

45rpm Phono Gazette

RCA Victor Single Play 45 Changer



Original box for RCA single play changer

By Phil Vourtsis

Here is a very unusual record player by RCA Victor. At first glance it looks like an RP-168 automatic record changer but closer inspection shows a very short spindle designed for manual single play only. This was an ebay find with the original packing and box. Since it is designed to be installed in a console (having its own metal motorboard), I am fairly certain that it was never installed or used. RCA Victor used this single play machine in 1949 and it was referred to as model 9EYM3 in the 1949 RCA Red book. But I've never seen it used in any of the consoles.



Original packing for RCA single play changer



Notice short spindle on RCA single play changer

I can't imagine anyone buying one of these when you could install the automatic changer instead. When examining the bottom of the unit, any pieces that were used to control the reject action are removed. There is also no cam under the turntable. I had to replace the cartridge and the rubber parts, otherwise it works fine. But changing records every 3 minutes gets old fast so it's back in the original box and tucked safely away.

Work Bench

Here is a problem I come across occasionally with an interesting solution. It usually occurs with the tabletop bakelite units like the 9EY3 or 45EY2. When playing the machine I would start to hear noise from the speaker and if I tapped the volume control the noise would stop. Opening up the unit and examining the volume control, everything would appear ok. The amp in these machines have a voltage amplifier and a power amplifier. The voltage amp or preamp is wired to the volume control. If the preamp tube pins are dirty it will cause the speaker noise. Wiggling the tube (usually a 12AV6) will aggravate the noise condition. Cleaning the pins on the tube will solve the problem. Since the wiring from the volume control connects to the tube socket and pins of the tube, any vibration caused by tapping the control will cause enough vibration in the wires to jiggle the tube socket. It is a good idea to clean all the tube pins when restoring or repairing these machines.

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New Hope For Rusty Chassis

By Phil Vourtsis

Sometimes you come across a radio or record player that has a rusty chassis. This was the case when I picked up this RCA Victor bakelite table radio at the AWA Carolina Meet in Charlotte, SC last March. As you can see the bakelite case was in nice condition so I couldn't pass it up for \$10. But after opening the case up at home, I was pretty disappointed. Then I remembered the previous weekend I had painted the inside trunk area of my vintage car (67 Pontiac Tempest convertible) with an interesting paint from Rust-oleum. It's a unique silver hammered finish that can be directly applied to rust. According to the can, no primer is needed.

I decided to try using it on the radio chassis. After some sanding prep I brushed it on and was astounded how well it covered the rust. It was expensive paint but worth every penny. For those of you who have record attachments (45J, 45J2, 45J3), these are the best radios to play them through because they have a decent sized output transformer and big speaker. Most RCA Victor radios from this era come equipped with an RCA jack and switch to accommodate the record attachment.



Before



After picture of RCA radio chassis



RCA Victor Bakelite table radio after restoration



Young child seemed mesmerized by the action of the record player (source unknown). There is something about watching the record rotate and the arm following the groove. As a kid I used to watch the records play and then it was an added bonus to watch the records drop during the change cycle. In my case I was listening and watching a 7HF45 New Orthophonic High Fidelity player which had a lid that sounded best when it was closed. Since this defeated the purpose of watching the records play, I would leave the lid open and rest my chin on top of the cabinet. With my chin positioned this way, I would hear the bass that was lost by leaving the lid open.