

Old or hard to find records found in cutout bargain bins

by David Calvert

Battalion Reporter

Imagine being able to buy popular record albums for two or three dollars off the regular price, without subscribing to one of those record clubs that trash up your Sunday newspaper or favorite magazine.

Because they are cheaper, cutout and used records are becoming a popular item in record stores around town.

Record album prices have risen steadily over the last 10 years due to the increasing prices of petroleum. The vinyl used to make albums is made from petroleum by-products.

Cutout albums are records which are no longer on the list of top sellers, but are still popular. They are usually three or four years old and are sold for three to five dollars off the normal price. Rather than send them back to the recording company, they remain at the store for sale.

Used albums are records which have been brought in by customers for cash. Most record dealers will inspect these records to make sure they are in good condition before paying out any money. The customer, however, should inspect the album to make sure it is in good condition.

Bruce Long, a junior civil engineering major at the University of Texas at Austin, said cutout and used albums are good for completing a record collection.

"Many times you get interested in a group after they have put out several albums," Long said. "Cutout albums give you the chance to find out what the group sounded like in their earlier days without paying those ridiculous prices."

Long said, however, that only older albums will be found in the cutout section of a record store.

"You won't find the Cars' newest album as a cutout," Long said, "but you can find their first two albums for a couple of dollars less than the normal price. This is the case for many groups around today."

"REO Speedwagon and Journey are other good examples. Before they became really popular five or six years ago, you couldn't give some of Journey's albums away. Someone who likes REO or Journey's newer albums can get copies of their earlier albums without paying the regular prices."

Long, a disc jockey in Austin who owns more than 800 albums, said used records are potentially better buys than cutouts, but because they are usually newer releases than cutouts and are usually cheaper, the selection is not as good.

"Finding good used albums means being at the right place at the right time," Long said. "Certain albums will sit in the bins forever, but a more recent album will get snapped up almost the moment it is put up for sale."



photo by Laura Hatch

Everyone needs to look for good bargains these days. Junior petroleum engineering major Brad Fisher checks out the cut-out records at Music

Express and finds it difficult to narrow down the choices. Cutout bins feature older records at prices lower than those of newer ones.

"The best way I know to find good used albums is to go by the store every day and look through the collection."

Long said competition for used albums also involves salesmen at the record store.

"The salesmen get first shot at any new used album which comes in," he said. "What you

see on the shelves is what has gotten by them first."

Virtually any type of music is available in cutout or used albums. Tony Martin, a sophomore environmental design major from San Antonio, said he likes several types of music, so cutouts give him a wide choice of older albums.

"I like almost everything from the Beatles to classical to new wave," Martin said. "Many Beatles albums are available in cutouts, including some of their earlier LP's."

"It may take a few years for an album I want to get into the cutout shelf, but to me the savings are worth it."

If you are a music lover who finds himself on a restricted budget (aren't we all these days),

or if you want to catch up on some great sounds from the past, you might find that cutout and used records can solve your problems without breaking your wallet.

FOCUS

PHOTO & CAMERA, INC.

1603 S. Texas Ave. **693-1402**
Culpepper Plaza

Open 10-6 Mon.-Sat.

"Professional Assistance & Service with Every Sale"

We've Got A Complete Stock of Supplies for Your Photo Classes...

- Darkroom Chemicals & Equipment
- Photographic Films & Papers
- Camera Repair
- Kodak Color Processing

... at Reasonable Prices!!

Bryan-College Station's only locally-owned camera store

