

What is ISRC and why is it a vital part of managing your recording rights?

As a music producer today, you have an unprecedented number of ways in which to reach fans with your music. In order for you to manage your recording rights you must be able to track how and where your music is being listened to.

The International Standard Recording Code, or ISRC, enables recordings to be uniquely and permanently identified. This helps to avoid ambiguity and simplifies the management of rights when recordings are used across different formats, distribution channels or products around the world.

When a recording has an ISRC it can be uniquely and easily identified.



...ISRC assigned to recording



...and remains unchanged...

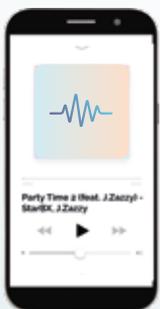
When **distributed globally**
Added to a **compilation**
Across all **sales channels**
and on **all formats**



Why is identification important?

When seeking to identify a single recording in the millions of songs flowing between industry partners on a daily basis clarity is key.

As illustrated below, just using text alone to identify a recording can be unreliable as there are many variations in the way that track titles and artist names can appear on different services around the world.



Services	Track Title	Artist Name Variation
Apple Music	Party Time 2 (feat J.Zazzy)	StarBX
amazon music	Party Time, No.2 (feat J.Zazzy)	StarBX & J.Zazzy
YouTube	Party Time Number 2	StarBX, J.Zazzy
qobuz	Party Time 2 ft. J.Zazzy	StarBX
deezer	Party Time 2	StarBX ft. J.Zazzy

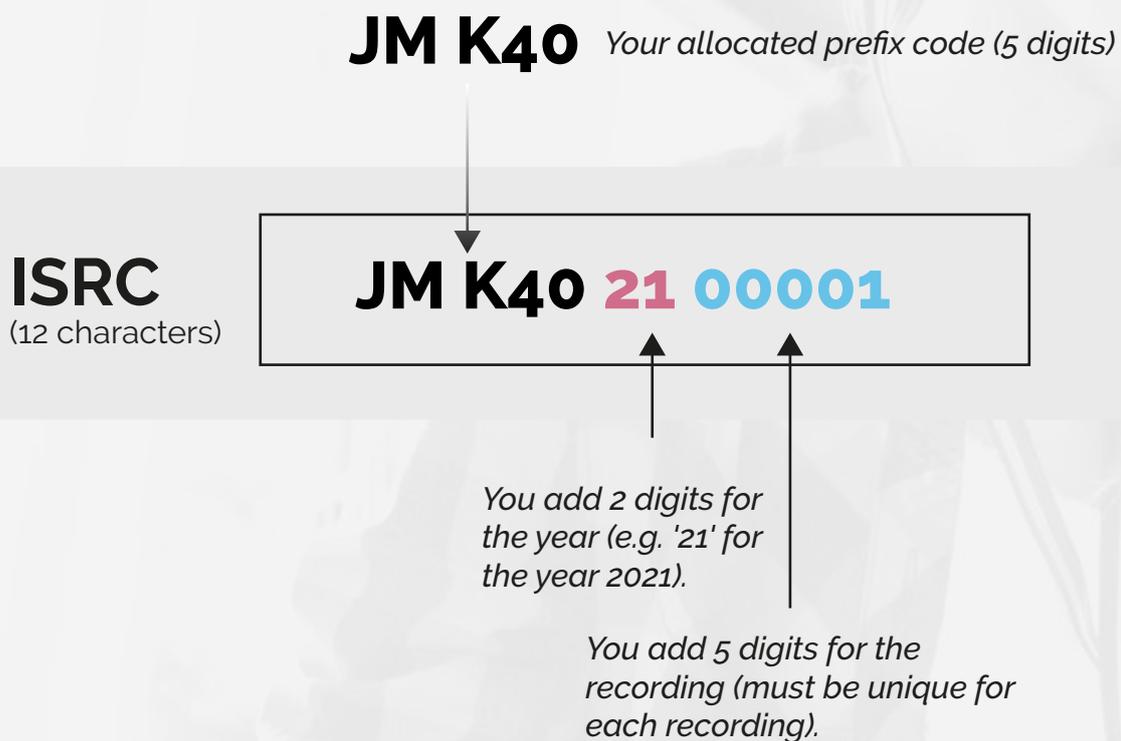
ISRC resolves ambiguities with metadata when textual information can differ

3 simple steps to managing your recording rights with ISRC

ISRC

1. Apply to your national agency for an ISRC Prefix Code.

Each producer of recordings can obtain their own unique five-character ISRC Prefix Code. Find your national agency at <https://isrc.ifpi.org/en/contact/national-agency-contacts>



2. Finalise your code.

Each unique ISRC is constructed by adding further digits to the Prefix Code:

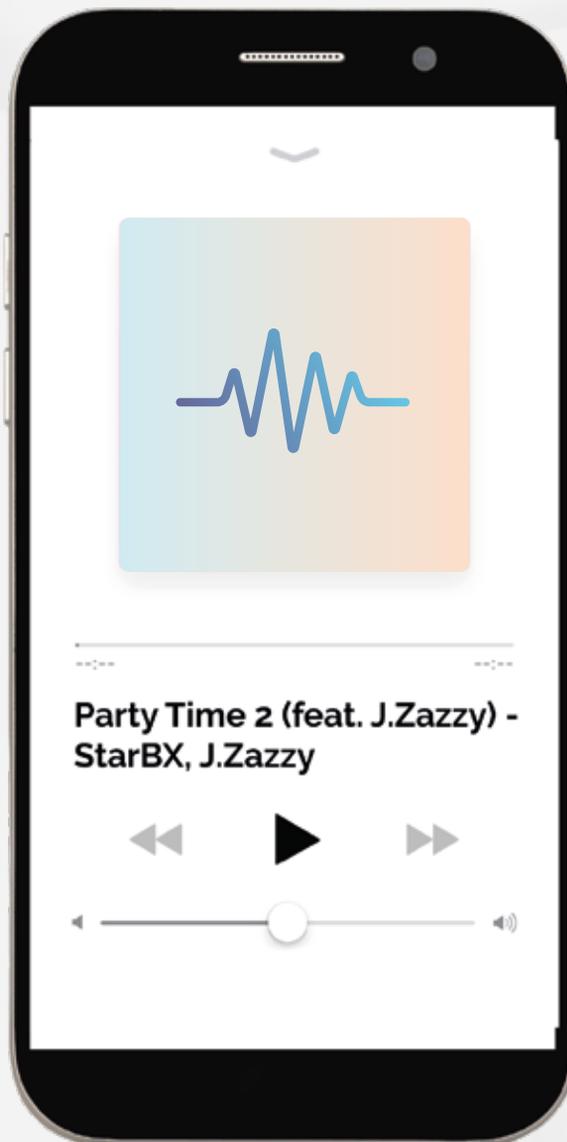
- I. **Year of reference:** Add two digits to signify the year of the recording. e.g. '15' for 2015, '21' for 2021
- II. **Designation code:** Add five digits for the recording. These must be unique for each recording i.e. the first recording would be '00001', the second '00002' and so on. In the next year, the sequence can start over from 00001 again, because the year digits will be different .

3.

Add reference metadata.

When ISRC is assigned to a recording, it should be stored along with key data such as the artist name, track title, version title (if any), the duration of the recording, the type of the recording (sound recording or music video) and the year of first publication of the recording.

To obtain the greatest benefit from the ISRC system, you should ensure that details of the recording and its ISRC are supplied alongside the recording and also registered in relevant repertoire databases.



For further info

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