

# The Radio Hotel—Madison Electronics Supply

## A Historical Reflection – by W5RH

Back in the 80's you could listen to the local 146.36 TDXS repeater and it was a treasure trove of contesting, DX, antennas, towers, the Lumber Yard and Candy Store discussions. All of much benefit to any listener's ham radio edification. Max, Don and David Busick were the proprietors of Madison Electronics Supply —The “Candy Store”. It no longer exists, but it was a main stay of the Houston Amateur Radio Community.

### Madison Electronic Supply – Location Timeline

Established – 1956    1956 to 1985 – 1508 McKinney St. Downtown Houston  
 1985 to June 1990 – 3621 Fannin St.    1990 to early 1993 – 12310 Zavalla St.  
 During all of these years ads (see below) appeared in CQ, Ham Radio and 73 magazines.

Comments from some local hams of some of the goings on----- **Mike N5MT** -- “I was there to help get the new store ready for business on a volunteer basis. The box that got my attention was not marked with any warnings and So I open it up to see inside and WOW. I found what looked like a chemistry lab glass tube about 3 or 4 inch in diameter and 12 inches long with two places to empty the tube which had rubber stoppers stuck in each, weighing about 5 to 10 pounds I have no idea where Max found the Mercury.”

**Rick K5GZR** – “The first Madison Electronics store I went to in the early 1960's was in a narrow white one-story building on the west side of Caroline street, just north of Blodgett. The store had two aisles running front to back, with shelves along both outside walls and shelves down the middle between the two aisles. Don't know if they sold anything that wasn't government surplus.” **Dave K5GN** – “I remember Max's answer when you called to ask if he had a particular part: ‘Come on down, we've got plenty.’ Of course, when you got there if they had any it was very hard to find!” **Chuck, W5PR**, recalls “one Saturday I was standing at the front counter talking to Don when a guy in an overcoat walked by who was shoplifting a piece of equipment and dragging the cord from the bottom of the coat. As he went out, Don said: “Be careful, you might trip over the cord!”. **Mike WW5WM** – “I was looking around Madison's and Don asked me if I would be interested in coming in on weekends to help. Max sent me to the other building many times to find something only he knew was there. Don was a character unto himself also. More than once we worked DX from the station upstairs while I was supposed to be working”.

A few ads from the various publications over the many years

**MADISON**  
**Electronics Supply**  
 FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1956  
 3621 FANNIN  
 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004



**DON & BOB'S  
 SUPER BUYS**

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 GREAT BUYS ON 204BA, 402BA, 18AVT/WB.  
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 BELDEN 8214 RG-8/U FOAM COAX 23¢/FT.  
 AMPHENOL PL-259 59¢  
 CALL FOR QUOTES — TS-520, TS-700A, 210X.  
**BOOKS**  
 TELSTAR 12V, 2 AMP REGULATED SUPPLY \$30.00  
 ALL PRICES FOB HOUSTON

**MADISON  
 ELECTRONICS SUPPLY, INC.**  
 1508 MCKINNEY AVENUE  
 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002  
 713/224-2668 Nites 713/497-5683

**MADISON ★ ★ ★ SHOPPER**

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**ALL ITEMS ARE GUARANTEED**  
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**Amateur VHF, UHF, GHz/ET (examples)**  
 B315P PL-259 Silverplate (Amphenol) 1.50  
 B341 N Male (Amphenol) 3.50  
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 YAESU FT-747, 757H Call  
 IGTTE Model Tuner 18.00

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 All equipment, used, clean, with 90 day warranty and 30 day trial. Six months full trade separate new equipment. Sale price refunded if not satisfied. (800) 231-3057

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 Minimum order \$10.00. Mastercard, VISA, or C.O.D. All prices FOB Houston, except as noted. Prices subject to change without notice. Items subject to prior sale. Call anytime to check the status of your order. Texas residents add sales tax. All items full factory warranty, plus Madison warranty.  
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 10cm TAD 629.00  
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**New Kenwood TS 950 SD** Call  
 Ameco FT 3 Pre Amp 99.00  
 Larsen 2 meter on glass 49.95  
 Anteco 2M 5/8 Mag Mount Comp 25.00  
 YAESU FT-1000D Call for price

**Kenwood TS 140S** Call for trade  
 Van Gordon Windom W42 44.00  
 Bird 43 element antenna Call  
 Thousands of panel meters 3.95 up CALL  
 Belden 9913, 8067, 8214 Stock Call  
 MCA Capacitors Call

**MADISON Electronics Supply**  
 3621 FANNIN  
 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004

Madison was one of a few ham radio stores that Houston supported over the years. We have none now.  
 73 W5RH