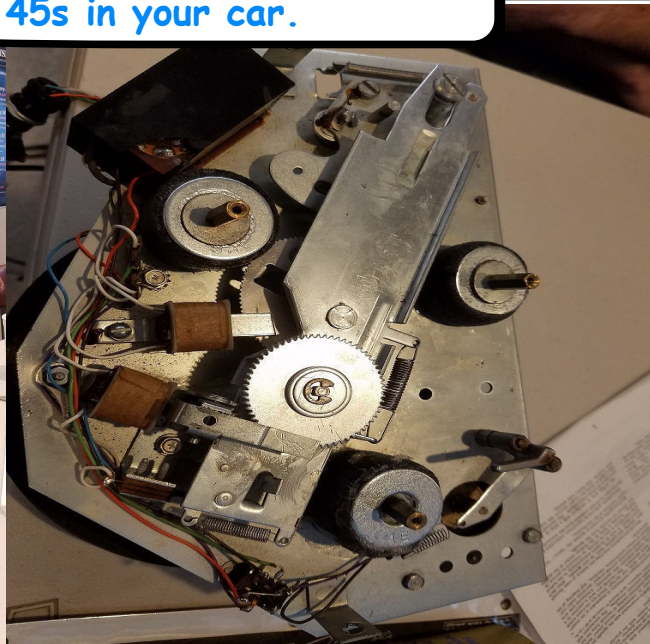


# 45rpm Phono Gazette

Yes, there was a time when you could play 45s in your car.



NJARC club member Matt Reynolds works on 45rpm auto player.



Auto player uses solenoids for reject and large rubber mounting cushions

By Phil Vourtsis

Back in the late 1950s Chrysler Corporation developed the "Highway Hifi". This was a phonograph designed to work in your new Chrysler corp car and was mounted under the dashboard. The special records rotated at 16 rpm. The records were hard to get and did not have much in the range of music you could select from. They did not sell well and were phased out rather quickly.

RCA Victor felt the concept could sell well if the records were readily available, like the 45. The design of the machine was quite different from the usual 45 player. It did handle a stack of records automatically but played them in an upsidedown position. In other words the tonearm would play the bottom of the first record on the spindle and then drop the record off the spindle into a record holding area below the player. In the first picture Matt has removed the unit from the outer case and flipped it over to show the turntable. Of course the real challenge with this unit was the ability to play while going over sizable bumps in the road. Large rubber cushions were used and the weight of the tonearm when playing the records is on the heavy side.

Then in the early 60s the 4-track tape was introduced and the 8-track tape quickly followed providing four programs of music in stereo without the problem of skipping or loading a stack of records. Just push the tape in the slot and you are done. The players were also much more compact and were quickly integrated into the radio by the manufacturers. Lastly there was the problem of storing vinyl records in the hot interior of the car. If you weren't careful there would be a whole lot of warping going on.

For more pictures of the player and the car it is installed in, check out <https://photos.app.goo.gl/Hc3vRNJnEYeDK1WC8>.



RCA Victor record player for your car .  
Modern answering machine on top of player is not necessary for proper operation!

# 45rpm Phono Gazette

## New Hope For Rusty Chassis

Blast from the past- Oct 2013 issue

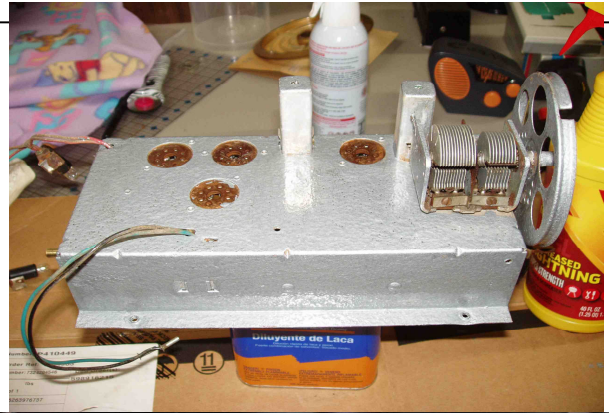
By Phil Voutsis

Sometimes you come across a radio or record player that has a rusty chassis. This was the case when I picked up this RCA Victor bakelite table radio at the AWA Carolina Meet in Charlotte, SC last March. As you can see the bakelite case was in nice condition so I couldn't pass it up for \$10. But after opening the case up at home, I was pretty disappointed. Then I remembered the previous weekend I had painted the inside trunk area of my vintage car (67 Pontiac Tempest convertible) with an interesting paint from Rust-oleum. It's a unique silver hammered finish that can be directly applied to rust. According to the can, no primer is needed.

I decided to try using it on the radio chassis. After some sanding prep I brushed it on and was astounded how well it covered the rust. It was expensive paint but worth every penny. For those of you who have record attachments (45J, 45J2, 45J3), these are the best radios to play them through because they have a decent sized output transformer and big speaker. Most RCA Victor radios from this era come equipped with an RCA jack and switch to accommodate the record attachment.



Before



After picture of RCA radio chassis



RCA Victor Bakelite table radio after restoration

You might meet this young lady at your nearest RCA Victor Dealer back in the day.

Not sure when this young woman was used in RCS Victor's advertising. Probably the 40s or 50s.



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\*\*\*\*\*

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