



IN THE MID 1980's I STARTED NOTICING WOODEN TABLETOP TUBE RADIOS AT ANTIQUE SHOWS THAT SHARED A MACHINE AGE AND ART MODERNE ESTHETIC WITH ARCHITECTURE OF THE 30'S. BUT THEY WERE TOO LARGE FOR MY CITY APARTMENT. I MUST HAVE OWNED A TRANSISTOR RADIO WHEN I WAS A KID BECAUSE I CAN REMEMBER LISTENING TO THE FAINT SIGNAL OF JEAN SHEPHERD'S RADIO PROGRAM ON WOR-NY FROM MY BUNK AT SUMMER CAMP 100 MILES AWAY.

I DISCOVERED SMALLER TUBE RADIOS AND PURCHASED THE RED CROSLY IN 1999. WITH THE PHILCO 'BOOMERANG' I REALIZED THAT MY DISPLAY SPACE WAS STILL TOO LIMITED TO COLLECT ANY FURTHER BUT WHEN I DISCOVERED SHIRT POCKET TRANSISTOR RADIOS WITH STYLE, IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT. I STOPPED COLLECTING WHEN THE DISPLAY SHELVES REACHED THE CEILING. THE REALTONES CAUGHT MY EYE FIRST. THE TOSHIBAS WERE NEXT BUT OVER TIME HAVE COME TO FEEL THAT THOUGH EYE-CATCHING THEY LACK SUBTLETY (THOUGH THEY HAVE GREAT PACKAGING).

THE STANDARDS WERE POINTED OUT BY ALAN KASTNER AND ARE SOLIDLY BUILT WITH TERRIFIC DESIGNS. I'M NOT MUCH INTO THE ELECTRONICS OF THE RADIOS AS YOU CAN SURELY TELL BY NOW. IT'S FINE WHEN THEY WORK OR IF THEY COME WITH ACCESSORIES AND BOXES BUT IT'S NOT MY FOCUS. COMPARE THE AMERICAN MADE EMERSON 888's TO THE JAPANESE REALTONE 803's MADE IN THE SAME YEAR. ANY WONDER THAT THEY BEAT US AT OUR OWN GAME?