



SMASHED PLASTIC TEST PRESSING GUIDE

What is a Test Pressing?

A test pressing is a sample record that we press from your project's metal plates before we press your full order. We run this test, in order to make sure that your record meets your full & final approval before we press the total quantity that you've ordered.

What should you be looking & listening for on your Test Pressings?

On the test pressings that you receive, you should review a few things. Please make sure that the Matrix/Catalogue number is correct on the inner lead-out area at the end of each side of your test pressing and that it has an -A or -B, correctly marking each side (i.e. SPR-001-A). Please double-check that all of your audio is sequenced correctly on Side A and Side B, as you intended.

Play your test pressing as you would any other record that you'd enjoy, listening for the overall sound & balance. It is important to note that vinyl is an imperfect medium. You may hear the occasional "ticks" & "pops" but those are just a function of the material itself. We take many steps throughout the process to minimize those and create the best sounding reproduction of your audio possible but there are some elements of vinyl's (mostly beloved) sound that are inherent to the medium.

Why do you get multiple copies of the same Test Pressing?

You will receive 4 copies of your Test Pressing to review. If you find any issue or area of concern on one of the test pressings, please examine the other test pressings to see if that issue is occurring across all 4 of the copies. If you find that the issue is present on just one of the copies, we can determine if it was just something on that LP or a defect that occurred on just one copy's pressing. If it is an issue that occurs across all copies consistently, please let us know and we will examine the plates and determine if it is an issue at that level.

What should you do if you find a potential issue while reviewing your Test Pressing?

If you find what you think is a potential issue, please let us know. The whole point of pressing test pressings is to make sure that you are happy with the way your final record will sound and we want to work with you to make sure everything sounds great!

Confirm that the issue occurs in the same place across all of the copies that we delivered to you. Please document which side of the record and the approximate time where the issue is occurring (i.e. Side A, Track 2 – around 1:30 into the song). Please

send these details to info@smashedplastic.com, along with the title of your release and Catalog number in the subject line (i.e. Silver Apples – Contact – KPR007) and we will review our in-house copy of the test pressing to troubleshoot the problem and get back to you quickly with what we find.

What should you do if your Test Pressing seems to be skipping or your needle is sliding?

If you are experiencing any sort of skipping issue, the first thing to do is to check that your turntable is calibrated properly. Does your turntable have a tonearm counterweight that you have adjusted properly to make sure your stylus is tracing correctly? Does your turntable have an “anti-skate” adjustment? If your stylus is tracking too lightly, it may result in skipping or skating across the grooves. It may also create false, additive noise that is not there in the test pressing itself. Please try adjusting these to ensure that the turntable that you’re listening on is able to play your test pressing correctly.

Please also make sure that your stylus is not old or worn down. If you are experiencing any noise issues, clean your stylus and the test pressing that you are testing with a liquid cleaning solution made for vinyl LPs. We recommend D4+ by Discwasher, but there are many suitable & affordable options out there.

We recommend testing your test pressing on multiple turntables if you are experiencing any issues.

What should you do if everything sounds good?

After you’ve determined that everything sounds good, please let us know and we’ll get your project scheduled into production for its final run. Please email us at info@smashedplastic.com to let us know your test pressing is approved and we’ll get to work on scheduling everything into production!