

## Artifact Showcase

### Two-Tube “Homebrew”

**F**actory-built radios of the 1920s were very expensive, so many people purchased parts and made their own. Today radio collectors call these “homebrews.”

The as-received example shown here included a pair of headphones. (It is quite unlikely it would have had enough power to operate a loud-speaker.) This receiver

features parts from different manufacturers. The tube sockets are from the early 1920s and the general style of construction is consistent with perhaps the 1930s.



People often gave junked radios to a radio collector friend or relative, who typically disassembled them and saved the parts. That individual might then have pondered, “Well, let’s see what I can build using parts from my junk box.” Many books provided wiring diagrams for simple one- or two-tube radios like this one. It is certainly possible that this homebrew could have been made by someone in more recent times but using parts from an earlier era.

The layers of dust suggest it may have been in someone’s attic for decades. Were our museum to exhibit it, we would clean it up with mild soap and water, and perhaps use some brass polish on the two tube sockets.

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!