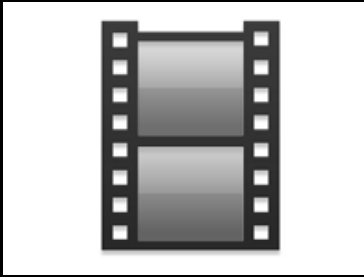
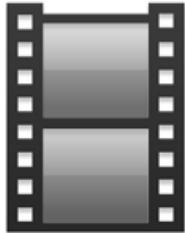


Identity Project: Research

Week 7
Februray 21, 2017



The Record



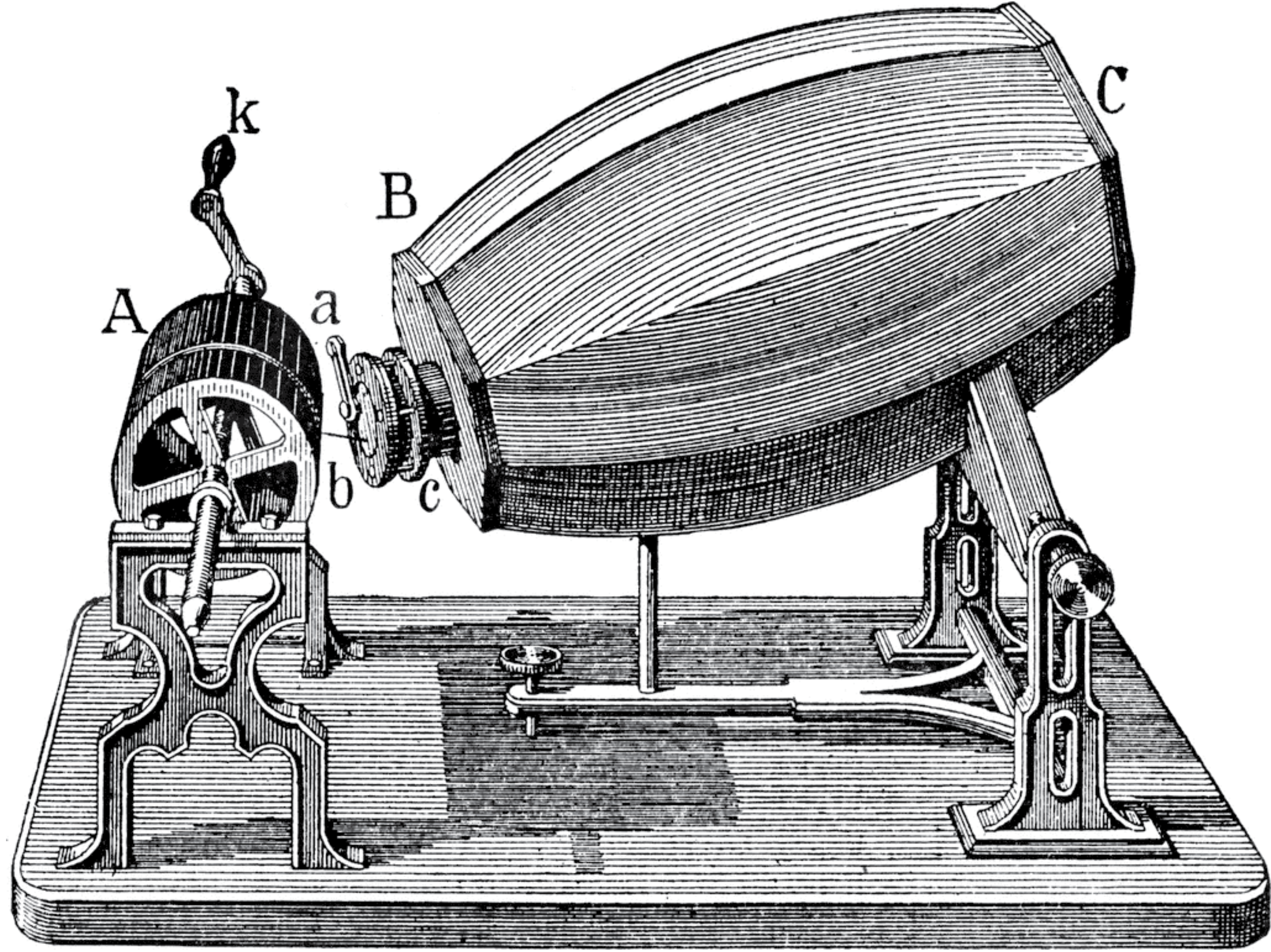
Creation

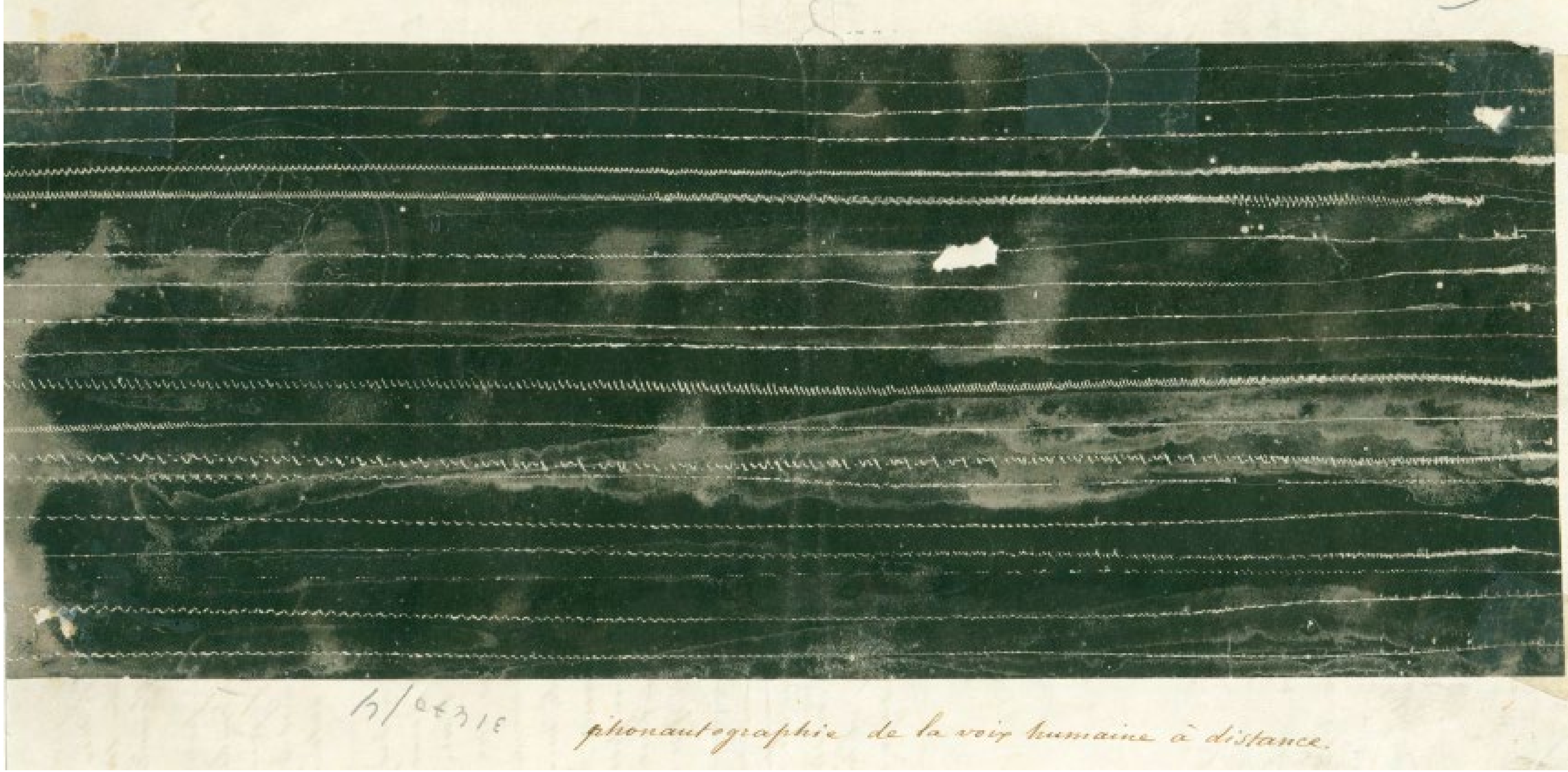
Back in the day (as in, 1857) audio engineers used a device called a phonautograph, which drew out soundwaves graphically. These devices were strictly to draw out the waveforms onto paper — and could not play music back. In 2000, a group of (bored) audio engineers got together to reproduce these sounds, first recorded in the 1800s.

Twenty years later, in 1877, Thomas Edison invented the phonograph. The phonograph was capable of both recording and playing back sound. Edison used a technique similar to that of the phonautograph, except instead of paper, he used tinfoil. The tinfoil was then wrapped around a piece of metal, and voila, the recording was able to be played back. Later on, Edison switched to using wax as his primary material.

Although Edison released variations of his phonograph that used discs and tapes, it wasn't until Emile Berliner created lateral-cut discs in 1899 that the record-game began to change. His discs weren't of great quality, but could record a substantial amount per side.

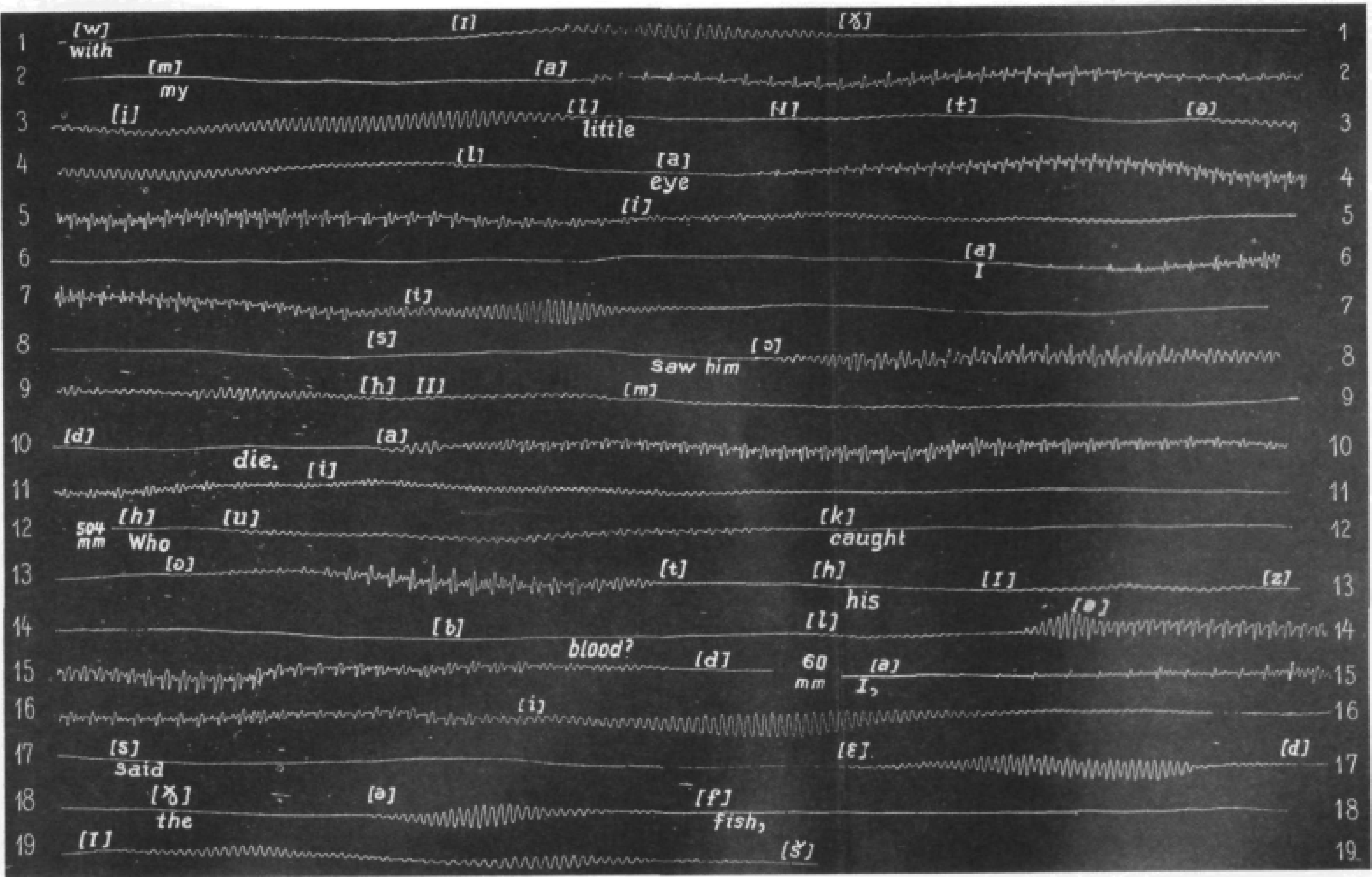
By 1903, the 12-inch discs every Brooklynite is familiar with had been invented. The discs could hold up to four minutes of sound by the time the patents were released in 1919 and soon dominated the home entertainment world.





17/04/18

phonautographie de la voix humaine à distance.



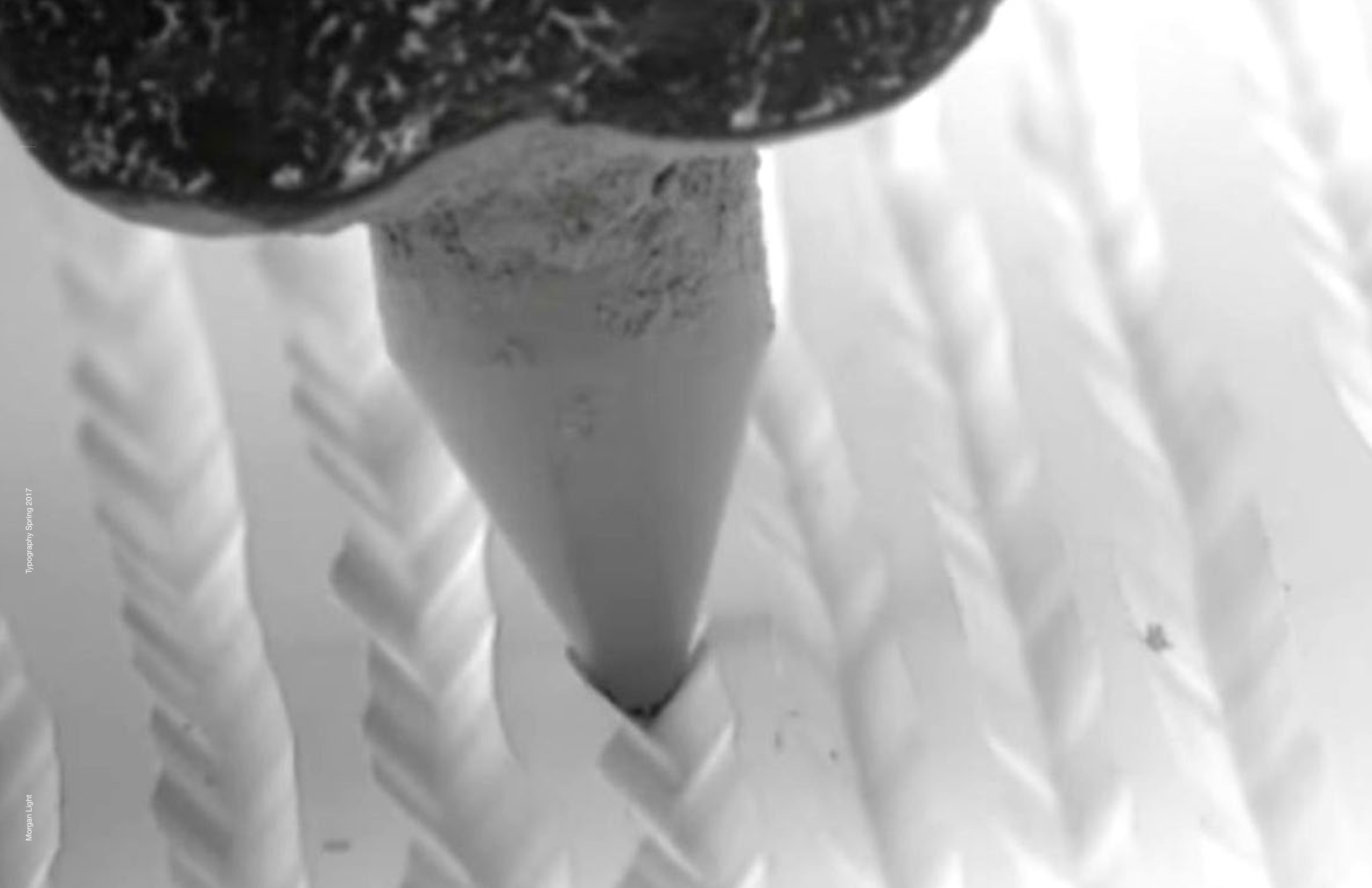




Recording

Until around 1920, records were created acoustically. Instruments attached to pipes would record sounds with a diaphragm, and then cut into records to be played out loud. Many bands would swap instruments for studio recording to try and increase sound quality, for example, cellos would be replaced by tubas, which were louder.

When electrical recording came along, all of the instruments were miked. The mic would give electrical signals to an electromechanical recording head. The technology surrounding recording quality continued to increase for the following few decades.





Materials

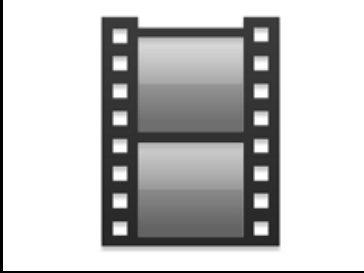
1889 Rubber

1895 Shellac-based ($\frac{1}{3}$ shellac, $\frac{2}{3}$ slate and limestone, plus some cotton fibers and black carbon for color)

1904 Celluloid (shellac + cardboard)

1930 Durium (heavy brown paper based, sold at newsstands for daily hits)

1931 Victrolac (Vinyl-based)



Sizes

1890 5 inches

1860 7 inches

1910 10 inches

1903 12 inches

1903 8 inches

Earnings

Between 1988 and 1991, sales were down. But with the resurgence of enthusiastic vinyl supporters, sales are on the rise.

2007 \$55 million

2008 \$66 million

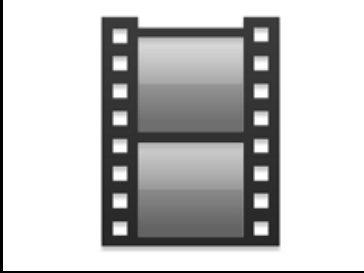
2009 \$73 million

2010 \$89 million

2011 \$116 million

--

2015 \$416 million



Thanks