



This image depicts an Enigma machine (which its German users referred to as an "Encryption Machine"). On the inside cover of the device, we see a list of instructions, written in German. Translated into English, they state:

To Observe!

Observe the manual for the Encryptionmachine (H. Dv. g. 13)

- 1. To clean the roller contacts, turn all rolls several times backwards and forwards.
- 2. To clean the key contacts, press all keys down strongly before turning on power several times and let them pop back up while one key remains pressed.
- 3. While selection of the characters which are visible in the window, observe that the rollers are in the right position.
- 4. The "fool proof" [literally: unconfusable] double-pole plugs are to be inserted into the holes all the way. The front wooden panel is to be closed, since otherwise three lamps could be lit at the same time.
- 5. If no lamps are lit after pressing a key, check battery, contact springs, connectors at the switch and the switch itself.
- 6. If one or more lamps do not light up with a key pressed, the corresponding lamps, the contacts underneath them, the cables of the double-poled plugs, the plug receptacles including their short circuit panels, the roller contacts, the working contacts underneath the pressed keys and the "resting" (?) contacts underneath the corresponding keys are to be checked and if dirty or oxidized are to be cleaned (see also number 2).
- 7. Roller axle and roller receptacles are to be kept clean and like any other bearings occasionally slightly oiled with a sap- and acid-free oil. The fixed contacts of the rollers are to be sanded every six to eight weeks with polishing paper and rubbed with a slightly oily cloth. The key contacts, the lamp contacts, and the short circuit panels are to be kept free of oil.
- 8. Key selection is done through either digits or letters. To translate the numbers into letters, or back, use the following table:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Click on the image for a better view.

Credits:

Image of Enigma Machine, online via NSA (National Security Agency). Public Domain.

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