

Artifact Showcase

Philco Model PT-26

This small 1940 Philco in a brown Bakelite cabinet is a good example of an inexpensive pre-WW II AM table model that most likely would have been purchased for use in a kitchen or bedroom or perhaps a college dorm. Approximately a decade earlier, Philco had purchased



Transitone, an early manufacturer of auto radios. Philco advertised “Philco-Transitone” auto radios, but years later, Philco continued to sell a line of radios branded Philco Transitone. The PT in the model number and Transitone on its dial indicates that this radio is one of those.

Its dial is interesting. At first glance it appears to have two bands. The dial calibration on top is 55 to 150, which really means 550 to 1500 kilohertz. Radio manufacturers sometimes dropped the last zero on the AM band dial frequencies. The lower dial scale is calibrated in meters, and goes from 200 to 545 meters. When the pointer is at 1500 kHz on the top scale, it points to 200 meters on the bottom scale, the wavelength corresponding to a frequency of 1500 kilohertz.

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!