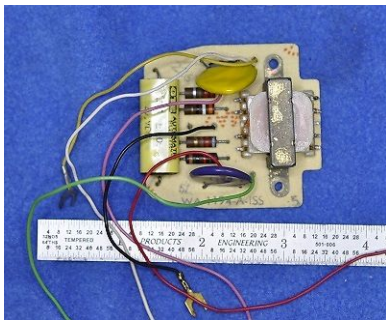


Converting a Western Electric 202 phone to work with a GTE mini network in place of the Wall Mounted Subset Box

Vintage and Antique telephones are fun to have and have been becoming quite popular in recent years. The earlier models such as the Candlestick or the WE 202 required a Subset Box, which normally was mounted on the wall. If you are a true collector you would of course want it to be 100% like it was in the 20's. Now on the other hand if you just want a cool looking antique phone that works with the modern network, there is hope.

There are two issues to deal with, the first is the subset box, and the second is whether your network supports pulse dialing. I have found that most landline phone networks still support pulse dialing, but even if your network doesn't support pulse dialing there still a way to deal with that too, but I'll save that for another time, but what about that subset box?

Telephones in order to work properly need a network which includes an induction coil. These networks are too large to fit in the base of the 202 Western Electric. The 302 telephone which was released in 1936, was the first to offer the network and ringer inside the telephone. But with a little trick we can eliminate the subset box.



GTE, which competed with Western Electric made a number of small phones in later years and there is available a very small mini-network which can be fitted in to the base of a Western Electric 202 Telephone. It may be a little tricky to get it to fit, but it will fit.

