

Volksempfänger

Der **Volksempfänger** war ein Radioapparat, der von Otto Griessing bei der Firma Seibt im Auftrag von Joseph Goebbels entwickelt wurde. Erstmals vorgestellt wurde das Gerät mit dem Modell VE301 am 18. August 1933 auf der Internationalen Funkausstellung Berlin. Das Design des VE301-Gehäuses aus Bakelit stammte von Walter Maria Kersting. Der vorgeschriebene Preis der Version für den Betrieb am Stromnetz betrug 76 RM, die batteriebetriebene Version kostete 65 RM.



Volksempfänger, Typ VE301W

Ökonomische Aspekte

Der Volksempfänger war das einzige Produkt aus einer Reihe von Propagandaprojekten wie KdF-Wagen, Deutschen Einheits-Fernseh-Empfänger E 1, Volkskühlschrank oder Volkswohnung, das in die Serienfertigung gelangte und auch in nennenswerter Stückzahl produziert wurde.

Der Volksempfänger sollte es jeder Familie ermöglichen, Rundfunk zu hören, um so für die nationalsozialistische Propaganda erreichbar zu sein. Die Herstellerfirmen waren ursprünglich sehr skeptisch, da sie befürchteten, der Absatz der bisher verkauften und mindestens doppelt so teuren Markenempfangsgeräte würde stark zurückgehen.

Diese Befürchtungen bewahrheiteten sich jedoch nicht, vielmehr stagnierten die Absatzzahlen für die teuren Markengeräte. Da die Industrie bei der Herstellung des Volksempfängers mit extrem kleinen Gewinnspannen arbeitete, die in hohem Maße von der Preisentwicklung der verwendeten Röhren abhingen, blieben die ökonomischen Konsequenzen des Volksempfängers ambivalent. Einerseits waren einige kleine Rundfunkfirmen nicht in der Lage, die staatlich auferlegten Preisgrenzen zu halten, so dass mehrere dieser Firmen in Konkurs gingen oder von größeren



Volksempfänger, Typ DKE38 (gebaut von 1938 bis 1944)



Arbeitsfrontempfänger DAF1011

Konkurrenten übernommen wurden. Andererseits stiegen die Teilnehmerzahlen des Rundfunks mit Ausnahme einer geringen Verlangsamung 1935/36 steil an. Diese Entwicklung ist ohne Zweifel der Einführung der günstigen Einsteigermodelle VE 301 beziehungsweise ab 1938 des „Deutschen Kleinempfängers“ DKE38 – im Volksmund auch „Goebbelsschnauze“ genannt – geschuldet. Für den DKE38 wurde sogar die spezielle Verbundröhre (zwei elektrische Systeme in einem gemeinsamen Kolben) VCL11 entwickelt, mit deren Hilfe der Preis auf 35 RM gesenkt werden konnte.

Schon auf der Internationalen Funkausstellung Berlin 1933 wurden die ersten 100.000 Geräte verkauft. Insgesamt wurden in den verschiedenen Varianten mehrere Millionen Exemplare der Volksempfänger verkauft. Signifikante Zunahmen der Hörerzahlen waren 1937 als Ergebnis intensiver Hörerwerbung durch das Reichsministerium für Volksaufklärung und Propaganda und ab 1939 wegen des Kriegsausbruches zu verzeichnen.

Ein weiterer wichtiger Aspekt der NS-Rundfunkpolitik war jedoch, dass durch die massenhafte Verbreitung des Mediums „Rundfunk“ mit Hilfe der kostengünstigen „Volks-“ bzw. „Deutschen Kleinempfänger“ auch die Zahl der Gebühren zahlenden Rundfunkhörer im Reich sukzessive stieg. Ihre Zahl belief sich zum Höchststand 1943 auf rund 16 Millionen Personen, die pro Monat zwei Reichsmark Gebühren bezahlten. Von diesen Gebühreneinnahmen ging ein kleinerer Teil an die Deutsche Reichspost, der Rest floss an die Reichs-Rundfunk-Gesellschaft (RRG) und vor allem das Reichsministerium für Volksaufklärung und Propaganda, das mittels der Gebühreneinnahmen den Löwenanteil seines Haushaltes bestritt.

Propagandistische Aspekte

Die Bezeichnung VE301 entstand aus der Abkürzung VE für Volksempfänger sowie der 301 als Erinnerung an den 30. Januar 1933, den Tag der Machtergreifung Hitlers.

Der Volksempfänger war ein technisch sehr einfach ausgeführtes Gerät für Mittelwelle und Langwelle, zunächst noch mit Kurz- und Langwelle bezeichnet (Quelle: Erhaltenes Originalgerät VE 301 W). Er sollte mindestens den Empfang des Deutschlandsenders und eines weiteren Programms in ganz Deutschland ermöglichen. Die Legende, dass mit dem Volksempfänger keine ausländischen Sender empfangen werden konnten, hält sich bis heute hartnäckig. Berichte aus der zeitgenössischen Literatur zeigen, dass mit dem Volksempfänger die wichtigsten ausländischen Sender empfangen werden konnten (Lit.: König, Volkswagen, Volksempfänger, Volksgemeinschaft S. 40).

Aus diesem Grunde wurden von Reichspropagandaminister Joseph Goebbels bei Ausbruch des Zweiten Weltkrieges in einer Verordnung über außerordentliche Rundfunkmaßnahmen drakonische Strafandrohungen bis hin zur Todesstrafe für das Abhören von „Feindsendern“ – in erster Linie das deutsche Programm der BBC London – durchgesetzt (Lit.: Latour).



Verteilung von 500 Volksempfängern anlässlich von Goebbels' Geburtstag 1938 im Berliner Funkhaus durch Gaupropagandaleiter Werner Wächter (rechts, mit Hakenkreuz-Armbinde), Aufnahme aus dem Bundesarchiv

Der Volksempfänger wurde zu einem der wichtigsten Propagandainstrumente der nationalsozialistischen Machthaber, in dem die Reden Hitlers übertragen und nach der Wende im Zweiten Weltkrieg Verluste und Niederlagen in Siege umgedeutet und der Opferwille des deutschen Volkes beschworen wurde. Je mehr jedoch die Realität von Bombenkrieg und hohen militärischen Verlusten insbesondere an der Ostfront nicht mehr mit den Sendeinhalten konform ging, nahm auch die Beeinflussungswirkung des Mediums Rundfunk fortlaufend ab.

Technische Aspekte

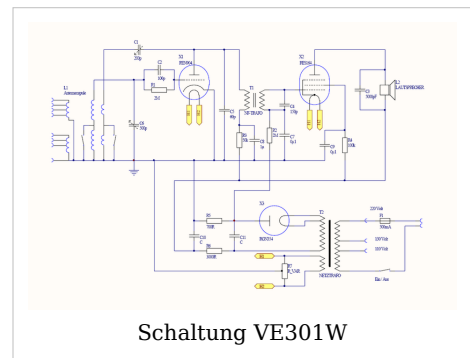
Der Volksempfänger des Modells VE301W war mit drei Röhren bestückt: Triode REN904 als Audion mit Rückkopplung, Endröhre RES164 und dem Netzgleichrichter RGN354. Durch die Rückkopplung in der Audion-Stufe wurde die notwendige Empfindlichkeit erreicht. Der Lautsprecher war ein hochohmiger Freischwinger mit gutem Wirkungsgrad, aber mäßigem Klang.

Später kamen zur Familie der Volksempfänger noch weitere Geräte hinzu: Der Arbeitsfrontempfänger DAF1011, zwei Olympiakoffer (DOK36 und DOK37), der deutsche Kleinempfänger DKE38, sowie 1938 auch eine aktualisierte Version des eigentlichen Volksempfängers - der VE301 Dyn. Ob die Geräte außer den VE 301 Typen zurecht die Bezeichnung *Volksempfänger* tragen ist umstritten, Gemeinschaftsempfänger dürfte der korrekte Name sein.

Der VE 301 Dyn enthielt neben einer empfindlicheren HF-Röhre auch schon einen elektrodynamischen Lautsprecher. Schon etwas früher - nämlich 1937 - wurde das ursprüngliche Modell (VE301) leicht überarbeitet und dann unter der Bezeichnung VE301 Wn (Wn für „Wechselstrom neu“) angeboten. Im Gegensatz zum Urmodell besaß dieses Gerät eine variabel einstellbare Abstimmspule und eine bessere Audionstufe (mit der Pentode AF7), die die Empfindlichkeit verbesserte. Äußerlich veränderte sich das Gerät kaum. Lediglich die Antennenanschlüsse (3 × Antenne, 1 × Erde) befanden sich nun nicht mehr seitlich am Gehäuse, sondern auf der Geräterückseite.



Volksempfänger von innen



Schaltung VE301W

Siehe auch

- Geschichte des Hörfunks

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- Die deutschen Volksempfänger ^[2]
- Deutsches Historisches Museum ^[3]
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- Rundfunkmuseum Fürth ^[5]
- Geschichte des Rundfunks in Deutschland 1923–2000 ^[6]
- Volksempfänger, Verwandte und Nachbauten (Kinder dieser Zeit und danach). ^[7]

Referenzen

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 - [2] <http://www.ve301.de/>
 - [3] <http://www.dhm.de/lemo/html/nazi/alltagsleben/volksempfaenger/>
 - [4] <http://www.jogis-roehrenbude.de/VE-DKE-Plaene.htm>
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