



David Wilson's Philco Predicta 1958 pedestal television



McMurdo Silver Masterpiece II in an original Silver Marshall cabinet



Fisher TFM1000 eMail traffic



NEW MEXICO RADIO COLLECTORS CLUB

Next NMRCC meeting: JULY 10th - Early TV cameras, camera tubes and CRTs

In later 1936 another new model appeared, the Masterpiece V. A complete re-design was obvious. In addition to the use of metal tubes, the set now had a larger and more impressive dial and front panel. The much-refined circuit used two 6K7's in the r.f. stages, a 6L7 mixer, a 6J7 oscillator, three 6K7's in the i.f., a 6Q7 second detector and first audio, a 6K7 and 6H6 as AVC amplifier and rectifier, two 6C5's in push-pull driving two 6L6's in the output, and two 5Z3 rectifiers. In addition, the receiver had a volume-expander using a 6L7, 6C5 and a 6H6. A 6G5 Tuning-eye tube replaced the meter used in previous models.

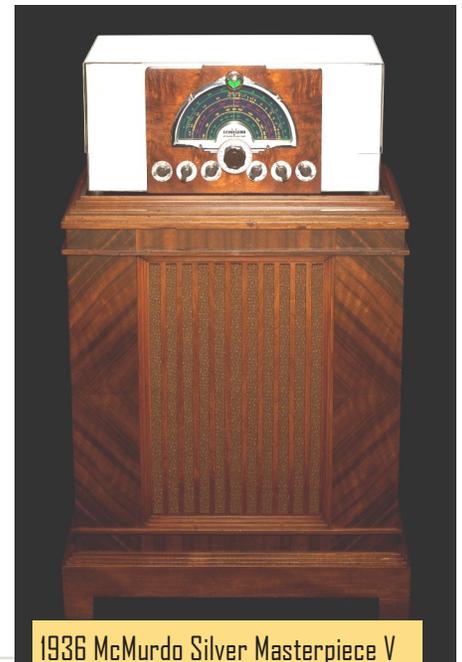
The History of McMurdo Silver, Inc. by Richard Majestic +

Starting in the nineteen twenties and continuing through the forties, many an old-time radio man can re- call the numerous technical articles written by McMurdo Silver. Today, a few radio collectors are fortunate enough to have a gleaming chrome- plated Masterpiece receiver tucked away in their hoard of early wireless and home entertainment anti- quity. Even now, there are still a few of those kings of the air awaiting their fate in the dusty attics and cellars of old homes. But, what of the man who designed these classic Masterpieces that once graced the formal living rooms of the affluent few who would be satisfied with nothing short of the very best. McMurdo Silver was born March 15,

1903, in Geneva, New York. He was the son of John Archer Silver, a professor of Ancient History at Hobart College. Radio first impressed McMurdo in 1912, when a written account of the use of "wireless telegraphy" on ships at sea came to his attention. At the same time, he also read an article about the Mexican Rurates. The Rurales were a troop of mounted police who were recruited from criminals. A rope attached to a tree limb was put around the criminal's neck and he was placed on a horse. The executioner stood with a whip, ready to strike the horse and asked the criminal if he wished to become a Rurale or to be hung. The answer was invariably Si! Si! (Yes!).

McMurdo's earliest "wireless" experiment combined information from both articles which he read. The next day, the family cook heard a series of unearthly yells

(Continued on page Four)

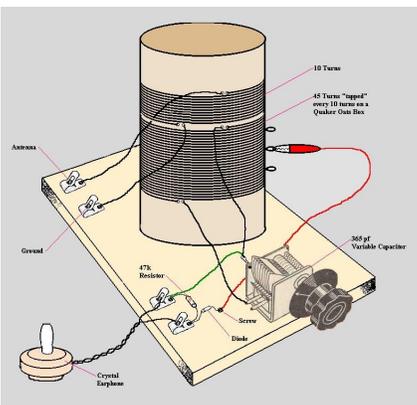


1936 McMurdo Silver Masterpiece V

Build a Crystal Set Radio

Take the Quaker Oats container (empty of course) and on the open side, come down about a 1/2" and poke two holes (careful). Poke the wire through the right hole and back through the second hole like shown below at the top. Pull about a foot of wire out. On the inside of the oats box, place a piece of tape on the wire and the two holes. This will keep the wire from slipping out. Wrap 10 turns of wire around the oats box. Poke two holes next to the last turn of wire. Cut the wire off the spool of extra wire about a foot long. Poke the wire into the first hole and back out

(Continued on page Eight)



The NMRCC Meeting Minutes by John Hannahs

NMRCC Minutes for June

Twelve persons and one guest attended today's meeting. Members included Davidson, Estock, Majestic, Wilson, Lilie, Pastusyn, Menning, Brady, Meader, Trujillo, Toppo, and Hannahs. Turn-out was light; hot weather and vacations, you know.

This month's theme was TV equipment, more below.

Scads of donated radios, test equipment, tubes, and so forth was hauled up to Albuquerque by Richard Majestic. John Estock conducted today's auction as Chuck Burch was recovering from a bacterial infection. Donations for the auction came from Paul Lilie and added nicely to our treasury, thank you Paul. Paul is one of our Life members and is leaving Socorro for the Bay area of California. Most of the desirable collectable radios suffered from the ravages of time, but most received decent bids, a few being indecent bargains. Items of note included many vacuum tubes, maybe a thousand +/-, brought about \$150.00. That would be about 15 cents each. Oh well. Some of the radios included a Crosley console, model 77 which went for \$20 and included the cabinet. This radio looked restorable, but consoles go cheaper, since they are expensive to ship and take room. Snatched up for a mere \$10 was the Zenith Transoceanic knockoff, the RCA model 3-BX-671, which still had the expensive, if good, 1L6 converter tube. That tube is scarce and can go for \$90. Two E.H. Scott chrome wonder chassis also were bought right. David Wilson purchased a beautiful all-band table radio that I missed out on; talk about quality German engineering.

Two tube testers went for about \$20 each, 4 nice grid-dip meters for \$20 total, a signal generator for \$4, and you get the picture. John Estock did a good job, worked up a sweat, and converted the goods into cash.

President Menning conducted the meeting. He announced that we are invited to a giant sale/swap meet June 18 and 19 in the QLab parking lot. We can bring our unneeded items for sale.

The meeting theme was early TV. Don Menning brought a clear plexiglass cabinet that looked like an early Apple Mac in the see-through cabinet. Sup-

posedly these TV's were used in prisons, probably so guards could see if items were being hidden inside. Don recounted how his son used to like to watch the tubes light up .. not in prison, but the house they lived in.



David Wilson brought a pristine example of the Philco circa 1958 Pedestal TV, which resembled a gas pump, they say. I imagine this particular set is pretty rare. Because the picture tube was mounted in a close-fit cabinet shroud a 90 degree deflection system was required to shorten the neck and provide a sharper angle to the center from the outer CRT periphery. Check this: <https://www.synergy-productions.com/philco-predicta>

Richard brought in a RCA 1965 12 inch table model TV, RCA's first all transistor model. It was a wedding present, still looked as good as new, a little similar to Richard, sort of. *Actually I bought the set when we bought our first house in Brookhaven NY. RM*

I think it was Mark Toppo who brought in an ancient color TV chroma kit, all packaged in the original container. It had the delay line and circuits to generate R-G-B and Y video out.

It's fair to say that David Wilson won the prize for best show garnering nine votes. He also passed around a book of color photos of fine TV's of the 50's and 60's.

One last thought; if anyone needs a vacuum tube of any type call Mark Toppo 505-896-9708.

Other members have parts for sale: knobs, capacitors, speakers, transformers. We can match buyers and sellers.

Chuck Burch has two of everything for sale, 505-285-9674.

NMRCC 2016 MEETINGS

JUL 10th - Early TV cameras, camera tubes and CRTs

AUG 14th - Foreign Radios

SEP 11th - Field day/radio reception contests

OCT 9th - Fall picnic, ribeye steaks Las Cruces

NOV 13th - Wild Card Sunday" (nifty science gizmos, novel science toys, or non- radio collection, electronics, or science related that you think will dazzle your fellow members

DEC 11th - Holiday party – theme: Little-known radio manufacturer and rare radios



NMRCC Officers for 2016

- Don Menning: President
- John Estock: Vice President
- Chuck Burch /RMajestic: Treasurer
- John Hannahs: Secretary
- Mark Toppo /RMonty: Membership
- David Wilson: Director
- Richard Majestic: Director
- Ray Trujillo: Director
- Richard Majestic: Newsletter Editor (President pro-tem)

NMRCC meeting photos



David Wilson's Philco Predicta circa 1958, Pedestal TV,



Some of the items auctioned off: EH Scott Allwave 12, with cabinet and HiFi Allwave 23, both with power supplies, National HRO

coming from the back yard. A young Mexican boy with his hands tied behind him had been plated astride a saw-horse. A very heavy rope had been connected between his neck and a limb of a tree above him. He was calling upon all the saints known to him in near unintelligible Spanish. Next to him stood one of the "Silver Gang" asking loudly if he wanted to join or die. In anticipation of the reply, the executioner held the nozzle of a length of garden hose in one hand. Some distance away, at the other end of the hose, stood McMurdo in an old wash boiler which was supposed to be a ship at sea. Thus, the executioner could speak through the garden hose to the "judge" (McMurdo) who could, in turn, pass sentence on the victim. The analytical mind of McMurdo had reasoned that communication with ships could only be accomplished through a long rubber hose, since no one could shout several thousand miles.

At the age of 26, he received a manufacturers' license from the Radio Corporation of America, General Electric, Westinghouse, and American Telephone & Telegraph Company to manufacture receivers under the famous 'pooled patents'. This license was normally issued only to large, long established firms and a minimum payment of \$100,000.00 per year was required as compensation for the use of these combined patents.

McMurdo Silver's Interest caused him to work without thought of time- his curiosity caused him to surmount every obstacle to learn. In 1929, A. Henry wrote, "If the humblest of his employees wishes to tell Silver that his decision upon a subject is wrong, he will listen attentively and change his mind in a flash if the arguments advanced are better than those on which his original decision was based." The accuracy of McMurdo's instantaneous decision was a by-word with his associates.

All good things seem to come finally to an end, and so it was with Silver Marshall with the onslaught of the depression. Silver- Marshall faded away and McMurdo Silver established a laboratory under his own name in late 1932. This was the beginning of the McMurdo Silver classic time period. The first Masterpiece I sets (brass plated chassis) were probably hand made by McMurdo Silver and his associates. Later models (chrome plated) were manufactured for Silver by Hallicrafters. The Masterpieces IV, V, and VI were manufactured by Howard Radio Company.

-In November of 1933, the Masterpiece II was introduced as the "official general coverage receiver for the Byrd Antarctic Expedition". The Masterpiece III was introduced in 1934, followed by the Masterpiece IV in 1935 The Masterpiece V in 1936, and finally, the Masterpiece VI in 1937.

From 1933 to 1938, several lesser sets were produced, but none were as grand as the Masterpiece series.

In November of 1938, McMurdo Silver, Inc., folded and the company assets were purchased by E. H. Scott. Silver joined the engineering Staff of E. I. Guithman, where he designed and developed a very interesting small communications receiver. During



World War II, he was employed by Lear Aviation.

After the war, he again formed his own company, this time in Hartford, Connecticut. This company manufactured a few receivers, but the main product was electronic test gear.

McMurdo Silver allegedly committed suicide in 1948. All that remains today is a few of his beautiful classic radio receivers and his numerous articles which were published throughout the golden age of radio.

McMurdo Silver Receivers

In almost all cases, McMurdo Silver radio receivers were not assigned model numbers. They are designated by names only. The name of each receiver is proceeded by the approximate date in which it was first manufactured, then by the tube complement. Tube complement designations herein list the quantity and type number of each tube utilized in each receiver. For example, the listing 4/58 means that four type 58 tubes are used in the tube complement.

The first Masterpiece receivers had brass plated chassis, while later models were chrome plated. The chassis of almost all, McMurdo Silver sets were chrome plated. A few of the Masterpiece sets and most of the prototype models were hand crafted in McMurdo Silver's laboratory, McMurdo Silver, Inc. Some of the Masterpiece I, Masterpiece II and Masterpiece III sets were manufactured for McMurdo Silver by Hallicrafters. The Masterpiece IV, Masterpiece V and Masterpiece VI sets and the smaller sets of the same time period were manufactured for McMurdo Silver by the Howard Radio Company in Chicago, Illinois. The Masterpiece VI and the Fifteen-Seventeen were evidently manufactured in England as well as being manufactured in the U. S. A.

McMurdo Silver, Inc. went bankrupt in late 1938. Assets purchased by E. H. Scott circa early 1939. In 1941, there were a few Masterpiece VI and Fifteen-Seventeen sets sold (advertised in Radio News) by Davega Radio in New York. We have what we believe to be one of these and it was evidently finished by Scott because of several differences in the overall appearance.

~R Majestic
Line drawings and data from J.W.Pruett
newsletter 1978

McMURDO-SILVER

The MASTERPIECE of the MASTER DESIGNER

I designed it, but I did not name it. Impartial laboratory instruments did that. They measured this receiver. Also the others it was designed to out-perform.

This verdict was... "so far ahead of anything else that comparison is utterly impossible."

Indisputable mathematical facts therefore designated that this receiver be known as "The Masterpiece."

You will agree that it has been carefully named... when you see its performance curves.

You will KNOW it is the greatest advancement in radio since the screen grid tube... when you make a personal test of The Masterpiece side by side with all other so-called "custom-built" 15-550 meter receivers.

Now... with the coming of The Masterpiece you can actually "get" foreign reception with regularity and certainty... irrespective of where you live.

Now... you can hear from 15-550 meters without changing sets... without using mikes... without attaching a separate antenna tower... and without consulting blue prints, charts or station finders. The low wave bands are right on the Masterpiece dial and are calibrated to stimulate accuracy from 15 to 550 meters.

Now... you can buy a receiver on which I will have personally logged three or more foreign stations outside of North America, and that is accompanied by its own specific performance curves measured on your exact set and heard by me personally.

And last, but of no less importance, The Masterpiece comes to you for a 30 day free trial in your home... selected to any kind of competitive test you can think of. If you are not satisfied in any way, you may return The Masterpiece for a prompt and full cash refund.

The custom set left and 6 cents in stamps will give you 36 page book giving complete technical description of The Masterpiece. Clip... and the coupon now.

MCMURDO SILVER, INC.
1330 WEST AUSTIN AVENUE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, U. S. A.

An ad for the Masterpiece from 1932, not called M1

After World War II, McMurdo Silver opened a new company under his name in Connecticut where he manufactured a few very small receivers (models 800, 801, 801B, 802, and U-17). The main line of the Connecticut company was a group of test instruments which included the McMurdo Silver Model 900 VOMAX vacuum-tube voltmeter. McMurdo Silver allegedly committed suicide in circa 1948 and this marked the end of the era.

The Appraisal and Original Cost of McMurdo Silver Receivers and Consoles (1978 data)

At this time, we have no data which indicates the original price of many of the McMurdo Silver receivers. We are always interested in obtaining new information, and we welcome correspondence with anyone who can help us complete the information contained herein. The appraisals listed in this table are issued in December of 1978. We feel that classic sets are appreciating at a minimum rate of 15% per year. These appraisals are for the receivers only without a console (cabinet), but complete in every way with all knobs, dial and control escutcheons, speakers, etc. When a complete receiver is considered with a console, the value of the receiver must be added to the value of the console in which it is housed to arrive at a complete appraisal. All appraisals listed herein are for receivers and consoles in mint condition. It will be necessary for a collector to deduct for missing parts, rusted or otherwise deteriorated chassis or components, excessive wear, or any other factor which will reduce the value of a receiver.

MODEL NAME (receiver)	ORIGINAL PRICE	1978 APPRAISAL	2012 Est. VALUE
Masterpiece I (brass plated)	unknown	\$400.00 (rare)	\$5,500.00
Masterpiece I (chrome plated)	unknown	\$350.00	\$3,500.00
Masterpiece II	\$161.06	\$250.00	\$2,500.00
Single Signal Super 5B	unknown	\$200.00	\$550.00
Masterpiece III	unknown	\$225.00	\$2,500.00
World Wide Nine	unknown	\$150.00	
Model 5C	unknown	\$150.00	\$500.00
Masterpiece IV	\$169.75	\$225.00	\$2,000.00
Radio Professional 5D	unknown	\$175.00	\$4,000.00
Masterpiece V	\$229.00	\$200.00	\$7,500.00
Masterpiece VI	unknown	\$200.00	\$7,000.00
Fourteen - Sixteen	unknown	\$175.00	\$2,000.00
Fifteen - Seventeen	\$149.75	\$175.00	\$2,500.00
Orpheon (rare)	unknown	\$250.00	

Masterpiece I (circa 1932) 4/58; 7/56; 2/45; 2/80.

-Masterpiece II (circa 1933) 5/58; 1/2A7; 2/56; 1/53; 2/2B6; 1/5Z3 -- later models used 2/2A3 in place of 2/2B6.

-Single Signal Super 5B (official amateur communications receiver 1934 Worlds Fair) (circa 1933) 5/58; 2/56; 1/47; 1/80.

-Masterpiece III (circa 1934) 5/58; 1/2A7; 2/56; 1/53; 2/2A5; 1/5Z3.

-World Wide Nine (table model or console) (circa 1934) 4/58; 1/2A7; 1/55; 2/2A5; 1/5Z3.

-Model 5C (communications receiver similar to World Wide Nine) (circa 1934) same tube complement as W. W. Nine.

-Masterpiece IV early model (circa 1935) 6/6D6; 1/85; 3/76; 1/6B7; 6/42; 2/5Z3.

-Masterpiece IV late model (circa 1935 or early 1936) 5/6K7; 1/6L7; 5/6C5; 1/6B7; 1/85; 4/6B5; 2/5Z3.

-Radio Professional model 5D communications receiver (circa 1935) 4/6D6; 1/6C6; 1/6B7; 1/41; 1/76; 1/42; 1/5Z3.

-Masterpiece V (this set used metal tubes and did not have the chrome or bright metal tube shields which were used on most of the earlier models and on the preceding Masterpiece V (circa 1936) 6/6K7; 2/6H6; 2/6L7; 1/6J7; 1/6Q7; 1/6G5; 3/6C5; 2/6L6; 2/5Z3.

-Masterpiece VI (circa 1937) 5/6K7; 5/6JS; 2/6J7; 2/6L7; 2/6B8; 1/6G5; 2/6L6; 2/5Z3.

-Fourteen-Sixteen (manufactured in U.S.A.) (circa 1937) tube complement unknown.

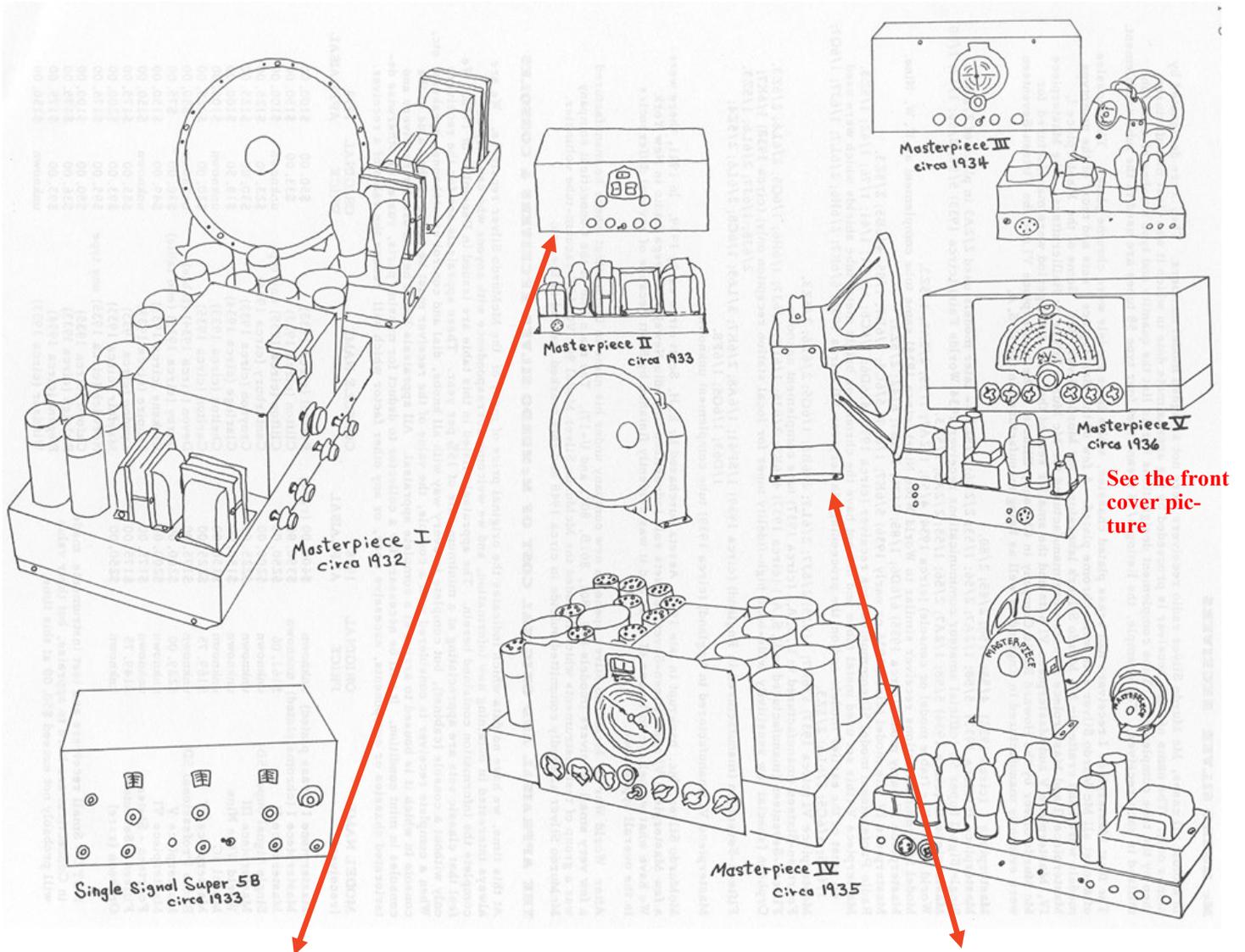
-Fifteen-Seventeen (manufactured in U. S. A.) (circa 1937) 4/6K7; 3/6J5; 1/6L7; 1/6J7; 1/6H6; 1/6G5; 2/6L6; 2/5Z3.

-Orpheon (special low sensitivity wide-band high-fidelity tuner for local station reception only) (circa 1938) 1/6K7; 2/6J5; 1/6Q7; 2/6L6; 1/5Z3.

-Fifteen-Seventeen (manufactured in England) (circa 1939) 1/SP41; 1/6A8; 4/6K7; 3/L63; 1/6C8; 2/6L6; 2/5Z4; 1/D63; 1/6G5; 1/6F8.

-Masterpiece VI (manufactured in England) (circa 1939) tube complement unknown.

The History of McMurdo Silver, Inc. by J.W.F.Puett—1978



1933 McMurdo Silver Masterpiece II in a custom cabinet that the seller claimed was original to the Masterpiece II but I can only find a similar cabinet from by Silver Marshal sold in 1931

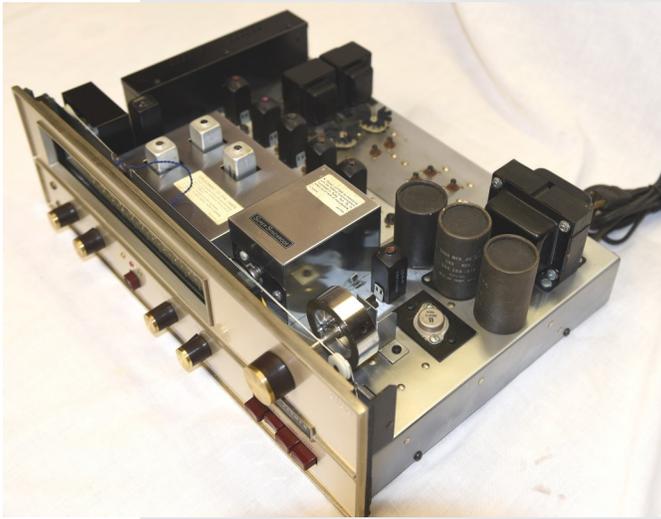


An original Jensen 18" speaker used in the Masterpiece V and VI

Subject: Re: Fisher TFM-1000

Right you are Dick !! Too be sure, Avery Fisher's company produced some fine and reliable electronics during the 50s and 60s. And relatively affordable too.

Jim L.



On 02/24/2016 07:23 PM, Richard M wrote:

I've got to tell you how good FM can sound when the tuner is the greatest. Even with weak signals there is no tuner induced distortion, amazing. It might sound as good as my REL 646 tube tuner. The detector is delay-line that creates a constant width square wave. I looked at the IF strip on a off-air signal and each stage had a near perfect sine wave. The last IF amplifier stage was two directly coupled transistors, the output a nice 10.7MHz. square wave that feeds the limiter and frequency detector stage. And think, this beautifully engineered tuner was designed in 1963.

To make it work, there was one bad transistor, a TO-3 germanium power transistor for the series pass DC voltage regulator and one leaking radial lead electrolytic on the limiter detector PCB. I replaced all the electrolytics that looked like the bad one and all the axial leads ones that had started leaking. No other bad transistors and most were plastic cased. The cool reminder of the vintage is all indicators are incandescent lamps, not one LED

Yeah,

I made a posting not long ago on the bNet group, went like this:

As an employer of technical people, I find that many of today's graduate 'electrical engineers' can write code like there's no tomorrow, but couldn't build a crystal set if their life depended on it. Our fascination with digital technology has relegated what we knew as "electronics" to ones and zeros, with zeroes seemingly the dominant value.

A somewhat jaded opinion perhaps, and a bit tongue-in-cheek, of course. But already we are finding our analog world suffering in some aspects of performance and quality because it has become easier and cheaper to do things digitally, often compromising the high standards we strove to attain when bound by inferior analog ways of doing things.

Jim Wood
INOVONICS



I guess the point was that, sure, it took smarts and a lot of coaxing to get quality out of the technology we had in years past. But the past it is and there's no looking back, except at swap meets and garage sales. There's no market for the Fishers and McIntoshes anymore. Oh, sure, they're appreciated by many, but who would buy them? You? Me? Yeah, maybe oldtimers with more dollars than sense. No, for the most part, if it can't be done with their phone* they don't want it. And you can Tweet and Facebook all day, but you'll never convince me otherwise.

* I read today that your phone will replace your car keys soon. Jim Wood



NEW MEXICO RADIO COLLECTORS CLUB

New Mexico Radio Collectors Club

Richard Majestic (Membership inquiries)
5460 Superstition Drive
Las Cruces NM 88011

E-Mail: ronmonty@comcast.net
Phone: 505 281-5067
E-Mail: rmajestic@msn.com
Phone: 575 521-0018

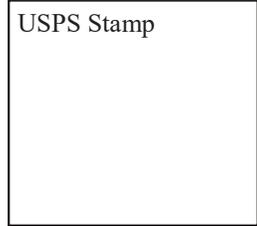
FOR INFORMATION CHECK THE INTERNET
<http://www.newmexicoradiocollectorsclub.com/>

The New Mexico Radio Collectors Club is a non-profit organization founded in 1994 in order to enhance the enjoyment of collecting and preservation of radios for all its members.

NMRCC meets the second Sunday of the month at The Quelab at 680 Haines Ave NW, Albuquerque NM Tailgate sale at 1:00PM meetings start at 2:00 pm. Visitors Always Welcomed.

NMRCC NEWSLETTER

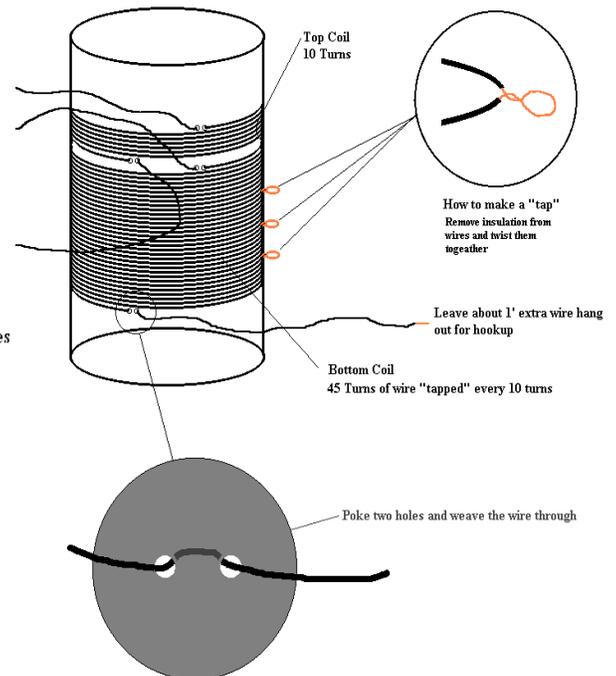
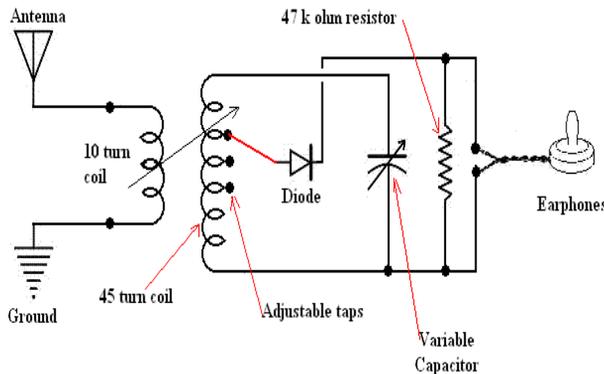
THIS PUBLICATION IS THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW MEXICO RADIO COLLECTORS CLUB. INPUT FROM ALL MEMBERS ARE SOLICITED AND WELCOME ON 20TH OF THE PRECEDING MONTH. RICHARD MAJESTIC PRO-TEMP NEWSLETTER EDITOR, SEND ALL SUBMISSIONS IN WORD FORMAT, PICTURES IN *.JPG FORMAT TO: RMAJESTIC@MSN.COM



Build A Crystal Set Radio

the second hole. Place a piece of tape on the inside like on the top. This will keep the wire tight on the Quaker oats box.

Wrap 10 turns of wire around
Now make the "taps". See the illustration below on how to make a tap. Twist the wire a couple of times and remove the insulation at the twist (see below). Continue making wraps and about every 10 turns make a tap until you get to 45 turns.



At 45 turns, poke two holes next to the last turn of wire. Cut the wire off the spool of extra wire about a foot long. Poke the wire into the first hole and back out the second hole. Place a piece of tape on the inside like on the top. This will keep the wire tight on the Quaker oats box.