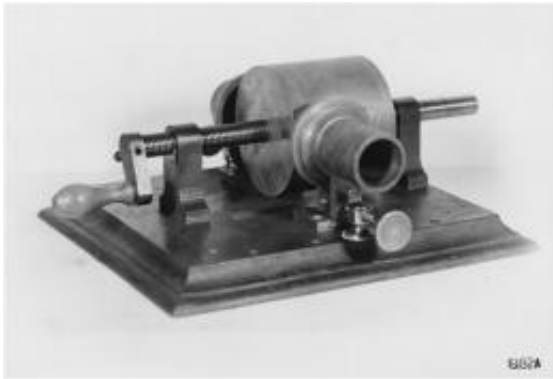


# Soundtrack to history: 1878 Edison audio unveiled

October 25 2012, by Chris Carola

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This photo provided by the Museum of Innovation and Science in Schenectady, N.Y., shows Thomas Edison's 1878 tinfoil phonograph. Researchers have digitized what experts say is the oldest recording of a playable American voice and history's first-ever recorded musical performance, along with the first recorded blooper. Recorded on a sheet of tinfoil on a phonograph invented by Thomas Edison, the recording was made in St. Louis in 1878. It contains a short coronet solo of an unidentified song, followed by the voices of a man reciting popular nursery rhymes. (AP Photo/Mike Groll)

(AP)—Researchers have recovered and digitized what experts say is the oldest playable recording of an American voice and history's first-ever recorded musical performance.

Also included: the first recorded blooper.

The recording was done on a sheet of tinfoil on a [phonograph](#) invented by [Thomas Edison](#) and made in St. Louis in 1878. It opens with a short cornet solo and is followed by a man reciting nursery rhymes.

Near the end of the 78-second recording, the man laughs after messing up one of the words to "Old Mother Hubbard."

The tinfoil and the newly digitized recording is being presented Thursday at a museum in Schenectady (skeh-NEHK'-tuh-dee), N.Y., where Edison founded the [General Electric](#) Co.

Experts at California's Berkeley Lab recovered the recordings using technology developed for the project.

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Citation: Soundtrack to history: 1878 Edison audio unveiled (2012, October 25) retrieved 7 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-10-soundtrack-history-edison-audio-unveiled.html>

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