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Oops…
We made an error in presenting the formula for resistance in parallel in October’s "Learning Curve." The correct formula is:

\[
\frac{1}{\frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2}}
\]

A simpler expression for just two resistors in parallel is:

\[
R_{\text{parallel}} = \frac{R_1 \times R_2}{R_1 + R_2}
\]

'Twas the Night Before Christmas on 20 Meters

BY DON CHRISTENSEN, W8WOJ

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the shack, the signals had echoes, the aurora was back. I was twiddling the knobs and tuning around, looking for rare DX, but none could be found. When all of a sudden, a pileup so thick caused me to question, “Could that be St. Nick?”

Well, I shifted the bandwidth and varied IF, then I switched in the filters but it made little diff.

"Why can’t I hear him?” I asked in a fit, and I smiled when I discovered he was operating split. He was working by districts; what a furious clip; Santa was operating contest-style just before his big trip.

I fired up the linear ’cause I wanted a shot, it would take maximum power; everything I’ve got. The two hard-working triodes, they twinkled so bright, as I got ready to call that jolly old sprite.

Just as the little green “ready” light was starting to glow, St. Nick was saying, “8th district stations, get set to go.” I stepped on the foot switch and yelled into the mic, then BANG! What happened? Who turned out the light?

After finding the flashlight, I located the breaker; it’s a wonder in the darkness I didn’t meet my maker.

By the time I got the rig back on frequency, Santa announced that he was ready to go QRT.

But I broke, said “QRZed, will you take one more eight?” feeling certain that I simply was much, much, too late.

But much to my surprise, old St. Nick came right back, “WOJ,” he was saying, “make it quick, I must pack.”

“Santa, I must leave on my trip. It’s a long one, you know.” and I could tell by the flutter the band was starting to go.

Just as the propagation was beginning to flee, Santa said, “MERRY CHRISTMAS to all and a big SEVEN THREE!”

(This poem originally appeared in the December 1990, issue of WorldRadio and is republished by permission of the author.)