

The 45rpm Phono Gazette

Unusual Mitchell Portable with factory racing stripes!



John Tyminski's 'Mitchell' Portable

Phono Enthusiast John Tyminski was fortunate enough to come across this unusual portable. It is identified in the inner lid as a "mitchell" and has the distinction of having three red racing strips on the lid. It is a one tube wonder equipped with tone control. He has restored the unit. The only gripe is that it seems to interfere with the stack of records when you try to close the lid while it is playing. Perhaps the lid is out of alignment or the record changer is not set right in it's mounting. Theoretically it should not interfere. Will keep you all posted on the outcome of this problem.

The Workshop

Lately I have been restoring quite a few 7HF45 New Orthophonic High Fidelity players. They are not my favorite player to restore because of two reasons. First off, everything is soldered together so that assembly and disassembly is more work. Secondly, the amplifier is wedged into a small chassis and recapping is quite tedious. The most important rule when changing capacitors is to do it one at a time. This way you don't get confused and make mistakes. Snip cap leads as close to the cap as possible. This way it is easier to see where the old cap was connected. It also provides a place to connect the new cap without having to remove wires from terminals and sockets. The best way to connect the new capacitor is with a wire wrapping tool. Unfortunately these tools are not readily available. I was lucky enough to get a hold of one when I worked at Bell Labs, which was part of the Bell Telephone System. Lacking the wrapping tool, you can wrap the cap ends around a small drill bit.

Well, the chassis in these machines is so crammed with components, the only way to get down into the corners is to remove the components blocking your way. I normally remove only one side of the capacitor in the way and move it aside. This way there is less chance for a screw up but last week I managed to screw it up anyway. As I replaced the nested caps and worked up to the ones nearer the surface, suddenly I couldn't find one of the disconnected ends. Now I had to find the schematic and go component by component to find my mistake.

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

\$6/\$8 for 4 issues, \$12/\$16 for 9 issues. (USA/Intl)
 Send to 45-RPM Phono Gazette, 13 Cornell Place, Manalapan, NJ, 07726 or you can use Paypal (Account is pvourtsis@optonline.net, no credit cards please)

The 45rpm Phono Gazette

Modifying the 7EY Series



By Phil Vourtsis at 35,000 feet

Like many of you I have restored a set of 7EY phonographs and I'm very happy with the results. But I think many of you would agree with me that these models are not the greatest sounding machines so I decided to modify a couple of them to improve the sound and in some cases the looks too. Don't get me wrong. I am not changing my original restorations, just adding a few more interesting units to the collection. I know some of you might cry foul with these mods but this can provide another avenue of interest in the hobby.

First I worked on a 7EY1 coral and grey. The motor board was pretty rusty so I repainted it white instead of the usually color. I also replaced the white tonearm with the white arm from a 6jy1 attachment so it would have the nice nipper logo. Inside I decided to nix the anemic amp and install the solid state battery powered amp that Chris Cuff has made available. Not only does it sound better but it has much more volume with it's 4 watts output. Wiring it up is a snap and you can use the original volume control. I also replaced the stock motor with Chris' 12 volt dc motor. I also wanted to put a better speaker inside the cabinet but couldn't find one that would fit with the severe angle on the plastic cabinet behind the speaker where the magnet sits.



White base, logo adorned arm, and 12 solid state conversion

So I settled for the original speaker in this case. I powered my unit with 8 AA cells. There is plenty of room if you wanted to upgrade to C or D cells. The AA cells do last a long time however.

The other unit I had my way with is a 7EY1 flame-red and white. I like to call it pink and white because the red front has lost its flames as the years have past and looks more like pink. Once again the motor board was rusty so I repainted it an off white. I installed a red metal spindle from a derelict 'Alice in Wonderland' model and capped it off with a white spindle nose. I left their white tonearm and white reject switch. On the inside I recapped the one tube amp and installed a PowerPoint cartridge which has a halfway decent output. This time I was determined to put a better speaker in and found 4X6 Quam speaker that I could just wedge in place. The bigger speaker really increased the volume, which is always a plus when working with a one tube wonder.



White base, red metal turntable, and better speaker