



Artifact Showcase

RCA Selectavision VDT 625

The Radio Corporation of America (RCA) was an electronics giant for decades, but by the 1980s the company was failing, and could not compete successfully with Japanese electronics firms.



RCA had invested huge amounts of research dollars to develop video recording technology. In fact, that product line was the company's most expensive undertaking, even more so than color TV.

In 1981 the company introduced its new Selectavision line of video recorders/ players. They were analog CED devices (capacitance electronic discs). Selectavision's picture quality was not as good as the digital DVD systems that soon followed.

When RCA gave up on Selectavision five years later, the estimate was that it represented a \$650 million loss.

The Model 625 came with a wired remote control. It could record up to four programs in a week.

Interestingly, one can find on the Internet, websites catering to people who collect Selectavision players and videodiscs, along with information about repairing them.

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!

Donated by Gary Arlen