



DiscDex

Music Collection Manager for iPhone & iPad

User Documentation

Complete User Guide & Reference

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Getting Started

When you first launch DiscDex, open **Settings** and enter your **Discogs Personal Access Token**. This is required for all barcode lookups and metadata fetching.

To get a token:

1. Sign in at discogs.com
2. Go to **Settings** → **Developers**
3. Click **Generate new token**
4. Paste the token into DiscDex Settings

Without a valid token, barcode scans will return an authentication error.

Main tabs:

- **Scan** — Barcode scanner and saved-wall of recent additions
- **Library** — Browse and manage your CD collection
- **Stats** — Statistics dashboard across your entire collection
- **Settings** — Configure the app

Scanning Releases

Starting a Scan

Tap the **Scan** tab. The scanner activates the camera automatically. Point it at the barcode on the back of a CD or vinyl record.

When a barcode is detected:

- DiscDex searches Discogs for matching releases
- A **Release Match Card** slides up with the metadata
- Review the result, then tap **Save to Library** or **Discard**

Scan Target

By default, scans go to your **CD Library**. Switch to **Vinyl** in Settings → Scanner Behavior → Scan Target. The active target is always shown in the scanner interface.

Release Match Card

The match card shows:

- Cover art (downloaded from Discogs)
- Title and artists
- Label and catalog number
- Year and country
- Formats and tracklist
- Genre and style tags

If Discogs returns multiple results for a barcode, the best match is selected automatically. You can search manually if the auto-match is wrong.

Manual Search

If a barcode isn't found, or an item has no barcode, tap **Search Discogs** and enter a title and/or artist name. Results appear in a list — tap one to load its details.

Adding to Library

After reviewing the match, tap **Save**. An **Add Release** sheet appears where you can enter:

- **Location** — Physical shelf, room, or any label
- **Media Condition** — Mint / Near Mint / Very Good Plus / Very Good / Good Plus / Good / Fair / Poor
- **Sleeve Condition** — Same scale as media
- **Notes** — Freeform text

Tap **Add** to save, or **Skip** to save with no inventory details.

Duplicate Detection

If the scanned barcode is already in your library, a **duplicate alert** appears showing the existing entry. You can open the existing release or discard the scan.

Batch Scan Mode

Enable **Batch Scan Mode** in Settings to stay in the scanner after saving each release rather than navigating away. Useful when cataloguing a large collection in one session.

Scan History

A log of recent scans appears below the scanner. Each entry shows the release title, scan outcome (Saved / Duplicate / Not Found), and a relative timestamp. Tap an entry to open that release's detail view.

Saved Wall

The **Saved Wall** is a grid of cover art for recently added releases, visible on the scanner screen. Tap any cover to open that release.

Your CD Library

Open the **Library** tab to browse all releases in your collection.

Display Modes

Toggle between **List** and **Grid** views using the toolbar button.

- **List** — Shows cover thumbnail (if enabled), title, artist, year, and status badges
- **Grid** — Cover art mosaic; column count adjustable in Settings

Sorting

Sort by: **Title**, **Artist**, **Year**, or **Date Added** — ascending or descending. Tap the sort button in the toolbar to change.

Media Filter

A filter bar at the top of the library lets you view:

- **All** — CDs and vinyl together
- **CD** — CD releases only
- **Vinyl** — Vinyl releases only

Status Filter

Filter between **Owned** releases and your **Wishlist**.

Vinyl Collection

The **Vinyl** section (accessible from the Library or dedicated tab) shows your vinyl records separately.

Folder View

Vinyl items can be organised into named **folders**. A folder filter chip strip at the top lets you jump between folders or view all records. An **Unsorted** folder collects items with no folder assigned.

Discogs Search for Vinyl

Within the vinyl view, tap **Search Discogs** to look up a vinyl release by title and artist when no barcode is available. Results list the release details; tap one to add it to your vinyl collection.

Release Detail

Tap any release to open its full detail view.

Sections

Section	Contents
Cover Art	Full-size cover artwork with action menu
Info	Title, artists, year, labels, catalog numbers, formats
Inventory	Location, condition grades, storage slot, loan status
Tags	Searchable user-defined tags
Tracklist	All tracks with positions and durations
Attachments	User photos and text notes
Notes	Freeform text from Discogs or manual entry
Dates	Date added and last updated

Cover Art Actions

Tap the cover to reveal options:

- **Take Photo** — Photograph the cover with your camera

- **Choose from Photos** — Pick from your photo library
- **Fetch from Discogs** — Download the official cover art

After choosing a photo, a **crop view** opens — pinch and pan to frame the artwork, then tap **Use Photo**.

Favorite

Tap the **heart icon** to mark a release as a favorite. Favorites appear in the Favorites smart collection and are highlighted in the library.

PDF Export

Tap **Export** (share icon) to generate a single-release PDF and open the system share sheet.

RFID / NFC Tag

Tap the **barcode icon** to display the barcode for this release. On NFC-capable devices, a **Write RFID** option lets you encode the release's barcode onto a writable NFC tag.

Editing a Release

From the detail view, tap **Edit** (pencil icon) to open the edit sheet.

Editable Fields

Section	Fields
Basic Info	Title, Artist, Year, Country
Labels	Label names and catalog numbers
Genres & Styles	Free-form tags editable as comma-separated values
Collection	Location, media condition, sleeve condition
Notes	Personal notes and Discogs notes
Tags	Custom searchable tags
Status	Owned or Wishlist

Tap **Save** to apply changes or **Cancel** to discard.

Inventory & Collection Metadata

Each owned release can have one set of collection metadata attached to it.

Condition Grading

Both **Media** and **Sleeve** use the Goldmine condition scale:

Grade	Abbreviation	Description
Mint	M	Perfect, unplayed
Near Mint	NM	Nearly perfect
Very Good Plus	VG+	Shows light signs of play
Very Good	VG	Obvious signs of play, still sounds good
Good Plus	G+	Plays through but with significant noise
Good	G	Barely acceptable
Fair	F	Plays but heavily damaged
Poor	P	Barely playable

Storage Tracking

DiscDex supports tracking where each disc is physically stored.

Modes (set in Settings → Storage Tracking):

- **Off** — No storage slot tracking
- **Carousel** — Discs are numbered by slot in a single rotating carousel
- **Cartridge** — Discs are stored in removable cartridges; each cartridge has slots

When storage tracking is active, a **Storage Slot** picker appears in the inventory section. Assign a slot to each disc to quickly locate it in your changer.

Play Tracking

Tap **Log Play** on any release to increment its play count and record the current date as the last-played date. Both values are shown in the detail view and included in the Statistics dashboard.

Loan Management

Track items you lend to others.

Checking Out a Release

From the detail view, tap **Loan**. Enter:

- **Borrower name**
- **Due date** (optional)
- **Loan notes** (optional)

The release is marked as **Loaned Out** and the borrower's name appears on the library card.

Checking In

When the item is returned, tap **Return** from the detail view. The loan record is cleared and the release returns to **Available** status.

Overdue Loans

Releases whose due date has passed appear in the **Overdue Loans** smart collection and are highlighted in the library with an overdue badge.

Smart Collections

Smart Collections are predefined dynamic filters shown as pill chips at the top of the Library. Tap a chip to instantly filter the view.

Collection	What It Shows
All	Every release
Recently Added	Added in the last 30 days
Wishlist	Status = Wishlist
Favorites	Marked as favorite
Missing Location	No physical location set
Needs Cover	No cover image
No Barcode	Missing or pseudo-generated barcode
Loaned Out	Currently checked out
Overdue Loans	Past due date

Statistics Dashboard

Tap the **Stats** tab for a comprehensive breakdown of your collection. Use the **media picker** at the top to switch between CD and Vinyl statistics.

Sections

Section	Shows
Artists	Top artists by release count
Labels	Top labels by release count
Plays	Most-played releases; total play count
Genres	Genre breakdown with counts
Styles	Style breakdown with counts
Decades	Releases grouped by decade
Conditions	Distribution across media condition grades
Storage	Slot occupancy by carousel or cartridge
Countries	Releases grouped by country of origin
Loans	Active loans and loan history summary
Inventory	Total owned, wishlist, loaned, favorited counts

Search & Filter

Search Bar

A search bar at the top of the Library filters results in real time. Tap the field-scope chip to restrict the search to a specific domain.

Search Domains

Domain	What It Searches
All	Every searchable field
Release	Title and artist name
Metadata	Labels, formats, year, country, genres, styles
Collection	Location, condition, storage slot
Tags	User-defined tags
Tracks	Track titles within the tracklist
Notes	Personal notes and Discogs notes

Exact Match

Wrap a query in "**double quotes**" to search for an exact phrase rather than individual keywords.

Bulk Operations

Entering Selection Mode

Tap **Select** in the Library toolbar. Checkboxes appear on each release card. Tap releases to select them; tap again to deselect.

Bulk Actions

With one or more releases selected:

Action	Description
Bulk Edit	Open the Bulk Edit sheet to change fields across all selected releases at once
Bulk Delete	Delete all selected releases after a confirmation dialog
Recheck	Re-fetch metadata from Discogs for all selected releases

Bulk Edit

The Bulk Edit sheet shows which fields will be changed. Only fields you explicitly modify are applied — all other fields are left untouched on every selected release.

Fields available in Bulk Edit:

- Status (Owned / Wishlist)
- Favorite toggle
- Location
- Media condition
- Sleeve condition
- Tags

Barcode Tools

Items Without Barcodes

For items that have no printed barcode, DiscDex can generate a **pseudo-barcode** — a unique 15-digit identifier prefixed with 990. This barcode is stored in the database and can be printed as a scannable label.

Printing Barcode Labels

From the detail view, tap the barcode icon and select **Print Label**. A PDF barcode label is generated and opened in the system share sheet, ready to print and affix to the item.

Writing to NFC Tags

On NFC-capable iPhones, tap **Write RFID** from the barcode actions menu. Hold the device near a writable NFC tag to encode the release's barcode onto it. You can then scan that tag in the scanner instead of the printed barcode.

CSV Import & Export

Exporting a Catalog

From the Utilities menu (accessible from the scanner screen), tap **Share CSV Catalog**. A CSV file is generated containing all releases in your library and shared via the system share sheet.

CSV columns include: barcode, title, artist, label, year, country, genres, styles, formats, condition, sleeve condition, location, tags, notes, status, date added, play count.

Include covers — Enable **Include Covers in CSV Export** in Settings to add a `coverImageData` column with each cover encoded as Base64. This increases file size significantly.

Importing a Catalog

Tap **Import CSV Catalog** from the Utilities menu and select a CSV file. The app validates the format, then imports releases not already in your library. Existing records are not overwritten.

Required CSV columns: `barcode`, `title`, `artist`.

Backup & CloudKit Sync

Manual Backup

Tap **Create Backup** in the Utilities menu. A timestamped snapshot of your database is saved and shared via the system share sheet. Share it to Files, AirDrop, or email.

Restoring a Backup

Tap **Restore Backup** and select a backup file. The app validates the archive and replaces the current database. This action is irreversible — create a backup first if you want to preserve the current state.

Auto-Backup on Launch

Enable **Auto-Backup on Launch** in Settings → Backup & Data to automatically create a backup each time the app opens.

iCloud CloudKit Sync

Enable **iCloud Sync** in Settings → Backup & Data (or toggle it from the iCloud button in the toolbar).

- **Upload** — Packages your database as a CloudKit asset and stores it in your private iCloud container
- **Auto-sync** — Triggers automatically after library changes when sync is enabled
- **Restore from iCloud** — Downloads the latest snapshot and replaces your local database; use this to migrate to a new device

iCloud Sync Status:

Status	Meaning
Available	iCloud is ready; sync is active
No Account	No iCloud account signed in on this device
Restricted	iCloud access is restricted by a device policy
Unavailable	iCloud is temporarily unavailable
Checking	Determining current iCloud status

Widgets

Add DiscDex widgets to your Home Screen for a live snapshot of your collection.

Widget Sizes

Small

- Total release count
- Last-scanned release title and artist

Medium

- Total releases, owned count, wishlist count
- Top genre and top artist
- Last-scanned release

Large

- All Medium info
- Genre breakdown

- Last updated timestamp

Widgets refresh automatically whenever you make changes in the app.

Settings Reference

Open the **Settings** tab to configure DiscDex.

Discogs

Setting	Description
Personal Access Token	Required. Enter your Discogs API token here. Tap the field to reveal a text box; the token is masked for privacy.

Scan Behavior

Setting	Type	Description
Scan Target	Picker	CD or Vinyl — determines which library receives a scanned release
Batch Scan Mode	Toggle	Stay in scanner after saving; don't navigate away automatically
Haptic Feedback	Toggle	Vibrate on a successful scan
Audio Beep	Toggle	Play a sound on a successful scan
Feedback Strength	Picker	Light / Medium / Heavy haptic intensity
Show Scan History	Toggle	Display the scan history log on the scanner screen
Scan History Limit	Stepper	Maximum number of scan events to retain
Log Duplicate Scans	Toggle	Include duplicate-detected scans in the history log

Appearance

Setting	Type	Description
Color Scheme	Picker	System / Light / Dark
Card Background	Color Picker	Background color for release cards
Card Text Brightness	Slider	0 = black text on cards, 1 = white text
Button Accent Color	Color Picker	App-wide accent color for interactive elements
Button Text Brightness	Slider	Text brightness on accent-colored buttons

Library Defaults

Setting	Type	Description
Display Mode	Picker	List or Grid
Sort Field	Picker	Title / Artist / Year / Date Added
Sort Direction	Picker	Ascending / Descending
Show Covers in List View	Toggle	Show cover thumbnails in list mode
Default Search Field	Picker	Domain pre-selected when opening the search bar
Remember Last Search	Toggle	Persist the last search query between sessions

Storage Tracking

Setting	Type	Description
CD Storage Mode	Picker	Off / Carousel / Cartridge
Storage Capacity	Stepper	Number of slots in your carousel or cartridge
Cartridge ID	Text	Identifier for your cartridge (Cartridge mode only)

Backup & Data

Setting	Type	Description
iCloud Sync	Toggle	Enable CloudKit snapshot sync
Auto-Backup on Launch	Toggle	Create a backup each time the app starts
Include Covers in CSV Export	Toggle	Embed cover images as Base64 in CSV exports

Settings Presets

Save your current settings configuration as a named preset. Load or delete presets from the Presets section at the top of the Settings screen. Useful for switching between different collection workflows.