



Thank you for purchasing the Groovy Pouch, a convenient heat source for your Vinyl Flat Record Flattener. The pouch has three temperature settings and includes a handy digital thermometer.

Before you try to flatten a record, use the provided digital thermometer to understand the temperature range of the three heat controller settings of your pouch. Once you know the temperature range of the three heat settings you can pick a controller setting (and the initial heating cycle time) for the warped record.

As a rule of thumb, the lower the temperature of the pouch (e.g., 120 F or 49 C) the safer the process but it takes a lot longer to flatten records at lower temps vs higher temps. Likewise, the warmer the temperature (e.g., 140 F or 60 C) the less time it takes to flatten a record BUT you'll have less time between a flattened record and a damaged record! So, if you are trying to flatten records at higher temperatures, you'll need to be careful with your heating times. The idea is to gradually increase the amount of time the Vinyl Flat is inside the Groovy Pouch to "sneak up" on the time it takes for the vinyl to slightly soften and flatten the record without damaging the grooves.

The pouch heating element has a thermostat so temperatures vary from pouch to pouch and at different points in time. Also, the heating element temperature varies along the pouch surface so you may obtain slightly different temperature readings depending on where you actually place the thermometer. But don't worry: all of these temperature variations are equalized by the time spent heating your Vinyl Flat. In this case, time is actually on your side!

Only measure the pouch temperature when the pouch is completely empty and after the pouch has been allowed to warm up for 20 minutes or so. Measuring the pouch temperature when the Vinyl Flat is inside the pouch is a futile exercise - don't waste your time - save it for flattening.

NOTE: Once you understand the general temperature range of each of the three pouch heat settings there is no need to continuously monitor or re-check the temperature of the pouch

Before you use your pouch, assemble your Vinyl Flat (sold separately) with the warped record using the wing nut provided with your Vinyl Flat. Always use the pouch in a supervised setting.

1. Understand the Empty Pouch Temperature for Each Controller Setting. Carefully pull apart the front and side edges of the pouch outer shell to completely unfold it lengthwise (similar to opening a book). Now, lay the long probe of the provided digital thermometer flat inside the pouch and fold over the left half of the pouch to close it. Gently press the side and front edges of the pouch shell to seal the thermometer probe inside the pouch liner. **DO NOT PUT THE VINYL FLAT IN THE POUCH.**
2. Plug the controller power cord into a convenient 110 v wall outlet.
3. Set the controller to the first position and check the temperature after about 20 minutes. Make a note of the temperature and then check and note the temperature of the other two settings, allowing ample time for the pouch to warm up with each setting. Turn the controller off.

EMPTY Pouch Temperature	Tips
120 F (49 C)	Records will flatten but it can take many hours (4 to 24 hours or longer). This is a very safe, almost risk-free temperature for vinyl record flattening but success will require many hours in the pouch. Start at 3 hours in the pouch.
130 F (54 C)	Optimum temperature for flattening with minimal risk of record damage. Start at 2 hours in the pouch. Many records will flatten after 3 to 6 hours at this temperature.
140 F (60 C)	At this temperature, there is increased risk for record damage but records will flatten faster than 130 F. Start at 1-1/2 hours in the pouch.
150 F (66 C)	This is probably the warmest temperature that you should try to use for flattening. Although records might flatten in 1 hour at this temperature the risk of record damage is high.

With pouch temps above 150 F (66 C), vinyl can quickly transition from softened to ruined after prolonged heating. (A clear indicator of an overheated record is visible damage to the record playing surface.) We recommend that you always select the Groovy Pouch controller setting that produces temperatures below 140 F (60 C) when the pouch is empty to ensure the lowest risk of record damage.

Vinyl Flat



4. Now that we have checked the pouch temperature settings, we are ready to flatten a record. Re-open the pouch, REMOVE THE THERMOMETER and place your assembled Vinyl Flat (printed side up) on the right half of the inside liner, as shown above.
5. Now, fold over the left half of the pouch and press the side and right edges of the pouch shell to seal the Vinyl Flat inside the pouch as shown above.
6. Set the controller to the desired setting. The time it takes to flatten a record depends on the pouch temperature, the type of warp, record weight and chemical composition of the record, so successful heating times and results will ALWAYS vary from record to record.
7. When the initial heating cycle time is over, turn the controller off and wait until the Vinyl Flat is cool to the touch (about 45 minutes) before removing the Vinyl Flat from the pouch. Then, once the Vinyl Flat is cool to the touch, check the record:
 - If the warp is completely unaffected by the initial heating cycle, repeat the heating procedure but increase the heating cycle by **30 minutes** (e.g., you initially tried 2 hours in the pouch now try 2-1/2 hours in the pouch).
 - If the warp is slightly reduced, only increase the follow-up heating cycle by a maximum of **10 minutes** (e.g., after 3 hours in the pouch the warp is starting to reduce now try 3 hours 10 minutes in the pouch). This 10 minutes of additional heat is critical when you notice a change in the warp – do not exceed it or you risk damaging the record grooves.

Always make sure the controller is off when you are finished using it.

The Groovy Pouch heating element is physically smaller than the metal Vinyl Flat plates but the metal plates rapidly conduct and distribute the heat. The actual temperature that is applied to the warped record inside the Vinyl Flat is well below the empty pouch temperature you measured with the digital thermometer as the synthetic fabric Groovy Rings insulate the record from the heated plates. The goal is to transfer just enough heat to the record surface to soften the vinyl for flattening. That is why we recommend initial heating cycle times with gradual increases in heating times until the desired results are obtained.

All pouches heat a little differently and every record reacts differently when subjected to heat (due to the chemical composition of the record, the type and degree of warp, the weight of the record and so on).

The key to success is the heating time, not the exact pouch temperature. Gradually increasing the time the Vinyl Flat is heated in the Groovy Pouch is extremely important. We strongly urge you to ignore successful heating times discussed by Internet users in forums and on-line reviews. **EVERY RECORD IS DIFFERENT. EVERY POUCH HEATS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENTLY. EVERY WARP REQUIRES A DIFFERENT AMOUNT OF TIME TO REPAIR.**

Some records can be very tough to flatten due to their chemical composition. (Interestingly, it's typically the heavier 180 gram "pure vinyl" records that readily flatten.) Some ultra-light records from the 1970s and 1980s and some 45s (with styrene) are difficult to flatten.

Finally, ALWAYS start your initial heating cycle at either 1-1/2, 2 or 3 hours in the pouch (per the corresponding temperatures noted in the above instructions) and gradually increase your heating times until the desired results are obtained.



Read This First!

Important Safety Instructions



IMPORTANT! The lightning flash with arrowhead, within an equilateral triangle, is intended to alert the user of the presence of un-insulated “dangerous voltage” within a product’s enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute the risk of electric shock to persons.



IMPORTANT! The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user of the presence of important operating and maintenance instructions.



Do Not Use Near Water. Do not use your Groovy Pouch near water, such as a bathtub, sink, swimming pool or wet basement. To reduce the risk of fire or electric shock, do not expose this apparatus to rain or moisture. To avoid dripping and splashing, no objects filled with liquids, such as vases or drinks, should be placed on or near your Groovy Pouch.



Stable Placement. Do not place the Groovy Pouch on an unstable cart, stand, bracket or table. The Groovy Pouch may fall, causing serious injury to a child or adult and damage to the product.

Ventilation. The Groovy Pouch fabric provides ventilation to ensure reliable operation and to prevent it from over-heating. The top fabric must not be blocked or covered. Do not allow a soft surface such as carpet, bedding or a sofa to block the fabric. The Groovy Pouch should not be placed on a porous surface or built-in installations such as a bookcase, drawer or rack unless proper ventilation is provided.

Heat. The Groovy Pouch should be placed away from radiators, stoves, heat vents or other heat sources.



110 VAC USE ONLY. The heating element can only be used with 110 VAC outlets. Operation with 220-240 VAC is strictly prohibited and voids your warranty. Install the Groovy Pouch where no one can step on or trip on the power cord. Never yank to disconnect the cord from an outlet. Keep the cord away from heated surfaces. Do not pull the cord around sharp edges or corners. Do not allow the cord to hang over the edge of a table or counter.



Do Not Overload Outlets. Don’t overload your wall outlets or power strip. This can result in the risk of fire or electric shock.

Damage Requiring Service. Unplug your Groovy Pouch and refer servicing to Vinyl Flat LLC when the following conditions occur:

- When the heating pad power cord or plug is damaged or frayed.
- If liquid is spilled into the Groovy Pouch
- If the Groovy Pouch has been exposed to rain or water.
- If the Groovy Pouch does not work normally by following the operating instructions.
- If the Groovy Pouch exhibits a distinct change in performance.



Unplug Before Cleaning. Unplug the pouch from the wall outlet or other power source before cleaning. Use a dry cloth for cleaning. Do not use liquid solvents or chemical cleaning agents.

Attachments. Do not use any adapters or attachments not recommended by Vinyl Flat LLC, as they may cause hazards.

Service. Do not attempt to service this product yourself. Do not remove the cover(s). Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel.



Replacement Parts. Do not allow anyone to use replacement parts other than those recommended by Vinyl Flat LLC.

ONE-YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY

Vinyl Flat LLC guarantees all Groovy Pouch™ parts and materials for a period of one (1) year from the date of first retail purchase. The Groovy Pouch is a consumer-grade product for hobbyists and record collectors and has not been designed for continuous operation. Commercial use of this product voids your warranty. Vinyl Flat LLC will replace any defective or malfunctioning part(s) at no charge during the warranty period. You pay shipping charges to return the unit to us and we will pay shipping charges to return the repaired unit to you. Replacement and/or repaired products are warranted for a maximum of one year from the original product purchase date. This warranty DOES NOT COVER normal wear and tear or cosmetic damage. This limited warranty ALSO DOES NOT COVER damages which occurred in shipment, or failures which are caused by products not supplied by the warrantor, or failures which result from commercial use, use of voltage converters, accidents, misuse, abuse, neglect, mishandling, misapplication, alteration, maladjustment, improper maintenance, modification, introduction of sand, dirt, humidity, or liquids, or commercial, business, or rental use of the product, or if serviced by anyone other than Vinyl Flat LLC, or damage that is attributable to acts of God (e.g. fire). Direct, indirect, punitive, compensatory, incidental, special, and consequential damages ARE NOT RECOVERABLE UNDER THIS WARRANTY. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you. Since vinyl records vary greatly in chemical composition, thickness, weight, age, care exercised in storage, and prior environmental exposure Vinyl Flat LLC assumes no responsibility if your record is destroyed, damaged, or otherwise rendered unusable when treated using the Groovy Pouch. Use the Groovy Pouch AT YOUR OWN RISK. Also note that there are NO WARRANTIES WHICH EXTEND BEYOND THE DESCRIPTION ON THE FACE HEREOF. If something goes wrong with your Groovy Pouch, please contact us at: Vinyl Flat LLC, PO Box 1753, Richmond, IN 47375. Email: support@vinylflat.com. This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.