

TB1 – General Electric Kenotron, about 1917



TB1 was the US Signal Corps designation for the early General Electric Kenotron. It was a vacuum diode designed to regulate the output voltage of the wind-driven generator used to power aircraft radio equipment. It was one of the very early vacuum tube designed to withstand the vibration normally encountered in this kind of service. The bakelite base was later replaced by a ceramic wafer. About 4500 units were delivered to Signal Corps.

Tungsten wire filament operated at 10.75 volts, drawing 1.45 amperes. Maximum anode current was around 125 milliamps.

The code TB1, etched on the glass bulb, is even hand written on the flat press inside.

More info on TB1 and its applications in this [document](#) by Peter den Boer.