

GRADING

- M-** Just this side of mint. Few things in this world are perfect, so we don't use M. In fact, we very seldom use M-
- E+** A choice copy with no wear whatsoever.
- E** Excellent. Virtually no trace of groove wear with only minimal traces of use and handling.
- E-** An above average record with a slight degree of groove wear, but not enough to seriously detract from its audio quality.

- V+** Obviously well played, but still enjoyable. Noticeable graying in the grooves.
- V** Very well worn, but listenable. Expect the surface noise to be significant. There may be some stressed grooves.
- V-** Wiped out. Played with the right equipment, however, you may still derive a certain degree of pleasure from a record in this condition.
- P** Possibly unplayable.

Note that grading is visual! Double pluses and minuses are used when needed to more accurately describe a record's condition (i.e., E-- falls between E- and V++). If the two sides differ, the lower grade is used. If they differ markedly, a combination grade such as V+/E-- may be employed. Please note that visible graininess will always be described on any record grading E or better, even if the record in question might be expected to exhibit such surfaces (Victor Scrolls, HMVs and Deccas, for instance). Graininess will also be described on lower grade records when the condition is more pronounced. Brown wax cylinders are graded audibly (unlike any other records in this catalog). Each cylinder is assigned a numerical value between 1 and 9, with 1 being totally inaudible and 9 being as new.

The abbreviation **DNS** stands for "does not sound," which means that the listed defect is totally silent when played on modern equipment using a properly sized stylus. The abbreviation **TOK** stands for "tracks OK" and is used to describe a defect that appears to be serious but which does not cause the record to skip or repeat (again, when played using the right equipment and stylus). The abbreviation **NAP** stands for "not affecting play," is used in the same way, but for less serious defects. You should expect such defects to sound, though they may not depending on your audio equipment.

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