

The 45rpm Phono Gazette

A Tinkerer's Lament



Some of Mr. Cohen's Garage Collection



More of his Garage Collection

By How Cohen

I have been making, finding, fixing, enhancing and making shiny all manner of machines and other objects. A career in software was balanced by an appreciation for the tactile and mechanical. I got my 1st RCA RP-190 changer based record player in 2008. It was a EY-3, modified with a 1/4" output jack. It needed adjustment so, I took it apart. I was hooked.

As with all of my hobbies, I researched, watched videos, downloaded schematics, manuals and then filled shelves and parts drawers with more than I needed to work on representative RCA 45 RPM players. I fixed, gifted, sold and displayed with pride the fruits of my labor. My 45 RPM record collection grew so big that the next logical (or illogical) step was to get a Jukebox (or 3). Of course I needed record cases and record cleaning

materials. Of course I needed to maintain and modify my Rowe / AMI R-90 Jukeboxes. My 1st modification was to allow my RCA 45J2s to play through the Jukeboxes amplifier and speakers. Then more efforts in playing my 45J2 wired and wirelessly through modern stereo and Bluetooth speakers. More parts and peripherals filled my workshop.

That brings me to today...

I've sold and given away all the RCA RP-190 based players I think the market will absorb. All my friends and relatives have been asked and have declined either player or records. The remaining folks who have units I provided, want free tech support. In the past, I swapped out or traded working changers or players. Now I only want folks like me to have the units or parts. My "no backsies", "here's the manual" policy will remain in effect indefinitely.

As with most tinkerers, I continued to pursue other hobbies. My expanding collection of parts bins and documentation collection reflects new things to explore. I no longer search for carcasses and parts for RCA 45 players. I have some ideas for my remaining units and have run these ideas by my sons. They remind me that I have my father's (also a dedicated tinkerer) tools and objects on top of mine and they would prefer not to inherit them.

"Why not focus on improving your piano playing?"

"Why not clear some space in the garage?"

I will take this under advisement.

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Emerson Radio heading for the Dumpster.



Emerson Radio Heading for the Dumpster

By Phil Vourtsis

At one of our radio club meetings there was a bunch of radio fodder the club wanted to get rid of. It was free to club members and the next step was the dumpster. While taking a look at the stuff I was drawn to the bottom shelf where a pile of emerson radio was sitting. I wasn't going to take it at first but finally gave in by the end of the meeting.

I started putting the bakelite pieces together and they were all there. They were taped together a long time ago so removing the tape without harming the bakelite took some time.

Then I checked out the chassis and underneath it looked original. After a full recap and replacement of one bad tube, the set was playing again although the speaker sounded terrible. I was able to fix it by removing the old tape on the cone and gluing the rips in the cone.



All Bakelite parts were there



Recapped and playing well again

I cleaned and polished the cabinet and it looks pretty darn good. The dial pointer was missing so I improvised with a piece of wire. There is plenty that could still be done. Fixing the cracks, getting correct knobs and dial glass. But for now I enjoy using it as it is, a radio brought back from the brink.

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I've always wondered why RCA Victor never included a protector so the needle wouldn't scratch the motorboard. It is true that if the arm adjustments are set properly, the needle would not touch the motorboard. But how many 45 changers have you come across without the motorboard scratched? Obviously they don't maintain the correct adjustment. Here someone added a nice piece of rubber to protect the motorboard.

WANT LIST

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rdbbecker@aol.com
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Joe Bentrovato

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stereo phono.
Looking for optional power
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Charles Cummins

(817-732-4313)
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Fort Worth, Texas 76107

David Cox

(937)484-3241
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Urbana, OH 43078
dcc49@yahoo.com
45 spindle for Admiral
5W12N 2-speed record
player, bakelite lid for
Zenith twin 7. Outer
concentric r/p knob for
Emerson 635

Dennis D'Amico

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