

# Richmond Audio Society

Share the music that got you interested in audio...

## Dead wax inscriptions

Posted on **July 2, 2012** by **Rush**

### Cutting Engineer dead wax symbols...

*Ever wonder how to tell the difference between different vinly pressings of your favorite record or what to look for as an indicator of good sound quality in your vinyl. There's a lot you can learn by looking at the deadwax, that blank area between the last grooves and the label. Here are pictures of some inscribed initials and symbols from several of the better mastering engineers. Scroll to the end for a text list of initials and who they belong to.*



*Collected from a [thread at on deadwax inscriptions](#) at the Steve Hoffman forums and elsewhere.*

**Robert Ludwig's** "RL" signature will appear following the Sterling or Masterdisc stamped names. The symbol to the right of the RL indicates a pressing by Allied Record Corp. in Los Angeles in the years after WEA Manufacturing bought the plant.



“AZ” is the handwritten code for the **Allen Zent** mastering house. The inscribed flower and bird motifs to the right of AZ are of mastering engineer **Brian Gardner** who worked at Allen Zent.

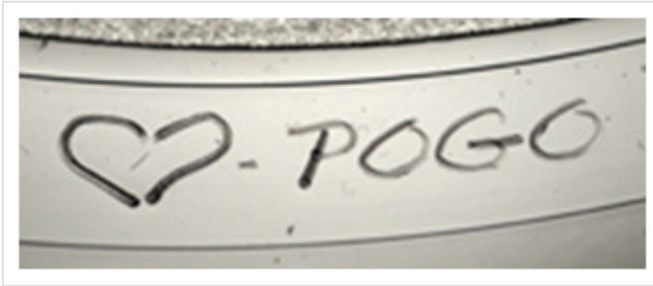


“Wally” is the incomparable **Wally Traugott** of Capitol: If it’s “Wly,” it’s pre-1977, and if it’s the full “Wally,” it’s post-’77.





“Pogo” with the heart belongs to Keith Olson of Pogoland Productions.



“Porky’s Prime Cut” and “Pecko Duck” and “Pecko” belong to **George Peckham**, a British cutting engineer whose cuttings on popular and rock music are often legendary..

Who is “JG” at kdisc? I think the K-Disc mastering engineer in question is **John Golden**.



Barry?





GF is **Greg Fulginiti** of Artisan.

From a contributor at

stevehoffman.com: "I like his work a lot, I think his version of SO is better than the UK Townhouse (and more so when the GF copy is Quiex vinyl). I see a few MCAs from the 80's with his marks. ...i also think Greg Fulginiti's etching is a stamp of excellence. he worked with Steve a lot in the '80s, IIRC."



- .
- .
- .
- .
- .

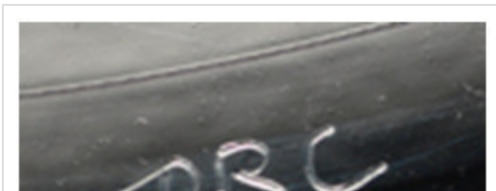
**Pressing Plant dead wax symbols...**

This is one of two 'letter codes' used by the ex-Decca (US) plants – Gloversville, and Pickneyville. The latter is <>-P-<> or thereabouts. (info from a W.B. post of yore)... Indeed, this was from MCA's Gloversville, NY plant; both that and the Pickneyville insignia were started in early 1973. Before that Gloversville pressings were designated by a "1" and Pickneyville by a "2."

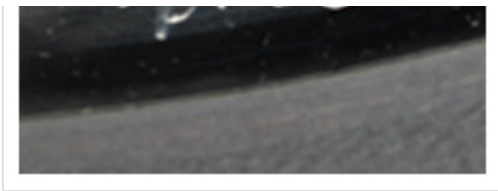


- .
- .
- .
- .

PRC was indeed a pressing plant. Initially based out of Richmond, IN, they later opened another plant in Compton, CA.



- .
- .



The insignia next to Robert Ludwig's signature indicates a pressing by Allied Record Corp. in Los Angeles in the years after WEA Manufacturing bought the plant.



Indicates a pressing from Capitol Records' Winchester, VA plant. It's supposed to look like a Winchester rifle, but it looks more like a wineglass on its side.



## Deadwax mastering info, text listing...

(Originally posted by [Cactusboy at AudioKarma](#) with additions here.)

G.S.V.) -> Greg Vaughn

(spiral sign) @ D+M -> Robert Henke ( Dubplates-mastering, Berlin )

\*-J.T.S.-\* -> JTS Studio, London

@cul -> Moritz von Oswald

@t GP -> George Piros

"Soundmaster" Lionel @ Translab, Paris -> Lionel Nicod

7AP -> Augustus Pablo  
A 1ST FOR KEV – TOWNHOUSE -> Kevin Metcalfe ( Townhouse Studios, London )  
A Porky 'Oh yes' Prime cut -> George Peckham  
A Porky Prime Cut -> George Peckham  
A PORKY PRIME CUT -> George Peckham  
A Porky Prime Er-Er-Er Goldfish I Think -> George Peckham  
A Porky Prime sniff sniff cut -> George Peckham  
A PORKY PRIME TANGO -> George Peckham  
Allen Zentz -> Allen Zentz  
AM -> Andy Mellwig ( The "A" looks like triangle; Dubplates-mastering, Berlin )  
an "A with M" sign -> Andy Mellwig ( Dubplates-mastering, Berlin )  
andreas at schnittstelle -> Andreas Kauffelt  
andreas@schnittstelle -> Andreas Kauffelt  
ARUN -> Arun Chakraverty  
AT-GP -> George Piros  
AudiDisc YYMMDD -> Pressed at AudiDisc AB  
Az -> Allen Zentz ( note the lower case Z )  
AZ -> Allen Zentz Mastering Company  
AZ (with birds/flower) -> Brian Gardner ( Allen Zentz Mastering Company )  
AZ CB -> Chris Bellman ( Allen Zentz Mastering Company )  
B.E.C.R -> Björn Engelmann ( Cutting Room, Stockholm )  
B.E-C.R -> Björn Engelmann ( Cutting Room, Stockholm )  
B.G. -> Bernie Grundman  
BA -> Björn Almstedt  
BA•CR -> Björn Almstedt ( Cutting Room, Stockholm )  
BA-CR -> Björn Almstedt ( Cutting Room, Stockholm )  
BA-EF -> Björn Almstedt  
BA-GP -> Björn Almstedt  
BA-T∞ -> Björn Almstedt  
Beau -> Beau Thomas  
BEAU -> Beau Thomas  
beau -> Beau Thomas  
Bell Sound -> Bell Sound Studios  
Bell Sound sf -> Sam Feldman ( Bell Sound Studios )  
BH -> Bobby Hata  
BilBo -> Denis Blackham ( which looks like BiBo )  
Bilbo master room -> Denis Blackham  
BK -> Bill Kipper  
BKG -> Brian Gardner  
C.R -> Cutting Room, Stockholm  
C.T.S. Wembley -> C.T.S. Studios, Wembley.  
CGB -> Christoph Grote-Beverborg

CGB / D+M -> Christoph Grote-Beverborg ( Dubplates-mastering, Berlin )  
CGB @ D&M -> Christoph Grote-Beverborg ( Dubplates-mastering, Berlin )  
CGB@D&M -> Christoph Grote-Beverborg ( Dubplates-mastering, Berlin )  
CHRIS P @ UNITY -> Chris Parmenidis  
COPYMASTERS – Miles -> Miles Showell  
CR -> Cutting Room, Stockholm  
CSB ♪♪ -> Carlton Batts ( followed by two musical notes )  
CURVE PUSHER. -> Curve Pusher Mastering, London  
D Jay @ Masterpiece -> Danny King ( Masterpiece Mastering, London )  
D&m -> Dubplates-mastering, Berlin  
D. SWABY -> Dudley Swaby  
D.A.S. Disc Mastering -> Digital Audio Solutions  
D+M -> Moritz Von Oswald ( (note; M has a hook on the end); Dubplates-mastering, Berlin )  
DAMONT -> Pressed at Damont Audio Limited  
DAS Disc Mastering -> Digital Audio Solutions  
DB -> Denis Blackham  
DCHARLES -> Dick Charles ( Handwritten signature )  
DFI -> Pressed at DFI  
Djay@ Masterpiece -> Danny King ( Masterpiece Mastering, London )  
DK -> Dennis King  
DMM -> Direct Metal Mastering  
DMS C -> The Hit Factory, DMS, NYC  
DMS cg -> Chris Gehringer ( The Hit Factory, DMS, NYC )  
DMS cg [peace sign] -> Chris Gehringer  
DMS Coin -> The Hit Factory, DMS, NYC  
Doug -> Doug Sax  
DUDLEY SWABY -> Dudley “Manzie” Swaby  
EURODISC -> Eurodisk Manufacturing  
EUROPADISK -> Pressed at Europadisk, NYC.  
EXCHANGE 2000 – SIMON. -> Simon Davey  
F.A. -> Frank Arkwright  
F.A. Metropolis -> Frank Arkwright ( Metropolis Studios, London )  
F/W -> Frankford Wayne Mastering Labs, NYC.  
F/W J -> Frankford Wayne Mastering Labs, NYC.  
Finnvox MJ -> Mika Jussila  
FOON MASTERING -> Foon Mastering Center  
Frankford/Wayne -> Frankford Wayne Mastering Labs, NYC.  
Frankford/Wayne Mastering by Michael -> Michael Sarsfield ( Frankford Wayne Mastering Labs, NYC. )  
FST @ D+M -> Frederic Stader ( Dubplates-mastering, Berlin )  
FST D+M -> Frederic Stader ( Dubplates-mastering, Berlin )

FST>D+M -> Frederic Stader ( Dubplates-mastering, Berlin )  
FTS -> Federal Recording Studios, Kingston / Total Sounds  
G.K. -> Gilbert Kong  
GC -> Greg Calbi ( Sterling )  
Gene -> Gene Thompson  
GEORGE – COPYMASTERS -> George Peckham  
GK -> Gilbert Kong  
Gordon at the Townhouse -> Gordon Vickary  
GP -> Grammoplast, Sweden  
Graeme -> Graeme Durham  
GRAEME – SOUND CLINIC -> Graeme Durham  
GRAZ – The Exchange -> Graeme Durham  
Graz@The Exchange -> Graeme Durham  
greyham the exchange -> Graeme Durham  
GSV -> Greg Vaughn ( or “G5V“ )  
GUY’S – THE EXCHANGE -> Guy Davie  
HEM cg -> Chris Gehringer  
Herb :^) -> Herb Powers Jr.  
Herbie :^) -> Herb Powers Jr.  
Herbie Jr :^) -> Herb Powers Jr.  
Herve @ Translab -> Hervé Bordes  
HFM [number] -> The Hit Factory, DMS, NYC  
HFM cg -> Chris Gehringer ( The Hit Factory, DMS, NYC )  
HP -> Herb Powers Jr.  
HTM -> Harry Moss  
HuB -> Frankford Wayne Mastering Labs, NYC. ( ? )  
HW -> Howie Weinberg  
J.Y. -> Joe Yannece  
JA Tape One -> Jack Adams  
Jacko – Tape One -> Jack Adams  
JC Masterroom -> Jeremy Cooper  
JD -> John Dent  
JD-ASH -> John Dent and Ashley Burchett ( ? )  
John D -> John Davis  
JON2 -> John Dent  
Jonz -> John Dent  
Jonz @ Loud Mastering -> John Dent ( Loud Mastering )  
K -> Andreas Kauffelt  
KG -> Kevin Gray  
K.P. -> Ken Perry  
KDISC -> K Disc Mastering  
Kendun -> Kent Duncan



LAWRIE @ CURVE PUSHER -> Lawrie Immersion  
LB -> Larry Boden  
LH -> Lee Hulko  
Lionel & Hervé @ Translab -> Lionel Nicod & Hervé Bordes  
Loop-0 at D&M -> Loop-o ( Dubplates-mastering, Berlin )  
Lupo -> Loop-o  
M.M.M.J.R. -> Mark Richardson (3) ( Metropolis Mastering, Chicago )  
MANDY @ THE EXCHANGE -> Mandy Parnell  
MARTIN @ C.T.S. -> Martin Giles  
MASTERDED BY CAPITOL -> Capitol Studio & Mastering , Hollywood  
MASTERDISK -> Masterdisk, NYC  
MASTERDISK G.K. -> Gilbert Kong  
MASTERDISK TD -> Tony Dawsey ( Masterdisk, NYC )  
Mastered at Abbey Rd -> Abbey Road Studios, London  
mastered at 'Abbey Road' -> Abbey Road Studios, London  
MASTERED AT ALLEN ZENTZ L.A., CALIF. -> Allen Zentz Mastering Company  
MASTERED BY CAPITOL Wally -> Wally Traugott ( Capitol Studio & Mastering ,  
Hollywood )  
Mastered by NIMBUS, England -> Nimbus  
Mastered MIAMI TAPE -> Miami Tape, Hialeah ( "MIAMI TAPE" is stamped )  
MATT OPTIMUM -> Matt Colton  
MCR -> Master Cutting Room, NYC.  
Metropolis Mastering Chicago M.J.R. -> Mark Richardson (3)  
MIKE @ THE EXCHANGE -> Mike Marsh  
Mike @ The Exchange -> Mike Marsh  
Mike's™ -> Mike Marsh  
MILES -> Miles Showell  
MJFX -> Mika Jussila  
MMMJR -> Mark Richardson (3) ( Metropolis Mastering, Chicago )  
MPO -> Moulages et Plastiques de l'Ouest, Averton.  
MR -> Mark Regan  
Neil – Masterpiece -> Neil Devine  
Neil Masterpiece -> Neil Devine  
Nick -> Nick Webb Abbey Road Studios, London ][/i]  
Nick's cut! -> Nick Webb Abbey Road Studios, London ][/i]  
NILZ – THE EXCHANGE -> Nilesh Patel  
NIX MIX TOWNHOUSE -> Larry Nix  
Noel @ Transformation -> Noel Summerville  
NOMIS -> Simon Davey ( "Simon" backwards )  
NSC -> National Sound Corporation, Detroit ( used to be solely Ron Murphy (except  
some very early stuff), now also Heath Brunner )  
Ø(Phase) -> Ashley Burchett

Ø(Phase) @ Whitfield London -> Ashley Burchett  
ø@CURVE PUSHER -> Ashley Burchett  
Ø[Phase] -> Ashley Burchett  
Øphase -> Ashley Burchett  
øPHASE -> Ashley Burchett  
øPHASE @ WHITFIELD ST -> Ashley Burchett  
Øphase@ Curve Pusher -> Ashley Burchett ( Curve Pusher Mastering, London )  
ORLAKE -> Orlake Records, Dagenham  
P.A. -> Phil Austin ( Trutone )  
P.O.R.K.Y. -> George Peckham  
PAUL S @ PORKY'S -> Paul Solomons  
Paul S @ Porky's -> Paul Solomons  
PAUL'S @ PORKYS -> Paul Solomons  
Paul's @ Porkys -> Paul Solomons  
PAUL'S THE EXCHANGE -> Paul Solomons  
Pauls' The Exchange -> Paul Solomons  
PCMJR -> Mark Richardson (3) ( Prairie Cat Mastering, Belvidere )  
PD -> Peter Dahl  
PD-CR -> Peter Dahl ( Cutting Room, Stockholm )  
PECKO -> George Peckham  
PECKO DUCK -> George Peckham  
Pete @ Tape To Tape -> Pete Norman  
PIPO NYC -> Alberto Roges  
POLAR -> Polar Mastering, Stockholm (defunct, now Masters of Audio, Stockholm)  
Pole -> Pole  
POM TR -> Pompon Finkelstein ( Translab, Paris )  
porkeys prime cut -> George Peckham  
Porky -> George Peckham  
Porky Prime Cut -> George Peckham  
Porky Primed -> George Peckham  
Porkys -> George Peckham  
Primed -> George Peckham  
R @ D&M -> Rashad Becker ( Squiggly lower case 'r'; Dubplates & Mastering ,Berlin )  
Rashad -> Rashad Becker  
Ray at The Exchange -> Ray Staff  
RCE -> Rick Essig ( F/W )  
RJ -> Ray Janos ( Sterling )  
RL -> Bob Ludwig  
RV -> Hervé Bordes  
S.D -> Simon Davey  
S.M. M.J.R. -> Mark Richardson (3) ( Session Masters, Carol Stream )  
SD -> Simon Davey

Sean Abbey rd i...i -> Sean Magee ( Abbey Road Studios, London )  
sf -> Sam Feldman  
SH -> Steve Hall  
SH | KG -> Steve Hoffman and Kevin Gray  
SHANE -> Shane McEnhill  
Shane – the cutteR -> Shane McEnhill ( Graffiti Style; The “h” looks more like a “t” )  
Shane @ Heathman’s -> Shane McEnhill ( Graffiti Style; The “h” looks more like a “t” )  
SI MASTERPIECE -> Simon Francis  
SI Masterpiece -> Simon Francis  
SIMON – THE EXCHANGE -> Simon Davey  
SIMON „HOOVER POWER“ DAVEY -> Simon Davey  
SIMON „NEW SHOOS“ DAVEY -> Simon Davey  
SIMON „NIGHT NURSE“ DAVEY -> Simon Davey  
simon the exchange -> Simon Davey  
SIMON. -> Simon Davey  
SNB -> Sabin Brunet  
Sound Clinic -> The Sound Clinic, London  
Sound Clinic, Graeme -> Graeme Durham ( The Sound Clinic, London )  
Sound Clinic/Jonz -> John Dent ( The Sound Clinic, London )  
SR -> Stan Ricker  
SR/2 -> Stan Ricker  
SR2 -> Stan Ricker  
SRC signature -> Specialty Records Corporation ( (Stamped, Large S with the R and C  
in the loops) )  
SST -> Schallplatten Schneid Technik, Frankfurt  
STERLING -> Sterling Sound, NYC  
STRAWBERRY U.K. -> Strawberry Mastering, London  
STREAKY @ SOUNDMASTERS -> Streaky  
Stu -> Stuart Hawkes  
Stu. @ Masterpiece -> Stuart Hawkes  
Tape One JA -> Jack Adams  
TC -> Tom Coyne  
THE EXCHANGE -> The Exchange, London  
The Exchange – GD -> Guy Davie  
THE EXCHANGE – NILZ -> Nilesh Patel  
Tim D. -> Tim Dennen  
Tim D. Masterpiece -> Tim Dennen  
tim dixon masterpiece -> Tony Dixon  
TIMTOM -> Tim Young  
Tintom -> Tim Young  
TJ -> Ted Jensen ( Sterling )  
TLC -> The Lacquer Channel Mastering, Toronto

TML -> The Mastering Lab , Hollowood  
TML-M -> The Mastering Lab , Hollowood ( M=Master )  
TML-S -> The Mastering Lab , Hollowood ( S=Slave )  
TML-X -> The Mastering Lab , Hollowood ( X=Extra )  
TOWN HOUSE -> Town House Studios, London  
TOWNHOUSE -> Town House Studios, London  
Townhouse -> Town House Studios, London  
Townhouse Max -> Max Dingel  
tph@schnittstelle -> Thomas P. Heckmann  
TR -> Translab Mastering, Paris  
Transformation -> Transformation Mastering, London  
TRANSITION -> Transition Mastering Studios, London  
Transition -> Transition Mastering Studios, London  
Truetone Mastering NYC Carl -> Carl Rowatti ( "Truetone" or "Trutone"? )  
Trutone -> Trutone Inc, NYC  
Trutone NY – PA -> Phil Austin  
Trutone NYC Carl -> Carl Rowatti  
ty -> Tim Young.

---

Share this:

Twitter 1

Facebook 3

Tumblr

Google +1

More

---

Like this:



Like Be the first to like this.

This entry was posted in [Analog, Music](#) by [Rush](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#) [[http://richmondaudiosociety.com/2012/07/02/dead\\_wax\\_inscriptions/](http://richmondaudiosociety.com/2012/07/02/dead_wax_inscriptions/)].



### About Rush

A trusted advisor improving business performance through issues around people.

[View all posts by Rush](#) →

ONE THOUGHT ON "DEAD WAX INSCRIPTIONS"



rustytaub

on [September 8, 2012 at 8:04 am](#) said:

Now that you mention it. I have a lot of Bernie Grundman's records here and they do have his BG.

RT