A description of all transformers in U47 -article by AG

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a description of all in the U 47 microphone used transformers:

1. The oldest transformer used in the U 47 P (same amplifier, but with a Z2 adapter for the M7 capsule)

2. First transformer in the U 47, used in microphones up to a serial number of around 700, mounted in the frame vertically
manufactured by Neumann & Co. Gefell, 32 x 40 mm
Type GN 107

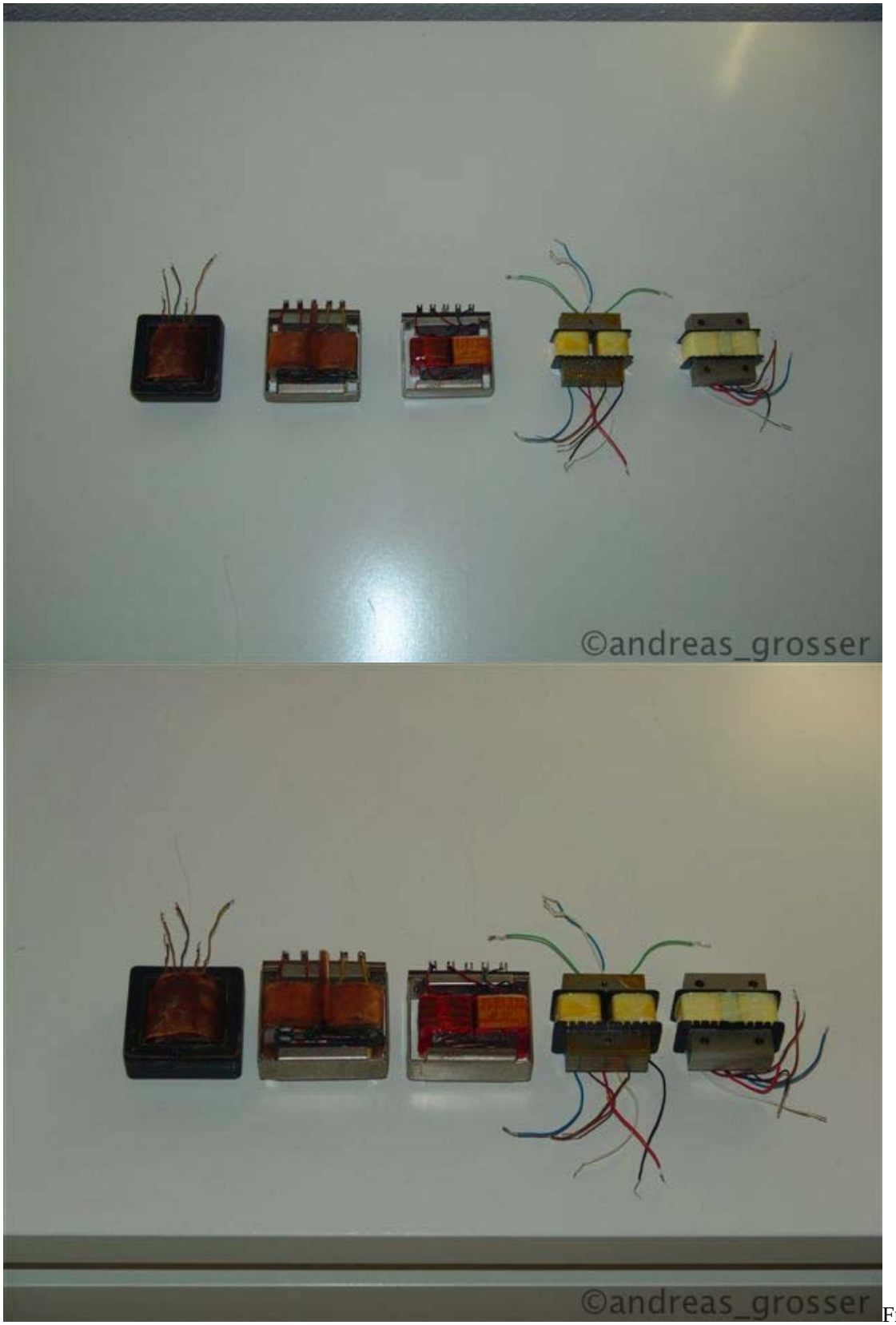
3. Second transformer in the U 47, serial number between about 700 and 1300, mounted vertically with the frame manufactured by Neumann GmbH Berlin, 30 x 35 mm
Type BV-08 (it's hardly possible to distinguish from the outside if there is a GN 107 or a BV-08 on the inside)

4. Third transformer in the U 47, used in microphones with a serial number between estimated 1300 and 5700, embedded lying in the mounting plate
manufactured by Neumann GmbH Berlin, 30 x 35 mm
Type BV-08

5. Fourth transformer by HAUFE, used for repair services, identical to BV-08, but with a "4 hole"-mounting

Soundwise there are no differences between transformers 2 – 5,
but transformer 1 has about 1 db less output at around 50 hz, as well as 1db less output at 20 khz (compared to the other mentioned transformers).

These statements are a little vague though, since every now and then microphone and transformer combinations show up, that differ from that classification. I suppose it could be, that during the beginning of the fabrication in Berlin still sometimes transformers were ordered at Gefell. Also often times the transformers got changed during maintenance and repair. This is similar to the exchange of capsules. Sometimes old U 47 microphones with a k47 capsule show up, even though at the time of production of some of those microphones the k47 didn't even exist yet. That means that they were exchanged some time during service.
On about 95 % of all U 47 microphones the serial number was also engraved or swaged on the inside of the microphone. When comparing the serial numbers inside of the microphone with the one printed on the outside, you may notice that those sometimes differ from each other. I suppose that sometimes owners of multiple U 47s simply may have mixed up the housings of the microphones during e.g. tube swaps or maintenance work. Also some U 47s without serial number on the foot exist. Usually this are microphones from an early production stage, or from when Neumann had to change the foot when the connection thread got broken somehow.



From left:

Transformers from U47`s

1. from U 47 P
2. GN 107 in metal case from TELEFUNKEN / NEUMANN U 47 very old version ~ -> # 500
3. BV 08 in metal case from NEUMANN / TELEFUNKEN U 47 old version ~ # 500 -> # 1300
4. BV 08 normal series after # 1300 (repair vrsion by HAUFE)
5. BV 08 new version made by HAUFE

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