

SHELLAC RECORDS (78's)

About Shellac Records

Shellac records, normally referred to as 78's because of their nominal playing speed, date back to the first half of the 20th Century, being largely replaced by vinyl 'microgroove' records during the 1950's. A wind-up gramophone was the original playing equipment, where a steel needle transferred the impulses from the surface groove to a mechanical diaphragm which made the content audible. With the later electric record players, a double sided stylus was used, one side for the 'new' vinyl records and the other to suit the wider groove width of the 78's.

Transfer of audio

Your shellac disc is played on a good quality turntable using an appropriate stylus and tracking weight for this type of record. It is actually played at 45 rpm and recorded into a specialised computer programme which digitally converts the speed to 78 rpm. Shellac records have a constant surface noise which can't easily be separated from the required audio, however we have various processing options to suppress this as much as possible, but it can never be completely eliminated. Records in poor condition present extra challenges as surface noise can sometimes be louder than the original recording, making it impossible to get a clean result. We do the best we can and frequently spend much longer on the job than our charge suggests. When processing is complete, the programme is 'burnt' to a disc and a simple text label printed and fitted. Finally, the CD is tested for correct operation and supplied with a library case.

It should be noted that a recordable CD can hold an absolute maximum of 80 minutes, so longer running times will require more than one CD.

Please ring us on **01329 238522** for further details.