

POWER TRIODE

Water- & Forced-Air-Cooled, Grounded-Grid Type

TENTATIVE DATA

RCA-9C27 is a water- and forced-air-cooled power triode designed for communication and industrial service. It has a maximum rated plate dissipation of 25 kilowatts, and can be operated with full plate voltage, plate input, and grid current at frequencies as high as 30 megacycles. Operation at frequencies up to 100 megacycles is permissible with reduced ratings.

The flanged-header grid terminal is a design feature of particular value when the 9027 is used in grounded-grid circuits. In such circuits, this terminal when used with a large circular connector effectively isolates the filament from the plate circuit, and provides a direct, low-inductance path to the grid. As a result, neutralization is generally unnecessary in grounded-grid service. In grounded-filament circuits, the 9027 can be used in the conventional manner.

The internal structure of the 9C27 utilizes a single-phase, multistrand, thoriated-tungsten filament, and a strong, conical grid support which provides a maximum of shielding between plate and filament to give extremely low plate-filament capacitance, and also serves to reduce effectively the grid-lead inductance.

GENERAL DATA

Filament, Multistrand Thoriated Tungsten:
Excitation Single-Phase AC or DC
Voltage (AC or DC)
Current
Starting Current: The filament current must never exceed, even momentarily,
a value of 425 amperes.
Cold Resistance 0.0025 Ohms
Amplification Factor
Direct Interelectrode Capacitances (Approx.):
Grid to Plate
Grid to Filament
Plate to Filament
Maximum Overall Length
Maximum Diameter
Mounting Position Vertical, filament end up
Water Jacket
Gasket
Water Flow
The water flow must start before the application of any voltages and
continue for at least 2 minutes after the removal of all voltages.
Air Flow:
To Filament Seals 10 cfm
The specified air flow directed into the filament header before and

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during the application of any voltages is required to limit the temperature of the filament seals to the maximum value. To Plate Seal and Bulb
AF POWER AMPLIFIER & MODULATOR-Class B
Maximum CCS Ratings, Absolute Values:
DC PLATE VOLTAGE
Typical Operation: Values are for 2 tubes
DC Plate Voltage
RF POWER AMPLIFIER-Class B Telephony
Carrier conditions per tube for use with a maximum modulation factor of 1.0
Maximum CCS Ratings, Absolute Values:
DC PLATE VOLTAGE
Typical Operation in Grounded-Filament Circuit:
DC Plate Voltage

Same values as for Grounded-Filament Circuit with the following exceptions:



Driving Power (Approx.): Carrier	800 4 10	Kw
PLATE-MODULATED RF POWER AMPLIFIERClass C	Telep	hony
Carrier conditions per tube for use with a maximum modu	-	•
Maximum CCS Ratings, Absolute Values:		
DC PLATE VOLTAGE. DC GRID VOLTAGE DC PLATE CURRENT. DC GRID CURRENT PLATE INPUT PLATE DISSIPATION	-2000 3.2 0.65 26	max. Volts max. Volts max. Amperes max. Ampere max. Kw max. Kw
Typical Operation in Grounded-Filament Circuit:		
DC Plate Voltage	8000	Volts
	0.51 510	Ohms
Typical Operation in Grounded-Grid Circuit:		
Same values as for Grounded-Filament Circuit with the fo	ollowin	ng exceptions:
Driving Power (Approx.)	3000 18	Watts
RF POWER AMPLIFIER & OSCILLATORClass C To		<u> </u>
Key-down conditions per tube without amplitude	<u>module</u>	tion "
Maximum CCS Ratings, Absolute Values:		
DC PLATE VOLTAGE. DC GRID VOLTAGE. DC PLATE CURRENT. DC GRID CURRENT. PLATE INPUT PLATE DISSIPATION	0.65 40	
Typical Operation in Grounded-Filament Circuit:		
DC Plate Voltage	11000 -540	
From a grid resistor of	900 130	



Peak RF Grid Voltage	1000	1050		. Volts
DC Plate Current	3.5	3.6		Amperes
DC Grid Current (Approx.)**	0.58	0.61		Ampere
Driving Power (Approx.)**	515	57 5		. Watts
Power Output (Approx.)	25	29.5	• •	. Kw

Typical Operation in Grounded-Grid Circuit:

Same values as for Grounded-Filament Circuit with the following exceptions:

Driving Power (Approx.)	3400	3750	•	•		Watts
Power Output (Approx.)	28	32.5	•		•	Kw

[•] CCS = Continuous Commercial Service.

INSTALLATION

In transportation and storage of the 9C27, care should be taken to protect the tube from rough handling that would damage the metal-to-glass seals or other parts. The 9C27 is suspended within its shipping crate so that it will not come in contact with the sides of the crate during shipment. It should be stored in the crate with the filament end up and should be protected from moisture and extreme temperature changes. Under no circumstances should crated tubes be piled one on top of another. Furthermore, while the tube is being removed from its crate or from its water jacket, it should be held with both hands on the bulb below the corona shield and be kept in a vertical position with the filament end up. Hands should be protected by heavy lesther gloves as a safety precaution in case of bulb breakage. After such removal, the tube should be grasped by the plate below the plate flange, still keeping the filament end up. The weight of the 9C27 crated for shipment is approximately 69 pounds; uncrated, approximately 18 pounds.

It is recommended that the tube be tested upon receipt in the equipment in which it is to be used. Before the tube is placed in operation, any foreign material clinging to the tube should be removed. An air blast is recommended for removing any such material from the entrant metal header.

Mounting of the 9027 requires the use of a water jacket, and the standard gasket. RCA Stock No. 43244. Information concerning the water jacket can be

^{*} Averaged over any audio-frequency cycle of sine-wave form.

^{**} Subject to wide variations depending on the impedance of the plate circuit. High-impedance plate circuits require more grid current and driving power to obtain the desired output. Low-impedance plate circuits need less grid current and driving power, but plate-circuit efficiency is sacrificed. The driving stage should have a tank circuit of good regulation and should be capable of supplying considerably more than the required driving power.

O At crest of audio-frequency cycle with modulation factor of 1.0.

[•] Carrier power of driver modulated 100%.

[□] Modulation essentially negative may be used if the positive peak of the audio-frequency envelope does not exceed 115% of the carrier conditions.



obtained from us on request. The jacket should support the tube in a vertical position with the filament end up. If the 9C27 is to be subjected to appreciable vibration in service, it is advisable to support the water jacket by springs. When concrete basework is provided for the equipment and when machines or other sources of vibration are not present, it is unnecessary to use a spring suspension. The installation of all wires and connections must be made so that they will not be close to or touch the bulb. This precaution is necessary to avoid almost certain puncture of the glass from corona discharge.

The 9C27 should be placed in its water jacket very carefully and then firmly fastened. It is advisable to fasten the tube in its jacket securely before making the electrical connections. Before the jacket clamping device is tightened, care must be taken to see that the contacts seat properly on top of the flange. This procedure prevents possible strain at the plate seal caused by improper seating of the flange on the jacket. When this preliminary adjustment indicates that the tube is properly seated, the jacket ring can be tightened gently. Do not tighten it more than is required to seat the flange properly on the gasket. The standard gasket is supplied with each tube. A new gasket should be used whenever a tube is placed in the jacket. It is recommended that the gasket be coated with a thin film of Pro-dag* to prevent sticking. If these precautions are not taken, the tube may be ruined by a glass crack caused by uneven pressure on the flange. The moving parts of the jacket should be kept free from rusting and sticking by coating them with a thin film of oil or Oil-dag*. Do not use adhesive to seal the jacket against leaks because any sticking of the plate in the jacket may cause damage to the tube during its removal. Before readjustment of either the tube or the jacket is made, the leads should be disconnected.

When the 9C27 is removed from its jacket, first be sure that the temperature of the grid and filament is below red heat. Next remove the filament and grid connections. Then completely release the locking device and carefully remove the tube from the jacket. Should sticking occur, twist the tube gently back and forth and, at the same time, gently raise. Never use force to remove the tube.

The water-cooling system consists, in general, of a source of cooling water, a water jacket, a feed-pipe system which carries the water to and from the jacket, and provision for interlocking the water flow with the power supplies. When the plate is at high potential above ground, the feed-pipe system should have good insulation qualities and proper design to reduce the leakage current to a negligible value.

The piping system must be arranged to avoid air traps in the water jacket. A water flow of 12 to 15 gallons per minute, depending on the type of service, is usually sufficient. Under abnormal conditions, an increased rate of flow may be necessary to prevent overheating. The use of an outlet water thermometer and a water flow meter is recommended. The water must not be allowed to boil and the flow must be great enough to prevent the formation of steam

^{*} Made by Acheson Colloids Corporation, Port Huron, Michigan.



bubbles on the plate. The temperature of the water at the outlet must not exceed 70°C.

An approximate value of the plate dissipation, which should not exceed the value given under MAXIMUM RATINGS for each class of service, may be calculated from the following equation:

$$P_{\text{kilowatts}} = \frac{n(t_0 - t_i)}{4}$$

in which ti is the known initial temperature of the cooling water in centigrade degrees, to is the temperature of the water at the water-jacket outlet in centigrade degrees, and n is the number of gallons per minute of flow.

The formation of steam may be detected by the use of an improvised stethoscope which may consist of 6 feet of high-grade insulating tubing. This stethoscope is pressed against the jacket at various points while listening tests are made. Because of the danger involved in this test, care should be taken to ground the testing device at some point between the observer and the jacket. The test for boiling water should be made each time the tube is adjusted.

Distilled water is recommended for cooling because it greatly reduces the probability of scale formation. Scale is usually very hard and appears as a light-colored deposit on the plate during life. Scale prevents adequate cooling of the tube because it hinders proper transfer of heat from the plate to the water. Because undistilled water varies in mineral content, and because of variation in amount of heat to be dissipated, temperature of the water, and rate of flow, no specific recommendations can be given to prevent scale when undistilled water is used. In any case, a sample of the cooling water should be analyzed before plans are made for the water system. In general, water which shows a hardness greater than 10 grains per gallon should not be used. Regardless of the kind of water used, the system should be kept free of an accumulation of foreign matter. A 10 per cent solution of hydrochloric acid will dissolve scale in emergency cases. After such treatment, the plate should be carefully rinsed. Since the tube must be removed from its jacket for this treatment and since frequent removals are objectionable because of danger of accidental breakage, the best insurance against tube failure due to scale is the complete elimination of the cause of scale.

Proper functioning of the water-cooling system is of the utmost importance. Even a momentary failure of the water will damage the tube. In fact, without cooling water, the heat of the filament alone is sufficient to cause serious harm. It is, therefore, necessary to provide a method of preventing operation of the tube in case the water supply should fail. This may be done by the use of water-flow circuit breakers or interlocks which open the filament and plate supplies when the flow is insufficient or ceases.

Water cooling of the 9C27 must continue for at least 2 minutes after the removal of all voltages.

An air-cooling system, interlocked with the power supplies, is required



to cool the entrant metal header of the 9C27. This system consists of a blower and an air duct of suitable cross-sectional area directed downward into the header. The air flow from the duct should be approximately 10 cubic feet per minute in order to limit the temperature of the filament seals to 165°C. The cooling air must not contain any water or foreign matter. A suitable duct should also be used to conduct air to the plate seal and bulb sufficient to limit the bulb temperature to 180°C at the hottest point, and the plate-seal temperature to 165°C. The temperature of the filament and plate seals and of the bulb may be measured either with a thermocouple or with temperature-sensitive paint, such as Tempilac. The latter is made by the Tempil Corporation, 132 W. 22nd Street, New York, N.Y., in the form of liquid and stick, and is stated by the manufacturer to have an accuracy of 1 per cent.

The air-cooling system should be electrically interconnected with the filament and plate power supplies to prevent the application of voltages to the tube without cooling. Precautions should be taken to insulate the air-cooling system from the tube or circuit parts which may be at high potential.

The thoriated-tungsten filament of the 9C27 may be operated from direct current or from single-phase alternating current. The filament consists of twelve strands which are brought out to two terminals sealed into the entrant metal header. The filament connectors should make firm, large-surface contact with the filament terminals in order to prevent heating by the high filament current. The filament leads should not be taut, but should allow for some movement without placing a strain on the glass bulb.

Under normal full-load conditions, the filament voltage should be maintained at the rated value within ± 5 per cent; with light loads, reduction of the filament voltage by as much as 5 per cent is permissible. In the latter case, care must be taken that the reduction of the filament voltage, and therefore, of emission is not so great that the peak-current requirements can not be met. It is recommended that in intermittent service where the standby periods are no longer than 15 minutes, the filament voltage be reduced to 80 per cent of normal during standbys; for longer periods, the filament voltage should be turned off. The filament should be operated at constant voltage rather than at constant current, and must be allowed to reach normal operating temperature before other voltages are applied to the tube. A suitable voltmeter should be permanently connected directly across the filament terminals so that the filament voltage will always be known.

When direct current is used, the polarity of the leads should be reversed every 500 hours of operation.

A filament starter should be used to raise the filament voltage gradually and to limit the high initial rush of current through the filament when the circuit is first closed. The starter may be either a system of time-delay relays cutting resistance out of the circuit, a high-reactance filament transformer, or a simple rheostat. Regardless of the method of control, it is important that the total filament current never exceed, even momentarily, a value of 425 amperes.

The grid terminal of the 9027 is in the form of a flange on the entrant



9C27

metal header. It is suggested that the connector for the grid lead be in the form of a flat yoke extending around perhaps half the circumference of the flange. At the higher frequencies, it is recommended that the flat-yoke connector extend completely around the circumference of the flange and that adequate connections be made to it to provide uniform rf current distribution over the flange. This yoke must be provided with holes so that it can be bolted to the flange for good electrical contact. The screws attaching the corona shield to the flange should be removed when the yoke is being bolted to the flange; they are then replaced. The yoke and grid lead should not place any strain on the header because of the possibility of damage to the glass-to-metal seal. Similarly, connections should not be soldered to the flange; and the flange should not be used to support circuit parts.

The plate connection for the 9C27 is provided automatically through the clamping mechanism of the water jacket which is connected electrically to the high-voltage supply. The rated plate voltage is extremely dangerous to the user. Great care should be taken during adjustment of the circuit. The tube and its associated apparatus, especially all parts which may be at high potential above ground, should be housed in a protective enclosure. The protective housing should be designed with interlocks so that personnel can not possibly come in contact with any high-potential point in the electrical system. The interlock devices should function to break the primary circuit of the plate supply when any gate or door on the protective housing is opened, and should prevent the closing of this primary circuit until the door is again locked.

The plate circuit should be provided with a time-delay relay to delay the application of plate voltage until the filament has reached normal operating temperature. The plate circuit must also be provided with protective devices to prevent the tube from drawing a heavy overload. In order to prevent excessive plate-current flow and resultant overheating of the tube, the ground lead of the plate circuit should be connected in series with the coil of an instantaneous overload relay. This relay should be adjusted to open the circuit breakers in the primary of the rectifier transformer at slightly higher than normal plate current. The time required for the operation of the relay and circuit breakers should be about 1/10 second and not more than 1/6 second. A voltage-dropping resistor should be permanently connected in series with the plate lead of each tube for protection of the tube during the time required for the relay and circuit breaker to act. The minimum value of this resistor which will give adequate protection with minimum power loss is as follows:

SERIES RESISTOR	25	50	75	100	Ohms
MAXIMUM POWER OUT- PUT OF RECTIFIER	40	100	250	640	Kw

A <u>capacitor</u> of high value should never be connected directly across the tube in such a manner that a disturbance within the tube will discharge appreciable energy from the capacitor.

The grid return and the plate return should be connected to the center



point of the filament voltage supply when ac is used. When dc is used, the grid and the plate return should be connected to the negative filament terminal and should still be connected to the negative filament terminal whenever the filament polarity is reversed.

When a 9027 is first placed in service, care should be taken to see that the water- and air-cooling systems are functioning properly. The tube should then be operated without plate voltage for 5 minutes at rated filament voltage. After this initial preneating schedule, the tube should be operated at approximately one-half the usual plate voltage for 15 minutes. Full plate voltage may then be applied and the tube operated under normal load conditions for a period of 1 hour or more. It is recommended that spare tubes be given the preheating and initial-operation treatment every 3 months. This procedure will insure that only good tubes are carried in stock.

When a new circuit is tried or when adjustments are made, the plate voltage should be reduced to approximately one-half the rated value to prevent damage to the tube and associated apparatus. After correct adjustment has been made with the tube operating smoothly and without excessive heating of the cooling water or the glass bulb, the plate voltage may be raised in steps to the desired value. Adjustments should be made at each step for optimum operation.

Overheating of the 9C27 by severe overload may impair its vacuum. When the quantity of released gas is not too great, it is often possible to degassify the tube by operating it at reduced plate voltage. The first step in the process should be a short period of operation at a plate voltage of one-half the rated value. The plate voltage may then be increased to the normal value and the tube allowed to operate for an hour or more. In severe cases, it may be necessary to degassify the tube by increasing the plate voltage in small steps until the normal voltage is reached. At each new voltage, the tube should be allowed to operate long enough to insure the attainment of stabilized conditions. The voltage may be varied by means of a series resistor connected in the plate-supply lead.

If the release of gas has caused deactivation of the filament, the activity of the filament can often be restored by operating the filament at its normal voltage for 10 minutes or longer without plate or grid voltage. The reactivation process may be accelerated by raising the filament voltage to not higher than 120 per cent of normal value for a few minutes.

APPLICATION

The <u>maximum ratings</u> in the tabulated data for the 9C27 are limiting values above which the serviceability of the 9C27 may be impaired from the viewpoint of life and satisfactory performance. Therefore, in order not to exceed these absolute ratings, the equipment designer has the responsibility of determining an average design value for each rating below the absolute value of that rating by an amount such that the absolute values will never be exceeded under any usual condition of supply-voltage variation, load variation, or manufacturing variation in the equipment itself.



The 9C27 may be operated at maximum ratings in all classes of service at frequencies as high as 30 megacycles. It may be operated at higher frequencies provided the maximum values of plate voltage, plate input, and grid current are reduced as the frequency is raised. Other maximum ratings remain the same. When the 9C27 is used in grounded-grid circuits at the highest frequencies, care must be exercised to shield completely the filament-grid circuit from the grid-plate circuit.

The following table shows the highest percentage of maximum plate voltage, plate input, and grid current that can be safely used up to 100 megacycles. Special attention should be given to adequate cooling at the higher frequencies.

FREQUENCY	30	50	75	100	Me
MAX. PERMISSIBLE PER- CENTAGE OF MAX. RATED PLATE VOLTAGE, PLATE INPUT & GRID CURRENT: Class B Telephony Class C Telephony Class C Telegraphy	100 100 100	93 87 87	87 74 74	80 61 61	per cent per cent per cent

In class B af power amplifier and modulator service, the 9027 should be operated with grid bias obtained from a battery or other source of dc voltage of good regulation. It should not be obtained from a high-resistance source such as a grid resistor, nor from a rectifier unless the latter has exceptionally good voltage regulation. Each grid circuit should be provided with a separate bias adjustment to balance the grid and plate currents.

In <u>class B rf power amplifier telephony service</u>, the 9027 is supplied with unmodulated dc plate voltage. The grid is excited with rf voltage modulated at audio frequency in one of the preceding stages, and power output is proportional to the square of the grid-excitation voltage. Under these conditions, the plate dissipation is greatest when the carrier is unmodulated. Grid bias is obtained from a battery or other source of dc voltage of good regulation.

When used in grounded-grid class B rf amplifier telephony service, the 9027 can be modulated 100 per cent in the conventional manner except that increased driving power, resulting in increased power output, will be required as shown in the tabulated data. Grounded-grid operation has the advantage of greatly reducing or entirely eliminating the power dissipated in "swamping" resistors required in conventional grounded-filament operation.

In plate-modulated class C rf power amplifier service, the 9027 should be supplied with bias from a grid resistor, or from a suitable combination of grid resistor and fixed supply or grid resistor and cathode resistor. The cathode resistor should be by-passed for both audio and radio frequencies. The combination method of grid resistor and fixed supply has the advantage of not only protecting the tube from damage through loss of excitation but also of minimizing distortion by bias-supply compensation. Grid-bias voltage



is not particularly critical so that correct adjustment may be obtained with values differing widely from the calculated values. For operation with a modulation factor of 1.0, sufficient cooling must be provided to dissipate 50 per cent more plate power than under carrier conditions.

In grounded-grid plate-modulated class C rf power amplifier service, the 9027 can be modulated 100 per cent if the rf driver stage is also modulated 100 per cent simultaneously. Care should be taken to insure that the driver-modulation and the amplifier-modulation voltages are exactly in phase. In such service, the 9027 requires increased driving power, but increased power output is obtained as shown in the tabulated data.

In class C rf telegraph service of either the grounded-filament or the grounded-grid type, the 9027 may be supplied with bias by any convenient method. When the tube is used in the final amplifier or a preceding stage of a transmitter designed for break-in operation and oscillator keying, a small amount of fixed bias must be used to limit the plate current and, therefore, the plate dissipation to a safe value. If the 9027 is operated at the maximum rated plate voltage of 11500 volts, a fixed bias of at least -250 volts should be used.

In tuning a grounded-grid rf amplifier, it must be remembered that variations in the load on the output stage will produce corresponding variations in the load on the driving stage. This effect will be noticed by the simultaneous increase in plate currents of both the output and driving stages.

<u>Circuit-design considerations</u> affecting operation of the 9C27 are given in the following paragraphs.

The grid circuit of the 9C27 when used with its filament grounded should be designed and adjusted so that no appreciable voltage can occur between grid and filament at any frequency except the fundamental. This procedure will minimize the occurrence of parasitic oscillations and be simplified if the generation of unwanted harmonic frequencies is avoided. The use of a plate tank circuit having the proper Q and the avoidance of over-excitation are helpful. Link coupling between the driving stage and the power amplifier is useful especially if the Q of the grid tank circuit is high enough to provide good voltage regulation.

Because of the relatively large high-frequency currents carried by the grid and plate terminals, heavy conductors should be used to make the circuit connections.

When more radio-frequency power is required than can be obtained from a single tube, push-pull or parallel circuit arrangements may be used. Two tubes in parallel or push-pull will give approximately twice the power output of one tube. The parallel connection requires no increase in exciting voltage necessary to drive the tube. With either connection, the driving power required is approximately twice that for a single tube. The push-pull arrangement has the advantage of cancelling the even-order harmonics from the output and of simplifying the balancing of high-frequency circuits. When two or more tubes are used in the circuit, precautions should be taken so that the plate

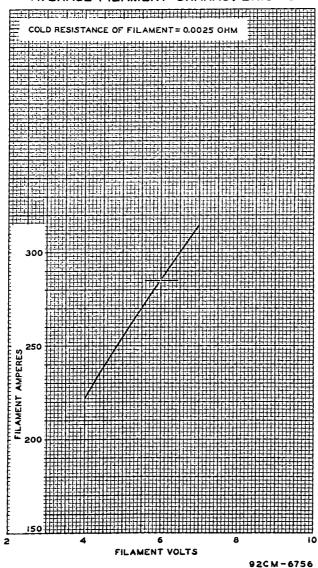


current drawn by each tube is the same.

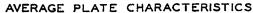
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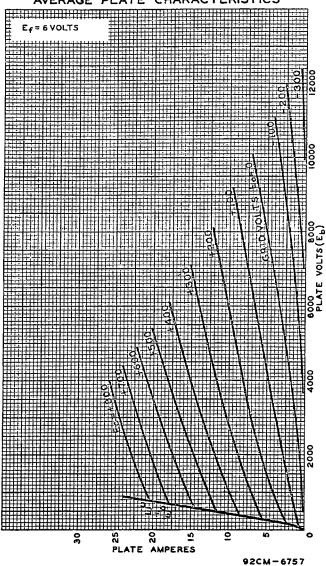
E. E. Spitzer, "Grounded-Crid Power Amplifiers," Electronics, Vol. 19, No. 4, pp. 138 - 141 (April, 1946).

AVERAGE FILAMENT CHARACTERISTIC



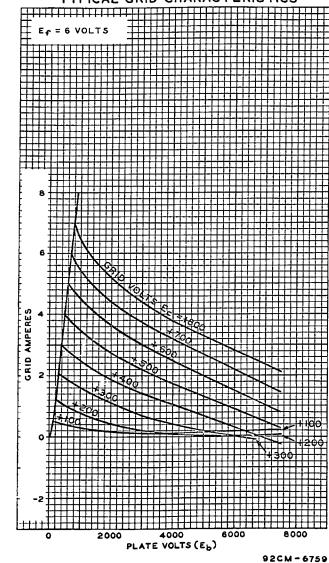






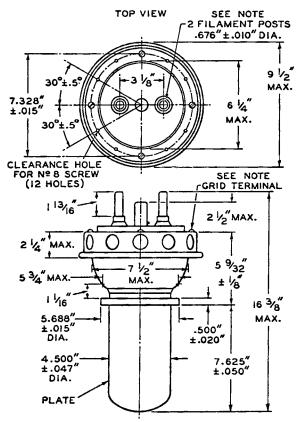


TYPICAL GRID CHARACTERISTICS





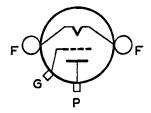
DIMENSIONAL OUTLINE



NOTE: FLEXIBLE CONNECTIONS ARE REQUIRED.

92CM-6709

TUBE SYMBOL



F: FILAMENT
G: GRID
P: PLATE