MTH Operating Drive-In Diner Volume

These topics are from the OGR Forum at https://ogrforum.ogaugerr.com contain helpful information.
Posts have been edited for ease of use.

Quick Temporary Fix
from Jeff Metz

Based on my experience...put a piece of tape over the speaker opening. Cover as much as you want to reduce volume. That is how the old Victrolas did it. Open the door to increase sound, close as much as you want to make quieter. Keep it simple. Chances are no trips for parts, you most likely have a piece of tape.

Topic Title - Reducing Volume on Mel's drive-in
from Dale Manquen

Use 25-Ohm 3-Watt Rheostat Model: 271-265 | Catalog #: 271-265 (Radio Shack #)
11/30/11

See Note at end for using a resistor for a less expensive Fix.

Help Needed on MTH Mel's Diner

from Bryant Dunivan 111417
I just received this from MTH to get to the speaker. I wanted to post it because someone may want it in the future.
Straight from the tech – "Remove the top of the round section on the right. It should be there. The board is in the center big one."
Thanks, Jason Wenzel
MTH Electric Trains
Product Support Manager 8/16/18

from Danr
Mel's is pretty loud. Based on a suggestion from Dale Manequan, I added a 25-Ohm 3-Watt Rheostat from the now defunct Radio Shack, part # 271-265. I mounted it in the roof of the right-most structure. A piece of heat shrink tubing makes it look like a smoke stack. It cut the volume in half. Reality is that you will, probably, only adjust it once so you might be better off with a 25 ohm 3 watt resistor instead - $7 vs $1, or less. 8/16/18

from Farmer Bill
(access information only)
To access and reduce Speaker volume:
1) From the front remove the 4 gray screw caps, and remove the 4 hidden screws now exposed on the right building roof.
2) Remove 2 screws that go across the top that has the light bulb facing up at center.
3) Remove the 3 screws holding down the speaker.
4) The speaker is nested down and not glued or fasten. Just snug fit. Use strong tweezers or hemostat to grab the top side and wiggle out.
5) Before unplugging speaker mark plug and socket with marker. Remove speaker plug from PCB at the bottom cavity where the speaker was.
6) Cut the black wire and solder a rheostat inline with the black wire. I recommend starting with the pot turned all the way down. It won't kill the volume. It will drop it by about 50%. Do not cut the white wire.

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7) IMPORTANT: Do not place the speaker in before attaching the speaker screws. The structure acts as a megaphone and increases the volume and base by resonance,
8) Attach the 3 speaker screws first, then set speaker down on top of the screws.
Not! Kleenex might catch fire. *9) Use 1 sheet, and 1 sheet only of Kleenex or tissue to wad up and place on top of the speaker.*
10) Using the 2 screws in step 2 reattach the cross piece with the centered light bulb. *The cross piece will wedge the Kleenex down without a lot of pressure.*
11) Re-install the roof and 4 screws finishing by installing the caps.
Why the Kleenex? There are so many plastic parts that will rattle when the sound is on, the best way to kill the tininess is with the napkin.

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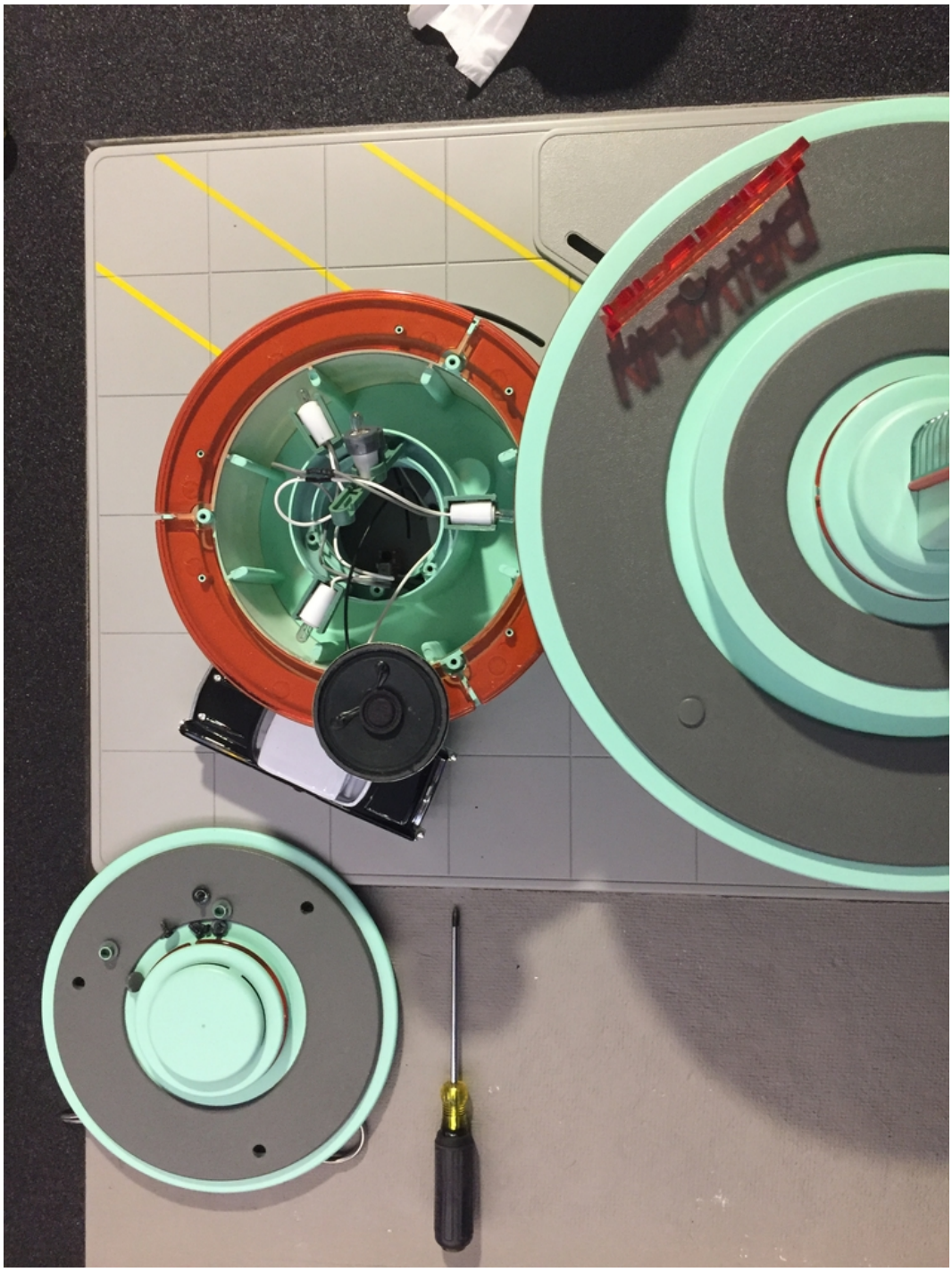

8/24/18

SIDE NOTE:
12/17/2020
Wirewound Resistors - Through Hole 3watts 25ohms 5% Rated to 3.75watts
Vishay Part #CW02B25R00JE70

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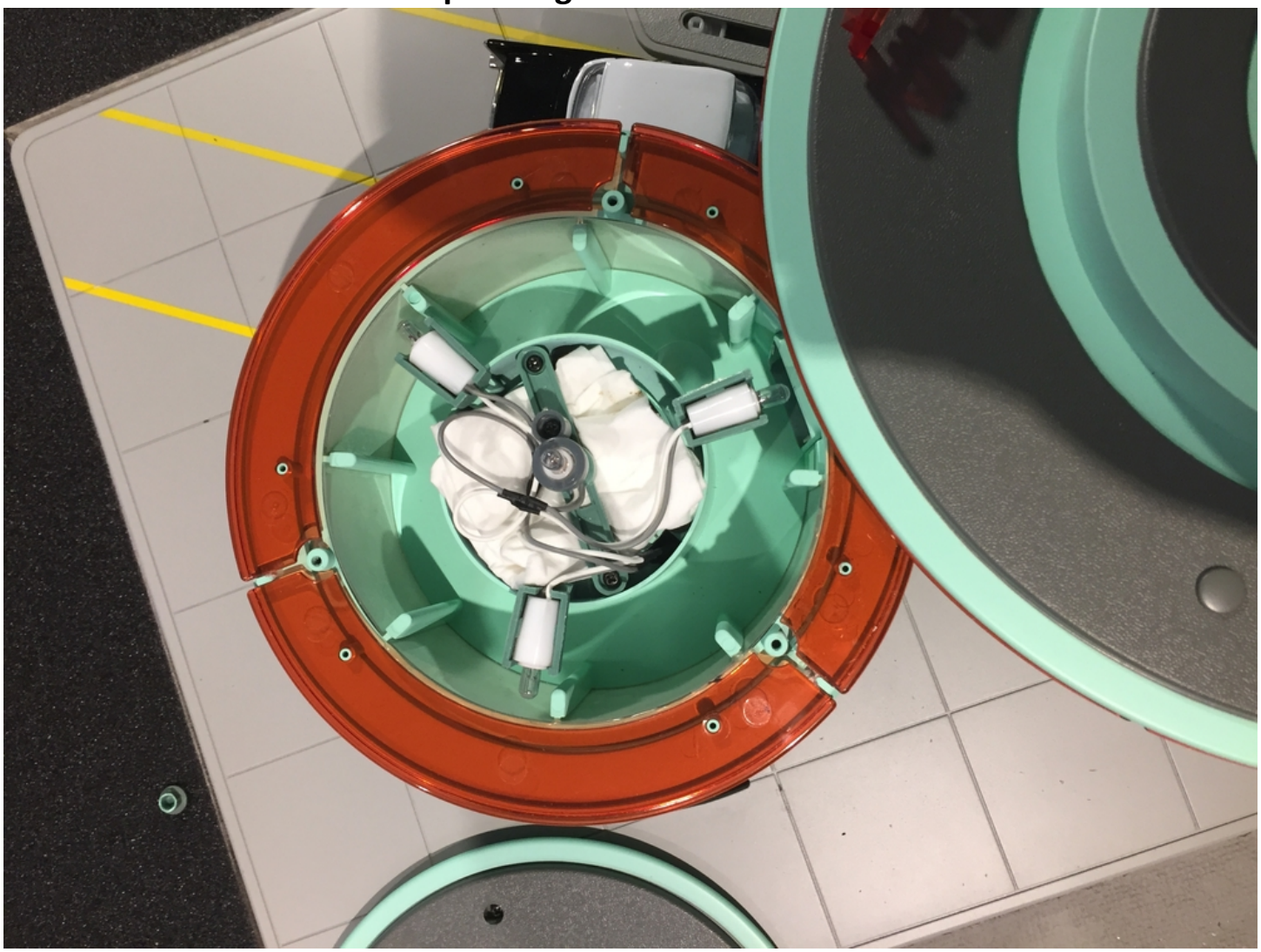

Use this or similar resistor for the speaker in regards to lowering the volume.

Wirewound Through Hole 25ohm, 3 watt, 5%

Test before reassembling.