

45rpm Phono Gazette

Berkshire 45 Attachment brings \$405 on e-bay

By Phil Vourtsis

The rare Berkshire 45 attachment was made available to those customers owning the high end Berkshire console High Fidelity System which was equipped with a 78 rpm changer only. These consoles would sell for as much as \$4000 in the late 1940s!

There is a very interesting article that gives a history of the Berkshire models available at

http://www.antiqueradio.com/Dec07_Braithwaite_RCABerkshire.html

The distinctive features of the Berkshire 45 attachment are the brass corner protectors on the wooden cabinet, black felt on the turntable, black colored metal tone-arm. The electrical features include a GE variable reluctance cartridge, and capacitive start 4 pole motor. The cabinet was available in mahogany or oak finish.

Here is another website with information on one of the Berkshires.

http://www.earlytelevision.org/rca_berkshire.html



Workbench

RP-168 bits of wisdom

This past month I went on a restoring binge bringing 5 RP-168 changers back to life. I would try to have two units at a time on the workbench and work on them together. This way you can compare the parts you are working on and see if the two machines work and feel the same as you put the parts back together. One thing I have noticed when working on these in the past is that each one seems to have its own personality. Although the basic design of the changer makes them reject somewhat jerky, some seem jerkier than others. After working on these five units I have come to some new conclusions. Although in the past I have cleaned and lubricated the parts, I think they need more than that. Many of the parts come in contact and ride along other metal parts, so the condition of the edges of the parts are critical. I now clean each metal part with Brillo including the edges of the part. Now when the parts are reinstalled they operate much smoother and quieter than before.

Be careful when using harsh chemicals.

As always I clean the underneath of the turntable with lacquer thinner, especially where the idler wheel comes in contact with the turntable. I had just started using a new paper towel to do the cleaning but had left the old paper towel in the palm of my other hand. As I was cleaning the turntable the top of the spindle (spindle nose) came in contact with the old paper towel which still had some lacquer thinner on it. Not realizing what was happening, the old towel stayed in contact with the spindle nose until it started disintegrating!

Elvis 45 Player goes for \$3,550 on e-bay!

The RCA Victor model 7EP45 portable record player in the blue box with Elvis' signature on the top has sold for an unprecedented \$3,550 on ebay. The player was in excellent condition and included the original box. Only thing missing was the RCA Victor white logo that belongs on the speaker grill.



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The Ultimate 7HF45 Enhancements

By Doug VanCleave

I had this 7-HF-45 given to me back in 1967 when I was 15 years old. It had Pontiac GTO stickers stuck to the four corners of the top lid.

A local repair shop had replaced the original hi-fi Sonotone 1P cartridge with a standard crystal used in the lo-fi models. It was a serious downgrade that caused the owners to give up on this one and buy a stereo portable.

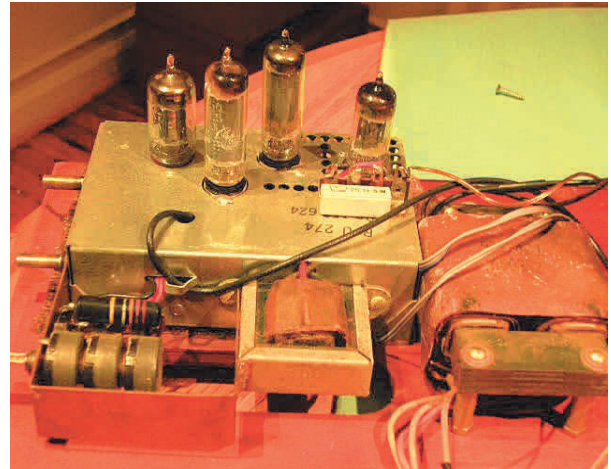
I refinished the cabinet and replaced the grille cloth with a satin black metal grille. I added some satin black paint and some red flocked contact paper to bring it into the late '60s.



Note the three controls on the right side



For reference, here's what the original unmolested amplifier looks like.



Here's what it morphed into after several years and modifications.

Mod #1: Add a 3 gang continuously variable loudness control kit and separate the tone control into bass and treble controls.

Mod #2: Replace the 35W4 rectifier tube with a silicone diode, change the output tubes from 35C5s to 50C5s and use the seven pin 35W4 tube socket to add a 6C4 AF amp tube so that I could use an Electro-Voice .5-volt cartridge. Replace original woofer with a long throw, soft roll suspension woofer and tweeter with a modern phenolic ring type.

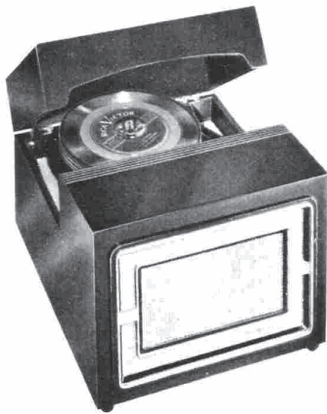
Final Mod: Abandon output transformer in place and add large output transformer with feedback winding from RCA 6-HF-4. Increased gain on first AF amp stage to compensate for the gain lost with the added inverse feedback.

Final result: A little record player with big sound and low distortion.

Ed Comment; I know sometimes we hesitate to make changes to an existing piece but that is truly a thing of beauty. Nice job!

Comments from the web; "That thing looks like it is going 100 just standing still!" I think it was the triple pipes....errr I mean knobs down the side!

And I wonder does the lid just rattle and viciously vibrate when you crank this beast up? I can just imagine that little wood box *booming* and bouncing across the table top...HAHA!



RCA VICTOR

45EY4

Large, 8-inch Speaker.
Console-Like Performance.
RCA Victor "45" System.
Stunning, Modern Cabinet.

WITH THE "GOLDEN THROAT"
ACOUSTICAL SYSTEM

- World's Finest Changer . . . Plays 14 records . . . up to an hour of music at one press of one button.
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- "Golden Throat" Tone System provides brilliant enjoyable listening.
- Supersensitive, 8-inch Permanent Magnet Electro-Dynamic Speaker . . . the largest, most sensitive speaker ever in an RCA Victor "45" table phonograph.
- Durable-Point Pickup . . . no needle changing . . . featherweight pressure means longer life for your records.
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- RCA Victor Preferred Type Tubes, matched for more powerful performance.
- Continuously Variable Tone Control permits personalized sound selection.
- Push-pull audio system for powerful console-like performance.
- Jeweled "off-on" Indicator Light.
- Advanced Changer Mechanism . . . fewer moving parts . . . assures continuous trouble-free operation.
- Underwriters' Laboratories Approved.

IT PLAYS RECORDS LIKE THE NEW RCA VICTOR 7-INCH RECORD

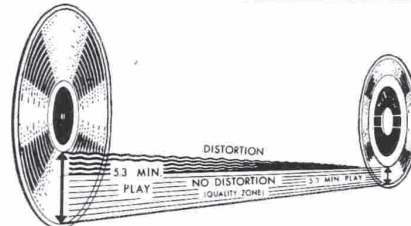
Theoretically, every record can have a "quality zone" . . . a portion of the record in which no distortion occurs. The new RCA Victor 7-inch record is the first to be recorded entirely in the "quality zone."

Plays at 45 rpm and gives as much music as an ordinary 12-inch record . . . distortion-free over 100% of its playing surface.

Small size is easy to handle . . . easy to store on ordinary bookshelves, in desk drawers, between bookends.

Large center hole makes loading and unloading simple.

Surface-saving shoulder keeps playing surfaces from touching while on the spindle and while stored.



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An extensive library of selections by the World's Greatest Artists is available on the new RCA Victor 7-inch records.

Cabinet . . . A distinctively functional modern design which lends itself conveniently to any styling scheme. The stunning, deep maroon plastic cabinet is tastefully trimmed in gold with attractive, matching grille cloth covering the speaker. A hinged lid raises or lowers easily and you can play records with the lid in either open or closed position. Choose Model 45EY4 for impressive performance and all the great advantages of the RCA Victor 45 system of recorded music.

Dimensions . . . Height, 8³/₈" ; Width, 11¹/₄" ; Depth, 13-5/16" .

Estimated Shipping Weight 15 lbs.

New Automatic RCA Victor "45" Table Phonograph . . . has the world's finest changer . . . plays fourteen records automatically . . . up to an hour of music without need of attention. Easiest, surest operating changer ever designed . . . all record changes are made from the large center spindle. No chipping of center hole. Does away with "spindle seeking."

Voltage 115 Volts.

Tube Complement . . . 3 RCA Victor Preferred Type Tubes plus 1 Rectifier Tube.

AC Operation 60 Cycles.

Form 2C7094

"Victrola"—T. M. Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

Specifications subject to change without notice.

Printed in U. S. A.

RCA Victor Dealer Sheets, courtesy of Phil Vourtsis Collection

*The 45 rpm Phono Gazette is a quarterly publication since 1995. \$6/\$8 for 4 issues, \$12/\$16 for 9 issues.(USA/Intl)
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