

**Retro~Lux**

Vintage Audio Products

USER MANUAL

*for*



**Kolster-Brandes 253**

Project No. 5056

---


## Table of Contents

1	Introduction .....	2
2	Power Connection .....	2
3	Controls .....	3
	3.1 On-Off Volume .....	3
	3.2 Tone .....	3
4	Bluetooth Operation .....	4
5	Care and Cleaning .....	5
	5.1 Positioning the Radio .....	5
	5.2 Cleaning .....	5
6	Guarantee .....	6
7	Specifications .....	6
8	History .....	7

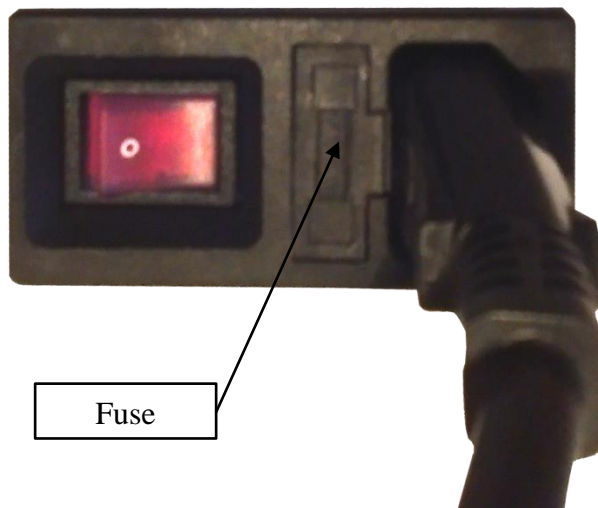
## 1 Introduction

Thank you for buying one of our beautiful radios! We hope it will provide hours of trouble-free, high quality entertainment.

Your radio is easy to set up and use and, with a few simple precautions, will continue to look good and operate efficiently for many years.

**WARNING**  
  
**ELECTRIC SHOCK RISK**  
  
This unit contains no user serviceable parts.  
Under no circumstances remove the rear panel with the mains voltage connected.

## 2 Power Connection



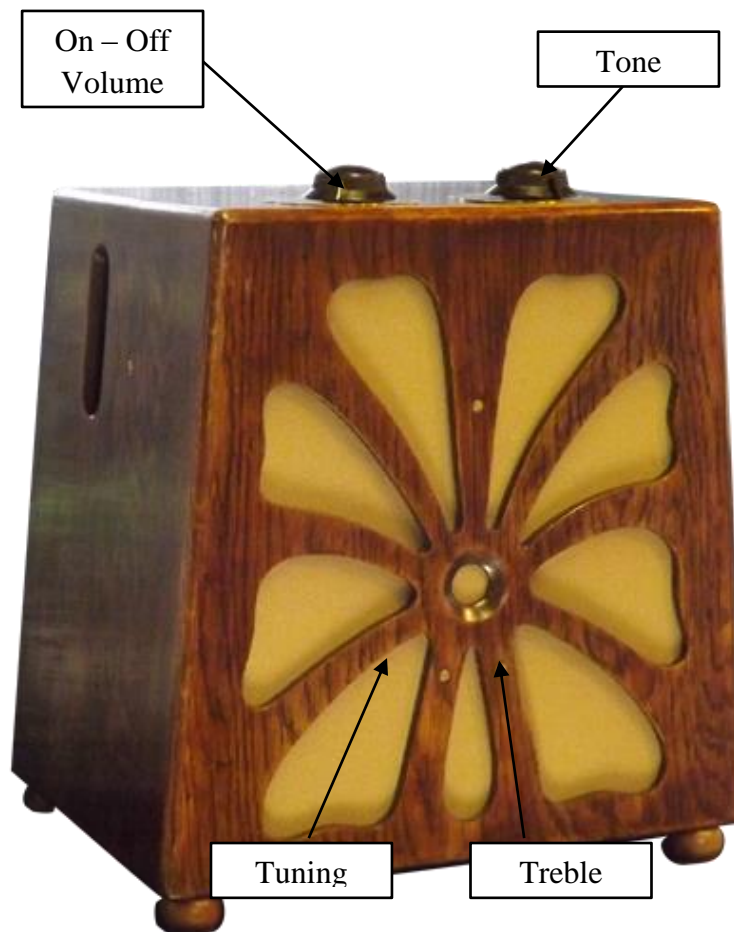
The power mains power connection is via an IEC connector fitted at the rear. Insert the supplied power lead and connect to a mains outlet. Switch on the supply at the mains outlet, and then operate the mains switch on the unit. The switch will illuminate if power is present, which means that the unit is in standby mode.

If your radio is equipped with rechargeable batteries, this is also the batteries will now be charging. Charge the batteries for at least 2 hours before running on batteries alone.

If the switch fails to illuminate, first check that the mains supply is present, then disconnect the supply and check the fuse in the mains plug and the unit inlet connector. In the unlikely event that any of the fuses have blown the unit may be faulty.

### 3 Controls

The radio controls are as shown below:



#### 3.1 On-Off Volume

Turn fully anti-clockwise to turn the radio off. Turn clockwise to firstly switch the radio on, then continue turning clockwise to increase volume.

#### 3.2 Tone

Turn anti-clockwise to increase bass and decrease treble. Turn clockwise to increase treble and decrease bass.



## 4 Bluetooth Operation

The radio requires an audio signal from a Bluetooth device such as a smartphone, tablet, laptop or PC. If your device is already paired with an audio device such as headphones or a hands-free headset you may have to un-pair it first.

Please refer to your device's instructions to place the unit in scan mode to scan for Bluetooth devices. With your device in scan mode, turn the volume control up by about one-third, switch the radio on to standby mode at the power inlet, and then turn on using the front panel control.

You should hear 'Bluetooth Mode' from the radio, and the device named 'YET-M1' should appear in the list of available devices on your Bluetooth device. Select 'YET-M1' to pair with it and, if prompted, enter '0000' as the code. You should then hear 'Paired' from the radio.

Play some audio from your device and you should hear it through the radio. After pairing for the first time the two devices should pair automatically when you power up the radio unless you actively disconnect, or un-pair it from your device.

If you have difficulty pairing you may have to turn off the radio at the front panel then turn on again to initiate the pairing process, and reset your device to scan mode.

The range of the Bluetooth receiver in the radio is about 10 metres. Outside this range you may experience drop-outs, especially if you are in another room, although reception is good throughout an average family-sized house.



## 5 Care and Cleaning

### 5.1 Positioning the Radio

Do not allow this product to be exposed to water, steam or sand. Do not leave your radio where excessive heat could cause damage such as in a parked car or in a conservatory where the heat from the sun can build up even though the outside temperature may not seem too high. Do not position the radio close to a radiator or other type of heater.

Your radio should not be exposed to dripping or splashing water and no objects filled with liquids, such as vases, should be placed on the radio.

It is recommended to operate the product such that there is a minimum distance (10cm recommended) to adjacent objects in order to ensure good ventilation. The ventilation of the product should not be restricted by covering it, its ventilation openings or heatsink with items such as newspapers, tablecloths, curtains etc.

No naked flame sources such as lighted candles should be placed on or near the product.

Do not place this product in an area which receives direct sunlight, as this can cause fading to the finish.

### 5.2 Cleaning

Your radio will only need cleaning from time to time with a soft duster or lint-free cloth. Splashes and other marks can be wiped with a damp cloth.

Under no circumstances use household cleaning products, solvents or cleaners as they are liable to damage the finish. Do not use silicone based polishes.

Your radio has been sealed with a modern synthetic varnish and polished with furniture wax, which provides a long-lasting durable protection. The wax finish can be refreshed with energetic buffing. Occasionally apply a thin coat of wax and buff to a high sheen, but avoid frequent over-waxing as the wax layers can build up trapping fine dirt and dust which diminishes the appearance.

## 6 Guarantee

This product is guaranteed for six months from the date of delivery to the original owner against failure due to faulty workmanship or component breakdown, subject to the procedure stated below. Should any component or part fail during this guarantee period it will be repaired or replaced free of charge.

This guarantee does not cover:

- Damage resulting from incorrect use
- Products which have been altered or tampered with externally or internally
- Consequential damage

Any claim under this guarantee should be made by contacting Retro-Lux or the dealer from whom the product was purchased to see if the problem can be rectified. Should it be necessary to return the product for repair or replacement instructions for its return will be provided by Retro-Lux.

These statements do not affect your statutory rights as a consumer.

## 7 Specifications

<b>Power Supply</b>	
Input Supply	220-240 VAC 60W, 50/60 Hz, inrush < 50 A peak @ 230 VAC, cold start @ 25C
Batteries	None fitted
<b>Amplifier</b>	
Power Output	20W RMS / 30W Music Power
Mode	Mono
Distortion	2% at maximum power
Audio Source	Internal Bluetooth receiver
Tone Control	Volume proportionate loudness, single tone control with bass/treble cut and boost
<b>Loudspeaker</b>	
Type	6.5 inch Dual Cone Full Range
Impedance	8 ohms
Frequency	50Hz - 18kHz
Power	50W RMS / 100W Peak SPL @ 1W/1m: 90dB
<b>Dimensions</b>	
Width	30cm (at base)
Depth	21cm
Height	33cm (including ball feet and control knobs)
Weight	5.7kg (excluding batteries)

## 8 History

The Kolster-Brandes 253 AC mains valve radio was originally made around 1931 by Kolster-Brandes Ltd based in Foots Cray, Sidcup, a suburb of London. The set is housed in a stained oak case.

The set was controlled by a set of plugs on both sides of the box, two control knobs on top, and a central rotary control which adjusted the loudspeaker solenoid. Internally the loudspeaker was a reed type with 9" paper cone which completely spanned the front fretcut aperture.

The valves were early 1930's types and mounted on a bakelite panel and wooden chassis.

The radio was capable of receiving medium and long wavebands, and originally cost £7.10s.0d (equivalent to £437.42 in today's money).

When we received this model we had no idea what lay under the light coloured paint or varnish which coated it (probably an earlier, untidy attempt to spruce up). When the paint/varnish was stripped back the original stained oak case was revealed. There was some water damage, and a place where it looked like a cigarette had been placed and allowed to burn down. The speaker fabric was torn and useless, and the speaker cone was similarly damaged. Apart from that, the case was in good condition.

The case was stripped and blemishes sanded out, re-stained, and coated with a modern varnish. The final effect is typical of a style popular in the period. The dial scales could not be restored to a usable state, having been partly covered in varnish from the previous restoration attempt, so new brass ones were drawn up and fabricated. The old ones were of the 180 degree type which does not match modern 270 degree versions anyway.

Internally, the valve radio components were stripped out, and a steel chassis fabricated to mount the proprietary Retro-Lux PSU, Power Amplifier and Tone Control PCB and control knobs. The loudspeaker was replaced with a high-performance 6.5", full range, dual concentric 50W loudspeaker.

We were able to re-use the back panel by fitting grilles to the apertures and fitting a modern IEC mains connector and switch, so the original model rating plates and markings remain.

The top panel controls now comprise an on/off/volume control and a tone control.







Contrelec Ltd T/A  
High Wycombe • Bucks • England  
Tel: +44 (0)1494 526270      Email: [info@retro-lux.co.uk](mailto:info@retro-lux.co.uk)      Web: [www.retro-lux.co.uk](http://www.retro-lux.co.uk)

The information contained in this document is offered in good faith and believed to be correct at the time of issue, but may be subject to alteration and amendment.

Content and images Copyright © 2015  
Retro-Lux Vintage Audio Products (Contrelec T/A)  
All rights reserved.

---