

## Maintenance suggestions for 50's Single Play Record Players

Many of the 50's Players I have restored over the years are due for maintenance after 5 years. It is usually too expensive to return them due to shipping, so I have put together this simple instruction manual for those of you who have or know of someone with a little mechanical aptitude and a couple of small tools.

The first question I usually get is the turntable seems to be slipping or slowing down. My first suggestion is to put your finger on the spinning turntable. If just the weight of your finger slows down the turntable, it is probably time to clean the drive wheel and motor spindle and re oil the bearing surfaces. **CAUTION!!** Do not under any circumstance get oil, even from your fingers on the rubber faced drive wheel.



The first thing to do is remove the Platter. In the center is a "C" ring that holds the platter down. Use a small screwdriver to Pry it loose and then using your fingers, apply an upward pressure on the platter. If it does not want to release from the spindle, use a plastic or wood handle and while applying upward pressure, tap the top of the spindle sharply. This should be enough to free the platter. Remove it and place it upside down nearby with the clip so it does not get lost. What you will now see is similar to the next picture of the drive

mechanism. The drive wheel has a rubber surface that gets slick with age. It will need cleaning. Remove its clip and with clean fingers or a cloth glove. Lift it from its bearing shaft. Drive wheel. Rubber surface. Clip. Motor shaft. Center spindle.



To the left or sometimes elsewhere is the speed changer. Like the transmission on a car, it changes the speed the drive wheel turns. The motor shaft which is "stepped" always turns at the same speed. As you move the shifter, it will move the drive wheel up and down on the stepped drive to run at a different speed. The stepper shaft and the rubber surface of the drive wheel must be very clean to keep good contact and not slip.



As shown, the clip has been removed and the wheel removed from its shaft.

If you look closely, you will see the steps in the drive shaft.

As the shifter is move back and forth, it lifts the wheel up and down to align with the steps in the shaft by this mechanism.

This spring loaded shaft allows the wheel to slide up and down and remain in contact with the motor.

The next step is to check and

clean the drive wheel. If it does not have any cracks in the rubber, it can be cleaned with alcohol. Do not attempt to use any thing else or you will ruin the wheel and need to order a new one. While you are at it with either denatured alcohol or plain rubbing alcohol, clean the motor stepper shaft. Do not allow the alcohol to run down the shaft to the bearing surface.



When cleaning the drive wheel, avoid touching it with anything other than the cleaning cloth and alcohol. Keep rubbing along the rubber surface until no black residue is present and the wheel looks clean and with a matte finish.

Now is the time to lube the mechanism while it is apart. Use a very light machine oil with a tube applicator to make sure it is only where you want it. Tension spring

I like to use a 2" paintbrush to clean all the dust off the

mechanism first. Then apply drop on the shaft with the spring, one the wheel shaft and one at the bearing surface of the motor. I also use a cue tip to apply a little white lubriplate, grease or similar to these points of surface wear.

In the next picture, you may need a pair of pointed nose pliers or something to bend the shaft of the shifter. It should reside 1/2 way between the platter when it is returned to the

spindle and the numbers on the plate. If it is too high in position it may make a rubbing sound on the Platter as it rotates. If it is too low, it will rub the numbers off the plate.



After everything and all clips are back in place, plug your player back into the wall and give it a spin (pardon the pun) If you lubricated the shifter mechanism, it should change speeds easier. If you cleaned the wheel sufficiently, you should be able to put your finger on the platter and it should continue spinning at any speed. As far as changing needles, most of these units used a spade lug needle. Look at that paper also on this site for instructions on its replacement. Good Luck.

By the way, I do sell needles and rebuilt drive wheels. You must return the old drive wheel to me for rebuild which is \$35.00 plus shipping. Needle prices are all over the place so you will probably have to contact me from the “contact me” page.

I am always available to help any way I can and do provide complete service on all electronic record players.



The tension spring is attached to the idler spindle and a firm spot tab. If it needs to be stronger, the bottom side can be slipped off the mount and forced back on a little further up the spring thus stretching it and increasing the tension. By shortening the spring, it will apply more tension to the idler wheel which will cause it to slip less

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