

# DisplayArtistNames for Releases and Resources

## Display Artist composite and Display Artist Name element

DDEX messages allow for the communication of the "main artist" – i.e. the artist name that is shown in big letters on the product sleeve. This information can be provided in two ways:

- `DisplayArtist` is a composite that can communicate the name and role of the artist (or artists) who is (are) the main ones for a given Release
- `DisplayArtistName` is a string that can communicate the way the Release creator suggests the name being displayed. There can only be one for each Release.

## Releases and Resources

The same concepts applies to Resources such as sound recordings. In most Releases all Resources' display artist is the same as the display artist for the release. The three main exceptions are:

- Compilations;
- Classical releases;
- Resources where the main Release artist has asked a "featured" colleague to join in.

## Communicating Display Artist

If a Resource's display artist is the same as for the Release containing the Resource, the appropriate `DisplayArtist` and `DisplayArtistName` should be communicated on Release level only; there is no need for Resource level `DisplayArtistName` data.

If a Resource's display artist differs from the Release's, display artist `DisplayArtist` and `DisplayArtistName` data must be communicated for the Release *and* the Resource. The rules differ slightly for different versions of the `NewReleaseMessage`:

### Rules for ERN Version 3.7 and above

- `DisplayArtistName` shall contain the concatenation of individual `DisplayArtist`'s names (as recommended by the Release creator);
- `DisplayArtist` contains individual components for *each* of the artists with roles `Artist` (for the main artist) or `FeaturedArtist` (for artists that have been asked to join in with the main artist).

### Rules for ERN Version 3.6 and before

- `DisplayArtist` contains individual components for *each* of the artists with roles `Artist` (for the main artist) or `FeaturedArtist` (for artists that have been asked to join in with the main artist);
- A further `DisplayArtist` composite shall contain the concatenation of individual `DisplayArtist`'s names (as recommended by the Release creator) with a role `UserDefined` with user-defined value of `"DisplayArtistName"`.