

The 45rpm Phono Gazette

Happy New Year!

All the news that fits, we print

17 YEARS TO GET TO THE MARKET! (Part 2)

Last issue we discussed the design the of the RP-168 Record Changer and the 45 RPM record, which was released to the public in January 1949. Some interesting improvements were made after introduction. The reject cycle was so quick that the tone arm would slam down and even bounce on the record. To alleviate this, a piston was attached to the tonearm to dampen the rate of descent. Another improvement was made so that more records could be stacked and played. This meant changes to the spindle nose, shelves and separators. A taller spindle nose would accomodate more records and the shelves and separators were changed from a rotating scheme to an "in/out" arrangement.



The RP-193 which was only produced in 1950.

Two other Record changers were introduced in 1950. They were the RP-190 and RP-193. They appear in the RCA Redbook for 1950. The RP-190 would replace the RP-168 and see production through most of the 1950's. The RP-193 (pictured above) would only be produced for one year. So the question is, were these two changers designed by different groups at RCA or did they farm the work out? The two designs are so different indicating to me that it was probably two different sets of engineers working on them.

Lets take a look under these machines and compare them. The RP-168 changer has only 65 parts and the reject cycle works off a cam on the bottom of the turntable. While this saves parts and complexity, it makes a very noisy and jerky reject cycle.

The RP-190 uses a rubber cam which rides on a knurled cylinder on the bottom of the turntable. This way the reject cycle does not depend on one revolution of the turntable and provides a very smooth action.

Unfortunately, rubber parts are one of the biggest headaches we encounter when rebuilding these things

and the fact that the RP-190 has two rubber parts just compounds the problem.

The RP-193 uses metal gears for the reject cycle. It is interesting how the gears are used not only to cycle the tone arm but also to drop the record. One of the gears actually rides upward during the cycle. This upward movement causes the shelves to operate and drop the record.

So, based on the data that I have, this is what I think the final breakdown was.

RP168 manufactured 1949 thru 1950

RP190 manufactured 1950 thru 1958

RP193 manufactured in 1950

If anyone out there has better information, please let me know. I would love to know the number of units sold during these years also.

WANT LIST

Notice: The following info is surely invalid because of its age

Charles Cummins 817-732-4313

(Players)

Alice in Wonderland

7EY1 or 2 series plastics

John Ortale 203-754-8346

(Players)

Early Disney models

Radio/Phono with round dial

Ray Tyner 614-475-1697

(Players)

HiFi models

Decca models

(Parts)

7EY1 White knob

7EY2 Green knob

45EY4 lid

Phil Vourtsis 732-446-2427

(Players)

Roy Rodgers

Early Disney models

6EY3C 2tone blue

The 45rpm Phono Gazette

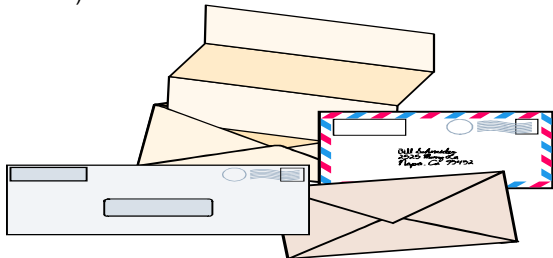
All the news that fits, we print

THE REPAIR BENCH



How many times have you repaired a unit, any unit with an amplifier, and then found after playing a few records the sound distorts? It's usually after you've put the whole thing back together too. Well this has happened to me so often that now I change the coupling capacitors in the amplifier as a matter of course. Actually the filter capacitors should be changed also, even if they are working because in 6 months they probably will be humming away! And if you are a real serious perfectionist, change all the paper capacitors because after 40 years they don't hold up very well.

So where can I get these capacitors? It depends on whether you want the original type or not. I don't bother with originals and am perfectly happy with modern capacitors which are much smaller in size. My local Radio Club (New Jersey Antique Radio Club) has a capacitor program which supplies me with what I need at decent prices. Any competent electronics parts store where technicians go, is a good source. If you want the original filter types with 2 or 3 sections, there are a few Antique electronic parts stores which sell them. Look in the ARC (Antique Radio Classified) to find these.



LETTERS

There is an advertisement which appeared in Life magazine in the late forties or early fifties that shows some RCA products in color. Included is what they refer to as a 45EY3. It has a dark colored bakelite cabinet with lid. The changer appears to be an RP168, but the one I have contains an RP190. Did any of these model come through with the RP168 changer?

I have never seen this model with the RP168 changer and the RCA Red Book for 1950 indicates it should have the RP190 changer. However there is a new book called "Phono-Graphics which shows the same ad with the RP168. Well we must have a fair size number of 45EY3's between us out there. Does anyone have a 45EY3 with RP168 changer?

PROFILE

John Ortale from Waterbury Conn.

This is how it all started. John's father brought home a 45EY2 in 1952 when he was less than a year old. All through his childhood that record player was in the house playing music from the 50's. When it finally needed repair, John made sure it was put back into service by a competent technician. That same machine is still with John and is still in working order.

It was 1983 when John started collecting the players. At first it was just a matter of finding one occasionally at a flea market or garage sale. But a few years ago he really got into it, making the right connections with the right people and now John has about 100 players. His absolute favorite is the "Roy Rogers" model made in 1950. John tells me it is in mint condition and he has turned down many offers for it.

There are still a few models which John is looking for to round out his collection. The "Disney" character player 45EY15 from 1950 is one. He also wouldn't mind finding an "Elvis" model either.

John also enjoys repairing the players both mechanically and electrically. He has fixed many a player for other collectors across the country.

Another aspect of this hobby seems to be collecting any information about these machines, including advertisements and technical specs. John has quite a nice collection of information which he references often when repairing or discussing the hobby with others.

Being in the auto body repair profession, John has one up on the rest of us when it comes to repairing the cabinets on these machines. He can take a real "basket case" and bring it back to life. He also enjoys making his own custom creations by mixing parts from different models. He has created a couple of 45EY?'s. One has a white cabinet, white tone arm and white spindle cap. Those of us who are really into this hobby know that that combination does not exist!

45 RPM Phono Gazette is a non profit publication produced 4 times a year.

*Phil Vourtsis
13 Cornell Place
Manalapan, NJ 07726
732-446-2427*