

# The 45rpm Phono Gazette

**Custom made- One of a kind!**

By Doug Robinson

Back in April, 2005, I was digging through a couple of my parts boxes looking for some small, obscure part for a 45 player I was restoring for a friend of mine. As I was going through the record changers and amplifiers--it occurred to me that what I needed were cabinets!

I sat down with some graph paper, made some



**At first glance it resembles the 7HF45 but wait there is no lid.**

measurements of the amp and record changer--made up a rough drawing of what I wanted the cabinet to look like. Then, I broke out last years birthday gift (not a lot of spare time--I'm an over the road truck driver), a brand new table saw!  
Bought some wood, glue, clamps, paint and screws at Home Depot and went to work. The result was better than what I'd hoped for!

A fellow 45 player collector, Tom Turner, gave me the record changer simply because he had no use for it--and I'm not even sure where he picked it up! The amp was a \$2.00 thrift store find--from a 45EY1 that had obviously been dropped as the bakelite cabinet was broken completely in half. The 6" speaker and grille cloth came from a 4 speed machine (not sure of the model, but it looked just like the blonde 7HF45--only bigger) that had suffered from some serious water damage. This was also an inexpensive thrift store find.

A huge help in this project was the Ed Crockett idler wheel and the Willie Bosco "Lowrider" cartridge. A round of applause for these gentlemen and their superior products!



**Trim oak cabinet features rp168 changer**

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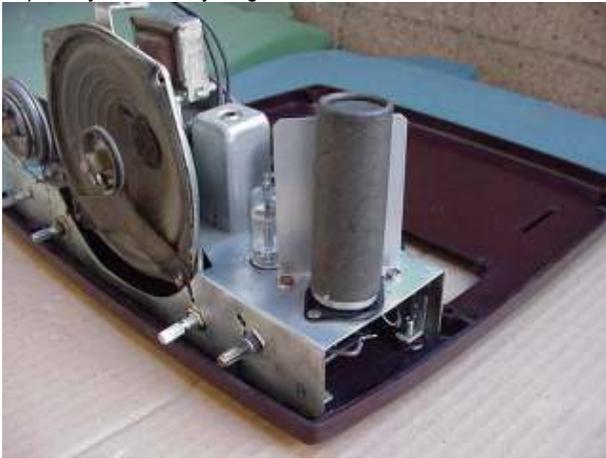
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## How Valuable is your Time? Or Is Originality Really Worth The Effort?

By Dennis D'Amico

Replacing electrolytic capacitors is a basic straightforward procedure when restoring radios and phonographs. Keeping the original look has been the accepted practice for the rare and collectible radios. But I ask if it is really worth the effort? Especially when everything is hidden from view?



Picture 1 of the electrolytic capacitor

The reason I bring this up is because it took me almost 5 hours to re-engineer a can electrolytic on a Zenith Twin Seven I'm currently restoring. The approach I took was to remove the cardboard cover, cut the can in half, gut the innards, and replace with modern caps and finally replace the cover. That capacitor had 3 different values (80, 40, 20uf), so I stuffed 3 matching capacitors (4 actually) inside the can and wired accordingly.



Picture 2 showing replacement capacitors stuffed tightly. The existing terminal connectors could not be used because not only they were aluminum, but for some reason there was a

short between all three including ground. So I removed them and drilled three holes through the phenolic bottom and passed #14 gauge wire with terminal lugs soldered on. I thought I would get fancy and added a terminal strip inside the can to connect the capacitors and wires.



Picture 3 shows the new terminal lugs. Colors indicate value.

The whole project took a lot of time. Was it worth it? I don't know, but I did get the experience of doing it. Next time, though, I'll take the easier path and nest the replacements inside the chassis. The golden rule of K.I.S.S. (Keep It Simple Stupid) should apply on all projects.

## The Workbench

Phil Vourtsis

No matter how many times you do a repetitive task, it can still lead to problems when you least expect it. I recapped a radio on my workbench with the usual scrutiny required. Keep track of polarity, changing out one capacitor at a time to avoid confusion, good solder connections. After completion I plugged the radio into my safety socket that has a lamp in series with the line. The radio tubes lit up and it started to play nicely. But then I noticed smoke rising from somewhere and I immediately shut it down. I double checked all my work with the capacitors and everything looked right. Then I spotted it. A burn mark on the plastic cushion that I have been using on my workbench for years was the cause. Apparently I had let one of the tubes directly rest on it. So I made sure all the tubes were away from the cushion and I plugged it in again. Radio starts playing fine and then the smoke starts in again. Damn, how could this be? Some of the plastic was still on the tube and was burning off, so after a minute or so the smoking stopped. So, don't use anything that will melt under the radio unless you want to chase non-existent problems.

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## PART 2 of Apr. 2 1949 Advertisement in Billboard

THE RECORD

**DISTORTION-FREE PLAYING SURFACE**

Theoretically, every record can have a "Quality Zone"...a portion of the record in which no distortion occurs. Music recorded beyond this zone is distorted. New RCA Victor records are the first to be recorded entirely in the "Quality Zone"--and they play as long as ordinary 12-inch records.

**LASTS MANY TIMES LONGER!**

Made of non-breakable vinyl plastic with a special "Shoulder Construction," the new record lasts up to 10 times longer...cuts inventory losses due to damage in handling and storing. The surface-saving shoulder keeps playing surfaces from rubbing one another...Prevents damage to record grooves.

**CONVENIENT 7-INCH SIZE!**

More than 150 single records or 18 symphonies fit in one foot of bookshelf space. No storage problems for your customers. You can display a wider, more complete selection without sacrifice of space.

**LOW COST CREATES BIGGER MARKET!**

From the record press to the customer's purse, the 7-inch record costs less...opens a bigger market...new collectors! And those who own ordinary records now find that it takes less money to buy more pleasure. The new 7-inch record ensures you greater profit through faster turnover.

Sparkling identifying colors!--Record classification is simplified because a different color is used on the entire record... not just on the label to denote each classification. This helps you to determine the type of record at a mere glance.

Popular...(Black)

Classical...(Red)

Popular Classical...(Midnight blue)

Children's...(Yellow)

Country and Western...(Green)

Blues and Rhythm...(Cerise)--(Notice--they do not call them orange)

International...(Sky blue)

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Most of the first releases on 45 were reissues of earlier 78s  
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## May 14, 1949 Advertisement in Billboard

NOW THE NEW ONES ARE ON 45 RPM  
And every one is released on 78 rpm too!

Effective right now, practically all new RCA Victor releases announced in Billboard are on both 45 rpm and 78 rpm records! And that's going to be true of RCA Victor releases from now on! The 45 rpm system is going places fast!

**RETAILERS:** Tell your customers all about it--regular new releases of 45 rpm records give you a great talking point, to push sales of the RCA Victor 45 rpm system!

**DISK JOCKEYS:** Your station will be hearing about RCA Victor's special 45 rpm offer...a way to easier programming, better reproduction!

## Nov. 14, 1949 Advertisement in Billboard

"45"

Sell "45"

The school set loves 'em, now that you can get those Bluebird hits on "45." and--from coast to coast-- teenagers are lining up for bargain player attachments. The whole thing's on key with their allowances--neat little records they can slip in their pockets, with a first-class band playing their favorite hit--for 49 cents Times are like the 30's, the early 40's again, when the youngsters made up the big biz in the pop market. They go for Flanagan, they go for the lowest priced at the new speed, they go for the little disc that fits on the shelf beside their paper-backed novels, is unbreakable, and has quality of tone that can't be matched. Sell 'em, sell 'em "45"

NOW OVER A MILLION 45 RPM RECORDS A MONTH

"The '45' system is destined to lead the phonograph field, both in players and in records. I vigorously declare that '45' is here to stay...and let there be no doubt about it!"

Frank M. Folsom, President  
Radio Corporation of America

October 24, 1949  
WALTER WINCHELL  
SAYS

... "The aristocrats: The report that RCA-Victor will abandon its 45 rpm system is pure bunk. Frank M. Folsom, president of RCA, reports that the 45, introduced last April, increased sales 260 percent within the past 90 days. They can't keep up with the public demand. The source for the inaccuracy will now drop dead."