

KLIPSCH HERITAGE REFERENCE DATA - (V.3 - 23 Aug 2013):

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I. GENERAL:

1. This information generally applies to the Klipsch Heritage Series; but also includes some selected information on finishes, grill cloth options and emblems/ logos used on certain later models.

2. The data is generally correct; the author assumes full responsibility for errors.

3. Sources include, but are not limited to:

- Discussions, data reviews, and corrections by Klipsch employees;
- Discussions and physical data provided by owners of Klipsch speakers; independent technicians and sources specializing in Klipsch;
- Klipsch forum threads (extensive source material is available);
- Klipsch reference documents, information sheets, data specs, time line sheets, etc.
- Direct examination of Heritage series products.

4. Corrections, additions, and in particular photographs, are most welcome, and as Klipsch owners and forum members contribute additional data, the document will be updated.

5. Timelines and "production notes" formerly covered in this document can be found in other areas of the historical section of the website.

II. READING THE KLIPSCH MODEL & SERIAL LABEL CODES:

1. All of the "labels" through 1990+ are functionally similar. The Heritage series until 1984 were relatively simple: they were hand written, and first line was the model and wood/finish type, and the second line was the serial number (serials discussed further below).

2. Starting in 1984 and continuing until approximately 1988, the labels were similar, however used a "stamped" serial number identification below the model & finish code. By 1988-1989, the labels were "computer" generated, with the model, finish and other coding in a second "line".

EXAMPLE:

**KC-BB
15T252**

This tag would be for a Klipschorn, Type-C (non-"collared"), birch, black lacquer finish, serial number: 15T252 (made in 1979)

III. HERITAGE SPEAKER TYPE CODES:

** Does not include the "Rebel" or "Shorthorn" series.

- C = Cornwall
- CD = Cornwall "decorator" with flush motor board and no grill
- BK = Belle Klipsch
- H = Heresy
- HD = Heresy "decorator" with flush motor board and no grill
- LS = La Scala
- KB = Klipschorn - Model Type B, "collared"
- KC = Klipschorn - Model Type C, no "collar"
- KD = Klipschorn - designer type (no grill, made through April 1987)

IV. HERITAGE SPEAKER WOOD/FINISH CODES:

1. Until the late 70's-early 80's (and again in 2008 on Heritage models), customers could special order a number of exotic veneers.

2. It should be noted that until May, 2001 there were almost 100 different finish, grill cloth, and riser 'combinations' or variants that could be ordered for the Heresy's and up to 75 versions of the Klipschorn.

3. In the mid-late 90's, Klipsch generally ceased most special order veneers and raw birch was also discontinued on most models, except Heresy-II's.

4. Material for raw birch is/was Georgia-Pacific cabinet/furniture grade 7 ply (5 inner standard grade plies and the two outer very-fine grade plies).

5. Risers for the Heritage series were originally optional, and there was a long base for horizontal placement of standard Cornwall's.

6. Heresy risers were generally "straight" until the late 1980's, and were still an option until the late 90's. In the late 1980's the "slant" style became the general standard. Slant risers appeared in the 1970's on Heresy-Is, but are not seen often. Currently the US version Heresy is shipped with slant riser, elsewhere in the world they can be ordered with or without the riser.

7. "Oiled" finish refers to the factory application of a high quality furniture grade wood oil that fills the pores of the wood and seals the finish. The type of oil is similar to a Watco "danish" or "rejuvenating" oil. Oiled finishes require a routine "oiling" with a light non-buildup type of furniture grade wood oil.

8. "Lacquer" refers to the application of one or two thin coats of a clear semi-gloss lacquer sprayed on the cabinet and motor board prior to installation of drivers. That lacquer was obtained from various vendors, and as of 2013, is a

#40 sheen, semi-gloss lacquer from Valspar/OPEC. Lacquer finishes only require a routine wiping off with a clean dry cloth to maintain the finish.

9. For "Black Lacquer" finishes, the factory used a flat black lacquer primer, then #40 sheen black lacquer, with a clear #40 sheen to protect the black finish.

10. Generally, most veneered Heritage products had the rear panels/ sections sprayed with black lacquer primer. Starting in late 1983 and continuing to this day, the rear panels of the Heritage models are now sprayed with a coat of "textured" semi gloss, and a top coat of semi-gloss black.

11. An option to have raw birch stained was also used, but not often seen. The stain was usually applied by spraying, and the serial number stickers generally indicated this option. Example: H-WS would have been a Walnut stained Heresy made from "raw-birch". This option was more commonly seen on La Scala's.

CODE **	WOOD	FINISH	REMARKS
▪ AL	Ash	Lacquer	Uncommon
▪ AO	Ash	Oiled	Uncommon
▪ BB	Birch Black	Lacquer	Common
▪ BR	Birch	Raw	Common
▪ BL	Birch	Lacquer	Common
▪ BW	Birch White	Lacquer	Rare Spec Order
▪ CL	Cherry	Lacquer	Uncommon **
▪ CO	Cherry	Oiled	Uncommon
▪ D-BR	Birch	Raw	Designer (No Grill)
▪ D-BB	Birch Black	Lacquer	Designer (No Grill)
▪ FL	Fir	Lacquer	Rare
▪ FO	Fir	Oiled	Rare
▪ FB	Fir Black	Lacquer	Late Models Only
▪ F	Fir	Firzite Rare -	Marine Grade
▪ HL	Hickory	Lacquer	(reported-unconfirmed)
▪ MEL	Macassar Ebony	Lacquer	Rare Spec Order
▪ MEO	Macassar Ebony	Oiled	(unconfirmed)
▪ MHL	Mahogany	Lacquer	Rare Spec Order
▪ MHO	Mahogany	Oiled	Rare Spec Order
▪ MHR	Mahogany	Raw	Rare Spec Order
▪ ML	Maple	Lacquer	Rare "Hardrock Maple"
▪ MO	Maple	Oiled	Rare "Hardrock Maple"
▪ MO*	Medium Oak	Oiled	Late 90's Models
▪ OL	Oak	Lacquer	Common (Red Oak)
▪ OL	Oak	Oiled	Common (Red Oak)
▪ PNL*	Persian Nut	Lacquer	Rare Spec Order
▪ RRL*	Rambling Rose	Lacquer	Rare Spec Order
▪ PL	Prima Vera	Lacquer	Rare Spec Order
▪ PR	Prima Vera	Raw	Rare -Early
▪ RL	Rosewood	Lacquer	Brazilian species

▪ RO	Rosewood	Oiled	Brazilian species
▪ TL	Teak	Lacquer	Uncommon
▪ TO	Teak	Oiled	Uncommon
▪ WL	Walnut	Lacquer	Common
▪ WO	Walnut	Oiled	Common
▪ WS	Birch (stained)	Stain	Walnut on Birch
▪ ZL	Zebrawood	Lacquer	Rare Spec Order
▪ ZO	Zebrawood	Oiled	Rare Spec Order

* "Persian Nut" and "Rambling Rose" are not an actual wood species; they were made from linear cut birch or walnut wood which was dyed with specific hues/colors, re-glued into alternating color layers and then rotary cut into the respective veneer types to achieve the effect.

** Lacquer finish on early production Cherry was uncommon.

V. HERITAGE SERIAL NUMBERS:

1. Based upon additional information related to the use of letters starting in 1955, the 1962-1983 coding has been modified to reflect that information.

2. The serial number was written on the paper serial tags and die stamped on the back edge of the top panel (inside top portion in LS). This practice was not used on later "MDF" cabinets for Heresy's, etc. Serial numbers can often be found written in pencil on the inside of some of the Heritage series, most notably Klipschorn's and Belle's.

3. While the 1946-1961 manufacturing dates can only be found in the Engineering Library in Indianapolis, accurate specific dates for the day of manufacture may also be found by close examination of the interior of the speaker cabinets. As an example there were often small inspection tags stapled inside the cabinets and penciled notations with dates inside the cabinets. An example of the production inspection stickers was the use of "PRIDE" stickers inside some models. These were used in the early through mid-1980's.

4. Additional letters stamped in the edges of Heritage series made from birch plywood, and on the poplar and ash "lumber core" as the substrate, were "USA" and/or the cabinet builder's and final sander's initial(s). For reasons of protecting their right to privacy, I have not identified the names of those superb craftsmen (and women).

DATES	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE
1946-1947	###	001-020 (ending at #20)

- 1946 & 1947 Klipschorn serials #002 - #013 were made by Baldwin.
- Serial numbers #14-20 were made for purchasers in a local cabinet shop before the move to the first factory (now museum). There are no Klipschorn's with a serial number between 21 and 120.

DATES	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE
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1948-1961 #### (starting #0121)

- From 1948 through 1961, Klipschorn's had the serial number stamped into the tailboard, woofer access door, or inside the woofer chamber.
- The number of Klipschorns produced and shipped in 1948 and 1949 is not clearly recorded in the early logbook. In 1948, 24 serial numbers were recorded (#121 - #144). Fourteen were clearly shipped in 1948, 1 was shipped in 1949, and 1 in 1950. Eight do not have a clear record of being shipped. In 1949, 32 serial numbers were recorded (#145 - #176). Of these, 27 were shipped in 1949 (plus the 1948 unit), and 5 have no clear record of shipping.

DATES DESCRIPTION EXAMPLE
1955-1983 ##letter#### 20Y1234

- Letters that look like numbers (e.g. I, O, Q, V) were not used. "S" is frequently misread as a "5" and Y has been confused with an X on occasion.
- July 29, 1955 was the last day for the four digit serials (i.e. 1811). After that the "number- letter-serial" system went into effect (2 August 1955). The first "number-letter-serial" speaker was produced on the 2nd of August 1955; that serial number was 1A812.
- In the 1955-1983 serial method the first, or prefix "digit(s)" before the year letter represents the sequence of production for each 1000 units. The suffix digits after the letter code will always be three digits - 001 through 999. For example 1C999 would be the 999th unit built, and 2C999 would be the 1999th built in 1965 C = 1965).
- These digits before & after the year code apply only to that type of speaker.
- The year code letter only identifies the year in which that number occurred.
- As an example, if you have a pair of Klipschorn's and one of the serial numbers is 15T252, then by 1979 there had been 14,151 Klipschorn's made (Klipschorn's made in 1946-1947 were serial numbered from 1 to 20, and in 1948 started with #121, skipping #21 through #120).
- For a pair of 1979 La Scala's, with serial number 22T403, it means there were 21,403 La Scala's made to that point.
- Another example: A pair of Belles from 1979 has the serial number 3T242 and 243. This means that in 1979 these Klipsch Belles, the 2,242nd & 2,243rd, were made.

YEAR OF MANUFACTURE (1955 THROUGH 1983 ONLY)

A = 1955-63* F = 1968 L = 1973 S = 1978
B = 1963-64* G = 1969 M = 1974 T = 1979
C = 1965 H = 1970 N = 1975 U = 1980

D = 1966	J = 1971	P = 1976	W = 1981
E = 1967	K = 1972	R = 1977	X = 1982
		Y = 1983	

* Cornwall's & La Scala's used "A" 1963 and "B" for 1964; the first Cornwall to use a letter code was 3A09, shipped in August of 1963.

DATES	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE
1984-1989	YYWW####	89261234

- YY = year (e.g. 89 = 1989)
- WW = week of the year (e.g. 26= last week in June)
- The WW can also be a single digit for weeks 01 through 09; e.g. 877#### (mid February 1987)
- In the early-mid 80's (generally starting in 1984), Klipschorn's had two serial numbers assigned to each speaker; one for the bass bin and one for the top section. The bass bin had an "L/F" at the end of the "type code" (see further below) and the top section had an "H/F" at the end of the type code.
- This coding was is used on Chorus, Forte & Academy

DATES	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE
1990-1997	DOYY2Y1####	135791234

- DOY = day of the year (e.g. 135 = 14 May)
- Y2Y1 = 2nd digit of year, 1st digit of year (e.g. 79 =1997)
- This coding was is used on Chorus, Forte & Academy

DATES	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE
1998- 2013	YY WW ####	00281234

- YY = year (e.g. 00 = 2000)
- WW = week of the year (e.g. 28 = 2nd week in June)
- This coding was is used on Chorus, Forte & Academy

VI. HERITAGE DRIVER CODES:

1. Driver Manufacturing Date Codes: Example: 9429 = 1994, 29th week of the year (1994).

2. This numbering system is derived from the Electronics Industry Association (EIA) coding. The EIA did not issue Klipsch with an EIA prefix.

3. For further information on the EIA system, see:

<http://www.provide.net/~cfh/pots.html>

Note: This site has additional manufacturers (including non-Klipsch components and an excellent resource for dating non-Klipsch equipment by the EIA "manufacturer & date-code" system.

4. Klipsch Driver Manufacturer Codes:

Example: K-33-E would be the "Klipsch", part type 33 (15") woofer from Eminence. The suffix letter code generally referred to the Klipsch assigned origin/ manufacturer of the driver.

- B = CTS (Chicago Telephone Supply), Brownsville TX
- P = CTS in Paducah KY (woofers only)
- R = Rola (an additional "R" either stamped or handwritten also indicated replacement (often seen on K22's and K- 24's)
- D = K-77-D; From 2006 to the present. Essentially a K-77-F (see below) with an integral recessed mounting flange. Permits flush mounting of the tweeter from the rear, per the "Z" brackets for pre Feb 1983 Klipschorns (KH Update kit: part # 1006969)
- F = Philippines supplier that purchased the EV tooling (e.g. K-77-F)
- EV = Electro Voice (early K-33's e.g. "EV-15WK", also EV 1828 was used as the K-56 for Cornwall in 1974)
- G = Atlas (for K-55-G for Cornwall 1981-1983)
- J = Jensen (Also used for University drivers in mid- 1950s; e.g. K-5-J - University model 5A HF, and SAHF)
- H = Heppner (K-52-H in Cornwall-II's)
- K = Klipsch (Pyle - Klipsch purchased Pyle. Drivers formerly assembled in Hope, Arkansas and subsequently in Hot Springs, Arkansas were then moved to Pyle in Huntington, Indiana)
- E = Eminence (Primarily woofers)
- V = Atlas (see also notes below)
- M = Electro Voice (also for the Eminence K-33-M in 1967)
- X = Atlas (e.g. K-55-X)
- Ti = Titanium series (new design with titanium diaphragms)

5. The V on the midrange & tweeters can also indicate 'video shielded'

6. A significant number of "replacement" drivers, e.g. late model K-53's, K-76's will have no manufacturing code or date code, e.g. "blank" as in nothing at all.

7. On Heresy drivers, the number K53 indicates the driver/horn combo part number, which is a K52 driver and K701 horn.

8. Electro Voice also produced the "round magnet" T-35 tweeter, but later versions were simply labeled K-77. The first shipment of Electrovoice T-35 tweeters designated as the K-77 were received on 26 August 1959. The K-77 is first used in a Klipschorn with the serial number 1445 on 15 October, 1959.

9. Electro Voice also produced a K-56 (EV-1828) as a temporary replacement for K-55's in 1974. Found on Cornwall's, La Scala's, and Belle's produced in that year.

10. Atlas produced the K-55X's (PD-5VH); and the PD-5VH is the K-55V (still available from Atlas and other vendors)

11. Stephens (P52LX2) woofers were used from 1949 through 1953 on the Klipschorn's. In 1953, the Stephens P103LX2 was used. In 1954 University mid/and high drivers were also used.

12. From 1950 through 1961, the Stephens woofers were used interchangeably with the Electro Voice EV-15WK woofer and the early Jensen K-33-J's in the Klipschorn's.

13. These codes also apply to drivers used in Chorus & Forte's

VII. HERITAGE DRIVER TYPES BY APPLICATION (PREFIX IDENTIFIER ONLY - SEE SECTION VI FOR SUFFIX CODES):

1. Tweeter types:

- K-75 Forte-I, Forte-II
- K-76 Heresy-II
- K-77 Heresy-I, Cornwall-I, Belle, La Scala, Klipschorn
- K-79 Cornwall-II, Chorus-I
- K-107 Heresy-III, Cornwall-III

2. Midrange types:

- K-51 Cornwall-I (CW 1.5;a hybrid of the Cornwall-I and the Cornwall-II)
- K-52 Cornwall-I (CW 1.5;a hybrid of the Cornwall-I and the Cornwall-II)
- K-53 Forte-I, Heresy-I (late models), Heresy-II
- K-53 Ti – Heresy-III, Cornwall-III
- K-55 Klipschorn, La Scala, Belle, Cornwall, Heresy-I
- K-56 Cornwall-I, La Scala and Belle (1974 only)
- K-57 Cornwall-II, Chorus-I
- K-61 Forte-II, Chorus-II

3. Woofer types:

- K-22 (types E, EF, K, and R) Heresy-I
- K-23 Forte-I
- K-24 Heresy-I (late models), Heresy-II
- K-25 Forte-II
- K-28 Heresy-III
- K-33 Klipschorn, Belle, La Scala, Cornwall-I, Cornwall-III
- K-34 Cornwall-II
- K-48 Chorus-I, Chorus-II

3. Crossover types (Heritage only, there are others pre-1964):

- A - Klipschorn, Belle, La Scala
- B - Cornwall
- C - Early Heresy
- E - Heresy (E2 for 1983-1984 Heresy-Is with K-24 & K53/701's)
- AA - Klipschorn, Belle, (and early to late 70's La Scala)
- AB - Belle
- AL - La Scala
- AK- Klipschorn (latest is AK-5)
- K series (K1000 early Cornwall's, K500/K5000 early Klipschorn's)
- 1RC - La Scala & Klipschorn (later re-designated Type-A in October 1966)

4. Autotransformer types and values:

- T2A(3110A) -3, -6, -9, -12db
- T3A(3465-M) -6db
- T4A(3485) -4db
- T5A(3496) -6db
- T7A(3504) -10db
- T8A(3507) -8db
- T9A(3540) -3db
- T10A(3542) -9db
- T11A -12db

5. Horn Types

- K-5 (early Klipschorn)
- K-400/401 – Klipschorn
- "01" variant is "plastic" or expanded foam composite version
- K-500 - Belle and early Klipschorn's (until 1955)
- K-600/601 – Cornwall, Cornwall-II
- K-700/701 – Heresy (all models), Cornwall-III
- K-76 (Tweeter Horn) - Heresy II, Forte-I, early Cornwall-II (1.5)
- K-79 Tractrix Horn - Heresy-III, Cornwall-III
- K-1000 Heresy type "H", Cornwall-I (early models)

VIII. KLIPSCH GRILLS & CLOTH CODES:

- #03 = Cane
- #13 = Heritage brown
- #15 = White/black coarse weave
- #17 = Duracrest, black, poly-olefin, stranded, coarse weave (Heritage only)
- #18 = Duracrest, brown, poly-olefin, stranded, coarse weave (Heritage only)
- #19 = Duracrest #19, black, poly/ nylon, flat weave (Forte, Chorus, etc.)

1. Early model Cornwall, all Belle and standard Klipschorn grilles are cloth wrapped around the motor board and stapled to the back side of the motor board.

2. Cornwall Decorator series were later given various grille fittings. The first was a standard sized grille with Velcro tabs that would simply be surface mounted. In later years a trim kit with a grille was developed.

3. Heritage grill frames for the Cornwall, La Scala, and Heresy were made from (a) "Masonite" fiberboard, or (b) a resin impregnated board (late model Cornwall & Heresy). The frames for the Klipschorn & Belle bass bins are 3/8" or 1/2" plywood, with a 'cut out' frame, with the cloth glued and stapled.

4. Klipschorn side grills are retained with an "L" bracket, studs on the LF section lower panel and wing nuts. In 2005, the angle brackets, hanger bolts and wing nuts used to attach the HF and LF cabinets together on the Klipschorns were replaced with thick rubber spacers, on the LF cabinet, indexed into recesses on the HF cabinet.

5. Later models (Forte, Chorus, etc.) grill frames are also made from polystyrene plastic, with cloth glued to reverse edges. These models, and KLF's, earlier Reference series, etc have the grills attached by means of plastic "pins" molded to the grill frame and inserts on the motor board.

6. The new Reference series and all new Heritage series grills (except Klipschorn's) are retained by magnets. 60th Anniversary Klipschorns are also retained by magnets.

7. Grill "Velcro" varies between either 3/4" round or 1/2" x 3/4" rectangles. On Cornwall's (and seen on several Heresy's), the "motor board" Velcro pieces are sometimes stapled to the motor board.

IX. KLIPSCH LOGO DESIGNS

** Does not include Professional or Cinema

1. After the very early "cut into the veneer" logos, there were four basic designs:

(a) "Pie slice" in black/silver, clear/copper, clear/white (early pies), and copper/black: Sizes and fonts vary slightly as manufacturer/ contractors changed. The most recent (current for the Heritage series) is the copper/black pie slice, sometimes referred to as the small "Jubilee" pie.

(b) Copper with PWK logo and black lettering: This design varied slightly with the font & etching varying in distance and size.

(c) Copper/bronze with subdued lettering, and no "PWK" emblem on a background of horizontal stripes: These were generally seen in the mid-70s.

(d) In early production years, there was a clear plastic strip with "Klipschorn", and also "Rebel" in white script lettering.

2. There are also several sizes of copper colored plastic with a raised Klipsch logo on black background used on KG series. The Synergy and Reference series used a black oval logo with raised Klipsch and 'V' of a variety of sizes. This type of logo was a painted Copper electroformed shell on a plastic base with various attachment methods.

3. In addition, the 'A' line (epic) had a wide 'V' on the bottom with centered Klipsch and small PWK logo in copper or gold color (e.g. Epic series).

4. The Heritage logos were/are secured to the grills, centered usually within 1/2" to 3/4" from the top edge of the grill with types b & c, and either on the upper left or upper right for type a (pie slices). The glue used is contact cement. The "d" type for the Klipschorn on the type "B" (collared), was held on the collar with two small pin nails. Current Heritage "pie slice" logos are secured with PSA (pressure sensitive adhesive).