

TEST PRESSING INFORMATION



<p>WHAT IS A TEST PRESSING?</p>	<p>A Test Pressing is the initial pressing of a record, produced for the purpose of quality control before the final production run. Test Pressings are an opportunity to assess how your vinyl masters have transferred to the analogue format. They provide an assurance all tracks are correctly ordered and the cue sheet has been followed correctly.</p> <p>While Test Pressings and final records should sound similar in terms of quality, Test Pressings are not exact replicas of the final product. This is because certain audio characteristics that may be present in the Test Pressings may not necessarily be reproduced in the production run, owing to the process involved in creating Test Pressings.</p> <p>Due to the small quantity of records being produced, this can lead to more surface noise as well as clicks and pops, however, as long as these don't occur in the same spot on all of your records, there's nothing to worry about.</p> <p>Understanding what to listen out for is essential to ensure your project sounds the best it possibly can and gets on the press and completed as soon as possible.</p>
<p>HOW TO LISTEN TO YOUR TEST PRESSING</p>	<p>We recommend you listen to Test Pressings with a high quality turntable, cartridge and stylus. Make sure you wipe down each record using a suitable brush or cloth before listening. If you have any concerns about your playback system or any Test Pressing issues, we suggest visiting a friend or a record store to try an alternative system.</p> <p>Firstly, ensure that you listen to the first Test Pressing in its entirety and take note of anything that sounds unusual. If you notice any issues, please cross-reference these areas on all other copies. Listen for issues like loud pops, excessive static, skips, distortion and surface noise. All records contain crackles, pops and ticks, however, if these occur in the same passage on all copies, please notify us with time stamps or recordings of problem areas. If there's an issue on one Test Pressing that doesn't appear on other copies you can be confident this won't occur on the production run.</p> <p>There may be some reduction in sound quality as the tonearm moves towards the centre of the record, particularly with sides over 20 minutes. This may be caused by inner-groove distortion. This is due to the gradual reduction in linear resolution as a record plays. The larger diameter at the beginning of the record provides more vinyl per second than the smaller diameter towards the end of each side, causing the wavelengths to become shorter and more compressed towards the centre. This makes it difficult for the stylus to accurately track the grooves and can result in a reduction in sound quality and audible distortion, such as sibilance, distortion in the midrange, and a loss of bass.</p>
<p>TEST PRESSING COLOUR</p>	<p>Test Pressings in most cases will be pressed on black vinyl. However, due to our production process we will occasionally press Test Pressings on a different colour if we are unable to complete a colour change to black. We will ensure a suitable colour is used that does not compromise the quality of the test pressing.</p>
<p>TEST PRESSING APPROVAL</p>	<p>After following these steps and you are happy with the Test Pressing, please let us know as soon as you can that your Test Pressings are approved. We can then schedule your final production run and deliver your records to you!</p>