National Capital Radio & Television Museum

Artifact of the Week:

Philco Model 37-602

In selecting artifacts for this series, we strive to choose those with interesting stories or unusual features. This 1937 Philco table model radio has a *very* unusual feature. These two photos show that the front and back of the set are identical, except that only the front has the tuning knob and dial and volume control.





Most 1930s table models had an open back, which revealed the chassis and tubes. More often than not, small table model sets were placed on a shelf with the back facing a wall, out of sight, so there was no incentive to go to the trouble of making the rear of the set attractive. It is rare to find a radio with a beautifully finished matching backside.

In marketing this set to upscale customers, Philco suggested that if it were placed on an executive's desk, visitors would not see the typical radio's open back and "guts," but rather, be impressed by the same fashionable art-deco design as on the front.

We appreciate your support of the museum so that historical artifacts like this one, and the stories that go with them, can be preserved for future generations. THANKS!