WAX The Record Catalogue Manager

D.Luria

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1 Introduction

1. Vinyl Catalogue Manager

WAX ist the one and only software written especially for vinyl collectors. Besides all the features you would request from a catalogue manager, like insert, edit and delete records, you can store a lot of additional data that describe the state of cover and vinyl.

WAX is user-friendly and extremely easy to use.

Some features

♦ Manage unlimited different collections

♦ Wax is template-based. Customize the look of the record's detail screen with simple HTML and some special tags.

♦ BackUp, Restore, Import and Export

♦ Easy updating

♦ OpenVinyl-integration

There are a lot of additional tools and features which will ease your collectors life. And more are planned.

2. About OpenVinyl

OpenVinyl.org is an open platform comparable to CDDB. CDDB contains track-information for CDs and until now there was no comparable service for vinyl records. OpenVinyl goes much further and stores additional data about the record, the tracks and images of the covers.

OpenVinyl is a very young project and does not contain a lot of records yet. But the tight integration to WAX and it's ease of use might be a strong argument for a fast grow. Read more about OpenVinyl-features in the relevant chapter of this handbook.

2 WAX - The Main Screen

1. The Main Screen

From the main screen you can access all functions and features WAX offers. A lot of these features can be accessed in different ways, for example via menu or keyboard-shortcut.

The screen is divided in a list-part and a details-part. The list-part contains all your records and lists title, catalogue-number, country of origin and the year published.
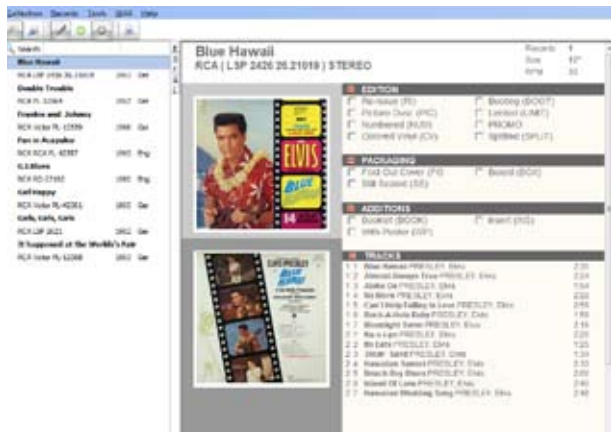
The details-part's view can differ, because it's look and data is template-based. You can create your own templates easily. For more information on templating see the relevant chapter.

SHORTCUTS	
Strg+O	Open collection
Strg+C	Close collection
Strg+A	Add record
Strg+E	Edit record

| MOUSE ACTIONS	
Click	Displays the selected item
DblClick	Edit the selected item

The main screen: List- and details-part

2. The Main-Menu

All functions not directly accesible via shortcut or toolbar can be found in the menu. A detailed description what every function does can be found in the relevant chapter.
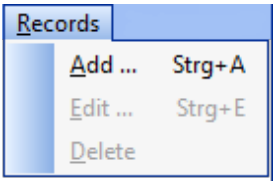
Collection-Menu

- Create collection from scratch
- Open an existing collection
- Close the active collection
- Delete an existing collection
- Exit the application
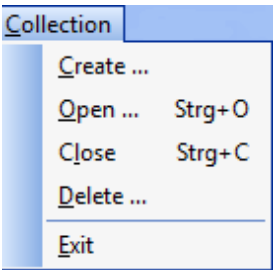
Records-Menu

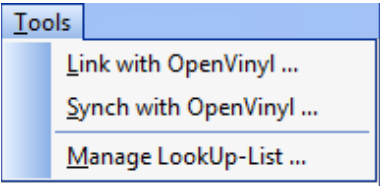- Add a new record to collection
- Edit the selected record
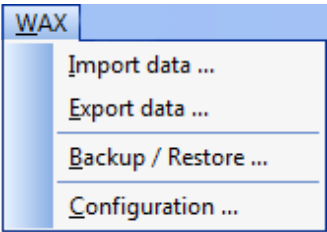- Delete the selected record

Tools-Menu

- Link record from your collection to the OpenVinyl-database for later syncing
- Sync all linked records with the OpenVinyl-database
- Manage lookup-lists

Wax-Menu

- Import data from an external resource
- Export data to CSV
- BackUp and Restore your collection
- Configure the application

3. The Toolbar

The most often used functions can be accessed via the toolbar.

Open Collection
Close Collection
Edit Record
Add Record
Delete Record
Print Reports

4. The Search-Field

Use the search field to quickly find a record in your collection.

SHORTCUTS	
Strg+S	Go to the search-field

5. Alphabar

The alphabar allows you to quickly jump to the first record beginning with the letter you clicked.

A
B
C
D
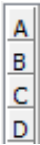
3 WAX - The Details Screen

1. The Details Screen

The details screen contains all informations about your record. On the top you can see the most important record related data containing:

- Record Title and Subtitle

- Label and Catalogue Number

- Year of publication and Country of Origin

- Artist and Genre

- Records Speed, Size and Number

- Audio: Mono, Stereo and Multi

All the rest of data is located in the tabbed pages and contains additional information about the record, tracks and images of front and back cover.

Two tabs are reserved for grading your cover and the vinyl.

The details screen

SHORTCUTS	
Esc	To cancel ol changes
Enter	To save all changes

2. The Overview Tab

The overview tab has on the left checkboxes which describe the record more detailed regarding the edition, the packaging and the additions.

Below you can enter information about the purchase place, the date of the purchase and the price you paid. For statistic reasons you can also enter the estimated value of the record.

You can find the value in different priceguides which are available on the internet or in book form.

The right part of the tab has only overview function and can not be edited here.

It shows the fotos of the cover, the cover- and vinyl-grades and the track information.

If you want to edit this data you have to click on the button or select the appropriate tab.

Summary of data just for viewing

3. The Tracks Tab

You can perform the following functions: Add, edit and delete a track.

Add Tracks

To add tracks simply fill out the fields below the track list. **Please note:** Side and track numbers will be set by Wax automatically and can not be edited manually. The data entered will be saved upon exit of the genre field. Just press Tab or Enter in the genre field and the data will be added to the table, entry fields cleared and track number increased.

To start a new side press CTRL & + which will increase the side number by one. Pressing CTRL & - will decrease side number by one.

Edit Track

To edit a track just double click the record. Saving will be done as in adding when leaving the genre field.

Delete Track

Select the track you want to delete and press CTRL & DEL. This will delete a track without confirmation. Please use carefully.

SHORTCUTS	
Strg+'+'	Increase side number by one
Strg+'-'	Decrease side number by one
Strgl+Del	Delete selected track

MOUSE ACTIONS	
DblClick	Edit selected track

3. The Images Tab

You can add a front and back cover of your record easily by clicking on the following buttons:

Add a <u>f</u>ront cover

Add a <u>b</u>ack cover
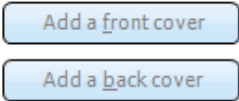
To remove an image simply press the following button:

Remove image
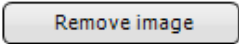
Removing an image deletes the file. If you do not have a copy of the file in another place - use this function wisely.
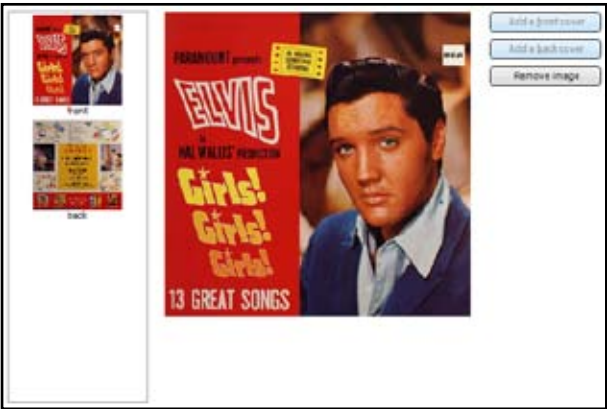
Images Tab

4. The Cover Grading Tab

Grading your record is a science for itself. There are various ways to grade the cover and the vinyl. Some people use a number-based system like 0 to 10 for bad to very good, but the most commen used grading system is the Goldstein-grade-system.

Wax uses this system and makes a recommendation what grade to choose based on some criterias you have to enter.

The criterias are:

• Ringwear

• SeamSplit

• Aging / Look

• Corners

• Other details like CutOut, TESA on cover and more.

Cover grading criterias

Editing those criterias will change the recommended grade and display it.

Recommended Grade

5. The Vinyl Grading Tab
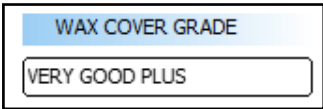
Please note: The recommendation is NOT the final grade. It just works as a help. To finish and store the grade you have to choose the grade manually.

This allows professional users to skip the criteria part and enter the grades directly and also allows to fine tune the grade.

Grading the vinyl works almost the same like grading the cover. All you have to know is that visual grading is inferior to audio grading and it's sufficent to choose one of the grading types.

Audio grading will always be treated as more reliable.

Vinyl grading criterias

4 WAX - Tools

1. Manage the LookUpList

It is a very difficult task to keep data consistency in your collection. This signifies that all labels, genre and artists are written exactly the same where ever they show up.

Example of variations of an artist name:

- PRESLEY, Elvis

- Elvis Presley

- PRESLEY, Elvis A.

WAX helps you with LookUp-lists when entering a new record with auto completion. But if you imported your collection to WAX then the LookUp-list manager will be a great help to clean your data.

First you have to choose which list you want to edit. Pick the list from the dropdownlist.

In our example on the right we chose the label-list and all entries will be displayed alphabetically.

You can see now easily that the „Cramned Discs"-label exists in your database in two variations - one of them false, due to a type mismatch.

To solve this problem, choose the entry to be edited and it will appear in the field on the right. Now correct the value and press the go-button. All entries will now be replaced from „Crammed Discs" to the correcter version „Cramned Discs" in your database .

LookUp–Manager

Replace all entries in your database

2. Import Data

WAX allows you to import CSV-data. This format is widely supported by a lot of software from database- to-spreadsheet-applications.

Start by choosing the file you want to import. CSV-files usually have the extension .txt or .csv.

Now you have to select the field-separator and the field-delimiter. You can check the results of you choice immediately in the data-preview-grid.

Check the checkbox if the firstline of your data contains the fieldnames. This makes the linking of the fields much easier. Now you're already half trough.

Next you have to assign the field-names of your import file to the field-names in the WAX-database. To link two fields select one from the left and one from the right list and click the add-button. All assigned fields will show in the list below.

To finish the import process click the Import-button.

Note: Importing is very complex, because each software can uses different data-types for the information. For example a ‚1‘ can be treated as a string or as a number. If you face problems importing your data, please contact customer support.

3. Export Data

Exporting data from WAX is easy. You can export data from the records database and data from the tracks database, but not mixed.

First choose the table to export from the dropdown-list.

Then select the fields you want to be exported.

In the „Export Settings" you have to define the field-separator and the field-delimiter. The default values of the settings usually work fine. Change only if you know what you're doing.

If you want WAX to add all field-names in the first line then check the relevant checkbox.

Finally select where the export-file should be saved and press the export-button to start the process.

4. Backup and Restore

Backup and restore is rather straight forward and very easy. The database file and optionally all images will be added to a ZIP-file.

BackUp

Choose the database you want to backup by checking it from the list. You can backup several databases: All data will be stored in seperate files.

Now choose the directory where the backup-file will be stored. By cklicking the „include picutes" checkbox you tell WAX to add pictures to the backup.

The backup-file will be named automatically as the database-name. If you want a better overview, you can make WAX adding the current date to the file-name.

Click Backup to execute.

Restore

Select an earlier backup-file to restore. Use the checkboxes to tell WAX to overwrite an existing database or existing pictures.

Restore saves the database and the images to the path defined in your configuration.

5. Online updates

Online updates are wizard guided and self-explaining. Just follow the instructions of the update-wizard.
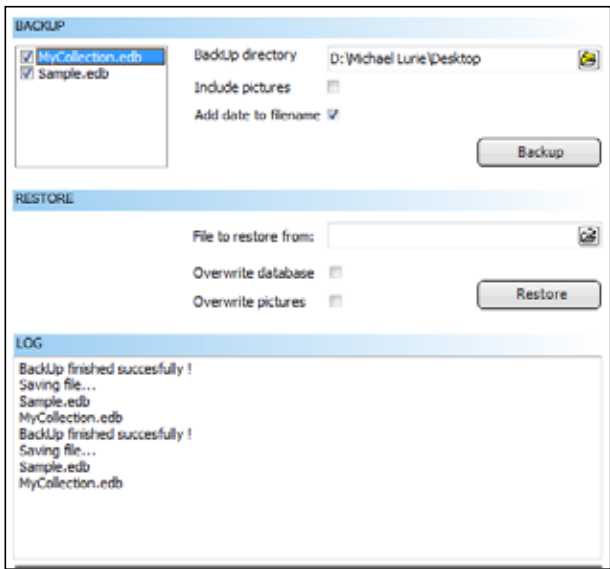
Backup and Restore–Screen

5 Open Vinyl

1. OpenVinyl: More Details

The main idea behind OpenVinyl is to ease vinyl collectors life and reduce the amount of work for entering records to your database. OpenVinyl provides

not only record relevant data, but also cover images and special info about packing, edition and additions.

To see what fields are connected to OpenVinyl check the „Show- Fields"-checkbox on the bottom of the details-screen.

At the same position you can also see the OpenVinyl-ID if already assigned and the date of the last lookup.

WAX integrates very tightly with OpenVinyl although OpenVinyl is not very widely supported yet.

You can retrieve and post data directly with WAX.

Please note: All data on OpenVinyl is user contributed and its up to the user the respect copyrights and the data guidelines. When posting your data make sure everything is correct.

Read more about OpenVinyl on: www.openvinyl.org

2. Adding a New Record

To add a record with OpenVinyl-support enter the title and / or the catalogue-number into the fields.

Now click the OpenVinyl-button on the bottom of the details screen.

WAX will not query the OpenVinyl-database and depending on the records found react differently:

- No record in the database: WAX will ask you, if you want to auto-add the data you enter manually to the OpenVinyl-database.

- One or more matches found: Wax will show the following screen to allow you to choose the correct record. You can cancel the entry or click auto-add if the record is not in the list and you want to post the data on OpenVinyl after enterign automatically.

Choose the correct record for adding

3. Link to OpenVinyl

If you have already some records in your database or have imported your database to WAX then you can link those entries to OpenVinyl.

First choose a number of records to compare. Keep the number low - this function is rather time-consuming.

As the result you will get a list that could look like the following. On the left are your records with the catalogue-number and the unique-id in the datbase. On the right you have depending on the result of the query the following information and possibilities:

- Exact match: The records title, catalogue-number and OpenVinyl-id for visual comparison. Check the checkbox to confirm this entry to be linked.

- No match found (red lines): Do you allow WAX to auto-add your entry to OpenVinyl ? If so, check the checkbox.

- More than one match (red lines): OpenVinyl has more than one result. Doubleclick the re-cord to choose the correct record. The screen is the same as when adding a new record.

To link the checked entries click the „Link checked entries button".

4. Sync with OpenVinyl

You can syncronize all linked entries with OpenVinyl using the screen on the right. Syncing compares the data from OpenVinyl with the data in your collection.

If Wax finds info that is not present locally or remotely it will add the information automatically to OpenVinyl or your database.

Let's assume you added cover images to your collection and WAX can't find any on OpenVinyl it will upload automatically the pictures.

Or let's say you have entered tracks not yet present on OpenVinyl. WAX will write them into OpenVinyls-database. Or if you have missing information like speed, audio or so WAX will retrieve all information for you.

Sync-Mode

Syncing is no problem as long one side has more information than the other. But what happens when both sides have some info that contradict each other ?

Thats where the sync-mode comes in and tells WAX how to handle such situations. You can choose from three different sync-modes. „Ask" is default and recommended.

- Always use remote data: In case of a conflict this sync mode signifies that OpenVinyl is always right and your data will be overwritten.

- Always use local data: The opposite of the function before: Come what may - you're always right.

- Ask: Let's you choose how to handle the conflict.

Ask-mode

WAX will promt the following screen to let you choose what data has to be used. The fields that conflict have a red background.

6 Templating

1. How it works

Templating is HTML-based and very easy to use. To create a new template by yourself, you have to do the following steps:

1. Create a subfolder in the template-folder with the name of the new template. You found the right folder if there is already a sub-folder called „default" in it. Usually you find the folder in the root-directory of the WAX-application.

Example:

C:\WAX\templates\your_template_dir

2. The following files have to be in the template-dir:

- The html-template-file itself. It has to have the same name as the directory plus the html-extension.

- An image which will be displayed, when no cover-image exists. It has to be called: **EmptyRecord.png**

3. Create an HTML-file and name it the same as the template-dir plus the „.html"-extension.

Example:

/your_template_dir/ your_template_dir.html

4. Now design the template the way you want. Data will be inserted by replacing some special tags that you can add to the source of your html-file. Place all necessary files like graphics into the same directory. Sub-dirs are not allowed.

Note:

If you use graphics then make sure that you add a <%tplpath%>-tag in front of the graphics-name.

Example:
<img src="<%tplpath%>Record.png" />

Example: Covers don't need the tplpath-tag
<img src="<%covfront%>" />

---

2. The tags

Tag	Output (Text)
`<%title%>`	Record title
`<%subtitle%>`	Record Subtitle
`<%label%>`	Record label
`<%cat%>`	Catalogue-nr.
`<%year%>`	Year of release
`<%country%>`	Country of manufacture
`<%buydate%>`	Date of purchase
`<%records%>`	Number of discs
`<%audio%>`	MONO, STERO, MULTI
`<%speed%>`	33, 45, 78
`<%size%>`	7", 10", 12"
`<%artist%>`	Artist
`<%buyplace%>`	Purchase location
`<%price%>`	Paid price
`<%gradecover%>`	The grade of the cover
`<%gradevinyl%>`	The grade of the record
`<%tplpath%>`	Path to the template-dir

Tag	Output (Graphic)
`<%covfront%>`	Front cover
`<%covback%>`	Back cover

Tag	Output (Checkbox)
`<%ri%>`	Record title
`<%pic%>`	Record Subtitle
`<%num%>`	Record label
`<%cv%>`	Catalogue-nr.
`<%boot%>`	Bootleg

Tag	Output (Checkbox)
`<%limit%>`	Limited edition
`<%spli%>`	Splitted record
`<%box%>`	Boxed
`<%foc%>`	Foldout-cover
`<%book%>`	Includes booklet
`<%insert%>`	Includes insert
`<%wp%>`	Includes poster
`<%co%>`	Cut out
`<%rw%>`	
`<%ssp%>`	
`<%ts%>`	Taped seam
`<%woc%>`	Writing on cover
`<%soc%>`	Sticker on cover
`<%tpoc%>`	TESA on cover
`<%stoc%>`	Stamp on cover
`<%toc%>`	Tear on front
`<%gr%>`	Glue rest
`<%ew%>`	Edge warp
`<%sew%>`	Slight edge warp
`<%nap%>`	No affect playing
`<%rpw%>`	Record played wet
`<%nw%>`	Needs wash
`<%wol%>`	Writing on label
`<%sol%>`	Sticker on label
`<%tol%>`	TESA on label
`<%lcd%>`	Light center damage

3. Displaying tracks

To display tracks you have to make sure, that:

1. All template-data regarding the track have to be on **one** line and

2. the first tag on the line has to be the <%tracks%>-tag.

The tracks-tag tells the software that the whole content of the current line has to be repeated until all tracks have been displayed.

The rest of the line can contain the tags listed on the right embedded in standard html-code.

Sample: Display tracks in a table

```
<table>
<tr><td>side</td><td>title</td>
<%tracks%><tr><td><%side%></td><td><%title%></td>
</table>
```

Tag	Output (Text)
`<%side%>`	Side-Number
`<%track%>`	Track-Number
`<%title%>`	Song-title
`<%artist%>`	Artist
`<%length%>`	Playing time
`<%genre%>`	Tracks genre