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The Sweet Sound Of Vinyl Records

By Glen B. Porter

When I was a kid growing up, vinyl records were the primary source used by music lovers to listen to their favorite songs. Eight tracks had been going out of style fairly rapidly and the latest trend was the cassette tape. Even with the passing of the eight tracks and the emergence of the cassette tape, many music lovers still kept with traditional vinyl records for their listening pleasure.

We have certainly come a long way since those heady days of vinyl records. Compact discs (CDs) are all the rage today, and with good reason. The sound quality is truly pure and clear, and you almost feel as if you are in a sound-proof room when you focus your listening solely on the CD player. The clean, crisp sound that comes out is a huge improvement from the vinyl records that crackled as they played.

However, it is that crackling sound that is only offered by the vinyl records that I find so appealing. There is something about that sound that is so neat & even soothing to listen to especially when I'm in a nostalgic mood. Perhaps it is due to the crackling sound which is tied so closely to the songs I loved when I was a child. I simply cannot separate the two.

I actually took notice of my love for that unique antique sounds of the crackling vinyl records by accident. A really good friend of mine had offered to be the disc jockey for my wedding without charge. Of course I did not refuse the kind wedding gift. However there was a catch. My friend played only vinyl records, nothing else.

This was certainly not a problem for me. I had wanted to skip all of the trendy pop-chart music of today and focus on older dance music and classic songs available on vinyl records. My friend started playing dinner songs at the reception. He chose classic Irish music during the wedding meal.

The whole reception hall had kept silent during the prayer. And once the prayer had ended, the DJ slowly placed the needle on the record and the quiet room began filling up with soft crackling sounds followed by lovely Irish music. The transition was magnificent and the memory of the moment the crackling sounds overtook the reception hall still gives me chills. You simply can not replicate that with a compact disc.

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Technologically, we have come a long way when it comes to music. However, we should not completely let go of the little gems from our past. The haunting sounds of the crackling vinyl records help us truly touch the past even if for just a moment.

Glen B. Porter provides readers with up-to-date commentaries,

<http://www.all-leisure-guide.com>

, and

reviews for

<http://www.entertainment-resource-directory.com>

, music, movies and related information.

Vinyl Windows And Your Home

By Sheryl Walters

Vinyl windows are inexpensive, durable, and remarkably energy efficient. Early vinyl windows had problems with thermal expansion. When temperatures changed, the vinyl sash would expand or contract at a very different rate from the glass. As a result, the window fit poorly, leaked, or cracked. Such problems have been on the decline, because modern vinyl is more durable and dimensionally stable than the materials that were used 15 or 20 years ago. Vinyl is also commonly used as cladding on wood or aluminum windows.

Vinyl windows are made primarily from polyvinyl chloride (PVC), a product that offers many advantages. Unfortunately, it often looks chunkier than wood or metal windows because vinyl isn't strong enough to be made into ultra-thin parts. The other problem is that the texture is unmistakably plastic. On the other hand, except for washing the glass, vinyl windows are virtually maintenance free. You can't paint them, but you can get them in a number of different colors. What's more, the color goes all the way through the material, so dings and scratches are nearly impossible to see.

Some of the best qualities of vinyl windows are:

1. Vinyl windows are an exceptionally energy-efficient window. Replacing your home's old wood or metal windows with new vinyl replacement windows can reduce your heating and cooling cost.
2. Vinyl windows are extremely durable.
3. Although they cannot be painted, vinyl windows are available in a variety of colors to match the exterior of your home.
4. Vinyl windows do not corrode and are maintenance free.

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6. Available in a number of original designs, even matching the appearance of wood grain.
7. Vinyl replacement windows are available in a wide range of styles and shapes.
8. Offered in a wide range of prices, relatively inexpensive compared to wood.

Find a licensed contractor in your area and find out how affordable Vinyl Windows can be for your home.

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