

# Deciphering TV-Radio Model & Chassis Numbers

Guide To Chassis and Model Numbers Aids Servicing, Parts Ordering, Finding Data, And Identifying Sets.

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• What do the numbers on TV and radio sets mean? Do you get them, or do they get you? Sometimes they pack a load of information and sometimes they are meaningless. Sometimes they are an orderly alphabetical and numerical arrangement, and sometimes they are a hopeless, chaotic and disjointed mess of hieroglyphics. Some manufacturers admit that a state of hopeless confusion exists and that something should be done about it. An orderly and planned system of numbering can do much to simplify inventory control, billing, ordering and even selling. The technician's life would be much easier if he could identify a set easily, file and find schematics, and know in a flash what set a customer or distributor has in mind when a number is mentioned.

All is not lost, thanks to the Electronic Industry Association, located at 1721 De Sales St. N. W., Washington 6, D. C., and to some individual manufacturers, a system has been developed. Actually, several different systems have materialized over the years. So far as the technician is concerned the serial numbers (as differentiated from model numbers) which are placed on a set for accounting purposes only, might be considered as useless, and only tend to complicate matters even more; but even these numbers may offer a clue as to vintage and run. Most schemes consist of a combination of letters and numbers, and some have only numbers. Besides the serial number, there are three other numbers likely to be encountered:

1—The model number of the complete unit may give details as to the types of cabinet, style, and finish, and may also indicate if it is a radio or TV, portable or fixed, year of production, size of CRT, etc.;

2—The chassis number, in most cases the most important one to the technician, indicates the actual piece of electronic equipment used. Schematics, technical information and parts required may be ascertained by being able to identify the chassis. Some model TV sets may come equipped with any one of a number of different chassis, and by the same logic, or lack of it, a chassis may be fitted into many different models.

The chassis number may also indicate size of CRT, number of tubes, VHF only or UHF/VHF, year of production, etc.;

3—Run numbers may or may not be indicated. Some set makers use letters after the chassis number, others may use R1, R2, R3, etc. and still others may use just numbers. As was pointed out earlier, sometimes the serial number may be a clue to the run number. The run number designates electrical and mechanical changes. In many cases an earlier run set may be upgraded in the field by installing some of the modifications a manufacturer used to stabilize or otherwise improve a set's performance.

One other set of numbers appear on most major components and the chassis itself. That is the Electronic Industries Association Production Source Code. It is a standard numeric symbol, assigned and registered by EIA headquarters. Manufacturers may stamp or mark any or all of their products to identify the production source. In addition to the standard code, which usually consists of 3 or 4 numbers, a date code may be added. However, in most cases, it should not be necessary to trace a component further back than the producer of the completed consumer product. In many instances the technician, by applying some of these numbering principles and studying a group of numbers, may be able to decipher and obtain the intelligence hidden in these codes. About the best advice one can follow, when lost in the maze of digits, is to contact the manufacturer directly.

Another advantage to knowing the manufacturer's system of numbering may help identify the chassis, even when the numbers are obliterated. The Guide To Model and Chassis Numbers Chart, presented here, is in most cases self explanatory. In the interest of presenting as large a cross-section of the industry's endeavors to identify their products, in a rapid and convenient form for reference purposes, some details were omitted from the chart and presented in the text. For one reason or another, certain details of some of the numbering systems, were not available at the time of writing.

Highlights of the different systems used by different set producers follow:

## Andrea

The combination numbering system applies to both radio and TV chassis and in a general way to hi-fi. The latter portion of the model number includes the chassis number.

## Du Mont

A personal touch is added by giving each TV set a name. From Allenby to Winthrop past Newport, Riviera and Versailles, the road is fortunately identified with RA numbers. RA in this case stands for Receiver Apparatus. The numbers run in sequence from RA-101 up to the latest RA-406/407, and represent the order of engineering development. When two numbers are combined as in RA-402/403, the first number stands for a VHF set only and the second is for a VHF/UHF version. Earlier sets used a sticker or metal plate attached to the chassis for identification. Later sets have a serial number stamped on the rear panel. The first 3 numbers of a 9 digit configuration is the RA number from RA-301 on.

## Emerson

Both model and chassis numbers are basically all numerical, and do

not indicate size of picture tube, type of chassis, etc. The first digits of the TV chassis number are meaningless to the technician. Both radio and TV chassis carry the same first 3 digits (120). The last 3 digits indicate the order of release of different chassis. One consolation perhaps is that within the past year and a half to two years, radio model numbers are under 1000 and TV models are over 1000.

## General Electric

TV—A new numbering sequence, started recently, identifies size of CRT, type of cabinet, chassis, and cabinet color, style and finish. Chassis styles run from the letters A to U with some pauses for double lettered jobs such as EE, MM, etc. More recent chassis whose circuitry is similar to previous issues but have mechanical differences bear Q2, M3, U2, etc., designations.

Radio—All new table models to be introduced within the next few years will run numerically from 100 to 399. Clock radios will run numerically between 400 and 699. Portable radios between 700 and 999. Provision is made to identify 5 different colors.

## Hoffman

A new model numbering system was put into use with the introduction of the 1956 line of TV receivers. It was designed to cut down the quantity of numbers required.

## Hotpoint

The letter S is used in the model numbering system to designate the TV receiver as a Hotpoint product. Because they are a division of the General Electric Co., many similarities appear. The chassis used in 1957 and 1958 productions are designated as follows:

Chassis	CRT	Year
MM	17"	1956-57
M3	17" & 21"	1958
Q	14"	1957
Q2	14"	1958
T	9"	1957
U	21" & 24"	1957
U2	21" & 24"	1958

Production runs are identified as early or late production.

## Magnavox

In addition to chassis numbers, there are model numbers and style numbers. The easiest way to dig out the service data, in the absence of the manufacturer's service manual index and service manuals, is to go according to chassis numbers. Several descriptive letters in front of the number help identify the equipment.

Each chassis is also given a series number. These numbers are included in some chassis numbers and are preceded by a letter V or U, which stands for VHF or UHF/VHF respectively. The series 21 chassis might appear as V-21-02CB. Other meanings are built into these numbers, for example the 02 in this case, in addition to other things, indicate a 24-inch CRT, as does 04, 06, 07, and 10. Numbers 01, 03, 05, 08, 11, and 12 indicate a 21-inch tube plus other changes. However, these numbers do not have the same meaning in other series TV sets.

## Montgomery Ward

A 4-digit number which is part of the company's uniform article numbering system, is used to identify both radio and TV. The higher the number, the more recent the set.

## Olympic

Chassis identification is relatively simple. An alphabetical sequence is used such as GA, GB, etc. HB, HC,

HD, etc. will probably follow GZ as new chassis are produced. Combinations of letters which spell words or have other connotations such as HA are avoided. If the letter U is added, it represents UHF/VHF.

Upgraded and deluxe sets usually carry a higher letter in the alphabetical order. Run numbers and EIA date-source code are stamped on the chassis.

## RCA

TV—Model numbers on sets from 1951 to date have followed a fairly stable pattern. They indicate size of CRT, general price classification and model details. Chassis numbers are perhaps the most important to the technician for servicing purposes. Black and white TV chassis have a KCS designation, such as KCS 107. Some other letters and their meanings as used on and around the TV chassis are:

KRK	Miscellaneous TV assembly used on r-f tuners, optical barrels, etc.
CTC	Color TV chassis.
KC	Prewar TV chassis.
KK	Prewar TV power unit.
KRS	Postwar TV power units (mostly with projection TV).
RC	Radio tuner chassis with or without power supply.
RK	Miscellaneous radio assembly. RK-121 is AM-FM tuner unit. RK-203 is earphone attachment for transistor radio.
RP	Record playing mechanism.
RS	Radio power unit with or without audio amplifier.

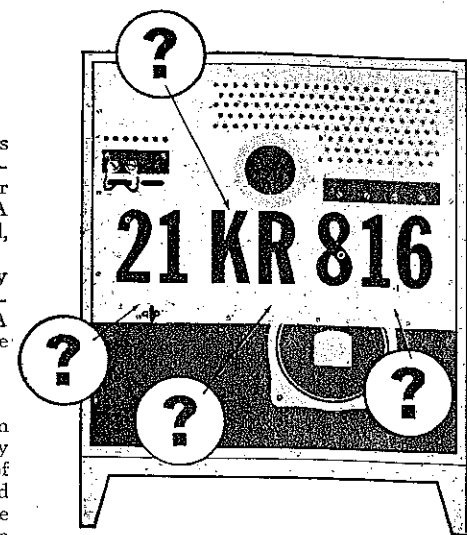
Radio—Model numbers cannot be used to determine year of manufacture or number of tubes. A combination of letters and numbers, such as 6-XF-9, are used. The letters do have a meaning as follows:

C	Clock radio. (In prewar years denoted console radio).
X	AC-DC
BX	Batt-AC-DC
RF	Power trans
XF	AC-DC, AM-FM
BT	Battery transistor (Previously denoted battery table radio.)
HF	High-fidelity
JS	3 or 4-speed attachment
JD	2-speed attachment (45-33).
JY	"45" attachment.
EMP	Electrical - manual - portable record player.
TR	Tape recorder.
EY	Electrical "45" record player.

Sylvania

TV—The serial numbers are quite interesting in that they are also packed with information. Service literature would be coded 537-1 for the example used in the chart.

Radio—The first two digits of the



four used for radio and phono models have some meaning. The last two numbers are for factory use.

In addition a suffix letter is used to designate color.

Table Model Radios	
Leader	11
Deluxe	12
Super Deluxe	13
Clock Radios	
Leader	21
Deluxe	22
Super Deluxe	23
Portable Radios (3 way or battery only)	
Miniature	31
Leader	32
Deluxe	33
Super Deluxe	34
Phonographs	
Table Model	41
Base Model	—
(For use with TV)	42
Console	43
Portable	44
Radio-Phono Combinations	
Radio-Phono Portable	45
Radio-Phono Table Model	46
Radio-Phono Console	47
Radio-Phono—Tape Recorder Combinations	
Radio-Phono—Tape Recorder Console	48
Tape Recorders	
Tape Recorder Portable	49

## Trav-ler

There is no set procedure for identifying radio and phonograph model numbers. Clock radios do have the letter C inserted in the model number, as in 56C42. Transistor radios have the letters TR preceding the numerical portion as in TR-250.

## Tru-tone

The model numbers consist of a 4-digit number preceded by a prefix. These sets are made for and merchandised by Western Auto Supply Co. •

List of companies covered in this report. See Guide To Radio and TV Model Numbers.

Manufacturer or Prime Source	EIA Production Source Code Number	Manufacturer or Prime Source	EIA Production Source Code Number
Admiral Corporation 3800 W. Cortland St., Chicago 47, Ill.	101	Montgomery Ward 618 W. Chicago St., Chicago 7, Ill.	—
Andrea Radio Corp. 27-01 Bridge Plaza, North Long Island City 1, N. Y.	113	Motorola, Inc. 4545 Augusta Blvd., Chicago 51, Ill.	185
Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, Inc. 35 Market St., East Paterson, N. J.	158	Olympic Radio & Television 34-01 38th Ave., Long Island City 1, N. Y.	200
Emerson Radio & Phonograph Corp. 14th & Coles Streets Jersey City 2, N. J.	171	Philco Corp. Tioga & C Streets Philadelphia 34, Pa.	260
General Electric Co. Electronics Park, Syracuse, N. Y.	188	Radio Corp. of America Camden 8, N. J.	274
The Hallicrafters Co. 5th & Kostner Ave., Chicago 24, Ill.	199	Sylvania Electric Products, Inc. 700 Ellicott St., Batavia, N. Y.	312
Hoffman Electronics Corp. 6200 S. Avalon Blvd., Los Angeles 3, Calif.	207	Trav-ler Radio Corp. 571 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago 6, Ill.	320
Hotpoint Co. 5600 W. Taylor St., Chicago 44, Ill.	—	Western Auto Supply Co. (Tru-tone) 2107 Grand Ave., Kansas City 8, Mo.	—
The Magnavox Co. Fort Wayne 4, Ind.	232	Westinghouse Electric Corp. TV-Radio Division Meluchen, N. J.	337
		Zenith Radio Corp. 6801 Dickens Ave., Chicago 39, Ill.	343

# Guide To Radio & TV Model Numbers

**ADMIRAL** EIA Code 101

**RADIO MODEL**  
 NUMBER OF TUBES OR TRANSISTORS: **5 A 4 3** CABINET FINISH

CHASSIS NUMBER

**TV MODEL**  
**P H 1 4 D 1 1**  
 C-CONSOLE L-LOWBOY P-PORTABLE T-TABLE H-HIGH FIDELITY R-REMOTE CONTROL CRT SIZE

**TV CHASSIS**  
**1 9 S Z 4 F S**  
 NUMBER OF TUBES IF USED 41MC IF OTHERWISE 21MC IF MODEL VARIATIONS ENGINEERING NUMBER

**ANDREA\*** EIA Code 113

**TV & RADIO MODEL**  
 CABINET FINISH: B-BLONDE W-WALNUT E-EBONY F-FRUITWOOD M-MAHOGANY  
 V-TV R-RADIO  
 CHASSIS TYPE  
 SIZE OF PICTURE TUBE OR NUMBER OF TUBES IF IT'S A RADIO CHASSIS

**B-CO-V P-21 K**  
 CABINET STYLE REVISIONS  
 CO-COMBINATION T-TABLE MODEL C-CONSOLE MC-MODERN CONSOLE 2C-CABINET w/DOORS or SPCL.CABINET

**DUMONT\*** EIA Code 158

**EMERSON\*** EIA Code 171

**GENERAL ELECTRIC\*** EIA Code 188

**TV MODEL**  
 CRT SIZE: **1 7 P 1 3 3 0**  
 T-TABLE P-PORTABLE C-CONSOLE COLOR, STYLE & FINISH

CHASSIS  
 2-Q2 3-M3, 17" CRT 4-M3, 21" CRT 5-U2

**RADIO MODEL**  
**P 7 2 5**  
 T-TABLE C-CLOCK P-PORTABLE COLOR MODEL

**HALLICRAFTERS** EIA Code 199

**TV MODEL**  
 CRT SIZE: **2 1 K T 6 4 0 B**  
 K-CONSOLE T-TABLE B-BLONDE M-MAHOGANY

T-TOP TUNING F-FRONT TUNING S-SIDE TUNING ENGINEERING MODEL

**HOFFMAN\*** EIA Code 207

**TV MODEL**  
 P-CHERRYWOOD OR PROVINCIAL FINISH W-WALNUT M-MAHOGANY B-BLONDE  
 CRT SIZE: 7-17" 1-21" 4-24"  
**M U 1 0 2 4 C** RUN  
 If Used, U-UHF/VHF  
 1-B & W TABLE 2-COLOR TABLE 3-B & W OPEN-FACE CONSOLE 4-COLOR OPEN-FACE CONSOLE 5-B & W HALF-DOOR CONSOLE 6-COLOR HALF-DOOR CONSOLE 7-B & W FULL-DOOR CONSOLE 8-HI-FI 800-AMPL. & SPKR. ONLY 8000-Includes AM Fm Tuner 9-B & W COMBINATION 10-COLOR COMBINATION

**HOTPOINT\***

**TV MODEL**  
 CRT SIZE: **2 1 S 4 0 5**  
 ENGINEERING NUMBER CABINET FINISH  
 COMPANY DESIGNATION  
 3-PORTABLE 4-TABLE 5-CONSOLE 6-LOWBOY 8-CONSOLE

**MAGNAVOX\*** EIA Code 232

**TV MODEL**  
 T-VHF U-VHF/UHF CONVERTER MU-VHF UHF TUNER R-RADIO  
**C T A 4 5 8 A A**  
 AMP-AMPLIFIER AA BA BB Different Versions of the Same Chassis  
 A-AUDIO OUTPUT STAGE B-USES AUDIO OUTPUT OF RADIO E-NO AUDIO OUTPUT, BUT HAS TONE & VOL. CONTROLS D-SEPARATE AUDIO AMPLIF.

**MONTGOMERY WARD\***

1-PORTABLE TABLE RADIO PORTABLE PHONO  
 2-HI-FI RADIO CONSOLES PHONO  
 3-TV PRIOR TO 1954  
 4-TABLE & PORT. TV  
 5-CONSOLE TV  
**4 0 4 1** STOCK NUMBER  
 IN TV SETS: 0-UHF 1-UHF/VHF

**MOTOROLA** EIA Code 185

**RADIO MODEL**  
 NUMBER OF TUBES: **5 7 C D 2**  
 TV CHASSIS W,R,Y,T, WHEN USED, MECHANICAL DIFFERENCES  
**W T S - 5 3 8 A - 0 1**  
 ENGINEERING NUMBER  
 TV MODEL  
 If Used, UHF/VHF: **Y A 2 1 C 5 B**  
 CRT SIZE  
 P-PORTABLE T-TABLE K-CONSOLE C-CONSOLETTA  
 WHEN USED, CLOCK RADIO CABINET FINISH  
 MINOR ELECTRICAL REVISIONS  
 A,B,C, etc.-MAJOR ELECTRICAL REVISIONS Y-UHF TUNER

**OLYMPIC\*** EIA Code 200

**TV MODEL**  
 CRT SIZE: 14-14" 17-17" 1-21" 4-24"  
**I K D 8 2 B F**  
 FINISH: F-FM U-UHF/VHF FU-FM/UHF  
 CHASSIS: **I A 1 0 0**  
 ENGINEERING NUMBER  
 CABINET TYPE CRT SIZE

**PHILCO** EIA Code 260

**TV CHASSIS**  
 CRT SIZE: E-14" H-17" L-21" P-24"  
 ENGINEERING NUMBER: **8 L 7 1 U**  
 YEAR OF PRODUCTION  
 CHASSIS TYPE: 2-PORTABLE 4&5-STANDARD 7-DELUX 10-COLOR  
 If Used, UHF/VHF

**TV MODEL**  
**U F 4 2 1 6 L**  
 If Used, UHF/VHF CRT SIZE CABINET TYPE  
 YEAR OF PRODUCTION

**RCA-VICTOR\*** EIA Code 274

**TV MODEL**  
 CRT SIZE: 2-14" 3-17" 4-21" 6-24"  
**2 4 - C D - 7 5 4 5 U**  
 D, S or T - GENERAL PRICE RANGE  
 C-If Used, COLOR  
 If Used, UHF/VHF CABINET FINISH

**SYLVANIA\*** EIA Code 312

**TV MODEL**  
 CRT SIZE, As Indicated, Except 21" Color is 31  
 ENGINEERING NUMBER: **2 1 C 5 1 3 M U P**  
 If Used, UHF/VHF  
 If Used, POWER TUNING  
 P-PORTABLE T-TABLE M-MODULAR TABLE C-OPEN CONSOLE D-CONSOLE w/DOORS R-CONSOLE COMBINATION  
 CABINET FINISH: A-BEIGE B-BLONDE L-BLUE J-BROWN E-EBONY (Black) D-GRAY, Dk. (Incl. Charcoal) F-GRAY, Lt. G-GREEN H-IVORY J-BROWN M-MAHOGANY C-CHARTREUSE E-EBONY (Black) D-GRAY, Dk. (Incl. Charcoal) R-RED S-TAN T-TURQUOISE W-WALNUT Z-WHITE Y-YELLOW X-GOLD Q-PINK  
**TV CHASSIS**  
**5 3 7 1 0 1 2 3 3 4 0 4 8**  
 ENGINEERING NUMBER  
 TUNER DESIGNATION CODE  
 FOR FACTORY INFORMATION ELECTRICAL REVISION CODE

**TRAV-LER\*** EIA Code 320

**TV MODEL**  
 YEAR OF PRODUCTION: **7 2 1 - K - 6 1 1 U**  
 CRT SIZE UHF/VHF  
 CABINET TYPE: K-CONSOLE LP-COMBINATION MT-METAL TABLE T-TABLE TL-TABLE w/LEGS CABINETRY

**TV CHASSIS**  
**7 4 0 - 1 7**  
 CHASSIS/BLANK TUNER No. (Prior to 1957 Indicated a Change in Circuitry) YEAR OF PRODUCTION MODIFICATION

**TRUETONE\***

D-RADIO OR PHONO 20-TV  
 SELLING YEAR: **D 1 8 4 4**  
 CABINET STYLE: 1-CONSOLE 2-TABLE 3-PORTABLE 4-AUTO RADIO 5-PHONOGRAPH  
 COLOR OR MODEL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURER

**WESTINGHOUSE** EIA Code 337

**TV MODEL**  
 CRT SIZE: **2 1 K R 1 9 0**  
 K-CONSOLE T-TABLE OR PORTABLE C-COMBINATION  
 R-PROVISIONS FOR REMOTE CONTROL MODEL, COLOR, Etc.

**RADIO MODEL**  
 MODEL, COLOR, Etc.: **5 8 7 P 7**  
 TYPE OF RADIO: T-TABLE MODEL P-PORTABLE C-CONSOLE R-PROVISIONS FOR RECORD PLAYER PR-PORTABLE RECORD PLAYER  
 NUMBER OF TUBES OR TRANSISTORS

**ZENITH** EIA Code 343

**TV MODEL**  
 YEAR OF PRODUCTION: Z-1957 A-1958  
 CRT SIZE: 15-14" 18-17" 22 or 23-21" 26-24"  
**A 1 5 1 0 L**  
 TYPE OF CABINET: 10 TO 30-TABLE 31 and UP-CONSOLE  
 CABINET COLOR  
 ENGINEERING NUMBER

**TV CHASSIS**  
**1 5 A 2 5 Q**  
 SPACE COMMAND: 30-w/21" 40-w/24"  
 U-UHF/VHF Q-EQUIPPED w/SPACE COMMAND  
 NUMBER OF TUBES YEAR OF PRODUCTION

**RADIO CHASSIS**  
**7 Z 2 0**  
 CABINET COLOR OR FINISH

\* See Text for More Details

\* See Text for More Details