

The 45rpm Phono Gazette

Sears Silvertone Radio/45 Record Player



By Dennis D'Amico

One of the things we seem to do when collecting antiques or collectibles is we tend to favor certain pieces over others for their attributes. For me, I like collecting the radio/45 record player combination models. So when I procured this Sears model off of eBay a while ago, I figured it was just another combo built like the rest of the phonographs of the time. But after dismantling it, I was pleasantly surprised at what I discovered. First thing I discovered after removing the front access panel was it had not one but two 4 inch speakers! The next thing I found was that it sported a Sonotone Ceramic cartridge instead of the usual Astatic one. These were well built and still sound good to this day. The only other player that I know of that used this cartridge was the RCA 6-BY-4 Skipper models.

This player was well documented. As shown in the photos, it had metal tags both on the radio chassis and the motorboard with the chassis numbers. Also there was a tube layout diagram along with a schematic. The radio was the usual AA5 (All American 5 Tube) type of the day. This is a fine example of how Sears put additional features on its products in competing in the marketplace.



Do

**Two small speakers sound better than one?
Sonotone cartridge is always a big plus in sound
quality and dependability.**

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WORKBENCH

Piston fix for rp-168 changer

By Chris Cuff

After completely restoring a 9W51, I had the ever popular problem of the piston not returning far enough to allow proper tracking for more modern, lighter cartridges. (even after proper cleaning and resurfacing the piston and bore) I came up with an easy fix using a spring from a tone arm to assist the piston in returning fully. It works great, and now the arm tracks perfectly beginning to end, and the spring is so light duty it still allows the piston to function as it was designed- To prevent needle bounce upon changing records.



I'm excited to report positive results from my experiment with the new Plasti Dip spray. The experiment was done using idler wheels that have hardened but are still round

Results of experiments to extend life of rubber parts.

and sound good. The problem with these wheels is that the changer will stall during the reject cycle. They can be cleaned up with lacquer thinner but will re-harden within weeks or months. With the wheel rotating at an arbitrary speed of 78 rpm, I sprayed a light coat of the spray and let it dry overnight. The spray provides a nice gripping surface without causing any appreciable surface imperfections that would cause flutter. My concern was whether the coating would be tough enough to last for years. I installed one of the treated wheels on an attachment and let it run for 10 days straight. Each day I would shut off the unit, let the wheel cool down and restart it and let it run another day. After 10 days there was no perceptible change in gripping ability. If you assume that the average 45 plays for 3 minutes, that would equate to 400 days of playing a stack of records a day. These are very encouraging results. Of course I was not able to factor in time and its effect on the rubber coating but since it is a new coating I suspect it will last for years. Plasti Dip is available at the big home centers like Lowes or Home Depot. Or search for Plasti Dip using Google or any other search engine online. It's available in different colors but for this application black seems to make the most sense.



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Some interesting RCA Victor Accessories for
your collection



I guess you would find this vintage sign in a 1950s RCA Victor Dealership's record department



Unusual carrying case with RCA Victor Logo in and out

What better way to carry your 7EY1 or 7EY2 record player? Most optional carrying cases were plain with no logo, but this beauty is embossed inside and out. The two latches make me nervous however because if they opened up, I guarantee your 7EY would be in pieces on the floor. I usually wrap a belt around the case just to be sure. 7EY's are not that convenient to carry around so these cases truly protect them and make them portable. Like most vinyl covered objects from this era, they tend to trap moisture inside. I keep a silica jell pack in each carrying case to avoid mold formation.

