Subject: Going physical in digital era
Posted by Taurus on Tue, 18 Feb 2020 16:33:02 GMT
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My friend is an enthusiast of Korean music. She buys physical albums of her favorite artists, which come with lyric books, photographs, photo cards, posters, and so on. They are cute but don't affect the music experience in any way. At the end of the day, she mostly listens by streaming anyway.

Artists are competing for numbers, selling concert tickets bundled with albums or doing other tricks I can't imagine, but I only have one thought in mind. Is there still a point in having these physical releases?

Subject: Re: Going physical in digital era
Posted by Leot55 on Thu, 20 Feb 2020 18:32:19 GMT
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Whether your friend listens to it or not, the band still got paid when she bought the physical release. I'm sure their ROI is high enough to encourage these physical releases or it wouldn't happen. Is the band Blackpink, BTS, or another group that she's crazy about? I have kids who are into K-pop. A physical album with some extras like you mentioned would make a good gift. I've never seen something like that. Maybe it's not sold in the United States though. Or maybe I'm just bad at hunting.

Subject: Re: Going physical in digital era
Posted by gofar99 on Sun, 23 Feb 2020 21:16:21 GMT
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A good question. However...I have long been wary of music that is only in digital format. It sounds great for sure...but do you really own it and what exactly are your rights to using it. Particularly if it is on a cloud server. What happens if it fails, goes bankrupt, or compromised. What happens if your down loads on your player get corrupted, or you lose it. With a physical format these are not issues (except stolen or damaged). Just food for thought.

Subject: Re: Going physical in digital era
Posted by sawyer25 on Wed, 26 Feb 2020 17:07:59 GMT
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Like @Leot55 mentions, musicians would opt out of the physical formats if there wasn't any ROI. All the same, there are many ways in which a band or musician can make money. They are not as limited as they were in the past.

Subject: Re: Going physical in digital era
Posted by Taurus on Wed, 18 Mar 2020 14:14:56 GMT
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Leot55, as far as I know, that's how she always gets her albums. I can ask her about how to get those if you want.

gofar99 wrote on Sun, 23 February 2020 15:16A good question. However...I have long been wary of music that is only in digital format. It sounds great for sure...but do you really own it and what exactly are your rights to using it. Particularly if it is on a cloud server. What happens if it fails, goes bankrupt, or compromised. What happens if your down loads on your player get corrupted, or you lose it. With a physical format these are not issues (except stolen or damaged). Just food for thought.
The same argument can be made against physical releases. You can lose the copy or damage the record when you're being careless. We also need to be sure that we have a player for them (like my old laptop which didn't have a CD ROM). Digital files can be re-downloaded and transferred easily, but I understand what you mean as it doesn't really feel like we own anything (even though we probably pay for the platform).

Subject: Re: Going physical in digital era
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 18 Mar 2020 15:19:10 GMT
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I used to always prefer physical copies of media. And for the material that's most important to me, I still do. In fact, I sometimes like to have multiple copies of the same material - Vinyl, CD and (mp3 or other) File. For video, I always try to find a BluRay copy of the material. I do this both for quality and so that I can have the liner notes and artwork. Having the datafile copy of the material is largely a convenience thing for me. It's easy to push it over a network or put it on a puck (which is what I call USB flash drives).

Now days, however, I sometimes find myself getting movies without media in a pure download form. Sometimes I don't even actually download the file, leaving it on a cloud server, usually Amazon. I only do this to save space, and I only do it with movies that I like enough to own (and think I or someone on my family will watch more than once) but I don't "love" the movie and so I don't want to take up space on my shelves with it.

I haven't started doing that same thing with music though. If I have a digital download of an album, it's because I bought the music on Vinyl or CD and it came with a free digital download. I have a ton of that kind of material on a puck, and I often use that in cars.

That's just how I do it these days.

Subject: Re: Going physical in digital era

Posted by Leot55 on Sun, 22 Mar 2020 13:27:25 GMT
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gofar99 wrote on Sun, 23 February 2020 15:16A good question. However...I have long been wary of music that is only in digital format. It sounds great for sure...but do you really own it and what exactly are your rights to using it. Particularly if it is on a cloud server. What happens if it fails, goes bankrupt, or compromised. What happens if your down loads on your player get corrupted, or you lose it. With a physical format these are not issues (except stolen or damaged). Just food for thought.
Remember when that happened to Walmart music? You probably shunned it, but it was popular for a while. They sold digital singles for .88 each, then they stopped the service. So yeah, you could download them one last time, but that was a big warning to me that maybe I shouldn't entrust my music to iTunes (that was the next big thing at the time).

Subject: Re: Going physical in digital era
Posted by Taurus on Mon, 23 Mar 2020 06:51:39 GMT
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Leot55 wrote on Sun, 22 March 2020 08:27gofar99 wrote on Sun, 23 February 2020 15:16A good question. However...I have long been wary of music that is only in digital format. It sounds great for sure...but do you really own it and what exactly are your rights to using it. Particularly if it is on a cloud server. What happens if it fails, goes bankrupt, or compromised. What happens if your down loads on your player get corrupted, or you lose it. With a physical format these are not issues (except stolen or damaged). Just food for thought.
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I've never heard of it! Thank goodness I only use music-specific platform; though there is no guarantee, at least I think they are more likely to last a long time than things like Walmart music. That's a good reminder of the danger to digital files, especially if you don't save them on your own accounts. I still think the convenience wins over such issue, though.

Subject: Re: Going physical in digital era
Posted by sawyer25 on Tue, 24 Mar 2020 20:01:17 GMT
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With the physical copies, a music enthusiast can have them for a long time, depending on their quality. How is it to still have them now with more and more musicians churning out single after single?

Subject: Re: Going physical in digital era
Posted by Kingfish on Sun, 26 Apr 2020 20:05:35 GMT
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I'm old school, so physical copies are the best. Back in the day, gate-fold art, posters and lyric books made the listening experience more personal because you got involved by way of those extra items.

Digital music is as impersonal as it gets, and art should not be an impersonal experience.

Subject: Re: Going physical in digital era
Posted by Madison on Sat, 02 May 2020 23:40:34 GMT
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Did vinyl always come with more extras than cassettes and CDs? I was very young when vinyl was the in thing, but I remember booklets, posters, stickers, interview pages, and all sorts of stuff coming with the album. On the other hand, CDs usually just came with a basic insert which listed who was involved in the making of the CD and a few notes from the artists thanking various people, but it was nothing you'd want to hang onto necessarily. I wonder why the music industry stopped making it special? Those plastic cases that CDs came in could've held quite a bit.

Kingfish wrote on Sun, 26 April 2020 15:05
Digital music is as impersonal as it gets, and art should not be an impersonal experience.
That would be a good marketing pitch. How poetic.

Subject: Re: Going physical in digital era
Posted by Rusty on Sun, 03 May 2020 14:03:04 GMT
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Size matters. And the CD case is just too small to include too many goodies within. While most vinyl packaging was rather like the CD case in that it was just the facts ma'am. The size of the medium and cover allowed for some creative interpretation of the music contained within. The famous Rolling Stones, Sticky Fingers album with the pelvic view, blue jean clad torso with enhanced anatomy, (sock no doubt) and a working zipper that fortunately contained nothing behind it.

Subject: Re: Going physical in digital era
Posted by Leot55 on Thu, 14 May 2020 20:50:17 GMT
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Those extras were pretty rare, Madison, that's probably why you remember it happening when you were so young. It stood out because it wasn't common. Things like that were usually reserved for special anniversary albums or one that was hyped up and highly anticipated. I think

you're more likely to find extra goodies with record albums that are put out today than you were back then. The artwork was always interesting though.

Subject: Re: Going physical in digital era
Posted by Kingfish on Sat, 24 Oct 2020 01:36:17 GMT
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I wouldn't call them rare as much as they were done by the artists who could afford it. Stones, Elton, Wings.....bands like that could afford to pay for the extra printing, artwork, gate-folds, etc....on their albums, so they did it.

I used to have some of the best of the best from the 70's and 80's, then I would walk into a Goodwill on Saturday because the little lady wanted the 50% off sales, and the record bins would have all the lesser known artists from back when. Seeing those types of albums really put it all into perspective.

Subject: Re: Going physical in digital era
Posted by gofar99 on Sun, 25 Oct 2020 02:11:36 GMT
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Hi, There may be a resurgence of the trend as a number of my newer LPs have inserts that have everything from the lyrics to information about the artists. Several have the double folded jackets with all sort of stuff inside. True though that most do not and a like many older LPs. Vinyl LPs made in colored vinyl are starting to show up again as well.
