



Artifact Showcase

Sony ICF-10MK2 AM/FM Transistor Radio

The Museum emphasizes U.S.-made radio and TVs, but our collection does include a few foreign radios. It is always nice to find an artifact in its original packaging, like this 2004 Sony AM/FM transistor radio.

The first transistor radios were all AM-only, but it was not long before suppliers began to offer radios that had both AM and FM.

First generation transistor radios were manufactured in the United States by companies like Zenith, RCA, and GE, which had established good reputations making and selling vacuum tube radios.

But by the 1960s, Japanese companies like Sony and Panasonic, who with lower labor costs, were offering attractive well-designed radios for highly competitive prices. Some U.S. electronics companies tried subcontracting the manufacture of their radios to Japanese companies, but before long, they all gave up and the consumer electronics industry migrated to Asia. Today it has moved from Japan to China.

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!

