

BEKA Block Numbering System (1904 - 1907)

The "Starting Points" are those allocated to the earliest recording of each category, mostly made in early 1904, except the 5600 block which was added later. "END" indicates a number that very probably forms the true end of a particular block, i.e. the highest number allocated before the switch to five-digit series. Block endpoints in brackets indicate the possible range which often was not fully used, leaving a gap between the last allocated number and the start of the next block.

Underlined groups of numbers denote the out-of-sequence re-use of numbers that had first been used for 18cm discs in 1904. Not all numbers between the start- and endpoints given were re-allocated (as many of the earlier items were still in the catalogue) but only those already deleted by mid-1906. The result is a confusing mixture of 1904 and 1906 items within the same numerical sequence. This was a short-lived attempt to keep the system going even though some blocks had been completely filled, but it quickly came to a dead end. During January 1907, new five-digit series were introduced instead.

Starting Point	Type of Repertoire	Numbers actually used
1	Orchestra: Marches	1 - 395 END (700)
901	Orchestra: Concert and Descriptive Pieces	901 - 1000 701 - 716 END (900)
1001	Oriental Recording Tours 1905 and 1906	1001 - 2400 <u>2401 - 2507 END (2600)</u>
2401	Orchestra: Dance Music	2401 - 2500 4000 - 4008 (5000) <u>2821 - 2833</u> <u>2605 - 2695 END</u>
2501	Orchestra: Operatic Selections	2501 - 2600 3001 - 3111 (3999)
2601	Orchestra: Waltzes <i>Note: As the series progressed, more and more other dance music besides waltzes was listed here, with the effect of having two simultaneous "dance" blocks.</i>	2601 - 2965 END (3000)
5001	Instrumental: Flügelhorn	5001 - 5013 END (5050)
5051	Instrumental: Brass Quartet	5051 - 5059 END (5100)
5101	Instrumental: Cornet	5101 - 5164 END (5165)
5166	Instrumental: Stringed Instruments (violin, banjo, guitar)	5166 - 5207 END (5300)
5301	Instrumental: Clarinet	5301 - 5334 END (5400)
5401	Instrumental: Piccolo	5401 - 5419 END (5450)
5451	Instrumental: Ocarina	5451 - 5458 END (5500)
5501	Instrumental: Flute	5501 - 5510 END (5599)
5600 [sic!]	Instrumental: Glockenspiel	5600 - 5609 END (5700)
5701	Instrumental: Xylophon	5701 - 5735 END (6000)
6001	Hymns and Christmas Music (all performance types)	6001 - 6068 (6500) <u>6004 - 6032 END</u>

7001	Male Vocal: Baritone (<i>changed to 6501 during 1904</i>)	7001 - 7200 [abandoned] 6501 - 6975 (7000) <u>7024 - 7170 END</u>
7301	Male Vocal: Tenor (<i>changed to 7201 during 1904</i>) Note: <i>A lot of confusion occurred when some Paris tenor sides were accidentally numbered in the 7400 "bass" block, leading to the simultaneous use of TWO tenor series for much of the year 1905!</i>	7301 - 7305 [abandoned] 7201 - 7300 7466 - 7600 and 7321 - 7400 7901 - 8000 8500 - 8559 (9000) <u>7210 - 7320 END</u>
7401	Male Vocal: Bass (<i>changed to 7601 during 1904</i>)	7401 - 7442 [abandoned] 7601 - 7746 END (7900)
8001	Female Vocal	8001 - 8454 (8499) <u>8012 - 8028 END</u>
9001	Comic Talking	9001 - 9100 <u>9037 - 9338 END</u>
9201	Comic Songs Note: <i>The distinction between two types of comic records (spoken and sung) was not strictly followed in filling the two separate blocks. The existence of two separate start and end points however is obvious from the known data.</i>	9201 - 9400 9101 - 9200 9601 - 9862 (10100) <u>9622 - 9627 END</u>
9401	Yodellers and Minstrel Troupes	9401 - 9490 END (9500)
9501	Whistling and Imitations (bird voices etc.)	9501 - 9554 (9600)
10101	Vocal Duets	10101 - 10200 10301 - 10364 (10400) <u>10161 - 10179 END</u>
10201	Vocal Groups	10201 - 10262 (10300)
10401	Choruses	10401 - 10630 END (10700)

List of Beka Recording Sessions 1904 - 1906

All dates are approximate, and the list is not guaranteed to be complete.

Date	Location	Engineer(s)
Jan.-Mar. 1904	Berlin	Heinrich Bumb? (b), NN. (C, +, m)
Mar.-Apr. 1904	Wien	Heinrich Bumb? (b)
Apr.-May 1904	Budapest	
Jun.-Jul. 1904	Paris	Heinrich Bumb? (b)
Sep. 1904	Berlin (25cm "Grand" introduced)	Heinrich Bumb? (b), NN. (-o-), NN. (X)
Oct. 1904	Paris (27cm "Symphonie" introduced)	
Nov. 1904	Milano	
Dec. 1904	Zürich (Dec. 07 - 13)	Wilhelm Hadert
Feb. 1905	Cairo.....	??? [Heinrich Bumb, Wilhelm Hadert]
(Records in Turkish, Russian and Scandinavian languages were already available in March 1905, probably recorded at some of the above sessions rather than during actual visits to these countries)		
Apr. 1905	Berlin	
May 1905	München	
May 1905	Nürnberg	
May 1905	Lisboa.....	Ernst Loewe? (L)
Jun. 1905	Berlin	Willy Bielefeld (Bfd), NN. (□)
Jun. 1905	St. Petersburg	
Jun. 1905	Budapest	
Jul. 1905	London	Willy Bielefeld (Bfd)
Sep. 1905	Berlin	Willy Bielefeld (Bfd)
(Bumb and Bielefeld left Berlin on Oct. 5, 1905)		
Oct. 1905	Constantinopel	Heinrich Bumb, Willy Bielefeld (Bfd)
Nov. 1905	Cairo (ca. Nov. 01 - 08).....	Heinrich Bumb, Willy Bielefeld (Bfd)
Nov. 1905	Bombay	Heinrich Bumb, Willy Bielefeld (Bfd), Wilhelm Hadert
Nov.-Dec 1905	Calcutta	Heinrich Bumb, Willy Bielefeld (Bfd), Wilhelm Hadert
Dec. 1905	Rangoon.....	Heinrich Bumb, Willy Bielefeld (Bfd), Wilhelm Hadert
Jan. 1906	Batavia (Jan. 16 - 20).....	Heinrich Bumb, Willy Bielefeld (Bfd), Wilhelm Hadert
Jan. 1906	Singapore (Jan. 22 - 31)	Heinrich Bumb, Willy Bielefeld (Bfd), Wilhelm Hadert
Jan. 1906	Berlin	Ernst Loewe? (L.), NN. (-o-), NN. (X)
Jan.-Feb. 1906	Netherlands (??? - no records found, session mentioned in PhZ of 7.2.1906)	
Feb. 1906	London	NN. (#)
Feb.-Mar. 1906	Hong Kong (Feb. 18 - Mar. 05)	Heinrich Bumb, Willy Bielefeld (Bfd), Wilhelm Hadert
Mar. 1906	Wien (?)	
Mar.-Apr. 1906	Shanghai (Mar. 12 - Apr. 06)	Heinrich Bumb, Willy Bielefeld (Bfd), Wilhelm Hadert
Apr. 1906	Yokohama	Heinrich Bumb, Willy Bielefeld (Bfd), Wilhelm Hadert
Apr. 1906	Berlin	Ernst Loewe? (L.), NN. (#)
(Bumb and Bielefeld returned to Berlin on Jun. 17, 1906)		
Jul. 1906	Berlin	Willy Bielefeld (Bfd)
Sep. 1906	Berlin (30cm "Meister" introduced)	Willy Bielefeld (Bfd), NN. (-o-), NN. (X)
Sep. 1906	London	
Oct. 1906	Berlin	NN. (-o-), NN. (X), NN. (#)
Nov. 1906	Berlin	NN. (Δ)
Nov. 1906	Paris	("f" numbers under label)
Dec. 1906	München	("M" numbers under label)
Dec. 1906	London	
Jan. 1907	Berlin	NN. (X), NN. (Δ)
Jan. 1907	Lisboa	

Reformed Five-Digit Numbering System (1907 - ca. 1930)

Starting Point	Type of Repertoire	Numbers actually used
10701	Polish / Yiddish / Hebrew (1907-1913)	10701 - 11000 16000 - 16771 (17000)
11001	German (1907-1928)	11001 - 11499 11701 - 15999 30001 - 34999 => 36000 PARLOPHON
11500	German (1907) (18cm diameter records)	11500 - 11504 (11700)
17001	Egyptian (1907-)	17001 - (17100)
17101	Abessinian (Berlin 1908-1909)	17101 - 17156 (18000)
18001	Turkish (1907-1920s)	18001 - (20000)
20001	Oriental Recording Tour 1907-1908 (India)	20001 - (20700)
20701	Oriental Recording Tour 1907-1908 (Singapore)	(20701) - (20800)
20801	Oriental Recording Tour 1907-1908 (China)	(20801) - (21000)
21001	India (1910-1911))	21001 - 22028 (22100)
22101	Chinese (1925 - 1930s)	22101 - (24000)
24001	Dutch East Indies (1907-ca. 1930) <i>Note: Between 1910 and 1914, records were issued with the "Pendapatan Baroe" label. Beka recommences in 1926 where Pendapatan stopped at the beginning of the Great War. Nrs. 27099 - 27593 have not been found and at least part of them may have been skipped accidentally.</i>	24001 - 24094 (Beka-Grand) 24095 - 24999 (Pendapatan Baroe) 27001 - 27731 (Pendapatan Baroe) 27732 - 29999 (Beka)
25001	Thai (1907-) also with KATZ BROS. label in the 1910s	25001 - (26000)
26001	Malay/Singapore (acoustic, 1920s, maybe starting earlier)	26001 - (27000)
39000	Hungarian (1911) <i>compare 46000 below !</i>	39000 - 39144
40000	British (1907-1919) <i>Note: From 36000, this series overlaps with the later Berlin series (listed separately under Parlophon for this reason).</i>	40000 - 41999 35000 - 37048 (38999)
42000	Italian (1907-1912)	42000 - 42483 (42499)
42500 43000 (SFN)	Neapolitan (1907-1910) <i>Note: The series was carried up to 43603 by the "Società Fonografica Napoletana" who continued independently after 1911 under the "Phonotype" label (at mx. 604, simply dropping the "43"). SFN likely had capped the Beka affiliation somewhat earlier, which may explain why the series overlaps with the Dutch Beka block. As these are no Beka recordings proper, and probably no Lindström pressings either, I have listed them under "Phonotype".</i>	42501 - 42942 (43499) 43000 - 43603 (SFN)
43500	Dutch (1909-1914)	43500 - 43951 (43999)
44000	Austrian / Czech / Serbian (?) (1907-1926)	44500 - 44999 44000 - 44499 [sic!] 53500 - 54999 59000 - 59999

		=> 61000 PARLOPHON
45000	Russian / Polish (Warszawa) / Bulgarian (1907-1913)	45000 - 45999 56000 - 56801 (57999)
46000	Croatian (1907)	46000 - 46082 (46199 ?)
46200	Hungarian (1907-1929) <i>Note: The 46200 block was abandoned after the first session in favour of the 47000 series.</i>	46200 - 46412 (46499 ?) 47000 - 47799 53000 - 53499 58500 - 58999 58000 - 58499 [sic!] => 73000 PARLOPHON
47800	Yiddish (Lemberg, 1910 ?)	47800 - 47809 (47999)
48000	Portuguese (1910- ?)	48000 - 48599 (48999)
49000	Swedish / Norwegian (1909-1925)	49000 - 49999 51200 - 51999
50000	Greek (1907-1908 ?)	50000 - 50011 (50499)
50500	Roumanian (1907 - 1910, 1920s - 1930)	50500 - 50999 => 65000 PARLOPHON
51000	Czech (1908-1910 ?)	51000 - 51161 (51199)
52000	Portuguese / Spanish (Lisboa) (1908- ?)	52000 - 52136 (52999)
55000	Danish (1910-1924 ?)	55000 - 55630 (55999)
60000	Argentina / Uruguay (1910-1914 ?)	60000 - 61999 => 62000 PARLOPHON
62000	Spanish	62000 - 62450 (62999 ?)
69000	? (just one isolated number known, rec. Berlin)	69000 - 69020 (69999)
70000	Brazil	70000 - 70489 (70499)
70500	? (several dance/folk titles in 1921 cat., NOT from Brazil !)	70500 - 71000 (73999 ?)
78000	Norwegian (1919)	78000 - 78129 => 78200 PARLOPHON
80000	Russian ? (rec. Berlin, ca. 1920)	80000 - 80068
Bc prefix	Wien (1924) [= COLUMBIA H 1 - H 22 ???]	Bc 1 - Bc 22
D prefix	"Mignon" (later "Lindex") 15cm discs (1911 - 1929)	D 1 - [D] 605
FA prefix	Wien (1922 - 1924) (FAVORITE)	[FA] 82 - FA 330
H prefix	Swedish (1919 - 1921) (HARMONIUM)	
R prefix	German (1919) (FAVORITE) "recorded by Riedel"	R 1 - R 6
V prefix	"Berlin for Vadasz" (1925)	V 1 - V 4