Subject: The Differences Between Vinyl And CD
Posted by Airforce 3 on Mon, 23 May 2016 04:53:39 GMT
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Okay.....what would you personally consider the biggest difference between vinyl records and CD's? Is it the type of sound each produces? Is it the physical look? What draws you to one and not the other?

Subject: Re: The Differences Between Vinyl And CD
Posted by BeccaH on Mon, 23 May 2016 08:27:52 GMT
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Personally I can't hear a difference between them (or between them and an MP3 file), but I know lots of people can. If I had to have all my music in one format or the other, I think it would come down to more practical considerations such as storage space. If all our downloaded music was on vinyl it would be piled from floor to ceiling in every room!

Subject: Re: The Differences Between Vinyl And CD
Posted by Lizah on Mon, 23 May 2016 11:36:21 GMT
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There is a sound quality difference between the two. Some people like the crackling sound of a vinyl, while others like the crisp, clean sound of a CD. I prefer CDs just because they take up less space and they are easy to take with you.

Subject: Re: The Differences Between Vinyl And CD
Posted by decibel 12 on Mon, 23 May 2016 14:15:46 GMT
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I like the way listening to vinyl kind of forces you to listen to a whole side, in order and without stopping. With CD's all you have to do is push a button to hear another track. They make that easy for you. Vinyl's make it easy to hear a record in the order the producer wanted you to hear it.

Subject: Re: The Differences Between Vinyl And CD
Posted by Miami on Mon, 23 May 2016 21:12:25 GMT
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BeccaH wrote on Mon, 23 May 2016 03:27 If all our downloaded music was on vinyl it would be piled from floor to ceiling in every room!

Some people dream of that scenario. Think of all the conversation starters you would have. All the "remember when" conversations over good wine and good friends.

Subject: Re: The Differences Between Vinyl And CD
Posted by gofar99 on Tue, 24 May 2016 19:42:39 GMT
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Hi, An endless discussion....sort of like which do you prefer chocolate or vanilla ice cream? When played on a high quality system both can sound excellent. On low quality systems the clear winner is the CD. That said, I tend to prefer vinyl. The two mediums have what I call a different ambience and flavor. The CD is naturally precise in presentation. It will do what ever the recording engineer wanted it to do. A LP is naturally less precise, but has a more blended surround sound stage. New LPs and well kept older ones can be extremely quiet and on a good system in a blind test most folks would not be able to consistently tell the difference. All that said I do feel that the digital hi-res media will kill the CD and likely the audio DVD. It is quite excellent sounding and will only improve as the technology develops. 32 bit 320K and above recordings can be stunning. Still with all the millions of records out there and the recent trend increasing.... sales of LPs are now at the highest level in nearly 25 years and equipment companies are scrambling to make new turntables (real ones not Crosley types). So it is not likely it will go away. Personally I find it rewarding to play a LP. I don't get the same feeling from stuffing a CD in my OPPO player. YMMV

Subject: Re: The Differences Between Vinyl And CD
Posted by moss24 on Sun, 31 Jul 2016 04:21:45 GMT
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Most people cannot tell the difference but I guess a vinyl is a bit bigger? In terms of quality of audio, I would settle for the vinyl anytime. There has been talk of production of HD vinyls in the next 3 years so. I do not see CDs lasting for long though.

Subject: Re: The Differences Between Vinyl And CD
Posted by Cole on Sun, 22 Mar 2026 05:27:00 GMT
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I've played vinyl records for many years, and in the past few years, I've also played cds records, and one of the biggest difference that I noticed from both of them is how the music sound or audio quality.

The sound when I play my favourite R & B songs on the vinyl records is always unique, as if the artist is right there performing the songs for me. The songs always penetrate my soul in a way that I don't feel when I play CDs records.

I will admit that cds are sharper, more coherent, and cleaner, but it always look more machine made than what I feel when I play Vinyl records.

The sound of music while I play vinyl records is what I've fallen deeply in love with, and I don't see myself having a change of mind anytime soon.

Subject: Re: The Differences Between Vinyl And CD
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sun, 22 Mar 2026 13:49:39 GMT
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To me, the difference is largely convenience versus quality. CDs are very convenient because there is little maintenance. Vinyl records must be cleaned each time, and the stylus must also be cleaned and replaced regularly. But vinyl records always sound better to me, sometimes just a little but often quite a bit.

Another option presents itself though. Blu-ray sound is sometimes incredibly good. And for the same reason, there are lossless high-resolution digital formats that are quite good.

Even so, I must admit that I consider vinyl to be the gold standard. Might be partially that I'm addicted to the process, might have some nostalgia thrown in there too. But it is my favorite format. All the others are just my daily convenience formats.

Subject: Re: The Differences Between Vinyl And CD
Posted by hurdy_gurdyman on Thu, 06 Aug 2026 13:06:52 GMT
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I listen to both CD and Vinyl on quality equipment. I've always had a preference for vinyl, and as I acquired both better CD players and turntables/tonearms/cartridges, the difference between them became even more apparent. Trying to describe the difference is difficult, but I would say vinyl sounds somehow more "organic". More of a sense of real musicians, especially on acoustic instruments.

We aren't talking night and day differences here. Casual listening might not produce much difference at all. I'm talking about when you dim the lights and kick back and just let the music sink in. Vinyl just brings me a little closer to the music.

This all assumes the record is a good pressing and in good condition. :)

Dave

Subject: Re: The Differences Between Vinyl And CD
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 06 Aug 2026 14:01:16 GMT
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hurdy_gurdyman wrote on Thu, 06 August 2026 08:06Trying to describe the difference is difficult, but I would say vinyl sounds somehow more "organic". More of a sense of real musicians, especially on acoustic instruments.

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difference at all. I'm talking about when you dim the lights and kick back and just let the music sink in. Vinyl just brings me a little closer to the music.

Holy smoke, Dave, so good to see you!

And I agree with you. I can hear a difference between analog and digital source material, except maybe some Blu-rays. But most CDs sound pretty good, really, and so it isn't "night and day." More like the difference between a spring night breeze and a fall night breeze. It's more of a feeling than anything else.

Subject: Re: The Differences Between Vinyl And CD
Posted by hurdy_gurdyman on Sat, 08 Aug 2026 23:03:34 GMT
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A lot depends on the cartridge used. An analytical accurate cartridge will sound remarkably like the CD. In my opinion, you might as well save some money and stream or buy the CD. I put Audio-Technica MM carts and vintage Shure carts more or less in this category. For a contrast, carts like Grado make mids lush and, to me, "real" sounding, with bass being fuller sounding, but not as taunt. Treble doesn't track quite as well, but their upgraded styli track good enough. That's why I've been a Grado fan for almost three decades or more. This difference comes through when critically listening or relaxed just soaking it up listening.

Dave

Subject: Re: The Differences Between Vinyl And CD
Posted by gofar99 on Sun, 09 Aug 2026 02:19:13 GMT
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Hi, I agree the choice of cartridge and tone arm (assuming the turntable itself is good) can flavor the sound reproduced. I have the luxury of having several cartridges and turntables. The tonearms are split between Origin Live and Jelco. I tend to agree that the lower cost Grados are a bit warmer that they ought be, but the higher end ones (I use a Sonata II) don't exhibit this problem. For analytical cartridges I would list my Dynavector Ruby Karat 23MR-RS. It really has a nice sound but clearly more precise than the Grados. In between (at least in my system going from bright to warmer) The ADC XLM, Goldring 1042, Bin 215, OM30, Hana EH, and AT 33PTG II. If you really want a mono cartridge that won't break the bank I suggest the AT VM610MONO. A treasure at a budget price. Yes I know it has 4 pins on the back, but that is mostly for convenience to use with most modern stereo wired tonearms. Each has pluses and minuses. For CD and Blueray comparisons I use an OPPO83SE and a Marantz CD6007. One thing I do find is that LPs made before about 1976 are cleaner sounding and less noisy. The exceptions being recent 180 gram issues. Even then many are mastered to sound more like CDs than the originals. I have several pairs to compare and I usually think the older ones sound more like what I think the musicians wanted. Either way I always recommend that you buy or download the stuff you like.
