

HARMAN-KARDON A-100 AM-FM TUNER

Skeptical audiophiles may have doubts as to the possibility of building an AM-FM tuner which would come up to the requirements of a satisfactory hi-fi system for the low price tag which appears on the Harman-Kardon A-100 Tuner shown in Fig. 7. However, let it be said in all fairness that there is no reason for such skepticism, for the tuner performs well and with satisfactory characteristics on both AM and FM.

This tuner has all the features expected in more elaborate models—self-contained AM loopstick, an r.f. stage and a.f.c. on FM, a.f.c. defeat switch, flywheel tuning control, switch-controlled a.c. receptacle on the rear apron for phono motor or for the main amplifier, and accommodation for phono pickup switching—from a crystal or ceramic pickup directly, or from a magnetic pickup with an external preamplifier.

Following new decorator trends, the panel is finished in heavily lacquered copper, with the illuminated dial pointer visible through a semicircular slot. Trim is jet black, which sets off the copper panel attractively. Although the entire tuner is relatively small, the panel is rather high, and requires a cut out 10 in. wide by 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. high. Mounting in the normal position (with the panel vertical) is best done on a flat shelf; for horizontal positioning, the panel carries the entire weight of the tuner, and fastens directly from the front. This makes for easy mounting for chairside cabinets; in fact, this tuner is exceptionally well suited to any conver-

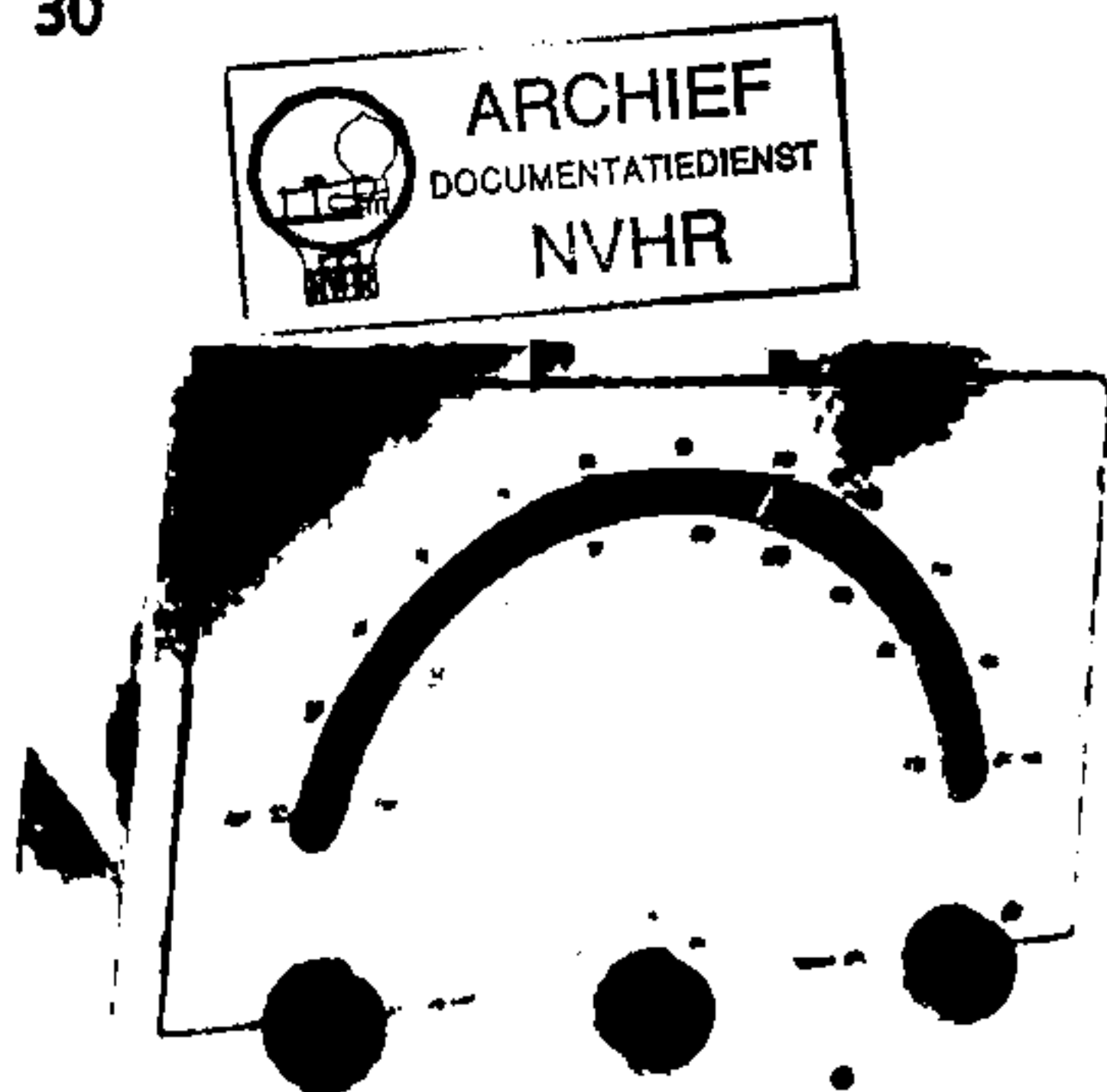


Fig. 7. The Harman-Kardon A-100 AM-FM tuner.

sion job where an older radio set is being replaced by new hi-fi equipment in an existing console.

The loopstick is mounted so as to be rotatable for best AM reception. FM a.f.c. action is excellent, and stations "pop" in and out as the tuning knob is turned. To defeat the a.f.c. circuit, the tuning knob is pushed in slightly to permit critically accurate tuning. In every department, the A-100 belies its low cost.