Subject: Looking for pointers on garbled or distorted sound from Philco-Ford S1888WA radio/turntable console
Posted by Germain on Mon, 09 Feb 2009 10:37:30 GMT
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Hi, Everyone. My mother inherited quite a collection of records from my grandmother and asked me to look for a turntable for her. I picked up a Philco-Ford S1888WA radio/turntable console at a local (Atlanta) vintage furniture store. Its got an automatic turntable and solid-state electronics. It's producing a garbled (distorted?) sound and I haven't been able to pin-point the source so I'm hoping you can help me.For sample pictures visit:front - http://silverliver.nfshost.com/temp/01.jpgdials - http://silverliver.nfshost.com/temp/02.jpgturntable - http://silverliver.nfshost.com/temp/03.jpgguts with legend - http://silverliver.nfshost.com/temp/04.jpgmodel# etc - http://silverliver.nfshost.com/temp/05.jpgFor sample sound (640KB, wav) visit:http://silverliver.nfshost.com/temp/01.wavThe system has a line-in (says "Tape/Input") and two line-out ("EXT SPEAKERS" and "TAPE RECORD"). I've run the following tests:1) play turntable or radio on internal speakers = garbled sound2) play mp3 player (through line-in) on internal speakers = garbled sound and lower volume (but not too bad)3) play turntable or radio on external speakers (good speakers) = garbled sound4) play mp3 player (through line-in) on external speakers = garbled soundNOTE: same results after playing with the R/L balanceand 5) jiggle wires here and there = sound improved slightly after jiggling the connection that receives wires from the far-side speaker and sends to circuit board (see picture 04.jpg), but after playing with that connection for a while I wasn't able to make further progress. Only a slight improvement there.There is a single rusted connection somewhere in there. After I unplugged it I only got sound from one speaker but it was still coming garbled. I also dusted the circuitry with compressed air, although there wasn't much dust at all.I'm going to continue jiggling wires until I come up with more tests and/or give up.Any ideas?Many thanks!

Subject: Re: Looking for pointers on garbled or distorted sound from Philco-Ford S1888WA radio/turntable cons
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 09 Feb 2009 17:39:35 GMT
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When working on old tube radios, I always swap capacitors before doing anything else. After 50 years, often times half that time or more with no power applied, sitting in an attic somewhere, the capacitors are usually worthless. It doesn't cost much to replace them all so it's worth doing. Then I check the active components with a tester. For tubes, I use a dedicated tube tester, for transistors, an ohmmeter is usually all that's required.