

45rpm Phono Gazette

Mysterious Berkshire spotted at Kutztown meet.



Speaker vents look like they may have been done at the factory.

By Phil Vourtsis

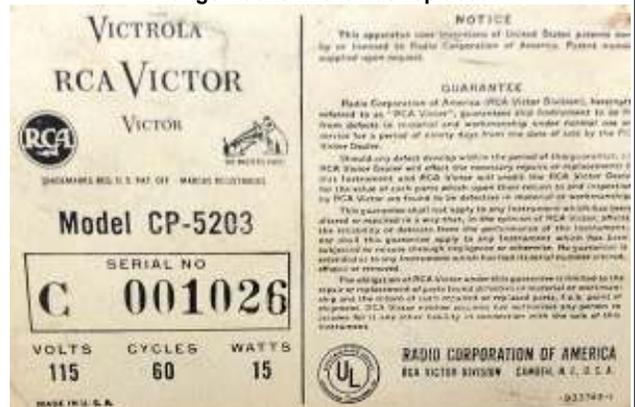
It was great to get out to the Kutztown radio meet in September. It appeared that both pavilions were filled for the first time. The Friday night auction was also back in the white building.

One of the items that was causing a flurry of interest was what appeared to be an RCA Victor Berkshire 45 player. But there were some oddities about the cabinet and the record changer. The cabinet has an extra decorative wood trim on the bottom and there are cut out slits for speaker on one side of the cabinet. Usually the Berkshire is an attachment designed to play through an expensive high fidelity system and comes equipped with a magnetic cartridge and 4 poll motor to reduce hum, not its own small amplifier and built in speaker. When you open the top of the unit there are more surprises. The changer and turntable should be flat black. What we see are the typical colors used on the typical changer. It could be one of the previous owners may have replaced the original changer at some point not realizing how different they are.

In talking with the seller it was brought up that the previous owner lived in Canada. Could this be a Canadian version of the Berkshire? Probably not because the info on the bottom of the unit says it was made in Camden, NJ and has the familiar US model number CP-5203.



Changer looks like it was replaced.



No mention of Canada here.

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One of a kinds.

Some of us have had thoughts of creating something unique with these vintage phonographs and depending on your ability with woodworking and or electronics some downright great things can be accomplished. This one appeared on ebay. Unfortunately all I have is the picture. →

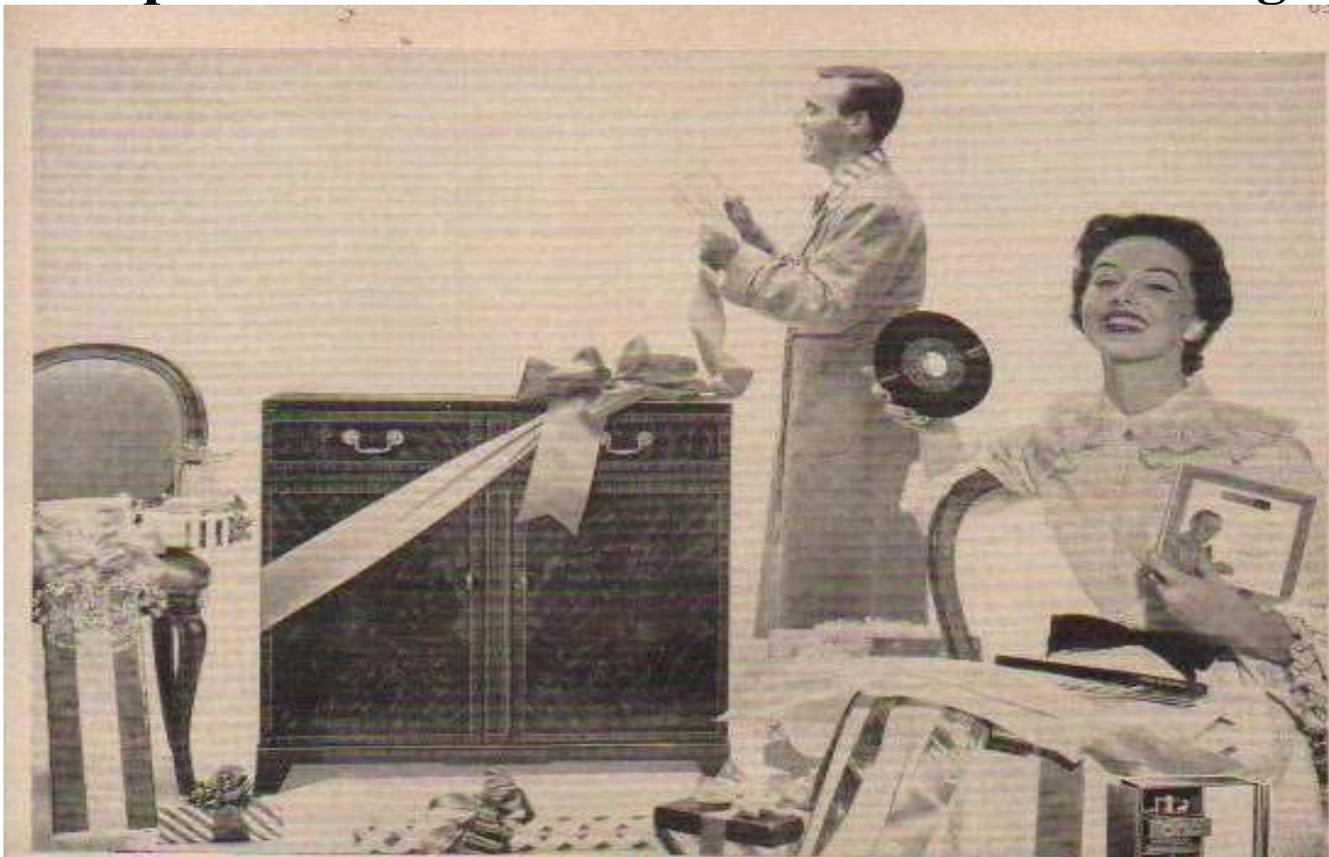


The cute and colorful building appears to be made of wood. The removable roof could be plastic with a hinge in the middle. Inside is an RP190 RCA record changer. If you look closely behind the wooden soldier you can see holes which are probably where the loudspeaker is mounted.



Another example of an individual who must have the right tools for the job. Modeled after the 45EY2, RCA Victor's best seller during the early 50's. I believe a member of our Gazette group either made this or had the case made for him. Sorry I don't recall anymore than that. Beautiful job.





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The 45 rpm Phono Gazette is a quarterly
publication since 1995. \$7/\$9for 4 paper
issues, \$14/\$18for 9 paper
issues.(USA/Int'l)
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