

Collins Classics

KWM-2, 30L-1 and 51S-1
History, Engineering, and Restoration

Giovanni Becattini



References

The following references are used in this book:

- [TEO] Tektronix Epic Oscilloscopes – Elektor Books
- [7KS] Tektronix 7000 Series – Elektor Books
- [TREG] Tektronix Oscilloscopes Restoration Guide – Elektor Books
- [TGHP] The Great Hewlett-Packard – free download from www.quacktech.it
- [VRE] Vintage Radio Equipment – Elektor Book
- [MAC] Apple Macintosh – History, Engineering, and Restoration – Elektor Books
- [QT602] The Good Giant – Tektronix DSA 602A Oscilloscope – Quacktech
- [QT11KP] The Last Plug-ins – Tektronix 11000-Series Plug-ins – Quacktech
- [SCLI] Some Classical Instrument – coming soon
- [QTCOL] Collins Classics – KWM-2, 30L-1 and 51S-1: History, Engineering, and Restoration – Quacktech Editions
- [QT324] Two Giants and a Shorty – Tektronix 323/324 - Quacktech

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In the Spirit of Collins



Few companies have influenced the evolution of radio communications as profoundly as the Collins Radio Company and its founder, Arthur A. Collins. It has often been said that, while Guglielmo Marconi is credited with inventing radio, Collins made it truly practical—and commercially viable.

More than an engineer, Collins was a visionary whose work shaped both technology and history. His radios, avionics, and communication systems were never merely products; they embodied a philosophy of engineering excellence that set new standards for reliability, precision, and performance.

In this book, we offer a concise introduction to Collins and to some of its most emblematic instruments. Rather than attempting a comprehensive historical survey, we explore this legacy through concrete examples: equipment designed at the end of the 1950s that later became legendary among amateurs and collectors, while also playing a significant role in diplomatic, governmental, and military communications. Among these are the KWM-2 transceiver, the 30L-1 linear amplifier, the 51S-1 receiver, and their associated accessories.

*This volume also includes a brief summary of the chapters dedicated to Collins and its products from my book *Vintage Radio Equipment*, a long-standing personal project made possible by Elektor Books International. That publication, with its exceptional print quality, fully embraced the principles of what we like to call “Technical Art Books,” an approach that this work seeks to continue.*

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*To my wife
and my family*