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Subject: How much are your records worth?

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 22 Apr 2005 10:31:36 GMT

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They aren't making them anymore for the most part, so they're pretty precious to me. I have lots of 25+ year old records in great shape and I want to keep them that way. So I am pretty careful about what I play them on and how I store them and clean them before use. I definitely don't want to play them on a cheap turntable or cartridge. It doesn't have to be a several thousand dollar turntable, but it does have to have a tone arm with precision bearings, a cartridge with a good stylus, and it has to be setup properly with regards to geometry, tracking weight and anti-skating force. A few years ago, I was looking to buy a good turntable under a grand. I went to one of the local dealers here in Tulsa, and they looked at me like I was crazy wanting a turntable. So I asked the manager to check his sources and find something good. I paid him a deposit so he would understand I was serious, and expected him to do a little rudimentary research and bring in something good like an API or Rega. But after waiting two months, what arrived was a little \$200.00 table that was so flimsy and cheap looking, I was embarrassed to even look at this thing. I told him to keep it, and I've never done business with him again. I'm not saying that I think turntables have to be exotica to be good, but I am saying that if it isn't a precision device, it probably isn't worth having. You can't replace the records in your collection very easily these days, so it makes some sense to have a decent turntable to play them on.

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Subject: Re: How much are your records worth?

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Fri, 22 Apr 2005 11:45:26 GMT

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There is also the aspect of sound quality to consider. It is a pain to adjust and set-up a turntable properly; but using a good quality table and spending the time will equal the best music playback outside of a mastertape that it is possible to get at this time. I will venture to say that unless you are into rap I would not even consider a turntable. The real benefit of vinyl comes from having good music properly recorded and that means mostly older albums of classical or jazz or even rock from the 60's or earlier that was recorded on tube mixing boards. And then you need a quality table/arm leading into many hundreds of dollars in cost and aggravation. CD's or harddrive music playback is good enough now that it really renders vinyl useless to anyone except hardcore collectors and those willing to go through the hassle of finding older records or paying 25\$ or more for re-released music. If I didn't have a room full of old albums I would ditch my vinyl in a heartbeat.

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Subject: Re: How much are your records worth?

Posted by [Russellc](#) on Fri, 22 Apr 2005 12:29:27 GMT

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sort of depends on where you are located. In Kansas city, I find TONS of good quality used vinyle. My friends in seattle find way more than I do, and cheap. I have to listen to them and there great finds every time I talk to them. as near as I can tell, seattle is the most plentiful place to obtain Lps cheap. I wouldn't trade my vinyle rig (or any good one) for digital crap that passes for music these days. as far as downloaded music, the most part it is mp3, which is not allowed in my house. why record companies complain about people downloading this stuff is beyound me, unless they fear people will think the reason their mp3s sound so bad is something the record company did. I have had a lot of fun downloading "Bit torrents" which are usually DVD shows, or flac and shorten files of soundboard recordings. these methods are "lossless" types of compression, far better than mp3. There are tons of concert sound board files out there as well as liberated bootlegs that for the most part the record companies don't have the rights to, or don't care so they are legal to download. I have found soundboard recordings of concerts I attended 30 years or more ago! great fun. As you can tell, I am in my late forties and grew up with vinyle. To me, there is no other component with the mechanical magic of a turntable. Not to mention, as manualblock stated, sound is the best...but there is the cost...and the set up hassle. I enjoy driving myself crazy with that as I do pushing past 450 whp on pump gas. for the ones w/o the tolerance to fiddle, stick with digital. Myself, I don't mind fooling with it. If someone can't develope that love that requires the extra hassle vinyle requires, or thinks "I'll buy all this stuff and it will work out of the box like a cd player" they will probably not care for vinyle use. To each there own, I like vinyle, and I know manualblock does too, but it requires a certain "hard head" to put up with the set up headaches. Anyone else into the bit torrents?Russellc

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Subject: Re: How much are your records worth?  
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Fri, 22 Apr 2005 12:44:49 GMT  
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Had a similar expeience with a salesman a Kiefs in lawrence KS. I asked about tables and was met with the They aren't out there anymore B.S.(wrong thing to say to me) so I gave him a fifteen minute diatribe on how it is still out there providing examples w/o end. to that he replied "I haven't sold a turntable in years." I only had to ask one question and made one statement: "when was the last time you kept one in stock?" & "You could have sold me an expensive one today, if you had one" with that, I went down town and found a most interesting used stereo store which happily took my money. Long live vinyle. I buy the expensive stuff also, these guys are trying to keep it around and some deserve the support. Unknown to many, there are performers out there which REQUIRE so much of there stuff to be on vinyle, which many are light weight non virgin vinyle, but some sound fairly good. Only a few stores carry them, mostly mom and pop type operations that sell cds and used vinyle. I like to support them also, but like you state, most of what I look for is older used stuff from the glory days. I predict another vinyle resurgence when all of us start to die off andall our stuff goes to salvation army.regards, RussellcRussellc

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Subject: Re: How much are your records worth?

Posted by [bob eddie](#) on Fri, 22 Apr 2005 13:13:26 GMT

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I started to get into vinyl and now there is a new interest in vinyl in general by people, pretty coincidental, but i guess vinyl will always die off then come back for a while to come. Its just too cool for school. Its not tacky like cds and tapes.

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Subject: Re: How much are your records worth?

Posted by [Mr Vinyl](#) on Fri, 22 Apr 2005 15:14:08 GMT

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Hi,I agree with what your saying but think the most thought should go to the cartridge. Good tracking is very important. The Shure V15xMR is a very good sounding cartridge (coming close in sound to my \$2500 Audioquest 7000FE5) and it tracks very well at about 1 gram. They are out of production but you can still pick one up for about \$200-\$250. As far as protecting your records, I think the tone arm and turntable need to be of reasonable quality but the thing that will cause the most damage is the cartridge IMO. Actually the more I think about it the more I think most record damage is probably caused by putting the record back into the sleeve and cover. All of my records are in VPI sleeves etc.

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Subject: Re: How much are your records worth?

Posted by [Russellc](#) on Fri, 22 Apr 2005 22:21:12 GMT

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Right on with the shure v15vxmr. I bought one a little while back and have been most impressed. I paid 215 but think it is well worth the 325 that some are offering it for. Not the best, but embarrasses lots of carts that are way more \$, and what a tracker. the stylus will be available for 5 years ( and I have a small stash of them) so it is a good recommendation despite being discontinued.Russellc

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Subject: Re: How much are your records worth?

Posted by [Russellc](#) on Fri, 22 Apr 2005 22:24:01 GMT

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Well put. Most guys like mechanical things, and the turntable is just a cool device in my book.Russellc

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Subject: Re: How much are your records worth?  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sat, 23 Apr 2005 23:16:51 GMT  
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Russell; I know it sure would be nice to confront lots of good used albums. Here you get the leavings from whatever is not worth owning and consequently goes on auction. Prices are crazy. The thing is I have most of what I know I want. Trying out unknown quantities doesn't work as per what I already stated. I am familiar with most loss-less compression schemes but what are bit torrents?

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Subject: Re: How much are your records worth?  
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Sun, 24 Apr 2005 00:20:45 GMT  
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They are either flac or shorten files and sometimes video files. There are all sorts of sights out there for bit torrents that are of course illegal. the ones I'm talking about are legal, or no ones objecting. those that run the site do everything in their power to conform to everyones wishes, but if a particular artist objects they will remove the offending torrent. You go to the site, search through for what you want, and download it. All sorts of stuff is available in bit torrents, but I like the soundboard recordings from whatever music you are interested in. These recordings are of live events, and are usually taken off the soundboard. another source is liberated bootlegs. The files usually have a lot of information about the particular concert as well as the "heritage" of the recording and so forth. Once downloaded, use nero to burn to dvd or cd. Try [www.dimeadozen.orgenjoy](http://www.dimeadozen.orgenjoy)

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Subject: Re: How much are your records worth?  
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Sun, 24 Apr 2005 00:26:08 GMT  
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Another interesting feature is, the more people in the tree, (bit torrent talk) the faster the download is. While you download, others can upload at the same time, so more and more bandwidth is available instead of less as in some other forms of file sharing. some of the files are audience recordings, whose sound quality isn't very good. The sound board recordings can be quite good and are a lot of fun. Let me know if interested and I can give you more info. Russellc

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Subject: Re: How much are your records worth?  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Sun, 24 Apr 2005 01:03:41 GMT  
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Your ringing the bell. I love that soundboard stuff. What else is required reading? Thanks J.R.

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Subject: Re: How much are your records worth?

Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Mon, 25 Apr 2005 14:16:37 GMT

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Russell; I don't know if the post below sounded right but I am truley interested in knowing more about those soundboard recording sites you mention. Thanks J.R.

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Subject: Re: How much are your records worth?

Posted by [Russellc](#) on Tue, 26 Apr 2005 22:12:09 GMT

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Sorry,Wasn't on the net for a little while. did you check out dimeadozen? Thats where the legal soundboard stuff is right now. You will need to also download a program like burst or azzareous (spelling) to get the down loads. Email me at cathouse7hotmail.com for more specifics. warning: if you venture to the illegal sites you MUST use protection like peer guardian. the above mentioned azzareous has peer guardian built into it. Peer guardian is kind of neat anyway, as these people block the LATEST in spyware and pop up technology much more precisely than other programs like spybot, adaware, or spyware blaster, which I also use. Of course it also block government and music industry sites- they can't connect to you and you can't connect to them. Peer guardian is updated every 24 hours. Google search BURST! and go to the site for a free download. This is the bit torrent client you need to download the bit torrents @ [www.dimeadozen.org](http://www.dimeadozen.org) Dimeadozen allows only 100,000 people at a time, so when you sign up it might reject you the first time. Just keep doing it until you get in. Then you must download something every 60 days or so or you will have to reregister. Also, after you have completed your download you want to leave your computer running until you have seeded others. A ratio is keep of your download to upload and it needs to remain above .25, which is easy. If you venture to illegal sites where music, seasons of tv shows, porn and all that, I have heard that you "snatch and grab and get out" Myself, I'm happy with the legal downloads. Not all are soundboards, some are audience recordings which are sometimes not the best quality. there will be a description of all this when you look at the bit torrent. If you like it, click on it and your computer will download a littl file thing, hit OK, then burst will activate and connect you to the seeders. Also on the bit torrent you can click on "all peers" and see a list of everyone who is either seeding or leaching. Get the burst bit torrent client installed and get on board with dimeadozen and start downloading. Most of the concert are 2-3 cd. some shows are on dvd which are of course much larger files and can take 2-3 days to download. I usually down load 3-5 at the same time and then I leave it on long enough for other leachers to get at least as much as I took, sometimes 2-3 times as much. The neat thing is, the more people in the tree, the faster it goes! Let me know how this is coming, once you get started its fairly intuitive, but I had questions when I frst started. You

can comment and leave messages and so forth if looking for something in particular, or if no seeders are currently seeding.Regards, Russelc

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Subject: Re: How much are your records worth?  
Posted by [Russelc](#) on Tue, 26 Apr 2005 22:21:18 GMT  
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Please let me know if you have any questions. This is really worth the trouble and is really cool. All sorts of cool shows from allsorts of classic and current performers. I had tons of questions about this, as I am not the most computer savvy person, but someone I work with is in a major way, and they spoon fed me all this. I'm almost 50 and I've found sound boards of concerts I attended at 19! ( thankyou Hottiemagnet) In fact three different versions of the same show!Very cool stuff,Russelc

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Subject: Re: How much are your records worth?  
Posted by [Russelc](#) on Tue, 26 Apr 2005 22:32:22 GMT  
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One other thing, I have lots of shows so if your interested let me know and I'll give you a copy to check out.Russelc

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Subject: Re: How much are your records worth?  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Wed, 27 Apr 2005 17:35:05 GMT  
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Sure; I am interested. What kinds of music do you focus on?

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Subject: Re: How much are your records worth?  
Posted by [Russelc](#) on Wed, 27 Apr 2005 22:37:18 GMT  
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On dimeadozen there are thousands of bit torrents of all sorts. the volume is staggering. there is another legal site or two but they are much smaller. I have seen everything from classic 70s Led Zep shows, jimi hendrix, sun ra, miles davis u2 springsteen. Most anything from elvis to zappa,

jazz to punk. there are torrents of people reading poetry for chriss sakes. Most everything that ever had a sound board could be there. Plus, people "liberate" bootlegs from japan and all over and upload them in bit torrent form. go to dimeadozen and register. If you don't get on, just keep refreshing, you will eventually get on in the first setting if you keep trying. Then you can click on view torrents and see all the latest ones, or go by search and look for whatever you want. at any given time there are thousands, I know not long ago over 8000 bit torrents on this site alone. If you like what you see, get burst and get to downloading. Bit torrents are THE way to file share these days, and apparently it is relatively unheard of outside computer nerd circles. Lossless is nice. This material is not copyrighted and no one is upset about it, and if they are, the offending torrent is removed, even if they couldn't sue. Other sites which I spoke of as illegal, are in other countries and are clearly violating us copyright law. If you go there, you are risking it as the RIAA patrols and sets traps. While I am more than happy with the legal stuff, others more daring use programs like peer guardian at www.methlabs.org which blocks all government and music industry sites. I include the site only because they also have the best pop up and spyware blocking on the web, and they update every 24 hours. their stuff finds trash on my computer that my Spyware Blaster, Spybot, and lavasoft's adaware miss! These other programs are good, they just update less frequently. What sort of stuff are you looking for? I'd be happy to send a sample of something. If dvd, does your player read + or - recordable dvd? Mine reads both of most brands, but not memorex. Other players are picky about other types and brands. Unfortunately, unlike prerecorded dvds, the format has not been established for the recordable dvds. No mattter, I keep both on hand.regards, russellc

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Subject: Re: How much are your records worth?  
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Wed, 27 Apr 2005 22:42:38 GMT  
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I can tell you are interested. Check it out, it is truely too cool to believe.russellc

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Subject: Re: How much are your records worth?  
Posted by [Manualblock](#) on Wed, 04 May 2005 01:22:26 GMT  
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Russell; have you tried the WAV program for leveling volume on all downloads?

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Subject: Re: How much are your records worth?  
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Wed, 04 May 2005 22:06:48 GMT  
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I burn with nero and it has a leveling feature in it. Very handy when putting together compilations from various sources. By the way, I saw where they have at least temporarily taken down dimeadozen. Having reviewed the press and communications, it appears their service freaked out when they figured out there was "music trading" going on. They feel confident that once they have a sit down and explain the nature of whats being traded they will be back on line shortly. Some host services just freak at the mention of litigation and shut down, this happened once before when they were located at easytree.com. these people have done the utmost to not violate any wishes of artists, but this doesn't stop the record companies with whom they record from hiring foreign lawyers to send around form letters to hosting services, who in turn freak out and shut LEGAL sites who are trying to do it legit. Unbelievable how sick greedy record companies can be. They are literally enough to make one sick. The grapevine has it that U2's recording company had a german lawyer send a letter to the hosting service, even though the artists had no gripe. A band as large as U2 should be able to tell their recording company to piss off and quit this sillyness. When will they realize that the digital genie is out of the bottle and can not be put back in. This is much less invasive of their business than recording friend's legit purchased albums and cds. The digital age is a double sided sword for the record companies, and I for one am sick of their tireless whinning. I am going to start buying albums (used) and used cds ONLY! I would encourage everyone to do the same and maybe they will shutup! Holy cow, I can buy blank cds for less than a buck. Lord knows how cheap recording companies can get them for. You would think they would be happy as clams in a market where they can sell the product that costs them a few cents for 12.00 to 20.00! BUT NO!OK, I'm doneRussellc

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Subject: Re: How much are your records worth?  
Posted by [Russellc](#) on Fri, 06 May 2005 22:58:23 GMT  
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Problem solved, back up and running. They took down some 600 U2 torrents to shut up the german lawyer. Oh well, I'll never buy another U2 anything, and I would suggest that music lovers everywhere do the same.Russellc

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