Wood Radio Repair and Refinishing

And Chassis Restoration

By

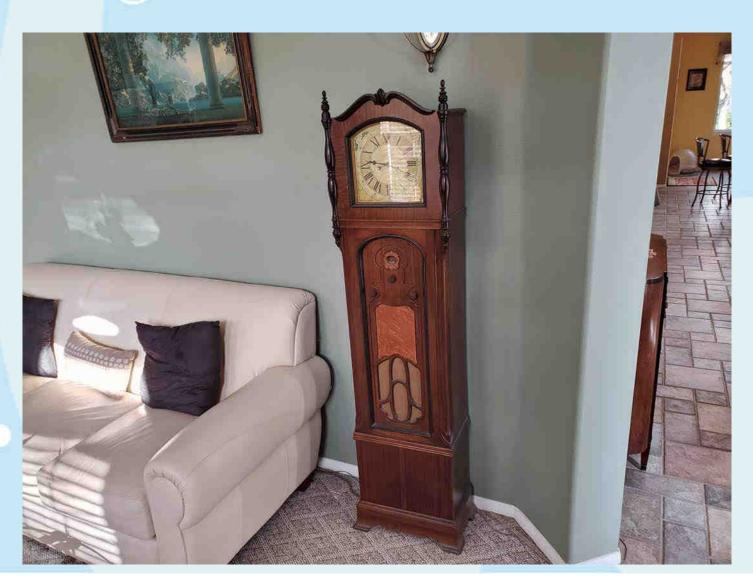
F. Stephen Masek

There is more than one way to do just about everything

Assessment

- Broken
- Missing
- Damaged
- Photofinish
- Tobacco residue may not be worth the effort

1931 Crosley 124 Playtime Photofinish around the clock



How much time?

- Fun
- Profit (better to work at a burger place)

Older books and articles

- Nice resources
- Do not cover modern materials

Original Finish

- What did it look like from the factory
- Not dull, darkened, faded, or flaking....
- Old photos show most radios were glossy



Stripping

- "0" / "00" steel wool
- Terry cloth rags (Home Depot)
- Lacquer Thinner / Acetone
- No need for nasty chemical strippers
- Use/ wear proper PPE

Replacing missing / damaged grilles

laser cutters



House plant damage

- Mohawk epoxy putty or Bondo
- Strips of Veneer to Build-Up



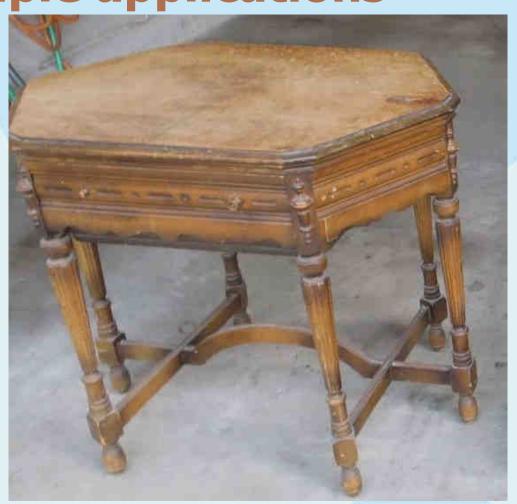


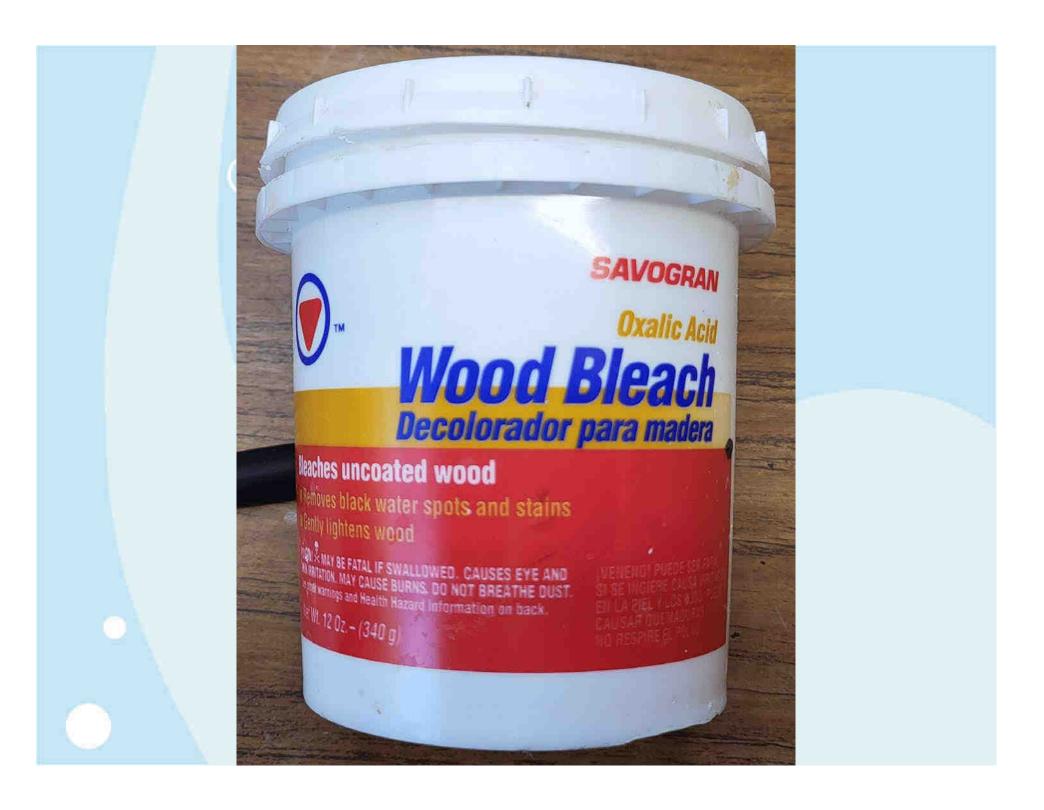
Four Way Veneer From Constatine's Applied

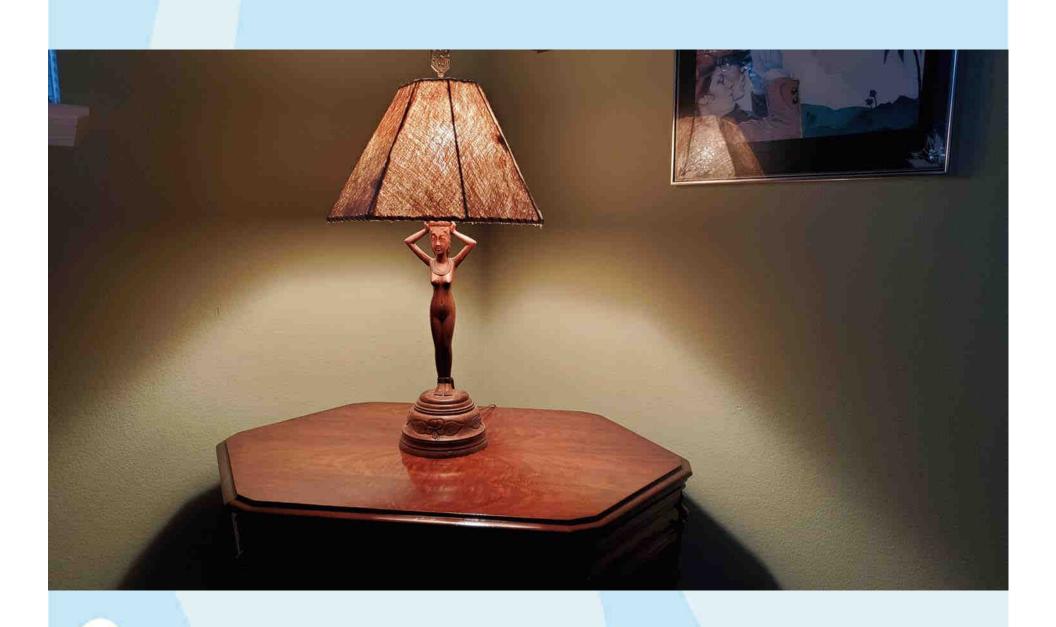


Dark Stains

- Wood bleach
- Multiple applications







Furniture Polish - Silicone

- Mohawk Wax Wash
- Clean cotton rags
- Turn / change frequently

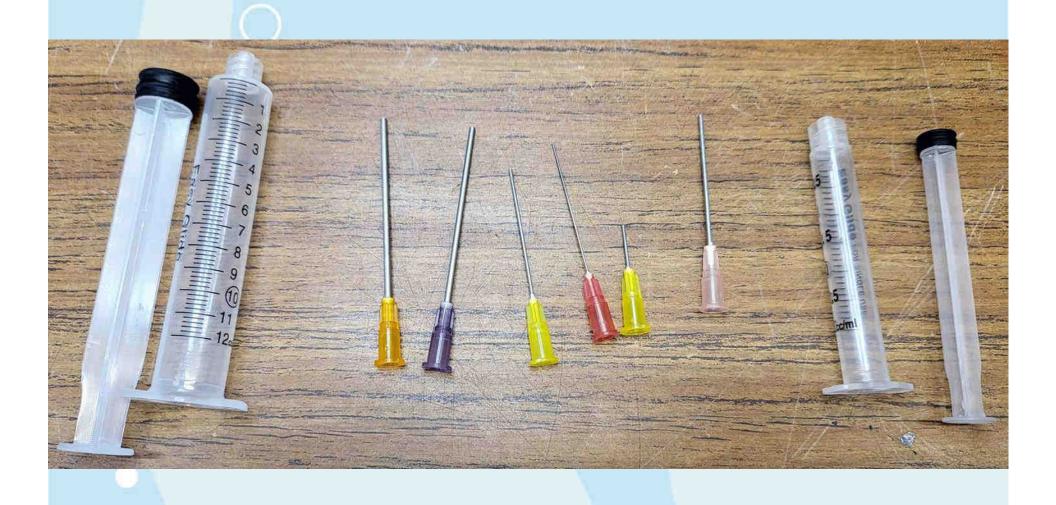
Glue

- Stainable for veneer repairs
- Brown with nut shell powder for attaching veneer
- Careful use of heat gun to soften and re-attach

Wood Glues



Glue Syringes



Glue Loose Joints & Veneer, Replace Missing Pieces



Repair Piece - Rasp, Sand



1929 General Motors Dayfan 72 Base Glued Crooked, Heat Gun to Loosen and Re-Do



Typical Chips

Philco 38-10, but the same for any veneered items



Repair Conforms



Refinished



Veneer Isn't Lumber!

No cutting straight lines!
Select matching veneer
Overlap
Glue
Clamp tightly
Sand carefully with a block -400

Front Chip

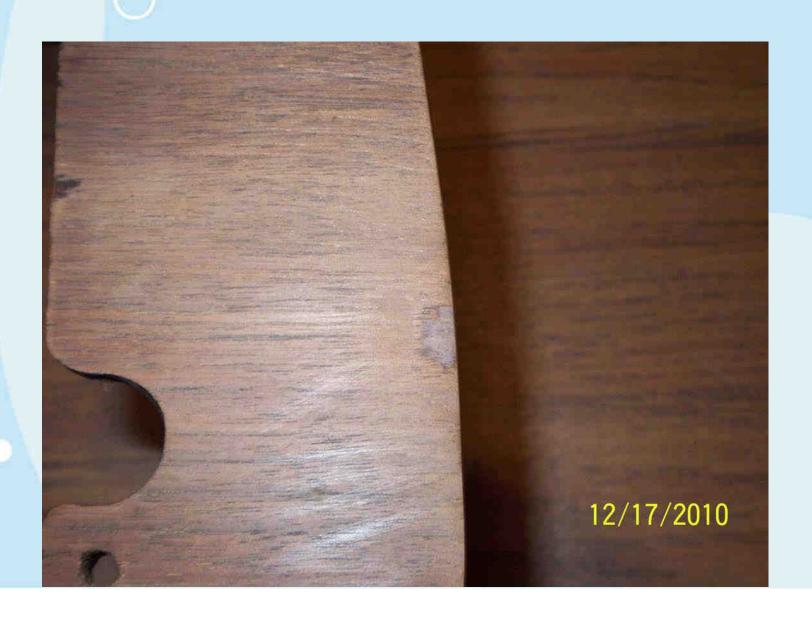
Emerson 578



Over-Sized Matching Patch



Carefully Sanded- Conforms



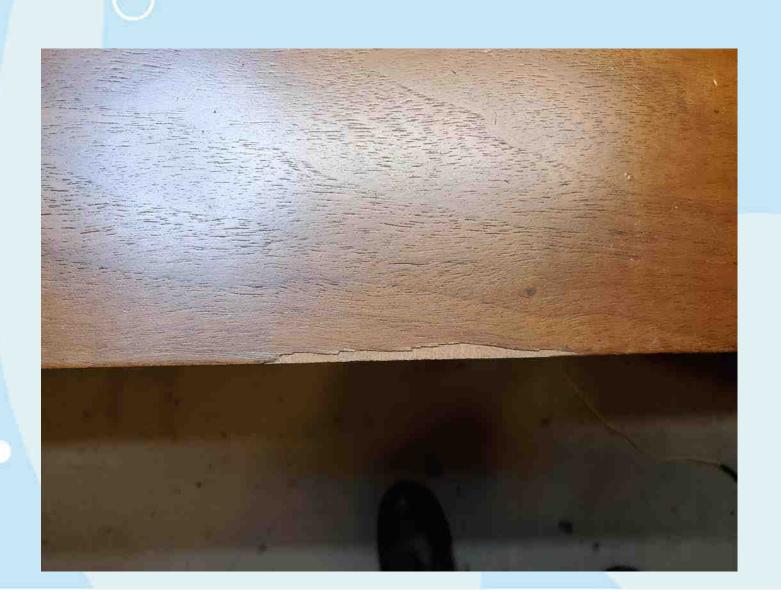
Refinished



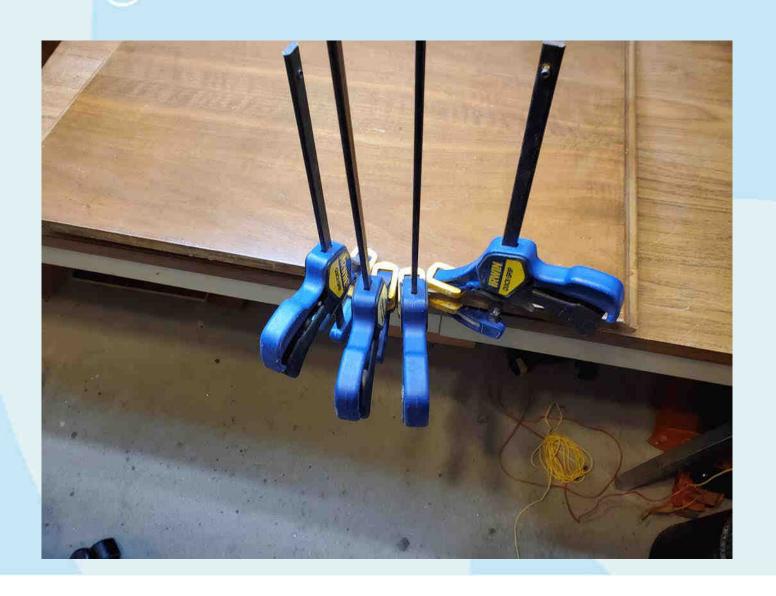
"Rubber" Faced Clamps



Typical Edge Damage



Clamped Tightly



Grain Filler - Timbermate

- Fast & Easy
- Apply with burlap
- Take care not to wash it out
- Typically two applications
- Sand 320 /400



Stain

- Oil (stains, can make wood too dark), Alcohol, or Water Based
- Colors may be mixed
- Achieve even overall tone
- Tone grain filler



Shellac / Lacquer Sanding Sealer

- To seal
- Helps greatly when silicone furniture polish had been used

Lacquer IS Available

- Local suppliers
- Mail Order

Toned Lacquer

- Opaque
- Translucent



Masking



HVLP



Wet Sand - 600 & Higher, Lightly

Wells-Gardener Aria



Horizontal Surfaces



Runs

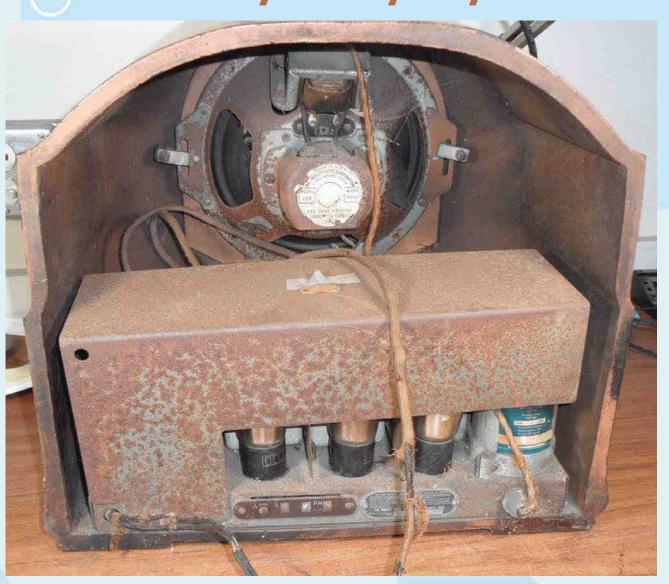
- Not a tragedy
- Do not touch!
- Carefully sand
- Use Blush / Retarder
- Strip an area

Grille Cloth

- Iron, Spray Starch
- Separate Board Tape Edges Onto Board, Back Side Up, Spray 3M 77 Onto Board, Press and Weight
- Inside Cabinet Wood Glue One Edge, When Set Enough, Glue Edge 90 Degrees From First One,,,
- Take Care For Pattern Alignment
- Open Screw Holes In Fabric With Tool, Or Fabric Will Catch On Screws

Rusty Chassis - Use Bullfrog

Crosley Buddy Boy

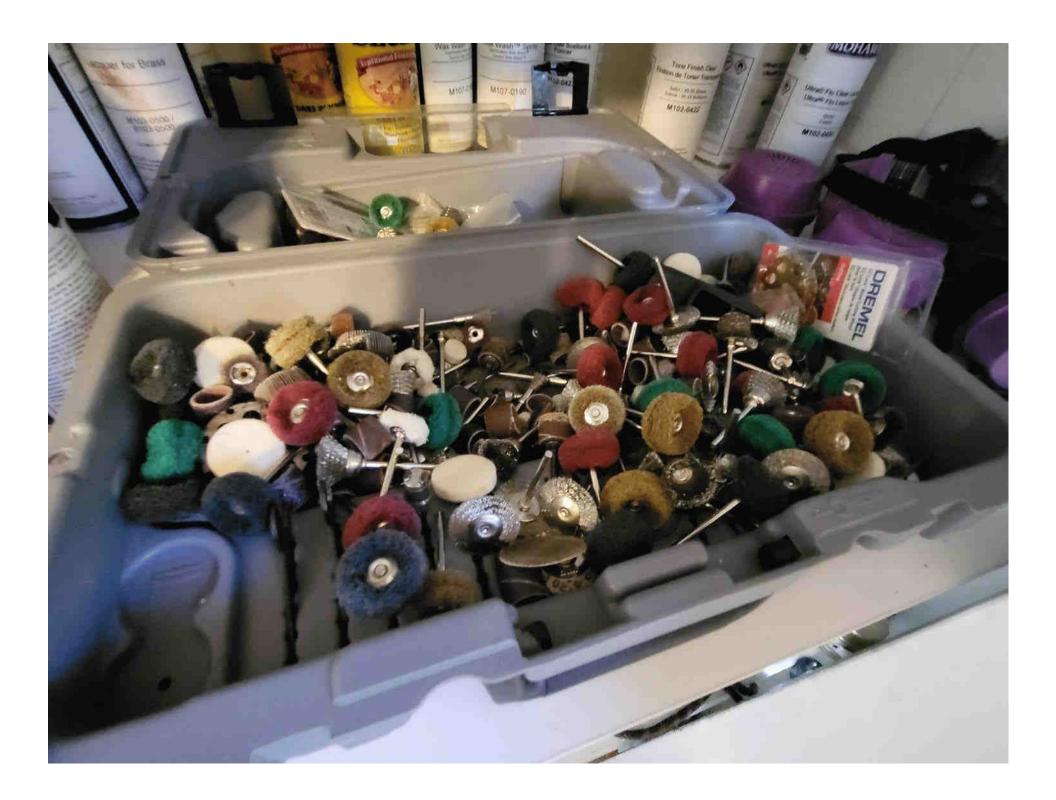






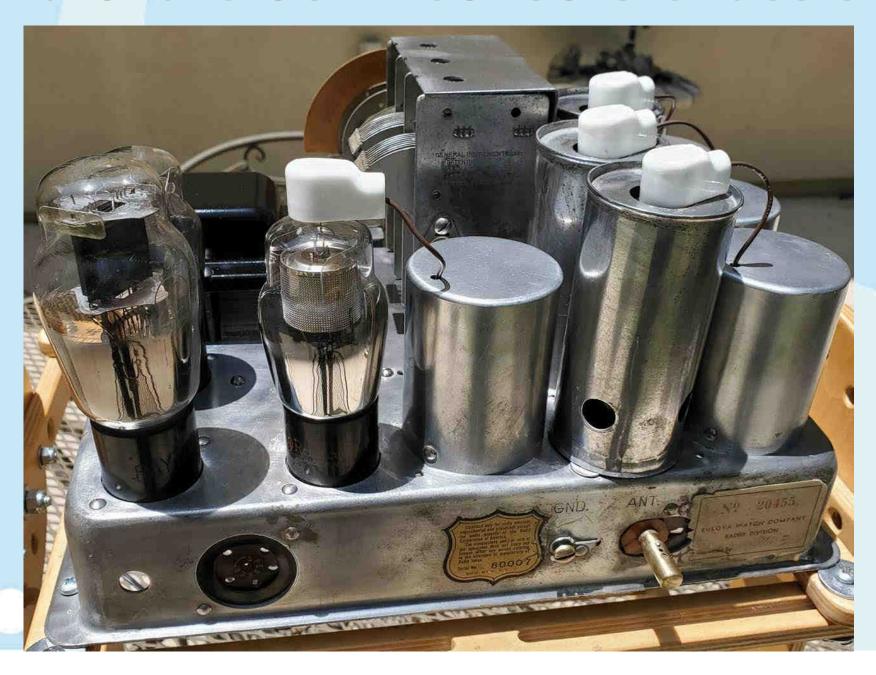
Metal Polishing

- Simichrome
- Brasso
- Scrub Sponge, Cut Into Pieces
- Cotton Terry to Polish
- Dremel Pads
- Mohawk Lacquer For Brass





Bulova Clock - Console Chassis



Denture Tablets - Plastic Knobs



Plastic Polishing



Asbestos Insulation Pads

YES, It IS Deadly!

- Wet with a mist, a bit of detergent in the water
- Tight-Fitting Respirator with 100 cartridges
- Airless spray to apply sealant
- Ceramic mats make a fine replacement