

45rpm Phono Gazette

Silvertone's Manumatic. A very strange design.



Silvertone Manumatic record changer

By Tom Parutta

Here are 2 Silvertone Manumatic models #255 and 9039 from my summer projects. Let me say that it was an interesting, challenging task working on these 2 players. These units from 1958 and 1959 weren't big sellers back then, but are quite collectible today. I wasn't sure what I was getting into as far as servicing the changers and both of them were time consuming to figure out on how these work. There are no service notes for these changers.



Turntable removed showing how little there is underneath. Tonearm is controlled by a cam under the turntable just like the RCA Victor RP-168.



1958 and 1959 portable models

Both of these changers have manual 78 and 33 rpm, while 45 and 16 rpm work automatically. To start the automatic operation, you have to guide by hand the tonearm all the way near the end of the platter toward the adapter and it will engage the cycle tripping mechanism. These 45 adaptors, which were made by Crescent, are mostly broken or missing in these units. Luckily, I was able to find them online. Model 255 is all mono with the original Ronette cartridge still working and replaced needles. Model 9039, which has an AM radio, uses dual speakers and has HiFi sound with a Sonotone 2T cartridge with flip-over needles. Both of the changers have problems and took quite a while to get em right. I'm sure when holding or grabbing the tonearms back then, kids or young adults sent these tonearms out of wack. Which explains why these were not a popular sell back then. Both of these units had bad filters and some noticeable caps replaced. Model 9039 uses a printed board circuit and to take out the chassis were quite crimped in so tightly to remove and put back. For the money back then, these sounded quite good. Happy collecting.

100th Issue Holy Moly

45rpm Phono Gazette

Rare Electronic Secretary found

By Dennis D'Amico

Picked up this extremely rare telephone answering machine. The Electronic Secretary was General Telephone's 1st offering in the early 1950's. First commercially built answering machine, it was available on a rental contract only. Using a RCA RP-190 player for announcing message, the wire recorder recording the messages up to 2 minutes per message.



The Electronic Secretary, one of the first telephone answering machines.

This will be a major project. I will need to find a take up wire spool, a replacement telephone jack (commercial), fabricate a new bottom panel, and go through all the mechanical relays. The tubes are industrial grade: 6AQ5W, 6AU6WA, 12AU7, 12AX7, and 6X4WA. It was built like a tank, weighing in at 60 pounds !! Fortunately there was a service manual online, so looking forward seeing it operate once again !! BTW, it uses a powerpoint phono cartridge !!

The guy I bought it from found it at a swapmeet. He said he took it out to different meets, and nobody bothered looking at it !! He was happy to sell it to me because he hurt his back lugging it around ! :-)

The following is taken from vintage articles about the machine.

In the U.S., the telephone company's response to the growing demand for answering machines was to introduce live answering services. This consisted of a special switchboard and circuitry that allowed a sort of "call forwarding.". Live answering services (which are still available today) were popular among small businesses and doctors. However, the success of the answering services stimulated inventors to develop new answering machines. Under pressure from these inventors, the Federal Communications Commission for the first time permitted the use of automatic answering machines on AT&T lines in 1949, although there were tight restrictions on what technologies could be used and who controlled their use. The Electronic Secretary was one of the first of the postwar answering machines. The original model recorded on wire and

used a 45 rpm record as the outgoing message. Later models used two tape transports. Succumbing to customer demand, the Bell System companies and GTE rented this machine to customers by the early 1960s.



Plenty of vacuum tubes, selinoids and relays in this piece of equipment.

The Electronic Secretary (1949) was the first telephone answering machines available in America (even earlier systems were used in Europe, but strangely forbidden in America due to resistance from AT&T and the FCC.) They were used exclusively for businesses at this time. The original model recorded on wire and used a pre-recorded, professionally voiced 45 rpm record as the outgoing message. Succumbing to consumer demand, the Bell System companies and GTE rented this machine to mostly higher income residential customers by the early 1960s (the rental fees were big.) In spite of it's availability (and the machines used cassette tape by the '70s), The answering machine was still fairly rare however and never really took off in America until the breakup and deregulation of AT&T in 1983 when they were finally sold direct to consumers outside of the phone companies.



Bottom view of Electronic Secretary.



Electronic Secretary[®]

- Answers all calls
- Delivers a pre-recorded message
- Records all messages from callers
- Economical, dependable, courteous.



Electronic Secretary Model DCR-1

Automatically answers incoming calls, records all messages 24 hours a day. Recording device has a capacity of 240 fifteen-second messages. Ideal for small offices—gives clients and customers any information that can be recorded.

Simple and easy to operate, all functions are push-button controlled. Operates on 115 V., 60 cycle, single phase AC. Measures 18" by 14" by 8", grey finish, and weighs 60 pounds.

Electronic Secretary—Model DCR-1 . . . Price, \$415.00

Model T-4

Ideal where messages change often. Built-in "mike" records outgoing message on tape cartridge, automatically erasing old message. Does not record incoming calls. Comes in either grey or walnut, measures 12" by 8" by 9", and weighs 31 pounds.

Electronic Secretary—Model T-4 . . . Price, \$275.00

Model TR

Answers all calls with recorded message but does not make a record of incoming calls. Especially suited for business intercepts where message to callers does not change frequently. Uses standard 45RPM record.

Measures 11½" by 8" by 7", available in either grey or walnut finish, weighs 18 pounds.

Electronic Secretary—Model TR . . . Price, \$175.00

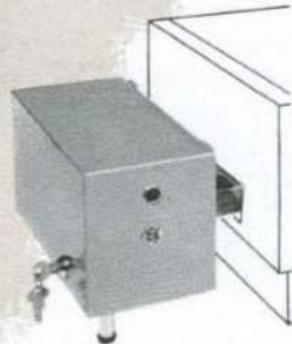
Remote Call Back—Model DCR-1-CB

When attached to the Electronic Secretary, plays back all recorded incoming calls via telephone from any distant point. Simply call the number being answered by the Electronic Secretary, and a signal generated by a portable oscillator starts playback. When you hang up, it returns to normal operation, ready to record other calls.

Grey finish, 11" by 5½", weighs 11 pounds. When ordering designate Type No. RCB.

Remote Call Back—Model DCR-1-CB . . . Price, \$215.00

Prices shown are subject to change without notice.



WANTED	WANTED	SERVICES	SERVICES
<p>Bob Becker (201.391.2971) 7 Woodland Road Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677 rdbbecker@aol.com Beige knob for 8EY4FK Large tuning or vol knob for 9Y510,6JM25 Ding Dong Slideomatic 7HF45 Oak or Maple 8EY4DJ gray plastic front Decca blk/red portable 45 player</p> <p>Joe Bentrovato (973.361.7392) Need 45rpm adaptor (EPS3) for Delmonico model 1025 consolette stereo phono. Looking for optional power supply for 'skipper' model.</p> <p>Charles Cummins (817-732-4313) 3912 Calmont Ave Fort Worth, Texas 76107</p> <p>David Cox (937)484-3241 1407 Knight Road Urbana, OH 43078 dcc49@yahoo.com 45 spindle for Admiral 5W12N 2-speed record player, bakelite lid for Zenith twin 7. Outer concentric r/p knob for Emerson 635</p> <p>Dennis D'Amico 11892 Pine Street Los Alamitos, CA 90720-4163 lionelquy@yahoo.com</p> <p>Jim Diamond (661-396-7867) JimDiamond61@gmail.com Want Nat King Cole "Too Young To Go Steady" on 78rpm.</p>	<p>Hank Granse (360-871-9014) 6751 View Dr. SE Port Orchard, WA 98367 hgranse@wavecable.com</p> <p>Bob Green (570-366-3949) 1711 Breezy Acres Rd Orwigsburg, PA 17961 For Sale- 15E Demonstrator rcgreen@schmobile.com</p> <p>Bob Kolba 8676 East Woodley Way Scottsdale, AZ 85266 Rkolba0211@aol.com</p> <p>John Lee 314 East 11th St. Upland, CA 91786 Nipper45@verizon.net</p> <p>Paul Childress (804.271.7842) 6632 W. Denny Ct. Chesterfield, VA 23832 pchildress@prodigy.net</p> <p>Doug Robinson 2609S. 800E. Salt Lake, Utah 84106 Doug45rpm@hotmail.com WANTED: Chris Cuff to restore my Ristaucrat model 2020 player.</p> <p>Ray Tyner (614-475-1697) 4709 Wendler Blvd Columbus Ohio 43230-1642 rcray45rpm@msn.com</p> <p>Martin Wolff (402-687-2219) wolfmoma@q.com Speaker, mounting bracket and output transformer for RCA Model 9EY31</p>	<p>Willie Bosco 707.923.3897 1588 Miller Rd. Garberville, CA 95542 williamjbosco@gmail.com</p> <p>Tom Paruta (716.264.4035) 127 Creekside Drive Amherst, NY 14228 TomTMP58@aol.com Admiral 45rpm adaptor part # G400B410 for Admiral R/P 5W12N I do 1940s thru 1960s phono restorations. Call for quotes.</p> <p>Retro-Tronics Custom radio backs and phono bottoms for 45EY2, 7EY series www.retro-tronics.com</p> <p>James Romano Phono_restoration_company 301 Haynes Run Medford, NJ 08055 (856-220-9588) Restoration of RCA 45rpm phonos & knock off models. Repair on any changer or turntable. JUKEBOXJUNKIE731@aol.com Webpage: http://www.turntablefactory.com/romano.html</p> <p>Bill Gourd (989-832-2934) 1024 West Park Drive Midland, Michigan 48640 In priority order: 8EY4, 7HF45 (wood), 8HF45P (portable), 4Y511 (radio phono).</p>	<p>Vintage Electronics 128 Buccaneer Drive Hattiesburg, MS 39402 601.264.4755 phonoed@aol.com www.vintageelectronics.com NOS cartridges & needles for almost every model and brand made.</p> <p>V-M Audio Enthusiasts (248-478-0990) eves/wkends 37530 E. Meadowhill Northville, MI 48167 info@thevoiceofmusic.com www.thevoiceofmusic.com Rebuilding Service - Idlers, cams. Repair parts including both V-M and RCA 45 players.</p> <p>Phil Vourtsis (732-208-4284) 2514 Bear Stand Trail Myrtle Beach, SC 29588 philvourtsis@gmail.com Books signed by author The Fabulous Victrola '45', Schiffer Publishing LTD. \$25 plus \$4 shipping</p>  <p><i>The 45 rpm Phono Gazette is a quarterly publication since 1995. \$7/\$9 for 4 paper issues, \$14/\$18 for 9 paper issues. (USA/Intl) Send to Phil Vourtsis, 2514 Bear Stand Trail, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588 or you can use Paypal (Account is philvourtsis@gmail.com (no credit cards please)</i></p> <p>Please note! Electronic copies of the newsletter are FREE!!!! Just send me your email address.</p>