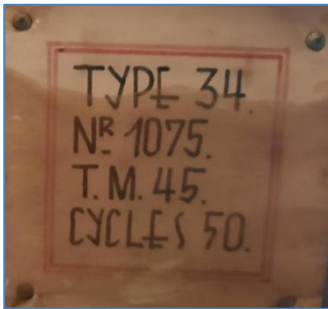


## TONECOLOR - Antwerp

The manufacturing of the nice almost ikonic Tonecolor jukebox models in the mid 1950s started with the connection between two tradesmen and a young shop foreman. The first to be mentioned was the electrical engineer Louis Dilis, who founded the [Dilis Algemene Televisie en Radio-onderneming](#) in 1947 at Edegemsestraat 112-114 in Mortsel, and the second to be mentioned was cabinet maker Willy Toebosch, who was connected to the furniture company [s.a. Ameublement G. A. Toebosch](#) in 1952 at Lange Leemstraat 113-115 in central Antwerp. Also in 1952 the third to be mentioned, the young Paul van Rompaey, was employed by the Dilis radio company as shop foreman, and he stayed with the company for 35 years.

The first jukeboxes were planned in 1953, and soon the 100 selection model J-32 for magnetic tape play was produced and marketed, and then in 1954 followed by the almost iconic 50 selection model J-34 for 45rpm records. Later the model J-35 and the 80 selection model Melodie was introduced. The production took place at the Dilis facilities in Mortsel for about ten years until 1963 in the name of [N.V. Suggest-Toebosch](#). However, the name was changed in August 1956 to be simply [N.V. Suggest](#). The only known patent for the Tonecolor mechanism was filed in Belgium by Louis Dilis on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1956, but also filed for patent in France on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 1956 by Willy Toebosch. The patent was published on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 1958.

Paul van Rompaey (☼ 4/6 1926, † 2/3 1997) and his son Eddy van Rompaey took over the Dilis radio company after Louis Dilis on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1968, and continued until 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Today Dilis is still part of the name of the active company [Dilis Selexion](#) (2023), and Eddy van Rompaey is still involved.



1954



1956



*Tonecolor J-32, 100 sel, tape (1953-54)*



*Tonecolor J-34, 50 sel, 45 rpm (1954-58)*

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE  
 MINISTÈRE  
 DE L'INDUSTRIE ET DU COMMERCE  
 SERVICE  
 de la PROPRIÉTÉ INDUSTRIELLE

# BREVET D'INVENTION

Gr. 12. — Cl. 3.

N° 1.156.335

Classification internationale : G 07 j — G 10 j

Appareil de reproduction sonore avec sélecteur à prépaiement.

M. WILLY TOEBOSCH résidant en Belgique.

Demandé le 25 juin 1956, à 14<sup>h</sup> 10<sup>m</sup>, à Lille.

Délivré le 16 décembre 1957. — Publié le 14 mai 1958.

(Demande de brevet déposée en Belgique le 11 juin 1956, au nom de M. Louis DILIS.)

