

BD401 / 6702 - Beam Switching Noise Generator



Burroughs BD401, registered as 6702, was a non-conventional vacuum tube intended to operate as wide-band random noise generator. It was introduced quite late, appearing in a 1963 bulletin, RMA registration dating 1964. It was derived from magnetic beam switched counters, removing all but two spade and grid electrode pairs, so to introduce asymmetries in the already undulated electric field inside. Basically it takes advantage from the random noise generated in a magnetron-like device operated near cutoff, summed to an asymmetric electric field distribution. 6702 was registered together with its Beam-X new style version, the [BX1203/6713](#). Probably used in airborne radar jammers, its production being secret for a while before registration.

BD401 was specified for 0.08 mW minimum noise in the range between 200 and 400 megahertz.

6.3 volts heater.

RMA release record [4599](#). For operation of trochotron tubes also see this [article](#).

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Tube BD-401
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