National Capital Radio & Television Museum

Artifact Showcase:
Philco Model 38-10 Chairside Bar Radio



A previous artifact showcase featured a 1930s Play-Pal table model radio with a small built-in bar that was introduced to celebrate the end of Prohibition. The museum's second bar radio, this recently donated 1938 chairside model, is now on exhibit.

The California-based Radiobar Company of America began manufacturing bar radio cabinets in the 1930s using radio chassis from Los Angeles area radio companies. Around 1936 Radiobar teamed up with Philco, and for the next few years, Philcos with radiobars were popular. Nearly all were large consoles with the fold-out bar at the top of the radio This model which has the bar built into the side of a large chairside cabinet is rare.



Often, much of the original glassware in a bar radios has gotten broken over the years, and is nearly impossible to replace. Finding one that has original glassware takes luck. We got lucky!

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!