A Thesaurus of Vinyl Record Collecting

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INFO622 Content Representation
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Scope of Thesaurus

Record collecting as a hobby is something I have enjoyed over the years. While I am not a diehard fanatic, I do make it a point to scoop up records by artists I have enjoyed over the years, and I do still feel a rush when I find a rare copy of a recording, especially if its price is low enough to consider purchasing for myself. Although vinyl records are no longer the prominent format for recorded music, there are plenty of musicians and listeners for whom vinyl records will always be the preferred format of music. Personally, I think vinyl records sound better than CDs or MP3s; to me the analog sounds are warmer and richer than a digital format. Most bands that I see on tour are of the do it yourself, or DIY, ethos. These bands have kept vinyl alive for young collectors like me. Most independent, DIY bands release vinyl records in addition to CDs and tapes, and I have not had to buy a CD in years. At last count, my boyfriend and I own over 500 long playing records, and hundreds more seven inch singles. We spend our money frequently on new vinyl from touring bands and at record shops in town.

Vinyl record collecting is a distinct category of hobby collecting, with a unique vocabulary of its own. Collectors use condition grades to describe the state of records for sale. These condition grades are applied across the board and mean the same thing to each collector. Records are also categorized by their condition in more playful ways. For example, the term “lunched”, meaning a record in poor condition, was coined by collectors who described a record condition as so bad, it looks like someone tried to eat it for lunch. There are terms which describe the processes of pressing the vinyl record, terms to describe physical parts of vinyl records, and terms which describe the issuance of the record. These terms are specific to the hobby, and are accepted by collectors as the true vocabulary for the hobby.

Although most of the terminology and definitions came from my own experience, there are two web resources that were invaluable to me in putting together this project, BrooklynPhono and The Record Collector’s Guild Encyclopedia. BrooklynPhono is a pressing plant which features step by step videos on how records are made. The Record Collector’s Guild Encyclopedia helped me fill in the gaps in my own knowledge of terminology that I needed to complete this thesaurus. Without these resources this thesaurus would not be as complete as it is now.

How to Use This Thesaurus

This thesaurus is organized into two sections, a hierarchical display and an alphabetical display. The hierarchical display contains all preferred terms in the controlled vocabulary and shows the relationships of concepts. An example follows.

Albums
  Sleeves
    Die Cut Sleeves
    Gatefolds
    White Label Promos

In the example, the display intends to show the relationship between the terms. Relationships are indicated by indent. More specific terms are types of the previous term and not intended to be seen as synonyms. In this hierarchical display, a word indented under another is a subordinate to
The Alphabetical Display is a list of the controlled vocabulary terms used in vinyl record collecting. Where synonyms are included, a reference to the preferred term is featured. An example follows.

**FULL LENGTHS**

- **SN**: A long playing record, usually 12 inches round, which is played back at 33 1/3 revolutions per minute.
- **BT**: Vinyl Records
- **RT**: 12 Inches
- **RT**: 33 1/3 Revolutions per Minute
- **RT**: Long Playing

This list is organized alphabetically and includes all terms featured in the hierarchical display. The relationships between terms are represented by the following abbreviations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LABEL</th>
<th>USED FOR</th>
<th>DEFINITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SN</td>
<td>Scope Note</td>
<td>The definition of the term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UF</td>
<td>Use for</td>
<td>Indication of a synonym which is not preferred.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USE</td>
<td></td>
<td>Indication of a preferred term which should be used.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BT</td>
<td>Broader term</td>
<td>Indicates a step up to a more general term in the hierarchical display.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT</td>
<td>Narrower Term</td>
<td>Indicates a step down to a more specific term in the hierarchical display.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RT</td>
<td>Related Term</td>
<td>Indicates terms which are could be at the same level as the main term on a hierarchical display or terms which are related in meaning or process to the main term.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hierarchical Display**

Albums
- Vinyl Records
  - Extended Play
  - Full Lengths
  - Long Playing
  - Singles
Sleeves
  Die Cut Sleeves
  Gatefolds
  Poly Liners

Attributes
  <attributes by condition>
    <conditions by grade>
      Fair
      Good
      Good Plus
      Mint
      Near Mint
      Poor
      Very Good
      Very Good Plus
    <conditions by quality>
      Lunched
      Perfect
      Playable
  <attributes by issuance>
    Backed With
    Bootlegs
    Catalog Numbers
    Counterfeits
    First Pressings
    Reissues
    White Label Promos
  <attributes by physical form>
    7 Inches
    10 Inches
    12 Inches
    Cue Scratches
    Lead-In Grooves
    Lead-Out Grooves
    Matrixes
    Revolutions per Minute
      33 1/3 Revolutions per Minute
      45 Revolutions per Minute
      78 Revolutions per Minute
    Ring Wear

Equipment
  Audio Tapes
    Mono
    Stereo
Master Discs  
Negative Masters  
Polyvinyl Chloride  
Record Cutters  
Soft Masters  
Shellac

Production  
Machine Stamping  
Mastering  
Pressing  
Plating

Alphabetical Display

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7 INCHES</th>
<th>SN</th>
<th>The smallest size for vinyl records, played back at 45 revolutions per minute.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RT</td>
<td>45 Revolutions per Minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Extended Play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Singles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 10 INCHES | SN | A rare size of long playing vinyl records.                                        |
|           | RT | Long Playing                                                                     |

| 12 INCHES | SN | The standard size for a full length long playing vinyl record.                    |
|           | RT | 33 1/3 Revolutions per Minute                                                    |
|           |    | Full Lengths                                                                     |
|           |    | Long Playing                                                                     |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>33 1/3 REVOLUTIONS PER MINUTE</th>
<th>BT</th>
<th>Revolutions per Minute</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RT</td>
<td>12 Inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Long Playing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>45 REVOLUTIONS PER MINUTE</th>
<th>BT</th>
<th>Revolutions per Minute</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RT</td>
<td>7 Inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Singles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 78 REVOLUTIONS PER MINUTE   |
BT  Revolutions per Minute
RT  Shellac

ALBUMS
SN  A common name for any vinyl record and its sleeve.
NT  Vinyl Records
     Sleeves

AUDIO TAPES
SN  The medium in which performances are recorded on before being transferred to
     vinyl record.
BT  Equipment
NT  Stereo
     Mono
RT  Master Discs
     Mastering

B/W
USE  Backed With

BACKED WITH
SN  The flip or “B” side of a single.
UF  B/W
RT  Singles

BOOTLEG
SN  An illegal recording of a concert, done without the copyright holder’s permission.

CAT. NO.
USE  Catalog Number

CATALOG NUMBERS
SN  The number assigned to the release by the record company that put the record out,
     usually printed on the vinyl record in the lead-out grooves.
UF  Cat. No.
RT  Lead-Out Grooves
     Matrix Numbers

CENTER MATRIXES
USE  Matrixes

CONDITION GRADES
SN  A letter grade given an album based on the condition of the gramophone record
     and sleeve.
NT  Fair
     Good
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good Plus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mint</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near Mint</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Good Plus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COUNTERFEITS**

**SN**  A copy of a previous recording, done without the permission of the copyright holder.

**CUE BURNS**

**USE**  Cue Scratches

**CUE SCRATCHES**

**SN**  A hiss or skip on a vinyl record where the record was cued up at a certain point, created by holding the needle in one place while the turntable rotates.

**UF**  Cue Burns

**DEAD WAX**

**USE**  Lead-Out Grooves

**DIE CUT SLEEVES**

**SN**  A paper sleeve with a hole in the center so the matrix of the record is exposed

**BT**  Sleeves

**END GROOVES**

**USE**  Lead-Out Grooves

**EP**

**USE**  Extended Play

**EQUIPMENT**

**SN**  The physical pieces used in the process of making vinyl records.

**NT**  Audio Tapes

Master Discs

Negative Masters

Polyvinyl Chloride

Record Cutters

Soft Masters

Shellac

Stampers

**EXTENDED PLAY**

**SN**  Usually 7 inch records played at 45 revolutions per minute with one or two tracks on each side.
UF  EP  Vinyl Records  7 Inches  45 Revolutions per Minute  Singles  

F  USE  Fair  

FAIR  SN  A condition grade of a vinyl record and its sleeve which is severely damaged.  
    UF  F  
    BT  Condition Grades  

FIRST PRESSINGS  SN  The original release of a vinyl record.  

FULL LENGTHS  SN  A long playing record, usually 12 inches round, which is played back at 33 1/3 revolutions per minute.  
    BT  Vinyl Records  
    RT  12 Inches  33 1/3 Revolutions per Minute  Long Playing  

G  USE  Good  

G+  USE  Good Plus  

G/F  USE  Gatefolds  

GATEFOLDS  SN  An album sleeve which folds open.  
    UF  G/F  
    BT  Sleeves  

GOOD  SN  A condition grade of a record in which the sleeve, matrix, and vinyl pressing are worn out but still playable.  
    UF  G  
    BT  Condition Grades  
    RT  Playable  

Hudgins  8
GOOD PLUS
SN A condition grade of a record that may look well-played, but still is able to playback with minimal crackles and hisses.
UF G+

GRAMAPHONE RECORDS
USE Vinyl Records

JACKETS
USE Sleeves

LACQUERS
USE Soft Masters

LEAD-IN GROOVES
SN Known colloquially as the “dead air” at the beginning of a record, this also refers to the un-grooved area at the outside of a vinyl pressing.
RT Lead-Out Grooves

LEAD-OUT GROOVES
SN The area between the end of the grooves on a vinyl pressing and the center matrix, usually containing a die cut printing of the matrix numbers and the catalog numbers.
UF Dead Wax
End Grooves
Matrix Areas
Run Out Grooves
RT Catalog Numbers
Lead-In Grooves
Matrix Numbers

LONG PLAYING
SN Refers usually to 12 inch records played at 33 1/3 revolutions per minute.
UF LP
BT Vinyl Records
RT 10 Inches
12 Inches
33 1/3 Revolutions per Minute
Full Lengths

LP
USE Long Playing

LUNCHED
SN  A term used to describe a vinyl record’s condition which is so poor it is unplayable. This term is used on records which are in such poor condition, they look like someone tried to eat it for lunch.
RT  Poor

M  USE  Mint

M-  USE  Near Mint

MACHINE STAMPING
SN  The process in which the matrix numbers are stamped onto the lead-out groove of a record using die-cut letters and numbers.
BT  Production
RT  Lead-Out Grooves
    Matrix Numbers

MASTERS
USE  Master Discs

MASTER DISCS
SN  The discs onto which sound are directly recorded on in the pressing process.
UF  Masters
BT  Equipment
RT  Audio Tapes
    Negative Masters

MASTER MATRIXES
USE  Negative Masters

MASTER NUMBERS
USE  Matrix Numbers

MASTERING
SN  Process in which audio tape is transferred to the soft master.
BT  Production
RT  Audio Tapes
    Soft Masters

MATRIXES
SN  The center of a vinyl record in which a paper circle is pasted with information about the recording.
UF  Center Matrixes
RT  Matrix Numbers
MATRIX NUMBERS
SN  The side identification of a record, usually printed in the matrix and/or stamped onto the lead-out groove.
UF  Master Numbers
RT  Catalog Numbers
    Lead-Out Grooves
    Matrixes

MINT
SN  A designation used rarely for albums for sale which have either never been opened or played only a handful of times.
UF  M
BT  Condition Grades
RT  Perfect

MONO
SN  A recording done using one channel of sound input.
BT  Audio Tapes
RT  Stereo

NEAR MINT
SN  A condition grade of an album with no more than the smallest, trivial defect.
UF  M-
BT  Condition Grades
RT Playable

NEGATIVES
USE  Stampers

NEGATIVE MASTERS
SN  The metal master removed from the soft master, so called because it contains the negative of the grooves on the disc.
UF  Master Matrix
BT  Equipment
RT  Audio Tapes
    Master Discs
    Plating
    Pressing

P
USE  Poor

PERFECT
RT  Mint
PHONOGRAPhic RECORDS

USE Vinyl Records

PLASTIC LINERS

USE Poly Liners

PLATING

SN Process of electroplating the soft master to create the metal parts used in making the negative master.

BT Production

RT Mastering

Negative Masters

Pressing

Soft Masters

Stampers

PLAYABLE

SN The condition of a vinyl record in which the record is capable of playback.

RT Good

Good Plus

Mint

Near Mint

Very Good

Very Good Plus

POLY LINERS

SN A paper sleeve inside the album sleeve used to protect the vinyl record contained within.

UF Plastic Liners

BT Sleeves

POLYVINYL CHLORIDE

SN Material used currently in vinyl pressing to make vinyl records.

UF PVC

BT Equipment

RT Shellac

POOR

SN A condition grade of an album which is severely cracked or warped and will not playback without skipping or repeating.

UF P

BT Condition Grade

RT Lunched

PRESSING
The process of making a vinyl record from the negative master using a record cutter.

Mastering
Negative Masters
Plating
Record Cutters

PRODUCTION
Machine Stamping
Mastering
Plating
Pressing

PVC
Polyvinyl Chloride

RECORD CUTTERS
The machine which engraves the grooves onto a master vinyl disc.

Equipment
Pressing

REISSUES
A record which has been repressed from a master copy, done with or without the permission of the copyright holder.

REVOLUTIONS PER MINUTE
The speed at which a record is played, measured by how long a full rotation of the record takes.

33 1/3 Revolutions per Minute
45 Revolutions per Minute
78 Revolutions per Minute

RING WEAR
Condition of a sleeve which is visibly lightened in a circle by the record contained therein.

33 1/3 Revolutions per Minute
45 Revolutions per Minute
78 Revolutions per Minute

RUN OUT GROOVES
Lead-Out Grooves

Ring Wear
SHELLAC
SN The material used to make early 78s, discontinued use because the records produced were too brittle and easily broken.
BT Equipment
RT 78 Revolutions per Minute
Polyvinyl Chloride

SINGLES
SN A 7 inch extended playing record, played back at 45 revolutions per minute. Usually contains one or two songs on each side.
BT Vinyl Records
RT 7 Inch
45 Revolutions per Minute
Backed With
Extended Play

SLEEVES
SN Outermost printed paper cover of a vinyl record.
UF Jacket
NT Die Cut Sleeves
Gatefolds
Poly Liners

SOFT MASTERS
SN The original master disc used for vinyl pressing.
UF Lacquers
BT Equipment
RT Mastering
Plating
Pressing

STAMPERS
SN Electroplated negative masters used to make vinyl records.
UF Negatives
BT Equipment
RT Negative Masters
Plating

STEREO
SN A recording done using two channels of sound input.
UF Stereophonic
BT Audio Tapes
RT Mono

STEREOPHONIC
USE Stereo

VERY GOOD
SN  A condition grade of an album that has a fair amount of wear and tear on the sleeve and vinyl pressing, but which is still is in good playable condition.
UF  VG
BT  Condition Grade
RT Playable

VERY GOOD PLUS
SN  A condition grade of an album which shows signs of being played, but has very small damage due to routine wear and tear.
UF  VG+
BT  Condition Grade
RT Playable

VG
USE  Very Good

VG+
USE  Very Good Plus

VINYL RECORDS
SN  A thin disc made of polyvinyl chloride or shellac with spiral grooves used for storing analog sound.
UF  Gramophone Records
    Phonograph Records
BT  Album
NT  Extended Play
    Full Lengths
    Long Playing
    Singles

WHITE LABEL PROMOS
SN  A promotional record released without cover art, usually before the official release of the album.
UF  WLP

WLP
USE  White Label Promo
Appendix

Bibliography


Database Records

The records listed below contain websites, books and a film which will enlighten even the most seasoned collector to new intricacies of the hobby. Books contain pricing guides and condition grading information, while web resources are interactive resources for collectors.

1.

Title          American Premium Record Guide, 1900-1965
Author(s)      Docks, L. R.
Imprint        Iola, WI; Krause Publications
Copyright Date 2001
Resource Type  Book
Abstract       Guide to pricing, collecting and caring for vintage vinyl.
Descriptors    7 Inches, 45 Revolutions per Minute, 78 Revolutions per Minute, Albums, Condition Grades, Shellac, Polyvinyl Chloride, Vinyl Records

2.

Title          BrooklynPhono
Features       Pressing Plant, Processing Information & Videos
Resource Type  Website
Copyright Date 2009
Abstract       Web home for Brooklyn, NY based pressing plant, which contains videos of pressing process and information on how to submit a recording to be pressed.
Descriptors    Audio Tapes, Machine Stamping, Master Discs, Mastering, Negative Masters, Plating, Polyvinyl Chloride, Pressing, Record Cutters, Soft Masters, Vinyl Records
URL            http://www.brooklynphono.com

3.

Title          Record Collector’s Guild Online
Features       Encyclopedia, Forums, Marketplace
Resource Type  Website
Copyright Date 2009
Abstract       Web site for serious record collectors to post tips and tricks in forums, as well as a vibrant
marketplace for record selling

Descriptors
33 1/3 Revolutions per Minute, 45 Revolutions per Minute, 78 Revolutions per Minute, Albums, Extended Play, Full Lengths, Long Playing, Mono, Singles, Stereo, Vinyl Records

URL
http://www.recordcollectorsguild.org/

4.

Title
Rockin’ Records 2009

Author(s)
Osbourne, Jerry

Imprint
Port Townsend, WA; Jellyroll Productions

Copyright Date
2003

Resource Type
Book

Abstract
The most extensive guide to pricing your records, over 1,000 pages of collector information and featured vinyl recordings.

Descriptors
33 1/3 Revolutions per Minute, 45 Revolutions per Minute, 78 Revolutions per Minute, Albums, Extended Play, Full Lengths, Long Playing, Mono, Singles, Stereo, Vinyl Records

5.

Title
Vinyl

Director
Zweig, Alan

Distributor
Canada; The Asylum Productions

Copyright Date
2000

Resource Type
Documentary Film

Descriptors
A film chronicling the obsession vinyl record collecting can inspire, the film also has features on the world’s most collectible vinyl.

Descriptors
Albums, Condition Grades, Full Lengths, Singles, Vinyl Records