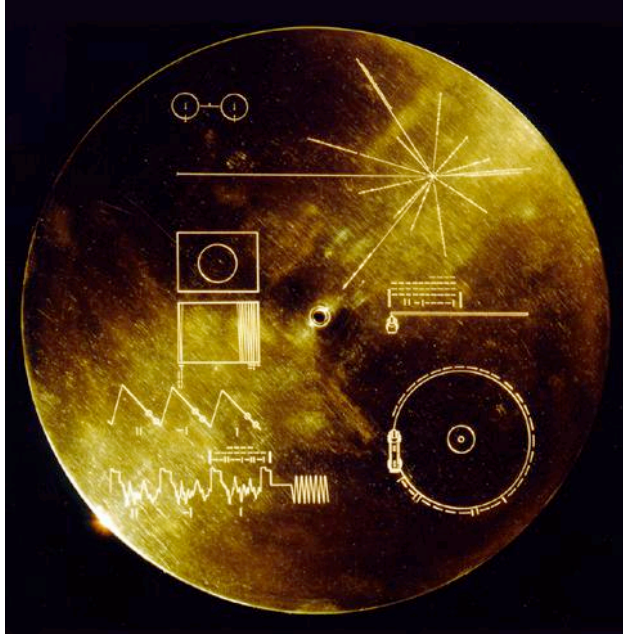


Voyager Golden Record

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.



Cover of the Voyager Golden Record. It explains how to play back the record using symbols (see explanation below).



Reverse of the Voyager Golden Record. With an English label, it is designed primarily to appeal to the humans who funded its creation.

The [Voyager](#) spacecraft will be the third and fourth human artifacts to escape entirely from the solar system. [Pioneers 10](#) and [11](#), which preceded Voyager in outstripping the gravitational attraction of the Sun, both carried small [metal plaques](#) identifying their time and place of origin for the benefit of any other spacefarers that might find them in the distant future. With

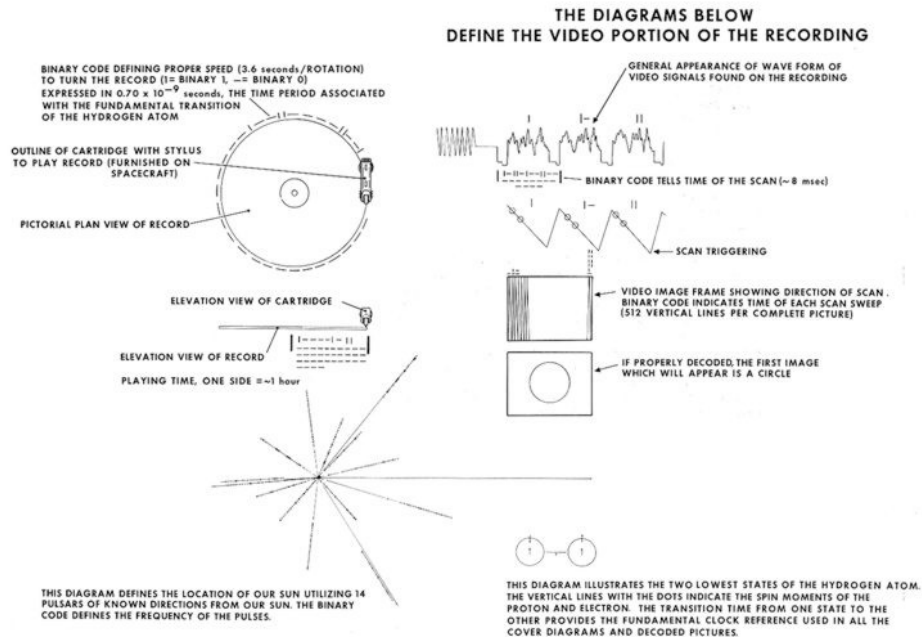
this example before them, NASA placed a more ambitious message aboard Voyager 1 and 2 -- a kind of time capsule, intended to communicate a story of our world to extraterrestrials. The Voyager message is carried by a phonograph record -- a 12-inch gold-plated copper disk containing sounds and images selected to portray the diversity of life and culture on Earth. The contents of the record were selected for NASA by a committee chaired by [Carl Sagan](#) of Cornell University. Dr. Sagan and his associates assembled 115 images and a variety of natural sounds, such as those made by surf, wind and thunder, birds, whales, and other animals.

To this they added musical selections from different cultures and eras, and spoken greetings from Earth-people in fifty-five languages, and printed messages from President [Carter](#) and U.N. Secretary General [Kurt Waldheim](#). Each record is encased in a protective aluminum jacket, together with a cartridge and a needle. Instructions, in symbolic language, explain the origin of the spacecraft and indicate how the record is to be played. The 115 images are encoded in analog form. The remainder of the record is in audio, designed to be played at 16-2/3 revolutions per second. It contains the spoken greetings, beginning with Akkadian, which was spoken in Sumer about six thousand years ago, and ending with Wu, a modern Chinese dialect. Following the section on the sounds of Earth, there is an eclectic 90-minute selection of music, including both Eastern and Western classics and a variety of ethnic music. Once the Voyager spacecraft leave the solar system (by 1990, both will be beyond the orbit of Pluto), they will find themselves in empty space. It will be forty thousand years before they make a close approach to any other planetary system.

As Carl Sagan has noted, "The spacecraft will be encountered and the record played only if there are advanced spacefaring civilizations in interstellar space. But the launching of this bottle into the cosmic ocean says something very hopeful about life on this planet."

In recent years, ex-NASA scientist [Richard Hoagland](#), who is best known for his studies of a purported portrait of a humanoid [face](#) and an associated ruined city in the [Cydonia](#) region of Mars, has attempted to take credit for the Golden Record concept.

EXPLANATION OF RECORDING COVER DIAGRAM



Explanation of the Voyager record cover diagram, as provided by NASA.

Originally based on public domain text from NASA's [homepage](#), where selected images and sounds from the record can be found. Much of the Voyager records, however, is only available in compiled form to extraterrestrials for copyright reasons.

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