

May 29, 1962

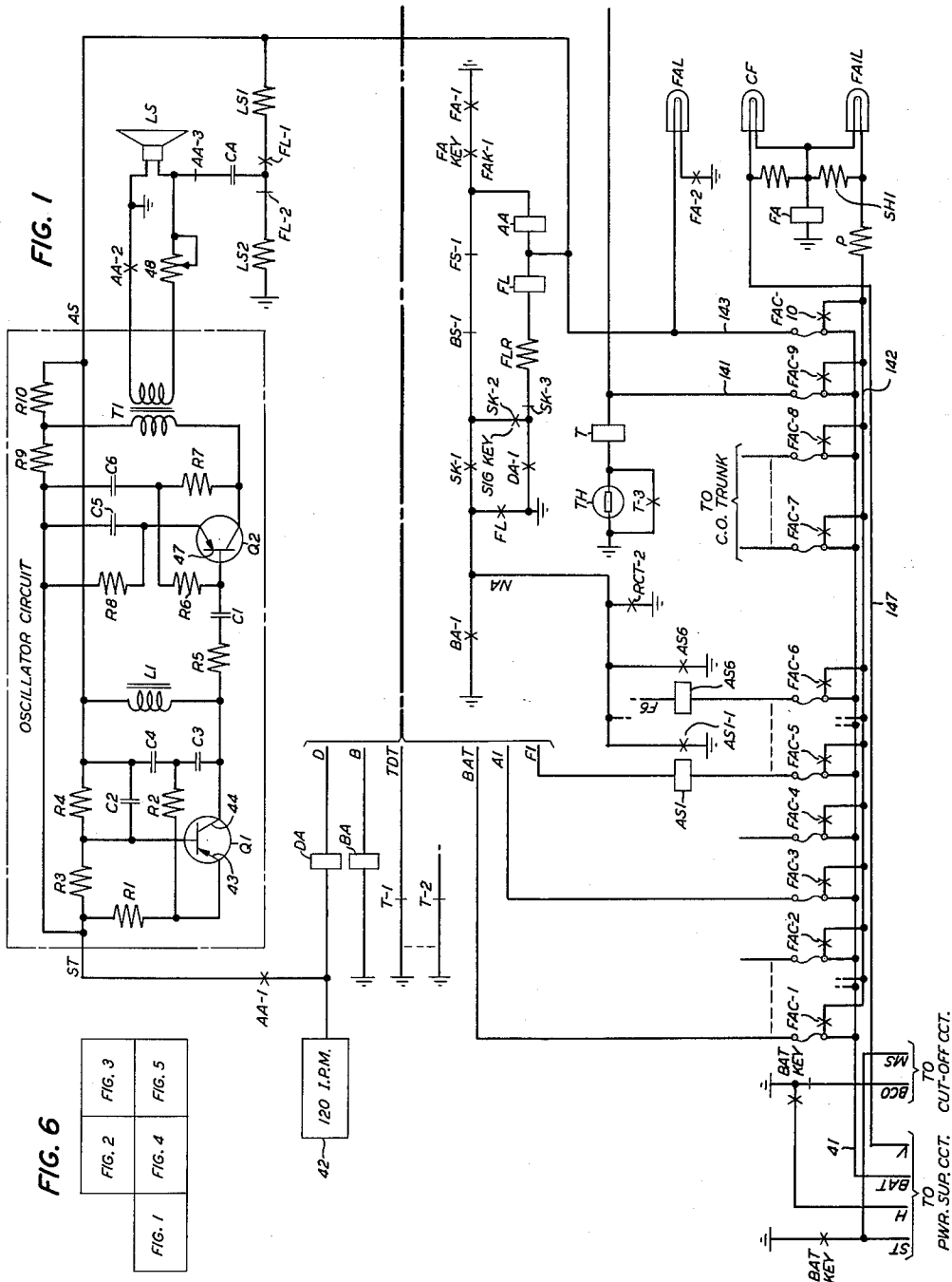
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3,037,087

PRIVATE BRANCH EXCHANGE TELEPHONE SYSTEM

Filed Aug. 1, 1960

5 Sheets-Sheet 1



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5 Sheets-Sheet 2

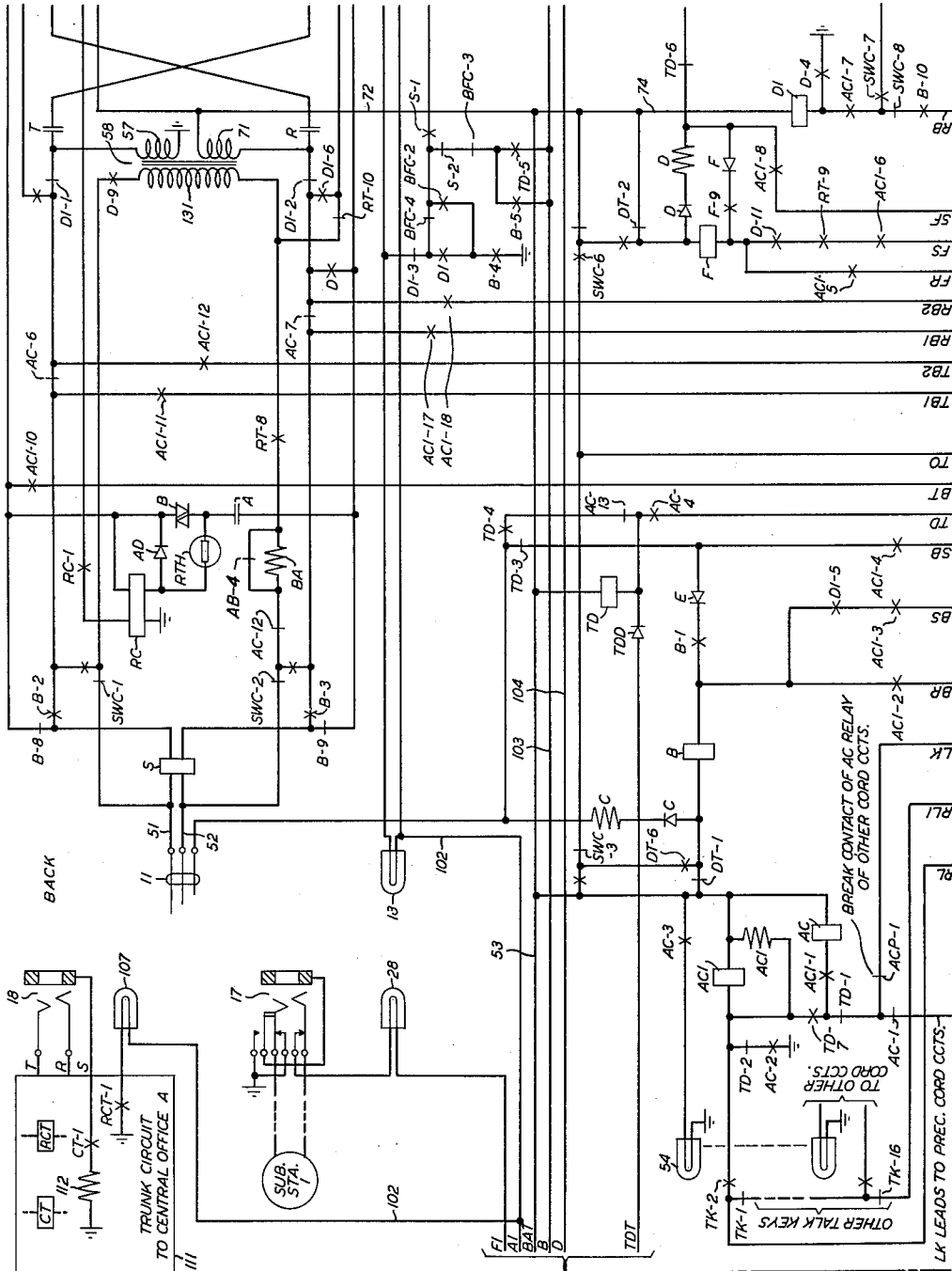


FIG. 2

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5 Sheets-Sheet 3

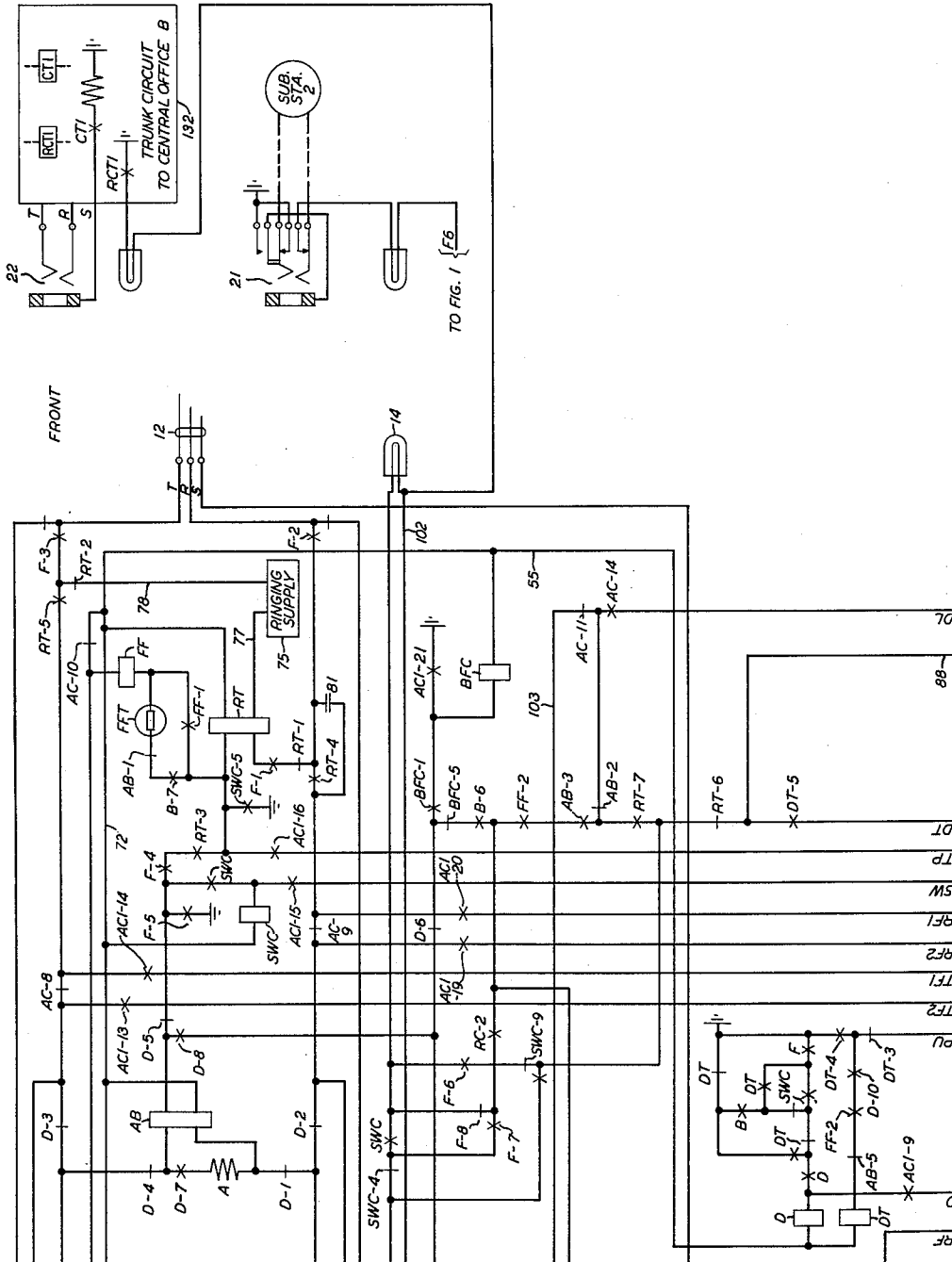


FIG. 3

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PRIVATE BRANCH EXCHANGE TELEPHONE SYSTEM

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5 Sheets-Sheet 4

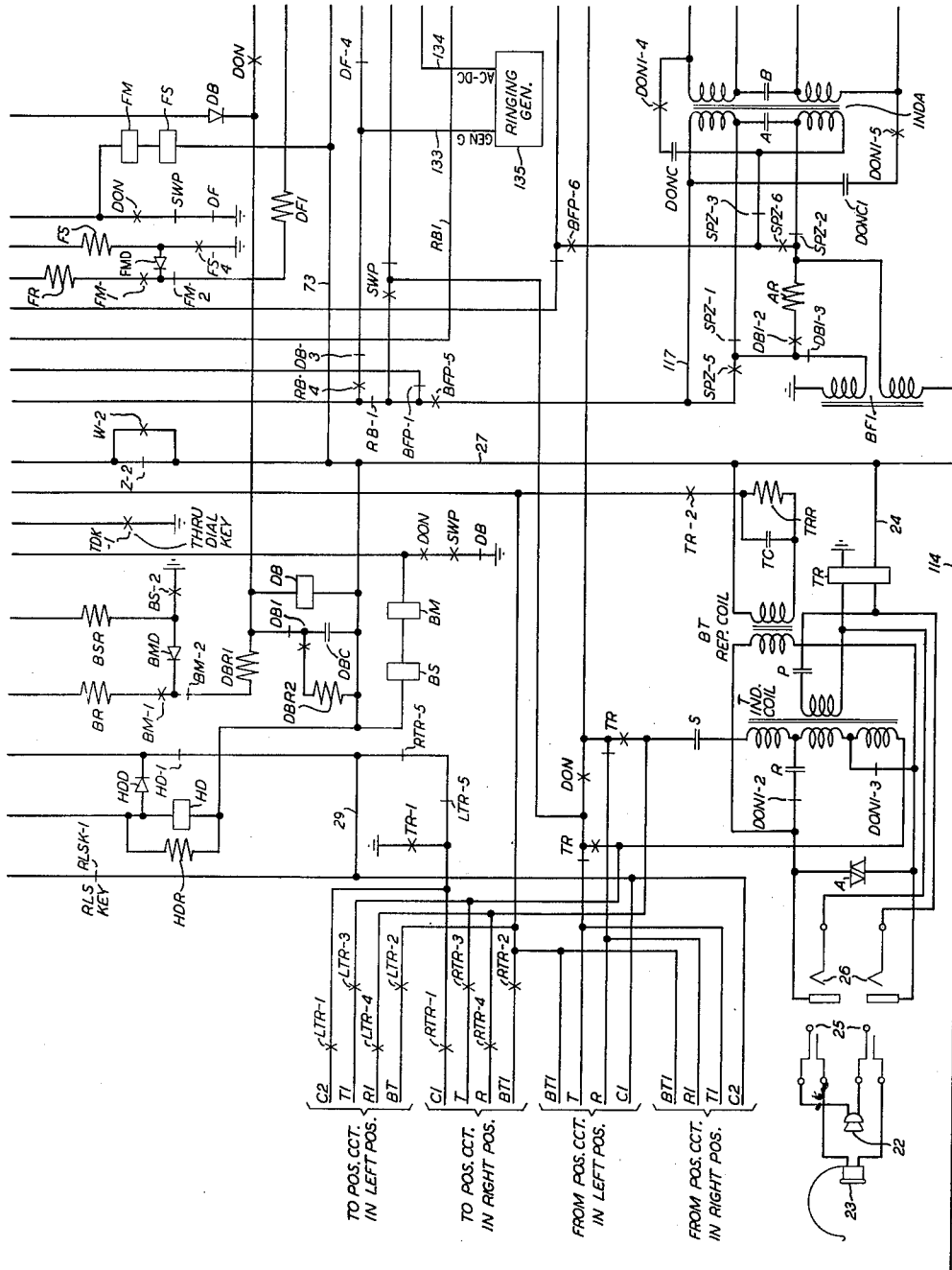


FIG. 4

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PRIVATE BRANCH EXCHANGE TELEPHONE SYSTEM

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Filed Aug. 1, 1960, Ser. No. 46,595
8 Claims. (Cl. 179-42)

This invention relates to a telephone system and more particularly to a private branch exchange telephone system.

In instances where a telephone customer, for example, a business firm, a hotel, or the like, requires a relatively large number of extensions, it is, of course, the usual practice to provide on the premises a private branch exchange, commonly referred to as a "PBX" or a "PBX switchboard." The PBX, at least if it is of the manual type, is operated during normal business hours by an attendant or "PBX operator," and functions essentially as a small central office. That is, intra-station calls between extensions on the premises are completed through the PBX as well as calls from the extensions to subscribers served through remote central offices and calls from such subscribers to extensions served by the PBX.

In the usual type of manual PBX each position is normally provided with a number of pairs of plug-ended cords, each pair comprising a "front" cord and a "back" cord. In the normal course of events a back cord is used in answering a call and the front cord of the same pair is used in extending the call. In certain instances it may become desirable for a subscriber, connected to a back cord, to dial directly over a central office trunk, connected to the corresponding front cord, to a subscriber connected to the remote central office. In such instances it is desirable to temporarily remove from the cord circuit involved, certain direct-current bridges and transmission battery supply sources normally connected thereto, in order to permit through dialing over a "clear" cord.

The establishment of clear cord conditions is also desirable when "night connections" are set up. Before the attendant leaves the switchboard for the night she will ordinarily set up a number of "through connections," that is several pairs of cords are selected and the back cord of each pair is connected to the jack of a station to be set up for night connection and the corresponding front cord is connected to the selected central office trunk jack. After the required number of night connections have been set up, the PBX battery source is disconnected and calls to, and from, the selected stations may be completed directly over the connected trunks.

For purposes of efficient operation it is desirable, of course, that the through-dialing or clear cord condition be established as simply and easily as possible with regard to the necessary operations by the attendant.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to improve the operation and performance of PBX switchboards.

A more specific object of the invention is to establish on occasion a clear cord condition in a cord circuit in an easy and efficient manner and with a minimum of action on the part of the attendant.

In accordance with a specific embodiment of the invention whereby the objects referred to are attained, a "Thru Dial" switch is provided in the position circuit, a single operation of which causes operation of a relay in the connected cord circuit; operation of the referred-to relay in turn is effective to release the cord from the po-

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sition circuit whereby to "clear" the cord for direct dialing thereover by the connected subscriber. This switch is also operated on cords set up on night connections in order to clear the cords for that purpose. The attendant can release the condition by removing the cords from the connected jacks or by operating her "Talk" key which releases the above-mentioned relay and places the attendant in the connection.

A feature of the invention is means for testing all cords (including those set up in night connections) when the PBX battery is reconnected and before the night connections are taken down, for indicating any of the night connection cords which are actually in use at the time on a talking connection.

A further feature of the invention is a relay which is effective as a major element both in clearing the cords on occasion and in testing the cords to indicate any night-connected cords which are actually in use on a talking connection.

A full understanding of the arrangement contemplated by the present invention as well as an appreciation of the various advantageous features thereof may be gained from consideration of the following detailed description in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which:

FIG. 1 shows the tone oscillator, auxiliary signal, and fuse alarm circuit for use with one specific illustrative embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 2 and 3 taken together show the cord circuit of this specific illustrative embodiment;

FIGS. 4 and 5 taken together show the position circuit of this specific illustrative embodiment; and

FIG. 6 indicates the manner in which FIGS. 1 to 5 should be arranged to show the complete circuit arrangement of this illustrative embodiment.

In order to avoid undue duplication, with resulting complication of the drawing, only one cord circuit has been completely illustrated in conjunction with the one position circuit; as pointed out above, in an actual installation, a plurality of cord circuits, for example sixteen, are provided and served by the one position circuit. The single cord circuit illustrated includes the "back cord" portion terminating in "back" plug 11 (FIG. 2) and the "front cord" portion terminating in "front" plug 12 (FIG. 3). Back cord supervisory lamp 13 is associated with plug 11 and front cord supervisory lamp 14 is associated with plug 12. As previously stated above the back cord of the PBX is normally utilized for answering incoming calls and the front cord for extending the call. Thus, as indicated schematically, plug 11 may be inserted in jack 17 for answering a call originating at the PBX extension Subscribers Station No. 1, or inserted in jack 18 in answering a call incoming over a trunk from Central Office A. Similarly, plug 12 may be inserted in jack 21 in extending a call to the PBX extension Subscribers Station No. 2 or inserted in jack 22 in extending a call over a trunk to Central Office B. In accordance with normal PBX practice the sleeve resistance of the particular circuit with which either plug is connected is "sensed," in a manner to be described in detail subsequently, in order to determine whether the connection is to a station line or a trunk, since in the first instance talking and supervisory battery is supplied by the cord circuit while in the second instance the battery is supplied over the central office trunk. Principally involved in this sensing procedure are marginal relays BM and BS for the back cord and marginal relays FM and FS (FIG. 4) for the front cord.

It is believed that the various different features of the arrangement contemplated by the invention can best be described by following the operation of the circuits in connection with the completion and supervision of a number of imaginary calls. It will be assumed that the at-

tendant connects her telephone set, which includes transmitter 22 and receiver 23 (FIG. 4), to the position circuit by inserting her telephone set twin plug 25 in jack 26; this completes an operating path for relay TR traced from battery on lead 24 (FIG. 1), lower winding of relay TR, through transmitter 22 and upper winding of relay TR to ground, jack 26 and plug 25 being included in this path.

Operation of relay TR connects ground at its TR-1 make contact (FIG. 4) and through break contact LTR-5 of relay LTR and break contact RTR-5 of relay RTR over leads 29 and RL to the cord circuit (FIG. 2), and, assuming no Talk keys are operated, passes through break contact TK-1 of the indicated Talk key, through Talk key contacts of other cord circuits (only one such Talk key contact, TK-16, being shown), and back to the position circuit (FIG. 4) over lead RL1, through the operating winding of relay HD to battery on lead 27, relay HD operating over this path. The circuits associated with the various Talk keys are further disclosed and claimed in the copending application H. H. Abbott-C. R. Martin-R. A. Previte-H. J. Walsh-J. G. Walsh, Serial No. 46,597, filed August 1, 1960, entitled Private Branch Exchange Telephone System. The ground on the RL1 lead is returned through the HDD diode and over the LK lead to the cord circuit. Whenever a Talk key is operated the holding ground for the HD relay is removed at a break contact corresponding to break contacts TK-1 and TK-16 and the HD relay releases. When the HD relay releases the ground is then connected to lead LK at break contact HD-1 of relay HD. Relay HD is made slow-to-release by the connection of resistor HDR in shunt to its operating winding.

Call Initiated by Extension

Let us assume now that the PBX subscriber at Subscribers Station No. 1 initiates a call by removing his handset. This action closes the line at the substation and lights line lamp 28 over a path from ground, upper break contact of jack 17, over the line loop, lower break contact of jack 17, lamp 28, lead F1 to the auxiliary signal and fuse alarm circuit (FIG. 1); winding of relay AS1 (FIG. 1) to battery on lead 41, relay AS1 operating over this path. (It will be understood that other relays, similar to relay AS1 are provided for the other extensions; only one such relay is shown however, namely relay AS6 which is associated with Subscribers Station No. 2.)

The line lamp 28 lights at this time to attract the attention of the attendant and, also, in accordance with the novel arrangement contemplated by the invention an audible alerting signal is produced at the same time in the following manner. Relay AS1 operated completes a path from ground, make contact AS1-1 of relay AS1, NA lead, make contact SK-1 of Signal key (assumed to be operated, i.e. in the "on" or closed position) break contact BS-1 of relay BS and break contact FS-1 of relay FS, operating winding of relay AA to battery on battery lead 41, relay AA operating over this path.

Relay AA, operated, completes a circuit as make contact AA-1 for application of interrupted ground (120 i.p.m.) from source 42 over lead ST to the transistor oscillator circuit whereby to set the oscillator into operation. Operation of the AA relay also closes the loudspeaker loop at make contact AA-2.

The oscillator circuit comprises a first Colpitts oscillator stage, which includes transistor Q1, and a second amplifier stage, which includes transistor Q2. The 120 i.p.m. impulses applied over lead ST set the oscillator circuit into operation; the characteristics of the components are so selected that the voltage between emitter 43 and collector 44 of transistor Q1 is approximately 1 volt with the emitter positive to sustain oscillation. Resistors R1, R3 and R4 provide the proper emitter, base and collector voltages on transistor Q1 while the parallel tank circuit, comprising capacitors C3 and C4 and inductor L1, determines the frequency of oscillation. Resistor R2 and ca-

pacitor C2 are feedback couplers, while resistor R5 and capacitor C1 act as the signal coupler to the amplifier stage.

In the second stage, the signal coupled thereto through resistor R5 and capacitor C1 is applied to base 47 of transistor Q2. Resistors R9 and R10 provide the proper emitter and collector voltages for transistor Q2; resistors R6 and R7 and capacitor C6 comprise the temperature compensating stabilizer. Resistor R8 and stabilizing capacitor C5 are provided in the emitter voltage supply path and transformer T1 couples the amplifier half-wave signal to the loudspeaker LS.

Relay T, which is shown in FIG. 1 and which includes a thermistor in its operating path to provide a slow-operate characteristic, plays an important part in the novel circuit arrangement contemplated by the present invention; operation of the relay and its functions will be described subsequently.

As line lamp 28 is lighted as above described to alert the attendant to the incoming call from Subscribers Station No. 1, a tone is also produced by the loudspeaker, the volume of which can be readily adjusted to the desired level by operation of variable resistor 48. The attendant, alerted to the call, will respond by inserting plug 11 of a back cord into line jack 17, thereby connecting the tip 51 and ring 52 of the cord circuit to the corresponding tip and ring of the line loop and, at the same time opening the previously traced path for lighting line lamp 28 and operating relay AS1 to start the tone. The line lamp is therefore extinguished and the tone is discontinued.

After plugging in on the call the attendant operates the Talk key associated with the particular cord selected. The make contacts TK-2 and break contacts TK-1 of such a Talk key are shown in FIG. 2 and for purposes of further description it will be assumed that this particular Talk key, which is a non-locking key, has been operated.

Operation of the Talk key closes at its make contact TK-2 a path for operation of relay AC1, traced from ground, make contact TR-1 of relay TR (FIG. 4), break contact LTR-5 of relay LTR and RTR-5 of relay RTR, over RL lead, make contact TK-2 of the Talk key, winding of relay AC1 to battery on lead 53, relay AC1 operating over this path.

Operation of relay AC1 completes an operating path for relay AC traced from ground, make contact TR-1 of relay TR, break contacts LTR-5, RTR-5 and HD-1 of relays LTR, RTR and HD, lead LK, break contacts of AC relays of other cord circuits, assuming that no other cord circuit is connected to the position circuit at the moment (representative contact ACP-1 being shown), break contact TD-1 of relay TD, make contact AC-1 of relay AC1, winding of relay AC to battery on lead 53; relay AC operates over this path.

Relay AC operated completes a holding path for relay AC1 traced from ground, make contact AC-2 of relay AC, break contact TD-2 of relay TD, winding of relay AC1 to battery on lead 53; and also completes an energizing path for lamp 54 traced from ground, lamp 54, make contact AC-3 of relay AC to battery on lead 53. Lamp 54 is associated with the Talk key previously referred to and by its illuminated condition indicates that the particular Talk key has been operated.

Operation of relay AC also opens at its break contact AC-1, and at similar break contacts (not shown), the path over the LK leads to the other cord circuits; this prevents the connection of more than one cord circuit to the position circuit at any one time in a manner further described in the copending application referred to above.

Also the operation of relays AC and AC1 completes the necessary connections of certain leads between the position circuit and the selected cord circuit; these connections are completed, for example, at respective make contacts AC1-2, AC1-3, AC1-4, AC1-5, AC1-6, AC1-7, AC1-8, AC1-9, AC1-10, AC1-11, AC1-12- AC1-13,

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AC1-14, AC1-15, AC1-16, AC1-17, AC1-18, AC1-19 and AC1-20 of relay AC1, and make contacts AC-4 and AC-14 of relay AC. The sleeve circuit is now connected over the SB lead (through make contact AC1-4 of relay AC1) to the position circuit for recognition. It will be noted, also, that at this time relay BFC (FIG. 3) operates over a path from ground, make contact AC1-21 of relay AC1, winding of relay BFC, to battery on lead 55; the function of relay BFC will be described subsequently.

Since as stated above the call has been initiated at an extension station of the PBX, conditions should now be established whereby battery will be supplied from the PBX rather than from the central office as would have been the case had the call originated by way of a central office trunk. (This latter condition will be described subsequently.) In the type of connection to be described, ground will be found on the sleeve; if the connection is to a tie trunk, for example, this ground may be of the order of 130 ohms while, in the connection illustrated, it will be noted that, in the plugged-in condition, a "zero ohm" or direct ground is connected to the sleeve at the upper make contact of line jack 17; with this condition both marginal relay BM and sensitive relay BS (FIG. 4) operate over the path from ground on sleeve of jack 17 and plug 11, break contact TD-3 of relay TD, make contact AC1-4 of relay AC1, operating windings of relays BM and BS to battery on lead 27.

With BM and BS relays both operated, ground is connected through make contact BS-2 of relay BS, diode BMD, make contact BM-1 of relay BM, make contact AC1-2 of relay AC1, winding of relay B, break contact DT-1 of relay DT to battery on lead 53. Relay B operates over this path and locks through its make contact B-1, diode E, and break contact TD-3 of relay TD to the sleeve ground. The diode E prevents a return ground over lead SB which would falsely operate the marginal position circuit relays.

At this point, that is after operation of relay B, talking battery is supplied to the calling extension, Subscribers Station No. 1, over a circuit traced from ground, winding 57 of inductor 58 (FIG. 2), break contact D1-1 of relay D1, make contact AC1-12 of relay AC1, lead TB2, break contacts BFP-1 of relay BFP and RB-1 of relay RB, lead TB1, make contact AC1-11 of relay AC1, make contact B-2 of relay B, upper winding of relay S, through the line loop of Subscribers Station No. 1, lower winding of relay S, make contact B-3 of relay B, make contact AC1-17 of relay AC1, lead RB1, break contact RB-2 of relay RB and break contact SWP-1 of relay SWP, lead RB2, make contact AC1-18 of relay AC1, break contact D1-2 of relay D1, winding 71 of inductor 58 to battery on lead 72.

Assuming for the moment that the attendant learned upon answering the call that the PBX extension Subscribers Station No. 2 was being called, she would insert plug 12 of the front cord in jack 21. The direct ground now applied to the sleeve circuit from upper make contact of jack 21 over lead SF (through break contact TD-6 of relay TD and make contact AC1-8 of relay AC1) and through the operating windings of marginal relay FM and sensitive relay FS to battery on lead 73 causes operation of these relays, similarly to the operation of the back cord relays BM and BS (FIG. 4).

Relays FM and FS operated complete an operating path for relay F traced from ground, make contact FS-4 of relay FS, diode FMD, make contact FM-1 of relay FM, lead FR, make contact AC1-5 of relay AC1, winding of relay F, break contact DT-2 of relay DT to battery on lead 74; relay F operates over this path.

At this time automatic machine ringing is applied over the line to the called extension from source 75 over a path including lead 77, lower winding of relay RT, make contact F-1 of relay F, break contact RT-1 of relay RT,

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make contact F-2 of relay F, ring side of line, ringer at Subscribers Station No. 2, tip side of line, make contact F-3 of relay F, break contact RT-2 of relay RT, and back over lead 78 to the ringing supply. A portion of the ringing supply is fed back through capacitor 81 as "ringing tone" to the calling extension.

Ringing continues until the subscriber at Station No. 2 responds by removing his handset thereby closing the line loop; relay RT thereupon operates on the superimposed direct current and locks operated on a path from battery on lead 55, upper winding and make contact RT-3 of relay RT, make contacts F-4 and F-5 of relay F to ground.

Relay RT operated removes the ringing current from the line at its break contacts RT-1 and RT-2. Also, upon operation of relay RT, talking battery is supplied over the line to extension Subscribers Station No. 2 over a path from battery on lead 72, lower winding of relay AB, break contacts D-1 and D-2 of relay D, make contact AC1-19 of relay AC1, lead RF2, break contact BFP-2 of relay BFP, break contact SWP-2 of relay SWP, lower break contacts of dial 82, break contact SWP-3 of relay SWP, break contact RF-1 of relay RF, lead RF1, make contact AC1-20 of relay AC1, make contact RT-4, make contact F-2 of relay F, through the ring lead, the line loop, back over the tip lead, make contact F-3 of relay F, make contact RT-5 of relay RT, make contact AC1-14 of relay AC1, lead TF1, break contacts RF-2 of relay RF and BFP-3 of relay BFP, lead TF2, make contact AC1-13 of relay AC1, break contacts D-3 and D-4 of relay D, upper winding of relay AB, break contact D-5 of relay D, make contact F-5 of relay F to ground. Relay AB operates over this path.

During the time ringing is being applied over the front cord, that is prior to "answer," the "front," supervisory lamp 14 will flash at 30 i.p.m.; the circuit operations involved being as follows. Interrupted ground (30 i.p.m.) is applied from source 87 (included in power supply circuit, FIG. 5) over lead 88, break contact RT-6 of relay RT, break contact SWC-9 of relay SWC, make contact F-6 of relay F, through lamp 14 and over leads 102 and A1 to battery on lead 41 of the auxiliary signal circuit (FIG. 1). (It is noted that, at this time, the tone oscillator is not operated.) Lamp 14 flashes or "winks" at 30 i.p.m. over this path until the call is answered at which point operation of relay RT interrupts the path at break contact RT-6 and the lamp is extinguished.

The attendant may disconnect from the cord pair any time after machine ringing starts, either by operating her "release" key which opens lead RL at break contact RLSK-1 (FIG. 4), or by operating the Talk key of another cord pair. When the attendant releases, relays AC and AC1 release; since as pointed out above, relay AC, operated, provided a holding ground for relay AC1, it follows in the present sequence that the AC relay releases before the AC1. This assures that lead TB1 is closed to lead TB2 at break contact AC-6 of relay AC, lead RB1 is closed to lead RB2 at break contact AC-7 of relay AC, lead TF2 is closed to lead TF1 at break contact AC-8 of relay AC and lead RF2 is closed to lead RF1 at break contact AC-9 of relay AC, all before the same pairs of leads are opened to the position circuit at make contacts of relay AC1 when that relay releases. This assures that the battery and ground supply paths to the connected stations will not be opened with resulting receiver "click."

When relay AC releases Talk key lamp 54 is extinguished since the energizing path is interrupted at make contact AC-3 of relay AC.

As already indicated to some extent above, and as will become more fully apparent from the subsequent description, the novel combined visual and audible signaling arrangement disclosed, and which is further disclosed and claimed in the copending application of H. H. Abbott-C. R. Martin-J. G. Walsh, Serial No. 46,594, filed Aug. 1,

1960 entitled Private Branch Exchange Telephone System, is based largely upon the following premises. During the time the attendant is away from the board and her attention is occupied by other office duties, a tone signal, adjustable in volume, should be provided in conjunction with incoming calls, disconnects, and recalls, in order to redirect her attention to the board upon such occurrences. During the time the attendant is actually directing her immediate attention to the board, however, it is considered unnecessary to provide an audible signal in connection with incoming calls, since she is constantly alert to the visual indications thereof, nor to disconnects since she is also alert, although perhaps to a lesser degree, to visual disconnect signals, and also since there is a lesser need for immediate action in connection with disconnects. However, even though the attendant is at the board, it is considered desirable to provide an audible alerting signal, albeit of a relatively subdued nature (specifically a "click"), in connection with "recalls" since such occurrences should have immediate response and, also, since the "flashing" visual signal may itself escape immediate notice. Accordingly, the simple Signal Key referred to above is provided which is ordinarily placed in the "on" or closed position when the attendant is to be away from the board and moved to the "off" or open position when the attendant is at the board. The resulting conditions are as follows:

Signal Key	Incoming Call	Disconnect	Recall
On-----	Tone-----	Tone-----	Tone-----
Off-----	No. Signal-----	No. Signal-----	Click-----

Attendant Recall

During the time Subscribers Stations No. 1 and No. 2 are connected through the cord circuit and after the attendant has released, there are several instances where the attention of the attendant should be redirected to the cord circuit. One such situation, for example, occurs when either subscriber, while still connected, "flashes" his switchhook to recall the operator (flashing recall), and another when one or both subscribers "disconnects" by replacing his handset in the cradle. In the first case the supervisory lamp associated with the cord connected to the station will flash and an audible flashing recall signal is heard and in the second instance the lamp will be lighted steadily. As fully described above, the type of audible signal, if any, which accompanies the disconnect and recall conditions is determined by the position of the Signal Key (FIG. 1).

Let it be assumed, first, that the subscriber at Station No. 1, desiring to recall the attendant, flashes his switchhook. The first depression of the switchhook opens the line loop at the station and releases relay S; this in turn releases relay BFC (FIG. 3) which, after operating following the operation of relay AC1 as previously described, had been held operated from battery on lead 55, winding of relay BFC, make contact BFC-1 of relay BFC, break contact D-6 of relay D, make contact S-1 of relay S, make contact BFC-2 of relay BFC, make contact B-4 of relay B to ground.

The preoperation or presetting of relay BFC in anticipation of a possible "recall" during the connection is an important factor in achieving a simple and efficient flashing recall feature in the disclosed system.

When relay BFC releases back cord lamp 13 is lighted and relay BA (FIG. 1) is operated over a path from ground on lead B (FIG. 1) through winding of relay BA, lead 103 (FIG. 2), make contact B-5 of relay B, break contact BFC-3 of relay BFC, break contact S-2 of relay S, break contact BFC-4 of relay BFC, break contact D1-3 of relay D1, through back cord lamp 13, leads 102 and A1 to battery on lead 41 (FIG. 1). If the switchhook remains depressed permanently ("Hang-up") the

back lamp remains lighted and indicates a disconnect on the back cord; also, at this time an audible alerting tone would be produced through operation of relay BA in a manner described subsequently.

Assuming, however, that the switchhook is again released, i.e., the subscriber is "flashing," relay S will re-operate over the closed line loop and interrupted ground (120 i.p.m.) will be applied from source 42 (FIG. 1) through winding of relay DA, leads D and 104, make contact B-6 of relay B, break contact BFC-5 of relay BFC, break contact D-6 of relay D, make contact S-1 of relay S, break contact BFC-4 of relay BFC, break contact D1-3 of relay D1, lamp 13, lead 102 to battery on lead 41 (FIG. 1); lamp 13 will flash at 120 i.p.m. to attract the attention of the attendant and relay DA will operate for a purpose subsequently described.

As mentioned above, it is desirable under certain circumstances that the above described visual signals, steady for "disconnect" and flashing for "recall," be accompanied by an audible alerting signal. Such a signal easily controlled in volume, is provided by the disclosed arrangement.

First, with regard to the initial depression of the switchhook and assuming it is a "hang-up" or disconnect, it will be recalled that relay BA (FIG. 1) operates at this time. Relay BA operated connects ground through its make contact BA-1, make contact SK-1 of the signaling key (assumed to be in operated or "on" position), break contacts BS-1 and FS-1 of position circuit relays BS and FS, winding of relay AA, to battery on lead 41; relay AA operates over this path. Operation of relay AA connects at its make contact AA-1 interrupted ground (120 i.p.m. from source 42) to the ST lead of the oscillator thereby setting the oscillator into operation and producing a tone through loudspeaker LS as previously described.

In the event of a flashing recall situation, it usually is the wish of the attendant that the alerting signal be of a nature differing from, and readily distinguishable from, the tone signal accompanying a disconnect signal for example. Also, as pointed out above, the flashing recall alerting signal is usually utilized when the attendant is at the switchboard while the tone signal previously described is ordinarily relied upon for alerting or "calling" the attendant when she is away from the board in connection with her other office tasks. For the flashing recall signal the signal key (FIG. 1) is moved to the "OFF" or "open" position. It will be recalled that when the subscriber "flashed," relay DA operates at 120 i.p.m. (FIG. 1). With the signalling key in the open position, ground is supplied through make contact DA-1 of relay DA, break contacts SK-3 of the signaling key, resistor FLR, winding of relay FL to battery on lead 143, relay FL operating at 120 i.p.m. over this path. Loudspeaker LS "clicks" immediately from battery on lead 143, through resistor LS1, make contact FL-1 of relay FL, capacitor CA and break contact AA-3 of relay AA as the capacitor charges to the 48-volt level. The LS1 resistor is a current limiting device which also adjusts the time constant of the charging capacitor. Capacitor CA, having charged fully, silences the loudspeaker since the voltage level is no longer rising.

The loudspeaker again clicks immediately during the discharge of capacitor CA through break contact FL-2 of relay FL (operating at 120 i.p.m.) and resistor LS2 to ground. Resistor LS2 is also a current limiting and time-constant adjusting device. The capacitor having discharged silences the loudspeaker. This alternate clicking signal continues so long as relay DA is operated from the 120 i.p.m. source 42 or until the Talk key associated with the connected cord circuit is operated by the attendant.

It may transpire that, on occasions when the 120 i.p.m. ground is being applied to flash either front lamp 14 or back lamp 13 for purposes other than "flashing recall,"

or even on certain occasions of flashing recall, it be desirable that the accompanying audible alerting signal be the tone produced by the oscillator rather than the click produced by capacitor charge and discharge, as when the attendant is away from the switchboard. In such event, the signaling key would be left in "on" position and, upon operation of the DA relay as previously described, the ground would be applied through make contact DA-1 of relay DA (FIG. 1), make contact SK-2 of signalling key, break contacts BS-1 and FS-1 of relays BS and FS, winding of relay AA to battery on lead 41, relay AA operating over this path. Relay AA operated applies interrupted ground (120 i.p.m.) at its make contact AA-1 to lead ST of the oscillator. The oscillator is set into operation to produce a tone in loudspeaker LS as described in detail previously in connection with the indication of an incoming call from Subscribers Station No. 1.

It will be apparent, therefore, that the disclosed arrangement provides an alerting tone and an alerting click signal either of which may be selected by operation of the signaling key. Further, the volume of the tone can be readily adjusted to suit the ambient conditions by operation of volume control 48.

It is desirable, of course, in the above-described instances, that the audible tone be discontinued as soon as the attendant responds, and, in accordance with a novel feature of the arrangement contemplated by the present invention, the audible tone is automatically discontinued when the attendant operates the Talk key associated with a plugged-in cord. It will be recalled from the above description of the operation of relay AA (following the operation of relay BA on a disconnect signal, or the operation of relay DA with the signaling key in the "on" position) that the operating path of relay AA includes as series elements break contacts BS-1 and FS-1 of respective relays BS and FS. It will be recalled, further, from the above description of the initiation of a call that relay BS operates when the associated back cord is plugged in and the associated Talk key is operated; the corresponding relay FS of the front cord operates in a similar manner. It follows therefore, that regardless of whether a front cord or a back cord is involved, operation of the associated Talk key by the attendant will interrupt the operating path for relay AA at either break contact BS-1 of relay BS or break contact FS-1 of relay FS dependent upon whether a front cord or a back cord is involved. The tone will be automatically discontinued therefore as soon as the attendant responds to the signal by operation of the Talk key.

The "flashing recall" described above originated at Subscribers Station No. 1, i.e., over the back cord and it is obvious, of course, that a disconnect or recall may also originate at Subscribers Station No. 2 over the front cord. Assuming therefore, that the switchhook at Subscribers Station No. 2 is depressed, an "on hook" signal at the "front" station opens the line loop and relay AB releases. With relay AB released, a circuit is completed from battery on lead 55, break contact AC-10 of relay AC, winding of relay FF, thermistor FFT, break contact AB-1 of relay AB, make contact B-7 of relay B, make contact RT-3 of relay RT, make contacts F-4 and F-5 of relay F to ground; after a heating period, say five seconds, of thermistor FFT, relay FF operates over this path. This slow-operate characteristic of relay FF is provided in order to prevent the operation thereof by mere momentary release of relay AB such as might be caused by accidental "flicks" of the switchhook resulting, for example, from handset "fumbling" when answering a call. Relay FF upon operating locks through its make contact FF-1 and over the path just traced through make contacts RT-3, F-4 and F-5 to ground. At this point ground is connected through the winding of relay BA (FIG. 1) over leads B and 103, break contact AC-11 of relay AC, break contact AB-2 of relay AB, make contact RT-7 of relay RT, break contact SWC-9 of relay SWC, make contact

F-6 of relay F, through the front lamp 14 to battery on lead 102; lamp 14 lights "steady" over this path and relay BA operates to start the oscillator tone as described above.

If this condition prevails, that is if the hook-switch of station No. 2 remains depressed, lamp 14 is lighted "solid" to indicate "disconnect." However, if station No. 2 again goes "off hook," that is if the hook-switch is "flashed," relay AB again operates, since the line loop is restored at station No. 2, and interrupted ground (120 i.p.m.) is applied through the winding of relay DA (FIG. 1) over leads D and 104, make contact FF-2 of relay FF, make contact AB-3 of relay AB, make contact RT-7 of relay RT, break contact SWC-9 of relay SWC, make contact F-6 of relay F, through front lamp 14, lead 102 to battery on lead 41; lamp 14 flashes at 120 i.p.m. to indicate "recall" and relay DA operates to initiate the accompanying audible signal as described above, oscillator tone if the signaling key is operated to "on" and capacitor click if the signaling key is released.

Once relay FF has operated, therefore, we have an established path for lamp 14; a "steady" path through break contacts of relay AB while the receiver is "on hook" and a "flashing" path through make contacts of relay FF if the station again goes "off hook" and relay AB re-operates.

Call Received Over Central Office Trunk

For purposes of further description let us assume now that an incoming call is received at the PBX over a trunk circuit, schematically represented by box 111, from Central Office A. The trunk circuit, which may be any one of many types of standard trunk circuits well known in the art, is not disclosed in detail, and its operation will be described only to the extent necessary to describe the PBX circuits of the present invention. When ringing current is applied to the trunk circuit at Central Office A, relay RCT (circuit not shown in detail) will operate in the usual manner; this completes an obvious path, which includes make contact RCT-1, for lighting trunk lamp 107 thus indicating to the PBX attendant that there is an incoming call over trunk circuit 111. Operation of relay RCT also applies ground through its make contact RCT-2 to lead NA (FIG. 1). Application of ground to lead NA, assuming that the Signal Key is in closed position, results in production of the oscillator tone signal by loudspeaker LS in the same manner as that described above in connection with the description of a call incoming from the PBX extension Subscribers Station No. 1.

The attendant responds to the lighted trunk lamp 107 and the accompanying audible tone by operating the Talk key associated with an idle cord circuit (assumed to be that illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 3) and inserting plug 11 of the front cord in trunk jack 18. At this point (through operation of circuits inherent in the trunk circuit and not disclosed in detail here) relay CT operates followed by release of relay RCT. Release of relay RCT interrupts the lamp and tone paths, and operation of relay CT connects, at its make contact CT-1, resistor 112 to the sleeve of jack 18 and plug 11; resistor 112 is of relatively high ohmage, for example of the order of 3800 ohms.

Operation of the Talk key results in operation of relays AC and AC1 and the connection of the selected cord circuit to the position circuit as described above in connection with the description of the call initiated from the extension Subscribers Station No. 1.

It will be recalled that when the sleeve circuit was established in the instance of the extension initialed call, we had a "low" or direct ground on the sleeve, and that, with this condition, both sensitive relay BS and marginal relay BM operated. In the present connection we find a "high sleeve," i.e., a 3800-ohm ground, connected to the sleeve and under this condition only sensitive relay BS operates and marginal relay BM remains

unoperated (operating path from ground, resistor 112, sleeve of jack 18 and plug 11, break contact TD-3 of relay TD, make contact AC1-4 of relay AC1, windings of relays BM and BS in series to battery on lead 27).

BS relay, operated, connects a high resistance ground through its make contact BS-2 and resistor BSR to lead BS, and completes a path from ground, make contact BS-2 of relay BS, diode BMD, break contact BM-2 of relay BM, resistor DBR1, winding of relay DB to battery on lead 27, relay DB operating over this path. The operating winding of relay DB is shunted by capacitor DBC; the effect of capacitor DBC and resistor DBR1 is to slow the operation of relay DB. This is necessary, because of the slow operation of relay BM, to assure non-operation of relay DB on low sleeve condition. The DBR2 resistor is provided for discharging the shunting capacitor DBC whereby to assure proper release of relay DB.

Relay DB operating after approximately 150 milliseconds completes an operating path for relay DB1 (FIG. 5) traced from ground, resistor FBR, make contact DB-1 of relay DB, winding of relay DB1 to battery on lead 114, relay DB1 operating over this path. Operation of relay DB1 results in operation of relay BFP over a path from ground, make contact DB1-1 of relay DB1, winding of relay BFP to battery on lead 114; relay BFP on operating locks over a path from ground, make contact BS-3 of relay BS, make contact BFP-4 and winding of relay BFP to battery on lead 114. Relay DB operated places a ground on the D lead to the cord circuit through its make contact DB-2, make contact BS-4 of relay BS, break contact DON-1 of relay DON, make contact AC1-9 of relay AC1, winding of relay D to battery on lead 55; relay D operates over this path.

Since as stated above the present call is coming in from a central office and since battery is supplied from the central office, a so-called "dry bridge" should be applied at the PBX. This is done over leads TB1 and RB1, being traced from the tip side 51, make contact B-2 of relay B, make contact AC1-11 of relay AC1, break contact RB-1 of relay RB, make contact BFP-5 of relay BFP, lead 117, upper left winding of repeat coil INDA, break contact SPZ-1 of relay SPZ, make contact DB1-2 of relay DB1, resistor AR, break contact SPZ-2 of relay SPZ, lower left winding of repeat coil INDA, break contact SPZ-3 of relay SPZ, make contact BFP-6 of relay BFP, break contact SWP-1 (FIG. 5) of relay SWP, break contact RB-2 of relay RB, lead RB1, make contact AC1-17 of relay AC1, make contact B-3 of relay B, ring lead 52 to trunk. (Relay B is operated at this time as described in the next paragraph.)

Relay D, operated as above described, operates relay D1 (FIG. 2) over a path from ground, make contact D-4 of relay D, winding of relay D1 to battery on lead 74. Relay D1 operated removes at its break contacts D1-1 and D1-2 the local battery feed bridge from the back cord, operates relay B over a path from ground, make contact BS-2 (FIG. 4) of relay BS, BS lead, make contact AC1-3 of relay AC1, make contact D1-5 of relay D1, winding of relay B, break contact DT-1 of relay DT to battery on lead 53.

Relay D1 and relay D, both operated, place relay AB (FIG. 3) under control of relay S, over a path from battery on lead 72 (FIG. 2), lower winding of relay AB, make contact D-7 of relay D, upper winding of relay AB, make contact D-8 of relay D, make contact S-1 of relay S, make contact BFC-2 of relay BFC, make contact B-4 of relay B to ground.

Assuming that, as before, the "called" party is Subscribers Station No. 2, the attendant will extend the call by connecting plug 12 of the front cord in jack 21 as above described, machine ringing starting automatically as before. When ringing is tripped by station answer and after the attendant has disconnected from the cord, the cord circuit "cuts through" directly from back plug

to front plug so that talking battery is furnished to the extension station from the central office.

During the connection, Subscribers Station No. 2 can recall the attendant by "flashing"; front lamp 14 flashes at 120 i.p.m., accompanied by an audible signal as above described. During the connection a high resistance bridge, which is, for example of the order of 1350 ohms and which comprises, as series elements, resistor BA and winding 131 of repeat coil 58, is connected in parallel with the central office loop over a path from tip 51, break contact SWC-1 of relay SWC, make contact D-9 of relay D, winding 131 (which may, for example, have a resistance of 350 ohms), make contact RT-8 of relay RT, resistor BA (which may, for example, have a resistance of 1000 ohms), break contact AC-12 of relay AC, break contact SWC-2 of relay SWC, to ring 52.

Assuming now that Subscriber's Station No. 2 goes "on hook," relay S, which was held operated over the closed station loop, releases. Relay S upon releasing opens at its S-1 make contact the previously traced operating path for relay AB and relay AB thereupon releases. Relay AB upon releasing completes at its break contact AB-4 a path which shunts resistor BA out of the high resistance bridge circuit previously traced, leaving the resistance represented by winding 131 (for example 350 ohms) to hold the central office trunk 111. The release of the AB relay also completes at its AB-1 break contact a path (previously described above) over which relay FF operates after completion of the heating period of thermistor FFT. With relay AB released and relays FF and D operated, relay DT is connected through break contact AB-5 of relay AB, make contact FF-2 of relay FF, make contact D-10 of relay D and break contact DT-3 of relay DT to the PU lead of the position circuit. Ground is connected to the PU lead when both relays W and Z are released through break contacts W-1 and Z-1. Connection of ground to lead PU operates relay DT over the path just traced, through the winding of relay DT to battery on lead 55. Relay DT upon operating locks in operated condition through its make contact DT-4 to ground and connects interrupted ground (30 i.p.m. from source 87), through its make contact DT-5 over lead DT to the position circuit to start the timing interval. Relay DT operated also disconnects, at its DT-1 break contact, battery from the winding of relay B and connects the same side of the winding of relay B through make contact DT-6 of relay DT and break contact SWC-3 of relay SWC to lead T0 of the position circuit; lead T0 is connected to battery on lead 27 when relay Z is released (break contact Z-2), or when relay W is operated (make contact W-2).

During the first ground interval over lead DT, relay W (FIG. 5) operates through its W-3 break contact and winding, resistor ZR to battery on lead 114; relay W upon operating locks to ground through its make contact W-4. Relay Z is short-circuited by this ground and remains unoperated; this short circuit is removed upon the following open interval on lead DT. Relay Z operates on the silent interval from battery on lead 114, resistor WR, winding of relay Z, break contact RB-3 of relay RB, make contact W-4 of relay W to ground. When the next ground pulse occurs on lead DT, relay W is short-circuited at make contact Z-3 of relay Z and releases. At this point, i.e., with relay Z operated and relay W released, battery is removed from lead T0 thereby releasing relay B.

Relay B released removes at its B-2 and B-3 make contacts the cord circuit central office holding bridge causing the central office to release the trunk. The next open interval in lead DT permits relay Z to release thereby ending the timing cycle. The maximum time of the cycle between the station disconnect and the opening of the cord circuit holding bridge may be of the order of 5.75 seconds.

A dry bridge, as above, is provided for a front cord connected to a central office trunk (as trunk 132), with

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the exceptions that the SWC relay would be operated and that the F relay would release to remove the holding bridge.

After the PBX subscriber at Subscriber's Station No. 2 has disconnected and the cord circuit has functioned to release trunk circuit 111, it may, of course happen that the central office will re seize trunk 111 for another call to the PBX before the attendant has removed plug 11 from jack 18. In such instance the central office ringing current applied over tip 51 and ring 52 will operate relay RC over a path which includes break contact B-8 of relay B, right-hand winding of relay RC, thermistor RTH, and break contact B-9 of relay B, relay RC operates over this path after the heating period of thermistor RTH which may be, for example, of the order of one-half second. The provision of the thermistor prevents the operation of relay RC on short surges of current such as those which may occur on disconnect or pulsing while thru dialing. Diode AD shunts the operating winding of relay RC on one-half of each ringing current cycle so that the relay will operate on every other half cycle.

Relay RC upon operating locks on a path from ground, left-hand winding of relay RC, make contact RC-1 of relay RC, break contact AC-10 of relay AC to battery on lead 55. Relay RC operated completes a path from 120 i.p.m. interrupted ground source 42 (FIG. 1), through winding of relay DA, leads D and 104, make contact RC-2 of relay RC, make contact F-7 of relay F, break contact SWC-4 of relay SWC, back lamp 13, to battery on lead 102; lamp 13 flashes at 120 i.p.m. over this path and operation of relay DA initiates an accompanying audible tone in the manner previously described. (In the instance just described had the trunk circuit been connected to the front cord, the energizing path would have been through break contact F-8 of relay F to front lamp 14 rather than through make contact F-7 of relay F and break contact SWC-4 of relay SWC to back lamp 13.)

The central office ringing current is not extended to the station still connected to the front cord and is tripped when the attendant operates the Talk key to reconnect the position circuit to this cord pair.

It will be apparent from the preceding description and drawings that the cord circuit is substantially symmetrical with regard to "front cord" and "back cord," and that, while the description has been devoted largely to calls answered by the back cord and extended by the front cord, "reverse" operation is carried out, when in order, in substantially the same manner. However, there are a few minor differences which will be described subsequently.

With regard to ringing it was pointed out above that, when a call is being extended over the front cord to an extension of the PBX, automatic machine ringing is applied as soon as plug 12 is inserted in jack 21. However, in the event the front cord is connected to a jack with a "high sleeve," i.e., in the arrangement illustrated, jack 22 of central office trunk 132, machine ringing is not required and will in fact be tripped by operation of relay RT; operation of relay RT results as follows. As previously described in connection with back cord operation, the presence of a high ground on sleeve lead SF causes operation of sensitive relay FS. Operation of relay FS applies ground through its FS-4 makes contact to lead FS and also through diode FMD and break contact FM-2 of relay FM through the winding of relay DF to battery on lead 114. Upon operation of relay DF ground is also applied to lead D through make contacts DF-1 of relay DF and FS-5 of relay FS, break contact DON-1 of relay DON, make contact AC1-9 of relay AC1, winding of relay D to battery on lead 55, relay D operating over this path. D relay operated operates relay D1 over a path from ground, make contact D-4 of relay D, winding of relay D1 to battery on lead 74. Relay D1 operated removes the battery feed bridge from the front end of the cord as previously described.

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Operation of relay DF also completes an operating path over lead SW for relay SWC traced from ground, break contact DON-2 of relay DON, make contact DF-7 of relay DF, make contact AC1-15 of relay AC1, winding of relay SWC to battery on lead 72; operation of relay SWC completes at its make contact SWC-5 an obvious operating path for relay RT which operates to trip the machine ringing as above mentioned.

With relays RT and D operated a path is now completed from the ground on the FS lead, make contact FS-4 of relay FS, make contact AC1-6 of relay AC1, make contact RT-9 of relay RT, make contact D-11 of relay D, winding of relay F, break contact DT-2 of relay DT to battery on lead 53; relay F operates over this path and locks through its make contact F-9 to the sleeve ground.

Manual Ringing

On occasion it may be desirable to apply ringing current, manually controlled by the attendant, over either the front or the back cord. Under certain of these circumstances it may be necessary also to operate the RT relay to remove the automatic machine ringing since a tripping bridge is not provided in all of the types of circuits to which the PBX may be connected. For the purpose of applying and controlling manual ringing, two keys, "Ring Front" and "Ring Back," are provided the operation of which will now be described.

Assuming first that it is desired to apply manually controlled ringing current over the front cord connected to a "low ground" sleeve, i.e., for example to the PBX extension Subscriber's Station No. 2; in this situation, as previously described, the tip and ring leads to the station are connected to the position circuit of the PBX over leads TF1 and RF1 respectively, this connection including the central office holding bridge traced from lead TF1, break contact RF-2 of relay RF, make contact BFP-7 of relay BFP, upper right winding of repeat coil INDA, make contact DF1-1 of relay DF1 (operated over a path from ground, resistor FBR, make contact DF-3 of relay DF, winding of relay DF1 to battery on lead 114), lower right winding of the repeat coil, make contact BFP-8 of relay BFP, break contact SWP-2 of relay SWP, lower break contacts of calling dial 82, break contact SWP-3 of relay SWP, break contact RF-1 of relay RF to lead RF1.

The attendant now depresses the non-locking Ring Front key (FIG. 5) which operates relay RF over a path from ground, make contact RFK-1 of the key, winding of relay RF to battery on lead 114; relay RF holds operated as long as the key is depressed. Operation of relay RF connects the ground side lead 133 from ringing generator 135 through break contact DF-4 of relay DF and make contact RF-3 of relay RF to lead TF1 and connects the A.C.-D.C. lead 134 from the generator through break contact DF-2 of relay DF and make contact RF-4 of relay RF to lead RF1; the ringing current is applied over respective leads TF1 and RF1 to the tip and ring conductor of the line and thence to the station.

Operation of the RF relay also connects ground through its RF-5 make contact and make contact FS-2 of relay FS over TP lead, make contact AC1-16 of relay AC1, upper winding of relay RT to battery on lead 55; relay RT operates, to remove the automatic machine ringing from the line, and locks in operated position from the battery on lead 55, upper winding and make contact RT-3 of relay RT and make contacts F-4 and F-5 of relay F to ground. The circuit (except relay RT) is restored to normal when the Ring Front key is released.

Let it be assumed now that the front cord is connected to a central office trunk (as trunk 132) and that it is desired to recall or flash the distant operator. The position circuit is arranged as previously described for this condition, that is the tip and ring leads toward the central office are connected to leads TF1 and RF1 of the

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position circuit with a central office holding bridge as previously traced, i.e., from lead TF1, break contact RF-2 of relay RF, make contact BFP-7 of relay BFP, upper right winding of repeat coil INDA, make contact DF1-1 of relay DF1, lower right winding of repeat coil, make contact BFP-8 of relay BFP, break contact SWP-2 of relay SWP, lower break contacts of calling dial 82, break contact SWP-3 of relay SWP, break contact RF-1 of relay RF to lead RF1.

Now when the attendant depresses the Ring Front key and operates the RF relay the previously traced central office holding bridge is opened at break contacts RF-2 and RF-1 of relay RF thus opening the loop to the distant central office to signal the distant operator. (The output of the ringing generator is not applied under this condition since relay DF is operated and leads 133 and 134 are open at respective break contacts DF-4 and DF-2.)

Manual ringing on the back cord is accomplished in a manner generally similar to that described above except in this instance the Ring Back key is operated with consequent operation of relay RB over a path from ground, make contact RBK-1 of the key, winding of relay RB to battery on lead 114. Assuming that the back cord is connected to a "low" sleeve, for example to Subscribers Station No. 1, an extension of the PBX, ground lead 133 of ringing generator 135 is then connected to lead TB1 through break contact DB-3 of relay DB and make contact RB-4 of relay RB to lead TB1 and A.C.-D.C. lead 134 of the ringing generator is connected through break contact DB-4 of relay DB and make contact RB-5 of relay RB to lead RB1; ringing is now applied over the line in the manner described above in connection with ringing over the front cord.

In the event the back cord is connected to a central office trunk (high sleeve) operation of the RB relay opens the dry holding bridge and signals the distant operator in a manner similar to that described above in connection with the front cord.

Dialing By Attendant

A calling dial 82 is provided as a part of the PBX arrangement and by virtue of the various novel circuit arrangements provided, the dial can be utilized by the attendant, in transmitting calls over either the front cord or the back cord, the particular circuits being automatically rearranged in certain circumstances in accordance with the type of connection (PBX extension, tie trunk, or the like) with which the opposite end of the cord is associated at the moment. It will be understood that a push button call transmitter or other type of calling device may be utilized instead of the calling dial illustrated.

As previously stated above, the front cord is normally used in extending calls, and, for this reason, the contacts of dial 82 are normally associated with the front cord. Assuming now that we are to dial over plug 12 of the front cord which is connected through trunk circuit 132 to a central office, it will be recalled from the previous description of the holding bridge for this situation that the connection of the bridge to lead RF1 is completed through the lower break, or "pulsing," contacts of dial 82, that is to say the pulsing contacts are in series with the holding bridge. No key operation is required before dialing therefore. When the dial is pulled off normal, relay DON1 operates over a path from ground, upper make contact of dial 82, winding of relay DON1 to battery on lead 114. Relay DON1 operated operates relay DON over a path from the same ground, make contact DON-1 of relay DON1, winding of relay DON to battery on lead 114. Relay DON1 is now held operated over a path from ground, make contact DON-3 of relay DON, winding of relay DON1 to battery on lead 114. Operation of relay DON1 opens the circuit of the attendant's telephone set at break contacts DON1-2 and DON1-3 (FIG. 4) to eliminate clicks in the receiver and connects

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at its make contacts DON1-4 and DON1-5 capacitors DONC and DONC1 across the windings of repeat coil INDA in order to absorb clicks. (When the dial returns to normal relays DON and DON1 release reconnecting the attendant's telephone set and removing the capacitor connections from the windings of the repeat coil.)

Let us assume now for purposes of further description that the attendant desires to dial over the back cord which is connected over trunk circuit 111 to a central office. As previously described for this condition the tip and ring leads to the central office are connected over leads TB1 and RB1 and through the previously described holding bridge. The attendant operates the Dial Back key (FIG. 5) to transfer the dial to the back cord which causes operation of relay DBW over a path from ground, make contact DBK-1 of Dial Back key, break contact DBW-1 of relay DBW, winding of relay DBW, make contact HD-2 of relay HD, make contact DB-5 of relay DB to battery on lead 114. Relay DBW operates and locks from ground on its DBW-2 make contact; relay DBZ is short-circuited from ground on the key through its break contact DBZ-1 and remains nonoperated.

When the Dial Back key is released the shortcircuiting ground is removed from the winding of relay DBZ which thereupon operates and is held operated from ground, make contact DBW-2 of relay DBW, winding of relay DBZ, make contact HD-2 of relay HD and make contact DB-5 of relay DB to battery on lead 114. Relay DBW operated operates relay SWP (FIG. 5) over a path from ground, make contact DBW-3 of relay DBW, winding of relay SWP to battery on lead 114.

It will be noted at this point that even though the Dial Back key has been released and restored to normal, relays DBW and DBZ remain operated.

Relay SWP operated completes an obvious path through its SWP-5 make contact for energizing Dial Back lamp 137 to indicate the circuit condition, and also connects through its make contacts SWP-6 and SWP-7 the pulsing contacts of calling dial 82 in series with the central office dry holding bridge, this circuit being traced from tip 51 of the line, make contact AC1-11 of relay AC1, break contact RB-1 of relay RB, make contact BFP-5 of relay BFP, lead 117, upper left winding of repeat coil INDA, break contact SPZ-1 of relay SPZ, make contact DB1-2 of relay DB1, resistor AR, break contact SPZ-2 of relay SPZ, lower left winding of repeat coil INDA, break contact SPZ-3 of relay SPZ, make contact BFP-6 of relay BFP, make contact SWP-7 of relay SWP, lower break (pulsing) contacts of calling dial 82, make contacts SWP-6 of relay SWP, break contact RB-2 of relay RB, lead RB1, make contact AC1-17 of relay AC1 and make contact B-3 of relay B to ring side of line.

When the dial is pulled off normal relays DON and DON1 operate as above described and result in circuit changes similar to those previously described.

Dialing to other connections, for example, dialing on the back cord to a tie trunk or on the front cord to a tie trunk, with either a high sleeve or a low sleeve connected to the opposite end of the cord, are accomplished by the novel circuits disclosed in a manner generally similar to that described above.

It will be noted that as described above relays DBW and DBZ after operating remain in operated condition even though the Dial Back key is released. After dialing on the back cord has been completed the attendant may restore the dial to its normal connection to the front cord by a second operation of the Dial Back key which connects ground through key contact DBK-1, through make contact DBZ-2 of relay DBZ and short circuits the winding of relay DBW causing its release. Relay DBW released, transfers the holding ground for the operated DBZ relay to the operated Dial Back key (break contact DBW-1). When the Dial Back key is restored, relay DBZ releases. Upon the release of relay DBW, the SWP relay operating circuit is opened at make contacts DBW-3 of the DBW

relay and the energizing path of Dial Back lamp 137 interrupted at make contact SWP-5. Relay SWP released, removes the connection of the calling dial 82 (or other signaling device) from the back cord and reconnects it to the front cord.

However, in accordance with the arrangement disclosed, the attendant may well omit this second operation of the Dial Back key, particularly if she has no occasion to dial on the front cord at the moment, and the dial-back condition will remain locked in. In the normal course of operating procedures, the attendant will of course cut away from the cord circuit in order to pick up another cord and in such instance it is obviously desirable that any such locked-in conditions in the position circuit be restored to normal before the cord is released and another cord connected thereto. According to a novel feature herein disclosed, and further described and claimed in the pending application J. G. Walsh, Serial No. 46,596, filed August 1, 1960, entitled Private Branch Exchange Telephone System, the locked-in condition in the position circuit is automatically released and restored to normal when another cord circuit is connected to the position circuit. It will be recalled that the locking paths for relays DBW and DBZ include as series elements make contacts of the HD and DB relays and it will be recalled, further, from the above description of the operation of the Talk keys that, as a Talk key is operated the HD relay releases. It follows therefore, that as a Talk key associated with a particular cord circuit is operated incidental to connection of that cord circuit to the position circuit and consequent release of the previously connected cord circuit from the position circuit, relay HD will release and interrupt at its make contact HD-2 the holding path for relays DBW and DBZ; these relays will therefore release, releasing in turn relay SWP and restoring calling dial 82 to its normal connection to the front cord. It will be apparent that should relays DB and BS release while relay HD remains operated, the holding path referred to will be interrupted at make contacts DB-5 and BS-5.

Cord Splitting

It may become desirable on occasion for the attendant to converse privately with a subscriber connected to the front cord without the conversation being overheard by a subscriber connected to the corresponding back cord. Operation of the Split key splits or separates the cord circuit to permit this at the same time lighting "Split" lamp 138 to indicate the condition. The novel circuit arrangement operates as follows:

Operation of the Split key completes a circuit from ground through its make contact SPK-1, break contact SPW-1 of relay SPW, winding of relay SPW, make contacts HD-2 of relay HD and DB-5 of relay DB to battery on lead 114, relay SPW operating over this path. Upon operating, relay SPW locks from ground through its make contact SPW-2 to battery over the path just traced, and completes through its SPW-3 make contact an obvious path for lighting "Split" lamp 138. Relay SPZ does not operate at this point because of the short-circuiting path. When the Split key is released the short-circuiting ground is removed and relay SPZ operates over a path from ground, make contact SPW-2 of relay SPW, winding of relay SPZ, make contact HD-2 of relay HD, make contact DB-5 of relay DB to battery on lead 114.

Relay SPW operated connects ground from either make contact BS-3 of relay BS or FS-3 of relay FS (whichever is operated) through its make contact SPW-4 and the winding of relay BFP to battery on lead 114, relay BFP operating over this path. Relay BFP upon operating locks from either of the grounds through its make contact BFP-4 to the battery just traced.

Relay BFP operated terminates (through its make contacts BFP-5, BFP-6, BFP-8 and BFP-7) the conductors of the front and back ends of the connected cord

pair to opposite windings of the INDA repeat coil. This would normally permit talking between the front and back ends of the cord and the attendant's telephone set. However, the operation of the SPZ relay, as above described, disconnects at its SPZ-1 and SPZ-3 break contacts the windings of the repeat coil from the conductors to the back end of the cord pair thereby preventing transmission between the back end of the cord and the front end of the cord. Transmission between the attendant and the front of the cord is not interfered with. The conductors to the back cord remain terminated by resistor AR if relay DB1 is operated (make contact DB1-2) or by battery feed inductor BF1 if relay DB1 is released (break contact DB1-3). Make contacts SPZ-5 and SPZ-6 are involved in these connections.

In order to restore transmission to the back cord the Split key is again depressed; ground from the key through make contact SPZ-4 of relay SPZ short circuits the winding of relay SPW causing its release. Relay SPW upon release interrupts the energizing path of Split lamp 138 and transfers the holding ground for relay SPZ to the operated Split key. When the Split key is restored, relay SPZ releases and reconnects the conductors from the back end of the cord to the winding of repeat coil INDA. Since the BFP relay is locked under control of the BS and FS relays, talking between the front and back ends of the connected cord is through the repeat coil until the position circuit is released.

It will be noted that the holding paths for the SPW and SPZ relays include as a series element a make contact of the HD relay, as was also the case in the instance of the Dial Back relays DBW and DBZ described above. Here again, therefore, the locked-in condition in the position circuit is automatically released and restored to normal when another cord is connected to the position circuit.

When a central office trunk, as trunk 111, having been seized by the attendant, is "held" while other traffic is being handled, a resistance bridge comprising the resistance of winding 131 of repeat coil 58 (FIG. 2), which may be of the order of 350 ohms, is provided in the cord to hold the trunk; this bridge circuit is traced from ring 52, make contact B-3 of relay B, break contact AC-7 of relay AC, make contact D1-6 of relay D1, break contact RT-10 of relay RT, winding 131 of repeat coil, make contact D-9 of relay D, break contact SWC-1 of relay SWC to tip 51.

Through Dialing and Night Connections

On occasion it may be desirable to set up a so-called through dialing connection over which an extension station, connected, for example, to the back cord can dial through on a "clear" cord without D.C. shunts connected through the other end of the cord (in this example the front cord), over a trunk circuit to a central office or tie trunk. The system contemplated by the present invention includes a novel circuit arrangement for accomplishing this which is initiated by operation of a Thru Dial key.

Also, as is well known, it is the usual practice on the part of the P.B.X attendant, before leaving the board at the end of the business day, to set up a number of "night connections," i.e., a number of selected extension stations are connected through the board by a corresponding number of cord circuits to selected central office trunks or tie trunks. The P.B.X battery is turned off and any incoming calls can be completed directly to the particular extension. "Clear" cords for this purpose also are obtained by operation of the Thru Dial key in the manner subsequently described.

Assuming now that PBX extension Subscriber's Station No. 1 is connected through jack 17 and plug 11 to the back cord and that the front cord is connected through plug 12 and jack 22 to central office trunk 132 and thereover to the central office, and further, that it is desirable to obtain a clear cord for dialing or for night con-

nection purposes. Accordingly, in accordance with the arrangement of the present invention, the attendant operates the Thru Dial key in the position circuit (FIG. 4) thereby applying ground through its make contact TDK1 to the TD lead; relay TD now operates from ground, make contact AC-4 of relay AC, winding of relay TD to battery on lead 53.

Relay TD operated opens the holding path for relay AC at break contact TD-1 and relay AC releases; relay AC released locks relay TD over a path from battery on lead 53, winding of relay TD, break contact AC-13 of relay AC, make contact TD-4 of relay TD, to ground on the sleeve. Release of relay AC also opens at its AC-2 make contact the holding path for relay AC1 which thereupon releases and disconnects the cord from the position circuit at its several previously described make contacts, as AC1-2, AC1-3, AC1-4, etc.

The station can now dial through on a clear cord to the central office or tie trunk. The attendant can reconnect the position circuit by operating the associated Talk key, this reoperates the AC and AC1 relays reconnecting the cord circuit to the position circuit, and releases the TD relay by opening its holding path at break contact AC-13. The attendant can release the connection by removing the cords from the respective jacks after a disconnect indication.

Cords, "cleared" as above, can be utilized as night connections as previously set forth, and it will be assumed for purposes of further description that a number of such connections are set up and the cords cleared by operation of the Thru Dial key. The attendant then operates the Battery key in the power supply circuit (FIG. 1), which functions through a cut-off circuit (not shown in detail) to shut off the PBX battery supply as well as the 120 i.p.m. source 42; the attendant then leaves the board for the night. When the attendant resumes her duties the following day, she reconnects the PBX battery and prepares to take down the night connections. However, she must of course be able to detect any such connections that are actually in use in a talking connection at the moment so that any such connections will be left undisturbed until the conversation has been completed. According to the novel arrangement contemplated, a momentary ground is applied to each of the cord circuits when the battery supply is reconnected in the manner and for the purpose now to be described in detail.

When the battery is reconnected, this battery is connected over leads 41 and 141 (FIG. 1) through the winding of relay T and thermistor TH to ground; relay T does not operate immediately, i.e., not until thermistor TH has heated sufficiently to permit passage of the required operating current. In the meantime ground is applied through break contact T-1 (FIG. 1) of relay T over lead TDT to the winding of relay TD (FIG. 2) of the cord circuit illustrated and to battery on lead 53. (It will be understood that ground is applied over other similar break contacts, as T-2, of relay T to the TD relays of the other cord circuits served by the position circuit illustrated.)

Relay TD operates over the path traced, and, if the cord is plugged up in a night connection, the relay will lock up through break contact AC-13 and its own make contact TD-4 to the sleeve ground to provide normal cord lamp supervision.

After the heating period of thermistor TH has been completed relay T operates, shorting the thermistor at make contact T-3 and opening the ground path to relay TD at break contact T-1 of relay T (and to the TD relays of the other cord circuits at the other break contacts, as T-2). At this point, therefore, all TD relays except those associated with plugged up cords will release.

While the TD relay is operated a circuit is completed from ground, winding of relay BA (FIG. 1), leads B and 103, make contact TD-5 of relay TD, break contact BFC-3 of relay BFC, break contact S-2 of relay S (under

other situations, which will be discussed subsequently, relay S may be operated at this point) break contact BFC-4 of relay BFC, break contact D1-3 of relay D1, through back lamp 13 to battery on lead 102; back lamp 13 lights over this path and, as previously described, operation of relay BA brings in the audible signal if the signal key is in "ON" position.

When relay T operates and relay TD releases (assuming it is not locked up to the sleeve ground on a night connection) lamp 13 is extinguished and the audible signal is discontinued unless actuated on another cord.

If the cord is plugged up on a night connection and relay TD is locked up to the sleeve ground, lamp 13 will remain lighted over the previously traced path (provided relay S is released) until the cord is taken down. However, assuming that the cord is up on a night connection and, further, that it is actually in use on a talking connection at the moment, relay S will then be operated over the closed loop at the extension as previously described. In this situation, even though relay TD operates and is locked up to the sleeve ground, back lamp 13 will not be lighted since the previously traced path is opened at break contact S-2 of relay S so long as the talking connection prevails.

To summarize the novel arrangement contemplated by the invention, therefore, when battery is reconnected to restore the PBX to normal daytime service, all back cord lamps will light briefly except those associated with any night connection cords that are actually in use on a talking connection. After operation of the T relay all lighted lamps will be extinguished except those associated with cords plugged in on night connections. The attendant will take down all the night connection cords having lighted lamps but will leave plugged in those cords, if any, the lamps of which are dark. These lamps will light in the usual manner when the subscriber goes on hook and relay S releases over the circuit previously traced, at which point the attendant will take down the cord.

The TDD diode included in the operating path of each TD relay assures that a night connection set up in one cord will not falsely set up a night connection condition on the other cord in the same unit through a multiple. It will be noted from the above description that relay TD is effective as a major element both in the cord clearing operation and in the cord testing operation.

Busy Test

With either the front or back cord of a cord pair about to be used, and the associated Talk key operated, the attendant may test a multiple jack appearance for "busy" by touching the tip of either cord to the sleeve of the multiple jack. If busy the sleeve will have a ground, either high or low, which ground is applied from the tip 51, through break contact B-8 of relay B and make contact AC1-10 of relay AC1, lead BT, make contact TR-2 of relay TR, through resistor TRR (shunted by capacitor TC) right-hand winding of BT repeat coil to battery on lead 114; this causes a potential charge across capacitor TC and resistor TRR which induces a "click" through the BT repeat coil to the attendant's receiver.

Non-Interference and Memory

When an attendant attempts to connect a cord circuit, with the Talk key operated, to a multiple jack of a central office trunk by "overplugging," that is connecting to a trunk circuit which already has a cord circuit of the same, or another, position circuit connected to it, the marginal and sensitive relays of the overplugging position circuit will not operate, since they are designed for non-operate under this condition, and the sleeve relay of the cord circuit included in the established connection will not release. Since the sleeve relays of the overplugging position do not operate, the sleeve relay of the associated cord circuit cannot operate to cut through the tip and ring leads. Therefore, the overplugging attendant can-

not interfere with the established connection to a central office trunk circuit.

However, when the attendant answers a recall signal on a connection as above described, she depresses the Talk key in line with the flashing lamp which causes the associated cord circuit to connect to the position circuit. The cord sleeve circuits are, in this case, connected through the operated AC1 relay to the position circuit in parallel with the already operated B and F relays of the cord circuit. As pointed out above, the sleeve relays of the position circuit associated with the end of a cord connected to a central office trunk will not operate in this situation. However, lead RF or lead RB, depending upon which cord is connected to the central office, is connected to ground at this time; ground is connected through make contact D-4 of relay D, make contact AC1-7 of relay AC1, make contact SWC-7 of relay SWC to lead RF if the front end of the cord is connected to a central office, or through make contact D-4 of relay D, make contact AC1-7 of relay AC1, break contact SWC-8 and make contact B-10 of relay B to lead RB if the back end of the cord is the one connected to a central office. The above referred ground on the RF or RB lead signals the position circuit (by operation of the respective DF or DB relay, and with the sensitive and marginal relays unoperated), that one of the plugs of the cord circuit is connected to a central office trunk and, further, indicates which end, i.e., front plug or back plug, is so connected by operation or non-operation of relay SWC. (The operating path for relay SWC includes make contact DF-7 of relay DF.) The position circuit is enabled therefore to provide a central office holding bridge as previously described) on the proper end of the now split cord.

In instances of reconnection as above when both ends of the cord are in use on an established connection between low ground sleeves, the D relay will be released and leads RB, or RF, will not be grounded. Further the position sleeve relays will operate in parallel with the cord sleeve relays on the low ground condition which will prevent the splitting of the cord circuit and thus maintain the battery feed to both ends of the cord.

Release and Transfer

The attendant can release from a cord circuit either by operation of another Talk key or by operation of the RLS key provided in the position circuit. Operation of the RLS key opens the RL lead at break contact RLSK-1 of the release key and moves the ground from that lead. The open RL lead releases the HD relay previously held by the ground through the Talk key chain (back contacts TK-1 and TK-16 included in this path) and releases the AC relay previously held by the ground through diode HDD, release of the AC relay in turn releases the AC1 relay (make contact AC-2) thus disconnecting the cord circuit from the position circuit and extinguishing lamp 54. The attendant can also release by operation of the Thru Dial key as described above.

The attendant's position, under control of the TRFR key, can be used to originate or answer calls in the adjacent left or right position if that position is unattended, that is if another attendant's telephone set is not plugged in. Assuming relay TR of the adjacent position circuit is not operated, operation of relay RTR (FIG. 5) controlled by operation of TRFR key to close contact RK-1, or operation of relay LTR, controlled by operation of TRFR key to close contact LX-1, extends ground from make contact TR-1 of the TR relay of the illustrated position circuit over either make contact LTR-1 of relay LTR to the adjacent left position or over make contact RTR-1 of relay RTR to the adjacent right position, extends the busy test lead BT over either make contact LTR-2 of relay LTR to the adjacent left position or over make contact RTR-2 of relay RTR to the adjacent right position, and, finally, extends the attendant's tele-

phone set over make contacts LTR-3 and LTR-4 of relay LTR to the left adjacent position or over make contacts RTR-3 and RTR-4 of relay RTR to the right adjacent position. The TRFR key must be returned to normal to release relay RTR or LTR before a Talk key can be operated or the position circuit connected to a cord circuit on the same position.

Fuse Alarm

Indications, both visible and audible, are provided to the attendant upon occurrence of fuse failures. As indicated schematically in FIG. 1, the fuse utilized (only representatives ones of which are illustrated) are of the "indicator" type; that is when a fuse operates or "blows," a contact is made with a bus bar for alarm purposes. Contacts FAC-1 to FAC-10 inclusive are shown in FIG. 1; when the associated fuse blows, contact is made between battery lead 41 and alarm bus 142. An alarm fuse of the general nature utilized in the circuit is shown in United States Patent 817,959 issued April 17, 1906 to E. B. Craft.

Assuming first that the fuse associated with lead 141 (FIG. 1) blows, relay FA will operate from battery on lead 41, contact FAC-9 of the operated fuse, lead 142, lamp FA1L, winding of relay FA to ground, resistor SH1 being connected in parallel with a portion of this path. Relay FA operates, and assuming fuse alarm key FA is in closed position, relay AA is operated from ground, make contact FA-1 of relay FA, make contact FAK-1 of the fuse alarm key, winding of relay AA, lead 143 to battery on lead 41. Relay AA operated connects 120 i.p.m. from source 42 through its AA-1 make contact to the ST lead of the tone oscillator and sets the oscillator into operation to produce the audible tone signal as described above. The tone signal will continue until the FA key is moved to the open position to release relay AA, and disconnect the 120 i.p.m. source 42.

Operation of relay FA as above described also completes at its FA-2 make contact an obvious circuit for operation of lamp FAL which indicates the particular position circuit having a blown fuse.

Assuming that a fuse operates in the power circuit (not shown) relay FA will operate over a path similar to that described above, it being assumed that lead 147 in the power circuit is also equipped with indicator type fuses.

While certain specific embodiments of the invention have been selected for detailed disclosure, the invention is not, of course, limited in its application to the embodiments disclosed. The embodiments which have been described should be taken as illustrative rather than restrictive thereof.

What is claimed is:

1. In a telephone system, a private branch exchange, a plurality of cord circuits and an attendant's position circuit at said private branch exchange, an incoming and an outgoing line terminating at said private branch exchange, means for connecting a selected one of said cord circuits to the respective terminals of said lines and to said position circuit whereby to interconnect said lines over a path at said private branch exchange, said interconnecting path being partially completed through said position circuit, means for removing from said interconnecting path the portion completed through said position circuit whereby said lines are interconnected by said selected one of said cord circuits alone, and means in said position circuit for controlling said removing means.

2. In a telephone system, a private branch exchange, a plurality of cord circuits and an attendant's position circuit at said private branch exchange, two lines terminating at said private branch exchange, means for connecting a selected one of said cord circuits to the respective terminals of said two lines and to said position circuit whereby to interconnect said lines over a path which comprises in part a portion of said selected one cord circuit and in part a portion of said position circuit, a relay in

said selected cord circuit, and means in said position circuit for operating said relay, operation of said relay being effective to remove from said interconnecting path said portion of the position circuit whereby said lines are interconnected by said selected one cord circuit alone.

3. In a telephone system, a private branch exchange, a plurality of cord circuits and an attendant's position circuit at said private branch exchange, a plurality of lines terminating at said private branch exchange, a signal lamp associated with each of said cord circuits, a voltage supply for said private branch exchange, means for establishing a plurality of night connections between selected ones of said cord circuits and selected ones of said lines, means for disconnecting said voltage supply while said night connections are established, means effective upon reconnection of said voltage supply for lighting all of said signal lamps except those lamps associated with night-connected cord circuits which are actually in use on a talking connection at the moment, and means effective after a predetermined interval for extinguishing all of said lighted lamps.

4. In a telephone system, a private branch exchange, a plurality of cord circuits and an attendant's position circuit at said private branch exchange, a plurality of lines terminating at said private branch exchange, a signal lamp associated with each of said cord circuits, a voltage supply for said private branch exchange, means for establishing a plurality of night connections between selected ones of said cord circuits and selected ones of said lines, means for disconnecting said voltage supply while said night connections are established, means effective upon reconnection of said voltage supply for lighting all of said signal lamps except those lamps associated with night-connected cord circuits which are actually in use on a talking connection at the moment, means effective during the duration of the respective talking connections for preventing the lighting of said last-mentioned lamps by said previously mentioned lighting means, and means effective a predetermined interval following reconnection of said voltage supply for extinguishing all of said lighted lamps.

5. In a telephone system, a private branch exchange, a plurality of cord circuits and an attendant's position circuit at said private branch exchange, two lines terminating at said private branch exchange, a lamp signal associated with each of said cord circuits, a voltage supply for said private branch exchange, means for connecting a selected one of said cord circuits to the respective terminals of said two lines and to said position circuit whereby to interconnect said lines over a path which comprises in part a portion of said position circuit and in part a portion of said cord circuit, means controlled in said position circuit for removing from said interconnecting path said portion of the position circuit whereby said lines are interconnected by said selected one cord circuit alone, means for disconnecting said voltage supply while the lines are interconnected by said selected cord circuit, means effective upon reconnection of said voltage supply for lighting the signal lamp associated with said selected cord circuit, means for preventing the lighting of said lamp by said previously mentioned lighting means while the cord circuit is actually in use on a talking connection, and means effective after a predetermined interval following reconnection of said voltage supply for rendering said lighting means ineffective.

6. In a telephone system, a private branch exchange, a plurality of cord circuits and an attendant's position circuit at said private branch exchange, two lines terminating at said private branch exchange, a lamp signal associated with each of said cord circuits, a voltage supply for said private branch exchange, means for connecting a selected one of said cord circuits to the respective terminals of said two lines and to said position circuit

whereby to interconnect said lines over a path which comprises in part a portion of said position circuit and in part a portion of said cord circuit, means controlled in said position circuit for removing from said interconnecting path said portion of the position circuit whereby said lines are interconnected by said selected one cord circuit alone, means for disconnecting said voltage supply while the lines are interconnected by said selected cord circuit, means effective upon reconnection of said voltage supply for lighting the lamps associated with said cord circuits, means for preventing the lighting of the lamp associated with said selected cord circuit by said previously mentioned lighting means while said selected cord circuit is actually in use on a talking connection, and means effective a predetermined interval following reconnection of said voltage supply for extinguishing the lighted lamps.

7. In a telephone system, a private branch exchange, a plurality of cord circuits and an attendant's position circuit at said private branch exchange, a lamp signal associated with each of said cord circuits, an energizing path for each of said lamp signals, a plurality of lines terminating at said private branch exchange, means for setting up night-connections between selected ones of said cord circuits and selected ones of said lines, a first relay and a second relay in each of said cord circuits, each of said energizing paths including as series elements a make contact of the respective first relays and a break contact of the respective second relays, a voltage supply for said private branch exchange, means for disconnecting said voltage supply while the night connections are established, means effective upon a night-connected cord circuit being used on a talking connection to operate the respective second relay associated therewith whereby to open the energizing path of the associated signal lamp, means effective upon reconnection of said voltage supply to operate the respective first relays in each of said cord circuits whereby to complete each of said energizing paths except those opened by operation of a respective one of said second relays, and means effective a predetermined interval following reconnection of said voltage supply to release each of said first relays.

8. In a telephone system, a private branch exchange, a plurality of cord circuits and an attendant's position circuit at said private branch exchange, a relay in each of said cord circuits, an incoming and an outgoing line terminating at said private branch exchange, means for connecting a first selected one of said cord circuits to the respective terminals of said lines and to said position circuit whereby to interconnect said lines over a path at said private branch exchange which is partially completed through said position circuit, a key in said position circuit for operating said relay in said selected cord circuit, operation of said relay being effective to remove from said path the portion completed through said position circuit, a plurality of additional lines terminating at said private branch exchange, a voltage supply for said private branch exchange, means for establishing a plurality of night connections between additional selected ones of said cord circuits and selected ones of said additional lines, means for disconnecting said voltage supply while said night connections are established, means effective upon reconnection of said voltage supply for operating each of said relays in said additional selected ones of said cord circuits, and means controlled by operation of said relays for indicating which of the night connections are actually in use on a talking connection.

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