



Above: Close-up of silk-screen logo

Below: Close-up of unit with chrome emblem



Top: Two MC30s with a Mac-Kit in front

Above: Ad for Mac-Kit 30 in Harvey's catalog

## THE MCINTOSH AMPLIFIER KIT

High fidelity sound reproduction, born as it was in a post-war era with its plethora of electronic surplus, first appealed to hobbyists who, out of necessity, learned to build their own components. In that era, companies such as Heath and Dynaco sold many tens of thousands of amplifier kits to hi-fi enthusiasts who either wanted the satisfaction of constructing their own amplifiers, or who needed the savings that kits enjoyed over factory-assembled amplifiers.

"McIntosh only offered the Mac-Kit 30 for a short period of time," said Audio Classics' Steve Rowell, "because the differential in price between a factory unit at \$198 and a kit for \$120 was not enough to make people buy them. In fact, many of the kits are factory-made units that McIntosh pulled from inventory and assembled themselves. At one time, despite their rarity, I had three Mac-Kit 30s in stock: two with white silk-screen logos and one with a chrome Mac-Kit logo."

Clark Williams, Director of Sales at Acoustic Sounds, Inc., is the lucky owner of a Mac-Kit

30. "The Mac-Kit 30 was a very rare piece," he concurred. "It was made in very limited quantities in about 1960 as an answer to the kit craze that was going on at the time in the U.S.A. I had checked with McIntosh about 15 years ago and they said possibly as few as 20 units were manufactured. It's even more rare to find it in this museum-quality condition: no scratches, rust, dents, or silk-screening rubbed off. Mine has the original McIntosh legend silk-screened on the base of the output tubes, too.

"Years ago, I worked at Audio Resource in Louisiana as a vintage tube electronics broker. When this unit came available, I purchased it. The cosmetic condition is mint. Collectors should note that, on this example, the emblem is silkscreen painted and not a chrome emblem; the tube sockets are screw heads, not riveted onto the chrome chassis. You can read 'MacKIT' on the label on top of the output and power transformers.

"Some time ago, Richard Gray and I took the bottom off and inspected it. The unit was impeccably assembled and soldered, possibly factory-assembled as a rep sample"

