Phone of the Future Unveiled



An experimental model of the telephone of the future was recently unveiled at AT&T's annual meeting in Boston. The new phone is smaller and lighter than current models and uses new integrated circuitry developed at Bell Telephone Laboratories.

Though radically different in design, the phone's main significance lies in its technological advances. The slim handset of this largely electronic model weighs less than half as much as the handset in today's phone.

It employs a new electromagnetic microphone and amplifying circuit which are about one-fourth the weight of the microphone now in use, occupy much less space, and reproduce the human voice even more faithfully.

Plastic foam is injected into the handset and base to support and protect the internal integrated circuits against mechanical shock. An electronic tone ringer in the base of the new model is smaller, requires less power, and provides a more distinctive signal than the electromechanical bells now used.

The switchhook can be depressed by only one ounce of force, a design requirement necessitated by the lighter handset. Still in the early exploratory stages, the new phone will be offered in a variety of styles wall phones as well as desk sets—when it becomes available in the 1970's.

BTM 1968