

GZ ECO VINYL

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this guide is to demonstrate how we at GZ Media have worked to minimize our ecological footprint, and how you as a customer can contribute to these efforts.

We hope this serves as a source of inspiration, and as a resource to help you choose the most sustainable products.

Content of this document applies to GZ Media, a. s. and their Czech Republic-based facilities and distribution only.

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1

ORDER LIFECYCLE



Making products 'green' is not only about the manufacturing process. Every single step of order fulfillment has an impact on our planet. Eco-friendly decisions can be made at all stages, from the materials used to create the product itself, all the way to the method of final transportation.



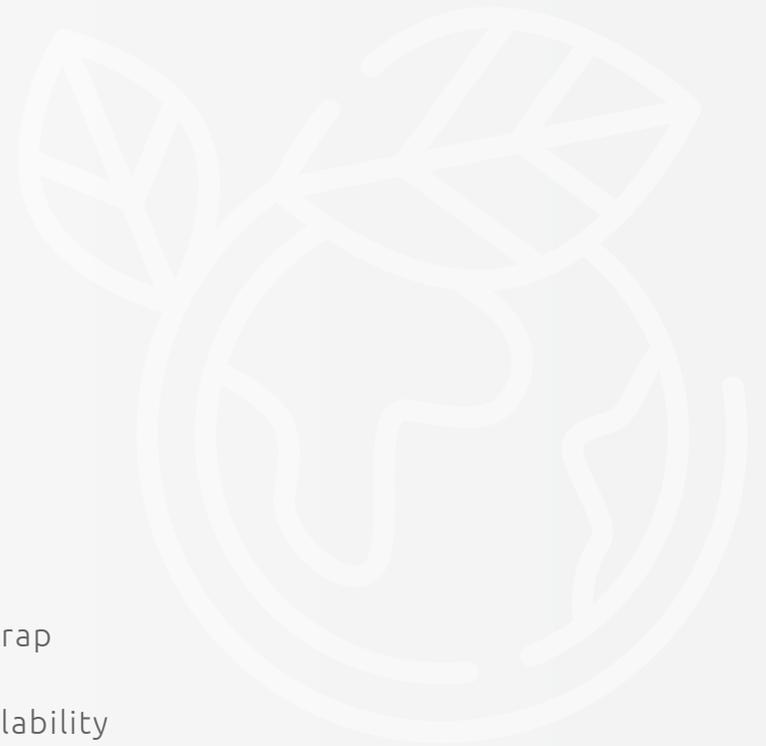
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PRODUCT SPECIFICATION



The decisions you make as a customer have a significant impact. We've prepared a list of recommendations to help you minimize the ecological footprint of your product. **Click the hyperlinks to learn more.**

- Supply digital audio for [audiobooks](#)
- Order [audiobooks](#) only
- Choose between [audiobooks](#) and [audiocassettes](#)
- Order [audiobooks](#) coated paper and/or cardboard sleeves and inserts
- Avoid ordering even [audiobooks](#) with [audiocassettes](#)
- Avoid [audiobooks](#) with [audiocassettes](#) such as hot foil or lamination
- Ask for [audiobooks](#) with [audiocassettes](#) with [audiocassettes](#) sleeves
- Order [audiobooks](#) with [audiocassettes](#) instead of conventional shrinkwrap
- Ask your account manager to check on [audiobooks](#) with [audiocassettes](#) availability



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MASTERING



STAMPERS

GZ offers two methods for cutting audio that have an impact on stamper production and the environment: Direct Metal Mastering (DMM) and Lacquer Foil Processing. Both of these methods can produce great sounding vinyl records but have varying degrees of eco-friendliness.

DIRECT METAL MASTERING (DMM)

Audio files are processed by our engineers and then cut into the copper coating on a metal plate.

Once stampers are made, the plate and its coating are recycled and used for future orders.

LACQUER FOIL PROCESSING (LF)

Blank lacquer foil travels from the manufacturer (usually in Japan) to a cutting studio, and finally to our facilities here at GZ. Once the audio has been cut, the production of stampers from LF requires two additional steps compared to DMM: manufacturing of the Original (also known as the 'Father') and the Positive ('Mother'). These additional steps require the use of more chemicals and higher energy consumption.

LF is made by coating an aluminum plate with nitrocellulose which renders the plate unrecyclable.



DMM is our recommended eco-friendly option due to its lower chemical and energy consumption, and the lack of material transportation.

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PRESSING



TEST PRESSINGS (TPs)

It is important to review how your audio sounds on vinyl before we begin manufacturing your product. To facilitate this, we produce Test Pressings (TPs) which can be made using one of the following methods: Physical TPs or Digital TPs.

PHYSICAL TPs

The standard method is to press and ship a small batch of Physical TPs. The customer reviews each copy using properly calibrated stereo equipment.

DIGITAL TPs

GZ offers Digital TPs, which are physical test pressings transferred to high-end digital audio. The highest professional standards and equipment are used to capture audio from a pristine physical test pressing, resulting in a high fidelity digital listening experience.



Ordering digital test pressings cuts the transit burden down to zero compared to physical copies which are shipped by air.



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PRESSING



COMPOUND

At the GZ factory we produce our own vinyl compound and recycle the vast majority of defective discs and trimmed flash (the excess vinyl trimmed from the pressed disc). Your choice of vinyl disc type and colour is crucial in determining 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 the production of ECO-MIX vinyl (see more details below).

RECYCLABLE COMPOUND AND ECO-MIX

Single colour discs pressed with black or any other compound from our Vinyl Colour Swatch are recycled and used for production of future discs of the same colour. Discs with 2- and 3-colour effects can be recycled into compound called ECO-MIX with audio quality preserved at the same time.



ECO-MIX is 100% recycled compound made of trimmed flash and left overs from any colour which cannot otherwise be reused. With ECO-MIX, every disc in your order will look different from the last which is something many vinyl consumers enjoy.

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PACKAGING



MATERIALS

Components made of mixed materials such as 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. The majority of printed materials you can order at GZ are available with FSC certificates and provide the best ratio of eco-responsibility and quality.

PRINTING

Keep in mind that ecologically friendly inks may not be applicable for UV printed materials such as offset papers or for printing on the reverse sides of cardboard.



Raw plant-based inks and water based dispersion varnishes are GZ standard. Plant-based inks do NOT contain any cobalt and mineral oils. Combining these substances will increase the recyclability of your product.

WRAPPING

Conventional shrink-wrap is a disposable plastic component.



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

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SHIPPING



TRANSPORT

We utilize carriers offering carbon (CO₂) neutral transportation. This is subject to availability based on destination and the details of your delivery.

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.

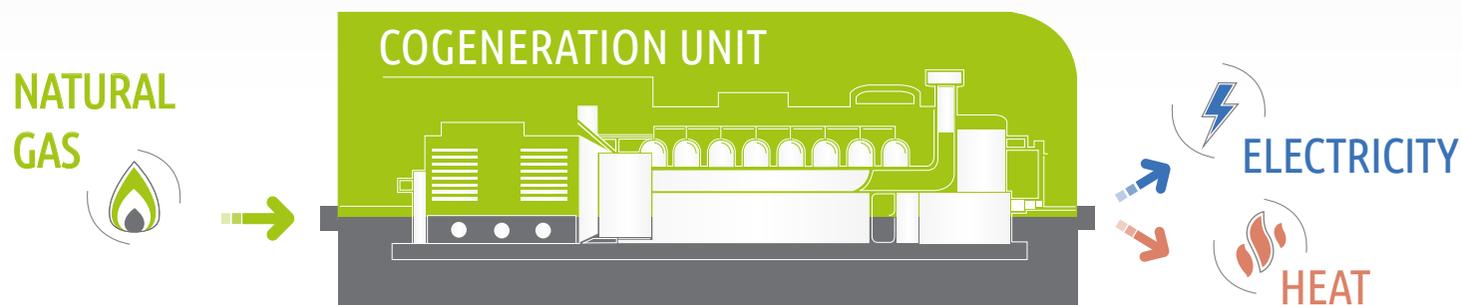
GZ's efforts are part of the long-term change that aims to increase protection of the environment and nature. This change can only make a real difference if it is a joint effort between us, as a manufacturer, and our customers, who define the product. There are many steps, already taken or in progress,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

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

With the support of national funds from the Czech Republic, GZ installed a co-generation unit within the factory in March 2021. The unit is powered by natural gas and efficiently manage its power redistribution in the following ways:



- *Cuts electricity transmission loss to a minimum (an in-house solution excludes the need for external power sources).*
- *Electricity production generates heat which is utilized to power the pressing plant and the factory's heating system.*



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GZ COMMITMENTS & CONTRIBUTION



WASTE MANAGEMENT

1 INTERNAL RECYCLING

Our primary target is to recycle and reuse production waste internally.



- *The pressing department recycles their own compound (see PRESSING section).*
- *Copper coated metal plates used in DMM (see MASTERING section) are uncoated via the galvanization process and reused.*

2 EXTERNAL RECYCLING

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



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

3 NEUTRALIZATION

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



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



GZ COMMITMENTS & CONTRIBUTION



LOCALIZED BUSINESS

GZ Media is primarily focused on the minimization of production transit of all kinds via our In-House/In-Country policy:

- We are the only vinyl pressing plant in the world to produce its own vinyl compound
- We manufacture and pack most of our portfolio within a single factory park in Loděnice, CZE
- We cooperate with local suppliers and manufacturers

RESEARCH

We continuously research the market to find more progressive ecological alternatives to our current products.

These are some of our main interests:

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

CERTIFICATES