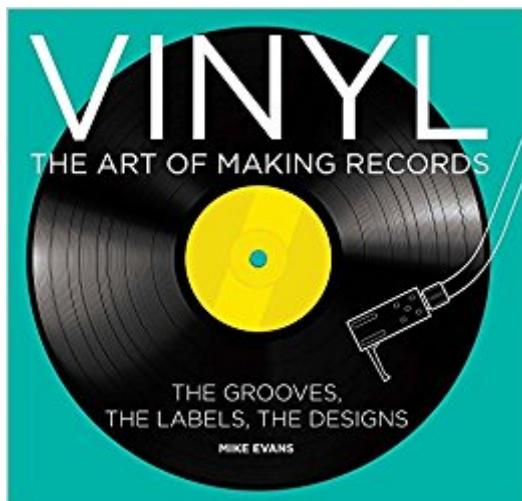


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Vinyl: The Art Of Making Records



Synopsis

In our increasingly digital world, audiophiles know that the real recording is on vinyl. That's why sales of vinyl continue to soar. Mike Evans offers a sumptuous visual celebration of this medium's fascinating history and triumphant rebirth. From weighty 78s to feisty 45s, from eccentric EPs to legendary LPs, he brings vinyl recordings off the shelves and out of the crates, spotlighting: The development of discs from shellac to vinyl. Run-out groove messages, picture discs, limited editions, colored vinyl, and deluxe 180g reissues that make fans and collectors rejoice. The records' iconic packaging and art, including the work of Reid Miles, Roger Dean, Peter Saville, and Hipgnosis. The history and development of various leading labels, such as Atlantic, Audio Fidelity, Casablanca, Decca, Def Jam, Motown, Verve, and more. Groundbreaking artists and their game-changing releases, from the first 45, Eddy Arnold's "Texarkana Baby," to the vinyl revival as led by Jack White's Lazaretto. No collection is complete without it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mike Evans is the author of *The Art of the Beatles* (Frederick Muller), *The Art of British Rock* (Frances Lincoln), *Bowie Treasures* (Carlton), *Elvis: A Celebration* (Dorling Kindersley), *Woodstock: Three Days that Rocked the World* (Sterling), and numerous other titles. A graduate of the Cavern Club with two singles on Decca under his belt, Evans played in The Liverpool Scene, supporting both Led Zeppelin and Bob Dylan in 1969. He subsequently moved into radio and writing for

Sounds, Melody Maker, and the Guardian. Since the late 1980s, Mike has written or edited over 60 books on music, movies, and fashion. He lives in France.

For fans of vinyl--it's history, how it's used to make LPs, record playing machines beginning with the earliest ones, examples of art for albums and singles, a synopsis of various important record labels and albums/singles, and other pretty neat information, this book is well worth the relatively low price--especially for a well made hardcover book. Inside the photos and graphics are bright, crisp and clean, the chronological chapters (by decades) are well laid out, and the writing is easy to follow. Even the book cover art of an LP has the feel of "grooves" in it reminiscent of a vinyl record--a nice touch. Beginning with "The Early Years", there's an easy to read timeline of the record and playing machines from 1877 up through 1925 when the first commercially released record came out, plus a look at later turntables. There's a look at how records are pressed using shellac and then vinyl over the years, and the first albums that were released, including several good photos inside pressing plants showing how masters are made and the actual pressing of the vinyl "blob" into an LP. Throughout you'll see various important artists and the records they released that are important, and a section on Alex Steinweiss who's considered the father of album cover art. There's also sections devoted to record labels beginning with the "V" discs and the change from shellac to vinyl. One great photo is a stack of 78 RPM records (about eight feet tall) with a man next to it holding a very short stack of albums that hold the same amount of music on the new LP format. Labels profiled include Decca, Atlantic, Blue Note, Verve, Folkways, Motown, Island, and a couple of others. Album covers from these labels are also included and are nicely reproduced. There's also a section on "Cult 45s" which is pretty interesting, along with the great jam sessions album series put out by Norman Granz which jazz fans will be familiar with. Something else sometimes ignored are spoken word albums which helps balance out the books subject. Nothing is gone into to deeply--just enough to give you an idea of the subject--which for many of us is just enough. There's four pages devoted to "Run Out Grooves" with examples which is pretty cool. There's also a list of record manufacturers, a directory of record shops, and an Index. But that's not that's all that's here, but I think you have an idea of what this book is about. For fans of records and most everything to do with them, this (almost) LP size book (with about 240 pages of text and graphics) is worth adding to your library. This is one of those times when a book is actually worth a bit more than it's price.

A very inexpensive and well produced addition to the burgeoning list of nostalgic books e.g., Dust and Grooves, Don't Sell at Any price, on records and collecting. This book is nicely done and has a

lot of interesting content which is well written. Deduct half a star for the author's obsession with Motown, Steve Wonder and Michael Jackson and another half for neglecting the Salsoul and ZTT labels, AoN and Frankie all of whom did a awful lot for vinyl.

The steal of the year for those interested, I mean really interested, in everything about glorious vinyl. Hardcore history about records and all that goes into presenting the final product from materials used to the artwork selection right down to the shrink wrap. Props in a big way to Mr Evans. You can feel it in the pages, this was a labor of love and appreciation. A fine tribute to that piece of art you can hold in your very own hands and analog it all the way into your soul.

This is a gorgeous, beautifully put together book. It now has pride of place on top of Ella Fitzgerald's piano here at the Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation. Gorgeous! And full of lots of interesting history. We highly recommend it - especially to music lovers over 50, like me, who saved every babysitting penny to buy albums. Yes, I'm old. But the music is too and we're both still great!

Great book, arrived quickly, I am delighted!

Being a vinyl junkie, it told me all the cool stuff that addicts need to know ...the first stereo record, the first 45 and the whole manufacturing process, I'll feel semi intelligent enough now to tackle any pub quiz

Really nice coffee table style book. A perfect book for music and vinyl record aficionados.

Arrival time was speedy I'm enjoying the book as I'm a avid vinyl collector. It was more than I expected. Price was very fair

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