



## A Budget Tuner from Lafayette

**The Equipment:** Lafayette Model LT-725A, a stereo FM/AM tuner. Dimensions: 12 by 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  by 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Price: \$99.95. Manufacturer: Lafayette Radio Electronics, 111 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset, N.Y. 11791.

**Comment:** The 725A, an updated version of the 725 that Lafayette has had in its catalogue for some time, turns out to be quite an attractive piece of equipment for one with such a modest price tag. It is neatly styled, with fairly simple controls that handle well, and is in some respects capable of considerably better performance than you might expect.

The dial is somewhat crowded by contrast to full-size components, but not so compressed as to make tuning difficult. Its single meter is switchable for either center-of-channel or signal strength in tuning FM; it measures signal strength only on AM. The meter and dial light up in green. When a stereo signal is received, an amber indicator at the right of the dial lights up. In front of these elements is a smoked-glass panel on which the labeling is printed. Around this panel is a frame of aluminum anodized in a slightly (and pleasantly) pink color; the tuning knob at the right of the glass panel is anodized to match.

Along the bottom are the headphone jack and push-button switches for meter function, stereo/mono mode, multiplex filter (the usual high-blend type), interstation muting, and AM/FM. At the right is a blue button that turns the AC power on and off.

At the rear are the antenna connections (AM long-wire and ground; 300-ohm FM twinlead, plus connection to a back-mounted loopstick) and two sets of outputs, one for the amplification system and one for direct feed to a tape recorder. The case has a simulated wood finish.

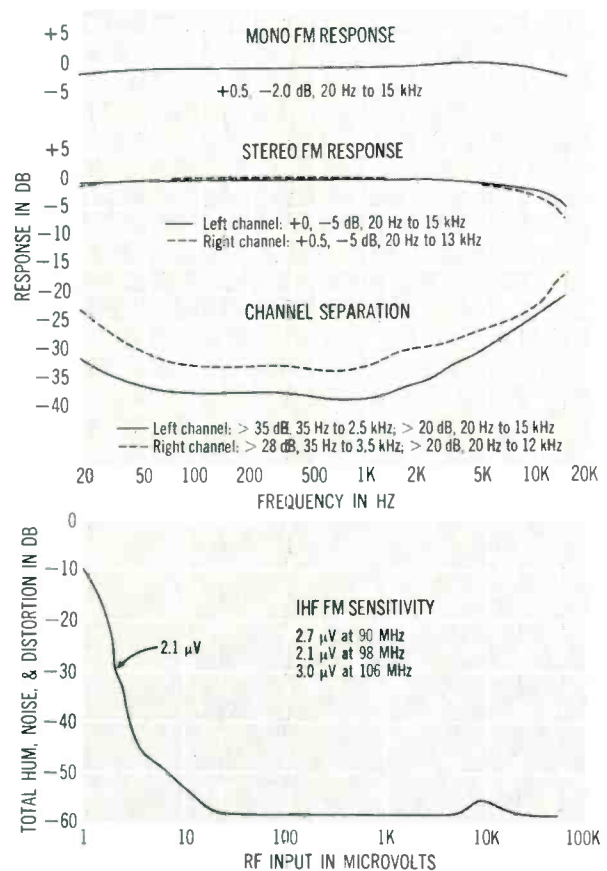
In tuning to frequencies in the center of the FM band, the tuner achieves 30 dB of quieting (and therefore its IHF sensitivity rating) at an input of 2.1 microvolts—a figure we are used to seeing in units that cost considerably more. At the ends of the dial the figure is not quite as attractive; but at a worst-case rating of 3.0 microvolts the performance is more than adequate for a budget unit. The quieting curve descends quite rapidly as input signal strength increases to about 4 microvolts, where quieting is 46 dB—a figure at which reasonably quiet reception is possible. Then the curve descends more gradually. But it keeps on descending until, at an input of 25 microvolts, it has reached a quieting of 58 dB—considerably better than many high-priced units can manage. Except for a 3-dB rise in noise when the input reaches 10,000 microvolts, the 58-dB quieting continues on to the limit of the CBS Labs test procedure.

Other lab data also are generally better than we would anticipate from so inexpensive a unit, and altogether acceptable even were the LT-725A to cost a good deal more than it does. In terms of frequency response and harmonic distortion, however, it does betray a hint of expected behavior. In mono, things are still very good, with hardly any drooping of the response curve and only a minimal rise in distortion at high frequencies. Both

are more pronounced in stereo; the response curves begin to slope off before they have reached 5 kHz and distortion is sharply higher at 10 kHz.

On averages, however, we can't fault the LT-725A. In our cable test it pulled in forty-four FM stations, with some thirty of them suitable for recording or long-term listening—a respectable count. AM reception, too, was clear and problem-free, particularly for a budget unit. If you're considering buying one, the LT-725A is an above-average contender.

CIRCLE 142 ON READER-SERVICE CARD



### Lafayette LT-725A tuner Additional Data

Capture ratio	1.5 dB		
S/N ratio	73 dB		
IM distortion	0.15%		
THD	Mono	L ch	R ch
80 Hz	0.10%	1.6%	1.3%
1000 Hz	0.12%	0.25%	0.26%
10,000 Hz	1.1%	13.0%	14.0%
19-kHz pilot	-50 dB		
36-kHz subcarrier	-48 dB		