



CHART RULES

how the charts work.

Eligibility, calculation, and chart cards for the Fanfare Independent Music Chart and Fanfare Independent Merch Chart.

VERSION

1.0

ISSUED

July 2026

the charts.

Fanfare publishes two monthly charts recognising sales activity from independent artists and labels: the Fanfare Independent Music Chart and the Fanfare Independent Merch Chart. Only sales processed through Fanfare — via the website or the app — count towards either chart.

THE TWO CHARTS

The Fanfare Independent Music Chart ranks physical music releases by sales through Fanfare during the calendar month. Vinyl, CDs, and cassettes are all eligible.

The Fanfare Independent Merch Chart ranks merchandise items — t-shirts, tote bags, posters, and anything else artists and labels sell alongside their music — also by sales through Fanfare during the calendar month.

Each chart covers sales from the 1st to the last day of the month. Final positions are published on the first Sunday of the following month at 4pm UK time.

Charts are announced monthly via a Fanfare-produced YouTube show featuring the Top 10. Artists tracking towards the Top 10 are contacted in the run-up to publication and invited to submit a short clip.

eligibility.

FANFARE INDEPENDENT MUSIC CHART

For a release to be eligible, it must:

- Be sold through the Fanfare website or app
- Be entered into the chart (see “Chart entry” below)
- Be linked to a launch gig at a venue that meets the Music Venue Trust definition of a grassroots venue
- Meet the minimum price threshold for its format (see “Minimum prices” below)

Once a release is chart-eligible and its launch gig has gone ahead, every subsequent sale counts towards the chart — online, at future shows, or at larger venues — as long as it’s processed through Fanfare.

FANFARE INDEPENDENT MERCH CHART

For a merch item to be eligible, it must:

- Be sold through the Fanfare website or app
- Be entered into the chart
- Be linked to a gig at a venue that meets the Music Venue Trust definition of a grassroots venue
- Be priced at £5 or more

Up to five merch items can be linked to the same gig.

qualifying venues and launch gigs.

QUALIFYING VENUES

A qualifying venue is one that meets the Music Venue Trust definition of a grassroots music venue. In practice this covers most small, independent venues that regularly host live music — typically pubs with stages, dedicated grassroots clubs, café-bars with regular gig nights, and small independent halls. It does not cover stadiums, arenas, large theatres, or venues primarily used for other purposes.

Fanfare maintains a database of approved venues across the UK. If your venue isn't on it, submit it for review — approved venues are added before chart entry.

WHAT COUNTS AS A LAUNCH GIG

A launch gig does not need to be a headline performance. Any gig at a qualifying venue counts, provided the act is named in the advance material for that show — the ticket link, venue listing, or official poster. Support slots, multi-artist bills, and showcase nights all qualify.

reissues, re-releases, and compilations.

Any release can be entered into the chart, including reissues, re-releases, and label compilations, provided it meets the eligibility rules above. The launch gig requirement applies in the same way. For a label compilation, the label assigns the launch gig as for any other release.

minimum prices.

To prevent loss-leader pricing from distorting chart positions, sales below the following thresholds do not count towards the chart. Sales below these prices remain valid sales — fans still get their products, labels still get paid. They simply don't count towards chart position.

Format	Minimum price
12" / 10" vinyl (album)	£6
12" / 10" vinyl (EP)	£4
7" vinyl	£4
CD (album)	£5
CD (EP or single)	£3
Cassette (album)	£5

Format	Minimum price
Cassette (EP or single)	£3
Any merch item	£5

cancelled or rescheduled launch gigs.

If a launch gig is cancelled or the artist pulls out, sales count towards the chart up to and including the originally scheduled gig date. From the day after, sales no longer count.

To regain chart eligibility, the release or item must be linked to a new launch gig at a grassroots venue. Once linked, eligibility resumes from the 1st of that gig's calendar month. The £10 chart entry fee is paid once at original entry — linking a new launch gig does not require a fresh fee.

WORKED EXAMPLE

- A release is linked to a gig on 28 September and goes on sale 1 September.
- Sales from 1–28 September count towards the September chart.
- The gig is cancelled on 26 September.
- Sales from 29 September onwards no longer count.
- A new launch gig is linked for 10 November.
- Sales from 1–10 November count towards the November chart.
- If the November gig goes ahead, every sale from that point on continues to count.

how the chart is calculated.

Each eligible sale counts as one chart point. Releases are ranked by total eligible units sold during the month. Where a release is available in multiple formats, sales across all formats aggregate at release level.

THE THREE-UNIT CAP

A maximum of three units per payment method are eligible for any single release or merch item. The cap applies across formats of the same release. If a customer buys two vinyl, one CD, and one cassette of the same album in a single transaction, three of those units count towards the chart — the fourth does not. The customer still gets all four items.

TIEBREAKER

If two entries finish on the same number of eligible units, the entry with the higher total revenue ranks above the other.

subcharts.

Alongside the main Music and Merch charts, Fanfare publishes three families of subchart: by genre, by location, and by format. A release that doesn't break into the main Top 40 may still place highly in a subchart — top 12" vinyl release of the month, top release in folk, top release from a particular region.

Subchart positions follow the same eligibility rules as the main charts and generate their own cards.

what doesn't count.

- Sales not processed through Fanfare, including cash sales at gigs not run through the Fanfare app
- Bundles of any kind — music bundles, merch bundles, or mixed bundles
- Pre-order registrations (only completed purchases count)
- Sales below the relevant minimum price
- Units beyond the three-per-payment-method cap
- Sales falling outside an eligible window after a cancelled launch gig

pre-orders.

Pre-orders on Fanfare are a way for fans to register interest before release. No money is taken at the pre-order stage. On release day, fans who pre-ordered are notified the item is available to buy. Only completed purchases count towards the chart. Pre-orders can open up to six months before release.

chart entry.

Entering a release or item into the chart costs £10 per entry, paid once. Once entered, the release or item is chart-eligible permanently, subject to the gig-link rules above.

Artist Plus accounts include two chart entry credits per year. Standard Label accounts include four chart entry credits per year. Label Scale accounts include eight. Credits renew on your signup anniversary and can be applied in place of the entry fee.

You don't have to enter every release. Items you don't want to chart can still be sold through Fanfare in exactly the same way.

chart cards.

Every chart placing produces automatically generated social media cards, sent to artists and labels by email and stored permanently in your account.

END-OF-MONTH CARDS

Generated at chart publication — first Sunday of the following month at 4pm — for any release or item that finishes in the Top 40 of the main chart or any subchart. Displays the exact final position.

ACCESSING YOUR CARDS

All generated cards are stored in a dedicated area of your Fanfare account, viewable and downloadable at any time. Card emails are opt-out via your account preferences.

questions.

If you have any questions about how the chart rules apply to your releases or roster, email us at charts@wearefanfare.uk and we'll talk it through.