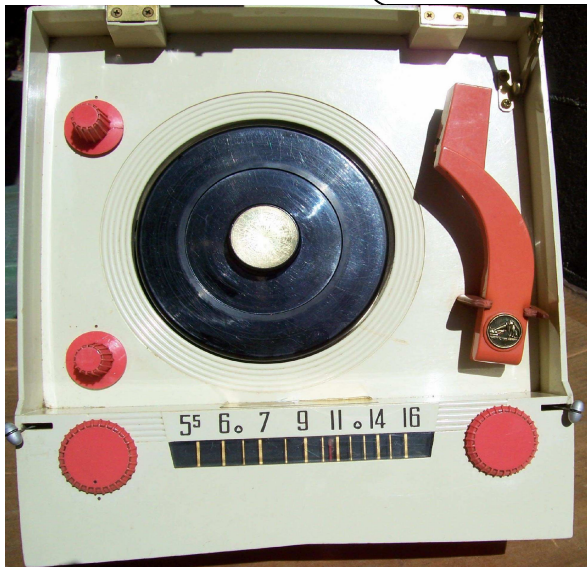


45rpm Phono Gazette

Unique RCA Victor "Skipper"



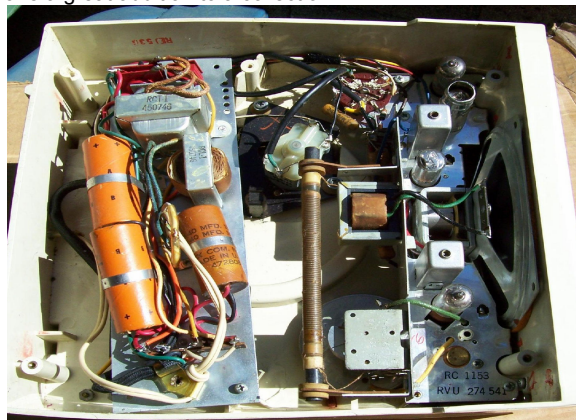
RCA Victor Model 6BY4A Skipper

By Dennis D'Amico

Blame me for seeking the weird and unusual record player postings on eBay. When this RCA Skipper went up a few weeks ago, I knew I had to have it. Just when you thought you have seen it all, along comes something that blows it away! I had communicated with the original owner during and after the purchase, so now I have the complete story that goes with this unique player.

This 6-BY-4A was presented as just another plastic radio/record player. The ad stated: Auction is for a vintage RCA Victor Model 6-BY-4 record player. Physically the item is in excellent condition as can be seen in the photographs.

As far as testing, the Radio plays fine. The turntable does not spin – motor does not appear to be turning. The amplifier seems to work when in record playing mode (rubbing needle with finger is output through speaker). It could use some cleaning but do not see any obvious cracks on plastics. The insides look very clean. It is definitely a good candidate for restoration and would make a great addition to a collection.

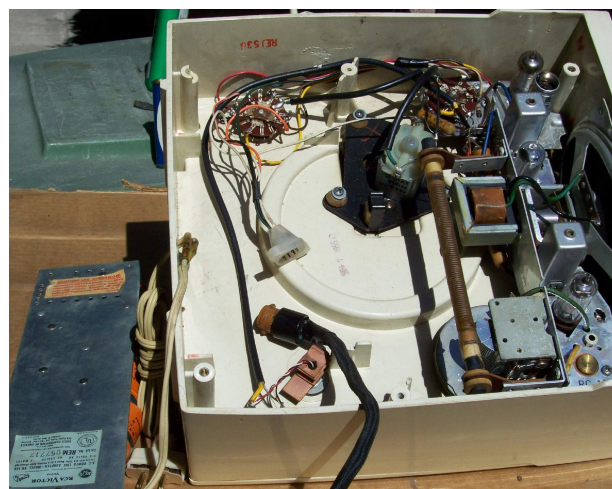


Skipper with optional power supply installed inside

What's this? A line cord sticking out the back? Extra electronics inside the body of the Skipper? Gee, that is unusual! That is where the A/B battery and 4 D cell battery tube normally goes. Examining closer, I realized that the extra electronics was the chassis of the RK-198 A/C power adapter! What a find!! After I secured the purchase, I asked the owner about it. He thought it was original, but after explaining the details, he recalled what happened many years ago. His father was into electronic work, and when the A/B battery was no longer available, he decided to "marry" the power supply to the record player. That continued its usefulness until it was stored away and long forgotten. When the owner cleaned out his father's house, getting it ready to sell, he came across the Skipper and posted it. He barely recalled his father making the modification roughly 40 years ago, but he did acknowledge his father doing it.

Note that the "D" cell battery tube and clips are gone, and one of the clip mounts is used to secure the adapter chassis. Both the 7 pin receptacle and the supply cord are tucked underneath the adapter chassis, giving height and clearance from the power switch solder lugs. Note also one post for fastening the bottom panel has been notched and the brass insert gone.

Taking the power supply chassis out, you can see the 7 pin plastic receptacle is still intact, and the power supply plug is present. However, the Alden 7 pin plug was modified with the addition of a 7 pin miniature tube socket. The original backshell is still present. I can understand this because the original Alden plug had poor contacts, and often needed fixing. The 4 prong A/B battery plug was also removed. Lastly, the negative wire that connected the turntable motor to one of the battery clips was also removed. Everything else is still present. The bottom of the A/C power chassis is remarkably clean.



Skipper with power supply removed

I will build a reproduction box for the A/C power supply, completing the project. It goes to show you, you never know what will pop up on eBay!!

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The wine Phono-fans should drink

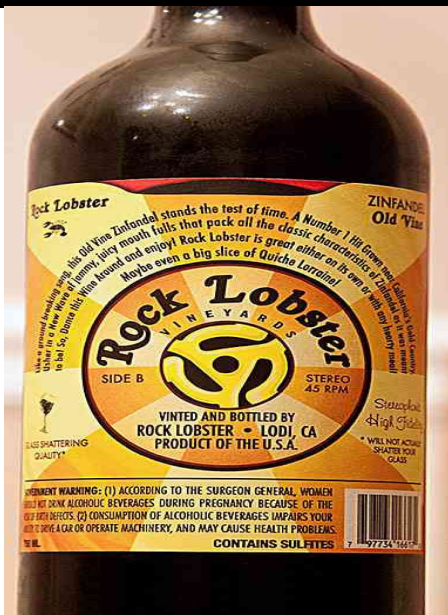
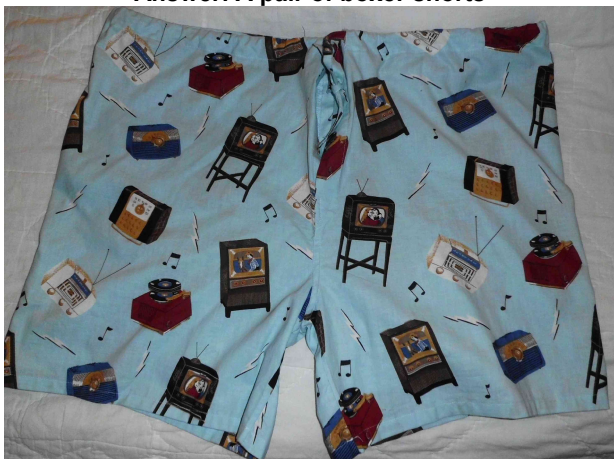


Photo provided by Bruce Willence, photographer for the Fabulous Victrola 45

Answer to Picture Quiz

Here is an illustration of RCA Victor products for 1949 when they introduced the 45 rpm system of recorded music. Can anyone tell me what these illustrations were printed on?

Answer: A pair of boxer shorts



Courtesy of Ray Tyner

Spring in Ohio

By Phil Vourtsis

Had to spend 6 weeks in West Chester, Ohio this spring so I checked if there were any antique radio events in the area and was quite surprised to find not one but two events occurring during June. There was a meet in Dayton and Radiorama22 in Cincinnati. I was able to meet up with another phono fanatic Ray Tyner at both the meets. Also met another avid collector who is quite active on the antique radio forums with the handle 'bastardbus' (Real name Todd). Ray went home with a slideomatic and a 45EY3 both at bargain prices. (\$30). These meets were on the small side but still enjoyable. They provide free breakfast, an auction, and the Dayton show had some decent door prizes. According to Ray the big show in that area is the Michigan show which is typically in July.

Ebay Update



A Truetone portable player in nice physical shape went for \$430 on Ebay recently. The machine was not restored and could have been a one tube wonder.

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

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

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June 1956 RCA Victor Exhibit. Courtesy of Phil Vourtsis Collection



Want List

Services

The 45rpm Phono Gazette

<p>Bob Becker (201.391.2971) 7 Woodland Road Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677 rdbbecker@aol.com Beige knob for 8EY4FK Large tuning or vol knob for 9Y510 6JM25 Ding Dong Slideomatic 7HF45 Oak or Maple preferred 8EY4DJ gray plastic front with lid Decca blk/red portable 45 player</p>	<p>Bob Kolba 904.285.5483 161 Twelve Oaks Lane Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 320082 Rkolba0211@aol.com</p>	<p>Willie Bosco 707.923.3897 1588 Miller Creek Rd. Garberville, CA 95542 williamjbosco@gmail.com Cam kits, and Lowrider cartridges available again!</p>
<p>Joe Centanni (585.230.1539) 74 Oakbriar Ct Penfield, NY 14526 s100x@rochester.rr.com VM Stereo 45 player Magnavox 45 player</p>	<p>John Lee 314 East 11th St. Upland, CA 91786 nipper45@verizon.net Can scan other character model decal in exchange for Snow White.</p>	<p>Paul Childress 6632 W. Denny Ct. Chesterfield, VA 23832 804-271-7842 pchildress@prodigy.net</p>
<p>Charles Cummins (817-732-4313) 3912 Calmont Ave Fort Worth, Texas 76107</p>	<p>John Ortale (203-754-8346) 44 Barden Street Waterbury, CT 06706 ortl@aol.com Early Disney models</p>	<p>Bob Havalack (585-458-0801) 1239 Plymouth Ave South Rochester, NY 14611 ebm21@frontiernet.net Will repair/rebuild players. Specialize in car 45 player rebuilds. Idler and Cam rebuilding</p>
<p>David Cox (937)484-3241 1407 Knight Road Urbana, OH 43078 dcc49@yahoo.com 45 spindle for Admiral 5W12N 2-speed record player Bakelite lid for Zenith twin seven Outer concentric radio/phono knob for Emerson 635</p>	<p>Tom Paruta (716) 837-8131 43 Flower St. Buffalo, NY TomTMP58@aol.com Zenith model T545 radio/phono. Zenith twin seven (G660) or "Dartmouth" console with twin 7</p>	<p>V-M Audio Enthusiasts (248-478-0990) eves/wkends 37530 E. Meadowhill Northville, MI 48167 info@thevoiceofmusic.com www.thevoiceofmusic.com Repair parts including both V-M and RCA 45 players.</p>
<p>Dennis D'Amico 11892 Pine Street Los Alamitos, CA 90720-4163 lionelguy@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Bob Reck (410)647-1849484 Botteford Court, Severna Park, MD</p>	<p>Phil Vourtsis (732-446-2427) 13 Cornell Place Manalapan, NJ 07726 philvourtsis@gmail.com Books signed by author The Fabulous Victrola '45' Schiffer Publishing LTD. \$25 plus \$4 shipping</p>
<p>Bill Gourd (989-832-2934) 1024 West Park Drive Midland, Michigan 48640 In priority order: 8EY4, 7HF45 (wood case) 8HF45P (portable) 4Y511 (radio/phono) 9Y510 or 9Y511 (radio/phono) 6BY4</p>	<p>Dan Saporito 8 - 5th Ave Ortley Beach, NJ 08731</p>	<p>Vintage Electronics 128 Buccaneer Drive Hattiesburg, MS 39402 601.264.4755 phonoed@aol.com www.vintageelectronics.com Rebuilding Service Idlers, cams, cartridges Flash- NOS Sonotone 1P carts for the better sounding 45 players</p>
<p>Hank Granse (360-871-9014) 6751 View Dr. SE Port Orchard, WA 98367 hgranse@wavecable.com</p>	<p>Doug Robinson 2609S. 800E. Salt Lake, Utah 84106 Doug45rpm@hotmail.com</p>	<p>West Tech Services 615 Fairground St. Caldwell, Ohio 43724 TELE/FAX: 740-732-6056 westtechservices@yahoo.com Rebuilding Service Idlers, cams, cartridges</p>
<p>Bob Green (570-366-3949) 1711 Breezy Acres Rd Orwigsburg, PA 17961 For Sale- 15E Demonstrator rcgreen@schmobile.com</p>	<p>James Romano (856-220-9588) 1101 Berlin Rd Cherry Hill, NJ 08034 JUKEBOXJUNKIE@aol.com Looking for RCA 15E Demonstrator</p>	<p>Kurt Wilmarth (716.279.8948) c/o Echo-Tone Music 991 Genesee Park Blvd Rochester, NY 14619 Croonin@frontiernet.net Repair/restore service</p>
<p>Doug Houston (810-627-4141) 3441 South Hadley Ortonville, Michigan 48462 HoustonD@tacom.army.mil</p>	<p>Ray Tyner (614-475-1697) 4709 Wendler Blvd Columbus Ohio 43230-1642 rcray45rpm@msn.com Birch 45 player, Steelman 45 player</p>	<p>Retro-Tronics Custom radio backs and phono bottoms for 45EY2, 7EY series www.retro-tronics.com</p>
<p></p>	<p>Chambers Williams (817-446-0346) 9423 Marsh Creek San Antonio, Texas 78250</p>	<p></p>
<p></p>	<p>Rex North (937-368-3060) 5333 Alcony-Conover Road Conover, Ohio 45317</p>	<p></p>
<p></p>	<p>Looking for spare idler and cam.</p>	<p></p>