

Testpressings of Swingin' Pig vinyl records were manufactured for internal company purposes only. They were used to control the mastering, laquer cutting and stamper development processes – the “first steps” of a Swingin' Pig vinyl album production.

Is the song separation executed as intended? Is the sound quality ok? Or did any mistakes occur during the mastering, laquer cutting and matrix development processes?

All this had of course to be checked before the production of the commercial Swingin' Pig pressings could start – otherwise all mistakes would have appeared in the entire edition of a certain Swingin' Pig vinyl release.

Therefore, Swingin' Pig testpressings were always manufactured in advance - a couple of weeks before the commercial editions were pressed, after Swingin' Pig checked the testpressings and gave their ok to the pressing plant for the commercial editions. Consequently, testpressings were always the very first copies of every Swingin' Pig vinyl title ever – pressed from “virgin” stampers.

Testpressings were never used for promotional purposes. Because of their strict company internal use in general only three copies of each testpressing were manufactured, in some cases just two.

Due to the fact that at the time of a testpressing no labels and record sleeves were available (those were regularly printed after Swingin' Pig checked the testpressing and gave their ok, otherwise thousands of labels and sleeves would have to be destroyed in case changes of the song separation would have been necessary), neutral labels (white or single-coloured) and neutral Swingin' Pig hole covers were used for testpressings. They were pressed on the vinyl that at the very moment of manufacturing was used by the pressing plant in the specific pressing machine – in general black vinyl, sometimes also coloured, but that was purely coincidental. The pressing plant never used specific vinyl for those testpressings because the time and effort for just three copies only would have been inappropriate and uneconomical considering the fact that testpressings were destined for Swingin' Pig internal company testing and checking purposes only, not for external use.