

A Christmas Gift for You
The Phil Spector Christmas Album
Various Artists

First appearance in trade magazines: November 9, 1963

Label TP1 – White label with black print
 Monarch test pressing with job number Δ 6051.



The test pressing did not pass quality standards.
 The album was issued with a new job number.



Label 62sdj
Mono
Promotional Copy – White label with black print



East Coast (Abbey)



West Coast (Monarch)



Label 62s – Light Blue label with Phil Spector rim text

Monarch pressing with job number Δ 6070. The very first copies have more blank space above and below the producer credit; later copies have the titles moved up away from the spindle hole.



Label 63m – Yellow and Red label with comma in rim text. “Thick” color bar.

Black print; bold titles. Some copies of the label are missing the side designator; most copies have it.



EANS
LP-4005-A
33 1/3 RPM

SIDE 2
LP-4005-B
33 1/3 RPM

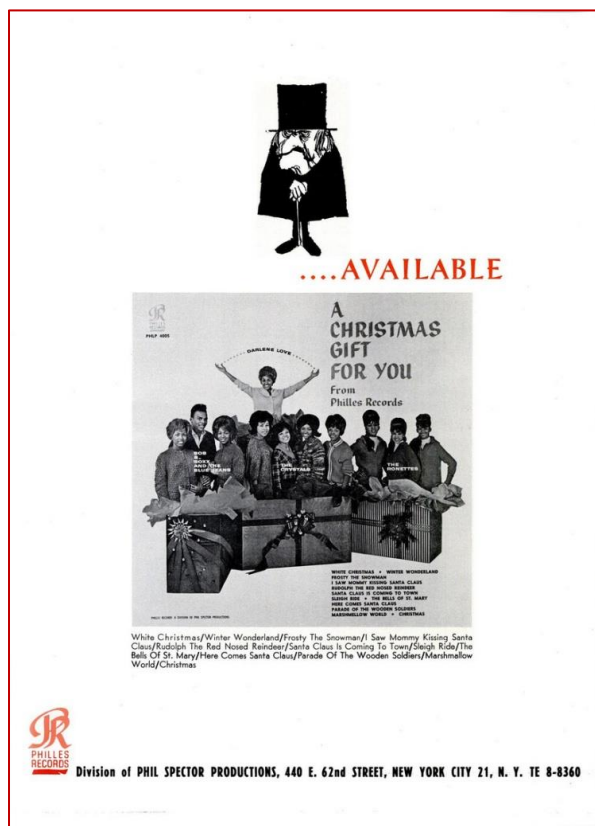


“A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR YOU”—Various Artists—Philles PHLP4005

Philles' key moneymakers are all together on this new Christmas package from the label, performing a dozen holiday standards in teen-directed fashion. The Yuletide spirit gets under way with Darlene Love doing “White Christmas,” the Ronettes with “Sleigh Ride,” the Crystals doing “Santa Claus Is Coming To Town” and Bob B. Soxx and the Blue Jeans essaying “Here Comes Santa Claus.” The set is sure to strike paydirt in the teen markets.

Label 63m – Yellow and Red label with comma in rim text. “Thick” color bar.

Black print; thin, round titles. Later copies have the titles under the spindle hole moved up, whereas the earliest copies have the positioning the same as on the promo.



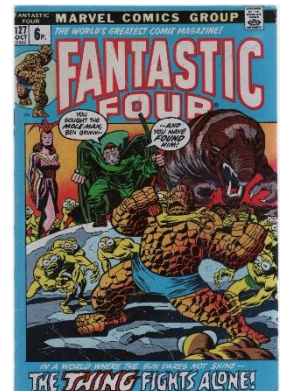
After Phil Spector stopped releasing records on the Philles label in 1972, he turned to Apple for the re-release of his Christmas album. George Harrison asked Clive Arrowsmith to photograph Phil for the album cover that was being designed by (John) Kosh.



Photos © 1972 Clive Arrowsmith

Among the mish-mash of “toys” on the back cover was a top hat (with its wrap-around band removed) that George brought to the session and which was (supposedly) worn by Mick Jagger. Another item among the goodies was a (British) copy of Fantastic Four #127 – cover-dated October 1972.

Most famously, Phil was wearing three pinback buttons reading “Back to MONO.” He continued his pro-mono campaign for at least two years, and for some time John Lennon helped him promote mono records.



Lennon photo by Tom Zimmeroff



Label af1

Apple

SW-3400

Apple label with "MFD. BY APPLE" on the full side.

First appearance in trade magazines: December 9, 1972

Factory: Los Angeles



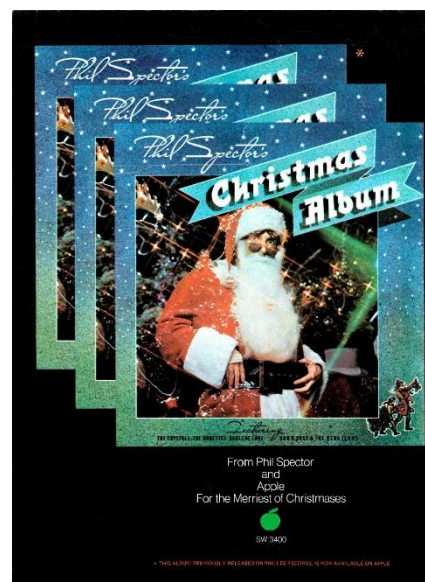
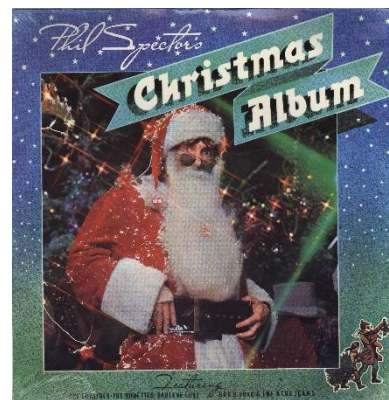
On both sides, the title and artist name are in the Upper Left.

Factory: Jacksonville



Large side numbers on both sides

Factory: Winchester



The Apple album remained in print through the end of 1973. At the end of the year, Apple withdrew the album from the release schedule. Although they gave no reason at the time, we know now that Phil was negotiating with K-Tel and (eventually) Warner Brothers to release new records along with re-releases of Philles material under the “Warner-Spector” imprint.

The deal took a long time to put into place. Although a public announcement appeared in late October 1974, Warner-Spector released only singles in America through February 1975. The lone album, released at that time, was a reissue of the Lenny Bruce album from Philles. Warner-Spector was much more ambitious in Great Britain – releasing *The Phil Spector Christmas Album* and other records through 1974 and 1975. Like the Apple album, the release of the Christmas record in England had been in mono.

As Warner-Spector prepared to release the Christmas LP in America in 1976, they asked for stereo masters. Reportedly, Phil was reluctant to comply, so someone else (but not Larry Levine) wound up mixing the album for stereo. The album was ready by September and came out with a confusing cover (prepared earlier), based on the Apple release, that indicated that the album was in AUTHENTIC MONO.

Apple has withdrawn the scheduled Phil Spector Christmas Album due to legal difficulties. A company spokesman would make no further comment....

Warner-Spector to Appear Next Month

LOS ANGELES—Premiere product is due in November from Phil Spector's Warner Bros. custom label announced earlier this year, Warner-Spector.

Warner-Spector will also be re-releasing titles from Spector's 1960s label, Philles Records.

Spector has established a new Burbank office for the operation and hired former WB promotion chief Ron Saul in the same position for Warner-Spector.

Label 74

Warner-Spector

Multi-colored label

SPS-9103



The album remained in print until Phil Spector's arrangement with Warner Brothers ended in the middle of 1978. At that point in time, the album went out of print temporarily.

Pavillion Records, formed at Columbia by producer John Luongo, made a deal with Spector in 1981 to reissue the Christmas album.

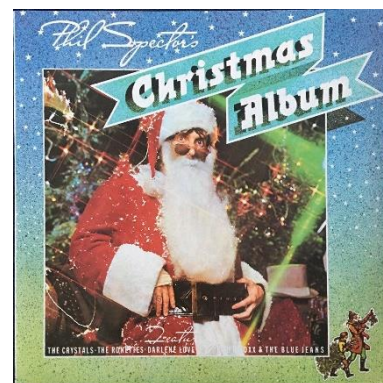
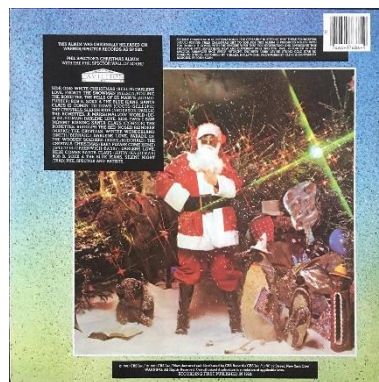
Label 79

Pavillion

PZ-37686

Gold and red label

Released in November 1981.



Pavillion Records will re-issue Phil Spector's Christmas album which has become a classic over the years. This album will be available in simulated stereo, and will include such favorites as "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town," "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus," and "Frosty The Snowman."

A sticker on the cover wrongly indicates that the album had never before appeared in stereo. The back-cover notes also state that the package was originally released as Warner/Spector SP-9103 – ignoring the Apple release entirely and making no mention of Philles Records. Columbia doctored the cover photographs, turning the "Back to MONO" pins into white dots.



After three years the LP was picked up by the Passport label, which was associated with A&M.

Passport used the cover photos from Columbia.

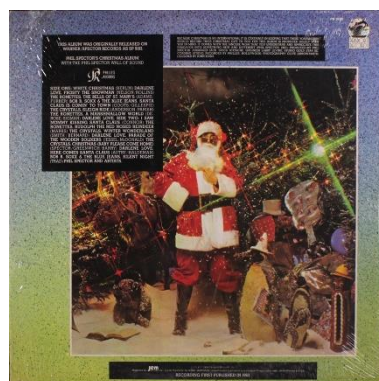
Label 80

Passport

PB-3604

Yellow label

Released in November 1984.



PASSPORT RECORDS, formerly administered in Canada by Falcon Records and distributed by A&M, now moves to A&M for all aspects of business. A&M, which recently brought aboard Attic Records, has also signed Word Records, a gospel label, and plans 30 to 50 releases this year.

Label 87

Phil Spector International/Rhino RNLP-72035

Blue and teal label

Released in November 1987.



In 1987, Phil Spector worked with Rhino Records to create a digital remaster from the original mono recordings of the Christmas album. They used the original cover art, too, replacing references to Philles with “Phil Spector,” and adding the song time for “Silent Night.”

Label 89

Phil Spector/ABKCO

D1-4005

Cream label

Released in 1989.



Spector took the digital remasters over to ABKCO, who reissued them with modified cover art – designed to make the photographs stand out more.

Label 09

Philles/Sundazed

LP-5323

Yellow and red label

Released in 2009, 2014, 2016.



Starting in 2009, Sundazed Records put out reissues of the records with the Philles label information restored. The album has been pressed in black vinyl, white vinyl, and red vinyl – with some of the pressings being limited exclusives (e.g., Record Store Day, Barnes & Noble).