

45rpm Phono Gazette

Ristaucrat 45 rpm tabletop Jukeboxes



Ristaucrat Nonselectible Jukebox



Ristaucrat Selectible Jukebox

By Phil Voiurtsis

In 1952 the Ristaucrat company of Wisconsin manufactured its first tabletop jukebox. It was designed to allow smaller businesses that could not afford a full size jukebox, to offer their customers music right on the counter top. Actually, it was a far cry from what you got with a full size juke. The first model would accept a nickel and play the next record on its stack. You wouldn't know what the names of the records on the stack were either, except for the top record, which was in plain sight. So you could look at this as a 'pot luck' selection.

Although the record changer looks very much like an RCA Victor, it is not. The only RCA parts are the tonearm and the idler wheel. Mechanically these units are quite complicated compared to the RCA changers. Part of the reason for the added complexity is the ability to raise the stack of records to the top of the spindle automatically once the last record is played. This

is accomplished using a horseshoe shaped gizmo, which spends most of its time at the bottom of the spindle doing nothing. But when it's time to raise the stack of records, it begins to rise and take the stack with it. After the records have cleared the spindle shelves, the horseshoe drops back to its idle position at the bottom of the spindle. Meanwhile the records now stay on top of the spindle because of the shelves. Like many other jukeboxes, the tonearm manages to go by a needle cleaning brush while it is rejecting.

For their next model, Ristaucrat added the very important missing piece from their first model, the ability to select a song. Twelve selections were available and the selection would be made from the front panel buttons as shown in the picture above. If selection 2 is playing and you want to hear selection 1 next, the changer would reject each record 3 through 12, one at a time, then lift the stack, drop record one and

then play it. As the records are dropping from the spindle, the tonearm stays out of the way until the required number of records are dropped.

Watching these units operate is quite a sight. Sound quality is not the best, especially if you compare it to a full sized juke. One mechanical problem that you have to watch out for is a mechanism jam. This can occur if the record is too thick. Unfortunately there are quite a few 45's that are not within spec for thickness. When the separators come out of the spindle, they can get wedged into the oversized record and what you hear is the unit's motor groaning away against some of the gears. Other than this mechanical shortcoming, they are quite a conversation piece and usually command higher prices than your typical RCA 45 player.

Both units feature a plastic dome to protect and keep prying hands away from the record playing mechanism.

45rpm Phono Gazette

36 NAME SECTION THE BILLBOARD JULY 14, 1955

IT'S HERE!

The Table Model 3 speed demonstrator that you have been waiting for.....

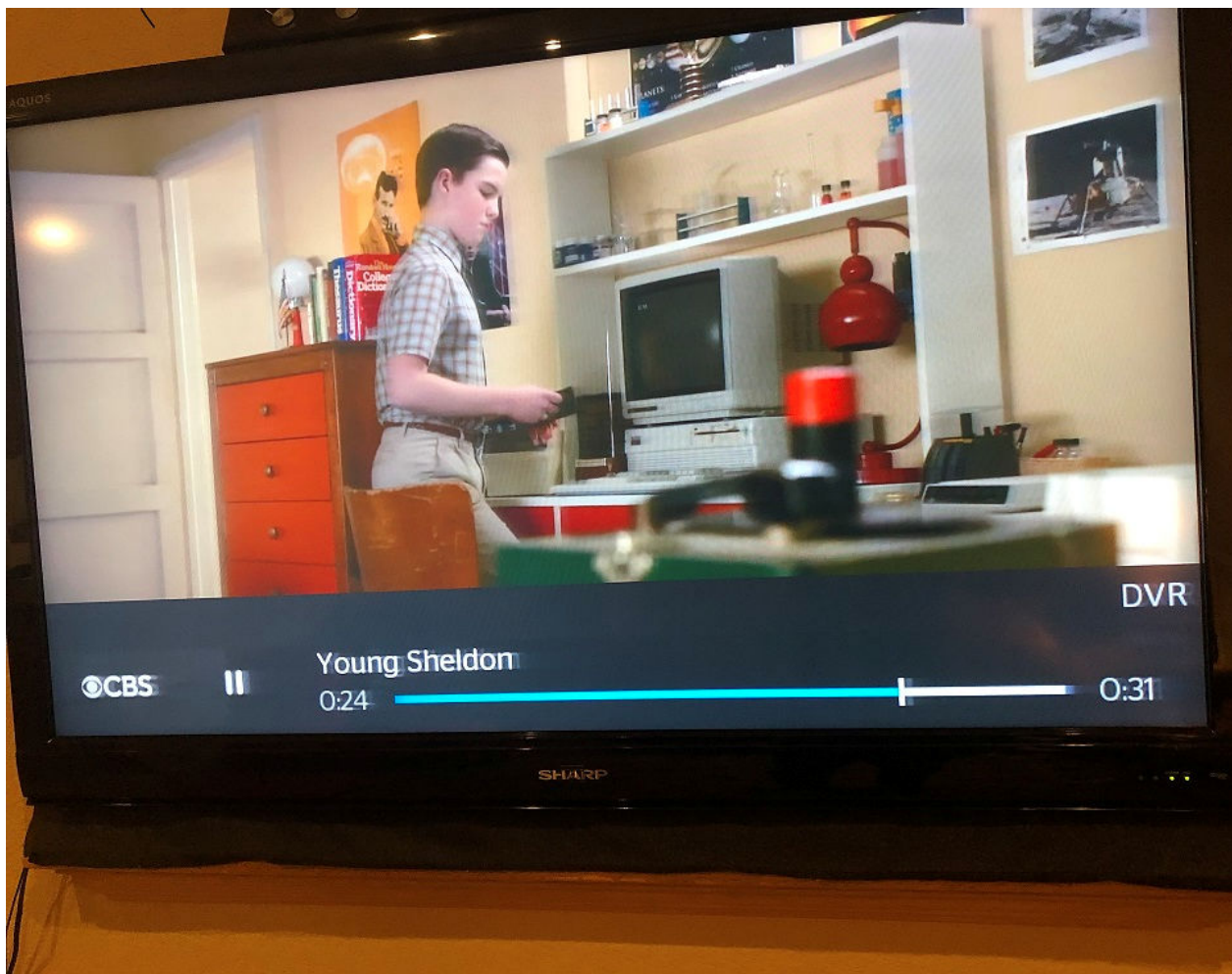


Be sure to stop at the RCA VICTOR Records' exhibit and see this great new demonstrator that will be a pleasure to have and to work with ...

SPECIFICATIONS OF NEW BOOTH DEMONSTRATOR

The 15E Demonstrator was designed to be used in larger record stores to allow customers to listen to the songs they wanted to buy. It was really an effective way to show off the Nipper logo and the new 45 rpm record changer. The amplifier is a very robust design and sounds very good. There was a story going around that when the unit was switched to 33 rpm, the amplifier was purposely changed to not sound as good as the 45 rpm speed. Who knows whether this was really done or just a way for competitors to malign the new 45 system. These units are hard to come by because they were not sold to customers. If you get one, you'll need a substantial table to put it on!

45rpm Phono Gazette



Young Sheldon Cooper is growing up fast. I believe this is the fifth season for the show and he still has his trusty Crescent 45 player on his dresser. His sister has moved out of the room so he did make some changes to the room but the 45 player is still there. Never seen him use it though. Wonder if it even works!