

The 45rpm Phono Gazette

Is it an RCA Victor 45J2 or a Cookie Jar?

By Willie Bosco

I like to stay busy, so, in my retirement I decided to get interested in ceramics. I didn't want to throw pots on a wheel or hand build. Mold making and slip casting got my interest. I read a few books and started in.

After 10 years in the phono repair business, I knew the RCA j2 inside and out. I also had grown to love looking at that particular model. What better subject to model than the j2 record changer. I would make it a cookie jar with a removable turntable. I proceeded to make 3 molds. One was for the bakelite case with motor board, reject button and RCA strip logo. This is a large 2 piece plaster mold. The second mold was for the tone arm. It also is a 2 piece mold. The third and last mold is a one piece plaster mold for producing the turntable/spindle. Making the molds was a challenge and I was pleased when I found that they worked. I've since made more and better working molds.

Liquid clay called slip is poured into the molds to completely fill them. After 20 minutes to half hour the mold is emptied of the liquid slip. The slip that remains in the molds is allowed to partially dry as it pulls away from the inside walls of the plaster mold. The molds are taken apart and the pieces removed for further drying. When dry, the pieces are loaded into the ceramic kiln where they are bisque fired. This is an initial firing to harden the ware for glazing. The pieces are then hand painted or sprayed with non toxic, food grade, ceramic glazes to color the case chocolate brown, the tone arm and reject button black, the motor board gold and the spindle cap red. The pieces are then returned to the kiln for another firing to melt the glaze and give the pieces strength.

I get a big smile on my face every time I look at that j2 cookie jar. I've sold 2 already and the people who bought them just rave about how much they like it. If anyone is interested in buying one let me know. They will be made to order for \$100.

For more information check page 4 for Willie's contact info.



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Admiral Table Radio/Phonograph 5W12N.

By Phil Vourtsis

When RCA Victor flooded the market with 45 record changers back in the early 50s, there were a few companies who decided to make their own 45 rpm playing creations. Admiral decided to make a machine that would play all 7 inch records, not just the 45. So the admiral changer will play 7 inch 33 rpm as well as 7 inch 45 rpm records. Since the 33 rpm variety used the small hole, Admiral made the center spindle removable so it could accommodate both types of spindles. The motor shaft has two different diameters to rotate the turntable at either 33 or 45 rpm. Because the smaller spindle has to handle the small hole, a support piece is needed to balance the end of the records. It is also used to push the bottom record forward so it will drop to the turntable during the change cycle. The changer mechanism underneath is elegantly simple with few moving parts and operates quite smoothly during the change cycle. While the idler wheel looks similar to the RCA variety, there are a couple of differences. The diameter of the wheel is slightly larger and the center shaft is a smaller diameter. The only record player I have ever seen this changer used in is the 5W12N table model radio/phonograph. Perhaps Admiral also used it in some of their consoles but I've yet to come across one. The mounting holes for the changer are exactly the same as the RCA Victor 45J2, so I have seen 5W12Ns with the RCA changer inside. I don't believe Admiral ever used the RCA changer however, so my guess is it was a repair job.



Admiral 5W12N Bakelite radio/phonograph



Admiral 2 speed record changer for 7 inch records



Motor with dual diameter shaft



Removable 45 rpm spindle

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Cranking out the 45J2 record changer



45-rpm record-players ready for shipment from RCA Victor plant at Indianapolis, Ind.

Courtesy of David Sarnoff Library

The 45 rpm Phono Gazette is a quarterly publication since 1995.

\$6/\$8 for 4 issues, \$12/\$16 for 9 issues. (USA/Int'l)

Send to Phil Vourtsis, 13 Cornell Place, Manalapan, NJ, 07726 or you can use Paypal (Account is pvourtsis@optonline.net, no credit cards please)

Want List

Bob Becker
(201.391.2971)
7 Woodland Road
Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677
rdbecker@aol.com
Beige knob for 8EY4FK
Large tuning or vol knob for 9Y510
6JM25 Ding Dong Slideomatic
7HF45 Oak or Maple preferred
8EY4DJ gray plastic front with lid
Decca blk/red portable 45 player

Joe Centanni
(585.230.1539)
74 Oakbriar Ct
Penfield, NY 14526
s100x@rochester.rr.com
VM Stereo 45 player
Magnavox 45 player

Charles Cummins
(817-732-4313)
3912 Calmont Ave
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

David Cox
(937)484-3241
1407 Knight Road
Urbana, OH 43078
dcc49@yahoo.com
45 spindle for Admiral 5W12N 2-
speed record player
Bakelite lid for Zenith twin seven
Outer concentric radio/phono knob
for Emerson 635

Dennis D'Amico
11892 Pine Street Los Alamitos, CA
90720-4163
lionelguy@yahoo.com

Bill Gourd
(989-832-2934)
1024 West Park Drive
Midland, Michigan 48640
In priority order:
8EY4, 7HF45 (wood case)
8HF45P (portable)
4Y511 (radio/phono)
9Y510 or 9Y511 (radio/phono)
6BY4

Hank Granse
(360-871-9014)
6751 View Dr. SE
Port Orchard, WA 98367
hgranse@wavecable.com

Bob Green
(570-366-3949)
1711 Breezy Acres Rd
Orwigsburg, PA 17961
rcgreen@schmobile.com
FOR SALE
15E Demonstrator

Doug Houston
(810-627-4141)
3441 South Hadley
Ortonville, Michigan 48462
HoustonD@taacom.army.mil

Mike Schwartz
2464 Merel Drive
Hatfield, PA 19440-2230
mikebeatles@yahoo.com
Power pack for Skipper

Ron Jeff
30 Devonshire Terrace
Flanders, NJ 07836
973-584-1007
6JY1C with green base

Bob Kolba
904.285.5483
161 Twelve Oaks Lane
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 320082
Rkolba0211@aol.com

John Lee
1658 E. 5th St.
Ontario, CA 91764-2202
nipper45@verison.net
Can scan other character model
decal in exchange for Snow White.

John Ortale
(203-754-8346)
44 Barden Street
Waterbury, CT 06706
ortl@aol.com
Early Disney models

Tom Paruta
(716) 837-8131
43 Flower St.
Buffalo, NY
TomTMP58@aol.com
Zenith model T545 radio/phono.
Zenith twin seven (G660) or
"Dartmouth" console with twin 7

Bob Reck
(410)647-1849484
Botteford Court,
Severna Park, MD

Dan Saporito
8 - 5th Ave
Ortley Beach, NJ 08731

Doug Robinson
2609S. 800E.
Salt Lake, Utah 84106
Doug45rpm@hotmail.com

James Romano
(856-220-9588)
1101 Berlin Rd
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
JUKEBOXJUNKIE@aol.com
Looking for RCA 15E Demonstrator

Ray Tyner
(614-475-1697)
4709 Wendler Blvd
Columbus Ohio 43230-1642
rcray45rpm@msn.com
Birch 45 player, Steelman 45 player

Chambers Williams
(817-446-0346)
9423 Marsh Creek
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(937-368-3060)
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Services

Looking for spare idler and cam.

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williambosco@gmail.com

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37530 E. Meadowhill
Northville, MI 48167
info@thevoiceofmusic.com
www.thevoiceofmusic.com
Repair parts including both
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Phil Vourtsis
(732-446-2427)
13 Cornell Place
Manalapan, NJ 07726
philvourtsis@gmail.com
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westtechservices@yahoo.com
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Kurt Wilmarth
(716.279.8948)
c/o Echo-Tone Music
991 Genesee Park Blvd
Rochester, NY 14619
Croonin@frontiernet.net
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bottoms for 45EY2, 7EY series
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