

January 4, 1940

International Resistance Company
Philadelphia, Pa.

Attention Mr. Harry A. Ehle

Dear Mr. Ehle:

As I believe I told you in my letter of November 14 we are building a complicated machine for which we will require 600 or more resistors. After looking over the resistor fields and testing many resistors I have come to the conclusion that your type BT metalized resistor will prove most satisfactory for our purpose.

While the machine we are building is designed for research purposes it may have some commercial application. I am wondering if you would care to assist Iowa State College in the construction of this machine to the extent of granting us lower prices than we can secure in the open wholesale market.

Our tolerances are such that it will probably be necessary for us to check each individual resistor as it is placed in the machine. It happens that we shall not require precise values but certain ratios must be held within close tolerances. For this reason my assistant thinks it would be most advisable to buy resistors of low, say 20%, tolerance and then select those most suitable for our purpose, using the lower value to one set with the lower value to the other and the higher value to the first with the higher value to the other. It would seem possible to secure the ratios we desire without doubling the number of resistors employed. We would, of course, suspect that there would be some resistors left over which could not be used. Does this procedure seem feasible to you?

Very truly yours,

John V. Atanasoff
Associate Professor of
Mathematics & Physics

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