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Retro Radio: Six Decades of Design 1920s-1970s

Mike Tauber

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Mike Tauber : Retro Radio: Six Decades of Design 1920s-1970s before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Retro Radio: Six Decades of Design 1920s-1970s:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Disappointment....Radio Book Could Have Been Much MoreBy libertyguyOver the years, I have enjoyed acquiring books on collectibles....mostly of the radio and phonograph hobbies. When I saw this book introduced, I was thrilled at the chance to add to my collection and find a book that would show some of the designs and beauty of early radios. Unfortunately, I could not have been more disappointed. The author did not spend a lot of research time garnering pictures from a variety of collectors and showing exquisite samples. Rather, he took one man's accumulation of radios....the good, the bad, and the ugly. Thus, you see radios with missing veneer, torn grill cloths, and rather ordinary radios. To add further insult, the pages with the pictures are blank. There is no information on the radio....no manufacturer, date of manufacture, information about the design....nothing. You just have some good pictures of some very poor radios. There are a couple of exceptions, but it is rare that I am this disappointed with a purchase. When I consider all that this book could have been and what it offers, I believe that the book garners a rating of 1 star. Hopefully someone else will release a proper book showing the industrial design, art deco, beautiful mirrors, veneers, and gorgeous catalin varieties which are the heritage of the radio era. This book is not one of them!2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Nice photos but little elseBy CubfanBasically a photo album with no detailed information about the radio pictured in the main part of the book. If you want to know what year the radio was made you have to look it up in the index, but even that won't tell you the company that made the radio. That info would be helpful since some of the older radios have no nameplate on the front. So if you want details this isn't the book for you.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Radio images'By SnNice book for a radio aficionado. Great photography in this book.

Before television and MTV, the radio was central in the home, a way for the family to gather to hear the news or listen to music. At one time, the radio was a piece of hand-crafted wood furniture and limited stations fell silent during part of the day. Over 175 images provide an impressive visual journey through the radio's aesthetic history reflecting all the major design changes across the years. The images also reveal the diversity of materials, textures, colors, shapes, and sizes of radios of earlier ages. It ranges from the 1920s tabletop wooden console models in the classic bread box, cathedral, and tombstone styles, the wooden and early Bakelite and Catalin plastic art deco models of the 1930s to the 1950s, on to the 1950s thermoplastic models in modern styling, and the transistors that ascended to prominence in the 1950s and beyond. Reintroducing machines that few people see anymore and perhaps hardly know existed, this fascinating book restores the once state-of-the-art machines' aesthetic glory.

About the Author Mike Tauber is an award-winning photographer specializing in portraiture, travel, interiors, and architecture. He shoots worldwide for both magazines and commercial clients from his base in New York City. Ron Simon is curator of radio and television at the Paley Center for Media and was a contributor to the Encyclopedia of Radio.