

MCA D-2404

Little Star / Born Too Late 7" 45 Vinyl Record

Product Information and Care Guide

INTRODUCTION

This guide provides essential information for the proper handling, playback, and care of your Little Star / Born Too Late 7-inch 45 RPM vinyl record by The Poni-Tails, released by MCA Records. Adhering to these guidelines will help preserve the record's audio quality and extend its lifespan.



Image: The 7-inch 45 RPM vinyl record for "Little Star / Born Too Late" by The Poni-Tails, featuring the MCA Records label with a rainbow design.

SETUP

Before playing your vinyl record, ensure your turntable and audio system are properly set up and calibrated. A clean playing environment is crucial for optimal sound and record longevity.

1. Turntable Preparation

- **Clean the Turntable:** Ensure the turntable platter and dust cover are free of dust and debris.
- **Check Stylus Condition:** Verify that your turntable's stylus (needle) is clean and free from accumulated dust or grime. A dirty stylus can damage the record and degrade sound quality.
- **Set Speed:** Confirm your turntable is set to the correct speed for a 7-inch single, which is typically 45 RPM.

2. Placing the Record

- **Handle with Care:** Always hold the record by its edges or the center label to avoid transferring oils from your fingers to the playing surface.
- **Center Hole Alignment:** Carefully place the record onto the turntable's spindle, ensuring it sits flat and centered on the platter.

OPERATING

Proper operation ensures the best listening experience and minimizes wear on both the record and your equipment.

1. Playing the Record

- **Lower the Tonearm:** Gently lower the tonearm onto the lead-in groove of the record. Many turntables have a cueing lever for this purpose, which is recommended for precise and gentle placement.
- **Avoid Dropping:** Never drop the tonearm onto the record, as this can damage both the stylus and the record grooves.

2. During Playback

- **Minimize Vibrations:** Avoid bumping the turntable or the surface it rests on during playback, as this can cause skips.
- **Dust Cover:** Close the dust cover during playback to prevent dust accumulation on the record surface.

3. Ending Playback

- **Lift Tonearm:** Once the side is finished, use the cueing lever to gently lift the tonearm from the record and return it to its rest.
- **Remove Record:** Carefully remove the record by holding its edges or center label.

MAINTENANCE

Regular cleaning and proper storage are vital for maintaining the sound quality and physical condition of your vinyl record.

1. Cleaning the Record

- **Before Each Play:** Use a dedicated carbon fiber record brush to gently sweep away surface dust before each play. Brush along the grooves, not across them.
- **Deep Cleaning:** For deeper cleaning, use a specialized record cleaning solution and a microfiber cloth. Apply the solution sparingly and wipe gently in a circular motion following the grooves. Allow to air dry completely before playing or storing.

- **Avoid Harsh Chemicals:** Do not use household cleaners, alcohol, or abrasive materials, as these can damage the vinyl.

2. Storing the Record

- **Vertical Storage:** Store records vertically in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and heat sources. Storing them horizontally or at an angle can lead to warping.
- **Protective Sleeves:** Always keep the record in its original paper sleeve, and ideally, an anti-static inner sleeve, inside the outer jacket. This protects against dust, scratches, and static buildup.

3. Stylus Maintenance

- **Clean Regularly:** Use a soft stylus brush or a specialized stylus cleaning solution to gently clean the stylus after every few plays. Always brush from back to front.
- **Inspect for Wear:** Periodically inspect your stylus for wear or damage. A worn stylus can cause poor sound quality and damage your records. Replace it as recommended by your turntable manufacturer.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Here are some common issues and their potential solutions:

1. Record Skips or Jumps

- **Check for Dust/Debris:** Inspect the record surface for visible dust, lint, or debris in the grooves. Clean the record thoroughly.
- **Examine Stylus:** Ensure the stylus is clean and not bent or damaged.
- **Turntable Level:** Verify that your turntable is perfectly level. Use a spirit level if necessary.
- **Tracking Force/Anti-Skate:** If your turntable allows, check and adjust the tracking force and anti-skate settings according to your cartridge manufacturer's recommendations.
- **Record Damage:** Inspect the record for deep scratches or warps. Severe damage may be irreparable.

2. Static Noise or Crackling

- **Clean Record:** Static often attracts dust. Clean the record using an anti-static brush or cleaning solution.
- **Anti-Static Inner Sleeves:** Store records in anti-static inner sleeves to reduce static buildup.
- **Humidity:** Low humidity can increase static. Consider a humidifier in very dry environments.

3. Poor Sound Quality (Muffled, Distorted)

- **Clean Stylus:** A dirty stylus is a common cause of poor sound.
- **Record Cleanliness:** Ensure the record is clean.
- **Speaker/Cable Connections:** Check all audio cable connections between your turntable, amplifier, and speakers.
- **Worn Stylus:** A worn-out stylus will significantly degrade sound quality. Replace it if necessary.

SPECIFICATIONS

Title	Little Star / Born Too Late
Artist	The Poni-Tails

Format	7" 45 RPM Vinyl Single
Model Number	D-2404
Manufacturer	MCA
Label	MCA
ASIN	B00F3LGFP A
Number of Discs	1
Date First Available	September 10, 2013

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

As this is a vintage vinyl record, specific manufacturer warranty information is typically not provided. For any issues related to the condition of the record upon receipt or for seller-specific return policies, please refer to the original point of purchase or contact the seller directly.

For general information on vinyl record care and playback, numerous resources are available online from audio enthusiasts and record collecting communities.

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