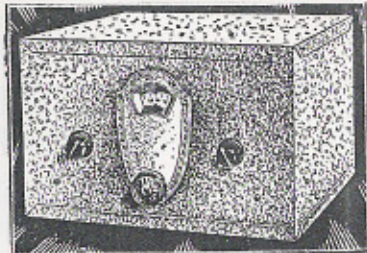
Prior to about 1930 shortwave listening was confined mainly to those enthusiasts who were prepared to construct their own receivers. True, there were commercially made sets available, but they were in the minority. However, as the number of shortwave broadcasting stations grew and the ordinary listener came to realise that it was possible to receive stations from all over the world, interest in this new form of listening grew. Remember, this was several years before the introduction of multi-band "all-wave" receivers and very few listeners were keen enough, or could afford, to buy a SW receiver in addition to a regular BC set. The stage was set for the introduction of the superheterodyne shortwave converter. Such converters changed the frequency of the incoming SW signal to (usually) about 1000kHz so that it could be received on any BC set, either TRF or superhet.

As one of the first licensed superheterodyne manufacturers, Silver-Marshall Inc. wasted no time in getting superhets on the market. As early as October 1930, at almost the same time as RCA's first modern superhet appeared, the S-M 724 was announced. In the same month the production of the 738 converter was another first for Silver-Marshall. It was described in the release notice as being "..... the newest and most interesting of all sensations.." Imagine that!

The 738 used a type 24A tube as a mixer with a type 27 as oscillator coupled to the control grid by means of a pre-set capacitor. The main tuning control was a single 150pf variable capacitor which tuned the oscillator circuit. Another (smaller) 150pf capacitor tuned the input circuit, while the aerial was coupled to the mixer grid through a preset trimmer. As can be seen from the illustration, a National Type E Velvet Vernier dial was fitted. A set of eight plug-in coils (two for each band) covered from 18 to 206 metres. A self-contained power supply provided the necessary heater voltage as well as HT from a type 26 triode connected as a half-wave rectifier.

The production of a shortwave converter at such an early date obviously reflected McMurdo Silver's personal interest in DX and SW reception, for, as is now well known, he later went on to produce high quality all-wave receivers under his own name.

In New Zealand the agency for Silver-Marshall products was shared by Factory Imports Ltd and Thos Ballinger Ltd, with Bond & Bond Ltd acting as Auckland distributor.



**Make a Short-Wave SUPERHETERODYNE Out of Any Broadcast Receiver**