

The 45rpm Phono Gazette

Search for 15E Demonstrator

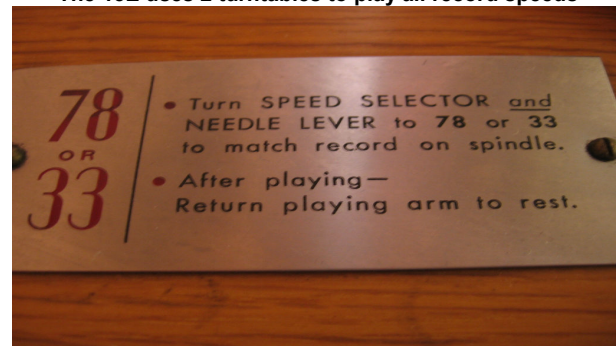
by Jim Romano.

It all started back in August 2004 when my place of business got computers. I was forced to learn how to use them. Saturday was always a slow day so I decided to do what the "youngins" called "searching the net". That's when I found ebay. That's when I found that people like William Bosco & Paul Childress were restoring the RCA 45 phonographs to run & play better than when they were new. Paul Childress told me that I should purchase a copy of Phil Vourtsis' book "The Fabulous Victrola 45". I never knew how many models that were out there. The ones that I liked the most were the J2 with the clear red spindle cap, the 6 EY3 C & the 15 E Demonstrator. The first one I saw on ebay went off of auction on 10/24/05 & sold for \$471.89 but I lost out because I bid too low for this "as is" unit. The next one I saw on ebay went off of auction 12/26/06. Both tone arms were busted in half. The tone arm for the RP 190 is easy to replace but not so easy for the LP/78 tone arm. The RP 190 changer had a metal turntable that had the paint peeling off of it. I thought for sure that I could win the auction because of the poor condition of it but I bid too low & it sold for \$433.85 in the last few seconds. I wasn't going to let this happen again so as I checked each & every single day over the years the next one showed up on ebay. This one's mine for certain. I bid the book value of a restored unit & still lost the auction in the last few seconds on 5/14/08 to somebody that bid \$1,602.77 at the very last second. Well, I was beaten & feeling very low. All of my email buddies over America have been looking out for one of these for me over the years but they are very rare. Just a few days after I lost the bid on the third model on ebay, William Bosco sent me an email with a picture of one with the subject line reading "Are You Interested In One Of These?" YES I wrote back. Willie found one & was kind enough to sell it to me for MUCH less than it was worth because he knew how much I wanted one. I asked him to restore the changer & turntable as I know how great of a job he does. I'm very competent in this area as well but I wanted to save some time once it got here. I wanted to get the amp rebuilt from the bottom up, something that I'm not so good at. I had just lost my job at this time & didn't have money to spend. That's when another one of my web friends came through for me. Doug VanCleave restored 2 of my RCA "Mercedes Grill" radios & restored the amp on my 8HF45P HI FI phono. He said he would do the restoration for just the cost of shipping back to me. It was more than just replacing the old electronic parts with new. There were loose solder connections on the tube sockets so if you tapped on the cabinet of the phono, the sound would just freak out getting loud, then soft or making noises like the worst thunder storm you've ever heard. He fixed all of these problems then shipped it back to me. I had the turntable reflocked by West Tech Services. I did the original turntable in burgandy, as I feel it looks better in that color. I had a duplicate turntable from a small VM phono that I had for parts so I had West Tech Services reflock that one in the original sand color. They do a GREAT job in reflocking turntables. I hooked it all back up & put on a stack of 45's & I must say that I was disappointed in the over all sound. The bass was fantastic but the highs were non existent. My 8HF45P sounded better. How could this be? It was because there was

no tweeter system in it. It had separate bass & treble pots but (continued on page 2)



The 15E uses 2 turntables to play all record speeds



Only Manual Play is used for those 'other' speeds

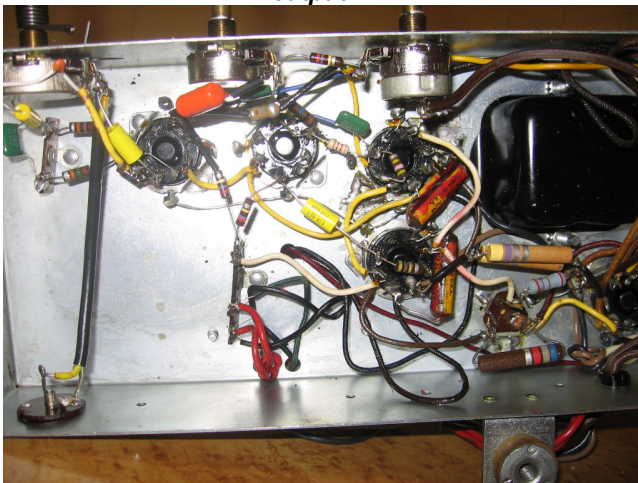


Wonder what's going on under this speed selector. There were rumors that 45s were given an advantage with better equalization.

(15E Demonstrator continued)



Demonstrator amplifier is top notch with push/pull output



Plenty of room for components and ventilation

that wasn't enough. I went on ebay & purchased a pair of 1960 RCA cross over & tweeters from a stereo console. I hooked them up & WOW, what a big difference. I mounted them in the only place that I could, the 2 vents in the back of the cabinet. There's still plenty of room on each side of the tweeters to vent the amp & the sound is almost like stereo. You hear the lows from the front & the highs from the back. You would think that it would increase the sounds of scratches on 78 records but it doesn't. I have an Astatic 40T cartridge in the LP/78 tone arm with a .7 mil stereo diamond tip LP needle. It sounds much better than the RCA crystal cartridges of that time. The highs are limited on that cartridge so you don't hear the scratches but do hear great high end sounds from the records. The 45 side has one of Willie's RC Lowrider cartridges in it. I feel that this is THE BEST cartridge for the 45 tone arm. You get great compliance & trackability and the frequency response is GREAT. The 45's sound like a high end turntable is reproducing the sound. I feel that I now have the best sounding one of these around. Just a month before Willie got me this phono, I got a mint condition 6 EY 3 C for \$25 on a 'Buy It Now' auction that I was fortunate enough to see first. Back in January of 2006 I got a J2 with the clear red spindle cap on it. I restored these 2 phonos myself completing the collection that I wanted of all the RCA 45 phonos that I liked. Thanks to all of my web friends out

there who kept a look out for me for this phono & a very special thank you goes out to William Bosco & Doug VanCleave who made it all happen.

The Workbench

Motor Speed Control

By Doug VanCleave

The speed that the motor rotates is determined by the line frequency, 60Hz. If the motor is dragging, it has some sort of a bind and is drawing excessive current and also running hot. Friction in the bushings and excess current in the winding can make the motor too hot to touch.

It's not always easy, it can take several tries but the bushings must be scrupulously clean, lubed with turbine oil and the orbital brass bushings must be perfectly aligned so there is no excess pressure on the motor rotor shaft.

If the shaft is scored sometimes it can be lapped with 2000 grit wet or dry abrasive then polished with metal polish.

Likewise on the idler wheel bushing, cleaned, polished, lubed and the retainer spring and fiber washers should not be on so tight that it binds the idler.

If all else fails, well you have do what you have to. So far I haven't found any shortage of good motors in trashed changers. -end



Check out this interesting cover that showed up on ebay. If I were to guess, it looks handmade.

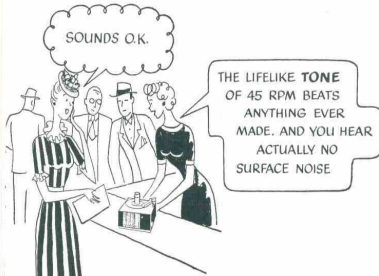
RCA Victor never made a cover specifically for any of the 45 changers. Either you bought one that had a lid built into the cabinet, or you purchased a carrying case which held the whole machine. There were a couple of aftermarket companies that made covers for the 45EY2 model. One model has rounded carrying handles on the side. The other has squarish handles. Both are made from what appears to be Plexiglas. The cover shown above for the 45J2 looks like it is made of a flexible clear plastic which has been sewn together. My guess is it was hand made. An item I have been searching for is an aftermarket box that you would place an rp-168 changer in. It was designed to look like a stack of vertical books. To push the reject button, there was a bookmark sticking out of the row of books that you would push in. Please let me know if you come across one.

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'Selling the 45 System' Cartoon (Origin Unknown)



What to tell 'em when you stop 'em to sell 'em
RCA Victor's 45 rpm system



YOU DON'T HEAR ANY SURFACE NOISE BECAUSE OF THE PURE VINYLITE RECORDS AND THE SPECIAL LIGHT PICK-UP!



... And as you say it, DO IT!

THE PRICE OF THESE 45 RPM RECORDS IS ONE OF THE MOST AMAZING THINGS ABOUT THEM. ONLY 95¢ FOR THE RED SEAL RECORDS! ONLY 65¢ FOR ALL THE OTHERS!



OF COURSE! WELL THEN, THIS 45 RPM PLUG-IN PLAYER IS JUST RIGHT FOR YOU, AND COSTS ONLY \$24.95! IT PLAYS THROUGH ANY SET YOU ALREADY HAVE. THAT WAY, YOU CAN ENJOY BOTH KINDS OF RECORDS!

No need to "knock" existing conventional equipment—it's still your largest, most valuable record market! Sell her 45 rpm to ADD to her present equipment. Of course, if she doesn't own any player at all, talk up the various RCA Victor 45 rpm models that you have in stock.

(Continued in next issue)

WORKBENCH

By Chris Cuff

Here is one for the books. Working on players for 50+ years and I found a new problem. I had a simple 2 tube 7EY type amp (35W4 and 50L6) that would play fine for 2 minutes or so, then go low in volume. It would vary from a bit low to nearly 90% off. Changed all the unusual parts- resistors, capacitors, tried 3 different 50L6's. I then noticed that if I pulled out the 50L6 while it was on and put it back in the socket, it would pop back in and play right for a while. It turned out to be the output transformer!

I used a 45EY2 transformer, cutting off the brown lead, worked fine.

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