

The 45rpm Phono Gazette

What on earth is this? A demo display unit?



Top view of display module. Note the lack of shelves and separators in the spindle



Bottom view of display module with spindle and arm removed

Did you ever dream about the stuff you collect? In your dream you are at some flea market or swapmeet and you suddenly spot something that makes you stop in your tracks and do a double take. You are very familiar with the items you collect so you know this is a very rare and special piece which you may never see again. You quickly try to obtain the item but all of a sudden there are a dozen obstacles in your way. At this point you usually wake up frustrated. Well this is not a dream. Phono enthusiast Dennis D'amico brought this item to my attention on Ebay about an hour before the auction was to end. Luckily I checked my email at that time and was able to bid and win the item. Actually the auction was for a 45HY4, a box of 45 rpm records and what is referred to as a 45 rpm 'module'. Obviously the 'module' was the item of interest. Here is

my detailed description. The 'module' has no motor, no amplifier, no reject mechanism. My guess is that this is some sort of display item that was never designed to actually function as a record player. Since the arm and spindle resemble the rp-190, perhaps this was a mockup of the rp-190 before the design was put in production. There are cues that indicate this would be a very early model because there is a brass ring on the turntable, and the clamping mechanism on the tonearm is a very early type that was updated very early.

The case appears to be Bakelite and is two pieces that are bolted together at the brass piece behind the turntable. The finish on the Bakelite is not as good as the finish on a typical Bakelite phonograph which would indicate that this is a very low production or one of a kind item. The RCA Victor logo would indicate that this was definitely a deliberate promotional idea by RCA. The platter of the turntable is smaller than the standard diameter, yet the tonearm is the exact arm that is used in the rp-190.

There were some promotional items such as introductory films, matchbook covers, keychains, etc. that I have come across but this is the first display of this type I have ever seen. Anyone with additional information, please get in touch with me.

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Magnavox dual speaker radio/phono



By Doug VanCleave

I came across an excellent example of the rare Magnavox 45 player. I've never seen one or even good photos of one until now. It has a 6-tube chassis with a selenium rectifier. It's one of the few 45 players that have push-pull output. It has dual 5 1/4 inch speakers with rather large magnets. The audio output transformer has an inverse feedback winding. The sound quality is exceptional to say the least.

The cabinet is made of plywood with a thick coating of paint that looks like faux leather. The cabinet interior is sprayed with it as well so it looks as nice as the outside.

I think I was the first one to open it up. It still has all of the original Magnavox tubes and even the original crystal cartridge code dated 1955. I found that the speakers were hard wired out of phase. The solder connections looked undisturbed from the factory so I think that it may have been a factory mistake. What a big difference that made.

I also found the same chassis in a model AM-8 Magnavox table radio with a very similar cabinet. It has the same unusual finish at the phono. It's a little wider and it uses dual 6 1/2 inch speakers. I've included a photo of that too.



Comes equipped with rp-190 record changer



Cabinet in excellent condition with radio dial on right side



Correct phasing is crucial on dual speakers



They sure look like twins

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Retro-Tronics now manufacturing bottoms for 45EY2 and the 7EY series phonographs

By providing them with a template and improvements, the new product is better than the original. Retro-Tronics was very accommodating and willing to make the following improvement. The original design used 3 supporting feet instead of 4. This created a problem because one of the feet is installed in the middle of a side instead of in a corner. Over the years the position of that 3rd foot and the weight of the machine causes the bottom to warp. This causes the Bakelite case to come in contact with the surface it is sitting on. Once this happens air cannot enter the bottom of the cabinet to cool the amplifier. This can cause overheating. By mounting 4 feet in the corners of the bottom, this problem is resolved. The new bottoms are made of masonite and are quite sturdy.



Reproduction 45EY2 bottom



7EY bottom laser cut

They are now laser cutting a bottom for the 7EY series of phonographs and will be installing 4 rubber feet instead of the troublesome 3 in the original bottom. For more information, go to retro-tronics.com.

WORKBENCH



Why would I show you this old, dirty, cracked, soldering gun?

It all started in 1961 when I was 13 years old and had purchased my first electronic kit from Eico. It was a stereo power amplifier with 14 watts per channel of power. I knew I wanted a high fidelity amplifier but I did not understand what a power amplifier was. Why are there no knobs on the controls? Where are the bass and treble controls? Later on I would learn that I would also need to build a preamp in order to have all the features I wanted.

Time to build the kit. It says here I need a soldering iron. I went to the local hardware store and the guy sold me a soldering iron that could be used on the Verrazano Bridge! Not knowing any better I used this mega-iron to solder the connections on my amplifier kit. There were quite a few wires with burnt insulation when I thought I was done. Now I got excited because I thought I could just turn on the amp. The instructions said in big letters, "The next step is to review all the work you have done. Double check everything". This is not what a 13 year boy wants to read. I prepared to plug in the amp, but I couldn't bring myself to do it. Then I went upstairs and asked my father to plug it in while I stayed upstairs (what a chicken I was!). As soon as he plugged in the unit the lights in the house went off. It had blown the fuse. Maybe I *should* check my wiring job! Sure enough I found about 5 wiring mistakes. After repairing these mistakes I now had enough confidence to plug the unit in myself and was elated when the tubes all started lighting up and music came from the connected speakers. I was now hooked on building kits. After getting more familiar with the hobby I purchased the soldering gun you see in the picture. It has dual headlights instead of the single light usually found on these. It has provided many years of faithful service and now 45 years later I've decided it is no longer safe to use and must be put out of its misery. But what better way to send it off than take one last picture and write this article.