

LP RECORD CLEANING PROCEDURE

MACHINE CLEANING

The most effective and easiest way to clean vinyl is to use a dedicated machine such as one of the Nitty Gritty or VPI models. If you are interested in this option please contact us for more details of the various models and prices.

MANUAL CLEANING

METHOD I

1. You will need a stiff brush. Buy a 38 mm. paintbrush of cheap quality. The good quality ones have too many rows of bristles and are not as effective.
2. Cut the length of the bristles down to about one third of their original length thereby making them stiff.
3. You must now proceed to drastically reduce the number of bristles. If you leave the original number the bristles will float on top of the LP and not dig deep into the grooves.
4. The brush will be made up of two or three rows of bristles. Cut one or two rows away completely leaving only one row. Cut the remaining row down to about a half of its original thickness.
5. Cut the remaining row in a wedge shape ensuring that the end of the bristles are all of the same length as one another i.e.. that end of the brush is square.
6. Make or buy cleaning fluid. We can supply concentrated genuine Nitty Gritty fluid that is diluted with purified or distilled water. Otherwise, mix about one teaspoonful of Golden Products LDC in a liter of purified water and mix the solution thoroughly. A good quality dishwasher is nearly as effective. It must not leave a residue on the LP. LDC is not suitable for machine washing.
7. Pour a small amount of the solution on to the LP in various places. No it will do no harm to the label. It will just make it nice and clean.
8. Now work the cleaning solution into the grooves thoroughly all round. Do not leave any part of the grooved section uncleaned.
9. You must feel the bristles of the brush trapped in the grooves so that they follow their circular direction.
10. If your brush floats on top of the grooves without feeling as if they are trapped in the grooves, like railway lines, you are not doing it properly. Perhaps you have not thinned out the bristles of the brush enough. If not try cutting the single row of bristles you left

into a thinner section ie. still 38 mm. wide but leaving a thinner row in width.

11. Clean both sides of the LP.

12. Now you will need a kitchen sink with two basins. Fill each about halfway with clean, cool water.

13. Completely immerse the LP in the first basin of water. Turn it over and do it again in the first basin. No the label will not be damaged. It will just be even cleaner than before.

14. Immerse the LP in the second basin of water. Two basins are essential if you are doing more than three or four LPs as the water in first basin gets quite dirty.

15. Stack the LPs in the wife's dish rack.

16. Start playing your LPs tomorrow afternoon.

METHOD II

17. Prepare to modify a vacuum cleaner or dustbuster.

18. Use the wide vacuum head attachment. Tell your wife to pretend she never had one. Glue a layer of rubber on the vacuum head to that it does not make contact with the LP. Do not use foam as it retains water and will just keep on re-wetting the LP. You can cut rubber from a motorcar or bicycle tube. Use epoxy to glue it on as, if it comes off during vacuuming, as it will if you use any other glue, it will destroy the LP. I have never once got superglue to glue anything satisfactorily but you can try it if you wish. No! contact adhesive is not strong enough.

19. If you use a proper household vacuum cleaner you must drastically reduce the force of the suction. Some vacuum cleaners have a slide that you can open to reduce suction by admitting air from a point above the suction head. It helps but it is not nearly enough. Drill four or five large holes in the top of the vacuum head, each at least 6 mm. diameter, to reduce suction considerably. If you enjoy the taste of detergent and mud you can try doing it by mouth.

20. Now vacuum the side of the record you have cleaned. Repeater for the reverse side.

21. Do not put the record back in the sleeve unless you have allowed it to dry for at least half an hour.

22. You can play your LP anytime after vacuuming it.

GENERAL NOTES

1. Paper sleeves are the best because they breath. Plastic sleeves are the worst because they don't.

2. The worst enemy of your LP is careless handling followed by playing it without cleaning it. Playing LPs without cleaning them is also the worst enemy of your stylus.

3. The dust in the grooves of the LP acts like grinding paste and wipes out irreplaceable information, in the grooves, with each play. It also accelerates the wear rate off the stylus tip.

4. If, after cleaning your LPs as described above, when you have played them your stylus has a soggy, wet mess hanging on to it, your brush has not dug deep enough into the grooves so clean the LP again but properly this time.

5. Do not put your clean LP back into a dirty sleeve. The ideal is a new sleeve. Alternatively, using a slightly damp cloth, wipe out the inside of the sleeve. Hold it open to dry before inserting the LP. Moisture makes mold and mildew. Mold and mildew eat vinyl. If you don't feel like wiping out the sleeve, hold it upside down and blow as hard as possible into them paying special attention to the corners.

6. When you have recovered from step 5 play your LP.

7. When using Method 1, any minerals in the water will be left as deposits on the LP. To avoid this you can combine Methods 1 and 2 to make a really good job of it. After bathing the LP you can then the water off it using a vacuum cleaner as in method 1. In this case it will only be necessary to immerse the LP in one basin.

8. Happy listening!