

A view from the plating bath

Trends and challenges

Martin Frings

Making Vinyl, September 2023





Hello Hello (I'm Back Again)

Forgotten Rebels (Canada, 1982)



2018

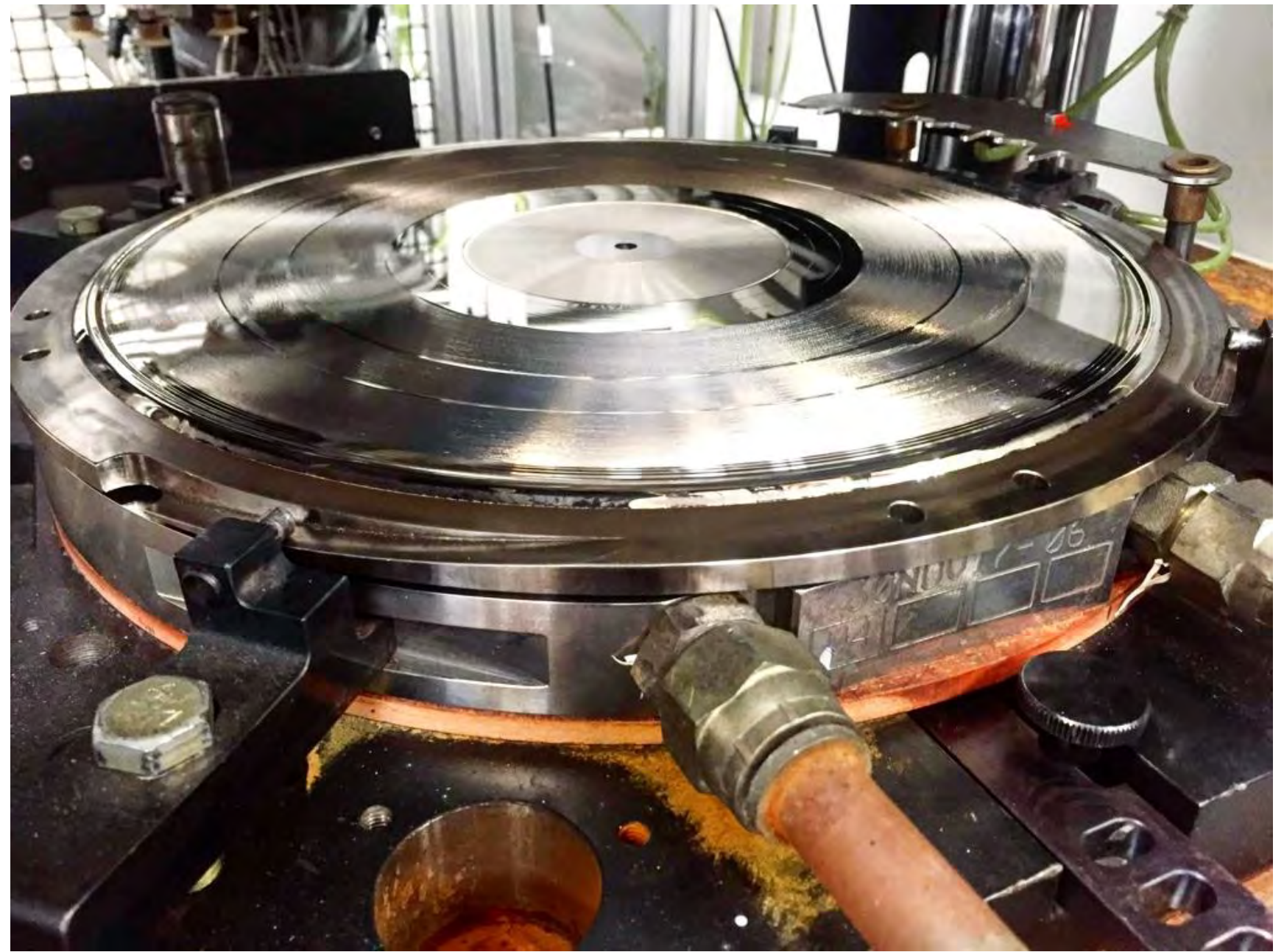
2023

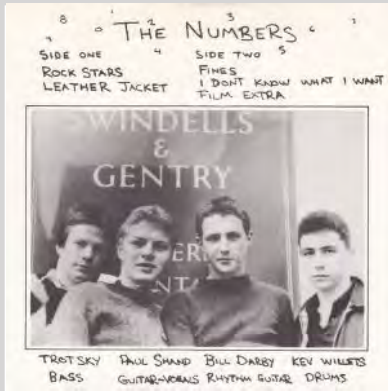




Now That I Have Your Attention What Do I Do With It?

Septic Death (US, 1986)



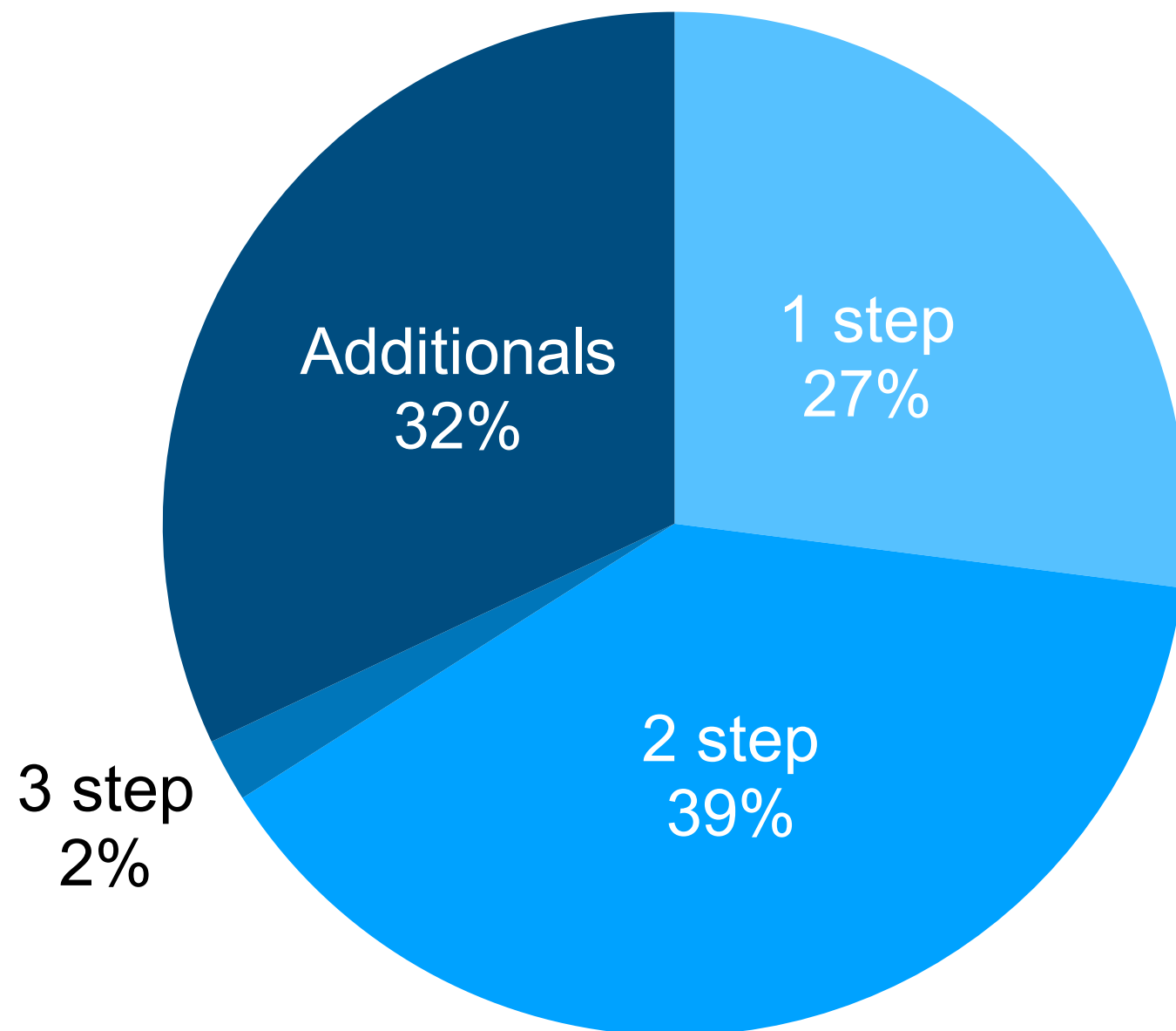


The Numbers

The Numbers (UK, 1979)

Stamper orders by plating process

Sept 22 – Aug 2023

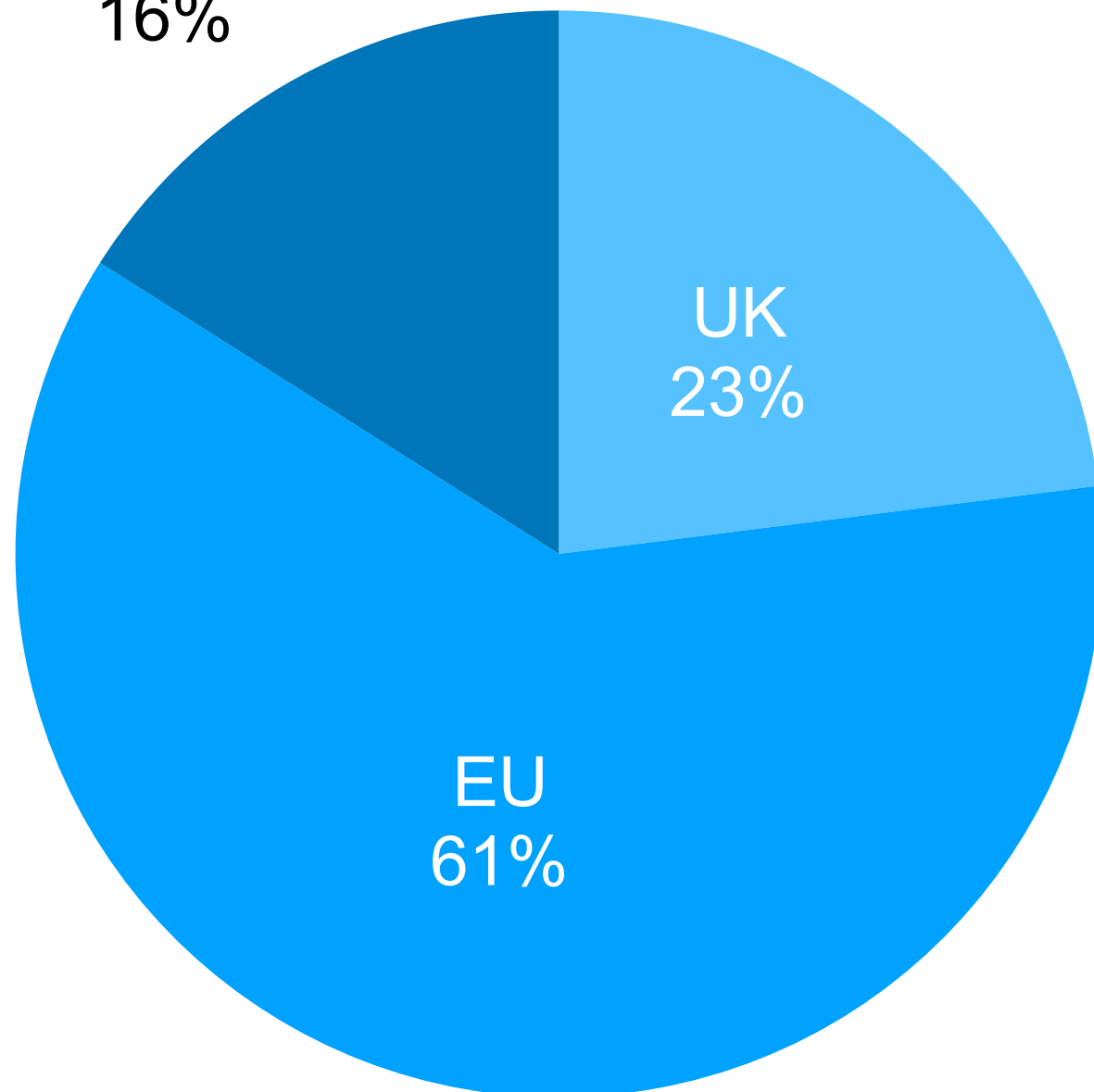




The Numbers

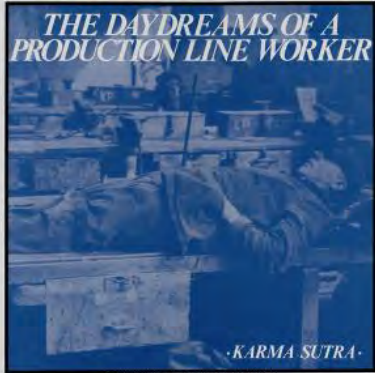
The Numbers (UK, 1979)

Rest of
World
16%



Stamper shipments by region

Sept 22 – Aug 2023



The Daydreams Of A Production Line Worker

Karma Sutra (UK, 1987)

- Run lengths creeping up
- A huge worldwide increase in capacity
- A shift of capacity towards North & Central America
- Increasingly competitive market
- Potential for growth of DMM outside major plants
- New press and lathe manufacturers lower entry price to market
- An emphasis on splatter and coloured records.
- A decrease in 7".

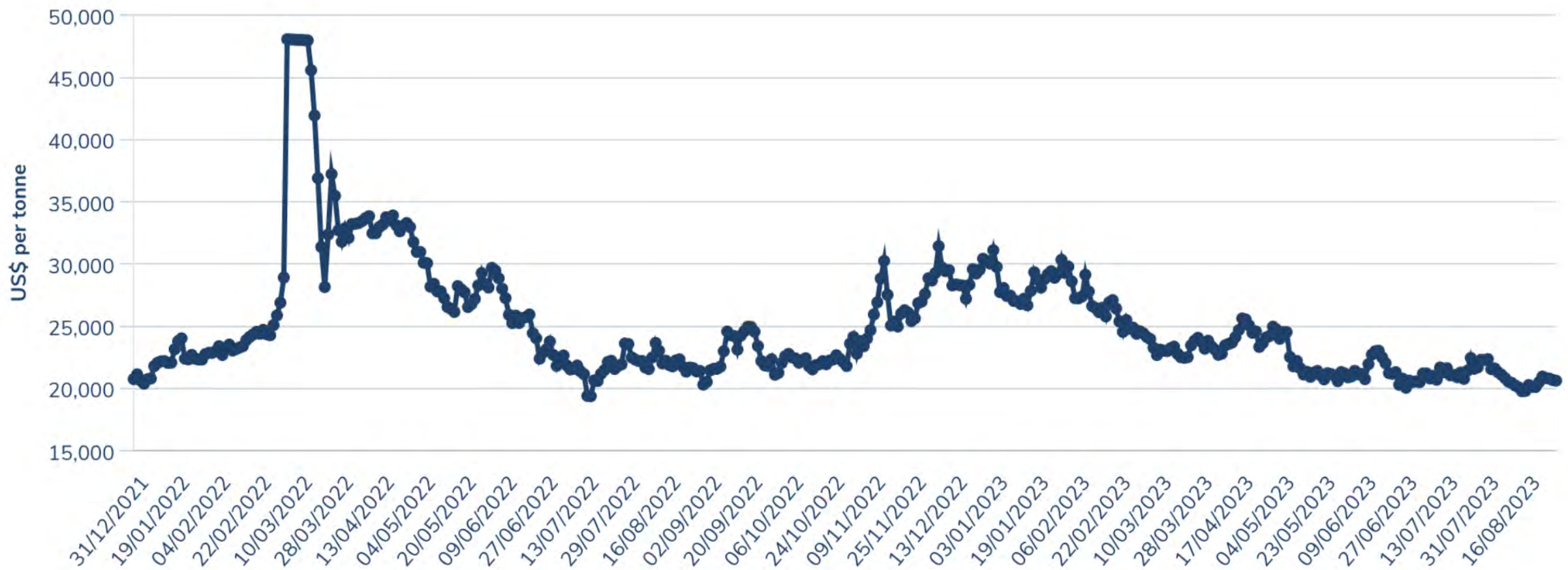


Supply And Demand Arrange The Price

GISM (Japan, 1984)

Nickel prices on the London Metal Exchange

Price



← 2022 → 2023 →



Hazardous Waste

Negative FX (US, 1985)



Dichromates



Nickel



Chromium trioxide/
silver stripper



In Defence Of Our Earth

Oi Polloi (UK, 1990)

Carbon footprint
(kg CO₂e)
EU to Australia



40
08

1000
records

19
2
stampers



Øndanthehgning (Exceptional Product)

Purrkur Pillnikk (Iceland, 1981)

How new wave pressing plants are differentiating themselves

- Hyperlocal market
- Cultural hubs embedded in local music scene
- Better turnaround & service
- Quality, quality, quality
- Supporting local bands and artists



Only Stupid Bastards Help EMI

Conflict (UK, 1986)

Production costs and retail prices on two recent legacy re-releases

Major label, 30,000 run

€2.19

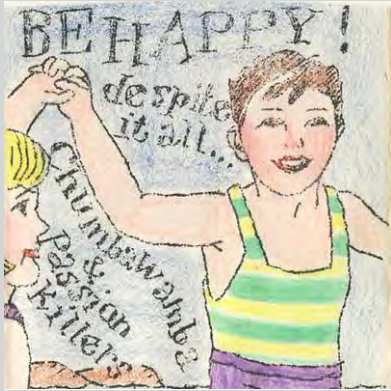
Retail price €38

Independent label, 500 run

€5.57

Retail price €18

Production costs in both cases include, lacquers, stampers, 5 test presses, labels, poly lined inners, printed sleeve with 3mm spine, assembly and shrink-wrap



Be Happy! Despite It All...

Chumbawamba (UK, 1983)

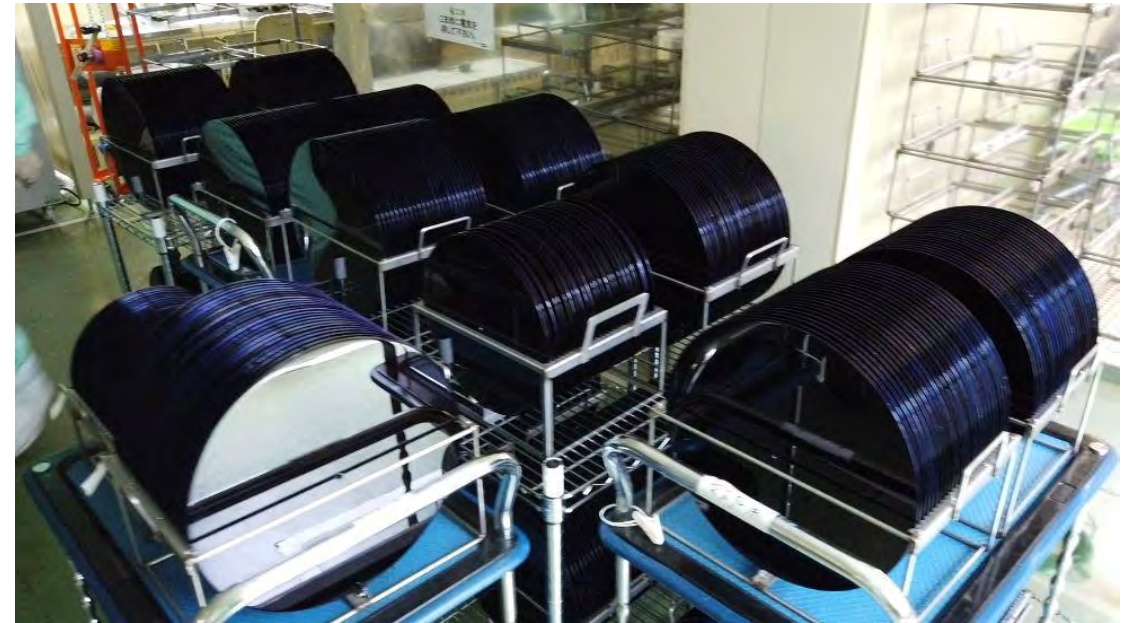


photo from MDC



BLANK
Poison
BLACKOUT
Idea
VACANT

Say Goodbye

Poison Idea (US, 1982)

Think global, press local



www.stamperdiscs.com