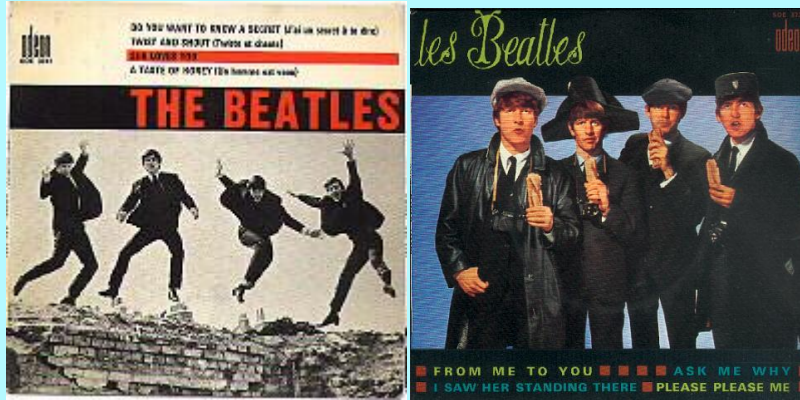


# Identifying Original French Beatles 7" Records

Updated: 22 JI 24

Odeon Records of France did not release commercial "singles" as we know them until 1966. Before this time, all 45 RPM releases were in the form of EPs. This made for a series of very colorful releases, since every EP was issued with at least one original picture cover.



## Dark Blue Odeon



The earliest Odeon label style has ODÉON in large letters across the top of the label. Before a time in early 1964, the labels were dark blue in color. There were three EPs which were originally released on the dark blue Odeon label; two of these EPs exist in two varieties. These are:

Catalog Number	Title
SOE 3739	Les Beatles (From Me to You +3) -- cover like <i>Introducing the Beatles</i> [M3-227351/2]
SOE 3739	Les Beatles (From Me to You +3) -- cover has Beatles in French uniforms
SOE 3741	Les Beatles (She Loves You +3) -- French titles shown first [M3-229825/6]
SOE 3741	Les Beatles (She Loves You +3) -- English titles first [M3-229825/6]
SOE 3745	I Want to Hold Your Hand +3 [M3-231566/7]

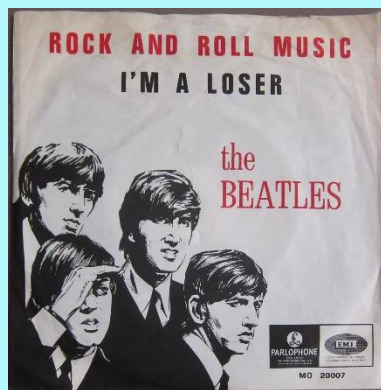
**NOTE:** The second cover for the SOE 3739 EP was issued in January 1964, along with the Beatles' stay in France (where also they recorded "Can't Buy Me Love" and the two German songs). The cover may have been a limited edition. When the cover may have been used is a mystery; it is pictured inside the *Beatles 1965* album, which wasn't issued until almost a year later.

## 1964-5 Belgium Export Singles

Pressed at first on a custom **dark green** label and later on the more traditional orange ODÉON label, it is not currently known how many copies of each of these singles were made. These were export releases from France to Belgium. The matrix numbers indicate that the first two were pressed in early 1964, making them the first commercial French Beatles singles. One single, "Rock and Roll Music," was also pressed domestically in Belgium on a **purple** ODÉON label. That pressing is listed below as well. The rare release is the last one: "We Can Work It Out."

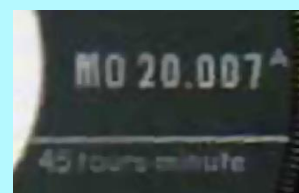


Catalog Number	Titles
7 MO 20005	"Hold Me Tight"/"All My Loving" (green label) [M3-231996]
MO 20005	"Hold Me Tight"/"All My Loving" (green label)
MO 20005	"Hold Me Tight"/"All My Loving" (orange label)
MO 20006	"I Saw Her Standing There"/"Till There Was You" (green label) [M3-232837]
MO 20007	"Rock and Roll Music"/"I'm a Loser" (green label) [M3-240007/8]
MO 20007	"Rock and Roll Music"/"I'm a Loser" (purple label)
MO 20007	title sleeve for the above single
MO 20.008	"We Can Work It Out"/"Day Tripper" (green label) [M3-245050]





**NOTE 1:** Some copies of the green-label pressing of "Rock and Roll Music" show the catalog number as MO 20.007, instead of MO 20007. It is possible that the copies with the dot came out in late 1965, after the run of purple-label singles, and after the record had stopped selling well in Belgium.



**NOTE 2:** Some copies of the purple-label pressing of "Rock and Roll Music" have a space between K. and A. in the publisher's box at the right side. Single MO-20007 was so popular in Belgium that copies were pressed domestically, rather than being imported from France. Purple-label singles are actually domestic Belgian pressings instead of French exports. Their labels do not read "Made in France" like the French exports. Reportedly, "KA" stands for "keep account" -- meaning that an account of sales needed to be kept domestically and turned over to the Belgian music copyright company, SABAM. The purple-label singles appear on this page for consistency.

## 1965-6 Belgium Export EPs



Odeon's closer relationship with EMI worldwide was heralded in these four EPs, all of which were "export" releases. The first two EPs were released between April and June of 1965, corresponding to the two UK *Beatles For Sale* EPs. The second two EPs were released later: Volume 3 in about September and Volume 4 in November or December, 1965. These EPs are all reasonably hard to come by, as are the jukebox singles (below).

The special release records are:

Catalog Number	Songs
MOE 21001	R&R Music +3, "Volume 1" [M3-240528]
MOE 21002	I'll Follow the Sun +3, "Volume 2" [M3-241826]
MOE 21003	Ticket to Ride +3, "Volume 3" [M3-243122]
MOE 21004	Yesterday +3, "Volume 4" [M3-244101/2]

## Orange-Label Odeon EPs

From 1964 through the end of 1965, all of Odeon's EP releases were on an orange label with black print, as pictured above. Like their earlier counterparts, all of these are collectible today. The three blue-label EPs were reissued onto the orange label. The EPs that were originally released on the orange label were:

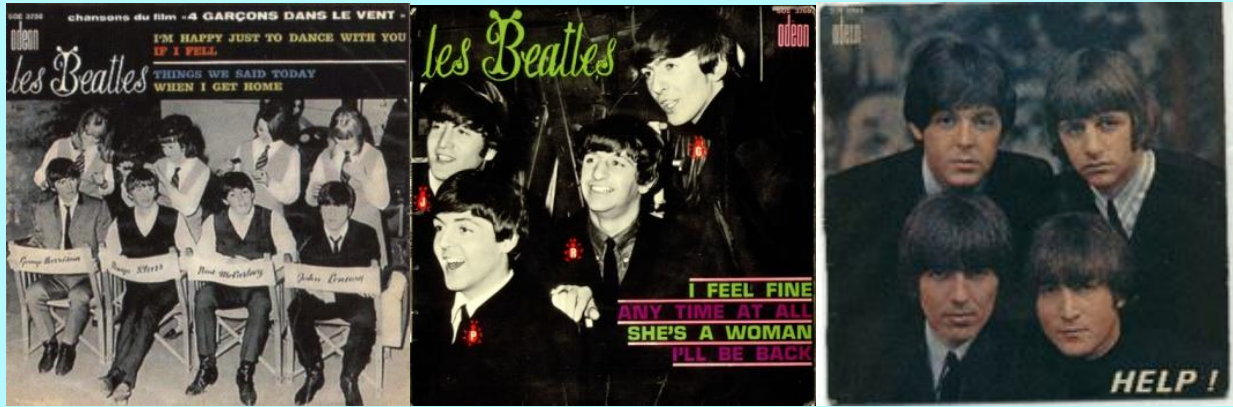


Catalog Number	Title
SOE 3746	Roll Over Beethoven +3 -- back cover shows three EPs and two LPs that were available before this EP came out. [M3-232402/3]
SOE 3746	Roll Over Beethoven +3 -- back cover shows four EPs, numbered 3751 and below
SOE 3750	Can't Buy Me Love +3 -- back cover has French text above the EP photos [M3-233214/5]
SOE 3750	Can't Buy Me Love +3 -- back cover is missing the French text and shows later EPs; titles on back are in LARGE font
SOE 3751	All My Loving +3 -- cover shows group in pool [M3-233735/6]
SOE 3755	Long Tall Sally + 3 -- cover shows group in ocean [M3-235414/5]
SOE 3756	Songs from the film "4 Garçons dans le Vent" (If I Fell + 3) [M3-236381/2]
SOE 3757	Songs From the film, "4 Garçons.." (HDN +3) -- on the back cover, next to "Les Beatles," is information about writing to their fan club. A mock LP cover is one of the photos. [M3-235929/30]
SOE 3757	Songs From the film, "4 Garçons.." (HDN +3) -- on the back cover, there is nothing to the right of "Les Beatles." The fan club information is at the bottom. The correct LP cover is one of the photos.
SOE 3760	I Feel Fine +3 [M3-238329/30]
SOE 3764	No Reply + 3 (Beatles 1965 cover) [M3-240528/9]
SOE 3766	Ticket to Ride + 3 [M3-241353/540]
SOE 3769	Help! [M3-242913/4, PEP-5686/7]
SOE 3771	Chansons du Film Help! (Another Girl +3) [no M3 number, PEP-5684/5]
SOE 3772	Chansons du Film Help! (You've Got to...+3) -- cover lists "You've Got to..." prominently [no M3 number, PEP-5766/7]
SOE 3772	Chansons du Film Help! (You've Got to...+3) -- cover lists "Yesterday" prominently
SOE 3775	Tell Me What You See +3 --champagne glass cover [no M3 number, PEP-5818/9]
SOE 3776	Kansas City + 3 [no M3 number, PEP-5828/9]
SOE 3777	Devil in Her Heart, Money + 2 [M3-244282/3]

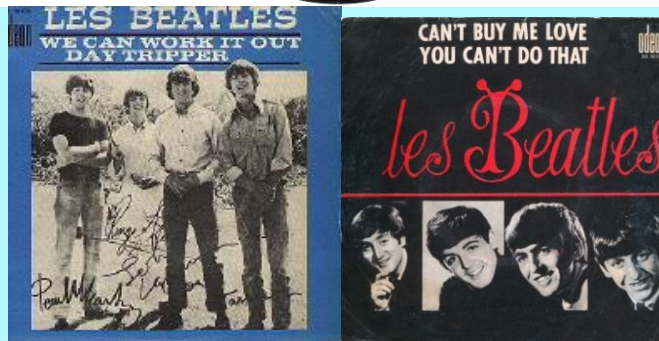
SOE 3778	Misery + 3 [M3-244284/5]
SOE 3779	Honey Don't + 3 [M3-244286/7]

**NOTE 1:** The prefix "S" does not stand for stereo, but probably rather "standard." All of the SOE series EPs are in mono.

**NOTE 2:** Of all the SOE series French EPs, only the last three contained mere reissues of earlier material.



## Jukebox and Fan Club Singles



French Odeon's normally did not issue singles commercially, but they were suitable for jukebox use. The jukebox singles appear first on a yellow label (1963-4), then on the dark blue label (1964), and then on the orange label (until the beginning of 1966). These are among the first Beatles singles in France. Known jukebox singles are:

JUKEBOX SINGLES	
Catalog Number	Songs
7 SO 10087	"From Me to You"/"Please Please Me" (yellow label) [M3-227531/0]
7 SO 10091	"She Loves You"/"Twist and Shout" (blue label) [M3-230457]
SO 10099	"I Want to Hold Your Hand"/"Hold Me Tight" (blue label) +PS [M3-231418/9]
SO 10100	"All My Loving"/"It Won't Be Long" (blue label) +PS [M3-231420/1]
SO 10104	"Till There Was You"/"PS I Love You" (blue label) +PS [M3-232018/231907]
SO 10104	"Till There Was You"/"PS I Love You" (orange label)
SO 10107	"I Saw Her Standing There"/"Don't Bother Me" (blue label) [M3-232406/7]
SO 10107	"I Saw Her Standing There"/"Don't Bother Me" (orange label)
SO 10108	"Boys"/"Love Me Do" (blue label) +PS [M3-232404/5]
SO 10111	"Can't Buy Me Love"/"You Can't Do That" (orange label) +PS [M3-233450/49]
SO 10112	"PS I Love You"/"Please Mister Postman" (orange label, fan club issue) +PS [M3-233520/19]
SO 10117	"This Boy"/"I'll Get You" (orange label) +PS [M3-233902/1]
SO 10120	"Roll Over Beethoven"/ "I Wanna Be Your Man" (orange label) [M3-234952/1]
SO 10121	"A Hard Day's Night"/"Tell Me Why" (orange label) +PS [M3-235953/4]

SO 10122	"I'm Happy Just to Dance With You"/"Things We Said Today" (orange label) +PS [M3-237112/3]
SO 10125	"I Feel Fine"/"She's a Woman" (orange label) +PS [M3-238335/6]
SO 10128	"Eight Days a Week"/"R&R Music"(orange label) [M3-240885/6]
SO 10129	"Ticket to Ride"/"I Don't Want to Spoil the Party" (orange label) +PS [M3-241351/539]
SO 10130	"Help!" (orange label) +PS [M3-242915/6]
SO 10132	"Yesterday"/"You've Got to Hide Your Love Away" (orange label) +PS [no M3, PPN-2227/8]
SO 10133	"We Can Work It Out" (orange label) +PS [no M3, PPN-2385/6]

**NOTE:** The SO series singles are amazingly undervalued in the market, in my opinion. All of the SOE and SO series are more difficult to find than the later issues.

**NOTE 2:** The SO series singles marked "+PS" above can be found with paper picture sleeves. These sleeves were usually discarded and may be worth up to the value of the record.



## Intermediate Red Odeon

For the first few months of 1966, a few EPs were issued on a red label with large ODÉON. It is easy to see that this was an intermediary release, since by this time the Odeon logo on the EP covers had changed. The EPs which exist in this intermediate form are:



Catalog Number	Songs	Release Date	Side-1 Matrix
MEO 102	Michelle +3	27 Ja 66	M3-245533
MEO 105	Yesterday +3	21 Fe 66	M3-244101/2
MEO 106	Beatles 1965 (No Reply +3)	04 Mr 66	M3-240528
MEO 107	We Can Work It Out + 3	21 Mr 66	M3-246308
MEO 108	Ticket to Ride + 3	28 Ap 66	M3-241353/540

**NOTE 1:** Two of the intermediate red label EPs contained new material, MEO 102 and MEO 107. But although MEO 105 is a "Yesterday" EP, it is not a reissue of SOE 3772; instead, it is a domestic release of EP MOE 21004, which had previously been made only for export.

**NOTE 2:** The EPs numbered MEO-101 and MEO-102 were released in January, 1966. While the Hollies EP is scarcer, the Beatles' MEO-102 may be found having a label marked "Médium" at the right side, or (less commonly) with a label showing an "M" in a circle. The circle-M appears on most releases beginning in February, 1966. Later pressings of these records sometimes show "M" without a circle.

## Intermediate Red Jukebox Singles

February-April, 1966



When the SOE series of EPs was replaced by the MEO series at the beginning of 1966, the FOS series of jukebox singles replaced the former SO series. The first four singles in the new series were released on the transitional red label.

Catalog Number	Songs	Release Date	Matrix
FOS 101	"Michelle"/"Run for Your Life"	04 Fe 66	M3-245842/3
FOS 102	"Yesterday"/"You've Got to Hide Your Love Away"	24 Fe 66	M3-246179/80
FOS 103	"We Can Work It Out"	17 Mr 66	M3-245050/1
FOS 104	"Girl"/"Drive My Car"	17 Mr 66	M3-246515/6

## Red Odeon With Logo at Left

May, 1966 on



At the beginning of May, 1966, Odeon replaced their earlier label with a red label and their logo with a logo that more closely resembled those used in other countries. The red label appears on all Odeon releases of the time, but when France took up the EEC numbering in 1969, they stopped using the original catalog numbers (shown below) on Beatles releases.

EPs originally released on the red label are shown below. You will notice that some records which were originally released on the dark blue/orange label were reissued and given new catalog numbers.

Although the EP was essentially replaced by the single, or *simple*, in 1967, the EPs continued to come out on the red label at least through 1969.

The four "transitional" EPs in the previous section were reissued onto the red label.

Catalog Number	Songs	Release Date	Matrix
MEO 108	Ticket to Ride + 3	Reissue	as SOE
MEO 112	I Want to Hold Your Hand +3	05 My 66	as SOE
MEO 113	Help!	12 My 66	as SOE
MEO 116	Another Girl + 3	09 Jn 66	M3-247770/1
MEO 119	Paperback Writer +3	27 Jn 66	M3-248157/8
MEO 126	Yellow Submarine +3	31 Oc 66	M3-249544/5
MEO 134	I'm Only Sleeping +3 (Penny Lane)	Mr 67	M3-252025/4
MEO HS 39501/2	Magical Mystery Tour	De 67	See below.
SMO 39501/2	Magical Mystery Tour	De 67	See below.

**NOTE 1:** The first truly "new" red label EP was MEO 119, issued in May-June 1966. But the most notable of the "new" EPs is MEO 134, released in March of '67. Not only does the cover contain an alternate photo of the "trunk cover" used on the US *Yesterday...and Today* album, but also the version of "I'm Only Sleeping" is the UK mono version, which was not released in America.

**NOTE 2:** I have not seen all of the versions of *Magical Mystery Tour* which have been reported, although for years books have claimed that French Odeon pressed copies with the mono and stereo catalog numbers from Spain: SOLM-1/2 and SOLS-1/2. Of the two that have the German number, the MEO issue is considered the truly "French" one -- although all of the covers were made in Germany and have the SMO prefix.

**NOTE 3:** MEO-116 was later reissued with Side-one matrix number of M3-255507.

**NOTE 4:** The matrix numbers for MMT were M3-256652/256438//256597/8.

## Red/White Odeon Jukebox Singles

1966 to 1967



The "FOS" series continued with several later jukebox singles. After early 1966, the labels resembled the new red label (above), although one was white in color to indicate its special status.

Catalog Number	Songs	Release Date	Matrix
FOS 107	"Paperback Writer" (red label)	27 Jn 66	M3-248177/8
FOS 108	"Nowhere Man"/"The Word" (red label)	21 Jl 66	M3-248544/5
FOS 110	"Yellow Submarine" (red label)	12 Se 66	M3-249003/4
FOS 116	"Strawberry Fields Forever" (white label)	Fe 67	M3-252253/4
FOS 20050	"Hard Day's Night"/"I Should Have Known Better" (red label)	unknown	unknown

**NOTE:** Since I do not own a copy of FOS 20050, I cannot determine its matrix number. If you own a copy, please send me a list of all of the matrix numbers that are stamped into both sides.

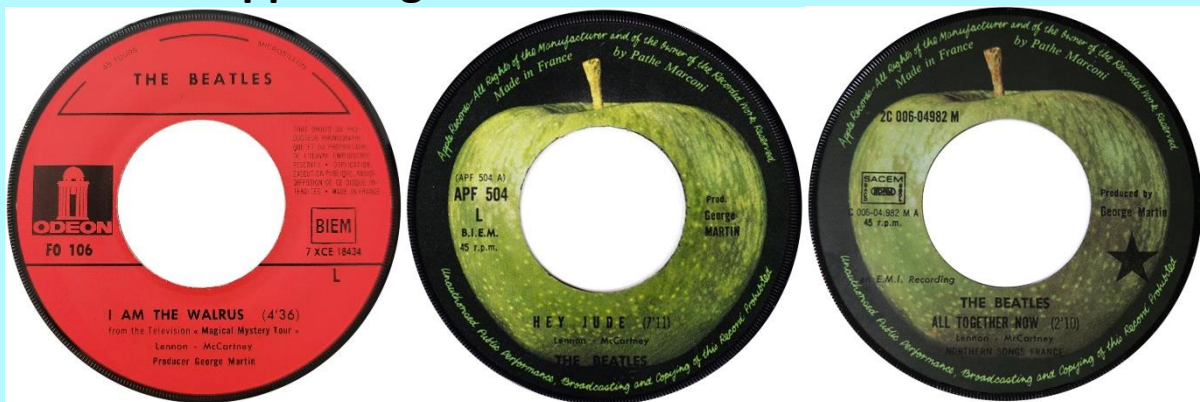
## "Reissue" Red Label Odeon Singles

The word "reissue" is in quotes because these singles were actually singles taken from EPs or from British single, or at least most of them were. The catalog numbers come from the EEC common numbering system; all prefixes of first pressings (late 1972-1973) are **2C-006-**. Reissues from 1974-75 have a prefix of 004. When later reissued in 1976, the prefix (price code) was changed to 010.

Catalog Number	Songs	Matrix
04451	"Please Please Me"/ "Ask Me Why"	M3-286304/5
04452	"She Loves You"/ "I'll Get You"	M3-290188/9
04453	"PS I Love You"/"I Want to Hold Your Hand"	M3-286306/7
04454	"Yesterday"/"The Night Before"	M3-286315/6
04455	"I Need You"/"Dizzy Miss Lizzy"	M3-290166/7
04456	"Help!"/ "I'm Down"	M3-286296/7
04457	"Long Tall Sally"/"She's a Woman"	M3-290192/3
04458	"Ticket to Ride"/ "Yes It Is"	M3-290186/7
04459	"Eight Days a Week"/"I'm a Loser"	M3-286313/4
04460	"I Feel Fine"/"Kansas City"	M3-290170/1
04461	"Rock & Roll Music"/"I'll Follow the Sun"	M3-290162/3
04462	"No Reply"/"Baby's in Black"	M3-290190/1
04463	"I Should Have Known Better"/"Tell Me Why"	M3-290172/3
04464	"And I Love Her"/"If I Fell"	M3-290117/8
04465	"Thank You Girl"/"All My Loving"	M3-290576/7
04466	"A Hard Day's Night"/ "Things We Said Today"	M3-286311/2
04467	"Can't Buy Me Love"/ "You Can't Do That"	M3-290164/5
04468	"From Me to You"/"Devil in Her Heart"	M3-290184/5
04469	"Twist and Shout"/"Misery"	M3-291519/290175
04470	"We Can Work It Out"/ "Day Tripper"	M3-290168/9
04471	"Michelle"/"Run For Your Life"	M3-290505/6
04472	"Paperback Writer"/ "Rain"	M3-286298/9
04473	"Eleanor Rigby"/ "Yellow Submarine"	M3-286300/1
04474	"Girl"/"Nowhere Man"	M3-286302/3
04475	"Penny Lane"/ "Strawberry Fields Forever"	M3-286309/10

**NOTE:** All of the above were first released in late 1972.

## Odeon and Apple Singles



Odeon of France began to issue two-song singles on a regular basis beginning in July, 1967. These singles were prefixed "FO".

By April, 1968, France had become part of the European Economic Community (EEC) numbering system. From that point on, all singles, new and rerelease, would be issued with the new numbers. In late 1968, all new Beatles releases switched to the Apple label, while earlier records remained on Odeon.

Catalog Number	Songs	Matrix
FO 103	"All You Need Is Love"/ "Baby, You're a Rich Man"	M3-254552/3
FO 106	"Hello Goodbye"/ "I am the Walrus"	M3-256437/8
FO 111	"Lady Madonna"/ "The Inner Light"	M3-258345/6
FO 127	"Hey Jude!"/ "Revolution"	M3-260989/66
FO 127	"Hey Jude!"/ "Revolution"	M3-260995/6
<b>APPLE SINGLES BEGIN</b>		
APF 504	"Hey Jude!"	
FO 127	"Hey Jude!"	
FO 148	"Ob-la-di Ob-la-da"/ "While My Guitar Gently Weeps"	M3-263734/5
04084	"Get Back"/ "Don't Let Me Down"	M3-265235/6
04108	"The Ballad of John & Yoko"/ "Old Brown Shoe"	M3-266025/6
04266	"Something"/ "Come Together"	M3-268643/4
04353	"Let It Be"/ "You Know My Name"	M3-271093/4
04514	"Long & Winding Road"/ "For You Blue"	M3-273792/3
04982	"All Together Now"/ "Hey Bulldog"	M3-284082/3

**NOTE 1:** The EEC singles all have prefix 2C004 or 2C006.

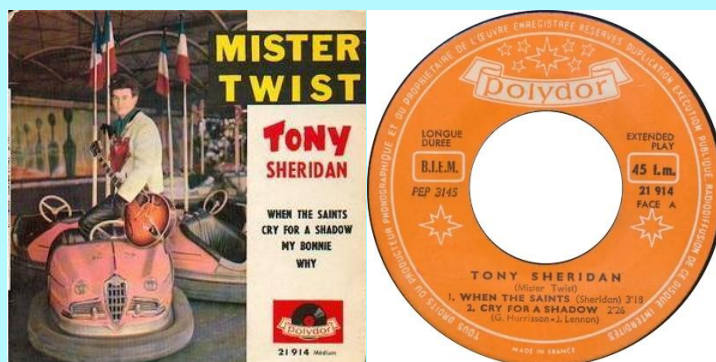
**NOTE 2:** As you can see, most of the singles now conform to the UK releases. "Long and Winding Road" (as the US single) was released in August, 1970. "All Together Now" came out in 1971.

**NOTE 3:** The above FO series and EEC singles were available also on white labels for promotional and jukebox purposes. "Hey Jude" was available as an Odeon single until the Apple copyright went through. In November, 1968, the single was switched to the French Apple series with an APF prefix. However, the Beatles catalog was to remain in the standard Odeon series (FO prefix), and the mistake was corrected

by mid-December. The FO- series is referenced on the picture sleeves as the “Simples Luxe” series. Some of these are marked with an “L” or “LUXE.”



## Polydor EPs



There are two Polydor EPs of note, but the first of the two exists in THREE different forms. These EPs are listed here because they constitute the first Beatles releases in all of France.

Catalog Number	Songs	Special Notes
21-914	Mr. Twist (My Bonnie +3)	Tony in bumper car on cover
21-914	Les Beatles (My Bonnie +3)	Beatles wigs and microphones on cvr
21-914	Les Beatles (My Bonnie +3)	Beatles and Eiffel tower on cover
21-965	Ain't She Sweet + 3	Beatles wigs and microphones on cvr.

**NOTE:** The first version of the "My Bonnie" EP was truly a Tony Sheridan release. It came out in April, 1962. Following the Beatles' success and appearance in France, "My Bonnie" was reissued and "Ain't She Sweet" was issued in February, 1964. Later in 1964, the "My Bonnie" EP was reissued with a French motif, to capitalize on their trip to France and new popularity there.

## Polydor Jukebox Singles

Beginning in mid-1964, Polydor also began issuing singles for jukeboxes. Two Beatles singles are known on the Polydor red label.

Catalog Number	Songs	Value
52-273	"My Bonnie"/"The Saints"	\$40
52-275	"Cry for a Shadow"/"Why"	\$50

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