

MODELS AC-61 AND AC-70

Early in 1931, the Junior was superseded by the Model AC-61 shown in Figure 2, which sold for \$55.50. The 7-tube Model AC-70, shown in Figure 3, was introduced at the same time. Offered with a matching table as a console, its price was \$79.50.



Figure 2. The Clarion Model AC-61



Figure 3. The Clarion Model AC-70

The AC-61 has much in common with the AC-60, but the main difference is the volume control circuit. This was changed to one varying grid bias on the RF and detector tubes, thereby shorting out the input signal at the antenna.

The AC-70 is very similar to the AC-61, and indeed, all three chassis will interchange in the three cabinets. A Type 27 tube was added to the lineup as a detector. A Type 24 tube functioning as an untuned RF stage was added ahead of the detector. This feature is, I am quite sure, unique to this set.

SUMMARY

These early Clarion midget sets are easily recognized by the asymmetrical placement of the tuning dial and controls. The cabinet designs are quite distinctive. The chassis are very well built and heavily plated as are the antenna and RF coils. A bulkhead underneath the chassis separates RF and AF circuitry and adds additional strength to the chassis. Clarion called it "battleship construction."

All three are very good performers. They are very sensitive, and the tuned filters and well designed speakers provide excellent fidelity for that time. Clarion boasted of "98% pure tone."

There are a few other considerations when working on these sets. The interstage transformer is specially designed for the AC-60 and AC-61, since the push-pull output stage is driven by a Type 24 tube rather than a Type 27 tube. The use of a substitute interstage transformer adversely affects reproduction.

Another problem is the use of a potted filter unit. The two chokes and, depending on the model, the five, seven or eight capacitors are in a single container; therefore, replacement is difficult and messy.

TCA also sold these models under the Camden brand name on an aftermarket basis. Clarion quit making radios in its Chicago plant and moved to 69 Wooster Street, New York City, in 1934. Later Clarions were manufactured by the Warwick Manufacturing Company of Chicago well after World War II. The Clarion name can still be found in the U. S., but the radios are made in Japan.

Reference:

Radio Retailing, June 1930.

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Frank Heathcote has been a collector since high school. Later, while in the Air Force, he began to ship radios home to his reluctant father for storage in the attic. Frank's primary interest is in the more obscure and foreign cathedral/mantel sets. He and his wife Diana have served as officers of the Indiana Historical Radio Society.