

The 30's Decade

1930-1939

By Don Kresge

This was the period when technical improvements dominated the industry. These improvements were, of course, modified by public acceptance thru sales. The major ones are listed below.

Great improvement of vacuum tubes, such as new and multiple elements, envelopes as well as special bases, very low current battery tubes, tubes for very high frequency applications and many more. All of which advanced radio performance greatly.

While the superhetrodyne circuit came from an earlier decade, its performance was very highly developed during this period. For example, short wave reception or World Band Radio became almost as commonly used as local broadcasts.

AFC or Automatic Frequency Control became so advanced that push-button tuning became practical, as well as systems of automatic tuning.

AVC or Automatic Volume Control became a part of even the smallest set so that adjustment of volume control became minimal. Fading signals almost became a thing of the past.

Audio improvements made the full range of sound practical and encouraged the use of large consoles to augment it. Even small table model's sound was very much improved. Records were electronically reproduced and introduced into consoles and even smaller sets.

Also, near the close of this decade, FM was introduced. It was very controversial at this time; being much opposed and de-rated by some manufacturers, and highly touted and promoted by others. By the end of the decade, its future didn't look too good, but its promoters were not about to give up.

For more information about the author or this document, please send email to the Alabama Historical Radio Society at ahrs@AlabamaHistoricalRadioSociety.org or visit our website at AlabamaHistoricalRadioSociety.org