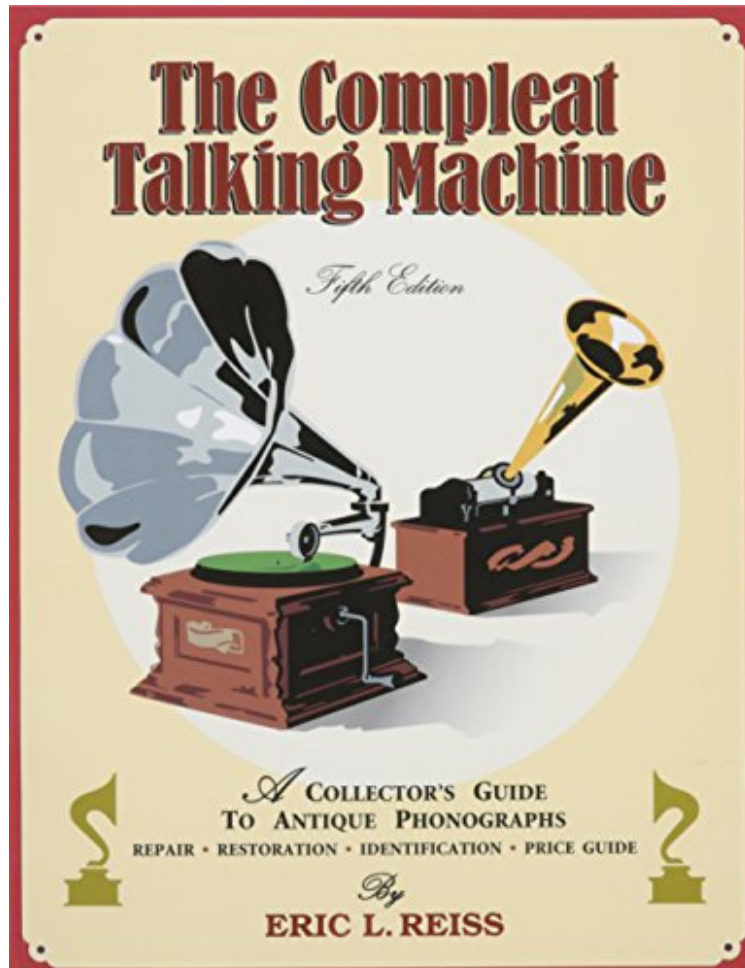


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The Compleat Talking Machine: A Collector's Guide to Antique Phonographs

Eric L. Reiss

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Eric L. Reiss : The Compleat Talking Machine: A Collector's Guide to Antique Phonographs before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Compleat Talking Machine: A Collector's Guide to Antique Phonographs:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Own a Spring-motor Phonograph? GET THIS BOOK!By LongWorkdaysAheadWARNING!! TOOLS AND GUMPTION REQUIRED!!!Note! This review is for the FOURTH EDITION. There may be newer ones available.I purchased this book on recommendation from a Victor collector after getting a 1924 Victrola in (as I learned in this book!) better shape than I thought. The first 120 pages are the "Repair and Restoration" section, and Mr Reiss is true to his promise: the book is both thoroughly technical for the expert mechanic, yet completely understandable to the first-time Victrola owner. Clear and straight-forward troubleshooting,

tool lists, technique walk-throughs, and detailed photos/diagrams make all the difference. I have made several minor adjustments and repairs using this book, and am now confident I can tackle the (scary for a novice) task of replacing the gaskets and diaphragm on the reproducer. As to the warning above, Mr Reiss expects that you have at least a functionally equipped workbench and some mechanical aptitude. Some of the major repairs and overhaul work require tools like a bench vise or a drill press, while other, more delicate operations need tiny screwdrivers and a jeweler's loupe. The second half of the book covers the "Identification and Price Guide" portion. The identification section has a large collection of photos, along with historical data, and even a chapter on how to avoid fakes. There is also a guide to home recording. This edition was printed in 2003, so the pricing estimates are not current, but the Model and date listing is still useful. 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Great resource for restoring and repairing phonographs. By Stephen Botts I think you will find this an awesome book, as long as you know what to expect. Reiss focuses on external horn machines, and includes only a couple of pictures of the internal horn machines. If you are looking for a book with lots of details about Victrola models, this is not it. That's not a problem if you are looking for repair information, since most wind-up machines share the same basic construction. Reiss is a great technical writer, giving you step-by-step instructions in nice readable English. He covers both mechanical repairs (such as rebuilding the reproducer or fixing a broken spring) and cosmetic repairs. I really liked his tips for cleaning the finish and repairing blemishes and dings. In summary, if you own a talking machine and want to fix it or spruce it up, this book is a critical resource. If you are shopping for a Victrola, this is not the book for you. I take that back. I would have shopped much more intelligently for my first Victrola if I had read this book first. Just changed the rating from 4 to 5!

Book by Reiss, Eric L.