

Philco 39-25 Restoration



Picked up this radio on ebay for about \$60 including shipping. Looks like it was in pretty tough shape but I'm glad I got it as it turned out great. After taking



apart the cabinet I cleaned it up with Citristrip. Below are some of the photos from dismantling the cabinet including the left-over food stores from previous tenants:



The brass escutcheon was cleaned with soap and water followed by some Simichrome metal polish. More polishing could have made the brass very shiny but that is not the way the original looked. They had a gold colored paint look rather than shiny brass. This was achieved after viewing Bob Andersen's youtube videos on restoring a 39-30 with American Accents aged brass paint and Krylon clear gloss coat.



The top of the cabinet had a black water stain that I thought I would have to live with but it came out with the use of an oxalic acid wood bleach product that I had tried before with limited success. I think my earlier problem was that I did not leave it on the wood long enough and had not worked it into the wood with a toothbrush. You can see the results of it this time in the following photos:



Before treatment

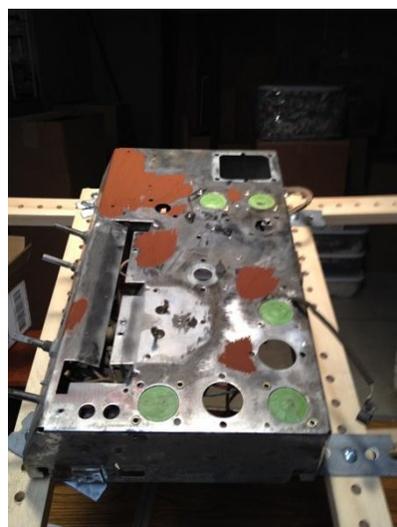
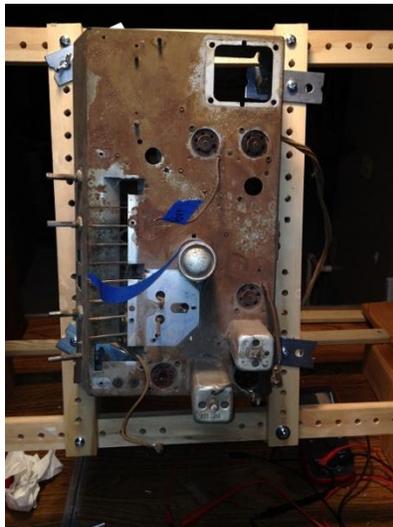
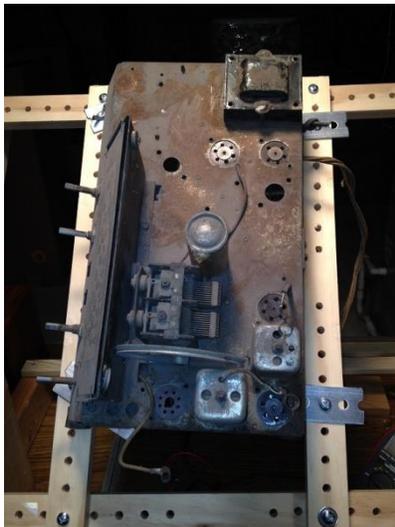


After treatment

After some toning with Mohawk Ultraclassic Medium Brown Walnut on the main portion of the cabinet; Behlen Medium Brown Walnut on the bottom molding strip in the front and some Americana acrylic black on the outer trim, the first couple of gloss lacquer coatings made it look pretty good.



The chassis was in a bad state because of rusting with pitting caused by the mice that were living in the cabinet. To repair I decided that there was enough rusting that I should at least paint the top of the chassis. This required disassembly of the chassis, wire brushing & naval jelly treatment:



The pits were primed with Rustoleum and sanded flat and then the chassis was painted with Rustoleum Aluminum. Painting the chassis meant that the original model number stamp markings were lost. I replaced these using an ink transfer process that I found on-line.



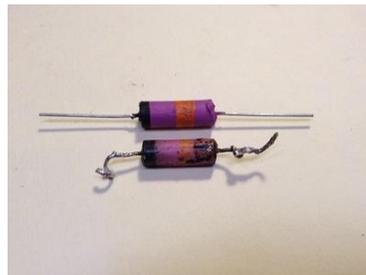
Two of the three electrolytic capacitor cans were missing in this chassis and older repairs had all the electrolytics tacked in under the chassis. I was able to find one can on-line that was similar though not identical to the 30-2330A and 30-2331A cans I needed so I used it to restuff one of the electrolytics,



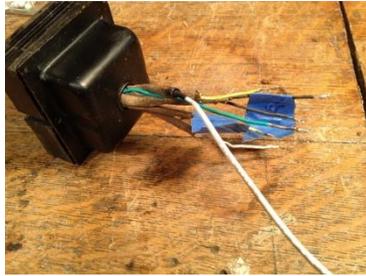
restuffed the remaining original can and tacked one in under the chassis.

There was also an ugly repair of the wire wound resistor and a 70 ohm resistor. I replaced the 280 ohm resistor with a smaller 5 watt 300 ohm resistor that was less obvious under the chassis and I built a replacement 70 ohm resistor that looked like an original would. Other resistors that were out of spec were also replaced with

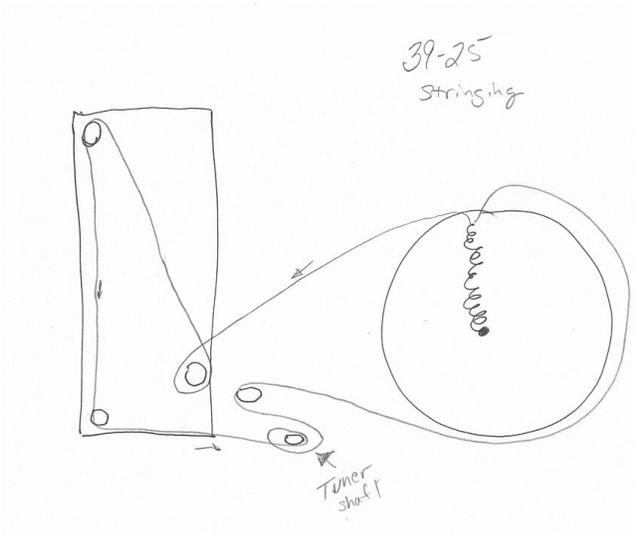
reproductions. The reproductions were made with a piece of tubing with a new resistor placed inside and then sealed with a little hot glue. The tubing was lightly sanded and Americana acrylic paints were used to create the right colors for the resistors.



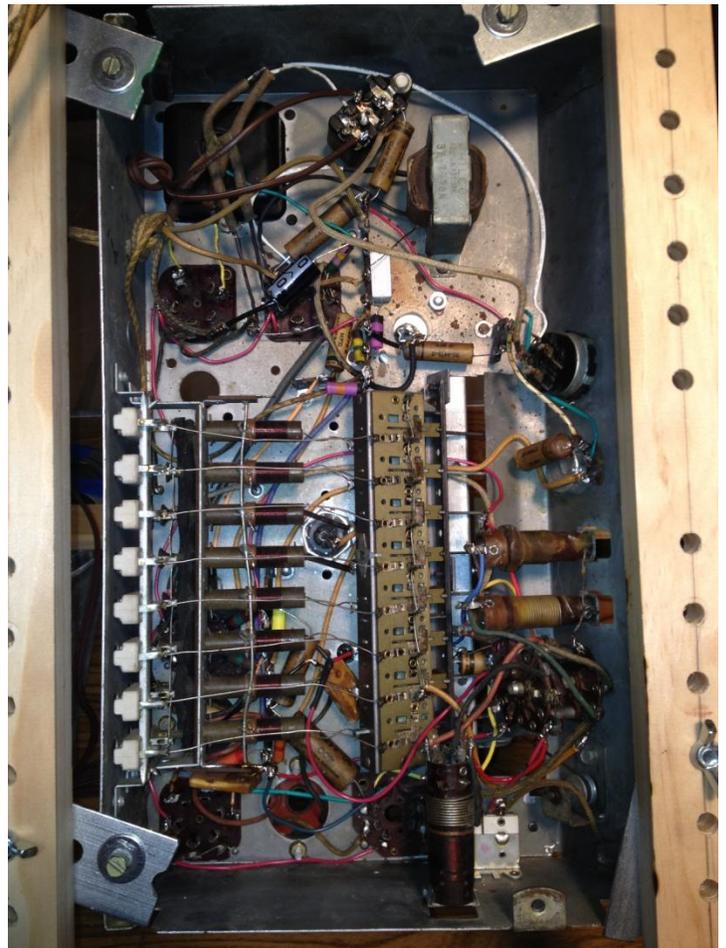
All of the paper and bakelite block capacitors were stuffed with new 630 volt caps and much of the rubber wiring was replaced since it was becoming brittle. This included putting sleeve insulation on the power transformer wiring:



Restrung the tuning dial and capacitor was necessary since I had disassembled the chassis. A stringing diagram is shown below, although in practice I wrapped the tuner shaft pulley twice rather than once as shown in the diagram.



Underside of the chassis after all the repairs and replacements were made:



Top of chassis just about ready to put back into the cabinet:



