

The 45rpm Phono Gazette

9Y51 Radio/Phonograph



By Phil Vourtsis

The 9Y51 is the first Bakelite 45 record player with radio that RCA Victor introduced in 1949. Typically I was never impressed with the boxy shape and small slit where you would read the sliderule dial. However I finally found a gorgeous one with shine like new Bakelite cabinet and intact purple background in the sliderule dial. Soundwise, these units are pretty good with bigger than normal speaker and better than usual output transformer. The fancy deco knobs tend to be a problem because they are quite thin and tend to break easily. Although the tone arrangement is clunky utilizing a 6 position wafer switch. This provides low, medium, and high tone for radio or phono. When you move the tone selector it emits a nasty thump in the speaker. Any tone control is better than no tone control in my view.

This model contains the rp-168 changer while later models contains the rp-190 changer (model 9Y510). Although the cabinets appear identical, the changer mounting is much different between the two.

The Workbench



By Willie Bosco

Cure for chronic slow motor

Increase diameter of the motor shaft with a ball point pen spring. This will give you a few more rpm's.

It takes fingernails and a small screwdriver. Pull it down and push it around. It will go because I was able to it. Get the smooth tight windings in the idler tire zone and you're good to go.

This tip was shared with me by a pin-ball tech named Bruce. Thank You, Bruce.

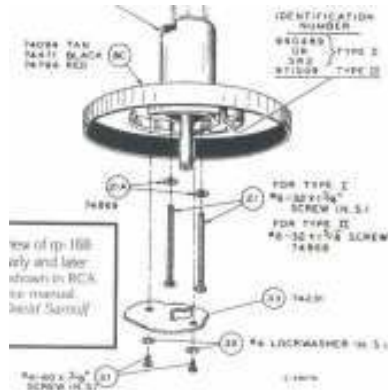
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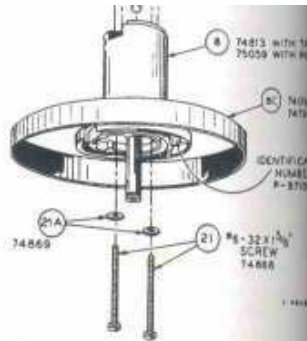
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The Great RP-168 Turntable Mystery



Early rp-168 spindle design

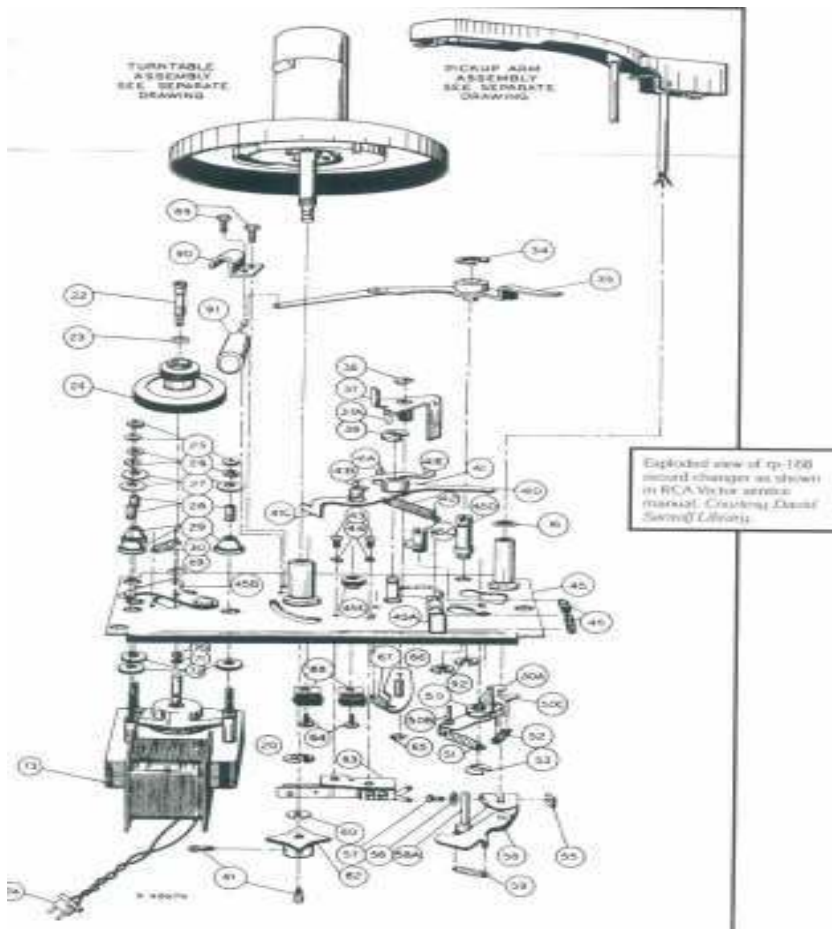


Later rp-168 spindle design

RP-168 Blowup showing lever 41C and associated parts

By Phil Vourtsis

I decided to check out my restored 9Y51. The sticker I put on the bottom indicated I restored it in 1998. Wow, hard to believe that is more than a decade ago. Anyway, the rp-168 tonearm piston was acting up where the tonearm stays up in the air at the end of the reject cycle. I removed the turntable and cleaned the piston and housing with lacquer thinner. While I had the turntable off I took a look at the underneath and was surprised to find a piece was missing. On early rp-168 turntables there is a plate that is installed with a couple of screws. Once this plate is installed, the rejecting cam trough is in place under the turntable. Later turntables created this cam trough by molding everything in one piece. But the early ones required the extra plate. Now here is the interesting part. How is it the tonearm was rejecting fine without the metal plate? You would think the tonearm would not respond to the movements that the plate would impart on the cam follower, 41B. I reinstalled the turntable leaving the plate removed and played numerous stacks of records! Now I've got to figure this one out! The only way I can see this working is if spring 42. I'm going to try this on a couple more players to be sure it works. If it does, RCA Victor missed an opportunity to save a few cents by doing away with the metal plate. Comments welcome! By the way the piston cleaning fixed the original problem of allowing the tonearm to descend slowly to the record.



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DUKE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Thank you Nick Domenico for bringing this picture to our attention. Now how many of us phono fanatics can say we have danced with phonographs on our heads?