

TELEFUNKEN DATE CODES

Source Material from Eric Barbour

Eric sent in a source chart for date codes covering Telefunken production between 1930 and 1968. It had originally come from a tube enthusiast in Europe; the German-titled chart had been retitled in English. Setting-up the original information in straight "decode" format, we get the table below.

Some of the identifications are unclear, what with smudging of the original, and are marked. A few dates are missing.

The code uses pairs of lower-case letters a-z (less j), plus (to a limited degree) ä, ö, and ü. As a special case, for postwar Berlin-produced tubes (*Berliner Röhre*), the upper-case letters A and B are added. A great many letter combinations are not used. The code was random in some years. Later, the three months of a given quarter share a common first letter, and the second letters are normally in ascending order. Thus the months of 1955 are coded aq, as, at; **ba**, bc, bf; **ca**, cc, cd; db, dc, dh. However, the letter sequence was sometimes reversed, so that for 1944 the months ran ka, na, la; **fk**, **bk**, ck; ad, gd, rd; fv, mv, uv.

The months May-December, 1945, all lack codes, a sign of the then-times, and a hint that this code gives month of manufacture, not of *warranty expiration*.

ää	11-43	bc	5-55	cw	3-30	el	10-36	ga	4-50
aa	9-67	bd	10-46	cy	10-40	em	11-53	gb	10-51
äk	4-43	be	10-52	cz	4-41	en	1-34	gc	7-56
az	6-43	bf	6-55	da	2-31	eö	3-34	gd	8-44
aa	6-357	bg	7-61	db	10-55	eo	8-68?	ge	8-56
aA	1-46	bh	8-61	dc	11-55	ep	2-45	gf	9-56
a0	2-46	bi	9-61	dd	1-62	eq	9-58	gg	10-62
ab	4-31	bk	5-44	de	7-307	er	10-30	gh	11-62?
ac	1-49	bl	11-67	df	236	es	12-30	gi	12-62
ad	7-44	bm	12-67	dg	9-30	et	9-47	gm	5-50
ae	4-32	br	5-41	dh	12-55	ez	12-53	go	10-47
af	2-49	bt	11-52	di	2-62	fa	1-53	gr	6-50
ag	5-32	by	12-52	dk	4-38	fb	4-56	gt	4-45
ah	7-47	ca	7-55	dl	3-62	fc	1-54	gu	1-38
ai	5-31?	cb	10-49	dm	1-31	fd	5-56	gy	12-51
ak	6-32	cc	8-55	dn	3-31	fe	6-56	gz	11-51
al	5-35	cd	9-55	do	4-68	ff	8-46	ha	10-56
am	4-36	ce	9-33	dp	5-58?	fg	7-62	hb	11-56
an	4-35?	cf	1-30	dq	5-68	fh	3-40	hc	7-50
ao	3-49	cg	1-36	dr	9-39	fi	8-62	hd	10-33
ap	1-45	ch	1249	dt	7-36	fk	4-44	he	11-33
aq	1-55	ci	10-61	du	6-30?	fl	9-62	hf	7-46
ar	1-39	ck	6-44	dw	8-47	fm	2-53	hg	10-38
as	2-55	cl	11-49	ea	1-56	fn	10-68	hh	12-56
at	3-55	om	11-61	eb	10-53	fo	2-39	hi	6-39
au	6-31?	cn	12-61	ec	2-56	fp	2-54	hk	8-50
av	4-61	co	733	ed	3-56	fq	11-68	hl	3-63
aw	5-61	cp	2-30	ee	4-61	fr	12-68	hm	2-63
ax	6-61	cq	1-68	ef	4-62	fu	7-42	hn	3-63?
ay	7-67	cr	5-46	eg	5-62	fv	10-44	hr	12-33
az	8-67	cs	8-33	eh	6-62	fw	3-54	hu	9-50
ba	4-55	ct	2-41	ei	8-58?	fx	3-53	ia	7-37
bb	10-67	cu	2-68	ek	2-34	fy	2-42	ib	4-33
		cv	3-68		11-30	fz	9-41	ic	5-36

id	6-33	mb	11-41	pr	934	tf	7-59	wc	4-60
ie	1-57	mc	1-51	pt	6-40	tg	6-47	wd	5-60
if	4-53	md	11-57	qa	10-58	th	8-59	we	12-39
ig	2-57	me	3-32	qb	11-58	ti	9-59	wf	8-38
ih	3-57	mf	8-42	qc	12-58	tk	10-65	wg	8-51
ii	5-40	mg	4-47	qd	1-65	tl	6-35	wh	7-51
ik	4-37	mh	12-57	qe	2-65	tm	a-53	wi	6-37
il	4-63	mi	1-32	qf	3-65	tn	9-31	wk	4-48
im	5-53	mk	4-40	qi	3-47	to	11-65	wl	6-60
in	5-33	ml	1-64	qr	247	tp	12-65	wm	9-51
io	5-61?	mm	2-51	qz	147	tq	6-41	wn	7-66
io	5-63	mn	2-32	ra	148	tr	7-35	wo	12-37
ip	4-39	mo	2-64	rb	1-59	tw	9-53	wp	5-48
iq	6-63	mp	3-64	rc	2-59	ük	3-43	wq	8-66
it	11-47	mv	11-44	rd	9-44	iiii	12-43	wr	9-66
iu	2-40	mw	6-38	re	9-32	ua	11-48	wt	6-48
iv	6-53	my	3-51	rf	9-36	ub	10-59	xa	5-34
iy	1-43	mz	6-42	rg	10-50	uc	11-59	xb	7-36?
iz	11-42	na	2-44	rh	11-50	ud	12-59	xc	10-54
ka	1-44	nb	1-58	ri	8-37	ue	1-66	xd	7-60
kb	1-50	nc	2-58	rk	8-41	uf	7-52	xe	4-34
kc	4-54	nd	3-36	rl	3-59	ug	12-32	xf	9-46?
kd	12-46	ne	3-56	rm	4-65	uh	11-31	xg	8-60?
ke	2-37	nf	4-64	rn	12-50	ui	7-43	xh	6-34
kf	9-40	ng	5-64?	ro	5-65	uk	8-43	xi	9-60
kg	11-37	nh	5-64	rp	3-45	ul	9-38?	xk	10-66
kh	2-50	ni	7-39	rq	6-65	um	3-42	xl	11-66
ki	4-57	nr	4-46	rr	7-32	un	10-48	xm	12-66
kk	10-41	öz	5-43	rs	8-32	uo	12-48	xp	11-54
kl	12-32?	oa	5-30	ru	11-38	up	2-66	xr	7-40
km	10-42	ob	8-39	rw	2-48	uq	3-66	xw	12-54
kn	5-57	oc	4-58	rx	3-48	ur	8-52	xy	9-42
ko	11-32	od	5-58	rz	1-42	uv	12-44	ya	10-60
kp	5-54	oe	12-34	sa	4-52	uw	9-52	yb	11-60
kq	6-57	of	12-47	sb	4-59	uy	7-41	yc	12-60
kr	4-42	og	6-58	sc	5-59	uz	10-31	yd	9-49
ks	7-63	oh	7-64	sd	6-59	va	4-49	ye	2-35
kt	8-63	oi	1-41	se	11-35	vb	1-52	yf	1-67
ku	10-32	ok	2-38	sf	5-37	vc	7-54	yg	2-67
kv	5-39	ol	864	sg	5-52	vd	3-40?	yh	3-67
kw	6-54	om	3-41	sh	7-65	ve	1-60	yi	5-42
kx	9-68?	on	6-30	si	1-40	vf	2-60	ym	8-49
ky	3-50	oo	12-41	sk	12-35	vg	3-60	yn	3-35
kz	11-40	op	9-64	sl	9-48	vh	6-36	yq	12-40
la	3-44	or	11-34	sm	848	vi	4-66	ys	1-35
lb	7-57	ot	10-34	sn	8-65	vk	6-49	yt	7-49
lc	857	ou	4-30	so	7-48	vl	5-66	zb	1-61
ld	9-57	pa	10-39	sp	10-35	vm	2-52	zc	2-61
le	2-33	pb	7-58	ss	3-37	vn	6-66	ze	3-61
lf	10-63	pc	858	st	12-38	vp	854	zf	4-67
lg	11-63	pd	9-53?	su	3-38	vr	5-49	zm	5-67
lh	12-63	pe	10-64	sy	6-51	vs	7-38?	zn	6-67
ln	3-33	pf	11-64	ta	8-35	vt	3-52	zu	10-43
lr	6-46	pg	5-47	tb	8-40	vw	9-54	zw	5-51
lt	1-33	ph	12-64	tc	831	vz	11-36	zz	12-42
lx	11-39	pn	7-34	td	7-53	wa	9-37		
ma	10-57	po	8-36?	te	7-31	wb	5-38		