

Audio timeline

[Music Cataloging at Yale](#) [1] ? [Sound recording cataloging](#) [2]

Note: this page was created as an aid for cataloging sound recordings.

Excerpted from *Preparing for the brave new world of sound recordings cataloging*

by Mary Huismann, University of Minnesota; used with permission

See the [complete power point presentation](#) [3] from the [2006 OLAC Conference](#) [4]

information also from Wikipedia and other sources

Year	Physical format	Content format
1870s	Phonograph cylinder	Analog; "hill-and-dale" grooves, vertical stylus
1895	Gramophone record	Analog; lateral grooves, horizontal stylus
ca. 1898	78rpm or 78s	disc first produced around 1898; popular from 1910-1950s; by 1910 actual speed ranged from about 78 to 80 rpm; size was 10 or 12 inches
1930s	Wire recording	Analog
1940s ¹	Reel-to-reel tape	Analog
	Magnetic tape	
1948	Vinyl record	Analog; lateral grooves, horizontal stylus also known as LP or long-playing records
1954		
1957	Stereophonic vinyl record	Analog; lateral/vertical stylus (each channel encoded 45 degrees to vertical)
1963 ²	Audio cassette	Analog; 1/8 in. tape width; 1 7/8 ips popular in the US through the 1990s
1964	8-track tape	Analog; 1/4 in. tape width; 3 3/4 ips in an endless loop cartridge
1969	Microcassette	Analog
1970		Dolby noise reduction introduced (cassettes)
1975	Betamax digital audio	"Dolby Stereo" cinema surround sound
1982	Compact disc	Digital; usually 4 3/4 in. diameter first available in Japan in October 1982, in Europe in February 1983, and in the US in March 1983
1985	CD-ROM	
1987	Digital audio tape (DAT)	cassette version of the CD; used in the recording industry until 2000; DAT players ceased production in 2005
1990s	Digital compact cassette	
1991	MiniDisc	
1992		WAVEform (WAV)
		Dolby digital surround cinema sound
		Dolby theatre system (DTS)
1993		Sony dynamic digital sound (SDDS)

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1995		MP3
1996	DVD	
1999 ³	Streaming audio	
1999	Super audio CD (SACD)	Windows media audio (WMA) (higher sampling rate, spatial sound capability)
2000	DVD-Audio	
2004	DualDisc	CD on one side, DVD on the other
2005	Playaway	

Cataloging guidelines:

Playaway [Guide to cataloging playaway devices](#) [5] (MLA/OLAC Playaway Cataloging Joint Task Force)
WAV, WMA, MP3: [Best practices for cataloging streaming media](#) [6] (OLAC Cataloging Policy Committee)

[OCLC](#) gives different dates; see www.oclc.org/bibformats/en/2xx/260.shtm [7] under *REC guidelines for \$c*

¹ OCLC gives this date as 1954

² OCLC gives this date as 1965

³ This date is from OCLC

Source URL: <https://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/audiotimeline>

Links

[1] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music> [2] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/sound-recording-cataloging> [3] <http://www.olacinc.org/drupal/conference/2006/huismann.ppt> [4] <http://www.olacinc.org/test/conference/2006.html> [5] http://www.olacinc.org/drupal/capc_files/playawaysPDF.pdf [6] http://olacinc.org/drupal/capc_files/Streaming_Media_RDA.pdf [7] <http://www.oclc.org/bibformats/en/2xx/260.shtm>