

Dear Customer,

over the past two years we have been faced with an unprecedented situation on the global vinyl records market and increasing technological challenges to production – the demand for vinyl rocketed, at the same moment, disturbing shortages of the essential raw materials arose.

To the same extent it concerns you as a Customer, as well as all suppliers, including pressing plants, paper mills and other vendors of the components needed and crucial for the vinyl manufacturing, such as PVC material [polyvinyl chloride] or – especially – acetate lacquers. And it is a cause of great hassle for every party involved.

Unfortunately, what affect the customers the most is the expanding manufacturing time, sometimes to the extent where the pressing plant is not able to inform about the definite shipping date.

Despite implementing a 24 hours work pattern (with staff working in three shifts), we still find it difficult to cope with the current market requirements.

Here's why:

- increased demand for the raw materials results in longer delivery times. At the same time, we are observing delays in delivery of ready products (as the existing courier network cannot keep up with a huge increase in the number of parcels being shipped around the world);

- what is more, the consequences of COVID 19 pandemics are not gone unfortunately – this most unexpected occurrence in recent times forced the pressing plant to apply social distancing measures, meaning that fewer people were on the floor working at the time (and the delays caused by it have been still an obstacle to normal work that we had to overcome).

- in the event of the ongoing war in Ukraine, a number of Ukrainian workers have moved back to their country, which resulted in limited staff availability (in various sectors that affect the turnover and the final shape of our products);

- on the other hand, applying the non-stop work schedule in the pressing plant has been followed by machines breakdowns & the necessity of more frequent service works. As a result, we observed a reduction in the efficiency of vinyl pressing due to recent severe breakdowns and the need of complex maintenance of the machinery.

All together, it results in increases in wait times, which obviously is as frustrating for our customers, as it is for us all, working to get your records pressed.

Yet, we are still passionate about grassroots musical activity and emerging artists and labels supporting them as much as we have always been. We are still the same small, independent manufacturer, always taking smaller orders and cooperating with & focused on independent labels.

The specific actions which should have already improved the manufacturing abilities are still in progress. However, the global shortages of various materials & equipment obstructed the factories to finalise this process quicker and earlier.

Despite that, we are all looking into the future with hope and confidence that the current reality will change and all these efforts will bring us better turnaround times, clear-cut planning which leads to accurate predictions about the orders fulfilment, and that any potential delays will only be minimized.

Thank you for your understanding.

Best regards,  
Leszek Tylko



Senior Customer Service Specialist  
MonotypePressing