

The 45rpm Phono Gazette

**New rp-190 overhaul video available!
See page 3 for a review!**



5th

Anniversary Issue

Well, what started out as some fun playing around with a newspaper template on Microsoft's software package 'Word', has turned into five years and twenty issues of the 45 rpm Phono Gazette. I've become acquainted with quite a few phono collectors across the country through the newsletter. The amount of information that has been collected and changed hands has been amazing. Many interesting stories have been told too. In the last year my job has been made easier with the purchase of a Sony digital camera and a software package called PhotoImpact. I want to thank the subscribers who have provided articles, helpful hints, and pictures from their collections. The newsletter is only as good as the input provided. There is always space available for an interesting story or picture. Just shoot me an email or give me a call.

Join us at the AWA Rochester Meet

Mark your calendar for the 1st week in September (6th thru 10th). Last year 8 of us 45 rpm Phono Gazette subscribers met and had a fine time. Swapmeet and Tech talks during the day and our own phono activities in the evenings. There's lots of trading and everyone goes home with a phono. For more info call me at 732.446.2427

45 RPM Phono Book Update

I've completed the section that will show pictures and describe the RCA table models. I am now writing the history leading up to the introduction of the 45 system.

The Workbench

Slow Motor Syndrome.

One thing you can count on after powering up a few 45 machines. One or more will run slow. First you should check the obvious. Frozen or tight idler shaft, and slick idler rubber surface can cause these symptoms. Remove the idler wheel and clean up the rubber with a rubber cleaner/revitalizer. I recommend lacquer thinner but don't leave it on the rubber too long. Wipe it off thoroughly. Clean the idler center shaft and relub with light grease or oil. If the machine still turns too slow, it's time to checkout the motor. Some motors can be brought back to speed by oiling the bearing caps. Others require taking the motor apart, cleaning the shafts and bearing caps and relubing them. When you re-assemble the motor, the alignment of the armature is critical. As you are snugging up the screws holding the armature in place, spin the armature to make sure it is free and doesn't bind.



Blue arrow- bearing cups. Red arrow- mounting screws.

While this cures many of the slow motor problems, there are some that still run too slow after all this. The problem usually occurs when the motor is cold. Many times after a couple of records play, the speed is up to spec. At this point I will swap out the motor if the speed must be right even when cold. Otherwise I suggest playing an instrumental first or let the machine run for a few minutes before playing.

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Nipper's Reaction to the new 45 rpm system of recorded music



RCA Victor 24-sheet poster featuring the "45" attachment

Printed in full color against a robin's egg-blue background, this arresting billboard played up the quality of RCA Victor "45" through association with the famous RCA Victor trademark. Interest is created as passers-by see the dog, Nipper, world's best known trademark, turning from his familiar pose to watch the "45" record changer that's sweeping the country. As an added sales hooker, copy says "Starts at \$12.95." Room left for a full 22-inch dealer imprint below the picture. No, the 24 sheet poster is not available, but thanks goes to Lee Wells for sharing this picture with Bill Pauluh who then shared it with the editor.

Skipper with optional power supply



The Skipper (6BY4) was manufactured in 1955 and 56. It was available in two color combinations, black and gray or pink and white. Some novel features were incorporated. A dozen records could be stored under the lid with an expandable rubber bushing which held the records in place. The radio dial was readable from the front of the unit when the lid was open. When the lid was closed another radio dial is overlaid on the original one effectively turning the dial upside down so it could be read while the unit was being carried or standing on its edge. When these units are working the sound is quite good thanks to the ceramic sonotone cartridge which was supplied. The optional power supply package was hardly ever purchased. I was lucky enough to find it at one of our Radio Club swapmeets about 5 years ago. At that time I was not aware of the scarceness of the supply until years later when I never saw another one. It connects to the skipper via a 9 pin tube socket which is mounted in the back of the player. Unfortunately I don't have a schematic of the supply but the voltages should be available on the 9 pin socket when viewing the schematic for the radio/phono itself.

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New Video Shows Step by Step Rebuild of 45EY2



Paul Childress showing us the 45EY2 which will be totally restored

Paul Childress has put together a video which shows step by step restoration of the rp-190 record changer. He also rebuilds the amplifier and renews the cabinet on a 45EY2.

This is a well done amateur production. There are no credits or fancy music. The focus is on the complete tear-down and rebuild of the record changer and it is quite thorough in this regard. Paul interjects his helpful tips regularly, showing us shortcuts and secrets he has compiled after rebuilding many of these machines. A good example of this is the way Paul handles the cartridge situation. He has devised a way of mounting a modern ceramic cartridge using part of the old cartridge body as a mounting. Another interesting area is Paul's method of making each metal piece under the chassis look like new. Except for the occasional hand in the way, the close-up shots are well done and should prove helpful to the novice.



Removing motor on rp-190 changer



45EY2 Amplifier Recapping

The video is broken down into 3 parts;

- Rp-190 rebuild
- Electrical chassis rebuild
- Cabinet renewal

Most of the video goes in depth with the rp-190 rebuild. The chassis rebuild consists of replacing all the capacitors and the larger heat producing resistors, although we don't see the actual parts being replaced. One side of the bakelite cabinet is renewed showing Paul's cleaning and polishing procedure.

This video is a must for anyone interested in these machines. Whether you are a novice or an experienced rebuilder, you will find interesting ideas and methods here. Paul is also producing a video for the rp-168. For availability, contact Paul at 804.271.7842 or email him at pchildress@prodigy.net.



Bakelite Cabinet Renewal