Storage, care, and preservation of Sound Recordings:

A Bibliography

by

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** This bibliography was compiled during a course on the preservation of library materials given by Prof. Susan O. Thompson at the School of Library Service, Columbia University. In addition to Prof. Thompson, I'd like to thank the following individuals for their assistance: Jacqueline Harvey of the Audio Engineering Society; Susan Sommer, Curator of the Toscanini Archives, Library and Museum of the Performing Arts, N.Y.; and Gary-Gabriel Gisondi at the Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound, Library and Museum of the Performing Arts, N.Y.


Brief, not particularly useful notes on record care.


Study of theoretical models for determining vinyl hardness. Results of laboratory tests. Vinyl co-polymers show considerable work-softening.


Directions for care, including washing, of early recordings. Discwasher brush and special cleaning fluid for 78s is recommended. Bans waxing of cylinders.


Consumer oriented but detailed, useful article on the subject. Includes a stroboscopic disc for pitching.


Description of the dbx noise reduction system with information on tape noise.

Considerations in the development of a high wear resistant vinyl compound. Much useful related information.

Bubbers, John J. "What You Can Do To Minimize Record Wear." High Fidelity 22, September 1972, p. 54-55.

Interesting facts on tracking force as related to record wear.


Perfunctory discussion of disc cleaning devices, including Dust Bug, Discwasher, Syantific Audio Cleaning Machine.


Factors responsible for tape performance degradation with analysis of different rehabilitation methods.


Excellent four-part article on record manufacture and preservation techniques, aimed for collectors of rock-and-roll 78s and 45s. Clear explanations and specific recommendations. Most backed up in other sources.


Deals mainly with printed materials. Contains some information on sound recordings, though possibly misleading. References difficult to locate.


Detailed review of dbx noise reduction equipment with comments on the Dolby system.

Comparative study of physical characteristics of acetate and polyester backings.


A survey of recent products to clean and preserve LPs. Some interesting, though undocumented assertions on the durability of LPs.


A test of Sound Guard by noted magazine writer, commissioned by the manufacturer. Feldman, whose independence must be questioned, reports favorably.

Grendysa, Peter A. "Taking Care of 78s." Record Exchanger 4, number 1, [n.d.], p. 23.

Author describes his experience washing 78s at the Milwaukee Public Library. Other methods of caring for 78s.

Hall, David. " Phonorecord Preservation: Notes of a Pragmatist."

Practical measures for record preservation.


Interesting article with useful description of sound archive policy.


Description of optimum design parameters of tone arm system necessary to cope with record warps.


Basic rules for disc care. Specific product recommendations. Warns against soap-based liquids and silicon cloths and sprays.

Brief but good advice on record care. Explains theory of dust damage. Warns against all liquids except distilled water.


Useful data on warping, including a restoration technique.


Essentially a new edition of earlier publications under the authorship of Cecil E. Watts. A good account of the problems of preservation and restoration, tied in with the use of Watts products.


Recommends use of Water-Pik for difficult to clean records. Helpful description of stylus cleaning procedure with good troubleshooting guide for unusual playback problems, e.g. low line voltage, ageing components, defective plugs.


General discussion of polymer science and rheology (study of the deformation and flow of materials) as applied to the development of compounds for records. Article is based on work done to develop the RCA quadradisc compound. Brief section on record wear.


Useful rules for record care. Author advocates use of the wet playing system.


Tests of the durability of diamond styli and record grooves. Experimental results of wet playing vs. dry playing. Also tests on elliptical vs. spherical styli but no conclusions are drawn.

Lotichius, Dietrich. "Safety First—Essential in the Preservation of

Description of procedures and safety measures at the German National Radio Archives at Hamburg.

Maier, Bruce R. "In Search of the Perfect Record Cleanser." High Fidelity 22, September 1972, p. 52-55.

Discussion of contaminants affecting phonograph records and specifications of a good cleanser.


Specific methods used in transcribing Maori cylinder recordings to tape. Technical details probably useful for constructing a cylinder playback device.


Wet playing technique for reducing noise in 78s. Vestigal arm is recommended for tracking warped 78s.


Interesting information on defects that can enter records during the manufacturing process.


The only major study of the subject to date. Does not include information on cylinders.

Pisha, B. V. "Record Cleaners; Do They Really Work?" Audio 59, March 1975, p. 20-3.

Survey of record cleaning devices with tests. Products reviewed include VacOrec, Staticmaster 500, Discwasher, Watts Parastat, Audio Technica Rotary Disc Cleaner and Record Cleaning Kit.


Restoration technique for tapes "curled" by excessive heat. Developed by NASA.

Discussion of differing shellac surfaces and commercial dubbing techniques, especially for records of the 1930s and 40s.


Thorough, but sometimes vague, description of handling procedures for magnetic tape. Includes data on long term storage, effects of magnetic fields, winding tension, etc.


Simple article on cleaning techniques. The author notes that some record stores in England have record cleaning machines available for customer use!


In terms of groove wear, Sank finds a slight advantage to the bi-radial stylus when used in the RCA BDR-1 Broadcast disc reproducer.

"Sneak Previews—Ball Sound Guard." The Absolute Sound 2, number 8, Summer/Fall 1976, p. 415-16.

Comments pro and con on Sound Guard, mostly pro. One reviewer notes that Sound Guard makes records "sound better."


Good article on the problem of fungal attack of 78s. Much useful information on 78s.


A good article covering most phases of preservation and restoration of disc recordings and cylinders. Some of Welch's suggestions may be controversial.


Description of various record care techniques, including an anti-warp procedure. Outlines the problems inherent in record washing.

Woodward, J. G. "The Scanning Electron Microscope—a New Tool in Disc-

A classic article, with excellent photographs of record wear caused by elliptical and spherical styli.


Description of archival storage conditions. Discussion of print-through in terms of tape type and temperature.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.


Blake, D. "Taking Care of Your Discs." Melody Maker 47, November 25, 1972, p. 34.


Cyber-Tronics, Inc., 200 Boylston Ave., Newton, MASS.?


Pisha, B. V. "Ball Corp. Sound Guard Record Preservative." Audio 60, April 1976, p. 62.


"The Proper Care and Feeding of Phonograph Records." Music Education Journal 57, January 1971, p. 76-7. (Adapted from C. E. Watts' Professional Methods for Record Care and Use.)


