

# Obtaining a permission for making audio recordings on round dance events in Germany

This text summarizes the information that was collected by round dancers during private communication with GEMA representatives (GEMA is the organisation responsible for copyrights concerning music in Germany). All following statements are to be considered as a private report by individuals. Especially they are no official statement by any organisation.

There is a possibility for round dancers to obtain a recording permission for round dance events 'for solely personal use' from GEMA. This in particular means that making further copies of the recordings or use of the recordings for example on club nights is not allowed.

As none of us needed it, we did not mention recording of square dance, so the permission as described below does not apply and recording square dance is not allowed therefore.

The permission can be applied for in different forms: First of all there is the possibility to order a permission just for oneself. One has to indicate a period of validity (important !) and the number of days within this period where the permission should be valid. Giving the events themselves is not needed on the order. However a summary stating all events, when they took place and their durations needs to be prepared and sent to GEMA after all days have been used or the validity period is over. The term 'day' means calendar day here.

Furthermore one can request a permission also for more persons, this for example includes the possibility that organisers of an event centrally obtain a permission for all persons interested (and all days of the event). When preparing the request, there is no need to name all persons for whom permission is ordered.

All permissions are valid for pure round dance events and for the round dance part of mixed square/round dance events. Hybrid forms of both variants are possible, too. The fee for the permission currently amounts to DM 1.25 + 7% VAT per person and day. The invoice from GEMA is the proof for the permission and needs to be shown to the organizer and/or cuer of the event. By the way, we consider asking the cuer for consent before recording even if one has the permission and respecting the request not to be recorded as self-evident. On all events where dancers have presented recording permissions, they (exclusively) have been allowed to record. To our knowledge this also has been given the blessing of ECTA.

Responsible for issuing the permissions is a department of the 'Bezirksdirektion Berlin' (regional office Berlin) of the GEMA (P.O. Box 303430, D-10728 Berlin or Keithstraße 7, D-10787 Berlin). The phone number of the main office is 030/212920, there one needs to ask to be connected to someone from the department responsible for square and round dance within the regional office Berlin. Like in other larger organisations all further correspondence should be addressed 'to the attention of' the contact person. Furthermore applying for the permission in time (at least 4 to 6 weeks before the first day of an event) is advisable. As the fee per event day is rather small it makes sense to order the permission for a larger number of events and/or persons, as the effort is independent of that. The invoice has to be paid by transfer to a german bank account, please be aware of potentially high charges for transfers from outside of Germany.

As 'writer' of this summary I thank everyone who has contributed the implementation of this recording possibility, who was available for discussions, provided advice and help in case of problems or contributed his/her experiences as sources for this text. If possible, please use the german version of this document for reference.