National Capital Radio & Television Museum

Artifact Showcase:
Flewelling Shortwave Adapter



Circa 1930, shortwave broadcasting stations began to appear around the world. Radio magazines urged readers to try shortwave listening. Before long, high-end broadcast radios started including shortwave coverage, and a few companies introduced radios specifically designed for shortwave reception. If you already owned a radio that did not have shortwave coverage, you could purchase a shortwave converter that made it possible to receive shortwave broadcasts on your existing radio. The Flewelling Shortwave Adapter is an example of such a device.

E. J. Flewelling began making and selling these units under his own name around 1929. Then, in the early 1930s, the A.C. Dayton Company began selling Flewelling adapters like the one pictured here. The one-tube device had three plug-in coils that provided coverage from about 3 to 18 Megahertz. It probably did not work all that well.

There were two versions of the device: one for battery radios, and the other for AC-operated sets. The ad reproduction here is from the 1933 Allied Radio Catalog. List price was $15, but Allied had them on sale for $4.85. By then, better performing converters were available and perhaps Allied was trying to dump its remaining inventory.

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!



Flewelling Shortwave Adapter

Brings the thrill of short wave reception when used with your present receiver. In walnut cabinet with bakelite panel. Bakelite clear vision vernier dial for hairline tuning. Complete with three coils. (15 to 84 meters.)

No. E956. For sets with 4 prong detectors such as UX-201A, UX-199, WD-11, or AC 226 tubes.

No. E955. For A.C. sets with 5 prong detectors.

List, $15.00.

SPECIAL NET, EACH $4.85