

New Dial-in-Handset Ending Field Trials

A new telephone, its dial and almost all circuits transferred to the handset, is ending initial field trials in 200 homes outside Detroit.

The loaf-shaped device, known as the Dial-in-Handset, features a dial mounted midway between ear and mouth pieces. It was designed by Bell Laboratories and trial models were turned out in the model shop at Western Electric's Indianapolis Works. The new phone is not yet in production, nor is it available to the public.

Made in two plastic-covered models for wall or desk installation, the Dial-in-Handset is lighter, slimmer and almost a third smaller than phones now in use. The wall model, although slightly squared off at the top, follows the same streamlined pattern of the oblong, symmetrically-curved desk set.

The same handset is used in both models. It contains four of the phone's six major components (today's handsets contain only two) and yet it weighs only slightly more than conventional handsets. Heavy and bulky components, such as the bell and the switchhook remain in the base.

The set's most distinctive characteristic is the "space-saver dial" with movable finger stop. Instead of remaining stationary, the stop moves one space forward as each digit is dialed. With this, the dial wheel can be smaller but the finger holes remain virtually the same size.



New Dial-In-Handset centralizes dial and talking units to make calling more convenient than ever.