

The 45rpm Phono Gazette

Happy New Year!!!



Auction

I have been avoiding this topic for a long time, but I think its time has come. Those of you who want nothing to do with computers and the Internet still deserve to know what's happening out there.

How would you like to have a choice of a couple of dozen 45 phonos at any given time? Well you can if you have access to the Internet. Prices are high but so is the selection. Here is a list of what is available at the moment I'm writing this;

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|------------|----------|
| 3- 45J2's | 1- 9JY |
| 3- 45EY2's | 1- 9Y510 |
| 2- 45J's | 1- 6BY4B |
| 1- 7EY1 | 1- 6BY1 |
| 2- 45EY4's | 1- 45EY3 |
| 1- 7HF45 | |

The Ebay auction information layout provides current and starting prices, quantity of item up for bid and location of item and length of auction. Bidder and Seller are usually designated by email address. At the bottom you can enter a description of the item. Including a picture is optional but very desirable from a selling standpoint, most of the items are described and include pictures so you have an idea what you are bidding on. Condition varies from parts sets to completely restored sets. In 1998, 495 forty-five phonographs were auctioned off on Ebay. In 1999, over 1,200 forty-five phonos were auctioned. Prices vary all over the place from \$6 to many hundreds of dollars.

Here are some of the unpredictable prices. Some restored 45EY2's start at \$150 and are withdrawn because they don't meet their reserve. On the other hand, once in a while you'll see an attachment go for over \$300, when the same model and condition went for \$40 the week before.

So what makes auctioning on the Internet so volatile? Just think, you have sellers from all over the world auctioning anything you can imagine to buyers all over the world! And the buyer can examine the merchandise in the comfort of his own home at any hour of the day or night. With the search capabilities that are available, it is a snap to find what you want. For instance, searching for the word "phono*" brings up over 500 items with any permutation of the word phono. You can save or "bookmark" the items you want to keep track of.

All you need are two buyers really desiring the item up for bid and that is when the price takes off. I have talked with some of the buyers who have been caught up in the bidding frenzy and many of them admit that things got out of hand. On more than one occasion the second place bidder would be glad they lost!

So what is it like to get started in this cyberspace world? First off, when you start out you can just watch the auctions until you get the feel of how it works.

Then when you feel ready you can try bidding on one item and see how it goes. Registering is free, and even when you win an auction, the fees are paid by the Seller. The buyer only has to worry about shipping costs. Then you will ask, "How can I send a complete stranger a check or money order and assume they will not run with my money? Ebay uses a feedback system which allows buyers to look at the seller's past history. If any previous buyers have complained, you will see their comments. Then you can proceed with some degree of confidence with the transaction.

Phonos are not the only thing you can search for on Ebay. I have been looking for obscure childhood toys. Just about anything I look for, I find. It's not for everybody, but it is another way of obtaining the hard to find items you are looking for.

The Workbench

RP-190 Tips

As your record changer gets older the shaft that the tonearm swivels on can get sloppy or loose. This can lead to the following condition. When the machine starts to reject at the end of the first few records on the stack, the arm does not lift to the required height. As the arm swings away from the record the height increases and finally reaches the maximum height when the arm is ready to descend on the next record. To fix this condition, add another washer to the shaft under the tonearm. This will take out some of the extra slack that has developed there.



Where pencil is pointing, add extra washer under c-clip

Here is a helpful tip from Bob Havalack in Rochester, NY. When working on the rp-190 changer, screw in a few three-inch bolts that have the same threads as the bolts you take out to remove the turntable from its cabinet. With the three-inch bolts attached, you can quickly run the changer outside the cabinet and flip it over for adjustments.



RP-190 supported by 3 inch bolts

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New Orthophonic High Fidelity model 7HF45



Restored New Orthophonic High Fidelity model 7HF45 in Mahogany, Maple, and Oak

These machines are absolutely my favorite 45 phonograph. They were introduced in 1956 and are the only table model available with a woofer and tweeter. Teamed up with the Sonotone ceramic cartridge and wooden cabinet, these units sound real nice and are usually still working when you find them! The mahogany one on the left is the actual machine I have had since I was 10 years old in 1958! I think I already told this story but it is worth telling again. The only record player in our household at the time was a 45J attachment connected through a console RCA Victor television set. This spewed forth plenty of bass from the 12 inch speaker, almost like a jukebox sound. When it finally wore out in 1958, my Mother agreed to buy me a phono for my birthday. In the store, the salesman plunked down a 6ey1 (bakelite unit with 4x6 speaker). He played a record and it sounded so tinny I made a face. The salesman walked over and plunked down the mahogany 7HF45 and played the same record. I smiled ear to ear. Luckily for me my Mother spent the extra bucks on the nicer machine. I wore that record changer out in the next few years and then started tinkering with stereo gear. I took apart the 7HF45 and used it as an extension speaker. In the early '70s I came to my senses and carefully put it back together (some parts had to be scavenged from flea markets). Last year I did a thorough refurbish with new Sonotone cartridge and new idler and cycle cam wheels. The amp was also recapped and retubed. The finish is still original and is looking its best after some treatment with 0000 steel wool and carnuba wax.

The maple unit is the hardest one to find. For a while there I didn't think it existed. Sometimes it's hard to tell the maple and oak ones apart after they have weathered with age. There are some subtle differences though. The maple has brown rubber feet while the oak has light or clear feet. When you open the lid the inside of the lid is finished in maple but the oak inner lid is painted. The knobs are also slightly different colors. This maple unit was acquired in a trade from one of our 45 newsletter readers in California. The oak unit was acquired in a trade from a 45-newsletter reader in Rochester, NY.



7HF45's opened. A nice feature was the record storage compartment

Some words from your Editor

Your editor has decided to go ahead and finish the book he started on the 45-rpm system of recorded music. Even if a publisher is not interested in the book, these days with the right computer tools you can create it yourself. My plan is to show pictures of all the table models I can, including units from other collectors with appropriate recognition given under the picture. A couple of chapters are completed and chapters are also planned for troubleshooting, refurbishing, and history of the records and machines. I will give updates of my progress in the newsletter.

Now that the New Year is here it is a good time to stop and examine how the newsletter has been doing. I started it in the middle of 1995 when there were less than a dozen interested 45 phono enthusiasts. Now after 19 issues I am sending it out to 70 of you folks. I could very easily get a flood of interest by putting it on the internet, but I enjoy keeping it small. I have received many letters expounding on how much you enjoy the newsletter, so I feel good that I have the right audience and I am making the articles interesting. My plans are to keep it going until I get tired of it. I don't see that happening any time soon.

Happy New Year!
Your Editor



RCA Victor dealer advertising piece. Whirlaway record plays continuously while merry-go-round turns on spindle. Allegedly there are only 2 known copies of the record. One of them was on Ebay a few months ago. Courtesy of Camden County Historical Society Collection.