

International Standard Recording Code(s) (ISRC)

The **International Standard Recording Code (ISRC)**, defined by ISO 3901, is an international standard code for uniquely identifying *sound recordings* and *music video recordings*. [IFPI](#) has been appointed by [ISO](#) as [registration authority](#) for this standard. The ISO [technical committee 46, subcommittee 9 \(TC 46/SC 9\)](#) is responsible for the standard. Note that an ISRC code identifies a particular *recording*, not the song itself. Therefore, different recordings, edits, and remixes of the same song will each have their own ISRC code. Songs are identified by analogous [ISWC](#) codes.

ISRC registrant codes are allocated by national ISRC agencies to both corporations and individuals. The usual practice is to do this free of charge, but national agencies may make a reasonable charge to cover their costs.

PCJ/TOL CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH ISRC CODES FOR FREE – WE DON'T PAY FOR THEM, WHY SHOULD YOU. JUST ASK US FOR THEM. YOU MUST HAVE THEM EMBEDDED INTO YOUR MASTER. YOU ALSO NEED TO KNOW WHAT FORMAT THEY WERE LAID IN. THE USUAL FORMAT TODAY IS CALLED .BIN CODE. YOU NEED TO STAY ON TOP OF YOUR MANUFACTURER TO BE CERTAIN THAT THEY COPY THOSE CODES FROM THE MASTER AND THAT THEY KNOW THE FORMAT (.BIN or other). THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT.

Format

ISRC codes are always 12 characters long, in the form "CC-XXX-YY-NNNNN" (The hyphens are not part of the ISRC code itself, but codes are often presented that way in print to make them easier to read.) The four parts are as follows:

- "CC" is the appropriate for the registrant two-character [ISO 3166-1 alpha-2](#) country code
- "XXX" is a three character alphanumeric registrant code, uniquely identifying the organisation which registered the code. Typically, the appropriate regulating body in each country will issue a three letter code to each [record label](#). For example, the regulating body for ISRCs in the [UK](#) is [Phonographic Performance Limited](#) (PPL).
- "YY" is the last two digits of the year of registration (NB not necessarily the date the recording was made)
- "NNNNN" is a unique 5-digit number identifying the particular sound recording.

An example, a recording of the [song](#) "Enquanto Houver Sol" by the [Brazilian](#) group [Titãs](#) has been allocated the ISRC code BR-BMG-03-00729:

- BR for [Brazil](#)
- BMG for [BMG](#)
- 03 for 2003
- 00729 is the unique id identifying this particular recording

Another example: USPR37300012 - a recording of the [song "Love's Theme"](#) by the [Love Unlimited Orchestra](#).

- US-PR3-73/00012
US for [United States](#)
- PR3 for the organisation
- 73 for 1973
- 00012 is the unique id identifying this particular recording

The [Red Book](#) CD digital audio standard enables the encoding of ISRCs onto CDs.

PCJ/TOL CODES ALL START WITH: US-BST

So – as an example, we would give you codes that are similar to this (but would not be these):

Track 1 – “name of song” – US-BST-10-12341

Track 2 – “name of song” – US-BST-10-12342

Track 2 – “name of song” – US-BST-10-12343

Etc. etc. etc.

And as if that wasn't enough – you need CD TEXT codes too:

CD-Text is an extension of the [Red Book Compact Disc](#) specifications standard for [audio CDs](#). It allows for storage of additional information (e.g. album name, song name, and artist) on a standards-compliant audio CD. The information is stored either in the [lead-in area](#) of the CD, where there is roughly five kilobytes of space available, or in the Subchannels *R* to *W* on the disc, which can store about 31 megabytes.

For more technical tidbits on this subject, go here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cd_text

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOUR MASTERING GUY KNOWS HOW TO PUT CD TEXT INFORMATION INTO YOUR MASTER – THEN AGAIN, YOU NEED TO KEEP AFTER YOUR MANUFACTURER TO BE CERTAIN THAT THEY COPY THE CODES FROM YOUR MASTER. TRUST ME, I'VE WORKED WITH DISCMAKERS SEVERAL TIMES WHERE THEY CLAIMED TO NOT KNOW THE CODE WAS THERE SO THEY DIDN'T COPY IT. AAGHH!

Having CD Text in your master allows certain stereo equipment to identify the song track, your name and the album when on play mode. Your name/the track name comes up on the screen.

FINALLY – We need a copy of the data sheet or PW Log that the Mastering guy will print for you when he's finished.