

The 45rpm Phono Gazette

Welcome to new subscriber
Willie Bosco from CA



45 rpm related trinkets from 1949



Vintage key-chains and matchbook advertising the new 45 rpm system of recorded music. Courtesy of Phil Vourtsis Collection.

When RCA Victor introduced the new 45-rpm system of recorded music back in 1949, their advertising department did its part to promote the system. The key-chains came in assorted colors and provided your company name on one side as an option. Every time you would take the keys out of your pocket you would be met with "45 is Sweeping the Country", or "RCA Victor first in Kiddy Records". Smoking was a very popular pastime in 1949 and so many of the advertising matchbooks were circulated all over the country. Expense was apparently not an issue for the ad was in color to fully promote the new colored records. Many more items were embossed with nipper or RCA Victor including pens, pencils, glasses, ashtrays, serving trays, banks, etc.

The Workbench

Rubber cone suspension parts



As is the case with so many of the parts in these 45 machines, the rubber suspension cones are no longer available. Condition can vary from good to 'hard as a rock'. Many are also found in a partially crushed state. A good rubber cone will be soft and pliable and will hold the record changer away from the base mounting so that any vibrations from the record changer will not be transmitted to the cabinet. If the rubber cone has hardened, it will transmit the vibrations to the cabinet and back into the amplifier causing rumbling and other assorted unwanted noises. If the rubber cone has become partially crushed, the record changer may come in contact with the base also causing the transmittal of extraneous sounds. The rubber cone directly under the motor is usually the first to crush followed by the single rubber cone mounted under the tonearm. One way I have lengthened the life of many partially crushed cones is to mount a couple of washers between the record changer and the rubber cone. This way the changer sits high enough to avoid contact with the cabinet base. As long as the rubber cone still has resiliency, it will work. Many other record changer manufacturers use springs instead of rubber cones. Early rp168 changers mounted in wooden cabinets used springs. Perhaps we could find a good source for this type of spring and not have to worry about rotting rubber cones in the future.

The 45rpm Phono Gazette

RCA Victor's smallest console radio/phono



Console model 9W51 from 1949 playing 'Robin Hood' by Nelson Riddle. Courtesy of Phil Vourtsis Collection

There is an interesting story behind this record player. I was checking out my local flea market a few years ago and came across this unit in very poor condition. It had been sitting in several inches of water and the veneer had separated all around the bottom. It looked so bad, I left it there for a couple of weeks and worked out a deal with the help of a skilled flea market cohort named Harry Durovich and got the piece for \$20. That particular day I was cruising the flea market with my bike and I actually maneuvered around with that console under one arm for a while. The console stayed in my shed for about 6 months when the President of our Radio Club, Tony Flanagan invited me over to learn some wood refinishing. He said to bring over a radio that needed refinishing. I brought over the console and when Tony saw it, he said, "that is the worst looking basket case I've ever seen". I figured if I screwed it up, it wouldn't matter. The first session dealt with shoring up the cabinet and gluing back the veneer curls that were swinging in the breeze. We opted to put a molding along the bottom of the cabinet to hide the water damaged wood and veneer. Since the cabinet had a molding on the front, we matched it on the sides and were very pleased with the results.

Next session we stripped the cabinet and re-glued any loose pieces. Then came cleaning and applying the new mahogany stain. The last session involved lacquer application and this was the most troublesome part. I never did get the top of the cabinet perfect but overall it looks like a nice piece of furniture now.

Tony unexpectedly died in October 1998 from cancer. Needless to say, this is a very special piece in my collection because of the hours we spent together. Since then I've also taken over his post as President of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club. He would be pleased with how well the club is doing. Next year is the Club's 10th anniversary.

This is the smallest console that was available in 1949. It is no bigger than the size of an end table. The radio is mounted above the record changer and uses the same chassis that is used in many of their table radios. A large 8 inch speaker is mounted in the top front. The 45 rpm changer is mounted in a pullout drawer in the middle of the set. Care must be taken when the drawer is fully extended out because the unit is no longer balanced and any tipping forward will cause the cabinet to fall forward. Three stage tone control was used by turning a wafer switch to the three positions low, medium, and high tone. This was provided for both radio and phonograph separately so the wafer switch had six positions! The bottom of the console is used for 45 rpm record storage. There is ample room to store 24 multi-record album sets or 96 singles.

Other consoles included FM radio and dual record changers to handle 78-rpm records from your existing collection. The top of the line console includes all this plus RCA Victor's "Eyewitness Television".

Earliest 9EY3 found on ebay

I managed to pick up the earliest manufactured 9EY3 I've ever seen. The date code says it was made in the 52nd week of 1948! This is well before the introduction. What caught my eye was the bakelite case with louvers going all the way down to the bottom of the cabinet. This indicates a very early cabinet. The record changer only has one spring and lever operating the reject cycle. All my other changers have two levers and 2 springs to prevent jamming. Has anyone out there found an earlier one?

The 45rpm Phono Gazette



WHILE THEY LAST! PHONO SPECIALS—MADE BY A FAMOUS MANUFACTURER

45 RPM AUTOMATIC CHANGER

Now you can buy a top-quality 45 rpm changer at less than manufacturer's cost! Developed by R.C.A., built by one of the leading manufacturers of radio and television equipment. Will fit in record storage space of most consoles—can be easily connected to your present reproducing equipment. Plays eight records at one loading. "Drop" mechanism is contained in 1½" diameter spindle. Changing cycle takes less than 2 seconds! Last record is repeated automatically. Mounted on attractive walnut bakelite cabinet. Overall size: 7" W, 6½" H, 9¾" D. For 110-120 volts, 60 cycles AC. With crystal cartridge and .001" needle. Shpg. wt. 9 lbs.

96-269. NET **10⁹⁵**

PORTABLE RADIO-PHONO WITH 45 RPM CHANGER

Made to sell at \$69.95, this compact portable radio-phonograph is yours for only \$37.50! A special purchase by ALLIED makes this great bargain possible. You'll be surprised and delighted when you see the name of the nationally known manufacturer on the set you receive!

Outstanding Features. Can be carried anywhere—weighs only 12 lbs. Lid has storage space for 20 records. Consists of a powerful super-het radio that tunes all standard broadcasts from 535 to 1620 kc—plus the unique 45 rpm changer developed by R.C.A. Plays stack of eight records. Last record repeats. Easy-to-operate controls: TUNING, VOLUME-ON-OFF, PHONO-RADIO, REJECT. Large Alnico "V" PM speaker. Built-in loop antenna. Modern circuit: 12BE6 Conv.; 12BA6 IF Amp.; 12AT6 Det.-AVC-AF; 50C5 Output. Rectifier is 35W4. Russet-brown leatherette-covered case, only 10½x7x13½". For 110-120 volts, 60 cycles AC. With all tubes, crystal cartridge, and .001" needle. Shpg. wt., 16 lbs.

96-268. List, \$69.95. NET ONLY **37⁵⁰**

16

Allied Radio Corporation, 833 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago 7, Illinois. HAymarket 1-6800.

Typical ad from early 50's electronic catalog courtesy of Phil Vourtsis collection

Early on other companies leased the 45 rpm record changer from RCA Victor. They were put into their own cabinets that were sometimes different from RCA's cabinets. Notice the scallop around the bakelite case. Zenith, Crosley and others used this case. The left button on the front is the reject button and the right button is the on/off switch. The portable cabinet with radio was used by Allied and Motorola. There seems to be an endless number of clones that can be found with RCA Victor 45 changers.