

Prefix/Suffix system of matrix series of The Gramophone (& Typewriter) Company / HMV / EMI

I. 1898-1903	II. 1904-1921	III. 1908-1921
prefix / suffix	suffix	suffix
<p>Experimental stage. Use of both prefixes and suffixes . Often simultaneously used, handwritten under the labels and in the label surround:</p> <p>A / B / x / y <i>W. S. Darby</i> G / FG / FWG / E <i>F. W. Gaisberg</i> C / z / Hp <i>F. Hampe</i> W / WG² / WG / WCG / Con / Rad <i>W. C. Gaisberg</i> R* <i>B. G. Royal</i> F (W) <i>C. Walcutt</i> F (CS) <i>C. Scheuplein</i></p> <p>*Much later (after 1926) the capital “R” was used to indicate “Relay” recordings (not made in studios).</p>	<p>New engineers had to be allotted/allocated new codes. So a new system of only suffixes was devised incorporating both the old hands and the rookies: three-letter triplets, indicating both the engineer and the three different sizes (7-inch or 18cm, 10-inch or 25cm and 12-inch or 30cm):</p> <p>a / b / c <i>F. W. Gaisberg</i> d / e / f <i>W. C. Gaisberg</i> g / h / i <i>W. S. Darby</i> k / l / m <i>F. Hampe</i> n / o / p → sm <i>C. Walcutt → J. D. Smoot</i> q / r / s <i>M. Hampe</i> t / u / v <i>C. Scheuplein → H. Fleming</i> x / y / z <i>A. S. Clarke</i></p> <p>Initially C. Walcutt and C. Scheuplein shared the same identification latter (“F” for “France”, where they were both permanently stationed). To distinguish between their recordings, the abbreviations W and CS were added, until they were given separate triplets (in).</p>	<p>When the x/y/z triplet had been reached and the triplet system (three consecutive letters of the alphabet) had thus been exhausted, new engineers had to be given new codes. The old system was therefore expanded with new two-letter triplets (later only doublets, when the 18cm size had been abolished). The first letter indicating the <i>engineer</i>, the second to indicate the <i>size</i>:</p> <p>aa / ab / ac <i>I. R. Holmes → W. C. Hancox</i> ad / ae / af <i>E. J. Pearse</i> ag / ah / ai, aj <i>H. Murtagh</i> ak / al <i>G. W. Dillnutt</i> am / ar <i>W. J. Beckwith</i></p>
<p>The fact that a recording bears the prefix or suffix of a certain engineer does not always imply that that recording was made by the “owner” of that of prefix/suffix . In certain (emergency) cases another (junior) engineer, who had come along as an assistant/trainee, replaced his senior, and making recordings in the matrix series of his senior. Sometimes a certain matrix series was transferred to another recording engineer: for instance, after Charlie Scheuplein’s death in 1921, his matrix letter series was continued by H. Fleming. See also I. R. Holmes → W. C. Hancox.</p> <p>Athens (and other?) 0GA/2GA matrix series continued after 1954 (Kelly). The use of local studios (and possibly technicians) might (in part) explain why the codes become linked with recording locations, rather than individual recording engineers.</p>		

The codes do not always indicate the “owner” of the triplet. Sometimes a senior recorder was involved, or vice versa a junior recorded in the series of his senior, in the case of the latter’s illness or delay. → Egypt (Hampe recording in Darby’s series)
 Check my Greek/Turkish records for Hp/C etc.
 Early records were marked with letters to indicate a certain type of recording or make: like “J “ for “Johnson”(Eldridge Johnson’s wax process) and other specifics (type/number of horns used, cutting stylis etc.)
 E prefix (Oriental Gaisberg)

Making an crystal-clear overview and presenting as many details as possible is impossible.
 As soon as one starts including exceptions, anomalies, irregularities (in short THE UNDILUTED TRUTH AS FAR AS KNOWN) the survey gets cluttered and loses its clarity.
 Besides a lot of irregularities cannot be identified, as the company was not that much interested in finicky details.

“Head Office recordings” must be interpreted as recordings made by various recording engineers.

Make clear that what seems to be a capital letter “O” is in fact the digit for zero: “0” (Table V. and VI.)

Prefix system of 5-inch ZONOPHONE matrix series of The Gramophone (& Typewriter) Company			
1905 – 1905			
G	<i>F. W. Gaisberg</i>	G 1 - 999	
A	<i>W. C. Gaisberg</i>	A 1000 - 1999	
D	<i>W. S. Darby</i>	D 2000 - 2999	
H	<i>F. Hampe (I)</i>	H 3000 – 3999	
W	<i>C. Walcutt</i>	W 4000 – 4999	
B	<i>M. Hampe (II)</i>	B 5000 - 5999	
S	<i>C. Scheuplein</i>	S 6000 - 6999	

Prefix system of matrix series of THE GRAMOPHONE (& TYPEWRITER) COMPANY / HMV / EMI		
IV. Mar 1921-Dec 1930	V. Jan 1931 –July 1934	VI. Aug 1934-1960
prefix	prefix	prefix
<p>B (10-inch or 25cm) and C (12-inch or 30cm), followed by suffix (identification letter) of engineer.</p> <p>The 2 prefixes (= sizes) were used side by side in one and the same consecutive numerical series, irrespective of record size.</p> <p>An "R" appears as third letter to indicate a recording relayed from an outside venue (concert hall, open-air, etc.). The Head Office used a separate series BR / CR for this type of recording, in all other series they are part of the main sequence.</p>	<p>0 (10-inch or 25cm) and 2 (12-inch or 30cm), followed by suffix (identification letter) of engineer:</p> <p>The 2 prefixes (= sizes) were used side by side in one and the same consecutive numerical series, irrespective of record size.</p>	<p>0 (10-inch or 25cm) and 2 (12-inch or 30cm), followed by 2 capital letters.</p> <p>These codes did no longer refer to a specific engineer, but rather to a specific recording location.</p> <p>The 2 prefixes (= sizes) were used side by side in one and the same consecutive numerical series, irrespective of record size.</p>
<p>BA / CA <i>R. R. Sooy → F. W. Rennie</i></p> <p>Bb / Cc/ Dd / Hh / Yy / Zz <i>various (Head Office studios)</i></p> <p>BD / CD <i>R. E. Beckett</i></p> <p>BE / CE <i>A. C. Skelson → J. H. Ellis</i></p> <p>BF(R) / CF(R) <i>E. Fowler</i></p> <p>BG / CG <i>E. Gower</i></p> <p>BH / CH <i>A. S. Clarke? (in Monte Carlo)</i></p> <p>BJ / CJ <i>H. E. Davidson</i></p> <p>BK / CK <i>G. W. Dillnutt</i></p> <p>BL / CL <i>D. E. Larter</i></p> <p>BM / CM <i>W. J. Beckwith → C. C. Blyton</i></p> <p>BN / CN <i>S. E. Tunn</i></p> <p>BP / CP <i>J. Jackson</i></p> <p>BR / CR <i>various (relayed HO recordings)</i></p> <p>BS / CS <i>H. Fleming</i></p> <p>BT(R) / CT(R) <i>M. J. C. Alexander</i></p> <p>BU / CU <i>Indian</i></p> <p>BV / CV <i>W. Vogel → F. C. A. Bulkley</i></p>	<p>0A / 2A <i>US Victor matrices</i></p> <p>0B / 2B <i>.....?</i></p> <p>0C / 2C <i>G. F. Corran</i></p> <p>0D / 2D <i>R. E. Beckett</i></p> <p>0E / 2E <i>S. K. Sen</i></p> <p>0F / 2F <i>E. Fowler</i></p> <p>0G / 2G <i>E. Gower</i></p> <p>0H / 2H <i>A. S. Clarke</i></p> <p>0J / 2J <i>H. E. Davidson</i></p> <p><i>H. F. Chown (Kelly)</i></p> <p>0K / 2K <i>G. W. Dillnutt</i></p> <p>0L / 2L <i>D. E. Larter</i></p> <p>0M / 2M <i>C. C. Blyton</i></p> <p>0N / 2N <i>S. E. Tunn</i></p> <p>0PA / 2PA <i>G. Jonasson</i></p> <p>0PD / 2PD <i>Pathé Recording Studio (Paris)</i></p> <p>0PF / 2PF <i>C. J. Anderson</i></p>	<p>0AA / 2AA AUSTRALIA</p> <p>0AB / 2AB WEST AFRICA</p> <p>0AC / 2AC EGYPT (Alexandria)</p> <p>0AD / 2AD</p> <p>0AE / 2AE ETHIOPIA</p> <p>0AF / 2AF EAST AFRICA (later KENYA)</p> <p>0AG / 2AG</p> <p>0AH / 2AH</p> <p>0AJ / 2AJ</p> <p>0AK / 2AK</p> <p>0AL / 2AL</p> <p>0AM / 2AM SE AFRICA</p> <p>0AN / 2AN</p> <p>0AP / 2AP</p> <p>0AQ / 2AQ</p> <p>0AR / 2AR</p> <p>0AS / 2AS SOUTH AFRICA (Durban, Johannesburg)</p>

BW / CW	A. D. Lawrence	0PG / 2PG	G. W. Deakin	0AT / 2AT	
BX / CX	A. J. Twine	0T / 2T	W. L. E. Dickson	0AU / 2AU	
	<i>(was active in Arabic-speaking areas in 1929-1930)</i>	0W / 2W	A. D. Lawrence	0AV / 2AV	
		0WX / 2WX	A. J. Twine	0AW / 2AW	
		0Y / 2Y	<i>used in 0B / 2B series for</i>	0AX / 2AX	
		0Z / 2Z	Zonophone	0AY / 2AY	
			H. E. Chown	0AZ / 2AZ	
				0BA / 2BA	ITALY (Milan, Rome)
				0BF / 2BF	FINLAND
				0CA / 2CA	
				0DA / 2DA	
				0CS / 2CS	DENMARK (Copenhagen)
				0EA / 2EA	BRITAIN (main series)
				0EF / 2EF	BRITAIN (for overseas)
				0EL	IRELAND
				0ER / 2ER	BRITAIN (relayed)
				0FA	THE NETHERLANDS (1950)
				0GA / 2GA	GREECE (Athens)
					<i>(0GA 3188 was recorded on 18 Aug 1960)</i>
				0HB / 2HB	CZECHOSLOVAKIA (Prague)
				0HR / 2 HR	RUMANIA (Bucarest)
				0KA / 2KA	SPAIN (Barcelona, Madrid)
				0LA / 2LA	FRANCE (Paris)
				0LB / 2LB	BELGIUM (Brussels)
				0LBC / 2LBC	BELGIAN CONGO (Leopoldville)
				0MG	DEI/INDONESIA (Batavia/Jakarta)
					MALAYSIA (Singapore)
				0MG	DEI/INDONESIA , Batavia/Jakarta)
					MALAYSIA (Singapore)
				0MJ/OJM	MALAYSIA (Singapore)
				0NA / 2NA	NORWAY
				0PC / 2PC	PORTUGAL (Lisbon a.o.)
				0RA / 2 RA	GERMANY (Berlin a.o.) "Electrola"
				0SB / 2SB	SWEDEN (Stockholm)
				0TB / 2TB	TURKEY (Istanbul)
				0VH / 2VH	AUSTRIA (Vienna)
				0ZA / 2ZA	SWITZERLAND (Zürich, Luzern a.o.)

		ZZA	SWITZERLAND (Luzern)
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Of the codes **in the third column** a number may be theoretical and may never even have existed.

As technology advanced and the recording activities of the company expanded, the task of administrating things grew more and more complicated. The system of identification letters - codes indicating both recording engineer and record size - had to be adapted regularly and at times even completely overhauled. a new system had to be introduced, each time requiring a more elaborate system of identification letters or markers of matrix series.

For the first names of the recording engineers see www.recordingpioneers.com

DEUTSCHE GRAMMOPHON AKTIEN-GESELLSCHAFT / POLYPHON / POLYDOR

1919-19xx	19xx-19xx	
<p>After WWI the Deutsche Grammophon Aktiengesellschaft went on using the same doublet system as used by The Gramophone Company:</p> <p>am / an ao / ap ar / as at / av ax / az bd / be (see GD / GE) bf / bg bh / bi bk / bm bn / bo (see GN / GO) br / bs bt / bv</p>	<p>Polyphon/Polydor: At some point the lowercase doublets were replaced by doublets in capitals:</p> <p>AM / AN AO / AP AR / AS AT / AV AX / AZ BD / BE BF / BG BH / BI BK / BM BN / BO BR / BS BT / BV DB</p>	

	FD / FE FN GD / GE GN / GO	
<p>Of the doublets (letter pairs) represented here only one size may have been used in practice by the recording expert they belonged to. In other words, at least one code of the doublets in this overview has been used. I guess in most (all?) cases this concerned 25cm recordings.</p>		

In compiling these overviews I based myself on the following material:

Alan Kelly's articles, books and MAT cd-roms

Peter Copeland's articles in "*Historic Record*", No. 26-28

Gramophone Company Matrix and Catalogue Numbers by Howard S. Friedman (online)

I am also very grateful for the corrections, improvements, suggestions and comments Chris (Zwarg, of course!) sent me.

The Zon-o-phone Record by Ernie Bayly and Michael Kinnear

The Gramophone Company's Persian recordings 1899 to 1934 / compiled by Michael S. Kinnear. Heidelberg, Victoria, Australia : Bajakhana, 2000

EMI correspondence (Ruth Edge)

My own research as presented on www.recordingpioneers.com

These things beg to be represented (simply beg for a clear representation of codes) in transparent surveys/overviews (representation Of course with technology still in the experimental phase and constantly being developed the administration of it always lags behind on e cannot expect a consistent system

What was needed was a transparent clear overview of all the codes

sm = Smoot (Norway)

Sanders

ZONOPHONE

Matrix suffixes overlap in time as they were not used simultaneously from one and the same date (1904-1921 & 1908-1921 seem contradictory but in fact reflect the moment a new recorder first came into action independently/was considered capable to work on his own).

I. 1898-1903							
recording engineers	matrix codes 7" / 18cm	matrix codes 10" / 25cm	matrix codes 12" / 30cm			period when active	
<i>W. S. Darby</i>	1750 A B 3495 g	x 2471 h	y 343 i			1899 - 1920	
<i>F. W. Gaisberg</i>	E 1200 a	E 150 b	c			1898 -	
<i>W. C. Gaisberg</i>	con d	2948 W2 con e	con f				
<i>F. Hampe</i>	695 C	483 z					
<i>B. G. Royal</i>	2949 R						
<i>C. Scheuplein</i>							
<i>C. Walcutt</i>							

II. 1904-1921 (or 1908?)					
recording engineers	matrix codes 7" / 18cm	matrix codes 10" / 25cm	matrix codes 12" / 30cm	period when active	
<i>A. S. Clarke</i>	[x]	y	z	1908 – 19xx	
<i>W. S. Darby</i>					
<i>H. Fleming</i>					
<i>F. W. Gaisberg</i>					
<i>W. C. Gaisberg</i>					
<i>F. Hampe</i>					
<i>M. Hampe</i>	500 q	359 r (H359R under label)	111 s	1905 – 19xx	
<i>C. Scheuplein</i>	t	u	v		
<i>J. D. Smoot</i>					
<i>C. Walcutt</i>	n	o	p		

III. 1908 - 1921					
recording engineers	matrix numbers 7" / 18cm	matrix codes 10" / 25cm	matrix codes 12" / 30cm	period when active	
<i>W. J. Beckwith</i>					
<i>G. W. Dillnutt</i>	n	o	p		
<i>W. C. Hancox</i>					
<i>I. R. Holmes</i>					
<i>H. Murtagh</i>					
<i>E. J. Pearse</i>					
<i>J. D. Smoot (?)</i>		sm	sm	Oct – Dec 1916 (disputed)	

IV. Mar 1921-Dec 1930					
recording engineers	matrix codes 10" / 25cm	matrix codes 12" / 30cm		period when active	
<i>M. J. C. Alexander</i>	BT(R)	CT(R)			
<i>W. J. Beckwith</i>	BM	CM			
<i>R. E. Beckett</i>	BD	CD			
<i>C. C. Blyton</i>	BM	CM			
<i>F. C. A. Bulkley</i>	BV	CV			
<i>H. E. Davidson</i>	BJ	CJ			
<i>G. W. Dillnutt</i>	BK	CK			
<i>J. H. Ellis</i>	BE	CE			
<i>H. Fleming</i>	BS	CS			
<i>E. Fowler</i>	BF(R)	CF(R)			
<i>E. Gower</i>	BG	CG			
<i>Head Office studios</i>	Bb / Cc / Dd / Hh / Yy / Zz sizes?				
<i>J. Jackson</i>	BP	CP			
<i>D. E. Larter</i>	BL	CL			
<i>A. D. Lawrence</i>	BW	CW			
<i>F. W. Rennie</i>	BA	CA			

<i>A. C. Skelson</i>	BE	CE			
<i>R. R. Sooy</i>	BA	CA			
<i>S. E. Tunn</i>	BN	CN			
<i>A. J. Twine</i>	BX	CX			
<i>W. Vogel</i>	BV	CV			
.....?	BH	CH	<i>(in Monte Carlo)</i>		
.....?	BR	CR	<i>various (relayed HO recordings)</i>		
.....?	BU	CU	<i>Indian</i>		

V. Jan 1931 –July 1934					
recording engineers	matrix numbers 10" / 25cm	matrix numbers 12" / 30cm		period when active	
<i>R. E. Beckett</i>	0D	2D			
<i>C. C. Blyton</i>	0M	2M			
<i>G. F. Corran</i>	0C	2C			
<i>H. E. Davidson</i>	0J	2J			
<i>W. L. E. Dickson</i>	0T	2T			
<i>G. W. Dillnutt</i>	0K	2K			
<i>E. Fowler</i>	0F	2F			
<i>D. E. Larter</i>	0L	2L			
<i>A. D. Lawrence</i>	0W(X)	2W(X)			
<i>S. E. Tunn</i>	0N	2N			
(INCOMPLETE)					

0A / 2A US Victor matrices
 0B / 2B ?
 0E / 2E ?
 0G / 2G ?
 0H / 2H ?

0PA / 2PA?
0PD / 2PD?
0PF / 2PF?
0PG / 2PG?
0X / 2X?
0Y / 2Y?
0Z / 2Z?