

TT-ML-505 - Microlambda Transistor Tester, 1958



In the early fifties, under the direction of professor Calosi, Microlambda started to operate in the old plant of Silurificio Italiano at Fusaro, near Naples. Microlambda, later Selenia and then Selex, was a joint venture between Italian IRI and Raytheon and its production included radars and missiles for military market. Anyway, according to some old employees, around the late fifties Microlambda built some sets for civil applications. Among the others they built microwave cooking ovens, delivered to gas stations along the IRI highways, and some television sets. According to some whispers, the production of TV sets was readily canceled. Sets were made with aluminum cabinets and, as other commercial sets did at the time, equipped with an autotransformer. Unfortunate users had to operate the knobs staying on wooden platforms or they got heavy electric shocks!

An unknown quantity of the transistor tester in the above photo was made in 1958. This unit was found around 1967 in a junkyard and it is still operating today.