

The 45rpm Phono Gazette

45 rpm attachment made for Great Britain

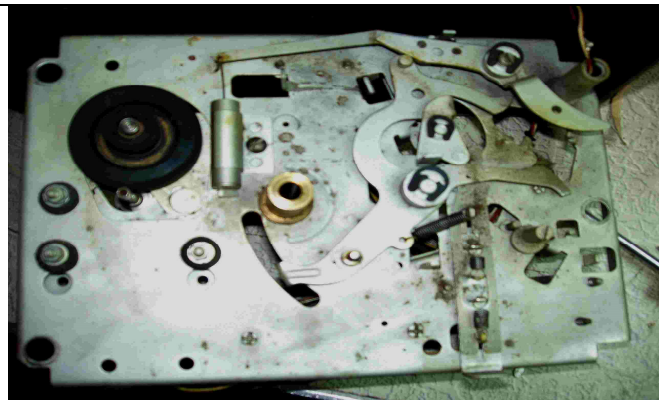
Well I've been collecting these machines since 1970 and never saw one like this. The company is HMV and the model is 2107A. Apparently this model was sold in Great Britain. It is definitely an rp-168 with slight changes in appearance. Instead of the RCA Victor logo on the top right, we have a square plate glued to the front left of the player showing nipper. Instead of the usual red or black spindle cap, this cap is brown. This turntable mat is also brown instead of the tan or red mat that we usually see. The motor is equipped to handle 120 volts or 240 volts. The only other difference I noted was the shape of the 'C' clips used underneath. Instead of being shaped like a 'C', they are elongated. This was an ebay find and despite double boxing, it arrived with a crack in the Bakelite case. Fortunately it is on the left side towards the back so the unit still displays nicely.



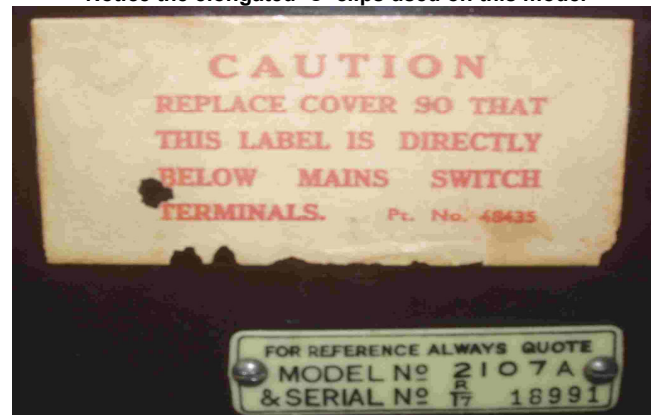
HMV Model 2107A Record attachment

Those EPs

Twice as much music on each record! Sounds like a sure win scenario. RCA Victor introduced the EP (Extended Play) 45 rpm record in 1952. It was to offset one of the main drawbacks of the new 45 rpm record, playing time. While the 45 was every bit as good as the 78 with regard to playing time, it left classical music lover's cold having to endure breaks throughout their classical works. The EP was not a cure-all but would provide the need for fewer breaks. But in order to squeeze those extra minutes onto the record something had to give. Since the grooves are closer together the volume had to be reduced. Since most people play a combination of regular 45s and EPs, the change in volume is quite noticeable. For this reason I have usually avoided EPs. That is, until recently. I was taking stock of my collection of rp-168s and testing some of their cartridges. As usual most of the original crystal cartridges were shot but there was one exception. This crystal cartridge sounded distorted when I
(con't on page 3)



Notice the elongated 'C' clips used on this model



Typical reference to 'Mains' used overseas

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More custom made cabinets.

By Doug Robinson

The player on the top photo is housed in a home-made cabinet covered in black and ivory vinyl. I now know why RCA Victor and other manufacturers used a cabinet that was two-toned on the exterior—it makes for a much more eye-appealing unit. This is a lesson I will keep in mind when I build cabinets in the future.

This player started life as a 45EY3. I found it in a local thrift store. The top and bottom covers were missing, the cabinet had a big piece missing from the left side where the lid prop would have been attached, and for good measure—a previous owner had jammed the toe of their shoe through the speaker grill, forever destroying the speaker. The record changer and amplifier were undamaged, and for \$3.00 I felt it was a good candidate for parts. It was taken home and disassembled—the remainder of the Bakelite cabinet went into the trash. The amp and record changer sat in a box for a couple of years before the 'build' bug hit me! I rebuilt the record changer and Paul Childress rebuilt the amp. A 6-inch speaker replaced the destroyed unit and provides room filling sound.

The green and white player has a different story. It was spotted in an antique mall. The lid was closed and I was so excited; sure that I'd uncovered another 45 player! I raised the lid only to discover it was a manually operated 4 speed record player. I closed the lid, took two steps when the light bulb over my head went on—nearly blinding those around me. I looked at this little Voice of Music 'Songfest' (1960) again, did some mental measuring and decided that an RP-190 might fit! The record player worked fine—the amp was clear and hum-free. The price tag was \$30—I offered \$20 and ended up paying \$25 for this player.

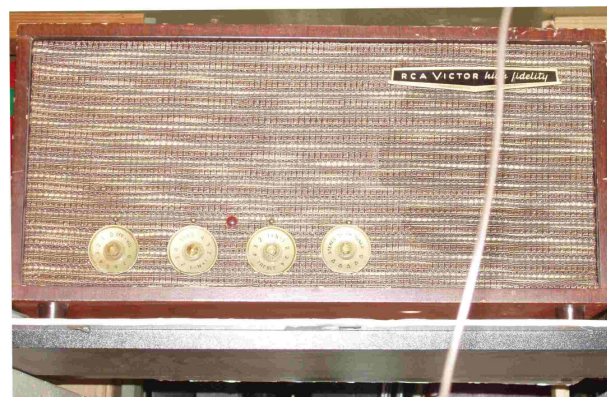
The control knobs were originally in the stacked position on the right-front side of the cabinet, the grille cloth was gold lame that was a bit grimy and had seen better days. In its original position, the amp would have stuck out in the way of the record changer. So measuring carefully, holes were drilled and the amp was turned 90 degrees so that the control knobs are now located on the right side of the cabinet, just in front of the carrying handle. A new speaker mounting board was produced as the speaker had to be moved to the left front of the cabinet to make room for the amp. The old grille cloth replaced with a woven plastic material of black, white and silver. A cover was made for the amp and speaker area, and the lower interior of the cabinet was covered with white vinyl. As with all the 45 players I restore, these projects couldn't have been completed without Willie Bosco's 'Lowrider' cartridge and idler wheels from Ed Crockett.



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Those EPs (continued from page 1)

would play a regular 45. But when I played an EP it sounded great! Even the bass was very full. The sound was so good, I decided to make it my EP attachment player. I've hooked it up to an RCA Victor New Orthophonic High Fidelity amplifier, model unknown. These external amps have 8 inch speakers and push/pull 6V6 output tubes for a very full, rich sound. So now my collection of EPs stays with this EP player. I'm convinced that the cartridge is defective but as long as it provides this sound to my EPs, I'll be using it.



Audio amp with dual 6V6 output tubes

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