

# Musical device applicable to automobiles

by David Johnson Young · Language: EN

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## Overview

David Johnson Young's "Musical device applicable to automobiles" is not a traditional book but a United States patent (US2059578A) granted in 1936. This groundbreaking document details an invention for an in-car phonograph system, designed to bring musical entertainment to automobile passengers during a period when car radios were not yet ubiquitous or highly sophisticated. The patent addresses the significant engineering challenges of integrating a delicate phonograph mechanism into a moving vehicle, specifically focusing on mitigating road vibrations and providing a compact, user-friendly design.

The core of Young's invention lies in its innovative approach to vibration dampening and record handling. It describes a self-contained unit that could be mounted within the vehicle, featuring a mechanism to absorb shocks and vibrations that would otherwise render a phonograph unusable on the road. Furthermore, the patent outlines a system for storing and playing multiple records efficiently, ensuring that the device was practical for use in the confined space of an automobile. This patent offers a fascinating glimpse into early attempts at automotive infotainment, showcasing the ingenuity applied to enhance the driving experience long before digital media and advanced electronics became commonplace.

## Key Takeaways

- The patent describes an early 20th-century attempt to integrate a phonograph for musical entertainment directly into automobiles.
- It highlights the significant engineering challenge of mitigating road vibrations to ensure stable and clear audio playback from a record player in a moving vehicle.
- The invention emphasizes a compact design for both the phonograph mechanism and the storage of multiple records within the limited space of an automobile.
- The patent showcases the historical context of in-car entertainment, predating the widespread adoption of car radios and modern infotainment systems.
- It details a mechanical system for automatic record changing or sequential playback, enhancing user convenience.
- The document provides insight into the thought process of inventors addressing practical problems with mechanical solutions during the 1930s.

## Chapter Summaries

### Background and Objectives of the Invention

This section introduces the problem the invention aims to solve: the lack of suitable musical entertainment in automobiles. It outlines the primary objectives, which include providing a compact, vibration-resistant, and user-friendly phonograph device specifically designed for vehicular application, capable of playing multiple records without manual intervention.

### General Description of the Apparatus

Young details the overall structure of the musical device, describing it as a self-contained casing designed for mounting within an automobile. It houses the phonograph mechanism, record storage, and operating controls. The design prioritizes compactness and accessibility, ensuring it integrates seamlessly into the vehicle's interior without obstructing passengers or driver.

### Vibration Dampening and Suspension System

A critical aspect of the invention is its sophisticated system for counteracting road vibrations. This section elaborates on the resilient mounting and suspension elements that isolate the delicate phonograph components from external shocks and movements, ensuring stable record playback and preventing damage to the mechanism or records.

### Record Handling and Changing Mechanism

This part describes the innovative method for storing and playing multiple phonograph records. It details a mechanism that allows records to be automatically fed onto the turntable, played, and then returned to storage or ejected, providing continuous musical entertainment without requiring the user to manually change each record.

### Electrical Circuitry and Controls

The patent outlines the electrical components necessary for the device's operation, including the motor for the turntable and record-changing mechanism, and the amplifier for sound reproduction. It also covers the user controls, such as power switches and volume adjustments, designed for easy access and operation by the driver or passengers.

### Specific Claims and Embodiments

This concluding section enumerates the specific features and combinations of elements that constitute the protected invention. It details the unique aspects of the design, from the casing and mounting to the record-handling and vibration-dampening systems, defining the scope of David Johnson Young's patent.

## Themes

- Automotive innovation

- Early in-car entertainment
- Vibration control
- Mechanical engineering
- Historical technology

## Notable Quotes

- "The primary object of this invention is to provide a musical device applicable to automobiles which is compact in construction and which is so constructed as to eliminate the effect of vibration." — From the 'Abstract' or 'Background of the Invention' section, stating the main purpose of the patent.
- "Another object of the invention is to provide a musical device of the character described which is so constructed as to eliminate the effect of vibration and to provide an automatic record changing mechanism." — Further detailing the key objectives, emphasizing both vibration control and automated record handling.
- "The device includes a casing adapted to be mounted in the automobile, a phonograph mechanism within the casing, and resilient means for supporting the phonograph mechanism within the casing." — Describing the fundamental components and their arrangement within the vehicle.
- "A further object of the invention is to provide a musical device of the character described which is simple in construction, efficient in operation, and inexpensive to manufacture." — Highlighting the practical considerations of the design, aiming for simplicity, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Musical device applicable to automobiles about?

It is a United States patent (US2059578A) by David Johnson Young, granted in 1936. It describes an invention for an in-car phonograph system designed to provide musical entertainment in automobiles, specifically addressing challenges like vibration dampening, compact storage, and automatic record changing for practical use in a moving vehicle.

### Is Musical device applicable to automobiles worth reading?

Yes, for those interested in the history of automotive technology, early infotainment systems, or patent law. It offers a unique insight into 1930s engineering challenges and the innovative solutions proposed to enhance the driving experience before the advent of widespread car radios and modern digital media.

### How does Musical device applicable to automobiles end?

Spoiler: As a patent document, it concludes with a series of numbered claims that precisely define the unique features and scope of David Johnson Young's invention, rather than a narrative ending. These claims legally protect the specific design and functionality described.

### **Who should read Musical device applicable to automobiles?**

Automotive historians, mechanical engineers, industrial designers, patent researchers, and anyone interested in the evolution of in-car entertainment or the history of consumer electronics will find this patent document insightful.

### **How long does it take to read Musical device applicable to automobiles?**

Being a technical patent document, it is relatively concise. A thorough reading and understanding of the text and diagrams would likely take between 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the reader's familiarity with technical specifications.