



Artifact Showcase

Regency Model XR-2A

Regency gained fame as the first company to market a consumer transistor radio (the TR-1 Model in 1954). Regency's Model XR-2A transistor radio from 1958 is about the cheapest and simplest transistor radio imaginable!

It is tiny (only 3 by 2¼ by 1¼ inches)—smaller than a deck of cards!

Its circuit features only two transistors (although one is reflexed—used twice), whereas a more typical transistor radio might have five to ten transistors. The XR-2A has an on-off switch, but no volume control. There is not much point in including one, because its volume would have been so low that it would be unlikely you would ever need to turn it down.

It had no loudspeaker, only a wired-in earphone. There were two slightly different versions of this radio. One used three AA batteries, the other three AAA batteries. An XR-2A originally sold for \$14.95, which would be \$170 in today's dollars. That seems like much more than



a poorly performing radio like this should have cost. A used one in very good condition sold on the internet recently for \$95, which also seems surprisingly high.

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 The National Electronics Museum