

# Beatles Four-Track Tapes

Revision of 18 Fe 22

**MUNTZ STEREO-PAK**

**EXCLUSIVE!**

**The Beatles on 4 track!**

4CL-2047 MEET THE BEATLES  
 4CL-2048 THE BEATLES' SECOND ALBUM  
 4CL-2106 SOMETHING NEW—The Beatles  
 4CL-2228 BEATLES VI  
 4CL-2309 THE EARLY BEATLES  
 4CL-2388 BEATLES VI  
 4CL-2388 HELP—The Beatles  
 4CL-2442 RUBBER SOUL—The Beatles  
 4CL-2443 "YESTERDAY" . . . AND TODAY—The Beatles  
 4CL-2576 REVOLVER—The Beatles  
 4CL-2643 Sgt. PEPPER'S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND—The Beatles  
 4CL-2835 MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR—The Beatles

The Beatles are among the great sellers from Capitol available now from Muntz Stereo-Pak on 4 track cartridges—a fabulous Muntz sales exclusive!

Muntz Stereo-Pak spotlights a great world of stereo pleasure with over 100,000 chart-topping stars, including Frank Sinatra, The Marvas and The Pillars, Dean Martin, The Association, The Coxy, The Seeds, Patsy Clark, Black Dawn, Los Flareo, The Swells, Billy Knight, Johnny Mathis, Robert Mitchum, Boke Randolph, James Brown and hundreds of others!

**MUNTZ STEREO-PAK** 7715 Densmore Ave., Van Nuys, Calif. 91406 (213) 989-5000

An ad from the December 30, 1967, issue of *Billboard*

The four-track cartridge is an unfamiliar item to most music listeners today. It was invented shortly before the eight-track cartridge, but for some reason it never attained the popular appeal that the eight track did. A four-track cartridge might be mistaken for an eight track, the most visible difference between the two being a hole in the cartridge approximately 3/4 inches in diameter. Four tracks manufactured for Capitol before 1969 also feature transparent front shells, making them readily distinguishable from eight tracks for those who know that four tracks existed.

Earl "Madman" Muntz was the chief producer of four track cartridges, having purchased the right to do so in order to equip his cars with tape machines. By 1963, the four track was on the horizon as the successor to reel tapes and singles players -- at least as far as the automobile was concerned.

**MUNTZ**

**Leading The Car Stereo Race For 1969!**

Muntz Stereo-Pak enters into 1969 with the biggest lead yet in the big car stereo marketplace. Muntz Stereo-Pak, the sound that more and more people the world over are turning on to -- in cars, homes and boats.

Novelty and versatility, quality and value -- they're the Muntz hallmarks. Now breakthrough products spotlighting profitability and dependability -- all part of the Muntz bag of great stereo sound.

Muntz car stereo products feature today's finest stereo quality at today's outstanding value. There's a world of new car stereo models from Muntz Stereo-Pak for 1969 and each one's a breathtaking beauty, a treat for the ears. With Muntz car stereo, your car will sound better than ever.

Muntz car stereo is today's automobile happening. Let it happen to you.

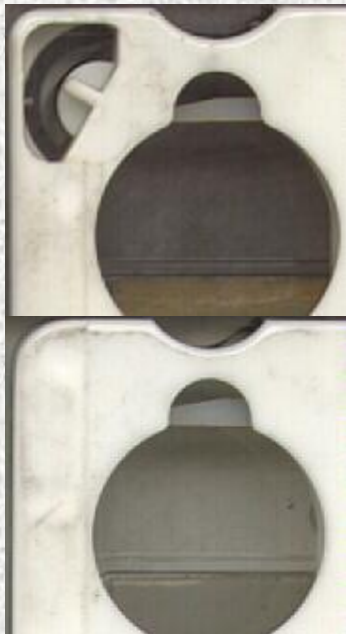
The fine family of Muntz Stereo-Pak products for cars, homes and boats is known throughout the U.S. at music and equipment stores, car and home electronics and appliance centers.

Muntz Stereo-Pak, leading the world in the production of car stereo products. To get more in stereo extravagance.

**MUNTZ STEREO-PAK** 7715 DENSMORE AVENUE • VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA 91406  
 MUNTZ (213) 989-5000

Double four tracks (B-series), which measured approximately 6" wide by 7" deep, and the even-larger C-series tapes were also produced for a short season, but the standard size single-album cartridge soon became the standard. For several years, cartridge players were made that were "four/eight compatible." Finding such a player today is a rarity. I know of no company that has manufactured four track players in the last twenty years. This is unfortunate, since the four track was an interesting format.

Four tracks play at 3¾ inches per second, as do eight tracks. However, being in stereo, they only have two programs. This provided an advantage over the eight-track of seldom having a song split between two programs. As every buyer of eight tracks knows, this was a major annoyance with the eight track. Four tracks seldom had this problem. The big disadvantage to the four-track, which made the eight track an improvement, was the fact that one roller was part of the machine and came up into the hole in the back.



Due to the fact that they wanted to wait to see whether the format would be successful, Capitol Records delayed entering the four-track market until March 4, 1967. Citing increased demand and the prevalence of pirate tapes, Capitol signed a three-year contract with Muntz to release the cartridges. Capitol Records executives, including Alan Livingston (the company president) expressed the viewpoint that since tape cartridges were more costly than record albums and since they were almost exclusively used in automobiles, vinyl records were the preferred format in the 1960's. Nevertheless, Capitol had been exploring the possibility of entering the four-track tape market as early as 1965 – even though it was the March 4, 1967, issue of *Billboard* that actually introduced them to the public. Two weeks later, Columbia Records also entered the four-track market.

The first cartridges that Muntz produced for Capitol differ from later copies slightly. For example, if you look at the back of the cartridge, the earlier cartridges have a corner hole next to the hole for the capstan (upper left-hand corner). Cartridges made from about mid-1967 onward have only the round capstan hole in that corner. There are also other slight design differences. Beginning in late 1967, the tape's front shell was made in transparent or translucent colors. Pink was the first color used -- it is most common in 1968. Transparent brown was the most common colored shell from 1969.

Capitol never manufactured their own four tracks. Prior to October, 1969, they licensed out to Muntz Stereo-Pak in Van Nuys, California. On these four tracks, the statement "not affiliated with Muntz T.V." appears. Then that month Capitol contracted with Ampex Tapes to manufacture both its reel tapes and its four tracks. Since Capitol switched from their traditional dome logo to the new "C" logo in June, 1969, this means that Muntz-made copies which feature the new logo are harder to find. Also, these later

Muntz tapes feature new (colored) shells which have "rib grips" on the sides, making them easier to extract from four track machines. Tapes made by Ampex for Capitol are easy to spot, since they have opaque tan or yellow colored shells.



All Capitol four tracks prior to early-to-mid-1969 appear to have been housed in the same white boxes. Those made during 1969 by Muntz have black and red boxes, and there was a unique Apple box that is most often found with Mary Hopkin's *Post Card* tape. The outer boxes that accompanied Ampex tapes tended to have the contents printed on the back. Ampex four tracks made for Apple featured their own Apple boxes.

As far as Capitol is concerned, four tracks and reel-to-reel tapes seem to have perished at the same time, although the reels MAY have lasted slightly longer. Beatles-related (Ampex) four tracks do not seem to have been manufactured after 1970. This is likely when Capitol's 1967 contract to offer the format expired.

## Muntz Out as Cap's Licensee

LOS ANGELES — Capitol has not renewed its duplicating license with Muntz Stereo-Pak for 4-track. Muntz has handled the Capitol line since March 1967, when the two parties signed a three-year contract.

Capitol initially entered the cartridge business by duplicating its own 8-track and then moving into the 4-track configuration. Product by the Beatles and Beach Boys had been among the most widely bootlegged acts

in 4-track, Earl Muntz had indicated before receiving the line.

Capitol plans signing with another licensee who will handle both 4-track and reel-to-reel tapes. The company's decision for dropping Muntz was that it wanted to handle 4 and reel operation, a Capitol executive said. Capitol itself has been handling its own reel tapes, using custom duplicators in the past.

Muntz has a sell off period in which to clean out his Capitol product. Muntz has filed suit in Superior Court against Fireman's Fund Insurance Co., charging breach of contract and negligence. (*Billboard*, Sept. 9, 1969). The company seeks to recover funds on its insurance policy covering a fire in May 1968 which caused property damage at the headquarters plant of \$605,000.

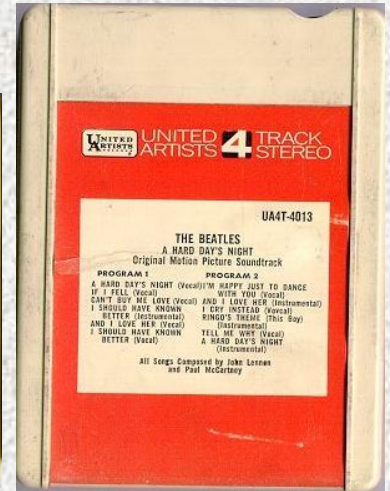
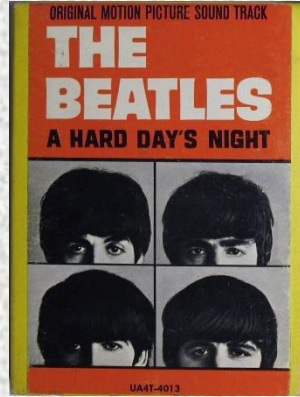
Here is a pictorial listing of all known Beatles and solo 4 tracks:

*A Hard Day's Night* United Artists UA4T-4013

This was probably the first Beatles four-track tape.

*Billboard* magazines, beginning with the July 31, 1965, issue, began to advertise tapes made by International Tape Cartridge Corporation (ITCC). Larry Finley, who started the company, became the first manufacturer to produce both four-track and eight-track cartridges. This first pressing of the LP in the cartridge format is very hard to find. The outer box is even scarcer.

SI = 9



*Ain't She Sweet* Atco 21-276A

This was probably the second Beatles four track.

According to *Billboard*, Atlantic-Atco signed on to release four-track cartridges in Fall, 1965. Since the LP had stopped selling by the time this tape came out – to the point that Atlantic was re-releasing it on its Clarion (budget) subsidiary, this tape is scarce.

SI = 10

**Bestselling  
Tapes — 4 Track**

AUGUST 6, 1966

1. STRANGERS IN THE NIGHT  
Frank Sinatra—  
Reprise (10-427) (Muntz)
2. WHAT NOW MY LOVE  
Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass—  
A&M (F51-114) (ITCC)
3. SOLID GOLD SOUL  
Various Artists—  
Atlantic (21-284) (Muntz)
4. AIN'T SHE SWEET  
Beatles—Various Artists—  
Atco (21-276) (Muntz)



In the March 18, 1967, issue of *Billboard*, Muntz proudly rolled out a list of its new Capitol four-track tapes. Among these was a nearly-complete roster of Beatles recordings through their latest album, *Revolver*. The only musical Beatles album not named in that first roster was *Yesterday...And Today*. Muntz trumpeted the release of that straggling Beatles LP in the April 29, 1967, issue of *Billboard*.

**BEATLES**

- 4CL-2576 REVOLVER
- 4CL-2442 RUBBER SOUL
- 4CL-2386 HELP!
- 4CL-2358 BEATLES VI
- 4CL-2309 THE EARLY BEATLES
- 4CL-2228 BEATLES '65
- 4CL-2108 SOMETHING NEW
- 4CL-2080 THE BEATLES SECOND ALBUM
- 4CL-2047 MEET THE BEATLES

*Meet the Beatles!* Capitol 4CL-2047  
Released March 18, 1967.  
SI = 5

*The Beatles' Second Album* Capitol 4CL-2080  
Released March 18, 1967.  
SI = 6



*Something New* Capitol 4CL-2108  
Released March 18, 1967.  
SI = 5

*Beatles '65* Capitol 4CL-2228  
Released March 18, 1967.  
SI = 5



*The Early Beatles* Capitol 4CL-2309  
Released March 18, 1967.  
SI = 8

*Beatles VI* Capitol 4CL-2358  
Released March 18, 1967.  
SI = 5



*Help!*

Released March 18, 1967.

SI = 5

Capitol 4CL-2386

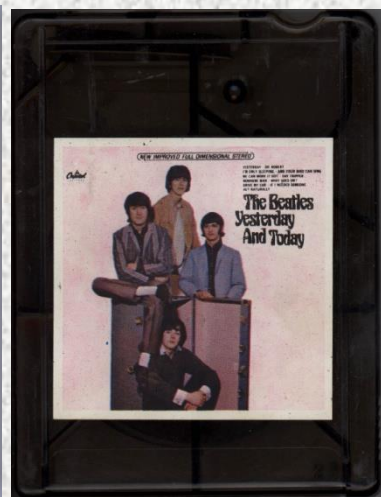


*Rubber Soul*

Released March 18, 1967.

SI = 5

Capitol 4CL-2442



*Revolver*

Released March 18, 1967.

SI = 5

Capitol 4CL-2576

*Yesterday...And Today* Capitol 4CL-2553

Released March 18, 1967.

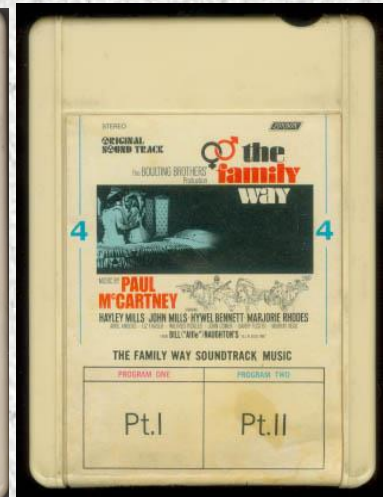
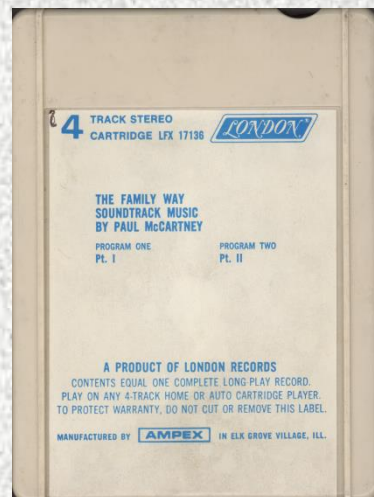
SI = 5

*The Family Way*

Released c. July, 1967. These tapes were manufactured by Ampex. The earliest copies have no images on the front cover – showing only blue print on a white background; these have cartridges made by Telepro. Other copies show a picture of the front cover to the LP.

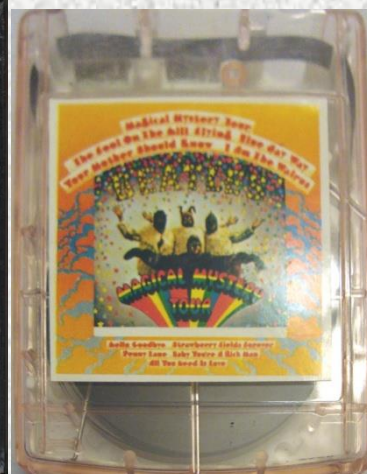
SI = 8

London LFX-17136



*Sgt. Pepper's LHCB* Capitol 4CL-2653  
Released July 15, 1967.  
SI = 5

*Magical Mystery Tour* Capitol 4CL-2835  
Released December 16, 1967.  
SI = 5



*A Hard Day's Night* United Artists U-6006  
Released fall 1968. White shell with cover slicks.  
SI = 7



All of the Capitol four tracks above feature clear front shells. At about the time of *Sgt. Pepper*, some tapes can be found with pink frosted front shells. Still later (1968-9), Muntz-made tapes feature frosted brown front shells.

On Sunday, May 5, 1968, an out-of-control fire destroyed one of the buildings at the Muntz Stereo-Pak facility in Los Angeles, causing a production setback.

## **\$1 Mil. Blaze Razes Muntz Duplication Plant in L. A.**

LOS ANGELES — Fire gutted the building housing tape duplication, cartridge assembly and the music library at Muntz Stereo-Pak Sunday (5).

Sixty firemen battled the blaze which destroyed the company's banks of 4-track duplicators and its complete cartridge assembly line. Damage was estimated at \$1,000,000.

Two days after the fire, company officials were moving salvageable equipment and office furniture into other buildings. The destroyed edifice was building No. 9 in the company's complex which spreads over two streets in the industrial section of Van Nuys.

Ed Michel, national record relations director, said the company will build new duplicators. The company's executive offices, located next door, were not affected by the blaze which began

in the afternoon. There are generally no workers in the building on Sunday.

Building No. 9 is generally full of women employees assembling plastic cases and loading blank tape into cartridges on assembly lines. The duplication and loading operations are being located in other buildings, as the fire destroyed the facility's roof.

Since part of the 4-track master tape library was destroyed in the blaze, Michel last week began remaking many of his master tapes. "We're fortunate in that we have all the records. This will be a very fast process." Building duplicators in quick fashion to continue the flow of product to meet record manufacturer requirements will be a much more complex project.

President Earl Muntz said the company's "crash program" to establish temporary duplicating facilities would help continue the flow of product to accounts.

*The Beatles* Apple 4CW-101  
Released 1969. Two-tape set.  
SI = 5

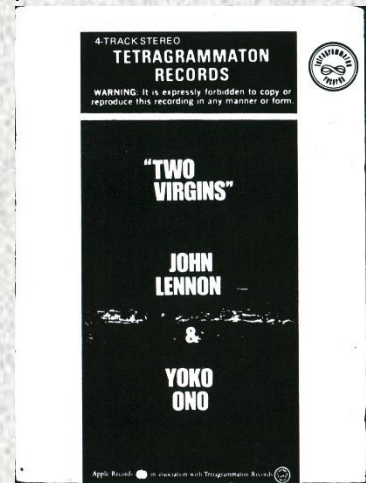
*Yellow Submarine* Apple 4CL-153  
Released 1969.  
SI = 5



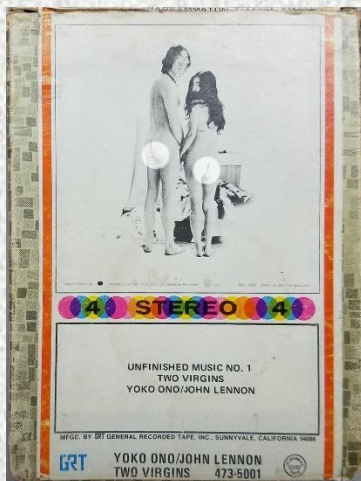
John's *Two Virgins* album was released in January, 1969. Since Capitol did not manufacture the album in America, the four-track tapes were not made by Muntz but by other companies that were contracted by Tetragrammaton Records, the label that released the album in the United States. This resulted in the simultaneous release of four different tapes.

*Two Virgins* (J) Apple/Tetragrammaton TNX-45001  
Released 1969. With outer title box. Made by Ampex.  
SI = 10

*Two Virgins* (J) Apple/Tetragrammaton 473-5001  
Released 1969. With outer title box. Made by General Recorded Tape, Inc..  
SI = 8



*Two Virgins* (J) Apple/Tetragrammaton F-5-5001  
Released 1969. With outer box and title sticker. Made by International Tape Cartridge Corporation.  
SI = 8

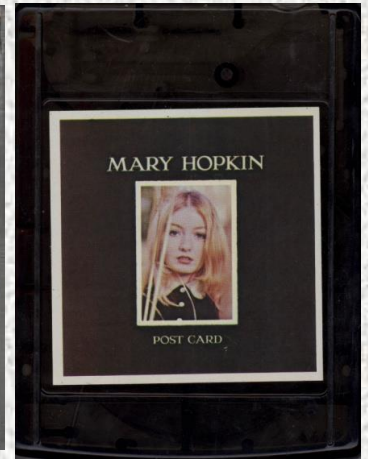
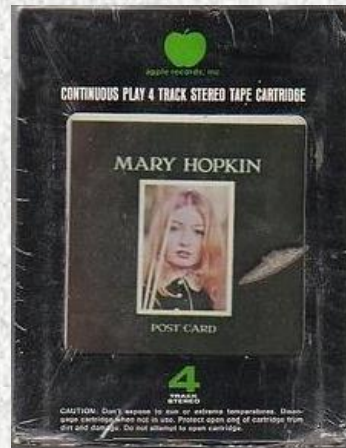




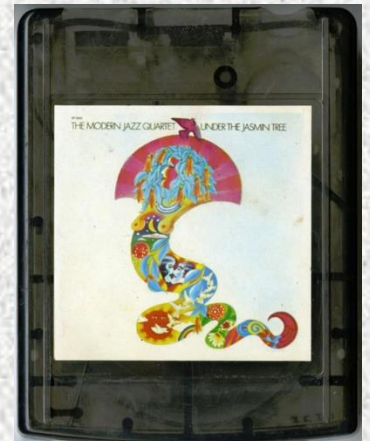
*Wonderwall Music (G)* Apple 4CL-3350  
Released 1969.  
SI = 10



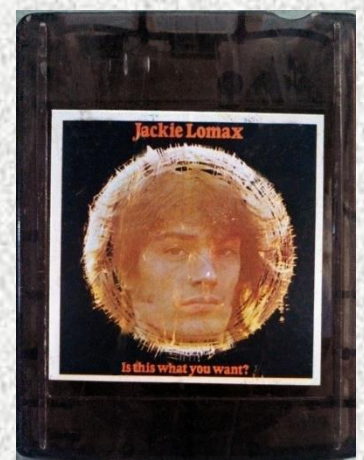
*Post Card* Apple 4CL-3351  
Mary Hopkin  
Released March-April, 1969.  
SI = 10



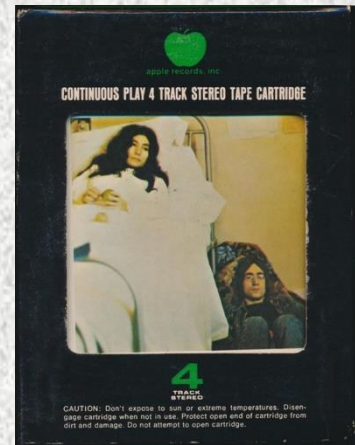
*Under the Jasmin Tree* Capitol 4CL-3353  
Modern Jazz Quartet  
Released April, 1969.  
SI = 10  
Yes, this tape is on Capitol – not Apple.



*Is This What You Want* Apple 4CL-3354  
Jackie Lomax  
Released May, 1969.  
SI = 10



*Life With The Lions* (J) Zapple 4CL-3357  
Released May, 1969.  
SI = 10



*Electronic Sound* (G) Zapple 4CL-3358  
Released May, 1969.  
SI = 10



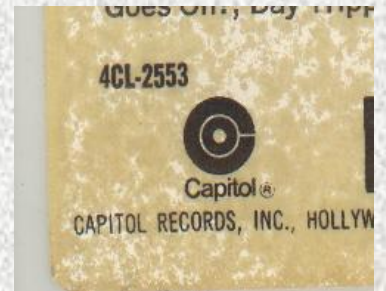
As mentioned above, all of the Capitol 4 tracks are found with the Capitol "dome logo", which was in use until June, 1969. Only a few have yet been discovered to carry the new "C" logo, so that these are certainly scarcer, having been made for about 4 months at most.

I have verified the existence of the following Beatles four-track cartridges on Muntz tapes with the "C" logo:

*The Early Beatles*

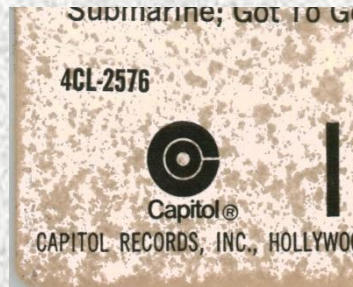


*Rubber Soul*



*Yesterday...And Today*

*Revolver*

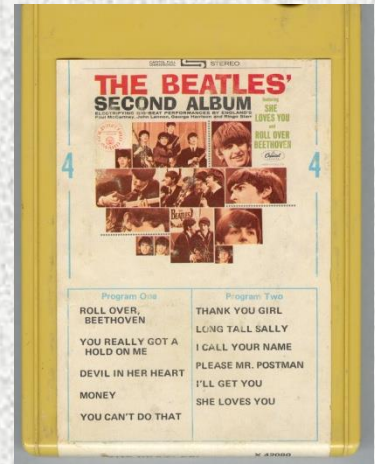


*Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*

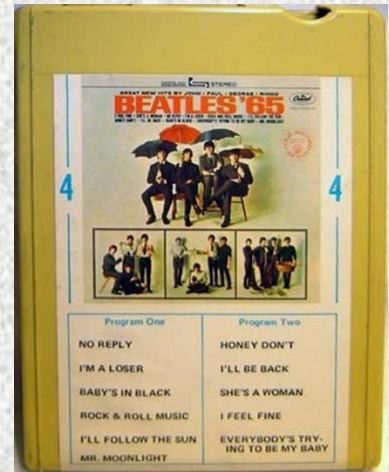


**NOTE:** It may be true that all of the mainstream Capitol four tracks were reissued when the tape catalog switched to Ampex in 1969. The following tapes, with yellow or tan shells, have been verified to exist:

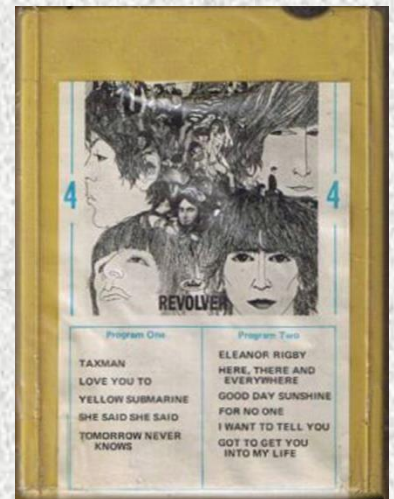
*The Beatles' Second Album* Capitol/Ampex X-42080  
Tan/yellow shell with outer title box.  
Issued 1969.  
SI = 9



*Beatles '65* Capitol/Ampex X-42228  
Tan/yellow shell with outer title box.  
Issued 1969.  
SI = 10



*Revolver* Capitol/Ampex X-42576  
Tan/yellow shell with outer title box.  
Issued 1969.  
SI = 10



*Sgt. Pepper's LHCB*

Capitol/Ampex X-42653

Tan/yellow shell with outer title box.

Issued 1969.

SI = 10

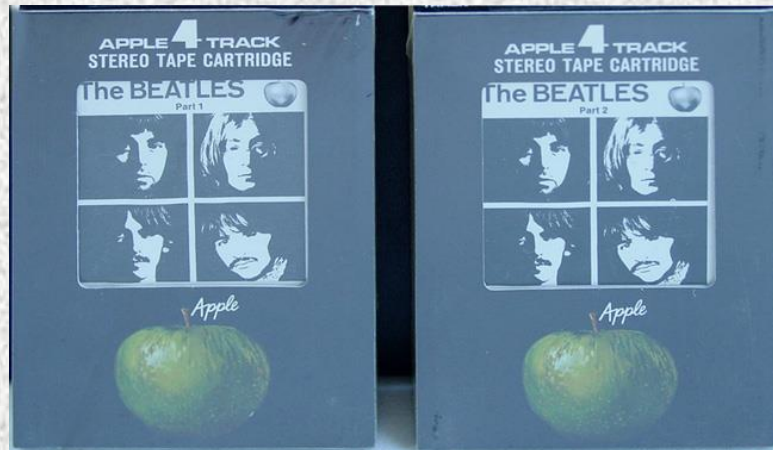
*Magical Mystery Tour*

Capitol/Ampex X-42835

Tan/yellow shell with outer title box.

Issued 1969.

SI = 10



*The Beatles*

Apple/Ampex M4-101 and M4-2101

Tan/yellow shell with outer title box. Two-tape set.

Issued 1969.

SI = 9

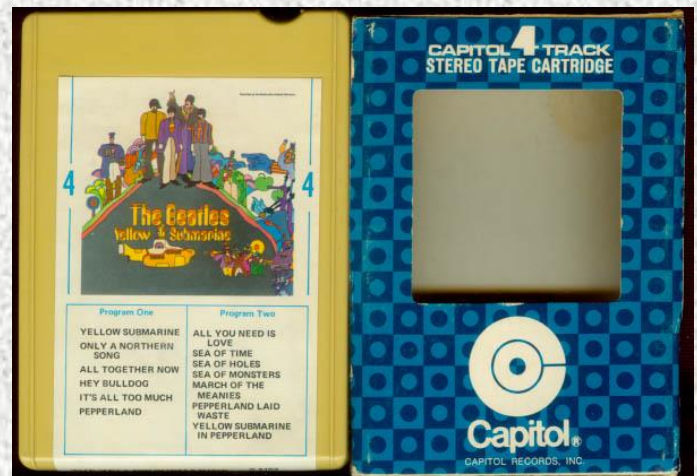
*Yellow Submarine*

Capitol/Ampex X-4153

Tan/yellow shell with outer title box.

Issued 1969.

SI = 10

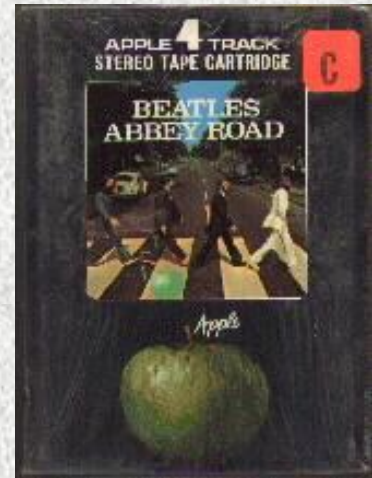


All of the Ampex-made four-track reissues of the Capitol/Apple catalog are much scarcer than their Muntz-made counterparts.

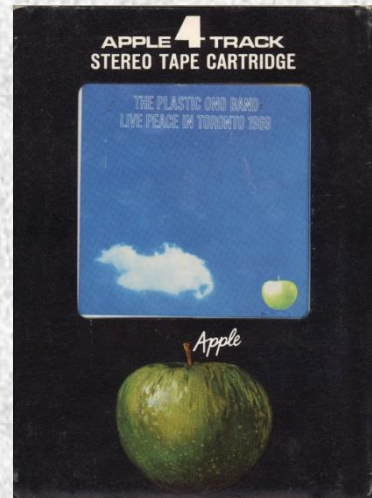
---

The following tapes were all made by Ampex unless indicated. Therefore, they all have tan shells and an outer title box (with a large Apple), unless indicated.

*Abbey Road* Apple/Ampex X-4383  
Tan/yellow shell with outer box. The cover to the above tape does not list "Her Majesty." Issued October, 1969.  
SI = 7



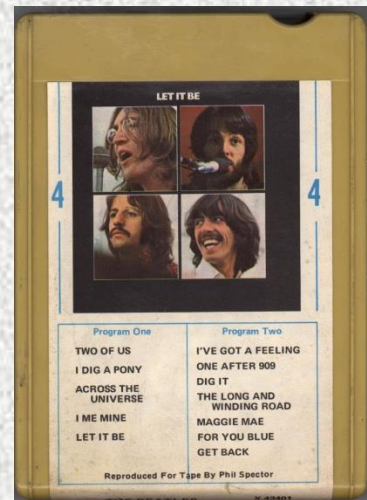
*Live Peace in Toronto (J)* Apple/Ampex X-43362  
Tan/yellow shell with outer box. Issued December, 1969.  
SI = 8



*Hey Jude* Apple/Ampex X-4385  
Tan/yellow shell with outer box. Issued February, 1970.  
SI = 6



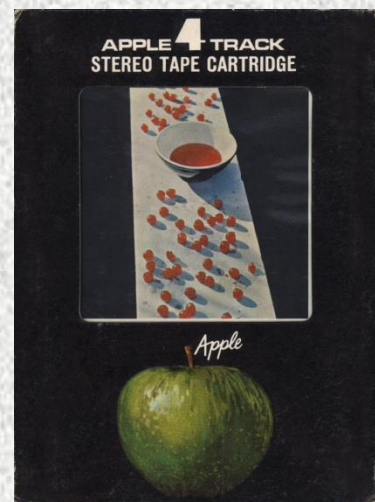
*Let it Be* Apple/Ampex X-434001  
Tan/yellow shell with outer box. Issued May, 1970.  
SI = 6



*A Hard Day's Night* United Artists U-6006  
Released 1970. Black shell with cover slicks.  
SI = 6



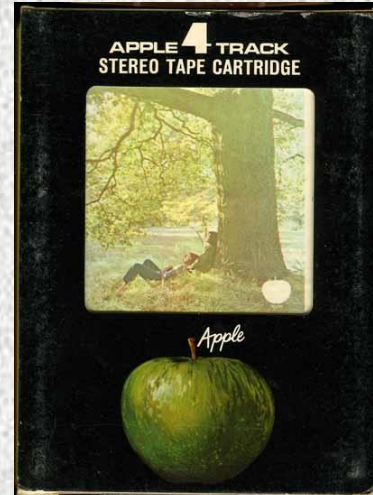
*McCartney (P)* Apple/Ampex X-43363  
Tan/yellow shell with outer box. Issued 1970.  
SI = 8



*McCartney (P)* Apple/Ampex X-43365  
Tan/yellow shell with outer box. Issued 1970.  
SI = 9



*Plastic Ono Band (J)* Apple/Ampex X-43372  
Tan/yellow shell with outer box. Issued 1970.  
SI = 9



Got any others (Beatles/solo) not listed here? Send me photos of 'em!

Mary Hopkin's *Post Card*, sold for \$192.50. *Wonderwall Music* is in the same price range, and *Electronic Sound* has sold for about \$300.

The four-track tape passed on in favor of the eight track, which in turn was to die in favor of the cassette. The very rare *Ain't She Sweet* album goes for over \$500.

---

**Back to Across the Universe**  
*Beatles Four-Track Tapes*  
*Frank Daniels*

© 1998, 2022 The Donaldson Corporation (Frank Daniels)