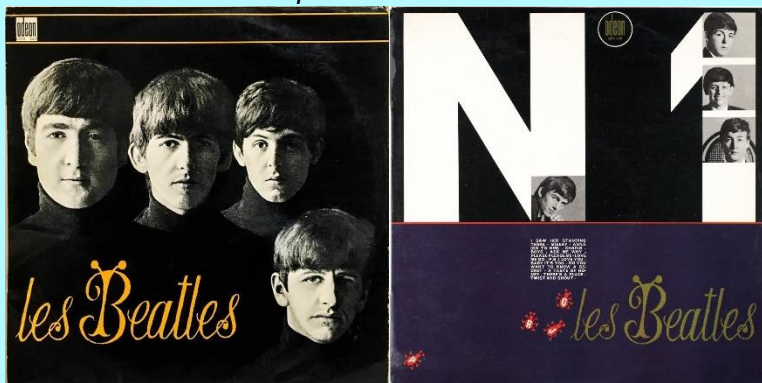


Identifying Original French Beatles Albums

Updated: 21 JI 22



Dark Green Odéon Label



From the first French Odeon LP in the OSX series – Yves Montand’s *Théâtre de l’Étoile* – the Odéon label style was green and had ODEON in large letters across the top of the label. At the end of 1963, the color was changed to blue, but not before one Beatles album had been released.

Catalog Number	Title
OSX 222 (mono, green label)	<i>Les Beatles (With the Beatles)</i>

Dark Blue/Orange Odéon



In early 1964, the green label was traded in for blue, but by the middle of 1964 most LP's were being pressed on an orange label – even though some retained the blue color. By 1965, the color of choice was usually orange. At any rate, three Beatles LP's exist only on the orange label. This label style has ODÉON in large letters across the top of the label just like its predecessor had.

Those albums which were originally issued on the second Odéon label are as follows:

Catalog Number	Title
OSX 222 (mono, dark blue label)	<i>Les Beatles (With the Beatles)</i>
OSX 225 (mono, dark blue label)	<i>Les Beatles No. 1 (Please Please Me)</i>
OSX 230 (mono, dark blue label)	<i>Chansons du Film Help!</i>
OSX 231 (mono, dark blue label)	<i>Dans Leurs 14 Plus Grands Succès (14 Greatest Hits)</i>



Catalog Number	Title
OSX 222 (mono, orange label)	<i>Les Beatles (With the Beatles)</i>
OSX 225 (mono, orange label)	<i>Les Beatles No. 1 (Please Please Me)</i>
OSX 226 (mono)	<i>4 Garçons dans le Vent (A Hard Day's Night)</i>
OSX 228 (mono)	<i>Les Beatles 1965 (Beatles For Sale)</i>
OSX 230 (mono, orange label)	<i>Chansons du Film Help!</i>
OSX 231 (mono, orange label)	<i>Dans Leurs 14 Plus Grands Succès (14 Greatest Hits)</i>
OSX 232 (mono, orange label)	<i>Rubber Soul</i>



NOTE 1: ALL of the Beatles records in the OSX series are hard to find and thus difficult to pinpoint values for. *14 Greatest Hits* (shown above) is particularly desired because it was a "hits" compilation that was not available elsewhere.

NOTE 2: There are three issues of *Les Beatles 1965*, two of which feature inserts. One insert is made of light paper, while the other is of a thicker cover stock. The inserts themselves can sell for more than the record.

1965 Export LP



Pressed on a custom **dark blue** ODÉON label, the only export LP known currently is *Rubber Soul*. This was an export release from France.

Catalog Number	Title
OSX HS 24.001(blue label)	<i>Rubber Soul</i>

Red Odéon



In January of 1966, Odéon replaced their earlier label with a red label and their logo with a logo that more closely resembled the logos used in other countries. The red label appears on all Odéon 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.

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

Catalog Number	Title
LSO 101 (mono)	<i>4 Garçons dans le Vent</i>
LSO 102 (mono)	<i>Rubber Soul</i>
LSO 103 (mono)	<i>No. 1</i>
LSO 104 (mono)	<i>Help!</i>
LSO 105 (mono)	<i>Revolver</i>
SLSO 105 (stereo)	<i>Revolver</i>
CLSO 1.105 (compatible stereo)	<i>Revolver</i>
SLSO 107 (stereo)	<i>Collection of Beatles Oldies</i>
SLSO 107 (stereo)	<i>Collection of Beatles Oldies</i>
Parlophone PMC 7027 (mono, yellow/black label)	<i>Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band</i>
Parlophone PCS 7027 (stereo, yellow/black label)	<i>Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band</i>
Odeon PMC 7027 (mono)	<i>Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band</i>
Odeon PCS 7027 (stereo)	<i>Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band</i>

NOTE 1: Since by this time France was following the British/European selection of albums, at some points their releases actually used the British or German catalog numbers, such as *Sgt. Pepper*, shown above, which has the UK number. These were **not** British records. They had the usual French labels; only the catalog numbers were foreign.

NOTE 2: Red-label copies of LSO 101 through LSO 105 exist with either (S) in a circle or S by itself on the label.

NOTE 3: I know of no records in the LSO series numbered higher than LSO-108 (Ron Goodwin, *Music for an Arabian Night*). It appears to be the case that French Odeon abandoned their own

numbering system in late 1966. That left the LP's following foreign catalog numbers for any records that were not French in origin, and they imported covers for those foreign albums. This is why *Sgt. Pepper* came out on the red label (mono/stereo) with the PMC/PCS 7027 number. Whatever was the source of the covers, that's how they marked their albums.

Black EMI Odéon



Catalog Number	Title	Confirmed?
LSO 101 (mono)	<i>4 Garçons dans le Vent</i>	Yes
LSO 102 (mono)	<i>Rubber Soul</i>	Yes
LSO 103 (mono)	<i>No. 1</i>	Yes
LSO 104 (mono)	<i>Help!</i>	Yes
CLSO 1.105 (stereo)	<i>Revolver</i>	Yes
SLSO 107 (stereo)	<i>Collection of Beatles Oldies</i>	Yes
Odeon PMC 7027 (mono)	<i>Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band</i>	Yes
Odeon PCS 7027 (stereo)	<i>Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band</i>	Yes

The change to the black EMI label for LP's occurred in 1969. Most albums (like *Help!*) wound up switching to stereo only when the EEC numbering came along. At about this time, *Revolver* switched from LSO (mono) to the CLSO (compatible stereo) prefix, and copies exist with "Gravure universelle" in a sticker on top of the mono and stereo catalog numbers on the front cover.

No new Beatles albums were issued on this style.

Sky Blue EMI Odéon



Catalog Number	Title
LSO 101 (mono)	<i>4 Garçons dans le Vent</i>
LSO 102 (mono)	<i>Rubber Soul</i>
LSO 103 (mono)	<i>No. 1</i>
LSO 104 (mono)	<i>Help!</i>
CLSO 105 (stereo)	<i>Revolver</i>
SLSO 107 (stereo)	<i>Collection of Beatles Oldies</i>
Odeon PMC 7027 (mono)	<i>Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band</i>
Odeon PCS 7027 (stereo)	<i>Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band</i>

Despite the use of the EEC system for new releases while the red label was still around, Odeon/EMI changed styles on Beatles reissues yet again – to a sky-blue label without shifting these titles to the EEC numbering system. This change took place in about 1971.

No new Beatles albums were issued on this style, although several (above) are known as reissues of earlier records.

Apple Albums

Apple Label with Script Text and BIEM Publishing Credit

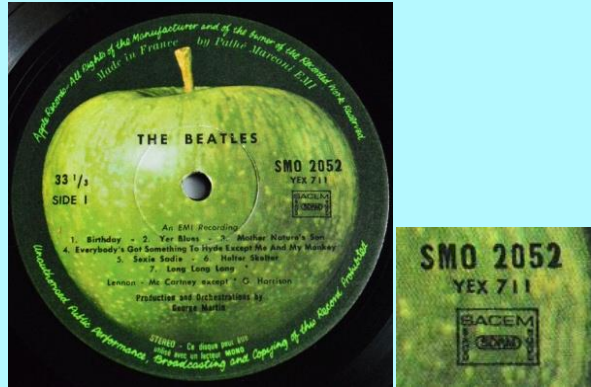


In late 1968, all new Beatles releases switched to the Apple label. By April, however, France had become part of the European Economic Community (EEC). From that point on, most records, new and rerelease, would be issued with the new EEC numbering system. Most albums from *Yellow Submarine* on feature the new numbering. Here is a list of French Beatles albums on the Apple label. This first Apple label style continued through 1971.

Catalog Number	Title
Apple SMO 2051/2 (German number)	<i>The Beatles</i>
Apple 2C062-04002	<i>Yellow Submarine</i>
Apple 2C062-04243	<i>Abbey Road</i>
Apple 2C062-04348	<i>The Beatles Again (Hey Jude)</i>
Apple 2C062-04433	<i>Let It Be (boxed)</i>
Apple 2C062-04433	<i>Let It Be (regular)</i>

NOTE: As in England and Germany, the White Album was originally issued with a top-loading cover, numbered, and with 4 pictures and a poster.

Apple Label with Script Text and SACEM Publishing Credit



In either late 1971 or in 1972, French EMI albums began using SACEM instead of BIEM for publishing rights. The publishing symbol for SACEM appears on all labels made after 1971. Price codes went up from 062 to 064 (1973?), and then to 066 (1975).

NOTE: *Magical Mystery Tour* was originally released, as in England, in EP form in 1967. Following the success of the US album, French Odeon released MMT in 1972. This album contains the first stereo appearance anywhere of "Baby, You're a Rich Man" and the second stereo appearance of "Penny Lane." The French album and German album are the same.

Catalog Number	Title
Apple SMO 2051/2	<i>The Beatles</i>
Apple 2C066-04002	<i>Yellow Submarine</i>
Apple 2C066-04243	<i>Abbey Road</i>
Apple 2C066-04348	<i>The Beatles Again (Hey Jude)</i>
Apple 2C066-04433	<i>Let It Be</i> (regular)



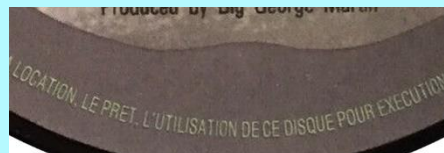
Apple Label with Typed Text and SACEM Publishing Credit



Apple records on custom labels began using a typed, sans-serif font in the rim text well before the change to the standard backdrops. In 1976, Apple albums began using a typed font instead of the earlier script typeface.

Catalog Number	Title
Apple SMO 2051/2	<i>The Beatles</i>
Apple 2C066-04002	<i>Yellow Submarine</i>
Apple 2C066-04243	<i>Abbey Road</i>
Apple 2C066-04348	<i>The Beatles Again (Hey Jude)</i>
Apple 2C066-04433	<i>Let It Be (regular)</i>

At some point in the 1980s, French Odeon removed the STEREO/MONO disclaimer at the bottom rim.



NOTE FOR ALL: Shortly after the opening of the pressing plant at Chatou, France, EMI in Great Britain decided to renovate their pressing plant in Hayes. Copies of all of the British albums that were made at the time were pressed in France and carry “Made in France” notations. These were French export albums for the UK. Some of them have “Mfd. in UK” on the label, because the label text was copied verbatim from the British releases.

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