

# The 45rpm Phono Gazette

Welcome new member Ron Lindsay



## 1949 Vintage Color Ad for Display in RCA Victor Dealer Store Windows



See through color plastic advertisement was put in store windows back in 1949 RCA Victor went on a vigorous advertising campaign in 1949 to increase the tepid sales for the new RCA Victor System of recorded music. Dealers would display this color ad in their store windows to promote the new system. By showing the records falling towards the rp-168 record changer, it shows all of the different colored vinyl and what type of music was represented by each color. The colors on this piece are quite vivid which makes me think that it was never installed in a window and remained rolled up for 50 years. Where would I find such a rare piece of advertising, eBay of course.



If you visited the RCA exhibit at the 1939 World's Fair in New York, you would receive this official looking card showing that you were televised. This was a big thrill in 1939.

## The Workbench

*What Tools do you need to repair a 45-rpm Record Changer?*

Most of the tools you will need are available in your toolbox. Here is a bare bones list;

- Assorted flat blade screwdrivers
- Assorted Philips screwdrivers
- Quarter inch nut driver
- Needle-nose pliers
- Wire stripper and cutter
- Assorted allen wrenches
- Soldering Iron and solder

More Complete List;

- Assorted nut drivers
- assorted awls
- Solder Sucker

Exotic extras;

- Finger Wrenches- RCA Victor used to sell a set of finger wrenches that allowed the technician to get into really tight places. See picture below.
- Glue Gun and glue sticks
- Record Changer Holder- At one time it was possible to buy a record changer vice and holder. By mounting the changer in the apparatus, you could rotate it to any position within 360 degrees for easier repairs and adjustments.

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## ARC Melody 2500 Car 45 RPM Phonograph

**AUTOMATIC RECORD CHANGERS FOR CARS**

**A.R.C. ELECTRONICS, INC.**  
1300 S. 10TH ST. - SUITE 100  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104

A.R.C. Electronics Ad for 45 rpm Changers for cars

About 3 years ago I finally got a hold of one of those car 45 players made by ARC. The same model was also sold by RCA and Sears. Finally last night I started taking the unit apart. It is not in very good shape but it became quite an interesting adventure once I got into it. The first thing you notice is that the record changer is mounted upside down. Since the spindle hangs down you push the stack of records up the spindle and the spindle shelves will hold the records there. The tonearm then plays the first record at the bottom of the stack upside down. When the song is completed the reject cycle causes the arm to move out of the way and then that bottom record is dropped off the spindle into a storage area at the bottom of the machine. The arm then comes back and plays the new bottom record from underneath. This continues until all the records have been dropped into the storage area.

I removed the changer from the metal cabinet and turned it over. There you could see a metal slider similar to the one under the rp-190 changer. Many of the components looked similar to the rp-190 but yet they were different. There was the cycling cam mounted on the slider but it was metal with teeth instead of rubber. This would mate with a knurled

roller that was half metal and half rubber. The teeth from the cycling cam would run along the rubber portion of the roller. I decided to remove the spindle to see if the parts were the same. There is a ratchet wheel held on by a 'c' clip but then all the washers, springs, and bearing are in different positions than on the rp-190. Once I had the spindle removed I opened it up expecting to see the same arrangement one would find inside the typical 45 spindle. Surprise again! Instead of two record separators there are four. Two are on each side of the shelf assemblies. One set is used to separate the records and the other set is a linkage that allows the user to manually drop records from the spindle by rotating a knob on the end of the spindle. Now to accommodate the tough environment inside the interior of a car, the mechanism was modified several ways. First, the stack of records on the spindle is held in place with a spring loaded collar. The reject mechanism had to be completely redesigned to handle unexpected left and right turns. It is solenoid controlled. The rubber idler wheel runs on the outside of the turntable and there are slight grooves on the spindle that the idler rides over. I would think this would promote flutter but between the bumps and the wind noise I guess one does not have to be so particular.

At this point I decided that I needed a pro to get this changer working. Bob Havalack ([eager21@hotmail.com](mailto:eager21@hotmail.com), (585-458-0801)) is now specializing in the repair of these machines and I'm going to send the unit to him. Will keep you posted on its progress.

The Fabulous Victrola '45' books signed by Author still available. Send \$29.95 plus \$4.00 shipping to;  
Phil Vourtsis  
13 Cornell Place  
Manalapan, NJ 07726

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**For subscription information call Phil Vourtsis at 732.446.2427**