

# The 45rpm Phono Gazette

## Joe Bentrovado's Radio and Phonograph Collection.



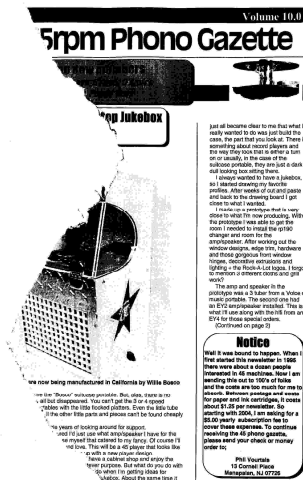
Some kid must have gotten bored with his 45EY2. All his customizing was done by hand with paint. The tonearm has yellow paint treatment with red dots added after the yellow paint dried.

Whenever the New Jersey Antique Radio Club has a swapmeet in northern New Jersey, Club member Joe Bentrovato invites everyone to a barbecue at his house that is only a few miles away. The hamburgers and trimmings are great, but the highlight of the visit is Joe's antique Radio and Phonograph collection. Joe's basement is filled with shelves and showcases that display his collection. There are so many beautiful wooden sets from the 30's, transistor sets from the 50's and bakelite table models from the 40's and 50's. His phonograph collection is not just 45 players, but any interesting phono. From vintage windups to a particularly interesting one that is a phono mounted on top of a drum. But my favorite is the blonde console made by General Electric shown here. It is the only GE unit I have ever seen with a 45 rpm record changer. Some of the real gems of his collection are displayed upstairs in a very tasteful manner.

Joe's basement is filled with shelves and display cases featuring many beautiful radios and this super rare GE console model C604 that was made in Canada. It is the only one of these I have ever seen. Until now I thought GE was one of the few companies that did not embrace the 45 changer.

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## Even Dogs enjoy the 45 rpm Phono Gazette



Lately my dog Zoe has taken a fancy to eating all kinds of paper. Not only does she enjoy the gazette, she also eats my bills! Luckily she has not gotten a hold of my book. Now I understand how a student can tell their teacher that the dog ate my homework. It really can happen!

## Editor featured on Cable TV

During the Summer your editor was one of three NJ Antique Radio Club members who were interviewed for a five minute segment on the Cablevision TV show 'Neighborhood Journal'. Along with all the talk about antique radios, there are some nice shots of my 45EY2 playing vintage songs at the swapmeet. The director of the segment was really taken by the little phonograph and wants to get his hands on one. You can see the video segment at [www.njarc.org](http://www.njarc.org).

## The Work Bench



## Worst Looking Parts

This is a star wheel from a 45EY15 Disney cartoon player. First time I've seen one crack like this. On closer inspection, it looks like this part is made of pot metal. That means we can expect to see all of them starting to crack like this in the future.

One of the drawbacks in the design of the RCA Victor 45 rpm machines is that the idler wheel is left in contact with the motor shaft even when the changer is not in use. When the changer is not used for an extended amount of time (months, years) a flat spot forms on the idler and in many cases cannot be removed. It seems to occur more frequently on the older style RP168 changer. If the changer is not going to be used, I suggest pulling the idler gently away from the motor shaft and place a small piece of foam rubber to prevent it from coming in contact.

## Challenge!

I challenge all of you out there to come up with a design that would push the idler away from the motor shaft when the changer is turned off. Sounds pretty easy. Just convert the on/off motion of the switch to a motion that will push the idler away. The idler assembly is already spring loaded. The winner will be featured in a future gazette and will receive a lifetime free subscription to the gazette.

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