

European Telephone Story : The Iconic French PTT 24

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Fig. 1 – The French PTT24 – Table Version



Fig. 2 – The French PTT24 – Wall Version

As part of the automation of the French telephone network, the French PTT organized a competition for all telephone manufacturers to design a standard telephone set as early as 1922. In 1924, a design developed by the renowned firm LMT (Le Matériel Téléphonique) of Paris was approved.

It was called “PTT 24” and was assembled by a number of different workshops and manufacturers. Although 24 refers to the year 1924, the model was not introduced until 1927. It consisted of a base on which the dial could be placed. This phone accompanied the transition to automatic dialing on the French network.

The phone used a handset designed by the American company Western Electric.

Since the sound quality of French rural telephone lines was rather poor in those days, this telephone (see Figure 1 and Figure 2) was often equipped with a so called “mother-in-law receiver.” By using this extra hearing piece, users could better understand each other.

To celebrate this centenary, the French collectors club Association Cochéry organized a get-together on October 19 in Chartres, France. Members purposely brought 100 of their PTT24 phones (see Fig. 3 and

Fig. 4).

Sources:

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Fig. 3 – 100 PTT24s to celebrate the centenary of this telephone – Part 1 of 2



Fig. 4 – 100 PTT24s to celebrate the centenary of this telephone – Part 2 of 2