

Comments and Cautions

[1] DURING INITIAL PLAYBACK the stylus will accurately mate with the grooves of a thoroughly cleaned disc resulting in improved tracing. Depending upon the quality of the pressing, type of stylus previously employed, condition of the surface and previous cleaning efforts, several plays may be required to complete this process and to reveal the true quality of the disc in hand.* Records should be dry wiped after each playback. Material deposited upon the stylus during this process is readily removed with available stylus brushes.

[2] CARBON FIBER BRUSH CLEANING: A previously used CFB can be cleaned by soaking 1/4-3/8" of the tips overnight in full strength Cleaner followed by 3 brief soak & rinse cycles in distilled water. Don't touch fibers with your fingers. Periodic treatment with a ZeroStat® type device will keep the brush in full vigor.

[3] When cleaning pre-1910 or extremely dirty, greasy, or moldy pressings, it may be necessary to repeat step (1). **PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTION:** To safely clean Pre-1910 shellac pressings, use a solution of 1 part **CLEANER** to 2 parts distilled water.

[4] EDISON DIAMOND DISCS: extra care must be taken to avoid wetting the outer edge and the spindle hole (areas where the core is exposed). Also avoid wetting paper labels as the top printed label is glued to pressed-in under label. Immediately sop up any liquid that accidentally touches these areas. Never immerse a Diamond Disc. Allow records to air-dry for 2-6 hours before storage.

[5] SHELLAC PRESSINGS: "dish-warped" records must be cleaned with custom support and gentle handling during cleaning to avoid breakage.

[6] LABEL FADE: OkeH maroon and Victor Red Seal labels are especially likely to fade. Center-start Pathe' records have etched label areas which must be kept dry or filler pigment will wash away.

[7] VICTROLAC PRESSINGS: these discs often continue to exude an oily film which will require occasional recleaning.

*[8] Common Causes of Noisy Grooves after Cleaning & Playback: noisy surfaces after cleaning & 2-3 plays usually result from either 1) need for another distilled/reverse osmosis water source, 2) not removing enough Cleaner prior to the rinse, 3) not thoroughly rinsing, 4) static charges induced by over drying or 5) worn, damaged or simply inferior quality vinyl.

If you're having trouble getting the results you'd expect of our products or have other record cleaning related questions/comments, please contact us by phone, fax, email or letter.

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Suggestions for using our suggested cleaning method with Vacuum Cleaning Machines:

With proper attention to detail, fluids can be removed from disc recordings as effectively by either manual methods or with the assistance of a vacuum driven pickup. Limitations to the efficiency and effectiveness of the latter approach primarily involve the design of the vacuum orifice. The slot in the vacuum wand of most machines is shaped and sized in such a manner that fluids tend to be evaporated as much as sucked through the tube. This results in sufficient turbulence at the face of the vacuum slot to aerosol fluids onto the vacuum strips and the record. At the least this necessitates that the wand be rinsed between wash & rinse steps, slowing the process down.

Modifications for VPI and similar machines:

- 1) Purchase a second wand and column, dedicating one to the wash cycle and another to the rinse.
- 2) Remove & rinse the single wand in distilled water between each wash-rinse step.
- 3) Use a small, notched aluminum loaf pan or similar container partially filled with distilled water & either raise it to the wand or lower the wand into the container sitting on the deck of the machine.
- 4) Manually remove the Cleaner & use the vacuum to remove fluids following the distilled water rinse.

Allow the vacuum wand one revolution plus a finger width and stop. ** Final drying of the record surface & label area should only be accomplished by air drying at ambient temperature to prevent statically charging the cleaned surface.

* Cleaning fluids should be applied to the brush and then dispersed about the disc rather than directly to the record surface.

** Rinse water can be applied directly to the record surface but the brush should be well wetted whenever it contacts the disc. We do not find the brushes supplied with current record cleaning machines to be adequate for either cleaning or rinsing. In our hands, the back & forth scrubbing motion described in our Cleaning Procedure affords a more consistent result than holding a brush down to a rotating record, even when bi-directional rotation is used and do not recommend this approach.

Pad Replacement for Cleaning Brushes:

Remove the existing brush pad by peeling back the fabric AND the tape film which holds the pad in place*. Use the old film and/or your finger tips to roll up any adhesive which may remain on the rubber handle surface. The replacement pads are a sandwich consisting of a fabric pad, double sided tape and a backing paper. *Warm brushes & pads to 80-90°F* Working with the fabric face toward you, peel a corner of the tape film AND fabric toward you (Don't pull the fabric off of the tape!). When a corner is free peel about 1/3 of the backing paper back upon itself to expose part of the tape film.

Align a short side of the pad with the exposed adhesive tape along a short edge of the handle bottom. When the edge of the pad is positioned, peel back the rest of the backing & smooth the pad onto the surface of the handle. Reseat if necessary; wrinkling is prohibited! Roll the edges of the pad onto the handle sides. The fine edge of film (~1/32") which may be visible along the long edges of the pad should be pressed onto the rubber surface with a sliding finger motion. Don't transfer adhesive from you fingers to the cleaning pad surface. Allow adhesive to set for 48 hrs. before use. Then...Get back to cleaning those records!

Strip Replacement for Vacuum Wands

The general directions for replacing brush pads should be used when replacing the strips that line the slot of the vacuum wand on VPI, Moth, Nitty Gritty & similar record cleaning machines. Debris from old strips can usually be removed with common hydrocarbon solvents [use in well ventilated area] or the surface of the tube smoothed down with a single-edged razor blade.



The Disc Doctor's Stylus Cleaner does not leave a residue on the stylus or cantilever.

Michael Fremer reviews & recommends this product in the Nov. 2000 issue of Stereophile.

For The Sound You Thought You Bought

THE DISC DOCTOR'S



MIRACLE RECORD CLEANER

LPs, 45s, Shellac & Plastic 78s, Edison Diamond Discs

**ONE ARCHIVE QUALITY CLEANING IS
ALL A DISC WILL EVER NEED***

NO MATTER IF ITS A VINYL, SHELLAC OR DIAMOND DISC RECORDING...
NO MATTER HOW WELL YOU'VE CARED FOR YOUR RECORDINGS...
NO MATTER HOW EXACTING YOUR PLAYBACK SYSTEM... **UNLESS YOU'VE CLEANED YOUR RECORDS WITH THE DISC DOCTOR'S MIRACLE RECORD CLEANER AND BRUSHES** YOU'VE YET TO ENJOY ALL THE MUSIC YOUR RECORDS HAVE TO OFFER!

Used by The Rodgers & Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound, The Yale University Historical Sound Recordings, The Center for Popular Music and The Boston Public Library. Recommended by Vintage Jazz Mart; Dr. David Evans, Prof. of Music, University of Memphis; Nighthawk Records; Raymond R. Wile, noted Diamond Disc collector & Edison authority; Primyl Vinyl Exchange Newsletter; Listener Magazine; Positive Feedback; Audiophile Voice; Ultimate Audio; The Absolute Sound and Stereophile; Richard Foster, Phonogram.

Every record, even if thought to have been cleaned by other methods, is soiled with a wide range of dirt and contaminants, including mold and mildew. All vinyl pressings are also coated with sticky mould-release compounds. Contaminants between the groove and diamond stylus or steel needle cause mistracking and are abrasive causing unnecessary, excessive wearing of both record and stylus. By interfering with proper groove tracing, dirty records produce inaccurate, noisy sound.

A SAFE, EFFECTIVE, ONE-TIME CLEANING SOLUTION HAS NOW BEEN DEVELOPED.

Hundreds of pressings have been cleaned to complete satisfaction; in no case could more contaminants be removed from a once cleaned record. *IF CLEANED USING THE SUGGESTED PROCEDURE AND WITH THE DISC DOCTOR'S MIRACLE RECORD BRUSHES, ONE CLEANING IS ALL A RECORD WILL EVER NEED.* *Just keep it free of dust, fingerprints, and other contaminants and it won't need to be cleaned again. Dry brushing with a carbon fiber brush for vinyl or velvet duster for shellac, acetate & Diamond Disc is all the maintenance necessary.

EVERY RECORD IN YOUR COLLECTION SHOULD BE CLEANED BEFORE YOU PLAY IT AGAIN, & EVERY ADDITION TO YOUR COLLECTION SHOULD BE CLEANED BEFORE PLAYING.

The requirements for a cleaner that will safely clean any type of disc record are strict. It must:

- 1) Be safe for repeated use on all types of synthetic plastic discs (vinyl, filled vinyl, styrene, and other formulations such as Victrolac or the phenolic resin playing surface of Diamond Discs) and all types of shellac and acetate recordings.
- 2) Readily clean away all contaminants usually found on records, whether gritty, sticky or greasy.
- 3) Clean away mold or mildew and remove spores to inhibit regrowth.
- 4) Not contain isopropyl alcohol, which can dissolve shellac surfaces, and cause the leaching of plasticizers from synthetic plastic pressings making them brittle and subject to excess wear.
- 5) Not leave any residue on the record after cleaning.

THE DISC DOCTOR'S MIRACLE RECORD CLEANER, an extra strength formula, can be safely used to clean LPs, 45s, shellac and plastic 78s, acetates, lacquers and Edison Diamond Discs. Approximately 1/4 teaspoon (1.25 ml) is all that is needed per side for 12" discs. Average condition pressings are routinely cleaned with a diluted solution {see Preparations}.

THE DISC DOCTOR'S MIRACLE RECORD BRUSHES are designed for a lifetime of use, have replaceable working surfaces, and are available in sizes matched to every disc record format for the safest and most efficient cleaning.

PROPER CLEANING PROCEDURES ARE VITAL! EXTENSIVE TESTS HAVE SHOWN THAT THE SUGGESTED MANUAL CLEANING PROCEDURE AFFORDS SUPERIOR RESULTS AT MINIMAL COST, WHILE PROVIDING EXCELLENT INSURANCE AGAINST RECORD BREAKAGE AND LABEL FADING.

COMMENTS ON MACHINE ASSISTED CLEANING Cleaning may be facilitated by vacuum-assisted removal of **CLEANER** and rinse solutions. **MIRACLE RECORD BRUSHES** sized to the record surface are the only recommended applicators for cleaning & rinsing. (NON-VINYL DISCS REQUIRE FULL PLATTER SUPPORT TO PREVENT BREAKAGE).

PLASTIC PHONOGRAPH RECORDS: This category includes LPs; 45s; Acetate pressings; 78s such as RCA Victor DeLuxe, those made after 1956, most Victor "Program Transcriptions" & Edison Diamond Discs (see Comments & Cautions before cleaning).

SHELLAC PHONOGRAPH RECORDS: This category includes 78 rpm laterals, such as Victor, Columbia, Brunswick, etc.; 33 1/3 rpm Victor "Program Transcriptions" pressed in shellac and 78 rpm verticals from Pathe, OkeH, Paramount, Vocalion, etc.

THE GENERAL DIRECTIONS FOR CLEANING MICRO-GROOVE 33 1/3 AND 45 RPM RECORDS ALSO APPLY TO ACETATE PRESSINGS, AND 78 RPM PLASTIC & SHELLAC RECORDINGS.

WHAT YOU NEED TO GET STARTED

- 1) **THE DISC DOCTOR'S MIRACLE RECORD BRUSHES**, matched to record size & surface for safe, efficient, Wet and Dry cleaning applications.
- 2) distilled water or equivalent; a clean container and one for waste.
- 3) soft, 100% cotton terry cloth rags for damp drying; course, flat sheet non-perfumed toilet tissue can also be used.
- 4) dish drainer: common vinyl-covered wire unit for final air drying.

BRUSHES USED TO CLEAN SHELLAC DISCS MUST NOT BE USED ON VINYL PRESSINGS

PREPARATIONS

A) **Work Surface:** a flat, firm surface such as a kitchen table. A smooth surface under the record is needed to avoid scratching it. A piece of heavy plastic table cloth or oilcloth will protect the record and prevent wetting the table itself. The ribbed pad accompanying the dish drainer, a soft vinyl sink protector mat with raised ribs to channel water from the underside of the record or a turntable platter pad are alternative supports for the record.

Full area support is required for thorough scrubbing. Using a second platter mat on top of the primary work surface eliminates the need to clean the lower surface as you go from one side of the disc to the other. Some users prefer to clean one side of a set of discs, holding them in a vinyl covered dish rack or 2 until they're ready to repeat the process on the second sides.

B) **Solution Strength:** as purchased, **THE DISC DOCTOR'S MIRACLE RECORD CLEANER** is an extra strength solution safe for cleaning every disc recording you own. Average condition vinyl pressings and well cared for shellac and Diamond Discs can be cleaned with a solution of 2 parts **CLEANER** to 1 part distilled water.

C) **Pre-brushing:** for excessively dirty shellac or acetate pressings & Edison Diamond Discs, a pre-brushing to remove loose dirt & debris is recommended before regular cleaning. Stand each dry record vertically on a piece of paper and dry brush the grooves with an inexpensive, tapered bristle paint brush (2-4" wide).

CLEANING PROCEDURE

1) **CLEANING** Place record flat on work surface (see above). Apply **CLEANER** to a **DISC DOCTOR'S MIRACLE WET BRUSH** so that the fiber surface is almost saturated with fluid [for an LP-sized brush, 1/2 tsp, (2-3 ml) for the initial wetting and approx. half as much for subsequent sides]. Lightly run the saturated brush around the disc to wet the entire surface. Avoid wetting the record label. Then firmly scrub 1/3 of the groove surface at a time with three back and forth sweeps. Apply enough pressure on the brush to insure good contact without crushing the pad into the grooves. There should have been enough fluid in the brush to provide a small puddle in front of the moving brush. Move this puddle around as cleaning progresses. When cleaning is complete, remove most of the

fluid by sweeping it up into the cleaning brush as it is lightly dragged around the disc surface. Remove residual fluid from the groove surface by cotton cloth, vacuum or cheap non-perfumed, flat sheet toilet paper. Remove residual **Cleaner** from the brush by gently squeegeeing the upper pile of the pad with the handle of a cleaned nylon toothbrush or your index finger, cleaned & degreased with a little **Cleaner**. Never try to take the record to complete dryness by scrubbing with cloth, paper or dry vacuum strips.

2) **RINSING*** Saturate second **WET BRUSH** with distilled water from clean container. Spread water around the disc and scrub as in Step (1). Avoid wetting label. Remove residual rinse water from the grooves with a second cotton square, rinsed vacuum wand or fresh toilet paper. Use the slightly dampened cloth or toilet paper to gently wipe label. Always remove excess water from labels by patting, not wiping.

3) The fine film of moisture which remains after the **Cleaner** is removed is advantageous to the rinse step. The film of moisture remaining after the rinse cycle is thoroughly degreased & any lint (from cloth or paper) remaining after the disc is completely dry, is readily removed with a clean carbon fiber brush.

4) **DRYING** After cleaning the reverse side, allow the record to thoroughly air dry (30-60 min), depending on room humidity and air flow) before playing or sleeving.

5) **POST CLEANING & REGULAR MAINTENANCE** When dry, apply a clean Carbon Fiber Brush to vinyl surfaces or a **DISC DOCTOR'S MIRACLE DRY BRUSH** to shellac, acetate & Edison Discs. Store in a fresh sleeve.

All recordings should be dry brushed before and after regular use. Use a clean, Carbon Fiber Brush on vinyl discs and THE DISC DOCTOR'S MIRACLE DRY BRUSH on shellac pressings and Edison Diamond Discs.

6) **ENJOY!**

*When desired an additional rinse can be applied using distilled water that contains 1-2 drops of the full strength **Cleaner** per liter or quart of water.