Crystal Radio Engineering
Tapping Inductors

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This note is very short for now – more of a placeholder. There are two taps needed for the coil that makes up the resonant circuit. One tap is to provide a low impedance connection to the antenna/ground circuit and the other tap is for impedance matching to the diode detector. Both taps need to be variable as impedance characteristics vary across the AM broadcast band. A good method of tapping is to use a rotary switch to select the appropriate tap. A six position switch – one for the antenna circuit and another for the detector can provide adjustable optimums for a variety of situations. Calculations are not generally possible for determining where to place the taps so measurements with laboratory equipment are the only practical method. When this article continues, the author will present data on a typical coil for a crystal radio …