Subject: Clear Vinyl
Posted by Nouri on Thu, 15 Oct 2020 20:37:30 GMT
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I saw some clear vinyl records for sale at a local retail store the other day. I was under the impression that clear or colored vinyl is more susceptible to poorer quality sound. Do they make them just for the novelty of it? Is it cheaper for them to make them this way?

I didn't buy one, by the way.

Subject: Re: Clear Vinyl
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 15 Oct 2020 22:58:00 GMT
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I don't know if clear or colored vinyl is qualitatively worse than black, but I have heard the same as you - that it isn't as good. People were saying that in the 1970s.

I do know that the records with images on them aren't as good, but it's kind of obvious because it's a transfer applied on top of the album.

Back to the colored records, I can't help but wonder how true it is about the qualitative differences. I say this because I know ABS plastic is an opaque clear color unless a dye is added. It is usually black, but can be any color. So that could be true for vinyl too. I'll bet it isn't black unless a dye is added. So that means all records have dye except the clear ones.

I have a few colored albums from the 1970s that sound wonderful too. One of 'em that comes to mind is Alan Parsons Project, Pyramid. It sounds fantastic.

Subject: Re: Clear Vinyl
Posted by Azuri on Fri, 16 Oct 2020 16:16:26 GMT
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You could put Alan Parsons on an 8 track and it would sound fantastic. LOL

I think the black carbon is what strengthens the vinyl from it's raw form. This is what gives it higher quality than other colors.

Subject: Re: Clear Vinyl
Posted by Wayne Parham on Fri, 16 Oct 2020 18:58:21 GMT
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I read somewhere that it also made the disk a little more conductive and therefore less prone to static pops.

Subject: Re: Clear Vinyl
Posted by Kingfish on Tue, 20 Oct 2020 00:26:42 GMT
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I would love to learn the science behind this. It seems fascinating. I would think the black carbon would help alleviate the poopling, not lend to it.

Subject: Re: Clear Vinyl
Posted by Wayne Parham on Tue, 20 Oct 2020 16:40:03 GMT
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I'll be honest, I don't think there is any science behind the black dye causing the vinyl to be stronger or less static-prone. I think the choice of modifiers and stabilizers added to the vinyl is probably way more significant to its properties than the color of the dye.

Subject: Re: Clear Vinyl
Posted by Rusty on Tue, 20 Oct 2020 19:43:47 GMT
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I'm a traditionalist. Black is where it's at. You can see dust better.

Subject: Re: Clear Vinyl
Posted by gofar99 on Wed, 21 Oct 2020 02:41:44 GMT
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Hi, I have never found the color to matter. Clear ones may cause some turntables that use auto size sense to get confused as they don't reflect the light beam underneath the platter to the sensor correctly.

Subject: Re: Clear Vinyl
Posted by Silver on Wed, 02 Dec 2020 02:41:00 GMT
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So it's best to use an older turntable for a newer invention? That's ironic. Next thing you know

they'll put something clear within the vinyl itself so the sensor can pick it up

Subject: Re: Clear Vinyl
Posted by Concorde on Wed, 02 Dec 2020 02:49:12 GMT
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They could also put a weight sensor into the unit. A 33 is going to weigh more than a 45 for example. The weight sensor could tell the stylus how far to go or not go.