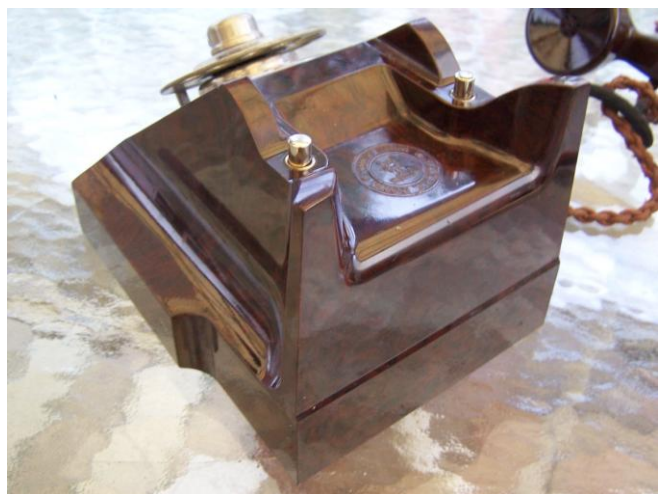
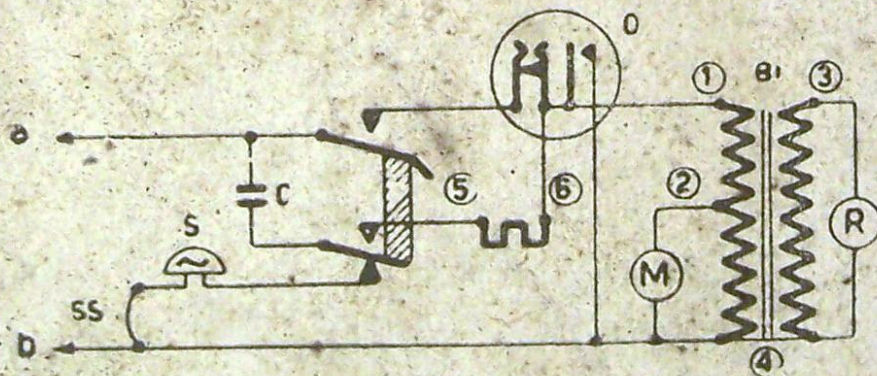
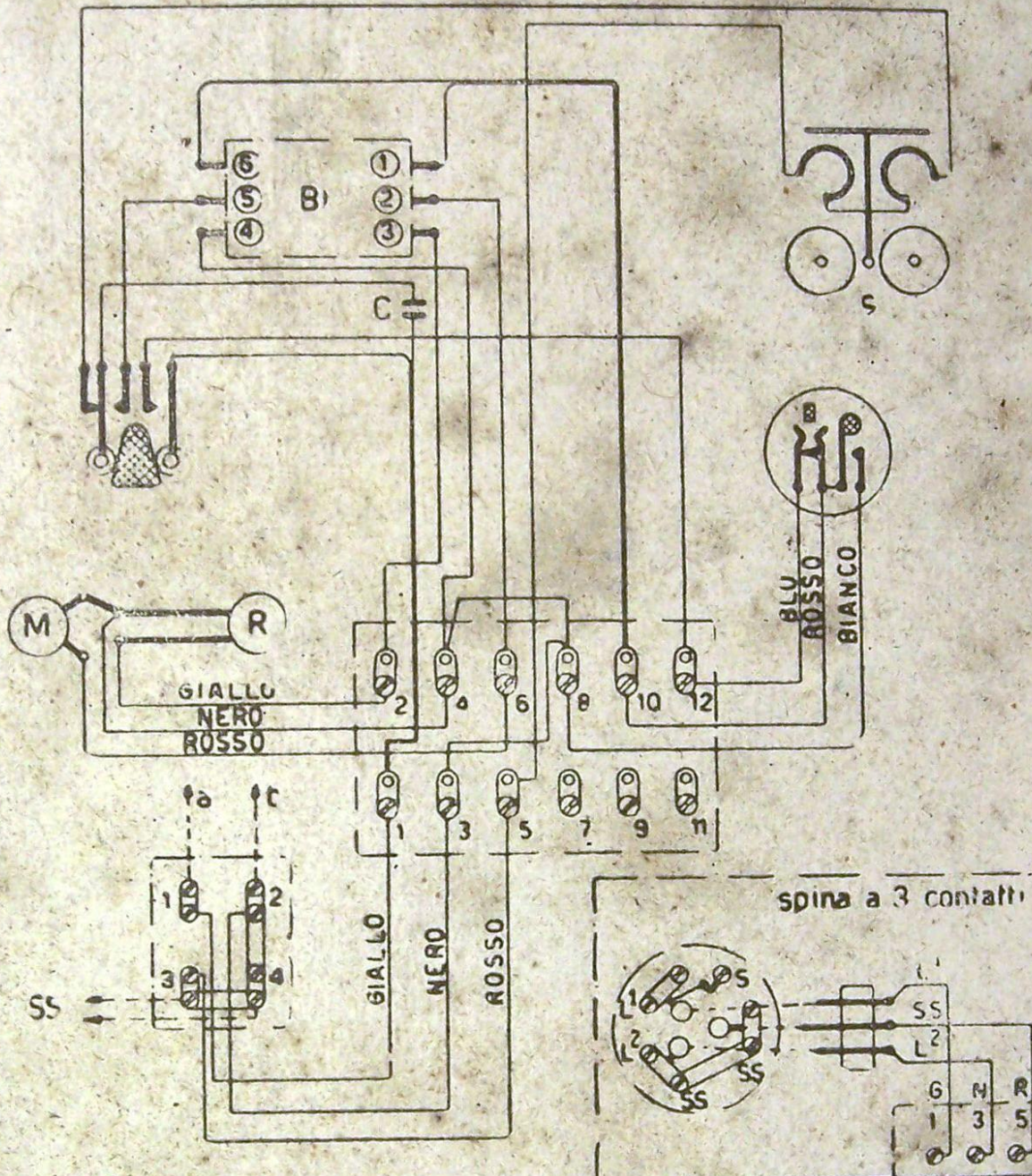


First LM Ericsson Bakelite Telephone





- R 2 x 60 ω
- M 200 ω
- C 1 MF
- S 1000 ω

- ① - ② 32 ω
- ③ - ④ 40 ω
- ② - ④ 600 ω
- ⑤ - ⑥ 600 ω bif

27-2-35
EAT

SCHEMA S.1625 PER
A.T.A.

FATME
ROMA

9827

Telephone instruments

The bakelite phone

For obvious reasons, the LM Ericsson product best known to the general public has always been the telephone. From 1931 on, this was made in black bakelite, a thermo-setting resin named after the chemist L.H. Baekeland, a Belgian working in the US. The design and styling were the result of work at LME's Norwegian subsidiary, Elektrisk Bureau. Not only was the styling new, the circuitry was based on extensive new calculations and measurements in the laboratories. The transmitter included a new anti-sidetone transformer for the first time.

The new telephone was fully on a level with the best foreign designs, and with its practical construction and advanced external form it set a standard in the industry for many years to come. It was adopted by Televerket and the British Post Office, among other administrations.

The desk set was the instrument most commonly in use, but a full range of different types for different uses was soon available: a wall-set, a 2-line set, a set with built-in amplifier, a house exchange telephone, and so on.



First-generation bakelite desk set, 1931.





Luxury telephones for Thailand.

Second-generation desk telephones 1947.



At the new headquarters and factory at Midsommarkransen, the telephone department set up a modern electro-acoustic laboratory with a sound-insulated anechoic chamber and advanced test facilities. It produced a second generation of bakelite sets in 1947, with softer lines in the design, improved transmission characteristics, and a plastic dial.

The Ericofon

While the bakelite telephones were still being developed, other ideas were germinating. By the mid 1940s, great advances had been made in materials research. New thermoplastics, well suited for telephone set design, and new ferromagnetic materials became available, as did new light metal alloys for constructional details. It was becoming possible to reduce the weight and volume of the component parts of a telephone set. There were various ideas for a radically new design.

An early example of such ideas was the 'Unifon', proposed by Hans Kraepelin as early as 1944. The Unifon, of which Kraepelin had built two prototypes in his home workshop, was a one-piece telephone with the dial incorporated in the 'handle'. There was no immediate reaction from his colleagues.



The Unifon

OPPOSITE: *The 1931 set: a promotional image.*