

The list:

10. Model 40-201

A very large console which has a very cool design, and is a great performer also.

9. Model 19/89

I'm lumping both of these together because they are basically identical except for one thing: the 19 has a shadowmeter, while the 89 does not. Sure, they can be difficult to restore...but once you get used to the fact that you will have to rewind the antenna, RF and oscillator coils, these will reward you with excellent performance, especially for a six-tube radio.

8. Model 90

What can I say about the 90 that hasn't been said already? This is **the classic of classics...the radio most people think of whenever they think of an old radio.** Not a Zenith Walton tombstone...not an E.H. Scott...but a Philco 90.

7. Model 118

A classic eight tube set, the 118 only has two bands but offers superb performance with its 10 watt Super Class A audio output circuit.

6. Model 650

The successor to Model 118, this set offers performance equal to Model 118. With four bands instead of two, though, the 650 is a bit more versatile. Its only flaw is that one band is basically wasted - it receives nothing until you get to the high end of the dial scale, where frequency numbers suddenly appear - 2.3 to 2.5 mc, which was the "police" band when this set was new.

5. Model 16B, 5-band

One of Philco's real winners, this set uses 11 tubes and picks up AM and shortwave up to 23 mc in five bands. It also includes a variable squelch control with a switch on the side of the cabinet, which Philco called "Quiet Automatic Volume Control" or QAVC.

4. Model 37-116

A popular 1937 console model which featured High Fidelity reception. Philco pioneered high fidelity in radio, offering the industry's first High Fidelity receiver in June 1934 for the 1935 season (Model 200X).

3. Model 116B

Without a doubt, this was one of the best table model Philco sets ever made. It uses 11 tubes, and early models in the huge, shouldered cabinet used a 10-1/2 inch speaker. A less popular model is the late version, issued at mid-season 1936, in a different cabinet using an 8 inch speaker.

2. Model 16B, 4-band

This model is basically the same as the 116, except it does not have the long wave band. This set tunes the AM band and shortwave up to 22.5 mc in four bands. The toggle switch was retained on the side of the cabinets, only now it switched bass compensation on and off. This 16 no longer had a squelch (QAVC) circuit, but it had an RF amplifier instead, making this a hotter receiver.

1. Model 38-690

The epitome of Philco radio development, the 38-690 had it all - High Fidelity reception, 20 tubes, 20 watt audio output using push-pull 6L6G tubes, Automatic Tuning, Magnetic Tuning. The best of the best. Its audio circuitry can outperform the similar 37-690 from the previous season, although the 1937 model had a better-looking cabinet that looks more like a piece of fine furniture.