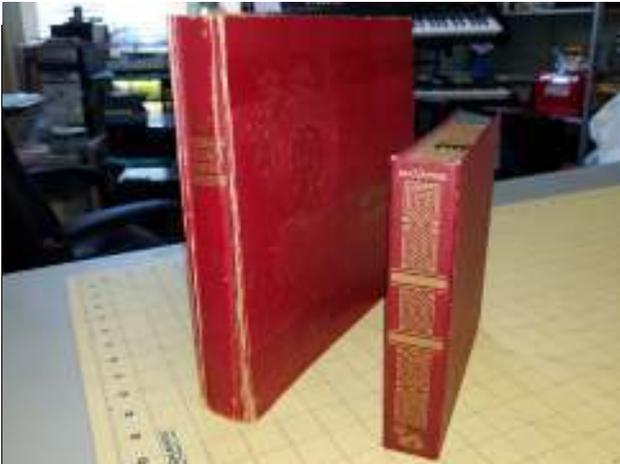


45rpm Phono Gazette

Repairing Vintage Record Album Books

By Gerry Whitehead



Record Books for 78rpm and 45rpm



Record Books for 78rpm



Record Book for 45rpm

To people of a certain age, there is an element of nostalgia that is connected with the old 78 records. For me, my very first memories of records are indeed my Mom's collection of 78's (mostly Big Band stuff from the '40's). Most of her 78's were either still in the very thin paper "company" sleeves that issued them (RCA-Victor, Decca, Capitol, etc), or just stuffed in a box, sans a protective sleeve. But later, as a kid of 7 or 8 years old (this would be the late '50's), I can recall seeing the empty record "books" for both 45 and 78 rpm for sale at our local record store. Later in the 70's, when the nostalgia bug bit, I started rediscovering these empty record "books" at thrift stores, yard sales, church sales, rummage sales, antique stores etc. Even MORE recently on-line on E-Bay! The 78 "books" were actually the first record "albums", the idea being that an artist of the era (30's & 40's, mostly), be it a mega star like Frank Sinatra (Columbia released their Sinatra album "The Voice" as a 4 disc set in 1946, for example) had a whole "album" of songs, which bled over to the L.P. Era. So, even earlier, perhaps as far back as the 20's!), suppliers to record stores started selling empty album "books" as an accessory to record stores for those who had wayward 78's (and later 45's) that had lost their cover(s). The books themselves varied in book pages from as little as 5 or 6 sleeves to maybe up to 14 or more! RCA-Victor, Decca, Capitol, and some of the other major record company's offered their own empty storage books for sale. Usually, these were 10 inch books, although some were 12 inch, more often for classical works. The generic ones came in different colors (red, yellow, blue, black, etc.) The non-record company ones usually said things like "Record Album", sometimes in fancy script (gold lettering or just plain print. The point being, after decades of abuse from a non-caring owner, these books are today (sadly) often found in less than desirable shape! A typical problem is **(continued on page 3)**

45rpm Phono Gazette

Blast From the Past 07/15/2001 Chesapeake Game Call 45 Player

Now I've seen everything! This is a 45 record player that runs on 6 volts DC. It is designed to be powered by your car battery. Of course your car will have to be from the early 1950's or older when 6 volt batteries were the norm. This was an ebay purchase and it did not hold up well during shipping. The heavy insides were no match for the cheaply made wooden box. The good news is that all the pieces that came apart can be reassembled and there are no breaks or cracks anywhere. So how did they do it? I couldn't wait to examine this thing to see how they powered the turntable motor. As soon as power enters the box, it is converted from 6 volts d.c. to 120 volts a.c. with the Trans-Electric Master converter made by Terado Company, St. Paul, Minnesota.



Just what every hunter dreams of, a 6 volt powered 45 player to use out in the woods!

This is done with a vibrator. Remembers these? That's how they used to generate the voltages needed in the older car radios using tubes. So once we are working with 120 volts ac, everything else (amp, turntable motor) are typical

stuff. The changer is an rp-190 with crescent logo on the front. The amp has no markings but is pretty hefty with push pull output. Unfortunately the game call records were not included with the unit. Speaker is jacked in separately.

Blast From the Past 01/15/13

By Phil Vourtsis

I was on the verge of parting out a really beat 45EY1 when I decided to experiment. The bakelite case was badly stained and the bakelite shell had been compromised. The goldish coating on the spindle was also peeling off. So I removed all the coating on the spindle and removed all the paint on the tonearm. They pretty much match with a nice steel gray. Then after priming the bakelite case, I painted it red. To finish it off I painted the



case's bottom with some gray paint. I also painted a nice garage sale candle holder with a sun theme with the red paint and that completes the picture.

Record Books Continued

the spine is found separated from the book. The inside of the book may have separated from the inside of the spine. It appears to me that many of the makers of the record books used a kind of construction glue on the outside spine, and a tough masking tape on the inside to bind the books together. Interestingly enough, later on in the 50's, the manufactures used a long screw to hold the 45 books together! But, back to the 78 books for now. I have found that by first re-gluing the outside spine with either Crazy glue or Gorilla Glue(TM), you can get the book back together again by letting it dry overnight. In the case of Gorilla Glue, BE CAREFUL to use gloves when working with it! They (The Gorilla Glue Company) want you to use half-glue and half-water. If you get that stuff stuck on your hands (like I have!) it takes practically FOREVER to get it off! Secondly both, the outside and inside covers should be reinforced with a heavy masking tape (If you can match the original color of the record book, so much the better!) I usually use the clear wide tape that The Post Office sells. And NOW, there's Gorilla TAPE too (ALSO VERY DURABLE!) Thirdly, check out the sides, bottoms, and the circular center of each sleeve where the record label is supposed to appear in each sleeve. If they are torn (and the ones I find often are, some companies used thin paper sleeves as a cost-cutting move. Some of the thick ones are sometimes also found torn to varying degrees. Get out your Gorilla Tape (which doesn't bubble!) or the aforementioned Post Office Tape. Measure the tear and cover the entire length of the tear to reinforce it (inside & out of the sleeve)! Once you've done these things, you have yourself a nice new/old completely restored 78 record book!

The 45 books are a little different, as I mentioned. (Note: Some of the books you'll find are missing the outside cardboard spine, or even the cover or covers themselves! Again, in this case, using the clear tape I mentioned is a good idea.) The 45 book is a similar situation. I mentioned the companies actually used a long screw to hold together the book. Sometimes they still have the screw in them, and can be reattached. Some are missing, but the clear tape again should work! Try it, you'll like it!

P.S. Just did a little more research and it seems that SOME of the companies (at least the ones that wrote "Record Album" in fancy script), DID in fact also use the additional base screw at the spine of the 78 book as well!

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RCA Victor 432E

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RCA Victor 9311

Compact table model table-top photograph in built-in mirror photo cabinet. Exceptional "45" record changer plus an exceptionally fine RCA Victor radio. Superb, synchronized quality.



RCA Victor 9331

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RCA Victor ad circa 1950

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