

The 45rpm Phono Gazette

RCA Victor 45 RPM System of Recorded Music Display at David Sarnoff Library, Princeton, NJ

10th

Anniversary Issue

Hard to believe I've been doing this for 10 years and I still have plenty more to write about.



Colorful display of 45 rpm records and phonographs introduced by RCA Victor. Courtesy of the David Sarnoff Library and Phil Vourtsis Collection. Cerise colored 45 provided by Bob Becker. The framed yellow record towards the right is the first 45 ever pressed at the Indianapolis Plant. Expect an article in the future with a close-up.

The following information is provided on the David Sarnoff Website, which you may visit at www.davidsarnoff.org.

The David Sarnoff Library is dedicated to the history, understanding, and promotion of innovation in science and engineering for the benefit of humanity. The Collection archives, exhibits, and makes available documents, images, and artifacts related to Mr. Sarnoff's career in the electronics and communications industries, and to the technologies pioneered at the RCA Laboratories. Together with other organizations, it hosts public programs related to the process of innovation. Incorporated as the David Sarnoff Collection, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Library is located in Princeton, New Jersey. Built in 1967 by RCA, the David Sarnoff Library contains a museum, an archives, a library, and this website. Besides Mr. Sarnoff's papers and memorabilia, the Library's holdings include 25,000 photographs and thousands of notebooks, reports, publications, and artifacts related to the histories of RCA Laboratories and RCA. At this site you will find exhibits, timelines, galleries, links, and references documenting

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David Sarnoff Library Display (continued)

-- RCA, Victor Talking Machine Company, and the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America;

-- The history of radio, television, broadcasting, audio and video recording and reproduction, electron microscopy, radar, electron (vacuum) tubes, transistors, solid-state physics, semiconductors, lasers, liquid-crystal displays, integrated circuits, microprocessors, computers, communications satellites, and other technologies RCA played an important role in inventing and developing;

-- Some of the many people beside Mr. Sarnoff who made these technologies work.

The Executive Director of the library, Dr. Alex Magoun, is also a member of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club (NJARC). Club President Phil Vourtsis approached Alex about developing a 45 rpm display for the library's museum. Alex was delighted with the idea and Phil provided most of the items on display. The NJARC has been affiliated with the David Sarnoff Library for the past three years, holding open houses allowing the public to visit the library's museum and enjoy displays and programs provided by the library and NJARC. These include radio repair clinics where experts can evaluate your antique radio and in many cases get it working the same day.



Internal Short between pins 1 and 2 created unexpected fireworks

This month I had the honor of helping out one of the youngest members of our antique radio club. John is 15 years old and is very interested in 45 phonographs and old radios. Since he has limited electronics experience, I decided to recap the amp in his Crescent portable. It was a small amplifier that only required changing about 5 capacitors. After finishing the job, I ran the unit for about 15 minutes and everything seemed fine. I then installed the metal cover on the amplifier and powered it up again. I noticed that when I would increase the volume I would hear a corresponding increase in hum. This was not present before and as I moved the volume control back and forth, all of a sudden sparks started shooting up from the bottom of the 35W4 rectifier tube. Normally I have the AC plugged into a resistance lamp, but I already had another radio plugged in there and I decided to take a chance. That will teach me. You can see the results of the short circuit in the picture above. I was sure that I must have shorted something when I put the metal cover back on, but after troubleshooting, it was evident that pins 1 and 2 of the socket had shorted. There was no way to save it, so I changed out the socket. Of course it was riveted in so I had to drill it out. Now the set works fine and I returned it to young John. I'm glad he did not witness the fireworks. I would hate to scare him away from tinkering with vintage electronics!

The 45-RPM Phono Gazette is a quarterly publication.

Subscriptions are available for \$5.00 annually. For more information call Phil Vourtsis at 732.446.2427 or email to pvourtsis@att.com

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