Subject: Bent records
Posted by Madison on Thu, 07 May 2020 12:23:07 GMT
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I bought a bunch of records at a yard sale. Most are in decent shape, but a couple are severely warped. I've checked around and saw the tip about heating them up in the oven between two pieces of glass in order to flatten them back out. However, these records are bent to the point that I fear putting them between anything that heavy will cause them to snap. Should I try heating them up in the oven on a pane of glass with nothing on top at first. Then pull them out and place a lightweight book on top. Then gradually add heavier books as time goes? Are they a lost cause?

Subject: Re: Bent records
Posted by Rusty on Thu, 07 May 2020 13:04:13 GMT
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I think your the man to experiment. Try it and find out. I've got a record that's warped pretty good, but it plays without too much issue. It would be nice to know if this method is genuine or not. But I'm not willing to try this out because I like the music on it and don't want to jeopardize it. If those records aren't playable like they are, you got nothing to loose. Punch the envelope dude!

Subject: Re: Bent records
Posted by Miami on Fri, 08 May 2020 03:11:29 GMT
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I would worry more about what could go wrong by putting glass in oven. 8o Also remember that vinyl is not meant to be exposed to those kinds of temperatures. If heat caused it to warp, how could MORE heat cause it to straighten out?

If anything, put it between two heavy objects in the freezer.

Subject: Re: Bent records
Posted by Rusty on Fri, 08 May 2020 13:10:37 GMT
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Wait a minute. The vinyl record is made with heat and pressure. Looking it up shows it to be, 345 F and 100 tons of pressure. So, I don't think the freezer will cure the warp. All it takes is a little search here. Pre heat your oven to 150 F, put your clean record between two clean panes of glass. Pop it in the oven for 10 minutes. Taker er out and set aside to cool with some weight atop the panes of glass. I might give it a go.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=342&v=IwHZZe3aOh0&feature=emb_logo

Subject: Re: Bent records
Posted by gofar99 on Sat, 09 May 2020 02:52:19 GMT
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Hi, there have been many discussions on this (check out vinylengine.com forums). Heating can do it, possibly with a ceramic pizza disk. They will take the heat. Plus I would not start at the high temperature but gradualy increase it. Clean the Pizza souce off first :lol:

Subject: Re: Bent records
Posted by Kingfish on Sun, 10 May 2020 19:36:36 GMT
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Rumor has it that if you do with with a pizza pan while baking a pizza in it, the record will come out with the singer singing in Italian. :lol:

When I have the time, I'll give this a try. Probably on a record I want to throw away anyway.

Subject: Re: Bent records
Posted by Madison on Wed, 13 May 2020 03:31:45 GMT
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Miami, you can put glass in the oven. The trick is to avoid massive temperature shifts at once. I use Pyrex in the oven all the time. I'm not sure how putting it in the freezer would help, though I've used the freezer trick successfully on other tech so who knows.

Rusty, you made me realize that I should just go for it. I paid very little for the whole container full of records and they aren't rare finds or anything like that. It's no big deal whether I mess them up or not really. I've had them for about four months. I want to save as many as possible of course, but your insight empowered me to experiment with it a bit. Thanks!

After going through the box again, I realized I have more bent records than I originally thought. I think I'm up to six now. I started with the ones I don't know much about or just don't care for. I've tried a few things so far. I thought heating it up with a hairdryer might be more gentle, but it was a poor idea and obviously did nothing to the vinyl. I realized that it wasn't going to work pretty quickly. I also tried heating it up in the oven on one pane of glass without another pane on top which wasn't much help. Placing the vinyl record between two panes cracked the record. I think my glass might have been too heavy though. So, I've lost Crosby Stills and Nash Daylight Again.

Up next is legendary blue's guitarist Johnny Winter and I'll try to fix it with gofar99's pizza stone advice. Thanks for sharing that website too, gofar99!

Thankfully, all the Eagles' records are in excellent shape. Losing one of those would have stung.

Subject: Re: Bent records
Posted by Rusty on Wed, 13 May 2020 14:17:11 GMT
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Hey Madison. I'm curious with your experiment using two panes of glass. From the video, using the two panes of glass seemed to work. I think they recommended heavier glass. What temperature did you use? Anyway, I'll be waiting for your experiments and how they go. Glad you decided to give it a try.

Subject: Re: Bent records
Posted by Leot55 on Thu, 14 May 2020 20:37:01 GMT
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What about using a clamp? Some warped records will play fine if you use a clamp, though I guess it could also cause damage if you aren't careful.

Subject: Re: Bent records
Posted by Rusty on Fri, 15 May 2020 16:07:34 GMT
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I think most record warps occur to the outer side of the record, so a record clamp only sits on the inner, spindle side. I use one, no problems from it. There are outer ring clamps for just that purpose. Expensive and may not clear parts of the tonearm assembly.

Subject: Re: Bent records
Posted by Madison on Thu, 21 May 2020 03:43:26 GMT
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Rusty wrote on Wed, 13 May 2020 09:17Hey Madison. I'm curious with your experiment using two panes of glass. From the video, using the two panes of glass seemed to work. I think they recommended heavier glass. What temperature did you use? Anyway, I'll be waiting for your experiments and how they go. Glad you decided to give it a try.
I'm not sure how much the glass weighs, but it was pretty heavy. I set the temp to 150. Several temps were recommended when I looked around. Maybe I should've set the temp higher. I wound up snapping the record when I tried to add some weights on top of the glass. Maybe I should've let the record warm up more before adding the weights or maybe I should have balanced them better. I'm not sure really. That record was the most severely bent out of the lot so there's a good chance it might've snapped no matter what.

I'm surprised there's so much talk about using a hair dryer to straighten out bent records on some of the other forums. It did absolutely nothing for mine and the record barely even warmed up. I wonder if I just didn't give it enough time, if that hack doesn't work and those recommending it have not actually used the technique, or the hack works on vinyl that is less warped or maybe vinyl that is thinner.

One of the records that I thought was too warped to play, actually plays just fine. I guess you really can't tell by sight alone.

Subject: Re: Bent records
Posted by Leot55 on Thu, 21 May 2020 13:20:18 GMT
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Madison wrote on Wed, 20 May 2020 22:43
I'm surprised there's so much talk about using a hair dryer to straighten out bent records on some of the other forums. It did absolutely nothing for mine and the record barely even warmed up. I wonder if I just didn't give it enough time, if that hack doesn't work and those recommending it have not actually used the technique, or the hack works on vinyl that is less warped or maybe vinyl that is thinner.
Although hair dryers get pretty hot, I'm not sure they get hot enough to fix a bent record. Maybe they can though. There are so many variables at play that what works on one vinyl record won't necessarily work for another.

Did you try the pizza stone? I'm curious about you kept the pizza stones from scratching your vinyl records. If you haven't tried it yet, something glossy like ceramic tiles might do the trick. Another option might be wax paper.

Subject: Re: Bent records
Posted by gofar99 on Fri, 22 May 2020 02:26:10 GMT
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Hi, I would not use wax paper as it can leave a residue that will be very difficult to remove. A standard paper towel or cloth one would be my choice.

Subject: Re: Bent records
Posted by Madison on Fri, 22 May 2020 18:45:37 GMT
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I'm having a lot of fun with this and I appreciate all the tips and encouragement. I am still working on the pizza stone experiment. Gofar99's suggestion is working the best so far. I think it helps that the pizza stones are round and the records are round. I decided not to put any more records in the oven. It creates an odor and it probably sets off toxic fumes. We're all still staying at home, and I don't want my kids around that. I also cook with that stove and don't want to jeopardize their health by serving tainted food. So instead of using the oven, I'm using the sun. It's a slow process, but I think that's part of what helps. The record is much flatter and it doesn't look like the grooves have been compromised. I need to stick it back outside again for a little longer once it

stops raining. I know you aren't supposed to expose records to the sun, but the pizza slabs are covering it and I extended the silk so no UV rays are shining on the record.

Leot55, I thought about using rice paper but nixed that idea. It might have worked as a decent barrier/protector though. I just didn't want it to get sticky and leave some residue on the record. I also considered using a sheet of latex or just leaving the record in its sleeve, but I used silk instead because it's slow to catch fire and it's slick.

Subject: Re: Bent records
Posted by Leot55 on Sat, 23 May 2020 18:19:14 GMT
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gofar99 wrote on Thu, 21 May 2020 21:26Hi, I would not use wax paper as it can leave a residue that will be very difficult to remove.
Yikes, thanks for correct that, gofar99.

Sorry for recommending wax paper, Madison, I'm thankful you didn't use it! I'm glad the pizza stone experiment seems to be working out. You can find some professional vinyl record flatteners out there, but they tend to be pricey. Probably wouldn't be worth buying unless you were trying to save a prized collection.

Subject: Re: Bent records
Posted by Madison on Sun, 24 May 2020 13:52:04 GMT
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I've flattened two records successfully using the pizza stone method. I didn't put mine in the oven though. I left it in the sun for a few hours (it takes a while to heat the stones). I started in the early morning so that it would heat up gradually and my stones are round, both of those things helped I think. Johnny Winter's album took the longest because it was the most extreme. Duran Duran's record only took a few hours to complete because it wasn't as warped. I sandwiched the records in between silk material. That might be a bad idea. It worked for me though. The records weren't exposed directly to the sun. Just the stones and a little silk took the brunt of it.

So for the tally: I snapped one record (glass sheet, oven); I flattened two records (pizza stone, sun); and the others play as is. This was a fun little experiment!

Subject: Re: Bent records
Posted by Rusty on Sun, 24 May 2020 15:33:15 GMT
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Thank's for doing the investigation. Guess pizza stones and old sol are the go to method. Just for my own curiosity, the record that broke in between two panes of glass in the oven. Was the record

profoundly warped? Was it a thick pressing? I ask because many records of a thinner pressing have a lot of flex. Thanks again Madison.

Subject: Re: Bent records
Posted by Lost the Remote on Fri, 23 Oct 2020 23:33:35 GMT
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Rusty wrote on Sun, 24 May 2020 10:33Thank's for doing the investigation. Guess pizza stones and old sol are the go to method. Just for my own curiosity, the record that broke in between two panes of glass in the oven. Was the record profoundly warped? Was it a thick pressing? I ask because many records of a thinner pressing have a lot of flex. Thanks again Madison.
I wasn't there, but Maddy sent me photos as she did it. One record that snapped was Michael Jackson's Thriller. Does thickness depend on the year it was produced? I'm not sure about the year, but he had on a white suit if that helps (sometimes the album cover changes, not sure if this one did). My nieces are in the pic or I'd share it (Maddie doesn't share photos on the net). I think it was a standard record. It was incredibly warped! I don't see how some of the records got that way! It was unusual.

@Picture, Maddie fixed more records than she broke. What worked best was slowly flattening them out over time.

Subject: Re: Bent records
Posted by Kingfish on Sat, 24 Oct 2020 01:29:29 GMT
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I used to have old records from the '30's and 40's, and they didn't skimp on material back then. They were definitely thicker back in the day.

Now I want to go find out why.

Subject: Re: Bent records
Posted by gofar99 on Sun, 25 Oct 2020 02:06:51 GMT
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Hi, If I recall correctly many were on bakelite not vinyl and were a lot thicker.

Subject: Re: Bent records
Posted by Madison on Sat, 31 Oct 2020 17:47:35 GMT
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Rusty, sorry it's taken me so long to respond, but no they weren't thin records. It was incredibly

bent and I doubt anything would've fixed it. I'd like to know how it got that way to be honest!

Remi, you should try it and let us know which method worked best for you. Just start with the records that you care the least about. I had a lot of fun doing it.

Subject: Re: Bent records
Posted by Concorde on Sun, 01 Nov 2020 23:36:41 GMT
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Is anyone considering groove distortion? I see a lot of tips on how to flatten a warped vinyl, but when the vinyl itself is warped, so are the grooves. When it gets flattened, do the grooves just pop back into place like nothing has happened?

Subject: Re: Bent records
Posted by gofar99 on Mon, 02 Nov 2020 02:38:32 GMT
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Hi, A good question. I don't know. If the fixing process makes the LP out of round that will cause problems as the sound will waver and many cartridges might have problems following the groves.

Subject: Re: Bent records
Posted by Madison on Sat, 14 Nov 2020 23:39:44 GMT
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Concorde wrote on Sun, 01 November 2020 17:36Is anyone considering groove distortion? I see a lot of tips on how to flatten a warped vinyl, but when the vinyl itself is warped, so are the grooves. When it gets flattened, do the grooves just pop back into place like nothing has happened?
It's definitely not perfect, but it's a matter of losing one or two songs rather than the whole record. You take what you can get. It might work better in one of those machines that are designed for this issue.
