

**Instructions for fitting the WELTRON 2005 / and GEC/WELTRON 2007*
replacement dust cover lid
Update January 24, 2022**



Reproduction lid in Acrylic plastic, close matching original colour tint



Original lid

Original lift up handle

* In Australia the Weltron 2007 was rebadged as the GEC 2007. They both use the same plastic casing and electronics and have a cassette tape player in the front . The WELTRON 2005, while having the identical case, has a completely different electronics with an 8 track tape player not a cassette deck.



Original lid shaping at hinge

Origins of the GEC/Weltron design

There is a general belief that the inspiration for the spaceship design of the GEC /WELTRON 2007 and 2005 stereo systems dating from early 1970s came from the 1968 movie "2001 A Space Odyssey". However this is not the case according to J. Pratt Winston, the creator of the iconic Weltron series of stereo systems. In an interview with Winston in the North Carolina magazine *Our State*, in Aug 2020 he credits the 1953 *The War of the Worlds* movie . To quote from the article: "The aliens marched around in spacey boxes; they had everything they needed in there." Why not, Winston thought, load a radio, tape player, and speakers into something flashy and portable?

(Reference: <https://www.ourstate.com/a-space-age-oddy>)

It may also be possible that the 2005 and 2007 GEC /WELTRON design was also the inspiration for the later (1977) album cover from the Electric Light Orchestra's *Out of the Blue*, designed by Japanese illustrator *Shusei Nagaoka*:



Now imagine the that port where the spaceship is entering is the cassette port on the 2007 / 2005 GEC and Weltron stereo systems and the central section is the lift up lid.

In the late 1990s I purchased my first GEC 2007 but, as with most of these systems, the lid was badly cracked and no replacements were then available. The problem is that the lids were made by an injection- moulded process, using acrylic plastic mixed with styrene and formed in a mould with heat. The addition of styrene made the moulding process easier, but with time, resulted in the lid deteriorating with prolonged exposure to natural sunlight. Thus the lids eventually became very brittle and prone to cracking as most WELTRON and GEC owners know all too well.

The Replacement Lid Manufacturing Process

Working with a local plastics fabrication company, I found that the best way to reproduce the lids was to make a frame with the same diameter as the entire top section of the 2007. Next was

to place a piece of acrylic plastic sheet under the frame and blow very hot air in at the bottom causing the acrylic to slowly rise up (like a cake in the oven!) until the rise measurement was the same as the original top section. The tricky part now was to carefully cut out the lid from the shaped acrylic in the exact position to match the original lid curvature. Next was to glue on a lid handle in the front and to hand shape the rear part where the hinge will be attached. Each lid is individually made by hand.

I have found from experience that there can be slight differences in the lid hinge screw hole locations on some 2007s and possibly the 2005s as well. As a result the screw holes on the reproduction lids will need to be individually drilled for each GEC or WELTRON. NOTE that the reproduction lids fit both the GEC 2007 and WELTRON 2005.

Instructions

All materials that you may need, other than the drill and drill bit, are in the envelope that comes with the replacement lid.

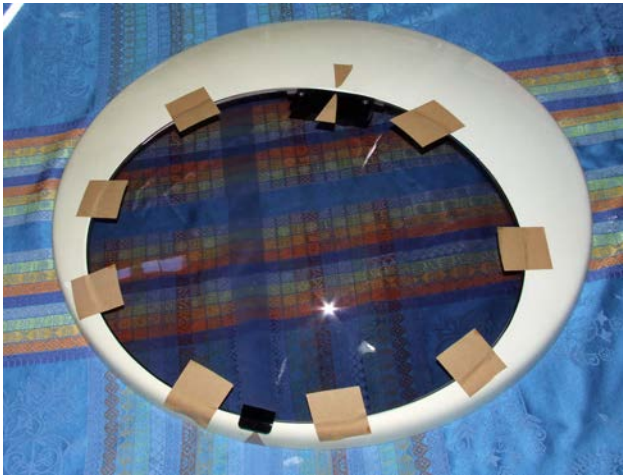
If the original cracked lid is still attached with the two springs carefully use a pair of pliers to remove the springs (to be reinserted later) and then unscrew the old lid. Carefully align the replacement lid on the top section of the 2007/2005. Make sure that the TAPE ARROW on the lid is aligned with the center of hinge location on the 2007/2005. Best to determine the exact position with the following images. Move the lid around slightly to get the best fit location. Now tape up the lid in that position as illustrated.



Temporarily place a piece of tape at the centre of the hinge supports to align with the tape on the new lid.



**Also place tape at the centre of where the handle goes.
(determined by the two clip marks on the underside of the top)**



Lid taped into position ready to drill the screw holes.

After the lid has been properly located on the top, fold the hinge over on the underside, holding it against the lid and carefully drill the holes determined by where they align with the lid. If you still have the original screws make sure that the drill size is not too big. (Replacement screws, if needed, are included with the new lid)

Before drilling the holes from the underside, pull the hinge back on the lid as it will be after the springs are installed. This is to ensure the lid is still in the proper position with the springs attached.

After screwing the lid to the top section via the hinge, (before installing the two springs – if they were still with the unit) check to see that the new lid is not hitting the top section above the hinge and thus restricting the full opening of the lid. The rear of the lid has been shaped to avoid this but in the unlikely case this happens you will need to use the enclosed Stanley sharp blade to carefully scrape back the edge where it is binding. (After removing the lid from the top) Once the lid opens fully with no binding you can polish the edge using progressively the supplied 400/800/1200 grit wet and dry sandpaper, using a bit of water to aid in the polishing process. Finally, use a cloth with Brasso or other cutting compound (Toothpaste works well) to polish the edge.

Installing the two springs

Now the tricky part is inserting the two springs back between the hinge and the top section of the unit. After the lid has been properly positioned and attached with the three screws, the easiest way to install the springs is to then unscrew the screws and remove the lid from the hinge. Next insert the springs while the hinge is folded down and then lift the hinge fully up so it stays in the up position and then carefully reattach the lid with the screws.

I know it's a bit of work but the results will be well worth the effort!

As an alternative to using the original hinge and springs there is now a newly manufactured hinge that easily keeps the lid in the UP position without those problematic springs. See the following page.

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