

45rpm Phono Gazette

One of a kind RP-168

Attachment with a custom made amplifier



Custom made amp and speaker enclosure sit underneath generic RP168 Attachment

By Phil Vourtsis

Taking a look at this machine you can tell it is different from all the others you've seen. It started out as a RP-168 attachment built the 32nd week of 1949. Then some time later someone managed to fit a 3 tube amplifier and speaker underneath the record changer. Many parts appear to be custom made. First you will notice that 4 extension circular pieces of bakelite were installed at the corners of the cabinet to provide about 2 inches of extra room. Then a metal grill full of holes is wrapped around the bakelite extenders. The amplifier is mounted on a piece of aluminum stock and consists of the typical tube complement 12AV6, 35W4, and 50B5. To save room on the aluminum chassis the filter capacitors and output transformer are mounted externally. Despite the tight fit, the creator of this unit used a 4X6 speaker and larger than usual power transformer mounted on the speaker. It has the potential to sound better than the 9EY3 or 45EY2 with the above components, but when they are stuffed in the attachment's case the sound suffers greatly. The speaker is mounted facing down on another metal piece full of holes. There is no baffling or gasket used between the speaker and the metal piece. Then the bottom of the RP168 cabinet is mounted at the bottom. So the only space between the bottom of the player and the surface it is sitting on is the height of the rubber cushions. So the sound emitted from the speaker is mostly blocked and sounds terribly tinny. If you carefully lift the player while it is playing, the sound dramatically improves as more space is provided for the speaker to radiate. If you place the player on a box with a hole in the top the sound improves even more as the speaker pumps sound into the box and provides a pretty healthy bass response. All connections to the various parts are connectorized.

The front panel has a slide switch and rca connector. It was wired to allow a different input to be plugged into the unit to use

the amp and speaker. I decided it would make more sense to use it as an extension speaker selector so I rewired it. After recapping the amp, I attempted to put the whole thing back together for a test playing. No sound came out of the speaker and I traced it to shorting between the amp components and the metal grill used for the speaker. After strategically rearranging some of the components I was able to get it functioning. Luckily the shorts did not cause permanent damage.

The picture on page 2 shows the unit on top of a radically modern speaker made by Phillips. Two 3 inch woofers and a tweeter are mounted in a cabinet equipped with a bass port in the back. I find it hard to believe the sound that comes out of this design. The bass is impressive. There you have it, definitely one of a kind.



Underside showing amp placement. Speaker fills in remaining space



4X6 speaker with generous sized transformer

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20th Century meets 21st Century technology

What's wrong with the first picture below?



???

Correct

Last issue I included this picture of a knurled knob and one of you spotted that it did not look right. Good catch Tom Parutta! Typically the screw goes below the part that is knurled so this piece is highly unusual or not made to spec!

Careful when restoring RP168 changer



Main levers used on RP168 Record Changer

By Phil Vourtsis

I've had two occasions now when folks restoring an RP168 record changer have not been able to get the timing right during the reject cycle. The records would fall on the tonearm. This adjustment is normally made with the star wheel and the main lever. The problem occurs because there are two different main levers as shown in the picture. The only difference between the two is the length of the lever at the bottom of the lever. This change became necessary when RCA updated the record separators from the "rotating type" to the "push out" type. The longer end main lever will only work with the older "rotating" record separators. In both of these cases the wrong main lever was installed.

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Antique Audio Equipment Buff Seeks Worthy home for his collection

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By KOSEI KITO/ Staff Writer
The Asahi Shimbun

Since childhood, Daisuke Shimozono has been a dedicated admirer of phonograph inventor Thomas Alva Edison (1847-1931), a fascination that led him into collecting vintage audio equipment. As he thinks about the last track of his life, Shimozono, 70, is concerned about finding a home for his treasured collection, which includes an Edison Gem phonograph produced around 1900. "If I sell items by auctioning them off, individual items may sell," he said. "But that will only make a story that started with Edison fall apart." Shimozono, who resides in Machida in western Tokyo, is an active volunteer at an inventor's club for Machida's boys and girls.

A former engineer for U.S. electric maker RCA and other workplaces, Shimozono has long worked in the engineering field. He lived in the United States for five years from 1991 on assignment to prepare for establishing a subsidiary of a Japanese electric company. Coincidentally, his residence in New Jersey placed him near the Thomas Alva Edison Memorial Tower and Museum in Menlo Park.

Shimozono was happy about living in such close proximity to Edison's stomping grounds, which inspired him to start collecting audio equipment. He frequented garage sales and flea markets in his spare time and bought up old phonographs and radios. "I checked newspaper ads and visited flea markets to look for items at least twice a month," he said.

When he returned to Japan, he brought with him about 50 items including phonographs, each of which cost up to \$500-\$600 (60,300 yen-72,400 yen), he had collected in the United States. His hunt for audio equipment continued after he returned home. He now has a collection of well over 100 audio sets, including phonographs, record players and vacuum tube radios. Among these are the first transistor radio in Japan made by Sony Corp. and a wire recorder and Apple Inc.'s first-generation iPod, released in 2001.

Many items in Shimozono's beloved collection, which he said he had invested millions of yen in, are on display on the second floor of his house in Tokyo. Some other equipment has found spots in his dining room and living room on the first floor. Still more are placed inside a cupboard, underneath the family altar and sofa. Believing that "by playing them and creating sounds, we can feel a process of technical development from their invention," he has continued to repair them and change their parts as needed to keep them working. He has been encouraging children to touch the instruments and playing old records for the older generation.

Shimozono is searching for a museum or a recipient that will accept his entire collection and give it a permanent home. For inquiries, contact Shimozono via e-mail (edisonphonograph904@gmail.com).



Editor's Note

When Daisuke Shimozono (Dennis) was living in New Jersey he joined the New Jersey Antique Radio Club. Since he was working for RCA at the time he was very interested in the 45 rpm system of recorded music. We became friendly as I was writing my book on the subject. We have kept in touch via the internet since he moved back to Japan.