

45rpm Phono Gazette

Unusual players that may be one of a kind.

By Phil Vourtsis

It's downright amazing what some people will do to make their record player unique. The first example is most likely a one of a kind home made cabinet featuring



Courtesy of Rick Winegarten



Jukette

the 1st generation rp-168 record changer. Although I did not get a look at the back of it, the speaker grill looks quite sizeable so that this might be a good sounding machine. Nice touch with the see through window in front and the rounded corners on the top lid.

The second unit is much more professional looking and is supposed to look like a miniature jukebox. Hence the name 'Jukette'. Judging from the quality of the cabinet, this may have been a limited run product back in the fifties. The tube electronics is definitely fifties vintage. I have absolutely no information regarding these units so what you have here is my opinion only. Anyone with more information, please get in touch with me so we can share it with everyone.

Last resort for beat 45EY1.

By Phil Vourtsis

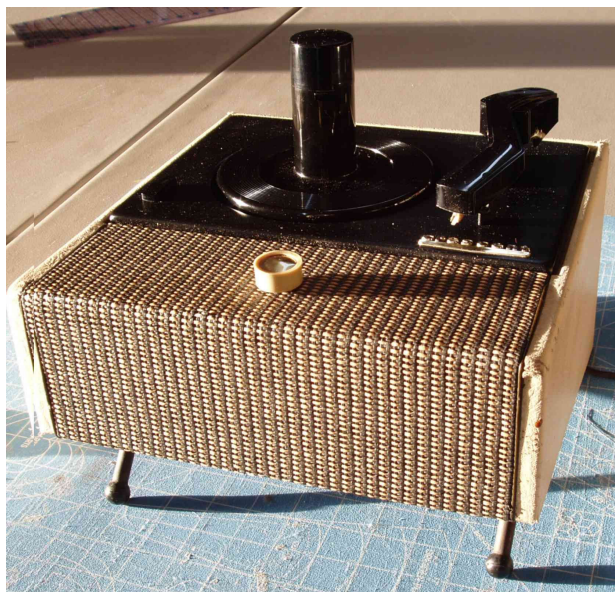
I was on the verge of parting out a really beat 45EY1 when I decided to experiment. The bakelite case was badly stained and the bakelite shell had been compromised. The goldish coating on the spindle was also peeling off. So I removed all the coating on the spindle and removed all the paint on the tonearm. They pretty much match with a nice steel gray. Then after priming the bakelite case, I painted it red. To finish it off I painted the case's bottom with some gray paint. I also painted a nice garage sale candle holder with a sun theme with the red paint and that completes the picture.



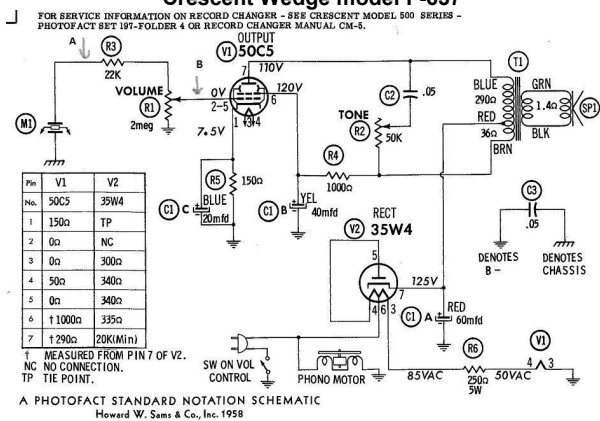
45EY1 after sprucing up

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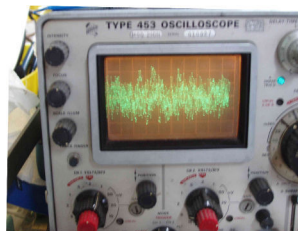
Adventures working with the Crescent 'Wedge'



Crescent Wedge model F-637



Schematic shows single stage of amplification



Scope at point A



Scope at Point B

By Phil Vourtsis

Crescent had a close relationship with RCA Victor with regards to the 45 players. Crescent factories were used to build many of the record changers for RCA. Crescent had a product line of 45 machines with some unique cabinet designs like this model F-637. It was a modern looking design with 2 legs in the front and the speaker installed in the bottom of the cabinet. Usually the spindle cap is a cherry red color but the cap was damaged so I opted to make the changer completely black with a black spindle cap. Despite its modern design, it was still designed as an inexpensive player with just one tube of amplification. Even the tone control was omitted in this model.

I performed the usual restore which included a complete changer overhaul and recapping the amplifier. When it was completed I noticed the sound would be distorted sometimes. I swapped out the tubes and changed one of the power resistors because it was double the correct value. No difference. At this point I would have preferred testing with an audio signal generator but I don't have one yet in my Myrtle Beach workshop. So I did the next best thing. I played a record with plenty of musical instruments and hooked up my scope at key points in the circuit. First I looked at point A in the schematic which would show the output of the cartridge playing the record. As you can see in the first scope picture, the signal looks like I would expect it to look. Then I looked at point B in the schematic and got the picture in the second scope picture. All of the positive signal information was cut off! This would definitely cause distortion. But wait, all the signal has gone through from point A to point B is a resistor and volume control. Neither of these should cause the top portion of the signal to be affected. Now this is where experience makes the difference. As soon as you see something electrically that doesn't make sense, STOP, and check for bad grounds or short circuits. Sure enough I found a short between pin 1 of the 50C5 output tube and the capacitor C3. Once this was corrected the distortion was gone.

Other things to watch for in this model are;

1. The vinyl covering used is very thin and cheap so be extra careful when trying to clean the vinyl. It may look worse than when you started the cleaning.
2. Watch for loose legs. The legs are secured by a small block of wood that is glued in place.

Postage rates have gone up again. Between that increase and the cost of ink cartridges for my printer, I'm afraid the cost of paper copies has to be increased. Electronic copies are still free!

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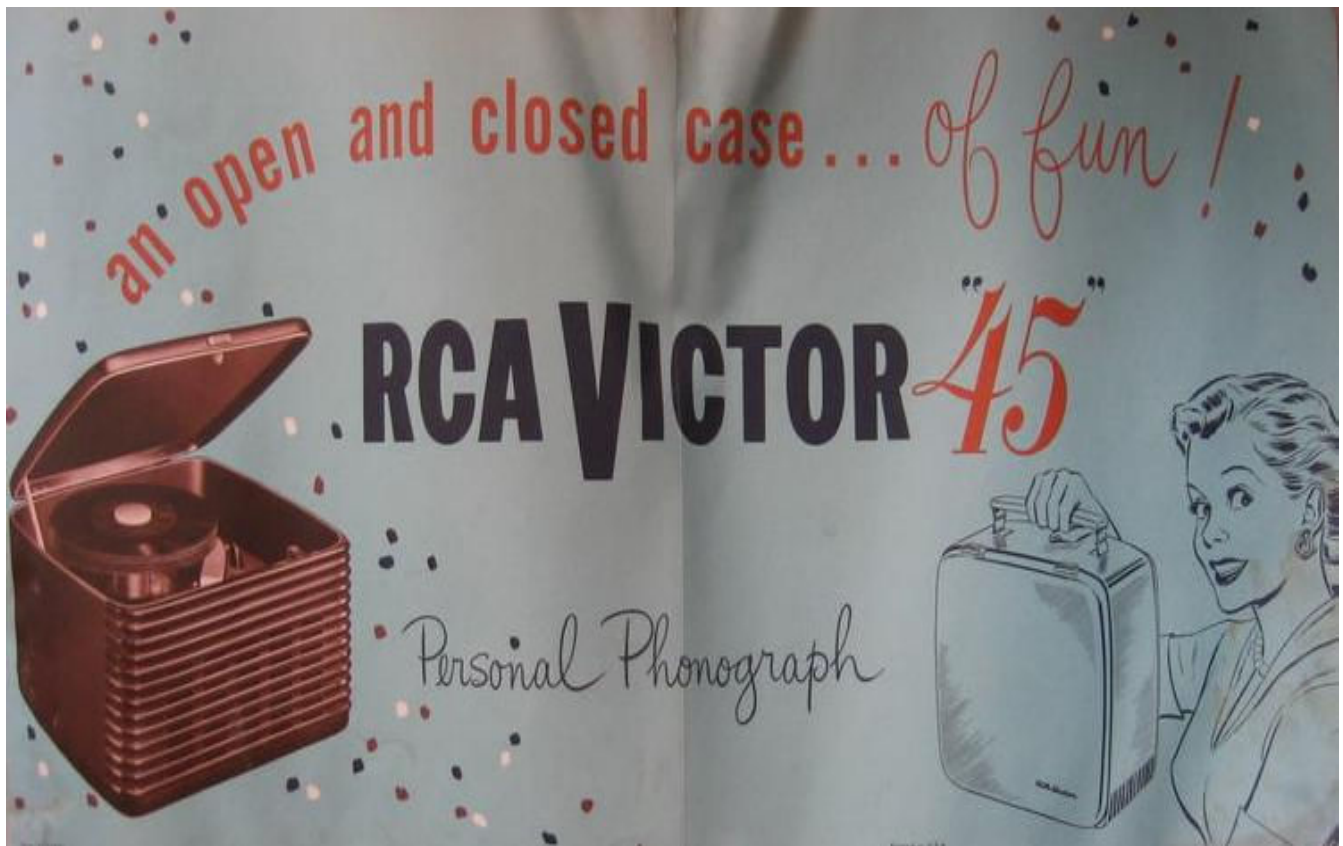
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Advertising a player which was never manufactured



Back in 1950 RCA Victor was getting ready to introduce a new portable phonograph with a bakelite case. Early renderings showed an rp-168 changer in the bakelite case with the company logo on the top of the case. However when the phonograph was ready for manufacture and sale, the more modern rp-190 changer was used and the logo was moved to the front louvers. There have been several ads like this floating around. Not sure they ever made it to the newspapers or magazines.

Time for a laugh.



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