

SUN RECORDS ALBUMS

1957-1968

Sun LP Pressing Identifiers

The three factories that usually pressed for Sun Records were:

- Plastic Products of Memphis (TN), operating out of 1746 Chelsea Avenue next to Kilowatt Lake.
 - Plastic Products was a major operation, pressing records for several dozen labels.
- Sheldon Recording Studios of Chicago (IL), operating out of 2120 S. Michigan Avenue.
 - Sheldon was best known as a recording studio and made metal parts that were used by Midwest Record Pressing, who was a pressing plant for Chess.
- Monarch Record Mfg. Co. of Los Angeles (CA), operating out of 4852-54 W. Jefferson Blvd.
 - Monarch made west-coast pressings for many labels that did not have their own plants in California.

The following pages list pressings associated with label printers. These are indicated as Printing A through Printing E.

On a **Plastic Products** pressing, the word MICROGROOVE is usually printed in thin, bold print.



On a **Sheldon-prepared** pressing (lacquers by Sheldon and pressed in Chicago), the script signature, "Sheldon," appears in the matrix.



On a **Monarch** pressing, there is a stamping of "MR" in a circle. In addition, a delta (triangle) appears, followed on each side by the Monarch job number. Printings D and E, usually associated with Monarch pressings, were printed by Bert-Co Enterprises in Los Angeles.



Regular-Issue Albums

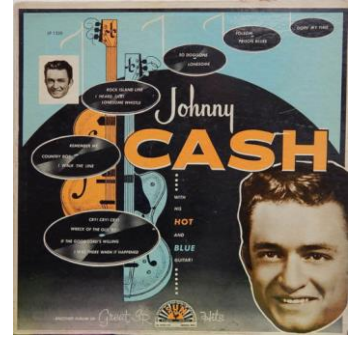
Johnny Cash *With His Hot and Blue Guitar*

Label 57

Mono

Sun SLP-1220

1st Appearance in *Billboard*: November 11, 1957



Printing “A” – Catalog number in small print; MICROGROOVE at right in tall thin print



A1 – No “RPM” on label; 1220 is right-aligned with 33 1/3

A2 – No “RPM” on label; 1220 is approximately left-aligned with 33 1/3

A3 – No “RPM” on label; 1220 is left-aligned with 33 1/3; the 1 in Side 1 is under the OO of MICROGROOVE.

A4 – No “RPM” on label; looks similar to A3, but “Side 1” is in the same typeface as “1220.”

A5 – “RPM” on label; 1220 is slightly indented under 33 1/3 RPM.

This may be an (early?) printing from Printer “B”.



Printing “B” – Catalog number and MICROGROOVE in tall, thin print.



B1 – The 1 in 1/3 is directly over the 3. The 1 in “Side 1” is under the VE in MICROGROOVE.

B2 – As above, but the 1 in “Side 1” is approximately right-aligned with “MICROGROOVE.”

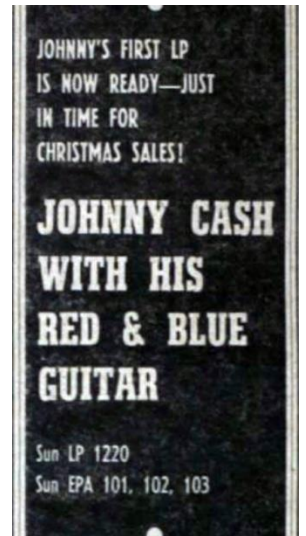
B3 – As above, but the 1 in “Side 1” is under the last O in “MICROGROOVE.”

B4 – 1/3 is written as shown on this line.

Printing "C" – MICROGROOVE at right in wide, round print
Often found with pressings by



C1 – 1220 is angled downward from left to right
C2 – 1220 is angled slightly upward from left to right

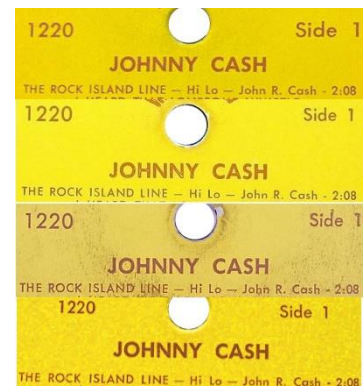


Printing "D" – MICROGROOVE at right in tall, thin print – in a different typeface than the artist's name or album title. West coast Monarch copy. Monarch Job Number: Δ 248/Δ 249



D1 – The 1 of 1220 is under the / of 1/3, and the 1 of Side 1 is under the RO of MICROGROOVE.
D2 – The 1 of 1220 is under the / of 1/3, and the 1 of Side 1 is under the O of MICROGROOVE.
D3 – The 1 of 1220 is just to the right of 33, and the 1 of Side 1 is under the O of MICROGROOVE.

Printing "E" – These printings appear to be later pressings from Printer D, with the record speed and "MICROGROOVE" removed. They date to c. 1961-64.



E1 – The 1 of 1220 on Side 1 is over the T in THE. The side indicators are also larger.

- E2 – The 1 of 1220 on Side 1 is over the T in THE. The side indicators are smaller than on E1.
- E3 – The 1 of 1220 on Side 1 is over the H in THE. The side indicators are smaller than on E1.
- E4 – The 1 of 1220 on Side 1 is over the O in ROCK; the side indicators are smaller than on E1.

Covers:

There is a color variation in the cover so that the background is a pale blue instead of a bright blue. This is substantial enough that it may be deliberate, but these covers (with LP 1220 in the upper left) appear with various albums, so that the color change may only indicate that the printer was running out of blue ink.

Reissue: see below.



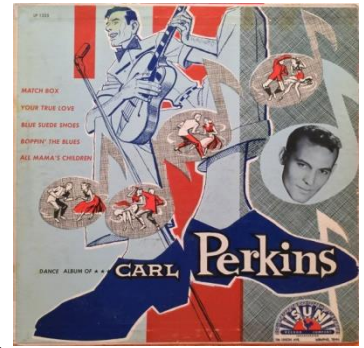
Carl Perkins *Dance Album of Carl Perkins*

Label 57

Mono

Sun SLP-1225

Released: November, 1957.



Printing "A" – Catalog number in small print; MICROGROOVE at right in tall thin print



A1 – No "RPM" on label; 1225 inclined slightly upward.

Printing "B" – MICROGROOVE at right in tall, thin print. No copies known.

Printing "C" – MICROGROOVE at right in wide, round print

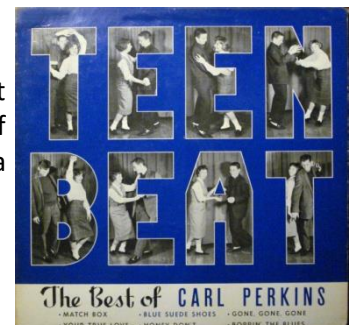
No copies known.

Printer "D" – MICROGROOVE at right in tall, thin print – in a different typeface than the artist's name or album title. West coast Monarch copy. Monarch Job Number: Δ 250/Δ 251



Covers:

In late 1960 or early 1961 (after Sun moved to Madison Avenue in 1960, but before Monarch pressings removed the "Microgroove" reference) the title of the LP was changed to *Teen Beat* – affecting front and back covers. Was this a response to *Billboard's* "Teen Beat" music category, which began 1/9/61?



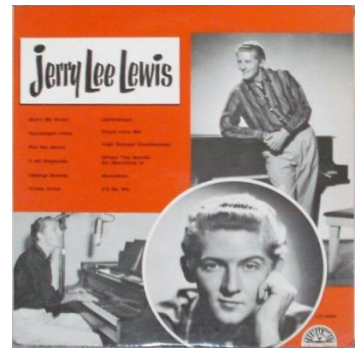
Jerry Lee Lewis *Jerry Lee Lewis*

Label 57

Mono

Sun SLP-1230

Released: June, 1958. 1st mention in *Billboard*: June 30th.



Printing "B" – MICROGROOVE at right in tall, thin print.



B1 – The catalog number is indented under 33 1/3 RPM. The 1 of SIDE 1 is under the VE of MICROGROOVE.



B2 – As B1, but 1 is under O.
B3 – LP is slightly to the left of 33.



B4 – No RPM. "Side 1" is in a different typeface.

Printing "C" – MICROGROOVE at right in wide, round print



Printing "D" – MICROGROOVE at right in tall, thin print – in a different typeface than the artist name or album title. West coast Monarch copy. Monarch Job Number: Δ 637/Δ 638



D1 – The 1 of 1230 is under the 3 in 1/3.

D2 – The 1 of 1230 is under the second 3 of 33.

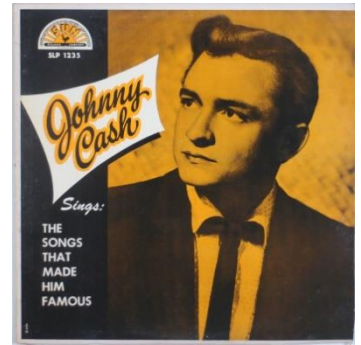
Johnny Cash *Sings the Songs that Made Him Famous*

Label 57

Mono

Sun SLP-1235

1st mention in *Billboard*: November 24, 1958.



Printing "B" – MICROGROOVE at right in tall, thin print.



B1 – 1/3 is written with as shown on this line. 1235 is crowded close together, with the 1 of 1235 on side one under the 1 of 1/3.



B2 – 1/3 is written with as shown on this line. 1235 is crowded close together, with the 1 of 1235 on side one under the slash of 1/3. The J of JOHNNY is over the EE in "teenage."



B3 – 1/3 is written with as shown on this line. 1235 is crowded close together, with the 1 of 1235 on side one under the slash of 1/3. The J of JOHNNY is over the NA in "teenage." There is a blank line between the artist name and the song titles. The side number is further right than B2.



B4 – Similar to D4, but the J of JOHNNY is over the N in "teenage," and the 1 of the side number is over the OO in MICROGROOVE (as B2).



B5 – Similar to D3, but there is very little space between the artist name and song titles. (See above, at left.) The 1 of the side number is under OO.

B6 – 1/3 is written with the 1 directly over the 3. The 1 in 1235 is under the second 3 of 33. SIDE 1 is right aligned with MICROGROOVE.



B7 – 1/3 is written with the 1 over the 3. The 1 in 1235 is under the second 3 of 33. The 1 in the side number is under the last O in MICROGROOVE.



B8 – 1/3 is written with the 1 over the 3. The 1 in 1235 is under the second 3 of 33. The 1 in the side number is under the V in MICROGROOVE.



B9 – 1/3 is written with the 1 over the 3. On side one, 1235 and the side number are right aligned with the lines above them. (See above, second from left.)

B10 – 1/3 is written with the 1 over the 3. The 1 in 1235 is under the 1/3. SIDE 1 is slightly downward sloping, and the 1 of SIDE 1 is under the V of MICROGROOVE.



B11 – 1/3 is written with the 1 over the 3. The 1 in 1235 is under the 1/3. The 1 of SIDE 1 is under the middle O in MICROGROOVE.



B12 – 1235 is wide spread as on B5 through B10, but 1/3 is written as shown. In addition, RPM is missing, and "Side" is written with a single capital instead of in ALL CAPS.



B13 – 1235 is wide spread, but 1/3 is written as shown. In addition, 33 1/3 RPM has been added in a different typeface, and "Side" is written with a single capital instead of in ALL CAPS.



B14 – 1235 is wide spread, but 1/3 is written as shown. In addition, RPM has been added in the usual typeface, and "Side" is written with a single capital instead of in ALL CAPS. Side 1 slopes downward.



Printing "C" – MICROGROOVE at right in wide, round print



Printing "D" – MICROGROOVE at right in tall, thin print – in a different typeface than the artist name or album title. Monarch Job Number: Δ 920/Δ 921



D1 – 33 1/3 RPM is indented
 D2 – 1235 is centered under 33 1/3 RPM.

Printing "E" – These printings appear to be later pressings from Printer D, with the record speed and "MICROGROOVE" removed. They probably date to c. 1961.



E1 – 1235 on Side 1 is over the first few letters of BALLAD.
 E2 – 1235 on Side 1 is over BALLAD OF, and Side 1 is also closer to the spindle hole.

Cover Note: Original covers have a statement on the back cover indicating that they were made by Globe Albums in New York.

Printed and Fabricated by Globe Albums, Inc., New York 59, N. Y.

In fall, 1966, Sun Records contracted with the Capitol Record Club to release certain albums by Johnny Cash through the record club. Since Sun Records was basically no longer pressing albums, this allowed them to remain available to the public. *Sings the Songs that Made Him Famous* was released through the club in October, 1966. Like all non-Capitol albums, it received a unique club identifier when it was pressed by Capitol's Jacksonville (IL) plant for the club.

Label 57
Mono
Duophonic

Sun T-90668
Sun DT-90668



SUN RECORDS CO., 706 Union, Memphis, Tenn.

Reissue: see below.

JOHNNY CASH SINGS THE SONGS THAT MADE HIM FAMOUS
Sun SLP 1235

Title of this package explains it perfectly. The chanter's big ones are here, such as "I Walk the Line," "The Ways of a Woman in Love," "Big River" and many more which he recorded for Sun. Cash has been extremely stable as big selling artist and should do very well with this collection.



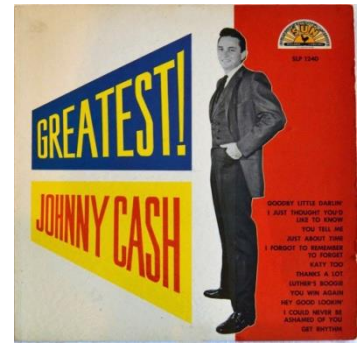
Johnny Cash Greatest!

Label 57

Mono

Sun SLP-1240

1st mention in *Billboard*: November 2, 1959.



Printing “B” – MICROGROOVE at right in tall, thin print.



B1 – 1/3 is written with as shown on this line. The “L” of LP – 1240 is to the left of 33. (See above left.) The 1 in the side number has a serif.

B2 – 1/3 is written with the 1 directly over the 3. On side one, the dash between LP and 1240 was misprinted as a semicolon. The 1 of Side 1 is under the V of MICROGROOVE.



B3 – 1/3 is written with the 1 over the 3. On side one, the dash between LP and 1240 was misprinted as a semicolon. The 1 of Side 1 is under the E of MICROGROOVE.



B4 – 1/3 is written as shown on this line, but differently than B1. In addition, RPM is missing, and “Side” is written with a single capital instead of in ALL CAPS.



B12 – 1/3 is written as 1 over 3. RPM has been added in the usual typeface, and “Side” is written with a single capital instead of in ALL CAPS. (See above right.)

B13 – 1/3 is written as it is in B1. However, “Side” is written with a single capital instead of in ALL CAPS.



Printing "C" – MICROGROOVE at right in wide, round print



Printing "D" – MICROGROOVE at right in tall, thin print – in a different typeface than the artist name or album title. Monarch Job Number: Δ 1912/ Δ 1913.



D1 – 1240 is greatly indented

D2 – 1240 is centered under 33 1/3 RPM.

Printing "E" – These printings appear to be later pressings from Printer D, with the record speed and "MICROGROOVE" removed. They probably date to 1961 or later.



In fall, 1966, Sun Records contracted with the Capitol Record Club to release certain albums by Johnny Cash through the record club. Since Sun Records was basically no longer pressing albums, this allowed them to remain available to the public. *Greatest!* was released through the club in mid-1968. Like all non-Capitol albums, it received a unique club identifier when it was pressed by Capitol's Jacksonville (IL) plant for the club.

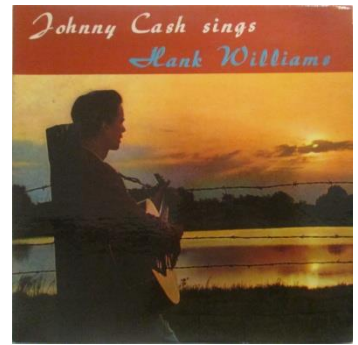
Label 57
Duophonic

Sun DT-91638



Reissue: see below.

In the February 29, 1960, issue of *Billboard*, Sun Records announced its move out of its former headquarters at 706 Union Avenue and into its “swinging new building” at 639 Madison Avenue.



Johnny Cash Sings Hank Williams

Label 57

Mono

Sun SLP-1245

1st mention in *Billboard*: August 8, 1960.

Printing "B" – MICROGROOVE at right in tall, thin print.



B1 – 1/3 is written with as shown on this line on all pressings. The "LP" of LP – 1245 is to the left of 33. (See above left.)

B2 – The "P" of LP – 1245 is slightly under the first 3 of 33.



B3 – LP is almost left-aligned under 33, and Side 1 is right-aligned with MICROGROOVE.



B4 – The catalog number is over 33 1/3 on both sides; RPM is missing.



B12 – RPM is missing; Side 1 appears in Title Case instead of ALL CAPS. (See above right.)

Printing "C" – MICROGROOVE at right in wide, round print



Printing “D” – MICROGROOVE at right in tall, thin print – in a different typeface than the artist name or album title. Monarch Job Number: Δ 2741



Printing “E” – These printings appear to be later pressings from Printer D, with the record speed and “MICROGROOVE” removed. They probably date to 1961 or later.



E1 – SLP remains on the label; the album title appears on one line, as in printing D.

E2 – SLP is missing; the album title is on one line.

E3 – SLP is back; the album title is on two lines.

In fall, 1966, Sun Records contracted with the Capitol Record Club to release certain albums by Johnny Cash through the record club. Since Sun Records was basically no longer pressing albums, this allowed them to remain available to the public. *Johnny Cash Sings Hank Williams* was released through the club in late 1967. Like all non-Capitol albums, it received a unique club identifier when it was pressed by Capitol’s Jacksonville (IL) plant for the club.

Label 57

Mono

Duophonic

Sun T-91284

Sun DT-91284



Reissue: see below.

Sun's Cash Promotion

MEMPHIS — Sun Records here has unveiled a special fall merchandise promotion on all Johnny Cash product. Distributors will be offered a special, limited time, 15 per cent discount on three Cash catalog LP's and five EP's.

The label at the same time announced a brand new Cash LP titled "Johnny Cash Sings Hank Williams." On this new set, distributors get a 10 per cent discount during the promotion period.

Various Artists

Sun's Gold Hits, Volume 1

Label 57

Mono

Sun SLP-1250

1st mention in *Billboard*: September 25, 1961, but the Monarch number is consistent with a July release.



Printing "B" – MICROGROOVE at right in tall, thin print.



B1 – 1/3 is written with the 1 directly over the 3. The "L" of LP 1250 is just to the left of 33. (See above left.)

B2 – 1/3 is written with as shown on this line on all pressings from this point on. RPM is missing from this pressing, and 1/3 looks different than it does in the variations below this one. The Side is written as Side I in title case.



B3 – RPM is present but the side number is missing. The M in MILLION is over the LE of "Whole." (See above right.)

B4 – As with label B3, but the M in MILLION is slightly further to the right.



Printing "C" – MICROGROOVE at right in wide, round print



C1 – The L of LP is between 33 and 1/3.

C2 – The L of LP is between the two 3's of 33.



Printing "D" – MICROGROOVE at right in tall, thin print – in a different typeface than the artist name or album title. Monarch Job Number: Δ 3578



★★★★ **STRONG
SALES POTENTIAL**

★★★★ **SUN'S GOLD HITS**
Various Artists, Sun SLP 1250—Here's a wailing batch of 12 hit Sun records of the past. Teeners now in their 20's and the more youthful devotees of r.&r. will cherish this compendium of such notable disk winners as "Whole Lotta Shakin'" by Jerry Lee Lewis, "Blue Suede Shoes," by Carl Perkins, "I Walk the Line" by Johnny Cash and "Raunchy" by Bill Justis. Accent on oldie material current today is bound to help sales of this top-flight LP.



Johnny Cash *Now Here's Johnny Cash*
Label 57
Mono **Sun SLP-1255**
 1st mention in *Billboard*: July 10, 1961.

Printing "B" – MICROGROOVE at right in tall, thin print.



B1 – The "L" of LP is between the 3's in 33. (See above left.)

B2 – The "L" of LP is just to the right of 33. The 1 in Side 1 is under the last O in MICROGROOVE.



B3 – The "L" of LP is just to the right of 33. The 1 in Side 1 is under the second O in MICROGROOVE.



Printing "C" – MICROGROOVE at right in wide, round print



Printing “D” – MICROGROOVE at right in tall, thin print – in a different typeface than the artist name or album title. Monarch Job Number: Δ 3579



D1 – 1255 is well centered under 33 1/3 RPM.
 D2 – 33 1/3 RPM is shifted to the right.

Printing “E” – These printings appear to be later pressings from Printer D, with the record speed and “MICROGROOVE” removed.



In fall, 1966, Sun Records contracted with the Capitol Record Club to release certain albums by Johnny Cash through the record club. Since Sun Records was basically no longer pressing albums, this allowed them to remain available to the public. *Now Here's Johnny* was released through the club in October, 1966. Like all non-Capitol albums, it received a unique club identifier when it was pressed by Capitol's Jacksonville (IL) plant for the club.

Label 57
Mono
Duophonic

Sun T-90678
Sun DT-90678



Reissue: see below.

★★★★ NOW HERE'S JOHNNY CASH
Sun SLP 1255—Some great old sides by Johnny Cash, from the Sun vaults, have been repackaged for this new album. True fans will dig them for sure, since this is the earlier Cash, with the more truly country sound. "Hey Porter," "Home of the Blues," "Story of a Broken Heart" and "Oh Lonesome Me" are samples.

Roy Orbison

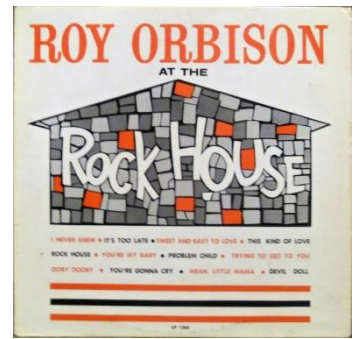
At the Rock House

Label 57

Mono

Sun SLP-1260

1st mention in *Billboard*: December 11, 1961.



Printing "B" – MICROGROOVE at right in tall, thin print.



B1 – RPM is missing from the speed. (See above left.)

B2 – RPM is present; SIDE is in ALL CAPS. (See above center.)

B3 – RPM is present; Side is in Title Case. (See above right.)

Printing "C" – MICROGROOVE at right in wide, round print



C1 – The L of LP is between the 3's of 33.

C2 – The L of LP is at the right side of 33.

Printing "E" – No record speed or MICROGROOVE.

Monarch Job Number: Δ 3925



RAY ORBISON AT THE ROCK HOUSE



Sun LP 1260—Orbison has been one of the hottest of the chart charters in the past year and in this newest album outing he's likely to generate plenty of additional counter action. The titles include "Rock House," "You're My Baby," "Mean Little Mama," etc., and they're done in the familiar and exciting rocking dramatic style of Orbison.

Jerry Lee Lewis *Jerry Lee's Greatest!*

Label 57

Mono

Sun SLP-1265

1st mention in *Billboard*: December 18, 1961.



Printing "B" – MICROGROOVE at right in tall, thin print.

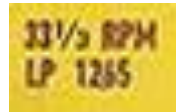


B1 – RPM is missing from the speed. On side one, the J in JERRY is over the or in Bradford. (See above left.)

B2 – As B1, but the J in Jerry is over the fo in Bradford.



B3 – RPM is present; LP is left-justified with 33.



B4 – RPM is present; LP is further to the left than 33. (See above right.)

B5 – RPM is present; LP is further to the right than 33.



Printing "C" – MICROGROOVE at right in wide, round print



C1 – The L of LP is between the 3's of 33.

C2 – The L of LP is under the second 3 of 33.

C3 – The L of LP is at the right side of 33.

Printing "E" – No catalog prefix, no record speed, and no "MICROGROOVE."

Monarch Job Number: Δ 3926



★★★★ JERRY LEE'S GREATEST
Jerry Lee Lewis, Sun LP 1265—Here's a listenable collection of sides previously issued as singles by Jerry Lee Lewis. Among them are "Great Balls of Fire," "What'd I Say," "Hello Josephine" and "Money." LP should interest the lad's fans.



Johnny Cash **All Aboard the Blue Train**

Label 57

Mono

Sun SLP-1270

1st mention in *Billboard*: December 15, 1962.

Printing "B" – MICROGROOVE at right in tall, thin print.



B1 – LP is to the left of 33. RPM is in the same font as MICROGROOVE, but the side numbering is not. The first N of Johnny on side one is over the B in BLUE. (See above left.)

B2 – As B1, but the first N in Johnny is over the BL in BLUE.



B3 – LP is left-justified with 33.



B4 – 33 1/3 RPM is in a different font. (See above right.)

Printing "C" – MICROGROOVE at right in wide, round print



Printing "E" – No record speed, and no "MICROGROOVE."

Monarch Job Number: Δ 5036



Cover Note: All original covers were printed by Carl Shorter Printing in Memphis – the same company that also printed covers (in 1962) for Sam Phillips' other label, Phillips International. The reissues do not have print in the lower left part of the back cover indicating that Shorter Printing lithographed them.

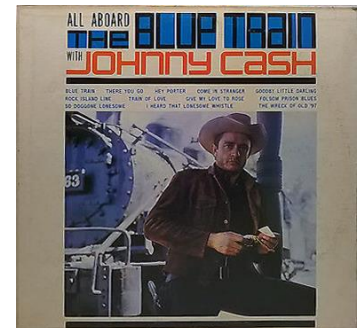


In fall, 1966, Sun Records contracted with the Capitol Record Club to release certain albums by Johnny Cash through the record club. Since Sun Records was basically no longer pressing albums, this allowed them to remain available to the public. *All Aboard the Blue Train* was released through the club in 1968. Like all non-Capitol albums, it received a unique club identifier when it was pressed by Capitol's Jacksonville (IL) plant for the club.

Label 57

Duophonic

Sun DT-91458



There may be a second (earlier?) label configuration for the record-club album. Also, the earlier copies were probably made in '68 before the club was mainly absorbed by Longines.

★★★★ ALL ABOARD THE BLUE TRAIN WITH JOHNNY CASH
Sun LP 1270 (M)—Here's a top-notch collection of what are undoubtedly some of Johnny Cash's greatest items and they are all at least three years old and some go back a good bit further. The memorable titles include "There You Go," "So Doggone Lonesome," "The Wreck of the Old '97," "Give My Love to Rose," and the great, "Folsom Prison Blues." The material is just as good as ever today and the Cash fans will treasure the collection.



Johnny Cash *Original Sun Sound of Johnny Cash*

Label 57

Mono

Sun SLP-1275

1st mention in *Billboard*: November 28, 1964.

Printing "B" – MICROGROOVE at right in tall, thin print.



B1 – L P 1275 is indented, as on the promotional copy.



B2 – L P is left-aligned with 33. (See above.)

Printing "C" – MICROGROOVE at right in wide, round print



Printing "E" – No catalog prefix, no record speed, and no "MICROGROOVE."
Monarch Job Number: Δ 7240



Cover Note: All original covers were printed by Holiday Press in Memphis. Sam Phillips had an investment stake in Holiday Inn, which by this time had a publishing outlet. The reissues do not have print in the lower center of the back cover indicating that Holiday Press lithographed them.



Johnny Cash Reissue Albums

At some point after Shelby Singleton purchased Sun Records in 1969, Sun reissued the Johnny Cash collection of albums. Since mono albums were basically a thing of the past, all but one of these reissues *claimed* to be in stereo.

Based on the pressing rings these albums may have come out as late as 1971. All of them were pressed at a different plant than was pressing Sun albums in the 1960's. The labels share none of the characteristics of pre-1969 Sun records. In fact, the backdrops themselves are different. The rim text has been reconstructed as best possible, but it is not the same as any original release. Also, the words MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE are in a different typeface. Compare an original Sun label (above) to one of the Cash reissues (below):

