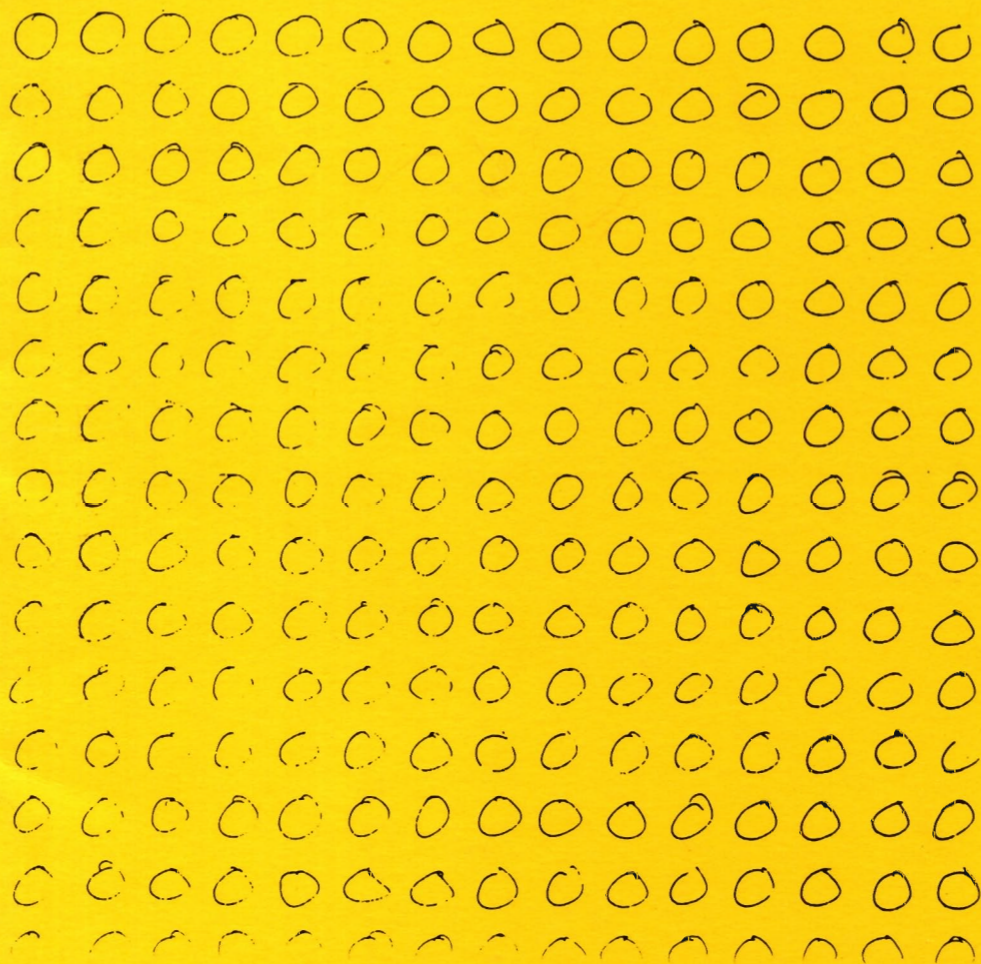


The Regency TR-1 Family

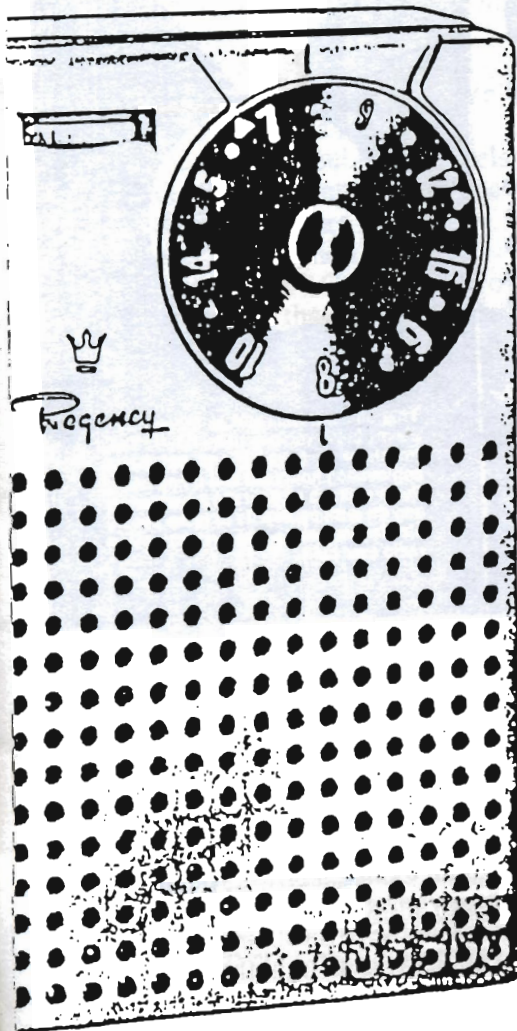
by Eric Wrobbel



INTRODUCTION

The Regency TR-1 was the world's first commercial transistor radio. It was conceived in early 1954 by Texas Instruments as a way for them to sell the transistors they were beginning to make. Texas Instruments contacted all the major radio manufacturers in America they could think of with the idea that wouldn't you guys like to be first on the market with a transistor radio? The majors yawned, as big fat corporations will. Texas Instruments finally found an interested company in I.D.E.A. (Industrial Development Engineering Associates). I.D.E.A. was one of those "postwar" companies started in 1946--same year as Sony. They made TV boosters, mainly, under the brand name "Regency." It was agreed between TI and Regency to develop and market a shirt pocket size all-transistor radio. It was a rush job--all concerned wanted radios in the stores by Christmas. After many struggles with miniaturizing components and locating suppliers, the deadline was met.

Prototype dial



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