

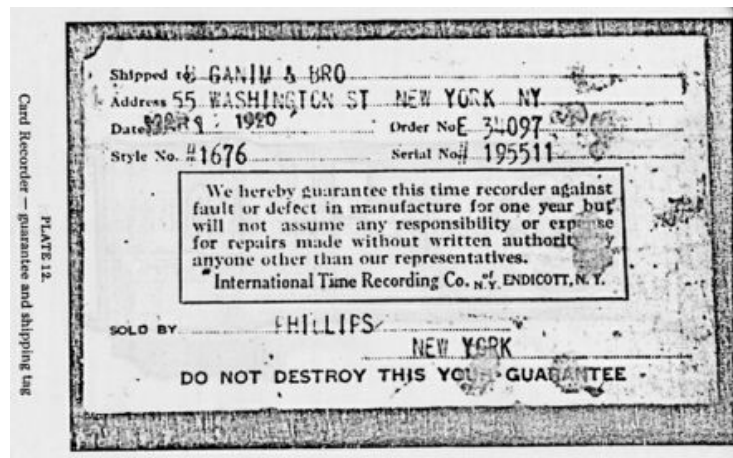
APPRAISING AND DATING YOUR CLOCK

Two of the most frequent questions we are asked by owners and collectors of IBM clocks are:

1. How much is my clock worth?
2. How old is my clock?

Regrettably, we cannot appraise or establish a current commercial value for old IBM clocks. We suggest instead that you consult a local dealer -- especially one specializing in the restoration and resale of old time pieces -- as well as classified ads for similar items. In addition, you might want to research the asking and bid prices for clocks similar to yours on such online services as eBay (<http://listings.ebay.com/aw/plistings/list/category397/index.html>)

On the other hand, we *can* assist you in dating your IBM clock. But first, you will need to make note of your clock's **serial** number (not the model, style or type number). The serial number is generally a five- or six-digit number stamped on the clock's punch mechanism, or on its case, or on a label inside the clock (such as illustrated below).



Equipped with this number, you will be able to determine the year in which your clock was first shipped from the factory (generally, IBM's manufacturing facility in Endicott, N.Y.) by consulting the list below.

Please note that this serial numbering system ran through December 1949 (ending with 999999) and was restarted the next month, January 1950, at 10000. Therefore, using this system, a clock with a serial number of, say, 145000 could have been manufactured in either 1917 or 1951. In such a case, it is still possible to date the clock based on its casing (wood or metal), mechanical features (hand wound or electric) and function. Also please note that beginning in 1940, IBM applied a set of alphabetical suffixes to the serial number to indicate the month of shipment. These suffixes are also listed below.

Serial Numbers	Year Shipped
Up to 55000	Prior to December 1916
55001 - 145000	1917
145001 - 167000	1918
167001 - 193000	1919
193001 - 219000	1920
219001 - 228000	1921
228001 - 240000	1922
240001 - 265000	1923
265001 - 285000	1924
285001 - 305000	1925
305001 - 325000	1926
325001 - 345000	1927
345001 - 365000	1928
365001 - 395000	1929
395001 - 415000	1930
415001 - 435000	1931
435001 - 445000	1932
445001 - 462000	1933
462001 - 475000	1934
475001 - 490000	1935
490001 - 512000	1936
512001 - 536000	1937
536001 - 556000	1938
556001 - 585000	1939
585001 - 608000	1940
608001 - 649000	1941
649001 - 685000	1942
685001 - 713000	1943
713001 - 734000	1944
734001 - 767000	1945
767001 - 825000	1946
825001 - 884000	1947
884001 - 935000	1948
935001 - 999999*	1949
10000 - 90000	1950
90001 - 164000	1951
164001 - 251000	1952
251001 - 344000	1953
344001 - 440000	1954
440001 - 535000	1955
535001 - 610000	1956

* Machine serial number 999999 shipped in December 1949. New number series started in January 1950 with 10000.

Beginning with shipments in 1949, IBM applied alphabetical suffixes to the serial number to indicate the month of shipment as follows:

A - January	D - April	J - July	M - October
B - February	E - May	K - August	P - November
C - March	H - June	L - September	S - December

In addition, beginning in 1940 IBM applied an alphabetical code to the serial number to identify the year of shipment as follows:

A	1940
B	1941
D	1942
E	1943
F	1944
G	1945
H	1946
J	1947
K	1948
L	1949
M	1950
N	1951
P	1952
R	1953
S	1954
T	1955
U	1956
V	1957
W	1958
X	1959
Y	1960
Z	1961

For example, a clock with a serial number ending AT would have been shipped in January 1955. A clock with a serial number ending BU would have been shipped in February 1956, while a clock with a serial number ending CU would have been shipped in March 1956. And a clock with a serial number ending DV would have left the plant in April 1957.