

# Return of vinyl and cassettes as CD sales fall

By JANE HAMILTON, Consumer Editor

**VINYL** records and cassette tapes are making a roaring comeback as music fans rebel against digital downloads.

While records account for fewer than one per cent of music purchases, more than 2.8million old-style albums were sold in the US last year.

British sales leapt by 5.2 per cent. And experts believe the true figure would be **HIGHER** if smaller shops were included.

Trendy indie labels are leading the way with some axing CDs to release on 7in single, vinyl album and downloads only.

Others issue tracks only on tapes. Meanwhile CD sales have dropped 20 per cent.

Record dealer Steve Clancy of Brixton, South London, said: "Downloads are easy but nothing beats the joy of holding a vinyl disc. Vinyl also sounds richer and there's something special about cover art and sleeve notes."

UK single sales hit 89 million in 1979, but slipped below 180,000 in 2001.

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Comeback . . . vinyl disc

