

AN/ARN-6 - Radio Compass



The radio compass was the most diffused and effective airborne navigation equipment until replaced by satellite navigation systems. In the early fifties United States activated the Conelrad System just to control radio emission and fool radio compass sets of enemy aircraft in case of possible attacks. An article of the author Emilio Ciardiello on Conelrad is available [here](#).

Probably the AN/ARN-6 was the most used airborne navigation equipment from WWII to the fifties and for many lightweight aircraft it was still in use well in the seventies. It was a compact and light equipment capable of providing aural receptions and automatic bearing indication of the arrival direction of any RF station between 100 and 1750 kHz over four tuning ranges.

The basic components of AN/ARN-6 are shown in the above photo and include:

- The receiver R-101/ARN-6, in this case an R-101A locked to the mounting MT-274C/ARN-6.
- The rotating loop antenna AS-313/ARN-6.
- The indicator ID-90A/ARN-6
- The control panel C-1514/A

Other accessories, cables, indicators and control boxes, were available depending upon the required configuration.

The system required 26.5 volts nominal DC at 4 amps to operate. The receiver used tubes operating at 26.5 volts anode power.

The system owned by museum was made in Canada and it is complete of manual, cables and flexible tuning shafts. It was fully operating before the shutdown of every AM broadcast stations.



Internal view of the receiver R-101A/ARN-6. Click on images to enlarge.