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Subject: Help with identification - Emerson

Posted by [Mark Williams](#) on Mon, 20 Sep 2004 11:39:06 GMT

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Hi,I'm hoping someone will be able to help me with some information about an old Emerson tube radio I've been given.It's a table top model in a sort of cathedral style mahogany case. Shortwave and a.m.I took some photos but don't know how to post them here, so that will be the first thing I'd like help with!Thanks,Mark

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Subject: Re: Help with identification - Emerson

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 20 Sep 2004 18:38:20 GMT

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Hi Mark,To post photos here, you'll need to upload them to a web server. If your ISP offers upload space as part of your account, you can upload there. If not, then you might get an account with a free image host and upload your pictures there.After that, you can post single images by including the URL in the "Optional Image URL" field. That will allow you to display a single image, and it will be shown at the top of the page.If you want to embed your pictures in a post, you will want to use the "img src" HTML tag. You might also surround it with "center" tags. A description of the process is shown here. A smiley face cartoon is shown below, and the exact HTML text you should type into the post to display it is typed in very small print under the cartoon image. You can copy-and-paste this into your post, and substitute your image file URL in the "img src" tag.<center></center>About your Emerson radio, that's really cool! I love the old radios that can pick up shortwave and AM. I have a few of them, and I have a little webpage that shows them at [www.PiSpeakers.com/Radio](http://www.PiSpeakers.com/Radio). If you'll tell me the model number, I'll look it up on Rider CD's and see if there's any information on your radio there.Wayne

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Subject: Re: Help with identification - Emerson

Posted by [Mark Williams](#) on Mon, 20 Sep 2004 20:43:34 GMT

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Hi Wayne,Thanks for your reply. I will check into posting the photos. Thanks for the tutorial on that.No, I don't know the model. Only the serial number. There's a metal tag but it looks like the model information may have been scratched off.Hope you will continue to help me after I determine how to post the photos.Regards,Mark

Subject: Here it is:

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 20 Sep 2004 22:25:27 GMT

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Hi Mark, Here is the image of your radio and the HTML code you should enter to display it: <center></center> Alternatively, you can just enter this in the "Optional Image URL" field: http://img59.exs.cx/img59/9610/Emerson-front.jpg That's a beautiful radio, by the way. Does it work? Wayne

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Subject: Re: Help with identification - Emerson

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 21 Sep 2004 02:39:44 GMT

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What tubes are used in the radio?

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Subject: Thanks for the help

Posted by [Mark Williams](#) on Tue, 21 Sep 2004 20:50:07 GMT

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Hi Wayne, Thanks for the help getting my image posted. I hope people can tell me: What model is this little Emerson? When was it made? What are the proper knobs and grille cloth for this radio? Anything else they want to know or can share with me would be great! By the way, YES, this thing actually works. Somebody even took the time to re-cap quite a bit of it. It uses Type 43 tubes and I don't know what others. I haven't looked at it really in detail yet. Thanks Wayne and everyone. I am new to this site and enjoying it already. Regards, Mark

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Subject: Side view of the Emerson table radio

Posted by [Mark Williams](#) on Tue, 21 Sep 2004 21:12:03 GMT

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Hi Everyone, Thanks to Wayne's helpful and patient instruction... Here's a shot of the side. Please let me know anything you can about this radio... model, what the proper knobs, grille cloth looks like, etc. For the curious, that's a partial shot of Cally-Lou, our oldest cat who is always close to the "action". Regards, Mark

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Subject: Re: Thanks for the help  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 21 Sep 2004 21:48:04 GMT  
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Hi Mark, That's cool that it works! And it looks nice too. How's the shortwave reception? Do you need a long wire antenna? As for identification, that's where knowing what tubes are inside will help. Knowing what tubes are inside will set the date within a few years, and will also help locate the schematic. I'll look through my Emerson schematics and see what I can find. About the grille cloth and knobs, a lot of the older radios were made in many different styles. This was a different time, when things were hand-made. They had different wood and styles available. Sometimes even different cabinet shapes were used. You should look at the selection of grille cloths and wood knobs at Antique Electronic Supply, [www.TubesAndMore.com](http://www.TubesAndMore.com). You'll find some that will match very well. Wayne

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Subject: Type 43 tubes and others  
Posted by [Mark Williams](#) on Tue, 21 Sep 2004 21:57:22 GMT  
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Hi Wayne, I see... I didn't realize sometimes these things were made with different cabinet shapes, grill cloths, etc. Well, all I know about the tubes so far is it uses Type 43 tubes. As for the others, I'll have to look more closely this weekend. (I'm on the road during the weekdays.) I'm guessing this was made during WWII because the power transformer has "Victory Model" or something to that effect on an attached paper tag. The cabinet appears to be mahogany. Regards, Mark

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Subject: Re: Type 43 tubes and others  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 22 Sep 2004 02:22:07 GMT  
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Hi Mark, I'll look for Emerson radios that use 43 tubes and let you know what I find. Wayne

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Subject: Re: Type 43 tubes and others  
Posted by [Mark Williams](#) on Wed, 22 Sep 2004 22:04:45 GMT  
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Hi Wayne, Good deal! Yes, try the years around WWII ("Victory Model" transformer, remember?) And I'll give you the entire tube compliment this weekend. I wish I had a schematic for

this thing!Regards,Mark

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Subject: Re: Type 43 tubes and others

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 24 Sep 2004 22:53:54 GMT

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Hi Mark,Thanks for the photos. These old radios are really great, aren't they?I've found lots of schematics for Emerson radios that tune shortwave bands, but most use newer tubes. Of those that used 43 tubes, I only have found model 375 so far. Any chance you could take some photos of the chassis? The more information and detail I have, the better chance I'll have of finding information.Wayne

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Subject: Re: Type 43 tubes and others

Posted by [Mark Williams](#) on Sun, 26 Sep 2004 15:38:52 GMT

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Hi Wayne,Stayed up listening to this until 5:30 am last night! Both the shortwave and AM too. Great!In this email you will find additional photos - one is of a "rough schematic" I drew to go along with the bottom view shot of this mystery Emerson.Questions/explanations:1) One of the photos shows a red marker pointing to what I think is a cap. There are several of these near the two "coils." These components have embossed colored dots on them and are rectangular in shape. Are these in fact capacitors of some sort?2) By the way, what are those two "coils?" Are these the antennae - one for the am and the other for the short wave? 3) Could you tell me what those two square metal things are on each side of that one 6D6? (Marked as a ? on my rough "schematic"). 4) There are six tubes in this Emerson. In case you cannot make it out here is the tube compliment:(1) Type 43(1) Type 75(1) 25Z5(2) 6D6(1) 6A7Regards,Mark

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Subject: Re: Type 43 tubes and others

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 27 Sep 2004 10:53:46 GMT

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That's a great looking radio you have there. It looks like someone has rebuilt it in the last decade or so too. The capacitors look pretty new. If that's the case, I expect this radio will work for several decades. You might have to replace a tube or two if you use it often, but the passive components will probably last decades.To answer your questions, those little rectangular parts are capacitors, you're right. They are small value caps, and would probably be ceramic caps if replaced today. The two coils you're referring to are intermediate frequency (IF) coils. They, along with those caps, resonate at an intermediate frequency.Your radio uses a superhetrodyne

circuit, which is the most modern type and uses IF amplification stages. The Superhetrodyne receiver circuit was invented in 1918 and most radios were made that way from about the 1930's on. In a superhetrodyne radio, the RF signal is converted to an intermediate frequency for most stages of amplification. That way the IF amps can be tuned to a specific frequency and optimized for it. The RF section has to be wideband, since it has a tuner and covers a large frequency range. So amplification is not as efficient as the IF stages, which operate at a single frequency. The IF stages are where most of the gain is done, and then the IF detector converts it to audio for the final audio amplification stage.

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Subject: Re: Type 43 tubes and others

Posted by [Mark Williams](#) on Tue, 28 Sep 2004 00:29:22 GMT

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Hi Wayne, Thanks for all the information. More questions: 1) Those rectangular caps... how do you tell the value of them? I'm pleased that someone re-capped a good deal of this radio. 2) Now Wayne. That red wire coming out the back... I have been using that as the antenna. I attach a longer wire to it. Do you think there is only one antenna for both the am and the shortwave? 3) Also, you might not be able to pick up on this from the photos but there is sort of a piece of metal with a screw on it on the back. Might this be a ground? It almost looks as if someone added it on later. 4) Any clue on the model no. yet? Mark

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Subject: Re: Type 43 tubes and others

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 28 Sep 2004 06:26:59 GMT

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Hi Mark, The rectangular blocks use the same color coding scheme as resistors, and the base unit is pF. Those rarely go bad though, so you probably won't need to replace them. It's the wax covered paper types that are most likely to be bad, and those have already all been replaced in your radio. You're probably right that the red wire is the antenna. I imagine it connects to the tuner or trim capacitor. Since there is no coil antenna, it is used for all radio bands. Some radios use a loop antenna for medium wave (AM) reception and a longwire for shortwave. They almost always exit the radio just like yours - as a few inches of wire with an end exposed. You should connect a length of wire to this. I like to put a connector of some type on the end, so that it isn't just a matter of twisting conductors together. But that's just me. Wayne

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Subject: Re: Type 43 tubes and others

Posted by [Mark Williams](#) on Tue, 28 Sep 2004 20:50:53 GMT

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Hi Wayne, Thanks for the additional info about my radio. This from an earlier posting:3) Could you tell me what those two square metal things are on each side of that one 6D6? (Marked as a ? on my rough "schematic"). There is a wire coming out of one of these that has frayed cloth insulation. If I can, I'd like to address that. Regards, Mark

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Subject: Re: Type 43 tubes and others  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 29 Sep 2004 03:14:59 GMT  
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Those two metal boxes are your IF transformer coils.

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Subject: Re: Type 43 tubes and others  
Posted by [Mark Williams](#) on Fri, 01 Oct 2004 12:07:48 GMT  
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Hi Wayne, Thanks for the information. And, I appreciate your looking through the Emerson archives you have on disk in the attempt to identify this model. I can tell you this about that 43 tube. The socket has 43 stamped on it and appears to be original like the others in the radio. But, like you mentioned. Who knows what this radio has seen? That's part of the fun of it, right? To speculate who has listened to this radio in the past and what was heard on it. All the best, Mark

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Subject: Re: Type 43 tubes and others  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 01 Oct 2004 12:33:10 GMT  
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One of the things I like the most about these old radios, is knowing how the news of so much history was received and listened to on them. I marvel at the thought with the first radio I restored, because it has a service label on it from August 14, 1945. I know that someone listened to the events of WWII through this radio, and that it served them well. I imagine the radio playing several hours every day, bringing the news to a concerned family. Then when the allies won the war, the radio probably needed service from all its use. In one of my other radios, there was a mud wasp's nest inside. When I dislodged the nest, it crumbled in my hands revealing some long dead wasps. I realized at that moment, that these wasps were probably alive before I was. The radio was very old, and it probably had been retired and stored in a garage or barn several decades ago. While there, the wasps took up their new home. I imagine they lived and died a long time ago. It is fascinating to me to think of things like this as I restore and listen to these old tube radios.

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Subject: Re: Type 43 tubes and others  
Posted by [Mark Williams](#) on Sat, 02 Oct 2004 16:46:18 GMT  
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Hi Wayne, Yes, I wholly agree with you. And couldn't express these things more eloquently. The past is such a draw for a Romantic Welshman like myself! Here's a link to a photo of that old clock I mentioned before. My oldest Big Ben -- from 1913. Still ticking along. Think of the history that thing has seen. All the best, Mark  
<http://img4.exs.cx/my.php?loc=img4&image=WestcloxStyle1.jpg>

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Subject: Re: Type 43 tubes and others  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 03 Oct 2004 08:14:21 GMT  
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What a cool old clock. Ticked through all the major events of the last century. A true time machine.

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Subject: Model 38 perhaps?  
Posted by [Mark Williams](#) on Wed, 06 Oct 2004 22:08:44 GMT  
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Hi Wayne, I received an email from a fellow who thought my radio looked very close to an Emerson model 38. Same cabinet (made by Ingram) and grille work. Except, he noted, the Emerson model 38 has only two knobs. Thus, he speculates a modified version because of the shortwave. I asked him to send photos, if possible. Mark

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Subject: Re: Model 38 perhaps?  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 06 Oct 2004 22:39:38 GMT  
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Cool! That may very well be the case. I found several models in the Rider collection that I thought were close to what you had too, but none that were exact matches. So I kind of think the same as you, that your radio may be modified from how it was sold when it was new. I have a few old tube radios like that myself, where someone had obviously swapped parts out in the past. Not just replacing tubes, mind you, but actually substituting them for different types and rewiring. One had even swapped an entire chassis, and that may be the case for you. On one of my radios, I put everything back stock but the others, I just made them work as they were and enjoyed

them.Wayne

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