

# The 45rpm Phono Gazette



## THE SLIDE-O-MATIC

In 1955, RCA marketed a very unusual record player called the Slide-O-Matic. The novel design provided the user with a slot in the front which would accommodate one 45 RPM record. As you slid the record into the slot, the unit would automatically start to play the record. At the end of the record, the mechanism would shut off and disengage from the record. The user could then pull the record out and insert another one. At first it seemed like fun to operate the unit, but after a while it got tiring to remove and insert a record every three minutes or so.



Slide-O-Matic attachment

The Slide-O-Matic was not a big seller and eventually RCA tried to unload them by advertising them for \$6.95! They were available as an attachment which you connected to your radio, television, or amplifier, and they also came with a built in radio and amplifier. There was also a cartoon model available with Ding Dong School decals on it. The cabinets are made of plastic and many color combinations were available.

Mechanically, the Slide-O-Matic is pretty basic and cheaply constructed.

They are not the easiest units to adjust and the sound quality suffers from the suspension and drive system. More often than not, rumble and flutter is a problem. The drive wheel is smaller than the ones typically found in other players.

Despite these drawbacks, the Slide-O-Matic is an interesting piece to have in your collection.

All the news that fits, we print

## WANT LIST

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

**Charles Cummins (817-732-4313)**  
7EY1 or 2 series plastics

**Bob Green (717-366-3949)**  
Record Demonstrator  
RCA Children's records

**Bob Havalack (716-458-0801)**  
Will repair/rebuild players

**Doug Houston (810-627-4141)**  
--- **FOR SALE** ---  
45J2 Attachment. \$10  
Amp/Speaker from 45HY4 \$10

**John Ortale (203-754-8346)**  
Early Disney models  
Radio/Phono with round dial

**Dan Saporito (609-693-3139)**  
Disney  
Roy Rodgers  
Ding Dong School

**Ray Tyner (614-475-1697)**  
Decca models  
7EY1 White knob  
45EY4 lid

**Phil Vourtsis (908-446-2427)**  
Roy Rodgers, Early Disney  
Ding Dong School  
6EY3C 2tone blue

It's hard to believe that I've been doing this for a year, but this is the fifth of our quarterly newsletters. The response has been very positive and we have doubled our readership. It's still a very small select group but that's one of the things I like about it. Besides if it were much bigger, I would have to charge for a subscription. Thanks to those who felt that they should help with my expenses anyway.

Let me know of any topics you might want me to discuss in the coming issues.



## THE WORK BENCH

Phono and radio enthusiast Doug Houston sent me an interesting letter where he discussed some of his encounters with 45 players, and I thought one item was worth putting in the "Work Bench" column.

Doug has owned many 45EY4's through the years and noted that one of the deficiencies of the amplifier is the use of a 12SC7 as a voltage amplifier. Apparently these tubes are quite noisy. Luckily there is a pretty simple way to improve the set's performance. A 12SL7 can be substituted with some simple socket connection changes. Yes that old RCA Tube Manual will come in handy for this exercise.

Here's another tip for cleaning all that stuff that you usually find on the plastic tonearm after the previous owner weighed it down with pennies, nickels, quarters. The remnants of 40 year old tape can be cleaned off by soaking the tonearm all night in soapy water (start off with hot soapy water). The next day the gook should easily come off with your fingers. You can get in the crevices with a soft brush. This is the only safe way to clean the soft plastic arm used with the RP190. Finish it off with a coat of good car wax (I use Mother's Carnaba wax).

# The 45rpm Phono Gazette

All the news that fits, we print



## PROFILE

**C. Douglas Houston, Jr**  
**from Ortonville, Michigan**

Doug has an impressive radio collection with over 600 pieces. A small part of that includes a nice collection of RCA Victor 45 Players which are pictured above on one of Doug's display walls. The player shown on the top shelf left is the original 45EY4 which Doug purchased brand new from Harding & Miller Music House in Evansville, Indiana in October, 1952.

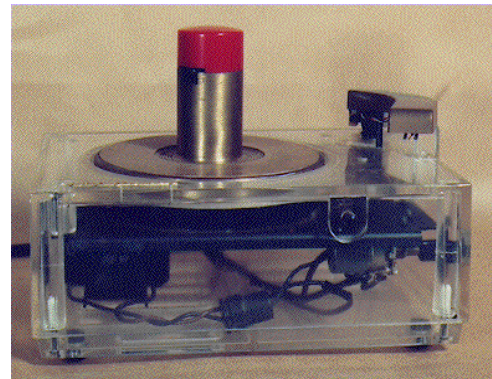
Some of the highlights of Doug's collection include;

- +A transparent 9JY
- + "Whirl-Away" Demonstration Disc
- +The "Record Demonstrator"

The rare transparent 9JY was found at a flea market sitting on a blanket and was purchased for mear pocket change. Only a few of these were manufactured for demonstration purposes when RCA first introduced the 45 system.

The "Whirl-Away" demo disc was given to Doug by an RCA dealer in Hancock, Michigan. It consists of a one sided 45 record and a record display which mounts on top of the rotating spindle. As the record plays over and over explaining the revolutionary new record and playing system, the display would turn and show the different colored 45's.

Doug's first player was a Motorola 45 RPM attachment, which used the RP168 changer. He chose it over the 9JY because he was able to get it \$10 cheaper!



**Transparent 9JY**

**You'll be hard pressed to find one of these!**

*45 RPM Phono Gazette is a non profit publication produced 4 times a year. Please send comments or suggestions to*

*Phil Vourtsis  
 13 Cornell Place  
 Manalapan, New Jersey  
 07726*