

Kilbourne & Clark kit box
Transmitter & Receiver No. 6
boxtop restoration for museum display

Herewith some wood and paper preservation techniques;
“Your mileage may vary...”



A century ago, Killbourne and Clark of Seattle sold enormous amounts of wireless gear up through World War One. By 1922 it was out of business.

In about 1919 it entered the market for kits of parts to be assembled into a low power wireless telegraphy outfit for boys (whose parents could afford it).

This is a quick story about restoring a labeled box top from kit no. 6 for possible display of parts and interpretive materials in the CHRS Radio Central museum in Alameda .

By Bart Lee, K6VK, a CHRS Fellow in History (2017)

Kilbourne & Clark kit box
Transmitter & Receiver No. 6
boxtop restoration



<< As Found by
Richard Watts,
who asked: Can
anything be done
with this?

Note: Seattle and San *Francisco* [c. 1919]

The compartmented box
in which the kit came



Cleaning the grunge of a century
off the fragile paper label:



This is an “artist’s Eraser” very carefully applied. It does remove dirt and some stain, and brightens color.

Taking grunge off the wood,
working carefully around the label:



Restoring some color to the original old stain on the wood:



The idea here is NOT to refinish the wood. It should show its age.

The idea is to respect the wood after all it's been through in nearly a century.

Tibet Almond Stick applies a liquid that “amalgamates” what’s left of the original finish. This liquefies it some, thus filling some scratches, and it brightens up the original finish considerably. **Use in a ventilated area...**

A final touch-up by Magic Marker:



The boxtop restored:



(Here drying in direct sunlight after application of the Tibet Almond Stick)

Before and After:



A clear glass or plastic shield should go over the label, on stand-offs ...

TO MERCHANTS—We desire your help for the distribution of K-C Junior Radio.
Write for our proposition.



The Pinnacle Present for Boys

K-C Junior Radio—with a Two to Four-Mile Range—Assemble It Like Engineers Do the Large Commercial Sets—Real Apparatus for Real Boys

Nothing so grips a boy as that which challenges his imagination—the abstract—the abstract. Radio does these very things. And that is why every boy wants a set. Just think of being able to send and receive real messages—talk them into space—draw them out of space. It even challenges the mature mind. Ten thousand thousands of vigorous youngsters throughout the country have labored to produce a set with their own hands! No wonder a million or more of them stare upon every piece of literature pertaining to Radio practice! Now that thoroughly practical Radio has been made available, no boy should be denied a set.

A World Factor

The lesson is many of the biggest events of the last several years have been Radio events. And as Radio development progresses, their opportunities will increase. They will figure in thousands of world dramas. Many of them will not bring fame. History will record the names of many. Lives, ships, commerce, business firms and perhaps even nations will be saved by them. Where is there a regular boy to whom this does not appeal?

Dependent Upon Boys

Radio development is still in its infancy. But a horizon of its multiplied uses has been found. We

know this through operating the largest plant in the world for the manufacture of Commercial Radio. And that is why we are producing and selling K-C Junior Radio at prices that do not permit a normal manufacturing margin. We prefer to accept in the face of America instead of furnishing our experimental facilities. For our conviction is that the lay genius of this nation, when placed behind Radio, will greatly speed up normal developments—make accomplishments possible for this age that ordinarily would come in the far distant future. And to aid in this work, the earnest cooperation of parents is requested. We have made K-C Junior Radio available. And now, no father or mother, no teacher, should require much urging to get a set for their boy in equipment with and study.

No Toy

K-C Junior Radio resembles large commercial apparatus. Please do not confuse it with the toys you make up your own mind. K-C Junior Radio is practical through and through. It built for use as a thing you might buy now. This is to guarantee him with the fundamental Radio practice which forms possible avenue for the normal future. A set of K-C Junior Radio will develop a boy in using nothing else but a Radio set given with a real interest in his boy naturally can receive.

Send for Catalog

While we operate the largest plant in the world for the manufacture of Radio, with a limited amount of space set for the production of K-C Junior Radio. We should like to make a set for the boy in every part of America. But this is impossible. Let us then, send you a free copy of our catalog. The money that will only cost us an absolute necessity. You will find K-C Junior Radio in more interesting and convincing with us in its distribution. It costs only a few cents, but will make you think. Our catalog, showing the different sets, is free. Send for it before you see this page. Use the coupon.

Boys—Mail This Coupon Now

Kilbourne & Clark Mfg. Co., 1304 K. & C. Bldg., South, U. S. A.
Send me a copy of your catalog on 3 say show me prices for set 1-10-1919.
Name: _____
Address: _____
Give names of street post would like to see health on sets.



KILBOURNE & CLARK

—the Big Word in the Wireless World

Kit No. 6 advertisement

From Richard Watts, Saturday Evening Post, 1919

The kit and its parts:

42 NATIONAL RADIO SUPPLY COMPANY
KILBOURNE-CLARK MFG. CO.



N.C. JUNIOR RADIO SET NO. 1
List of Parts

- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Receiver
- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Tuning Indicator
- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Speaker
- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Volume Control
- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Cabinet No. 1
- 1 Set Tools
- 1 Set Literature - Complete

Shipping Data: Weight packed 22 lbs. 10 oz. Net weight 17 lbs. 10 oz. Price Complete \$25

N.C. JUNIOR RADIO SET NO. 2
List of Parts

- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Receiver
- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Tuning Indicator
- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Speaker
- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Volume Control
- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Cabinet No. 2
- 1 Set Tools
- 1 Set Literature - Complete

Shipping Data: Weight packed 22 lbs. 10 oz. Net weight 17 lbs. 10 oz. Price Complete \$25

N.C. JUNIOR RADIO SET NO. 3
List of Parts

- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Receiver
- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Tuning Indicator
- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Speaker
- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Volume Control
- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Cabinet No. 3
- 1 Set Tools
- 1 Set Literature - Complete

Shipping Data: Weight packed 22 lbs. 10 oz. Net weight 17 lbs. 10 oz. Price Complete \$25

N.C. JUNIOR RADIO SET NO. 4
List of Parts

- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Receiver
- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Tuning Indicator
- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Speaker
- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Volume Control
- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Cabinet No. 4
- 1 Set Tools
- 1 Set Literature - Complete

Shipping Data: Weight packed 22 lbs. 10 oz. Net weight 17 lbs. 10 oz. Price Complete \$25

N.C. JUNIOR RADIO SET NO. 5
List of Parts

- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Receiver
- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Tuning Indicator
- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Speaker
- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Volume Control
- 1 N.C. Junior Radio Cabinet No. 5
- 1 Set Tools
- 1 Set Literature - Complete

Shipping Data: Weight packed 22 lbs. 10 oz. Net weight 17 lbs. 10 oz. Price Complete \$25

We carry and sell Kilbourne & Clark receivers without accessories. Complete sets on request.

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
National Radio Supply Co. catalogue No. 1 - page 42

From Richard Watts

The Marine Wireless Logo of Kilbourne and Clark



Kilbourne & Clark *-the Big Word in the Wireless World*

Walter Clark organized the company about 1899, which turned to wireless shortly thereafter. Charles Kilbourne, as president, focused on marine wireless.



“During the war, the Kilbourne & Clark Company established an enviable reputation in the manufacture, distribution and maintenance of radio sets for the U. S. Shipping Board and the Emergency Fleet Corporation. Since the war, the company has continued the manufacture of radio sets, amplifiers, high voltage sets, generators, amateur radio equipment, and a general line of electrical supplies. The company was established in Seattle about 1900, maintaining [a] factory and offices [in Seattle].” (*Journal of Electricity and Western Industry*, Vo. 47, no. 10, page 400, c. 1922)

The creditors sold the plant to Westinghouse. Kilbourne and Clark, one of the great wireless companies of the 20th century, was kaput.

73 de K6VK ##