Subject: 1944 Philco Radio
Posted by Trell7369 on Wed, 13 Feb 2008 17:55:54 GMT
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While cleaning out my grandmothers attic, I came across this 1944 Philco Radio. It has alot of wear and tear to it but what do you expect from a radio thats been stored in the attic for over fifty Years ? I would like to see if I can get it working but I am afraid it would be very expensive and even if I drop the dinero, would it even work ? Neverless I got a great Antique That I am proud of, even if i can't getting working. What do you guys think ? Here are some pics i took of it.

Subject: Re: 1944 Philco Radio
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 13 Feb 2008 19:22:54 GMT
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I heard your message and have been meaning to call. Sorry I haven't yet. Looks like a sweet radio!You might be surprised - It may work right away. Or it may work but hum loudly. The capacitors in those old radios tend to be bad after so long in storage but you can replace them pretty cheaply. Sometimes the electrical cord is frayed or insulation brittle and cracked. If that's the case, replace the cord before plugging it in. Again, that's an inexpensive repair.Often times the tubes still work. If one is weak or not working at all, you can still get replacements. I have a ton of tubes, so I may have what you need, if you need any at all.Write back and let me know the condition. If it isn't working, you can probably get it running again pretty easily.

Subject: Re: 1944 Philco Radio
Posted by Shane on Thu, 14 Feb 2008 03:09:48 GMT
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Wow. My parents have that exact same radio, but they won't let me have it yet!My suggestion besides replacing the caps would be to replace the selenium rectifier to individual diodes (if it has one). Also, I'm sure it has "live" chassis, so an isolation transformer and grounded 3-prong power cord would be a wise option. I would suggest going to this website and to their radio forum. I've had lots of help with some old radios and there are some very knowledgable people there.
Radio Forum

Subject: Re: 1944 Philco Radio
Posted by Bill Epstein on Thu, 14 Feb 2008 04:09:51 GMT
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Magnificent!The case is actually in wonderful condition. It's nitrocellulose lacquer finish is crazed a bit but the veneer seems mostly intact. Don't even wax it and especially, not with Pledge.Replace the buttons, get it working and let those 45 tubes work their magic. Lucky guy.

Subject: Re: 1944 Philco Radio
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 14 Feb 2008 05:03:15 GMT
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Hey Bill, what do you think Mike should run into the wood to help luster it up? All the radios I've restored have gotten spray-on poly, but I haven't done one in years and I think probably that was pretty amateurish. (Just like using the word "amateurish") I'm happy, they look good, but what would you use to refinish the wood on that radio?

Subject: Re: 1944 Philco Radio
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 14 Feb 2008 05:05:52 GMT
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Our antique radio forum is cooler. Been around longer too.
ART Vintage Radio Forum

Subject: Re: 1944 Philco Radio
Posted by Trell7369 on Thu, 14 Feb 2008 07:20:40 GMT
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My grandparents were some of those people that like to keep things in order. When I went up in the attic, there was hardly any dust on anything. I am fortunate for that. Wayne called me today and I think hes coming over Saturday to see it, and replace the caps. I am excited to see if i can get the "old girl" working again. Maybe if I can get it working maybe I can bring it to one of the parties and let you guys see it. I am glad I got it not my uncle.

Subject: Re: 1944 Philco Radio
Posted by Shane on Thu, 14 Feb 2008 08:12:15 GMT
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Sorry, I should know better, huh Was just giving him some other places to find info if he wanted it. I found someone over at the other site that had specific knowledge and 1st hand experience with one of my Zenith radios which was very helpful.

Subject: Re: 1944 Philco Radio
Posted by Bill Epstein on Thu, 14 Feb 2008 12:53:59 GMT
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First, Trell has to decide whether to refinish.Restoration will lower any possible antique value. A thorough cleaning would be fine, tho. Just a few drops of Dawn in 2 cups of warm water applied with a damp, not wet, white cloth. Keep wiping until the cloth comes way clean, then rinse with damp, not wet cloth and wipe dry.Ordinarily, this would be followed by paste wax, Johnsons or Antiquax, but the crazing of the lacquer means some wax would remain in the cracks and be unsightly. If the lacquer is on tight, the wax can be brushed with a soft brush like you'd use to buff shoes and that will fix whatever wax remains. An intermediate way to restore the finish if antique value isn't important would be to use Behlen's Qualarenu to dissolve and re-form the old lacquer.Full re-finishing would involve stripping the lacquer with lacquer thinner and then professional re-spraying. You'd want to carefully choose a refinish shop for that, veneer damage is a real possibility.I'd have a reputable antique refinisher recommended by a good antique dealer in to look at the piece. Hard to tell from a photo but the veneer looks so good and so lovely I'd just clean and wax.

Subject: Re: 1944 Philco Radio
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 14 Feb 2008 18:37:08 GMT
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Excellent advice, Bill, thanks!

Subject: Re: 1944 Philco Radio
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 14 Feb 2008 18:51:22 GMT
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No big deal. I was just sayin' The folks at Audio Karma are pretty cool. Lots of overlap between groups. Can't believe they set their AKfest this year for the same weekend as LSAF though. We've scheduled the first weekend in May since 2005. What an oversight!Hey - What Zenith radio do you have? I have a couple TransOceanics. I love them!
My Radio page

Subject: Re: 1944 Philco Radio
Posted by Shane on Fri, 15 Feb 2008 04:03:35 GMT
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It's a Zenith K731. Pretty common late model radio. I still have yet to refurbish the electronics though. It looks good except for the cane grill on the front which is glued on crooked from the factory and the tuning indicator wants to go crooked when dialing in a station. Here's some pics.http://img.photobucket.com/albums/v347/shaneybob/Frontwebsize.jpghttp://img.photobucket.com/albums/v347/shaneybob/Chassistopwebsize.jpgI also have a a huge GE L-916 that was my stepmom's father's. The whole thing needs restored from the ground up. Most of the veneer is good, but there are some chips that would be impossible to fix and it's missing a knob. I have no idea how old it is, but it has two MC and a KC band on it which means nothing to me as I know squat about radios. The MC channels have London, Havana, etc....aircraft, police, military.....Oh, by the way, nice radios!!! My parents also have a huge old Crosley that has dials and such as yours, but up top of the cabinet as it's a big floorstander.

Subject: Re: 1944 Philco Radio
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 15 Feb 2008 05:28:25 GMT
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Very cool, Shane. The "KC" on the dial means KiloCycles, same as KiloHertz. Tune in 710 on that puppy at midnight and you'll be listeing to the Art Bell show on KGNC. Similarly, "MC" means MegaCycles, which means you can tune in the shortwave band. I think old tube radios that tune shortwave are especially cool. And some of them are incredibly sensitive, surprisingly so. My TransOceanics pull in everything and rival the best modern receivers in sensitivity, selectivity and even stability. You'd expect the old radios would drift more than the new ones, and some old radios do. But the best ones are surprising how well they do.

Subject: Re: 1944 Philco Radio
Posted by Trell7369 on Tue, 19 Feb 2008 15:10:35 GMT
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Thanks Wayne for coming to look at the radio.