

ANDY'S TOP 5 COMMON SENSE SECRETS FOR BUYING RECORDS ONLINE

Andy from FensePost here. I buy records a lot. Like, seriously. I probably add 5-10 to my collection a month (shhh ... don't tell my wife). If you buy a lot of records, these days there's a good chance you buy a lot online. Music has always been a passion, and that passion exploded when I started buying records in 1999. Back then, you went to a physical store. Maybe you still do, and many of these tips will work for that as well.

So, without further adieu, here are my top 5 common sense secrets for buying records online:

1

KNOW YOUR WANT LIST

Whether you're popping into your favorite (or some random) record store on a whim or perusing an online store or marketplace, it helps to have a want list close at hand. I recommend using [Discogs](#) to create your want list.

2

KNOW YOUR VARIANTS

Depending on the release, the variant matters. Do you want a reissue or an original pressing? Do you want the black vinyl version or a limited edition color variant? Knowing precisely the version you want to add to your collection will facilitate decision making.

3

KNOW YOUR BUDGET LIMITS

Interest in vinyl has increased in price significantly over the past decade. In fact, 2022 was the first year [since 1987](#) where vinyl outsold CDs! Knowing what you're willing to pay for everything in your want list is crucial if you're like me and you pick up records on the regular.

4

KNOW THE COMPETITION

Even if I find a record within my budget, I *always* shop around. I'll start by looking at average prices of the release on Discogs, then I'll check pricing on [Amazon](#), [ebay](#), and even shops like [Rough Trade](#) before making a decision whether to buy. I factor in tax and shipping, too!

If you're at a record store, check the average price online. Discogs shows how many have various pressings in their collection AND in their want lists. The same rules apply, just make sure you adjust for online shipping costs.

5

KNOW YOUR CART VALUE

I love this one. If you hit a certain threshold, some retailers will eliminate shipping charges. Even if they don't, adding a second or third record to the order usually decreases the shipping cost per record, and that can move a record from being outside your budget limit to within it!



As the title of this document, these are typically "common sense" tips for buying records online (or even in-store). Maybe you use them already and find this list dumb, maybe you haven't considered them but will start using them now. Either way, feed your passion and keep supporting artists by buying physical records!

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