

Old Fidelity Radio Restorations

www.oldfidelity.com | Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada

★★★★★ **Exceptional**

There is a particular kind of magic in hearing a 1931 grandfather clock radio come alive — the warm glow of its dial, the hiss of tubes warming up, and the sudden bloom of sound filling a room as it did nearly a century ago. That magic is precisely what Jim Hutton of Owen Sound, Ontario has devoted his career to preserving. His website, OldFidelity.com, serves as both a showcase and a portal into one of the most respected vintage radio restoration workshops in North America. For collectors, audiophiles, and anyone captivated by the golden age of radio, this is a destination that rewards every visit.

A Craftsman's Philosophy, Clearly Communicated

From the moment you land on OldFidelity.com, it is clear that this is not a commercial operation driven by volume or margin. Jim's introductory text sets the tone immediately: his mission is to rescue vintage radios that would otherwise be lost forever and return them to people who will cherish them. That philosophy permeates every corner of the site. The writing is personal and knowledgeable, the photography is detailed and honest, and the overall presentation reflects the care of someone who genuinely loves what he does. In an era of templated e-commerce sites, OldFidelity.com feels refreshingly human.

The site's biography section offers a window into Jim's background and qualifications, giving prospective buyers the confidence that comes from understanding who is handling their future treasure. This transparency is rare and commendable. Visitors are never left wondering about the provenance of the work or the expertise behind it.

Uncompromising Restoration Standards

OldFidelity.com does an exceptional job of explaining what a true, professional restoration actually entails — something that is far from common in the vintage radio world. Jim replaces 90 to 100 percent of internal components in each set, inspects all tubes, and performs a comprehensive electronic alignment before addressing a single cosmetic detail. The site's dedicated pages on alignment and testing, secure packing, and shipping protocols demonstrate a level of professionalism that inspires genuine confidence. These are not afterthoughts; they are central to what Old Fidelity promises and delivers.

The portfolio spans some of the most storied names in vintage radio history: Rogers Majestic, DeForest, RCA, Westinghouse, and Canadian General Electric, with models ranging from elegant tabletop receivers to breathtaking grandfather clock consoles. Each listing is accompanied by detailed photography, video walkthroughs, and live demonstration recordings — a brilliantly effective way of letting a radio's own voice do

the selling. Hearing a 1934 General Electric set streaming an FM broadcast through its original speaker is a genuinely compelling experience, even through a laptop screen.

Bridging the Past and Present

One of Old Fidelity's most thoughtful offerings is the integration of modern FM and Bluetooth modules into restored sets — a practical solution to the reality that AM broadcasting has largely faded from the airwaves. Jim offers two configurations: a built-in module style that delivers the most authentic user experience, and an external module style that preserves the radio's full AM capability while adding modern connectivity. The site explains both options with admirable clarity, including the trade-offs of each approach. This is the kind of informed, honest guidance that earns long-term customer loyalty.

The downloadable Bluetooth module instructions and the tube database are particularly welcome additions — resources that speak to a community of enthusiasts who appreciate depth and detail. The colorized schematics section is a genuine delight, offering historically significant technical documents rendered with a vividness that makes them suitable for framing as much as for reference.

A Community Resource as Much as a Shop

OldFidelity.com extends well beyond a simple sales catalogue. The Old Radio Programs section offers a curated gateway to the golden age of broadcast entertainment, inviting visitors to experience the content these sets were originally built to receive. The complete collection archive allows enthusiasts to browse the full breadth of Jim's restoration work over the years — a body of output that is both impressive in its scope and consistent in its quality. These features transform the site from a shop into a living archive of radio history.

Verdict

OldFidelity.com is a model of what a specialist craftsman's website should be: honest, informative, beautifully curated, and driven by a clear and admirable purpose. Jim Hutton's passion for preserving radio history is evident in every page, every photograph, and every listening demonstration. Whether you are a seasoned collector seeking a museum-quality restoration, or simply someone enchanted by the idea of a 1931 grandfather clock radio playing jazz through a Bluetooth connection in your living room, Old Fidelity is the place to begin — and very likely the only place you will need. Highly recommended.

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