

Disco



* The term "disco" comes from the French word *discotheque*

* Its definition is "library of phonograph records"

* The term discotheque was given to nightclubs in Paris

* Discotheques highly used laser lights & special lighting

* Studio 54 in New York City was one of the bigger commercial successes





* Club owners spent lots of money upgrading their dance floors & audio/visual equipment to attract customers

* Along with upgrading the venue, club DJ's became an important factor in disco experience

* "mixing" became more prominent as people did not want to stop dancing after only 3-4 minutes



* Disco has a "four-on-the-floor" beat

* Drum set usually played 8th or 16th note hi-hat pattern with an open hi-hit on the off beat

* Most disco tracks used strings or horns to create lush background sound



* Orchestral instruments such as the flute were often used for solo melodic lines

* Lead guitar was used much less frequently than in rock

* Disco was a world wide phenomenon, but in the U.S. declined in popularity in the late 1970's

* In July 1979 an [anti-disco protest at Chicago White Sox game](#) signified the demise of disco

* In the subsequent years disco music struggled to get air-time on the radio



* In the 80's the term disco became unfashionable and eventually was replaced by "dance music" and "dance pop"
