



Artifact Showcase:

Philco Model 49-901

This Philco radio is unique! It has no conventional calibrated tuning dial or volume control. You use your hand to rotate up the wide-grooved gold-colored cylinder to turn on the radio and increase volume. The radio can be set up by the dealer to accommodate six favorite stations. Pushing in on the cylinder changes to the next station.



Some collectors have called this model the “Secretary,” saying it was intended for a secretary to keep under her desk, and use her foot to change volume and change stations. Others who have researched it say Philco never marketed it that way. In either case, it is an unusual design!

The fact that Philco never made a similar model and that it rarely shows up at antique radio meets, suggests that it was not popular with consumers.

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!