



The iconic French PTT 24

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Origins

As part of the automation of the French telephone network, the French PTT organised 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 dialling on the French network.



Design

The phone used a handset designed by the American company Western Electric. This so-called E4

model was introduced in France earlier than in the United States itself.

Since the sound quality of French rural telephone lines was rather poor in those days, this telephone was often equipped with a so-called "mother-in-law receiver". By using this

extra hearing piece, users could better understand each other.

Centenary Celebration

To celebrate this centenary, the French collectors club "Association Cochéry" had organized a get-to-



gether on October 19 in Chartres, France. Members brought their PTT24 phones, there were purposely 100 of them, see pictures above..

Sources:

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