

How to Date DGG Records and Sleeves

by Joost van der Net

The Table below is meant to be used in conjunction with information provided at the following webpage:
www.joostvandernet.nl/classical-music-on-lp/deutsche-grammophon-stereo-lps.html;
 the abbreviation 'fig.' in the Table refers to a figure displayed at this webpage.

Year	Info in dead wax of LP			Features of label printed on LP						Sleeve characteristics						
	'LAB' code engraved (fig. 1)	Misaligned typewriter engraving of catalogue number (fig. 5)	Regular engraving of catalogue number (fig. 8)	'Alle Hersteller' at 1 o'clock (fig. 9)	'Made in Germany' at 1 o'clock (fig. 10)	'Urheber' at 1 o'clock (fig. 11)	Tulip border (fig. 9 & 10)	Blue/white border (fig. 11)	Groove at 1 cm of spindle (fig. 12, 13)	Stitched sleeve (fig. 2, 3, 3b)	Date at back, f.i. 9/58 (fig. 3, 3b)	Yellow 'stereo' at base of cartouche (fig. 2, 4, 4b)	Red 'Stereo' Sticker pasted on front of sleeve (fig. 4, 4b)	Red 'Stereo' at base of cartouche (fig. 6, 6b)	Yellow bold 'stereo' at base of cartouche (fig. 7, 7b, 11, 11b)	'St 33' in double circle (2,4, 6, 7, 7b, 11, 14)
1958*																
1959																
1960																
1961																
1962																
1963																
1964																
1965																
1966																
1967																
1968																
1969																
1970																
1971																
1972																
1973																

1958* September through December only

The above table enables you to determine which records might originally have been sold in which sleeves.

Please note that records were often produced first and stacked in the factory, waiting for sleeves to arrive. As sleeves cost more to manufacture than records, LPs often had to wait a considerable time before enough sleeves were manufactured, in print run after print run. Additional print runs could, over the years, adopt more 'advanced' sleeve designs. This is why, for instance, a record manufactured in 1959, with a misaligned typewriter engraving in the dead wax, might eventually be sold in a sleeve dated 3/66 at the back & sporting a yellow bold 'stereo' at the base of the cartouche on the front.

These are the combinations of records and sleeves you're most likely to find when buying records in the second hand market:

(1958) LAB + misaligned typewriter + Alle Hersteller + tulip border + stitched sleeve + date at back + yellow 'stereo' at base of cartouche;
(1959-1960) misaligned typewriter + Alle Hersteller + tulip border + date at back + yellow 'stereo' at base of cartouche + red sticker;
***RED STEREO** *(1960-1965)* regular engraving + Alle Hersteller + tulip border + date at back + red 'stereo' at base of cartouche;
(1966-1969) regular engraving + Made in Germany + tulip border + yellow bold 'stereo' at base of cartouche;
(1969-1972) regular engraving + Urheber + blue/white border + yellow bold 'stereo' at base of cartouche.

*DGG records advertized by sellers as 'RED STEREO' normally feature the (1960-1965) combination of record and sleeve listed above.

Eager collectors might want to note that sleeves sporting the yellow bold 'stereo' at the base of the cartouche *and* a date at the back (ranging from about 5/65 to 6/66), quite often contain the Alle Hersteller records some people (erroneously, to be sure) consider to be more collectible than records Made in Germany.