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For many years collectors, archivists and mastering engineers were forced to use "plays all but poorly" conical styli.

Because of the wide variety of cutting styli used by the original recording engineers as well as the variables of record wear and groove depth, the search began for more exotic styli to play classic recordings of varying vintages, formats, record wear and groove dimensions.

The first attempts involved "re-tipping" off the shelf conical and similar styli. This is nominally successful but involves the risk of weakening the cantilever and thus shortening stylus assembly life.

After years of research conducted by Bob Corneal at the Library of Congress, Tom Owen and associates at the Rodgers & Hammerstein Archives in New York and George Alexandrovich at Stanton Magnetics, the custom manufacture of 78 and transcription styli and recommendations for their use were made available.

.5 TE	Wager-Nichols Records	.5T	Wagner-Nichols records
1.5 TE	Early LPs, some acetates	1.5T	Early LPs, some acetates
2.0 TE	Excellent alternate stylus for shallow groove electrics	2.0T	Some Polydors
2.3 TE	Transcriptions	2.3T	Polydors & Transcriptions
2.4 TE	Narrow groove 78s such as some Polydors, worn discs	2.5T	Excellent "all-round" stylus for 78s & Transcriptions
2.5 TE	Excellent "all-round" alternate stylus for all 78s including early-acoustical and electrics	2.6T	Very good 16 inch Acetate stylus - 1930's & 40's
2.6 TE	Same as 2.5 but for problem records	3.0T	Standard groove 78
2.8 TE	Late 30's 78s and transcriptions	3.5T	Alternate standard size
3.0 TE	Standard groove 78	3.7T	Spherical Edison Diamond Discs
3.3 TE	Excellent "all-round" stylus for commercial 78s beginning with early electrics	3.8T	Older Acoustics, 78s
3.5TE	Alternate "standard" size	4.0T	Some wide groove recordings
3.8TE	Wide Groove Acoustical	3.7	Edison Diamond Discs & Blue Amberola Cylinders
4.0TE	Larger sizes for very early acoustic discs	6.0	Spherical for some aluminum instantaneous discs
4.5TE	Limited use	8.0	Etched label Pathes' up to 14 inches
		16.0	Etched label Pathes' 14 inches and above

\* *Truncated* ("T") means that the stylus has a flat rather than conical tip and thus rides above the bottom of the groove. *Truncated elliptical* ("TE") means that the stylus is not only truncated but has the form of an ellipse. The result: less noise from the grooves and a more accurately reproduced signal; in short the best possible tracking of 78rpm and transcription grooves. Both *truncated* and *truncated elliptical* styli are utilized in the playback of 78s, acetate transcriptions, and all forms of archival recordings. In most cases vertical "hill-and-dale" recordings are played back with regular conical styli.