TasteID

How we understand your music taste

JANUARY 2026 | POWERED BY POLARITY 1.2

MUSIC NETWORKS

7

Cognitive modes mapped
from Yeo model

PATTERNS

20+

Behavioral signatures
detected

MIN REVIEWS

20

For stable signature

OVERVIEW

WaxFeed's TasteID goes beyond simple genre preferences. Powered by Polarity 1.2 — a cognitive modeling framework — it analyzes **how you listen**, not just what you listen to. The result is a unique listening signature that captures your relationship with music.

> *"Your listening signature is as unique as a fingerprint — the characteristic way you engage with music across discovery, comfort, depth, and emotion."*

Adapted from the Yeo 7-Network cognitive model used in neuroscience, each network represents a distinct mode of musical engagement.

	NETWORK	WHAT IT MEASURES	TYPICAL RANGE
🔭	**DISCOVERY** FP → Discovery	New artist exploration, genre breadth	15-30%
🏠	**COMFORT** DMN → Comfort	Returning to known favorites	18-32%
🎯	**DEEP DIVE** DA → Deep Dive	Artist catalog exploration depth	8-20%
⚡	**REACTIVE** VA → Reactive	Response to new releases, trends	10-22%
💜	**EMOTIONAL** LIM → Emotional	Rating variance, strong reactions	8-20%
🤝	**SOCIAL** SMN → Social	Community engagement, sharing	3-12%
🎨	**AESTHETIC** VIS → Aesthetic	Visual/presentation attention	2-10%

Network Detection Signals

DISCOVERY MODE

- First-time artist reviews
- Genre diversity in recent reviews
- Low artist repeat rate

DEEP DIVE MODE

- Multiple albums from same artist
- Chronological exploration
- Complete discography patterns

Beyond network activation, TasteID detects behavioral patterns that characterize your unique listening style. These patterns unlock as you review more albums.

Signature-Based Patterns

Discovery↔Comfort Oscillation

Healthy balance between exploring new music and returning to favorites

Deep Dive Sprints

Goes all-in on artists when something clicks

New Release Hunter

Stays on top of current music as it drops

Emotional Listener

Strong reactions reflected in rating variance

Rating Patterns

Critical Ear

Average rating below 5.5 — high standards

Music Optimist

Average rating above 7.5 — finds joy everywhere

Polarized Taste

Bimodal ratings — loves it or hates it

Perfection Seeker

More 10s than near-perfect scores

Engagement Patterns

Contrarian

Often differs 3+ points from consensus

Hidden Gem Hunter

High ratings for low-popularity albums

Discography Completionist

5+ albums from single artists

Archive Diver

Average album age over 15 years

Inspired by how memory consolidation works in neuroscience, TasteID tracks which tastes are "sticking" versus "fading" over time.

HOW IT WORKS

Reviews are split into two periods: recent (last 6 months) and older. Genres and artists that appear consistently across both periods with good ratings are considered "consolidated."

| STRENGTHENING | Recent ratings higher than older |

| FADING | Recent ratings lower than older |

| STABLE | Consistent appreciation over time |

Consolidation Thresholds

≥2	Reviews in each period (recent + older) for genre consolidation
≥3	Total reviews for artist consolidation
≥6	Average rating for "consolidated" status
±0.5	Rating difference threshold for trend detection

By comparing your current listening signature to historical snapshots, TasteID can visualize how your taste evolves over time.
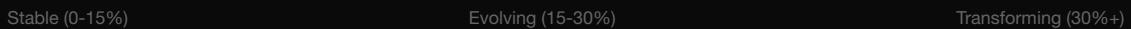
Snapshot System

- Snapshots captured monthly with TasteID recomputation
- Each snapshot stores: genre vector, artist DNA, listening signature, Polarity score
- Up to 12 months of history retained for drift analysis

Drift Metrics

OVERALL DRIFT (0-100%)

Sum of absolute changes across all networks, normalized. Higher = more change.

| Stable (0-15%) | Evolving (15-30%) | Transforming (30%+) |

Network-Level Changes

Each network's change is tracked individually:

- ↑ INCREASED — Change greater than +5%
- ↓ DECREASED — Change less than -5%
- → STABLE — Change within ±5%

The enhanced Polarity Score combines multiple dimensions into a single identity strength metric.

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FORMULA COMPONENTS

polarityScore2 =
  (signatureStrength × 0.25) +   // Network activation clarity
  (patternDiversity × 0.20) +    // Number of detected patterns
  (consolidationScore × 0.20) +  // Taste stability
  (uniquenessScore × 0.20) +     // Deviation from typical
  (engagementDepth × 0.15)       // Review depth & length
```
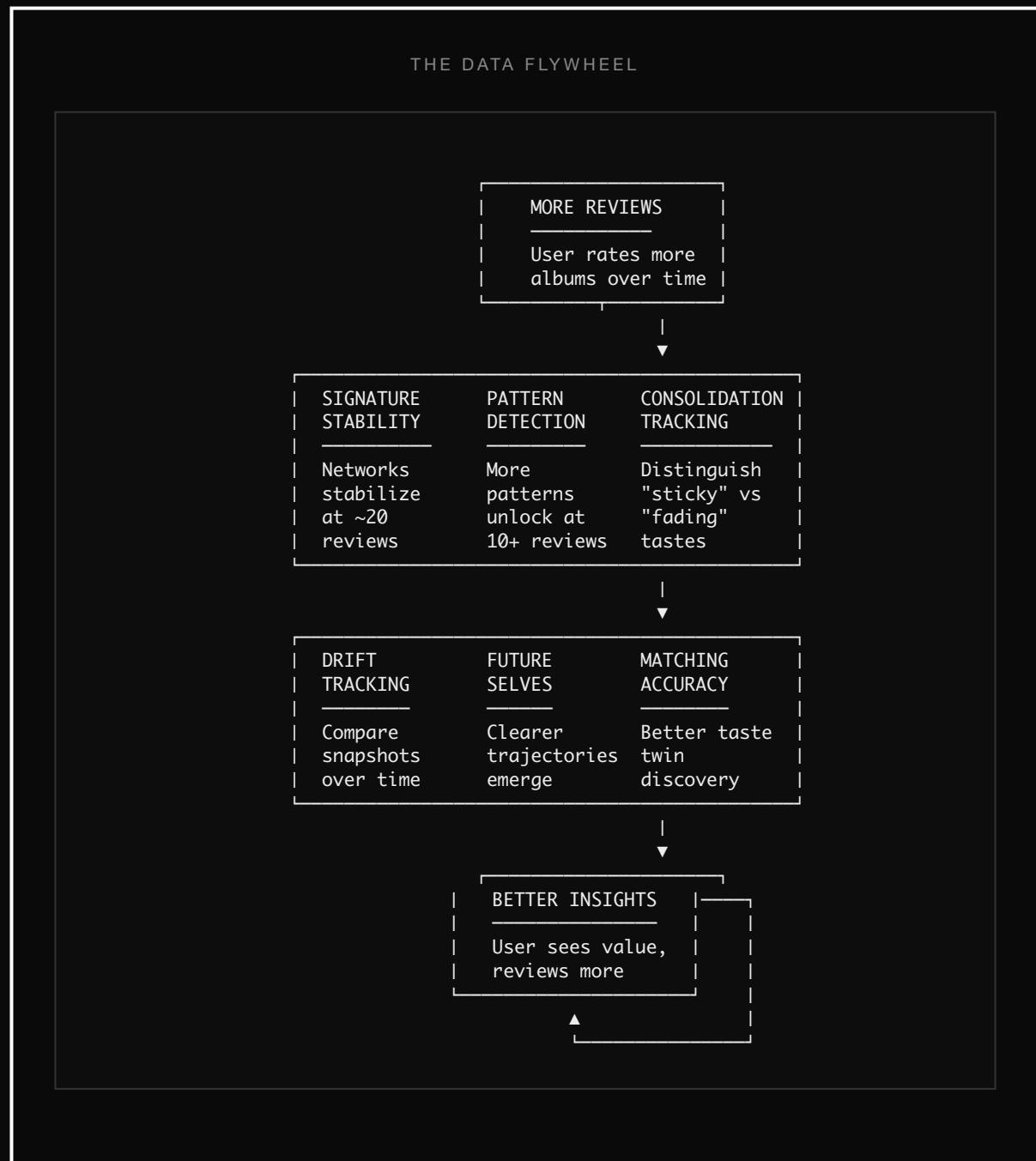
Score Interpretation

0.8+	**Highly Distinct** — Unmistakable listening identity
0.6-0.8	**Well-Defined** — Clear patterns and preferences
0.4-0.6	**Emerging** — Patterns forming, more data helpful
<0.4	**Nascent** — Early stage, keep reviewing

TasteID gets smarter the more you use it — both at the individual level (more reviews = better insights) and platform level (more users = better baselines).

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                    THE DATA FLYWHEEL

            ┌──────────────────────┐
            |     MORE REVIEWS     |
            | ──────────────────── |
            |   User rates more    |
            |   albums over time   |
            └──────────────────────┘
                        |
                        ▼
        ┌──────────────────────────────────────┐
        | SIGNATURE      PATTERN     CONSOLIDATION |
        | STABILITY      DETECTION   TRACKING    |
        | ──────────     ─────────   ──────────  |
        | Networks       More        Distinguish |
        | stabilize      patterns    "sticky" vs |
        | at ~20         unlock at   "fading"    |
        | reviews        10+ reviews tastes      |
        └──────────────────────────────────────┘
                        |
                        ▼
        ┌──────────────────────────────────────┐
        | DRIFT          FUTURE      MATCHING    |
        | TRACKING       SELVES      ACCURACY    |
        | ──────────     ─────────   ──────────  |
        | Compare        Clearer     Better taste|
        | snapshots      trajectories twin       |
        | over time      emerge      discovery   |
        └──────────────────────────────────────┘
                        |
                        ▼
            ┌──────────────────────┐
            |    BETTER INSIGHTS    |───┐
            | ──────────────────── |   |
            |   User sees value,    |   |
            |     reviews more      |   |
            └──────────────────────┘   |
                        ▲               |
                        └───────────────┘
```

Per-User Data Thresholds

3	Basic TasteID generation (genre vector, archetype)
10	Pattern detection activates

15	Consolidation tracking begins
20	Listening signature stabilizes, TasteID page unlocks
50	High-confidence signature, reliable drift tracking
100+	Future selves become accurate, strong consolidation data

Platform-Level Benefits

WITH MORE USERS

- Refine typical network ranges
- Validate discriminating patterns
- Better taste twin matching

FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

- Population percentiles
- Predictive trajectory modeling
- Signature-based recommendations

As TasteID grows, we're exploring some interesting questions:

1. **How unique are listening signatures?**
   Can we identify someone from their Discovery/Comfort ratio alone?

2. **What's the minimum data needed?**
   How many reviews before reliable identification?

3. **Which patterns are most discriminating?**
   What signatures vary most between people?

4. **Are there "listening twins"?**
   People with nearly identical signatures?

5. **Does music signature correlate with cognitive signature?**
   Do FP-dominant thinkers have Discovery-dominant listening?