



GZ ECCO

VINYLL

INTRODUCTION

Our objective is to present you the ways how GZ Media minimizes their ecological footprint and how even you may contribute to the efforts.

We're sharing this guide to bring you inspiration and show, how you can consciously relieve the environment through the right onfiguration of your vinyl record order and its particular components.

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1

ORDER LIFECYCLE



Making products green is not only about manufacturing procedures. Every single step of an order fulfillment has an impact on our planet. It all starts with product specification and goes all the way to type of transport you decide for to deliver goods to your end customer.



2

PRODUCT SPECIFICATION



Your own decisions make the difference. See our major recommendations and minimize ecological footprint of your product.

Click on hyperlinks to learn more.

- Supply digital audio for
- Order [only](#)
- Choose between
- Order [coated paper and/or cardboard sleeves and inserts](#)
- Avoid ordering even [such as poly-lined sleeves](#)
- Avoid [such as hot foil or lamination](#)
- Ask for
- Do not order printing on
- Order [instead of conventional shrinkwrap](#)
- Ask your account manager to check on [availability](#)

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MASTERING



STAMPERS

GZ offers **two manufacturing methods** to turn your audio into stampers, metalworks essential to press your discs.

DIRECT METAL MASTERING (DMM)

Audio files are processed and cut as groove into copper coating of metal plate. Once stampers are made and the plate's used-up, we recycle its coating and re-use it for another order.

LACQUER FOIL PROCESSING (LF)

Clean lacquer foil needs to travel from manufacturer (usually Japan) to recording studio until it's finally delivered to GZ factory. Production of stampers from LF requires 2 more steps than DMM, manufacturing Original (Father) and Positive (Mother), thus more chemicals need to be used. LF is aluminium plate with nitrocellulose coating which cannot be re-used or recycled once used-up.



DMM is recommended eco-friendly method with no transit burden, spending less energy and chemicals with shorter manufacturing process as well as with possibility to recycle used copper plates. Please note, GZ also offers in-house cutting of LFs but keep in mind this step would only reduce transit by half while DMM is transit free.

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PRESSING



TEST PRESSINGS (TPs)

There are moments when it is essential to check how your audio sounds on vinyl even before you place the order. We have couple options available.

PHYSICAL TPs

As standard you may order small batch of Physical TPs and review each of them piece by piece using your own equipment.

DIGITAL TPs

GZ offers Digital TPs, which are a physical test pressings transferred into digital high-end audio. The audio is taken from perfectly clean physical test pressings by turntable with setup following highest professional standards.



Ordering digital test pressings cuts transit burden to zero compared to physical ones that we airmail to you.

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PRESSING



COMPOUND

In GZ factory park we produce our own pressing compound and recycle vast majority of defective discs and side cuts. Your choice of vinyl disc type and colour decides how effective our recycling efforts can be.

WHAT CANNOT BE RECYCLED

It is not feasible to recycle picture discs. Discs with 2- and 3-colour effects can only be recycled for production of – ECO-MIX (see more details below).

RECYCLABLE COMPOUND AND ECO-MIX

Self-coloured (1-colour) discs, pressed from black or any other compound from our Vinyl Colour Swatch, are recycled and used further for production of discs of the same colour. Discs with 2- and 3-colour effects can be recycled into compound called ECO MIX.



ECO-MIX is 100% recycled compound made of production side cuts and left overs of any colour which cannot be used otherwise. With ECO-MIX, every disc of your order would be visually different.

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PACKAGING



MATERIALS

Components made of mixed materials such as poly-lined inner bags (half paper - half plastic), laminated or hot foil stamped sleeves cannot be recycled.



FSC certified materials come from recycled sources and/or well-managed forests registered and audited by Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), an international non-profit organization. Majority of printing materials that you can order at GZ are available with FSC certificate and provides best ratio of eco-responsibility and quality.

PRINTING

Ozone is a natural by-product of UV printing thus it's considered less ecologically appropriate than conventional or digital printing. Keep in mind that uncoated materials such as offset papers or reverse sides of cardboards are UV printed.



Conventional and digital printing allows using water based dispersion varnishes (GZ standard) and raw plant-based ink. Plant-based ink is available on demand and does NOT contain any cobalt or mineral oils. Combination of these substances will increase recyclability of your product.

WRAPPING

Conventional shrink-wrap is disposable plastic component.



Consider removing shrink-wrap from your order to avoid redundant waste or order 100% recycled PE overbags to decrease ecological footprint of your product.

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SHIPPING



TRANSPORT

We cooperate with carriers offering carbon (CO₂) neutral transportation. Solution is subject to survey as it's not available for all kinds of deliveries and destinations. Ask your account manager to check on service availability and cost, based on your order and shipping specifics.



Carriers providing CO₂ neutral solutions calculate their greenhouse gas emissions and invest equivalent resources in projects that aim to reduce emissions by the same amount.

SHIPPING BOXES



We ship your goods in up to 93% recycled and 100% recyclable shipping boxes.

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GZ COMMITMENTS & CONTRIBUTION



GZ is a part of the long-term change that aims to increase protection of the environment and nature. The change can make a real difference only if it is a joint effort of us, as a manufacturer, and our customers, who define the product. There are many steps, already taken or in a progress, that GZ makes to make its manufacturing sustainable.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

With support of national funds of the Czech Republic, GZ works on implementation of co-generation unit within GZ factory area. Test run deployment target has been set to March 2021.

The unit would be powered by natural gas and efficiently manage its power redistribution:



- *Cuts electricity transmission loss to minimum (in-house solution excluding external power plant).*
- *Electricity production generates heat which is utilized to power pressing plant and factory heating system.*

WASTE MANAGEMENT

1 INTERNAL RECYCLING

- Our primary target is to recycle and re-use production waste on our own.



- *Pressing House recycles their own compound – see PRESSING section.*
- *Copper coated metal plates used in DMM (see section MASTERING) are uncoated via galvanization process and further reused.*

2 EXTERNAL RECYCLING

- Our secondary target is to recycle production waste externally, if not possible within GZ factory.



- *Smelting plants recycle copper, metal and nickel, used for metalworks production - see MASTERING section.*
- *Contaminated pressing compound, that cannot be re-used at GZ, is used for manufacturing of industrial pipelines by a 3rd party.*

3 NEUTRALIZATION

- We utilize own in-factory sewage plant to neutralize contaminated water and separate toxic substances if cannot be fully neutralized.



- *Sewage plant enables sedimentation of dissolved metals and their further reuse*
- *We never release any toxic substances into sewers.*



GZ COMMITMENTS & CONTRIBUTION



LOCALIZED BUSINESS

Our company is primarily focused on minimization of production transit of all kinds via In-House/In-Country policy:

- We produce our own pressing compound as the only vinyl pressing plant in the market
- We manufacture and pack most of our portfolio within single factory park in Loděnice, CZE
- We cooperate with LOCAL suppliers/manufacturers

RESEARCH

We continuously research the market to find more ecologically appropriate alternatives to our current products.

These are some of our main interests:

- Recyclable adhesives and tapes
- Biodegradable shrink-wrap
- Recyclable wrapping/lamination

CERTIFICATES