

Stack-o-Tracks

Label 62-01

Duophonic

DKAO-2893

Black rainbow label with logo at top, and no subsidiary print.

Label reads Duophonic

First appearance in *Billboard*: September 7, 1968.

First appearance in *Cash Box*: September 7, 1968.



Label 62-S01S – Pressed at Scranton



Label 62-S02L – Pressed at Los Angeles, Jacksonville

Possible Covers:

Commercial cover (DC1) with "sheet music" booklet. The back page of the booklet lists SKAO- as the album prefix. The inner slick shows a photo of Carl Wilson indoors, of the group clowning around for the camera, and of Bruce Johnston in a turtle-necked shirt. This may have been the final artwork for the interior.



Billboard found the album interesting, but the other magazines basically ignored it. For two weeks it was a *Billboard* "Action Album," but then it disappeared without making the charts. The album remained in print for at least six months – until existing stock had sold out.



THE BEACH BOYS Stack-o-Tracks

DARLIN'	2
SALT LAKE CITY	2
SLOOP JOHN B	3
IN MY ROOM	4
CATCH A WAVE	5
WILD HONEY	6
LITTLE SAINT NICK	7
DO IT AGAIN	8
WOULDN'T IT BE NICE	9
GOD ONLY KNOWS	10
SURFER GIRL	11
LITTLE HONDA	12
HERE TODAY	12
YOU'RE SO GOOD TO ME	14
LET HIM RUN WILD	15

Label 62-RC1

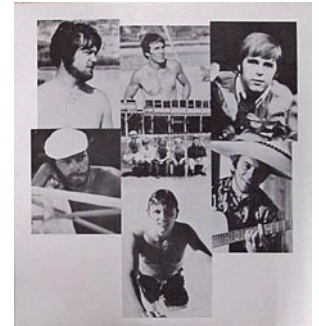
Duophonic

DKAO-8-2893

Black rainbow label with logo at top, and Manufactured Under License print.
Pressed by Decca/Longines for the Capitol Record Club in early 1969.



The inner slick features a shot of Carl outdoors, of the group lined up and seated, and of Bruce getting out of the water. The photos on the right are also shifted upward in comparison to the other set. Either Capitol mistakenly sent the wrong set of photos for printing or they decided to alter the layout.



Production and Release



The band's contract required that they provide albums and singles to Capitol for release each year. Based on prior years, they could provide either three new albums or two new albums and one "pickup" album – that being a collection of previously-released recordings. In both 1966 and 1967, they had authorized a hits collection and had provided two other albums during the contract years. The band had similar plans for the 1968 contract year and started work on the album in December or January.

Although the album was held back until August, Brian Wilson had been working on the mixes for months – as an album to provide to Capitol. During his interview with Jamake Highwater on January 11, 1968 (while riding in a car driven by Carl), Brian referred to *Stack-o-Tracks* as the group's next album. Highwater refers to the album as consisting of "backing tracks," indicating that "for various reasons you thought you'd do an album of them." Brian said, "We just did an R&B album" [*Wild Honey*]" and went on to describe *Stack-o-Tracks*. By this time the album already had its title, and Brian describes the front cover photo in detail. Of the album's release, "I think it's gonna be out of sight. I don't know if it'll sell very much, but it'll be a real, nice, solid catalog member." It was just "pure music."



Capitol assigned *Stack-o-Tracks* a catalog number at the same time as *Friends* received one, and the art department prepared the approved cover design on March 1st. The design came early enough that the slicks contain marks where it could be trimmed for either mono or stereo release; by the time the album was released, it came out in stereo only.

The initial photographs showed the Scotch brand name and logo on the tape boxes. Someone at Capitol disapproved of promoting another business, so the art department blurred the name and blacked out the logo on the final cover design.

The complete package turned out similar to *Sing a Song With the Kingston Trio* and *Sing a Song With the Beatles*, both of which were in the KAO- series and had sold quite well. As it turned out, the Beach Boys album only fared as well on the charts as the originator of the series, *Sing a Song With (Nelson) Riddle*.

Capitol promoted both *Stack-o-Tracks* and *Friends* on its August poster release; this did not prove beneficial. Their strategy of waiting for the band to complete *Friends* had not served them well, either. In 1976, a Capitol employee told *Billboard* that the album was only available for about a month. While that was an exaggeration, the label was certainly not pleased with the sales of this record.

