

C 250/C 19 Database Key FOR WEBSITE

A) Production Estimated Dates

B) Model

C) Serial Number on Data Plate

D) Pin Striping Present on Motor Plate [1]

E) Medallion Present

- 1) P-1 = Pentagonal flange with circular boss stating: “The \$250 Diamond Disc Phonograph is the Official Laboratory Model Thos A Edison”
- 2) P-2 = Pentagonal flange with circular boss stating: “The C250 Diamond Disc Phonograph is the Official Laboratory Model Thos A Edison”
- 3) R-1 = Round emblem stating: “The Model 250 Diamond Disc Phonograph is the Official Laboratory Model Thos A Edison”
- 4) R-2 = Round emblem stating: “Diamond Disc Official Laboratory Model Thos A Edison”

F) Record Storage System Present

- 1) D-1 = Two-drawer 5-compartment system [2]
- 2) D-2 = Two-drawer individual-slot system numbered 1 through 38
- 3) S-1 = 2-shelf individual-slot system – numbered 1 through 36 [3]
- 4) S-2 = 2-shelf individual-slot system – numbered 1 through 72
- 5) 2 shelves = index numbering missing, or not visible for examination

G) Cabinet Wood Type

- 1) M = Mahogany
- 2) O = Oak [4]

H) Edison “Electric Automatic Stop” (E.A.S.) Present

Incomplete or missing data cells were left blank.

NOTES:

At the end of my spreadsheet I include several C 250's and C 19's that I observed through various means, but was not able to ascertain the serial numbers for one reason or another. Because of my desire to observe and record as many Chippendales and their individual

features as I could identify, I recorded any pertinent visible information for my spreadsheet.

[1] The very earliest C 250s have been observed with drip pans mounted under the innermost mainspring and the governor, as the B 250 had been equipped with. The author believes these were discontinued rapidly during the first half of 1916. The few observed were finished in black, not in the maroon color scheme of the B 250, although it's entirely possible for the earliest drip pans to have been maroon.

Also unique to the earliest C 250's was the color scheme of the motor plate. The worded "instruction decals", near the speed control knob and the mute ball control, were gold lettering on a maroon background. This seems to have disappeared quickly, perhaps along with the drip pans. The finish was rapidly changed to an all-black one with gold lettering and pin striping. See the images below of early C 250 motor plate #6947, from the author's collection.

It's interesting to note that recently a Chippendale surfaced at an auction containing a maroon B 250 motor plate installed in the cabinet accompanied by an appropriate C 250 data plate mounted to the rear of the turntable compartment. From my examination of the images provided by the auction site, and from a short conversation with the new owner, there is no reason to doubt its authenticity to have been an original factory-assembled unit.

Eventually, the gold lettered instructions and pin striping on the motor plates seems to have disappeared around the same time as the introduction of the E.A.S. in early 1917. This was around serial number 32,115. About the same time, the speed control knob was apparently changed from the earlier large-type – observed used on both A and B 250 motor plates – to a smaller less ornate one. This type of knob was apparently used until the external speed control disappeared entirely; as observed on the Edisonics and evidently other models of the period.

Also apparently around the disappearance of the E.A.S., the motor-plate underwent a significant manufacturing change likely meant to conserve steel or lighten its weight: instead of the heavier – and continuously flat-top surface – it became lighter with an obvious circular depression found beneath the turntable. Perhaps this was a wartime consideration? The integral gussets on the underside of the motor plate casting also changed slightly.

The author has identified 5 variations of governor found used throughout the lifetime of the Chippendale model.

[2] The record compartment door limit rod for these units was mounted to the bottom of the cabinet.

[3] The record compartment door limit rod for these units was mounted to the top shelf of the cabinet to the center of the door. I have also observed a very few units with the limit rod mounted to the top of the record storage compartment just below the horn compartment; these may have been moved by current or prior owners.

[4] Most oak cabinets I observed and recorded were thought to be “Golden” oak, with one or two dozen cabinets that I assumed to be “Fumed” oak, but I could not positively differentiate between the two finishes, so I did not list the “Fumed” oak here as such.

The color scheme of the earliest C 250 motor plates:

