

Retro~Lux

Vintage Audio Products

USER MANUAL

for



Columbia C301

Project No. 5054


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1 Introduction

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

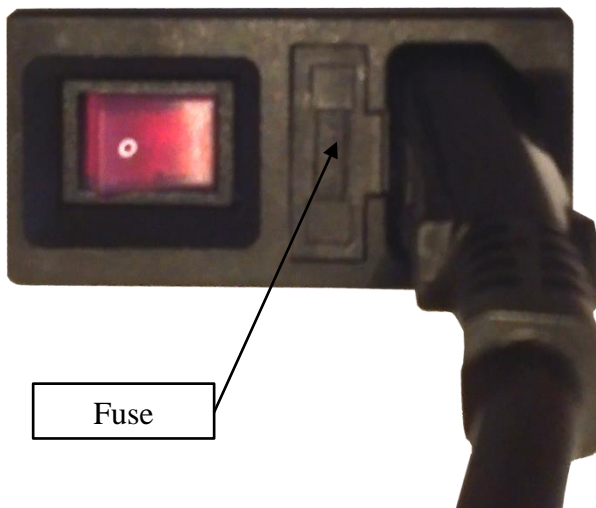
Your radio is easy to set up and use and, with a few simple precautions, will continue to look good and operate efficiently for many years.

**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



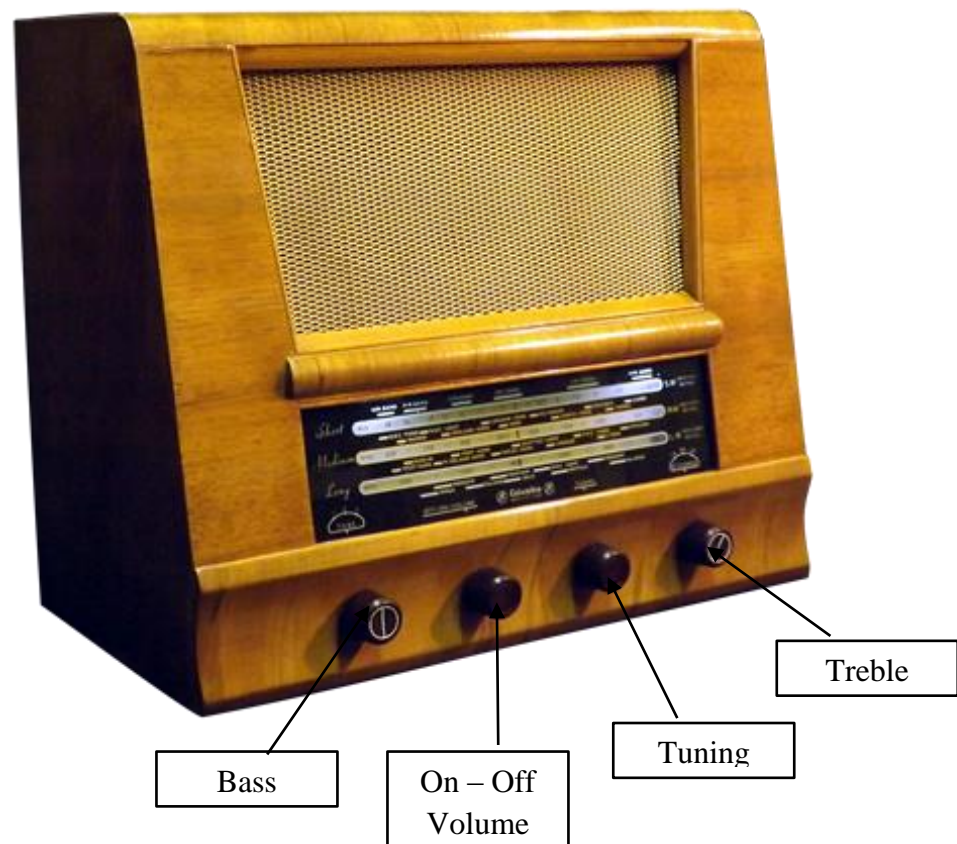
The power mains power connection is via an IEC connector fitted at the rear. Insert the supplied power lead and connect to a mains outlet. Switch on the supply at the mains outlet, and then operate the mains switch on the unit. The switch will illuminate if power is present, which means that the unit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

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

3.2 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.

3.3 Tuning

This is decorative only and moves the tuning dial indicator.

3.4 Treble

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

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

Power Supply	
Input Supply	220-240 VAC 60W, 50/60 Hz, inrush < 50 A peak @ 230 VAC, cold start @ 25C
Batteries	None fitted - fitted on request
Amplifier	
Power Output	20W RMS / 30W Music Power
Mode	Mono
Distortion	2% at maximum power
Audio Source	Internal Bluetooth receiver
Tone Control	Volume proportionate loudness, separate bass and treble tone controls with cut and boost
Loudspeaker	
Type	6.5 inch Dual Cone Full Range
Impedance	8 ohms
Frequency	50Hz - 18kHz
Power	50W RMS / 100W Peak SPL @ 1W/1m: 90dB
Dimensions	
Width	46cm
Depth	19cm (including front panel knobs)
Height	41cm
Weight	8.5kg (excluding batteries)

8 History

We are struggling to find any information at all about this particular model. It was manufactured by a company called Columbia, which could either be a company based in Newcastle or the better-known Columbia Phonograph Co.

A label affixed to the top of the case (removed during re-finishing) would indicate that it is of USA origin. Columbia merged with HMV to eventually form EMI in 1931, so it may be reasonable to assume that, since this radio carried the Columbia badge, that it pre-dates this event. Columbia never built or designed their own chassis, but used Plessey, then Marconi chassis after the merger.



The control knobs (left to right) were originally: tone (1-2-3), on/off and volume, tuning, and waveband selection (LW - MW - SW).

The condition of this radio was quite poor, and had the appearance of a model which had had several repairs attempted, but internally was really just a collection of loose components. The dial glass was dislodged (but thankfully unbroken) and the veneer damaged in several places.



Externally, the finish on the case was stripped back, the veneer repaired and re-finished.

Internally, the valve radio components were stripped out, but the tuning mechanism and display was left in place. The proprietary Retro-Lux PSU, Power Amplifier and Tone Control PCB circuitry was installed, together with a high-performance 6.5", full range, dual concentric 50W loudspeaker.

A replacement back panel to meet modern regulations completed the upgrade.

There is a mains switch on the rear, and the front panel controls have been assigned as follows (left-to-right): bass (variable), on/off and volume, tuning mechanism control (decorative only), treble (variable).

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