Apr. 2005 Volume 11.1

The 45rpm Phono Gazette

Aftermarket RCA Skipper Power Supply
by Dennis D'Amico

Several years ago I obtained a 6-BY-4B Skipper with the power supply. When it arrived, I was intrigued that the power supply was not made by RCA, but by UEL (Universal Electronics Laboratories). Apparently, RCA may have sub-contracted with them to continue producing these power supplies after RCA exhausted their inventory (speculation on my part). This unit came in a RCA shipping container (fig. 1).

Figure 1

Figure 1A

The case, with similar dimensions, differs from the original (Figure 1A) in that the wooden box isn't cloth covered but speckled painted. The white piping is there, along with the same on/off slide switch with escutcheon as original, but the vent plug is perforated instead of screened.

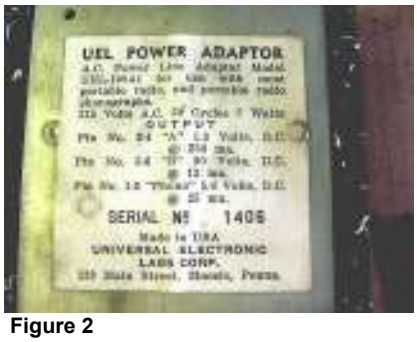


Figure 2

Figure 2 is the identity tag, showing the model/serial number, and voltage/ma specs of each pin on the 7 pin connector plug. The description of "…for use with most radio and portable radio phonographs" is interesting because I have no knowledge of other radio products using the same power supply as the Skipper.

Figure 3

Figure 3 shows the insides. As you can see, someone at one time replaced the 1500uf @ 10 volt capacitors with these 3 section can style electrolytics. The five-conductor cord is a newer one, but the 7 pin Alden plug is original.

If anyone has any additional information about UEL, I would like to hear from them.

The Work Bench

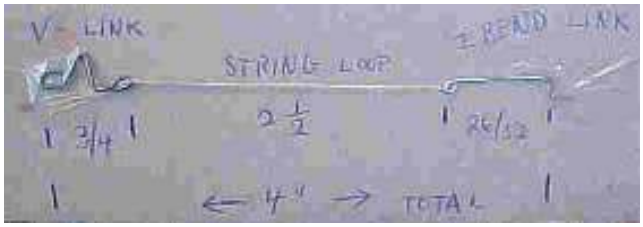
I had a chance this winter to restore a 6EY3A portable which the owner has had since new (1956). It was in surprisingly nice shape on the outside. But inside, the previous repairman had done some interesting things I had never seen before. The cycling cam was covered with silver duct tape. Believe it or not this did improve the traction of the cycling cam. In the back of the tonearm there is a balancing spring. It was removed and 3 ball bearings (quarter inch diameter) were placed back there and held in place by soldering them. He also changed some capacitors in the amplifier and when he couldn't fit the cover back on, he left it open and flapping in the breeze. Since this was a restoration, I removed all those ingenious fixes and put back original parts. I must admit it is fun to occasionally open one of these and find such creativity or should I say lack of creativity!

The 45 rpm Phono Gazette is published 4 times a year, For subscription info call 732.446.2427 or email pvourtsis@att.com

The 45rpm Phono Gazette

We have a winner! Willie Bosco wins our 1st challenge and has won a lifetime subscription to this newsletter.

"I came up with a very simple solution to your challenge of having the idler wheel move away from the motor spindle and the platter rim when the switch is off. Anyone can do this with nothing more than a piece of string, a paper clip and small bolt washer and nut. There are no holes to drill or any other modifications to make. It's pure and simple, and works very effectively." –Willie Bosco



Installation

1. Remove the idler wheel and idler wheel tension spring. The spring moves to the on/off switch.
2. Install the string post and washers into furthest corner hole in motor plate as shown
3. Slip z bend link into the idler wheel bracket where the spring was.
4. Replace the idler wheel and spring keeper
5. Replace motor plate onto changer plate studs and washers and clips.
6. Wrap string loop around post and hook V bend link to tension spring.
7. Tension and slack can be adjusted by bending the v link open or closed.

Return spring removed and Willie's jig is connected

Idler wheel re-installed

Motor assembly re-attached to motorboard

Changer slide switch in OFF position. No tension applied to idler

Changer slide switch in ON position, tension applied to idler holding it against the motor shaft.