

# INFORMATION ABOUT DISTRIBUTIONS IN THE DISCOTHEQUE CATEGORIES (DK, DK VR)



If music is played back in discotheques or at other dance events or is reproduced for this purpose, licence fees must be paid to GEMA.

- We license music playback in event spaces where dancing regularly takes place in accordance with tariff M-CD II 2.
- We license the reproduction of works from the GEMA repertoire for use in public playback in accordance with tariff VR-Ö.

We distribute this income in the **discotheque categories (DK, DK VR)** to the entitled parties. The category **DK** relates to **play-back** and the category **DK VR** concerns **reproduction**.

## The monitoring process

GEMA currently lists around 1,600 dance floors, including discotheques, clubs, music pubs and bars and other dance establishments offering a very broad and diverse range of music. Since we do not obtain any information regarding the music used on the dance floors of these establishments, we have developed a **monitoring process** to help us distribute income from this area.



If you would like to make sure your works can be identified by the monitoring process, please use the **sound file upload service** at [www.gema.de/soundfile-upload](http://www.gema.de/soundfile-upload).

Essentially, we use a representative random sample to produce an extrapolation covering the full spectrum of the tracks played back over the course of a year. We do this by randomly selecting individual dance floors on the basis of statistical principles and record parts of the music played there.

Based on this sample, we are able to produce an extrapolation indicating what proportion of the overall playing time for all music playback can be attributed to a certain track. Dance floors are not weighted according to size or the level of income generated per event when the distribution is calculated.

## Statistical parameters

The statistical selection of dance floors for the purpose of discotheque monitoring is based on four geographical layers according to the following regions:

- Hamburg, Bremen, Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein
- Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg
- Hesse, Saarland, Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia
- Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Brandenburg, Berlin, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia

Within these regions, there is also systematic differentiation between rural areas (under 500,000 inhabitants),

urban areas (500,000 to 1,000,000 inhabitants) and large cities (over 1,000,000 inhabitants). This gives a total of twelve layers and a sample is collected from each of these to keep the overall picture as representative as possible.

## Not just a black box

To conduct monitoring in discotheques, **monitoring boxes** - special recording devices designed to be installed directly onto mixing desks - were developed.

When collecting statistical data, all the music played on each selected dance floor is recorded. Once the total playing time of a track can be ascertained per dance floor, this information can be used to extrapolate from the randomly selected dance floors within a layer to all dance floors within that layer. The result is a reliable extrapolation of the total annual playing time for a specific work on all dance floors in the country.

To improve statistical representativeness, we generally swap a portion of the dance floors in the sample across all layers. The data recorded is evaluated by our contracted service provider.

## Distribution and second values

We calculate your payout by multiplying the **second value** by the playing time of your works. The second values result from the sum of the revenues divided by all played music seconds - each separately for the categories DK and DK VR.

Year of use 2025	Second value	Minute value (Second value x 60)	Supplement for unallocated royalties
DK	€0.00175298	€0.1051788	1.96%
DK VR	€0.00005952	€0.0035712	5.19%

Since the samples used in the monitoring process are taken at random, no **claims** can be made in respect of individual usages.

## Good to know: How are DJs paid for club gigs?

Why club events usually don't generate royalties from the live performance categories, and what that means for setlists and sound files – read more now under **Good to Know** at [Categories Discotheque Performances \(DK, DK VR\)](#).

**Further information** about distributions and about important dates and deadlines can be found at [www.gema.de/distribution-dates](http://www.gema.de/distribution-dates). Second values of previous distributions can be found under "General Information" at [www.gema.de/live-reproduction](http://www.gema.de/live-reproduction).