



Artifact Showcase:

Philco 46-420 "Hippo" Radio

Philco was among the country's leading radio producers for most of its existence. As World War II was ending, Philco, like its competitors, began gearing up to switch back to civilian radios in a big way. Consumers could not purchase new radios during the war, so by 1945 there was a large pent-up demand.

Late in 1945 Philco announced an extensive array of new table model and console radios for its 1946 product line. From 1937 through the early 1950s, the first two digits of a Philco model number indicated the model year. New models were introduced in the late fall, so the 46-420 would have been announced late in 1945.



This six-tube AM-only Bakelite table model had a distinctive design. An unknown radio collector allegedly declared "This radio looks like a hippopotamus!" The name caught on, and ever since, radio collectors have referred to this Philco as "the hippo." They are fairly common. If you wish to own a "hippo" just show up at monthly auctions of the Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club, and before long a "hippo" will come up for sale.

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!