

ABOUT MATRIX NUMBERS AND CATALOGUE/SIDE/FACE NUMBERS

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1A/1B

1A and 1B are two totally different lists:

1A is based on **matrix numbers** and is as complete as possible.

1B is based on **catalogue numbers (side numbers, face numbers)** and refers the user back to the 1A file.

Both the 1A file and its parallel 1B version contain:

(1) material recorded by The Gramophone Company for its Gramophone and/or Zonophone labels. Zonophone was a cheap sub-label sometimes used instead of the GramCo label.

(2) Victor : material legitimately leased from The Gramophone Company by Victor, its sister company.

(3) Polyphon (inside Germany) and Opera Disc (USA) : post take-over (semi- legitimate).

(4) Several bootleg (pirate) labels use GramCo material illegitimately.

MATRIX NUMBERS

A **matrix number** is a unique number, linked to a certain recording. Normally it forms part of a chronological sequence of recordings made during a certain recording session or belongs to a subsequent different recording session.

A matrix number nearly always consists of a **numerical part (one or more digits)** preceded or followed by a **letter or a letter combination**. While the numerical part of the matrix number indicates the **chronological order**, the letter or letter combination contains extra information: it not only gives us a clue about the **size** of the recording (7", 10" or 12"), but at the same time it tells us **which recording engineer made the recording**.

Normally the matrix number can be found stamped into the empty/dead wax between label and end of groove. Embossed. It can often be found in handwritten form under the paper label.

As a rule it is never printed on the paper label. The 1900 recordings, which have no paper label, have the matrix number scratched into the label area.

CATALOGUE/SIDE/FACE NUMBERS

The fact that a recording was allocated a catalogue number (or side number), means that a recording was officially issued. Recordings that were never issued are not listed on the 1B list.

The 1A discography, however, contains **all recordings** that were made, no matter if a recording was issued or not.

In other words, the 1A list is **more accurate, more complete** than the 1B list, which only contains **officially issued** material.

Suppose one only has the catalogue number of an issued recording and one wants to find out more about this record/recording. One just has to look up the side number on the 1B list and find the corresponding matrix number on that list. With the corresponding matrix number on the 1B list, the user goes over to the 1A matrix number list and finds there all the available details of the recording.

If the user only knows the number on the paper label, he/she is advised to first check the 1B list. From there the user can look up the corresponding matrix number and is referred to the matrix number on the 1A list, where the user can find all the available discographical data he/she wants.

On a record copy the catalogue/side/face number can be found in two places:

On the **paper label** in the 6 o'clock position and also stamped into the **empty/dead wax** (between label and groove end).

Number on paper label and in empty/dead wax should always be identical.