

## RADIO PLASTICS

	“BAKELITE”	“PLASKON”	“CATALIN”	“TENITE”	“PLASTIC”
Appearance	Thin, Hard  Dark color or painted. Speaker grille and details molded in.	Thin, Hard  Pastel or beetle (oatmeal) color. Cabinet can be very detailed.	Thick  Bright (marbled) colors. Speaker grille is separate or cut in by machine.	Thin, Flexible  No “depth” to colors. Often used for trim parts that warp.	Wide range  See-thru, to marbled colors. All detail and openings are molded-in.
Use in Radios	Front panels of early sets. Table radios and televisions up to 1950.	Table radios 1932 – 1950. Also kitchenware.	Table radios 1937 – 1950. Also jewelry.	Mainly radio trim 1930 – 1940. Also car trim.	Most radios after 1950. Everything else.
Weaknesses	Few. The most durable cabinets. Shiny surface is thin. If worn off can’t be polished.	Develops many small cracks with age. Also gets brittle.	Shrinks with age and breaks its own parts. Colors change with age. Not strong.	The worst plastic. Warps, shrinks, brittle. Can’t restore it. Can smell bad.	Heat from tubes may warp set. Scratches and scuffs easily.
Made From	Phenol Formaldehyde Fibers: 50-80% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sawdust</li> <li>• Asbestos</li> </ul>	Urea Formaldehyde Fibers: 20-40% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bleached wood</li> </ul>	Phenol Formaldehyde – No fibers Catalyst	Cellulose from wood chips. Acetic acid	Many different formulas. Most are melted and injection molded.
How Made	Heated powder is compression molded in steel molds.	Heated powder is compression molded in steel molds.	Syrup poured in molds to harden. Details cut by machines.	Paste is injected into heated steel molds.	Melted plastic is injected under high pressure into steel molds.

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Caution: Performing repairs on radios could be dangerous. SARS assumes no responsibility for accidents resulting from any information contained in this web site.