Westinghouse Model RC

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Donated by Brian McClay

Westinghouse launched its Pittsburgh station KDKA in November 1920 to provide entertainment to families. Around that same time, Westinghouse began selling radios to consumers. Late in 1920 it began producing the Model RA receiver/tuner and the three-tube Model DA detector/amplifier. In 1921, Westinghouse combined these two modules in one cabinet and called the complete radio the Model RC. The Model RC was quite popular, with approximately 80,000 units sold between 1921 and 1923. While there were a few other radios suitable for consumer listening introduced prior to the RC, none sold in large quantities. The Model RC is often called the first mass-produced consumer radio. It was expensive—it sold for $125, which corresponds to about $2,200 in today's dollars.