

45 RPM SINGLES: A GUIDE TO FIRST PRESSING IDENTIFICATION

By Victor Pearlin and Jerry Osborne

One of the more confusing aspects of record collecting, especially for a newcomer, is identification of 45 rpm pressings — be they first, second or ninth. With some of the better selling releases that seemingly never went out of print, there can be 10 or 20 years worth of releases to try and sort out. Still, it's almost always the first pressing that is of the most interest and the greatest value to collectors.

Except when noted otherwise, all values in this guide are for first pressings. As a general rule, second pressings are valued at about half of first pressings. Third pressings, should there be any, are valued at approximately half of second pressings, etc., etc. The focus of first pressing identification in this guide is on singles only. The subject of long play album label identification has been covered in other books.

The selection numbers shown as points of change in label color and/or design are, in some cases, approximate but, for the most part, accurately researched. The emphasis in this feature is with '50s and early '60s releases though there are exceptions. Largely due to the simultaneous pressing of certain records (usually the better sellers), at different pressing plants, there will always be exceptions to the guidelines presented here. Often, copies pressed in California will carry older labels on East coast releases than we've indicated.

If you should discover records that appear to be an exception to the published information in this edition, please forward the appropriate data to us at Osborne Enterprises. A determination will then be made as to whether our information needs revision or, as is most often the case, you have a pressing plant variation.

There are tens of thousands of labels in this guide that do not appear in this chapter. Generally, this is because they didn't change their label design or color, thus eliminating any possibility of confusion over what's a first pressing and what's a later pressing. Some labels, Columbia for example, eliminated confusion by not repressing singles with their original selection numbers. They often utilized a separate series, such as Columbia's "Hall Of Fame" which had both a different number series as well as a somewhat different label design. Overall, most records dealt with in this edition were never reissued or repressed.

Then there's the case of Fortune, a label with many valuable and important releases, but one whose constant change of colors and label art make it absolutely hopeless to trace for you. If there's a way to identify Fortune pressings with certainty, we'd love to know about it. Even the good folks at Fortune can't help us with this problem.

Because some label colors are a tossup as to whether they are maroon or brown (such as Checker and Vee Jay), we'll at least be consistent and call them maroon. Similarities also occur with brown and tan labels. Since we're calling maroon/brown as maroon, we'll call brown/tan as light brown (Argo and Hull are two that come to mind).

You'll find the year or years of releases covered on each line. This will aid you in putting the chronology in proper perspective.

Please address all additions, corrections and suggestions to the publisher or to: Victor Pearlin, P.O. Box 60299, Greendale Station, Worcester MA 01606. Thank you!

ACE

500 through 504 (1955): Black label.

505 through 511 (1955): Yellow label.

512 (1955): Blue label.

513 through 527 (1955-1957): Yellow label.

528 and higher (1957 forward): White label.

This is the Mississippi Ace label, not the New York Ace label that had releases in the 100 series beginning in 1956.

ALADDIN

3000 through 3259 (1947-1954): Blue label.

3260 through 3399 (1954-1957): Maroon label, though we have seen a blue label of 3338.

3400 and higher (1957 forward): Black label.

Opaque green vinyl exists for 3097, 3104, and 3128 and opaque red vinyl for 3144.

ARGO

5250 through 5281 (1956-1957): Silver and black label with "ship" logo.

5282 through 5360 (1957-1960): Black label, silver lettering, with vertical Argo logo.

5361 and higher (1960 forward): Light brown label with vertical Argo logo. Certain pressing plants used the above black label in the 5300 series.

In late 1965 around number 5515, Argo became Cadet. The name change didn't affect the numbering, as Cadet continued with the 5500 series.

ATCO

6050 through 6090 (1955-1957): Maroon label.

6091 and higher (1957 forward): Yellow and white label.

ATLANTIC

932 through 1083 (1951-1956): Yellow and black label without fan logo.

1084 through 2134 (1956-1962): Red and black label without fan logo.

2135 and higher (1962 forward): Red and black label with fan logo.

Regarding earlier numbers, below 932, Atlantic 919 was issued on 45 rpm and there's a possibility that 914 was also on 45. Both labels would be as described for Atlantic 932 through 1083. In the early seventies, Atlantic reissued many of their 932 through 1083 numbers on yellow and black (with fan logo)

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labels. These used a glossy label stock, whereas the originals were done on a flat paper stock.

BACK BEAT

500 through 530 (1957–1959): White label.

531 and higher (1960 forward): Red "drum" label.

The label name is often shown as one word, "Backbeat."

BRUCE

101 (1953) Script label.

101 through 109 (1953–1954) Has address, "1650 Broadway, N.Y. 19, N.Y." under "Bruce Records." Also has "45 R.P.M." on both sides above the top horizontal line.

110 through 129 (1954–1955) Has "Mfg. by Nu-Way Enterprises, Inc., 1650 Broadway, N.Y. 19, N.Y." under "Bruce Records." Also has "45 R.P.M." on both sides above the top horizontal line.

Exception: Originals of Bruce 111 (*What'll You Do/Tell Me* by the Master-Tones) have "1650 Broadway, N.Y. 19, N.Y." under "Bruce Records" and "45 R.P.M." above the top horizontal line.

Early reissues have "1650 Broadway, N.Y. 19, N.Y." under "Bruce Records" but have "Unbreakable "45 R.P.M." on the left side only, and between the two horizontal lines. Any copies with the sawtooth (wavy) lines are definitely second pressings.

BRUNSWICK

55000 through 55166 (1957–1960): Maroon label.

55167 through 55250 (1960–1963): Orange label.

55251 and higher (1963 forward): Black label with multi-colored arrow.

CAPITOL

791 through 4290 (1949–1959): Purple label with Capitol logo on top.

4291 through 4663 (1959–1961): Purple label with Capitol logo on left side.

4680 through 5999 (1961–1967): Orange and yellow "swirl" label.

Regarding Capitol 4664 through 4679, we've seen enough inconsistencies in this gap to render us unable to make any concrete determinations. Thus far, the highest number we've seen, pressed exclusively on purple, is 4663. The lowest number we know of, pressed exclusively on orange and yellow, is 4680. Many numbers in-between appeared on both Capitol labels. Numbers prior to the beginning of 45 rpm production are reissues of material first issued on 78 rpms.

CHECKER

758 through 800 (1952–1954): Maroon and silver "checkerboard" top label, without "Record Co." under the name Checker.

801 through 876 (1954–1957): Maroon and silver "checkerboard" top label, with "Record Co." under the name Checker.

877 through 1050 (1957–1963): Maroon label, with vertical Checker letters on left side.

1101 and higher (1965 forward): Light blue label, without checkers. Inexplicable pressing plant variations exist, such as numbers as high as 1129 (late '65) with the maroon label, with vertical Checker letters on left side.

Notes: There is some doubt that 759 and 761 were issued on 45. Some colored plastic exists in the 766–800 series. Several issues after 1101 used the blue label with checkers, but they were inconsistent during that period. A few red vinyl issues appeared in the 766 to 800 series. The first "checkerboard" (maroon) label is often referred to as the "web top" Checker label; however it is a checkerboard and not a spider's web.

Checker 78s as late as 937 exist with the checkerboard design at top, as opposed to 45s which switched designs beginning with 876. Also, 78s as early as 900 have Checker name vertically on left side.

CHESS

1458 through 1670 (1951–1957): Blue and silver label, with three chess pieces at the top.

1671 through 1798 (1957–1961): Blue label, with vertical Chess letters.

1799 through 1840 (1961–1963): Either blue label, with vertical Chess letters, or multi-color label.

1841 through 1950 (1963–1966): Black label, however there are many pressing plant variations. Some 1800 series issues exist on blue and silver, others on multi-color Chess labels.

1951 and higher (1966 forward): Light blue label.

A few red vinyl issues appeared in the 1530–1550 series. Inexplicable pressing plant variations exist, such as numbers as high as 1966 (mid-'66) with the blue label, with vertical Chess letters on left side.

COMBO

1 through 100 (1951–1956): Glossy red label.

101 and higher (1956 forward): Purple label with Combo name angled across most of the upper left section of the label. No street address shown.

Purple labels with Combo name much smaller (using a reduced portion of the label top) and with street address are reissues. Flat red (almost purple) labels are also reissues.

DECCA

23000 through 29400 (1949–1955): Black label with lines on both sides of the Decca name.

29401 through 31100 (1955–1960): Black label with lines and a star under the Decca name.

31101 and higher (1960 forward): Label is black at the top and bottom, but has a horizontal multi-color band through the center.

An occasional number above 30000 will surface on the label (with lines on both sides of the name Decca) shown for numbers under 29401. Numbers before Decca 45s began (23000 and some as high as 25500 – black label with lines on both sides) are 45 rpm reissues of material first issued on 78s.

DELUXE

3300 through 3323 (1949–1952): Black label with "AA" following the number. Does not have "Hi-Fidelity" on label. 6000 through 6090 (1953–1955), black label without "AA" following the number. Does not have "High-Fidelity" on the label.

6091 through 6190 (1955–1959): Black label, with "High-Fidelity" on the label.

6191 through 6200 (1960–1963): Yellow label.

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Blue plastic exists between 3318 and 3323. Discs before 45 production began are reissues of material first issued on 78 rpms.

DOOTO

412 through 416 (1957): Maroon and silver label.

417 through 440 (1957–1958): Yellow label with logo in red oval.

441 through 452 (1958–1959): Yellow label with logo in blue oval.

453 through 465 (1959–1961): Black label with multi-color print.

472 and higher (1962 forward): Maroon label with multi-color print.

700 series (1958–1959) Yellow label with logo in blue oval.

Dooto was previously Dootone, and the number series is continued for Dootone's numbering. 466 through 471 were on Dootone instead of Dooto. Some of the changeover numbers are approximate, since many of Dooto's releases were comedy, etc., and we were unable to locate copies of those records.

DOOTONE

300 through 411 (1951–1957): Usually flat maroon labels, but may also be blue, black or glossy red. Yellow, glossy maroon and multi-colored labels are reissues.

466 through 471 (1961–1962): Red label with multi-color print.

1200 series: Red label.

Dootone, in early 1957, changed their name to Dooto, continuing with the same numbering series. 466 through 471 were on Dootone instead of Dooto.

DOT

1000 through 1100 (1950–1952): Glossy maroon label with gold print.

1101 through 1150 (1952–1953): Yellow label with black print.

1151 through 1288 (1953–1957): Maroon label with silver print.

15000 through 15500 (1951–1957): Maroon label with silver print.

15501 and higher (1957 forward): Black label.

A few numbers above 15500 are on the maroon label.

DUKE

101 through 342 (1952–1961): Yellow and purple label.

343 and higher (1961 forward): Orange label.

EMBER

1001 through 1039 (1956–1958): Red or orange labels.

1040 through 1064 (1958–1960): Multi-color label, with name lettered with flaming logs.

1065 and higher (1960 forward): Black label.

An occasional number above 1065 exists on the multi-color label.

END

1000 through 1010 (1957): Black label.

1010 through 1045 (1957–1959): White or gray labels. (1010 exists both black and white labels. Also, 1005 and 1008 can be found with white.)

1046 and higher (1959 forward): White or multi-color labels.

EXCELLO

2001 through 2057 (1952–1955): Yellow and blue label.

2058 through 2209 (1955–1962): Orange and blue label.

2210 and higher (1962 forward): Red, white, and blue label.

FEDERAL

12001 through 12084 (1950–1952): Green label with gold top and "AA" following the number.

12085 through 12129 (1952–1953): Green label with gold top. Does not have the "AA."

12130 through 12196 (1953–1954): Green label with silver top. Some in this series were green with gold top.

12197 through 12244 (1954–1955): Green label, without "Hi-Fidelity."

12245 through 12369 (1955–1959): Green label with "Hi-Fidelity" in small print. Most, if not all, we've seen with this label have an em dash in the selection number between the "45" and 12,000 series number (i.e. 45-12496).

12370 and higher (1959 forward): Green label with "Hi-Fidelity" in larger print. Most, if not all, with this label have a hyphen – not a dash – in the selection number between the "45" and 12,000 series number (i.e. 45-12496).

Blue plastic issues exist between 12050 and approximately 12070.

FEE BEE

201 through 221 (1956–1958): Orange label with "bee" logo. Also, "45 rpm" appears on BOTH sides above the horizontal lines.

222 and higher (1958 forward): Orange label without "bee" on label.

FLASH

101 through 103 (1955): Red label.

104 through 113 (1955–1956): Maroon label.

114 through 127 (1956–1958): Blue label.

128 through 133 (1958–1959): Black label.

FLIP

301 through 305 (1955): Maroon label.

306 and higher (1955 forward): Blue label.

Reissues, through approximately 350, have the matrix number (an "FL" prefix and number) in parentheses.

FURY

1000 through 1019 (1957–1958): Maroon label.

1020 through 1023 (1958–1959): Yellow label without horse head logo.

1024 through 1032 (1959–1960): Yellow label with horse head logo.

1033 through 1039 (1960): Multi-color label.

1040 and higher (1960 forward): Yellow label with horse head logo or multi-color label.

GEE

1 through 12 (1954): Yellow and green label.

1000 through 1021 (1955–1956): Red label, without "Trade Mark" and "Reg. U.S. Pat. Off."

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1022 through 1025 (1956): Red label with "Trade Mark" on left and "Reg. U.S. Pat. Off" on the right.

1026 through 1039 (1956–1957): Red label without "Trade Mark" and "Reg. U.S. Pat. Off."

1040 through 1050 (1957–1959): Red label with "Trade Mark" on the left and "Reg. U.S. Pat. Off" on the right.

1051 and higher (1959 forward): Gray label, although an occasional number will turn up on the red label.

GONE

5001 through 5003 (1957): Black label, with shadow ("drop shadow") of the letters "GONE" shown.

5004 through 5056 (1957–1959): Black label without drop shadow of the letters "GONE."

5057 and higher (1959 forward): Multi-color label.

Some copies of 5012 have the multi-color Gone logo (with the singer's head and open mouth in the letter "O") on black label stock. Others above 5057 occasionally are found on black.

GOTHAM

100 through 288 (1951–1953): Blue label.

289 through 304 (1953–1955): Red label.

305 and higher (1955 forward): Yellow label.

Gotham 304 was also issued on blue and on yellow labels. Red vinyl issues appear for many Gotham discs. Actual selection numbers may be shown with a "7" preceding the above numbers.

GRAND

All Grand first pressings are on thick discs with small lettering on the artist and title lines. Reissues had this print nearly double the size of that used on originals. Pressings with the label's address shown are reissues. First pressings had the selection number on the bottom whereas later issues had the number on the left side. We can't swear to this being true on every Grand 45; however, it applies to all that we have seen.

HERALD

401 through 410 (1953): Black label.

410 through 415 (1953): Yellow label with block print and no flag. (Herald 410 can be found on either black or yellow.)

416 through 528 (1953–1958): Yellow label with script print inside the flag. Some issues in this series appeared with the block style print. Two exceptions in this series are 416 and 432, which can be found on yellow, but without the flag.

529 through 550 (1958–1959): Multi-color label. Some of the higher numbers in this series appeared on a variety of label designs.

551 and higher (1959 forward): Yellow label, with block print inside the flag. A variety of label styles and designs can be found in this series.

Note: Clear red vinyl pressings are found in the 410–421 series.

HOLIDAY

2601 through 2603 (1956–1957): Flat black label.

2604 through 2611 (1957–1958): Glossy red label. (Flat red labels are reissues.)

HULL

711 and 712 (1955–1956): Pink label.

713 through 715 (1956): Black label, without outside ring.

716 through 721 (1956–1957): Black or red label with silver outside ring.

722 through 742 (1957–1961): Red label without outside ring.

743 and higher (1961 forward): Tan label.

IMPERIAL

5000 through 5300 (1952–1954): Blue label with Imperial name in script lettering.

5301 through 5357 (1954–1955): Red label with Imperial name in script lettering.

5358 through 5460 (1955–1957): Maroon label with Imperial name in block lettering. Red labels with silver print also exist in this range (i.e. 5463).

5461 and higher (1957 forward): Black label.

Opaque red vinyl pressings occur in the 5200–5235 series. Clear red is used on 5262 and "hold to a light" purple can be found in the 5340s. There was a great deal of overlapping, from one style to another, throughout the Imperial catalog. Numbers prior to the beginning of 45 rpm production are issues of material first issued on 78 rpms.

JAMIE

1000 through 1100 (1956–1958): Black label.

1101 through 1124 (1958–1959): Yellow label.

1125 and higher (1959 forward): White and mustard colored label.

JOSIE

760 through 829 (1954–1957): Light brown label with "JOZ" logo and brown print.

830 through 845 (1957–1958): Light brown label with "JOZ" logo and red print.

846 and higher (1958 forward): Light brown label with "JOSIE" logo.

JOYCE

101 through 105 (1957): Blue label, with the "Y" in Joyce larger than the other letters.

JOZ: see JOSIE

JUBILEE

5000 through 5092 (1951–1952): Blue label, with Jubilee in script lettering. No line under "Jubilee."

5093 through 5340 (1952–1958): Blue label, with Jubilee in script lettering and underlined.

5341 and higher (1958 forward): Black label.

Clear red vinyl pressings are found in the 5055 to 5120 series. Numbers prior to the beginning of 45 production are reissues of material first issued on 78 rpms.

KING

500 through 1470 (1951–1955): Maroon label.

1471 through 1502 (1955): Blue label.

4449 through 4544 (1951–1952): Blue label with the letters "AA" following the number and no "High Fidelity" shown.

4545 through 4834 (1952–1955): Blue label without the letters "AA" following the number and no "High Fidelity" shown.

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4835 through 5266 (1955–1959): Blue label with "High Fidelity" in small print.

5267 and higher (1959 forward): Blue label with "High Fidelity" in larger print.

Clear colored vinyl (blue, purple, green and red) was pressed in the 1000–1150 and in the 4450–4525 series. Numbers prior to the beginning of 45 production are reissues of material first issued on 78 rpms.

LIBERTY

55001 through 55270 (1955–1960): Green label with silver print.

55271 through 56218 (1960–1970): Multi-color label.

MGM

10000 through 12828 (1949–1959): Yellow label.

12829 and higher (1959 forward): Black label. MGM switched to a blue and yellow label somewhere around 14000 (1969), but we can't pinpoint the exact changeover number.

55000 series (1955–1956): Yellow label.

Numbers prior to the beginning of 45 production are reissues of material first issued on 78 rpms.

MERCURY

5000 through 8999 (1949–1952): Maroon label.

70000 through 71039 (1949–1957): Maroon or black label, though maroon ends around 71100. Also used in this series was a label picturing Mercury (Roman mythological messenger of the gods) in a square, which appeared on maroon, black, pink (R&B), and green (C&W) stock.

71040 through 72320 (1957–1964) Maroon or black label, with the Mercury ellipse (or oval), or square logo.

72321 and higher (1964 forward): Red label.

METEOR

5000 and 5001 (1953): Yellow label.

5002 through 5030 (1953–1956): Red label.

5031 through 5046 (1956–1958): Black label.

MODERN

779 through 980 (1950–1956): Glossy red or glossy black.

981 through 1028 (1956–1958): Flat black.

MOTOWN

1000 through 1010 (1960–1961): Pink label.

1011 and higher (1961 forward): Blue label.

MUSIC CITY

730 through 795 (1954–1956): Maroon label.

796 through 807 (1956–1957): Flat black label.

808 and higher (1957 forward): Glossy black with multi-colors.

Red, green, and blue plastic exists in the 700 series.

OKEH

6800 through 7092 (1951–1957): Purple label, with small Okeh logo.

7093 through 7140 (1957–1960): Yellow label. A few purple labels overlapped into this series.

7141 and higher (1960 forward): Purple label with large Okeh logo.

OLD TOWN

700 series (1953): Yellow label, with block style (sans-serif) print. Label print is green

1000 through 1012 (1954–1955): Yellow label, with "Old Town" in Old English style lettering. Label print is brown.

1013 through 1028 (1955–1956): Yellow label, with block style (sans-serif) print and horizontal rope-like lines.

1029 through 1051 (1956–1958): Yellow label, with block style (sans-serif) print but with straight, not rope-like, lines.

1052 and higher (1958 forward): Blue label.

Red vinyl pressings occur in the 700 series and in the 1000 series. Beginning with 1094, "There's A Moon Out Tonight," Old Town started using a slightly different blue label, darker and with a yellow moon (probably to tie in with their biggest hit). Later numbers can be found on either of the two blue labels, at least through 1133, which we know was pressed on both of the blue labels.

ONYX

501 through 513 (1956–1957): Glossy black label.

514 through 520 (1957–1958): Flat black and orange or flat black and green label.

PARADISE

101 through 109 (1953–1959): Maroon label with horizontal rope-like lines.

110 and higher (1959 forward): Purple label without horizontal rope-like lines.

PEACOCK

1500 through 1604 (1949–1952): Flat maroon label

1605 through 1675 (1952–1957): Glossy red label.

1676 through 1699 (1957–1961): White label.

1700 through 1899 (1952–1961): Black label.

1900 through 1925 (1961–1962): White label.

1926 and higher (1962 forward): Blue and multi-colored label.

Red plastic exists in the 1700 series. This series was Peacock's gospel series and, as the years indicate, it paralleled their 1600 pop series rather than followed it.

RCA VICTOR

50-0000 through 50-0105 (1949): Gray label, gold print. Color of vinyl indicates music style. Cerise (cherry) is for Blues & Rhythm; green for Country & Western; sky-blue for International; midnight blue for Popular Classics; black for Popular; ruby red for Red Seal (Classical); and yellow for Children's Entertainment.

The industry's first 45 rpm singles were the early numbers in this series.

50-0106 through 50-0141 (1950–1951): Gray label, silver print. Black vinyl.

47-2800 through 47-4572 (1948–1952): Turquoise label.

47-4573 through 47-5700 (1952–1954): Flat black label with the dog on right side.

47-5700 through 47-8550 (1954–1965): Glossy black label, with the dog on top.

47-8551 through 47-9650 (1965–1968): Glossy black label, with the dog on the left side.

47-9650 and higher (1968 forward): Orange label.

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The changeover numbers of 5600, 8550, and 9650 are approximate; our best estimates at this time (especially 5700). If you have releases that can better narrow these down, please let us know. Some numbers in the 6600–6800 series were issued without the dog anywhere on the label.

The "20," "47" and "50" were the most common RCA Victor prefixes, however there were several others in use during this period, including: "21," "22," "23," "25," "28," "40," "46," "48" and "51." None of these specialty series releases were reissued using the same number.

RPM

300 through 362 (1950–1952): "RPM" in script style lettering on either maroon, black or blue labels.

363 through 502 (1952–1956): "RPM" in block (san-serif) style lettering on either red, black or blue labels.

RAINBOW

100 through 250 (1950–1954): Blue label.

251 and higher (1954 forward): Yellow label.

Note: Colored vinyl pressings are found in the 200 series.

RAMA

1 through 196 (1953–1956): Blue label.

197 through 222 (1956–1957): Red label without "Reg. U.S. Pat. Off."

223 through 233 (1957): Red label, with "Reg. U.S. Pat. Off" on left side.

Red plastic exists in some numbers below 50.

RED TOP

100 through 111 (1957): Light blue label.

112 and higher (1957 forward): Red label.

ROULETTE

4001 through 4004 (1957): Orange or red label with roulette wheel circling label.

4005 through 4050 (1957–1958): Orange or red labels with partial roulette wheel or no wheel at all.

4051 through 4420 (1958–1962): White label with six colored "spokes" (lines).

4421 through 4500 (1962–1963): Dark pink label.

4500 and higher (1963 forward): Orange label with broken line and logo circling label.

All changeover numbers are approximate with Roulette. Information helpful in narrowing these down would be appreciated.

SPARK

101 through 108 (1954): Red label, with red letter on a silver top.

109 (1954): Red or blue label, with silver print.

110 through 119 (1955): Red label.

120 through 122 (1955–1956): Yellow and black label.

SPECIALTY

300 through 607 (1951–1957): With saw-tooth (wavy) horizontal lines.

608 and higher (1957 forward): Without saw-tooth (wavy) horizontal lines.

Numbers 500–525 were used in 1946–1948 for 78 rpm issues. Specialty therefore jumped from 499 to 526 in 1954. Colored vinyl pressings are found in the mid-400 series.

TAMLA

100 and 102 (1959): Yellow label with horizontal lines across the top of the label.

5501 (1960): Yellow label with horizontal lines across the top of the label.

54024 through 54043 (1960–1961): Yellow label with horizontal lines across the top of the label.

54044 through 54175 (1961–1968): Yellow label with "globes" logo. Globes may be overlapped or side by side.

54176 and higher (1968 forward): Yellow label, with "box" logo.

VEE JAY

100 through 223 (1953–1956): Maroon label with thin outer silver circle. Does not have "Trademark Reg." or "Made In The U.S.A." on the label.

224 through 286 (1956–1958): Maroon label with thin outer silver circle. Does not have "Trademark Reg." but does have "Made In The U.S.A." on the label.

287 through 353 (1958–1960): Maroon label with thicker outer silver circle. Has "Trademark Reg." but does not have "Made In The U.S.A." on the label.

354 and higher (1960 forward): Black label.

Vee Jay 280 had the thicker outer line, but was an exception to the rule. Red plastic exists in some numbers in the 100 series. When the Beatles became popular in January 1964, Vee Jay releases poured forth, using a wide assortment of label colors and designs.

WINLEY

212 (1957): Blue label.

213 through 230 (1957–1958): Orange label, "Winley" name is in smaller (3/16-inch) print.

231 and higher (1958 forward): Orange label, "Winley" name is in slightly larger (1/4-inch) print.