

Manual Switchboards

Manual switchboards are represented by venerable, wooden magneto boards like those used in the late 1800s and early 1900s. During this time, the Bell Telephone Company began to spread its "octopus" network of wires from Boston, Massachusetts, into cities and towns throughout the northeast. The improved common battery board also is represented, and both types function well enough to make calls to phones and other switching systems within the museum's network.



A working magneto switchboard in the collection of The Telephone Museum in Ellsworth.