

Sound characteristics (RDA 3.16 & MARC 344)

[Music Cataloging at Yale](#) [1] ? [RDA](#) [2]

Note: this page was created with music cataloging in mind.

RDA 3.16 Sound characteristics

[\(3.16.1.1\)](#) Sound characteristics are technical specifications relating to the encoding of sound in a resource that include:

- type of recording ([3.16.2](#))
- recording medium ([3.16.3](#))
- playing speed ([3.16.4](#))
- groove characteristics ([3.16.5](#))
- track configuration ([3.16.6](#))
- tape configuration ([3.16.7](#))
- configuration of playback channels ([3.16.8](#))
- special playback characteristics ([3.16.9](#))

For instructions on recording additional characteristics of digitally encoded sound (e.g., audio encoding formats such as MP3), see 3.19.

[\(3.16.1.2\)](#) Sources of information

Use evidence presented by the resource itself (or on any accompanying material or container)

- If desired, take additional evidence from any source.

[\(3.16.1.3\)](#) Recording sound characteristics

If the resource consists primarily of recorded sound, record the sound characteristics in [3.16.1.1](#), as applicable to the resource, if they are considered important for identification or selection.

Optional addition: Record the sound characteristics listed above for a resource other than one that consists primarily of sound, as applicable, if they are considered important for identification or selection.

Record details of sound characteristics as instructed under 3.16.1.4

[\(3.16.1.4\)](#) Details of sound characteristics

Record details of any special equipment requirements for the playback of sound as instructed under 3.20.1.3:

(3.20.1.3) Recording equipment or system requirements:

Record any equipment or system requirements beyond what is normal and obvious for the type of carrier or type of file (e.g., the make and model of equipment or hardware, the operating system, the amount of memory, programming language, other necessary software, or any plug-ins or peripherals required to play, view, or run the resource).

Alternative: Record the equipment or system requirements as they are presented on the resource.

Example:

OCLC 826023537

538 __ SACD surround 5.1 requires multi-channel SACD player and compatible surround sound system; SACD stereo requires SACD player; CD audio playable on all standard CD players.

[\(3.16.2\)](#) Type of recording

the method used to encode audio content for playback (e.g., analog, digital).

[\(3.16.2.2\)](#) Sources of information

Use evidence presented by the resource itself (or on any accompanying material or container)

- If desired, take additional evidence from any source.

[\(3.16.2.3\)](#) Recording type of recording

Record the type of recording using an appropriate term from the list below:

- analog
- digital

If neither of the terms listed above is appropriate or sufficiently specific, use a term designating the type of recording as concisely as possible.

[Best practices for music cataloging](#) [3]: If feasible, record type of recording for all audio carriers.

(3.16.2.4) Details of type of recording

Record details of the type of recording if they are considered important for identification or selection.

MARC 344

Definition

Technical specifications relating to the encoding of sound in a resource.

Indicators

1st blank

2nd blank

Subfields

‡a	Type of recording ◦ The method used to encode audio content for playback (e.g., analog, digital)
‡b	Recording medium ◦ The type of medium used to record sound on an audio carrier (e.g., magnetic, optical)
‡c	Playing speed ◦ The speed at which an audio carrier must be operated to produce the sound intended
‡d	Groove characteristic ◦ The groove width of an analog disc or the groove pitch of an analog cylinder
‡e	Track configuration ◦ The configuration of the audio track on a sound-track film
‡f	Tape configuration ◦ The number of tracks on an audiotape
‡g	Configuration of playback channels ◦ The number of sound channels used to make a recording (e.g., one channel for a monophonic recording, two channels for a stereophonic recording)
‡h	Special playback characteristics ◦ An equalization system, noise reduction system, etc., used in making an audio recording

Source: LC MARC 21 format for [bibliographic date](#) [4]

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

Links

[1] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music>

[2] <http://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/rda>

[3] [http://bcc.musiclibraryassoc.org/BCC-](http://bcc.musiclibraryassoc.org/BCC-Historical/BCC2015/RDA_Best_Practices_for_Music_Cataloging_v1.1-150217.pdf)

[Historical/BCC2015/RDA_Best_Practices_for_Music_Cataloging_v1.1-150217.pdf](http://bcc.musiclibraryassoc.org/BCC-Historical/BCC2015/RDA_Best_Practices_for_Music_Cataloging_v1.1-150217.pdf)

[4] <http://www.loc.gov/marc/bibliographic/bd344.html>