1967-1970

First appearance in trade magazines: April 7, 1973

Label af1

Stereo SKBO-3404

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







Biggest Raids Yet Net 2 Million Tapes

of the Harry Fox Agency, publishers' agent and trustee.

Armed with writs of seizure issued by U.S. District Court Judge Frederick Lacey in Newark, and accompanied by Federal marshals, representatives of the recording and music publishing industries

raided the following operations:
Melody Recordings, Inc., Fail
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of National Communications AV
control of National Communication
poice: Jr.; and Audiotage, Inc.
Asbury Park, N.J., headed &
Elius Saks.

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Records and A&M Records entered a class action in behalf of all other record companies similarly situated charging the pirates with unfair competition and asking for a permanent injunction against them.

There were indications that similar actions will soon be taken

Jules E. Yarnell, antipiracy coordinator for RIAA, and Robert Stareberg of Abeles & Clark Stareberg of Abeles & Clark ermed the raids part of a concenrated crackdown on tape piracy by the music industry. John Clark, by the publisher's attorney, noted that the would seek not only the detruction of the bogus tapes and tuplicating equipment but the imcontinuor of the property of the procession of heavy damages on the

Factories: Los Angeles; Jacksonville; Winchester

The Scranton plant was about to be shut down in August and sold to North American Music Industries later in the year, but they made some metal parts for this album. The copies that I have appear to have parts from Scranton that were used by the Jacksonville plant. Some of the labels appear more lavender than blue.



Cover:

The cover has a cardboard cover with paper slicks pasted onto it. The inner cover is glued on top of the (wrapped-around) outer cover.

The front cover sports a photograph from the Angus McBean session that produced the cover design to the (unreleased) *Get Back/Let it Be* album, but it is a different photograph than the one that had been chosen for the cover. Likewise, the back cover sports a photograph from the Angus McBean session that produced the cover to their first British LP, but it is a different photograph than the one that was used for the album.

The inner cover slick was one of many photographs taken on the band's "mad day out" photo session on July 28, 1968. The Beatles, Tony Bramwell, Mal Evans and his son (Gary), Yoko Ono, Francie Schwartz, and three others with cameras traveled around to seven locations in London and took pictures. This shot was taken at the fifth location, St. Pancras Old Church and Gardens. As they were having their photograph taken under an archway, a crowd gathered to watch. Their photographers suggested that they merge with the crowd, and they captured the moment.



The back cover to the original pressing features a large green Apple logo in the center of the top edge. Later pressings replace this with Capitol's "C" logo.

Inner Sleeves:

Every pressing of the LP features colorful blue inner sleeves listing the lyrics to all of the songs. The sleeve designs came from the UK and show the British copyright information for all of the songs. Rather than replace each of these, Capitol simply added a statement at the lower right corner indicating that Maclen Music controlled the rights to the Lennon-McCartney songs for the USA and certain other countries. The songs from *Magical Mystery Tour* were controlled by



Comet Music, and Capitol adjusted the credits to George's songs to refer to the American company.

Insert:

Apple included the same insert with this album and with its companion, 1962-1966. The first side listed all of the songs on the two albums, and the second side indicated their availability on LP or single, and on the two remaining tape formats. The insert lists "Get Back" as being from the *Let it Be* album, when in fact is the single mix of the song. "Let it Be" is correctly identified as the single mix, instead of the version from the LP. Although the insert lists the albums in chronological order, it puts the singles



7-67

in numerical order – so that the singles from late 1967 to 1970 appear ahead of "I Want to Hold Your Hand." An error in the singles listings shows "Baby, You're a Rich Man" as the A-side of single 5964; this is interesting because the contemporary Apple pressings of the single put that song on the full side; unlike "Act Naturally" and "Strawberry Fields Forever," Capitol had always treated "All You Need is Love" as the top side.

Get Back	(Let It Be)	Baby, You're A Rich Man— All You Need Is Love	5964
Let It Be	(single)		

Stickers:

Apple promoted the album with a blue, rectangular contents sticker. There are actually two such stickers. One of these (sticker s1, the first?) shows the shading of the Apple logo on the left. That is, the Apple logo was reversed from its usual orientation. The other sticker (s2) shows the Apple logo with its shading on the right side as usual.





Label ar1

Stereo

SKBO-3404

Apple label with rights information on one or both sides.

Factories: Los Angeles, Winchester, Goldisc

Rights information appears in the rim on both sides.

Possible covers:

Cardboard cover with Apple logo on the back

Posterboard cover with Capitol "C" logo on the back



Label 72rb

Stereo SKBO-3404

Blue label with rights disclaimer

Factories: Los Angeles, Jacksonville, Winchester, PRC Compton,

Specialty

The Specialty copies were likely pressed from 1985 on.

Possible covers:

Posterboard cover with Capitol "C" logo on the back

Stickers:

The first Capitol pressing of the album has "3404" next to "Printed in USA" and features Capitol's "C" logo – the logo that Capitol used from 1969 to 1978.

Other copies made before the colored-vinyl album came out in 1978 have the dome logo at the top and have "3404" next to "Printed in USA."

Copies made after mid-1978 have the dome logo at the top and have "3404" in the center of the bottom of the label.











Label 78b

Stereo SEBX-11843

Blue label with dome logo and rim print starting with "MFD. BY CAPITOL." Blue vinyl pressing

Factories: Los Angeles, Jacksonville, Winchester



Possible covers:

Posterboard cover with Capitol dome logo on the back

Stickers:

Round sticker on the front wrap with "LIMITED EDITION" and "2 BLUE VINYL DISCS," along with the catalog number and "Printed in USA." (s1)

Rectangular sticker on the back cover listing the song titles, having the Capitol dome logo and SEBX-11843 catalog number.









Story:

The history of the two compilation records is both the history of the Beatles' contracts and a history of record piracy in the United States. In order to achieve the higher royalty rates associated with the band's 1969 contract (negotiated on their behalf by Allen Klein), the Beatles had to release a specified number of new albums and "pickup" (compilation) albums each year. They began well, with the Hey Jude album and several records of new material in 1970. By 1972, though, they were in a jam. Of the four ex-Beatles, only John released an album that year, and there were no pickup albums. This left them owing records to EMI, and they conceived of a hits collection to serve in that capacity – to bring them closer to the terms

of their contract. Fate intervened to push that project along.

Elias ("Lew") Saka was a Japanese immigrant who had frequent encounters with the law. In 1964, he was convicted of transporting thousands of pairs of stolen nylon hosiery across state lines into New Jersey, where he lived and worked. At the time, he was operating a mail-order business named Nylons Unlimited. He appealed, but the appeal fell through. He was fined and placed on a five-year probation.

By 1971, there was a huge market for pirate ("bootleg," illegal) tapes. Companies purchased copies of commonly-available records or tapes and made cheap copies. They sold these copies through mail-order and at truck stops and unsuspecting record stores. In order to make a pretense of legality, the sellers advertised that they had paid their copyright royalties. Actually, they had no license to use the recordings and were not paying the artists (or record labels), and therefore were able to sell their low-quality needle-drops for less than the price of a legal album.

8 TRACK STEREO TAPE d. Original artist, highest qua OMEGA SALES, INC. (404) 523-0327; 577-6997 8-TRACK AND CASSETTE TAPES

S TOTE E SERVICE

a commentary on our time.

By early July 1972, David Heilman's well-known pirate company, Wisconsin-based Economic Consultants

(a.k.a. E-C Tape Service) had decided to get into the Beatle business – infringing on their copyright in an effort to make fast cash. Copyright law was revised in 1971 to allow manufacturers ("record companies") to pursue their own property interests in court - for recordings made on or after February 15, 1972. The law at the time still permitted them no legal interest in recordings that were fixed prior to that date. When music piracy was discovered, the artists and music publishers could sue, but their lawsuits were handled by the individual states. Some states had very little to say about copyright legislation, and companies like E-C Tape operated out of those states. If they were found guilty of piracy in, say, California, they might claim that they had never intended to sell their product in California, or they might wind up withdrawing their product from that state but continuing to sell it elsewhere.

E-C Tape got on the wrong side of the Beatles by putting out a set of six eighttrack tapes (or six cassettes), covering the Beatles collective and solo careers up to the end of 1971. The tapes sold enough copies to warrant scrutiny, and in 1973 they pressed vinyl records of the six albums. That set was called *The Story of the Beatles*.

This is where Lew Saka's Audio Tape Inc. (a.k.a. Audiotape Inc.) entered the picture. Operating out of Asbury Park, NJ, they offered not six tapes but **eight** – packaged as two four-record sets that were available as tapes or LPs. The first set was popular enough that Saka



split it into two pieces, allowing people to buy them as two-record sets. Rather than hide in print ads, Audio Tape advertised the sets in major television markets (notably New York City). With the songs being mainly in alphabetical order, the company advertised their product as "Greatest Hits from A to Z." They dubbed the set "Alpha Omega" $(A\Omega)$, which would be Greek for A-to-Z but also means "beginning to end." The initial release of the first set of four records had a full-color front cover design and a catalog number of ATRBH-3583. The back cover lists the songs, out of order, and identifies the manufacturer as Audio Tape Inc.







The 2LP sets broken down from $A\Omega$ have monochrome-printed covers.











The second set was available almost immediately after the first set and has nearly identical graphics. It, too, identifies the maker as Audio Tape Inc. The tape formats proclaimed the same, and of course, they made the claim, "Copyright royalties paid."

The publishing companies were already up in arms about tape piracy. Here is an ad from May 1972 decrying the practice and helping people to identify pirated tapes. The Record Industry Association of America got involved and began investigating the companies that were producing pirate records.

On October 25, 1972, the RIAA investigation resulted in a set of busts in New Jersey. Federal marshals impounded the equipment used for duplicating tapes and confiscated over 2,000,000 bootleg tapes with the intent of destroying them all. Shortly before the seizure, no less than fiftyfour music publishers filed a joint complaint that their rights were being violated. Among the NJ companies whose tapes were seized was Audiotape Inc.

The operation emerged again in Cincinnati with a new name, "TV Products," with the same Alpha-Omega boxed set. However, they completely reorganized volume 2, changing the track order and replacing some songs with others. Some of the tapes list TV Products as being based in New Jersey; these were likely made before the move.

The releases from TV Products have black-andwhite covers and retain the $A\boldsymbol{\Omega}$ names on both sets.







ATTENTION RECORD & TAPE DEALERS

The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has ruled" that a compulsory license under the Cop to use copyrighted music is not available in conne under the Copyright Act manufacture or sale of tapes and records duplicated without the express authorization of the owner of the recording

Many such unauthorized recordings are being distributed many such unautinorized recordings are being distributed bearing legends such as "All copyright royalties paid," "Notices of intention to use copyright materials filed where necessary" and "All royalties paid statutory license fees of 2¢ as established by the Federal Copyright Act on deposit in an excess excess." escrow account."

Do not be misled! Such unauthorized recordings are illegal and the sale thereof is an infringement of the publishers' rights in their copyrighted music.

- Under the law, a single unauthorized sale could result in: an award to the copyright proprietors of profits;
- damages in an amount up to \$5,000 (or more in certain
- cases);
- an attorney's fee; and
- an order for destruction of all infringing inventory.

Furthermore, a willful infringement for profit of copyrighted music through exploitation of unauthorized recordings has been made a Federal crime as of October 15, 1971.

NATIONAL MUSIC PUBLISHERS' ASSOCIATION. INC. THE HARRY FOX AGENCY, INC 110 East 59th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022

Biggest Raids Yet Net 2 Million Tapes

· Continued from page 1 of the Harry Fox Agency, pub-

lishers' agent and trustee.

Armed with writs of seizure issued by U.S. District Court Judge Frederick Lacey in Newark, and accompanied by Federal marshals, representatives of the recording and music publishing industries raided the following operations:

Melody Recordings, Inc., Fairfield, N.J., whose principal is Al Cecchi, also known as Al Cohen; Am er ic an Cartride Recordings (ACR) and National Cinematape, Inc., Englewood, N.J., a division of National Communications Arts, Inc., headed by Alexander Magosci Jr.; and Audiotape, Inc., Asbury Park, N.J., headed by Elias Saka.

Tractor trailers were used to transport the seized pirated tapes, blank cartridges, master duplicators and slave units to a warehouse where they were impounded.

Judge Lacy's issue of seizure writs followed a hearing at which evidence was presented by 54 music publishers; that the abovenamed firms were infringing on their music copyright. The publishers, in a class action, asked for and were granted the writs of seizure and also asked for a seizure and also asked for a permanent injunction prohibiting those firms from future involve-ment in the manufacture, distribution and sale of pirated recordings.

At the same time, Warner Bros.

Records and A&M Records Records and A&M Records en-tered a class action in behalf of all other record companies similar-ly situated charging the pirates with unfair competition and asking for a permanent injunction against

There were indications similar actions will soon be taken against other duplicators and distributors known to be operating in New Jersey, long reputed as a hotbed of unauthorized duplica-

Jules E. Yarnell, antipiracy coordinator for RIAA, and Robert Osterberg of Abeles & Clark termed the raids part of a concentrated crackdown on tape piracy by the music industry. John Clark, the publishers' attorney, noted that he would seek not only the de-struction of the bogus tapes and duplicating equipment but the im-position of heavy damages on the nirates. pirates.

In January 1973, CBS (Columbia Records) filed suit against the pirates, including Audiotape. Apple, the former Beatles, and Allen Klein became aware of what was going on, and they were outraged. George Harrison filed suit personally on February 16th, together with Apple and supported by an affidavit from Klein. Although Neil Young was aware of bootlegging as early as the end of 1971 (and was upset), George became the first artist to publicly sue bootleggers.

George's suit names not only Saka and Audio Tape but also the makers associated with other pirate records, including Economic Consultants (E-C Tape Service), which was still putting out *The Story of the Beatles*. The suit also took aim at the television stations that were airing commercials for the product, but independent station WPIX (New York) and the ABC television network were quick to join Harrison in condemning the practice of bootlegging records.

By this time, the official sets from Apple were nearly ready. Sterling Sound cut acetates of the albums on February 20th. These Apple would advertise as the only authorized collection of Beatles hits.

A judge granted an induction in George's favor, but that only prevented Audio Tape (TV Products) from making or selling the albums in New York state. By the end of April, the pirates were contending that any sale in New York was coincidental.

At some point, the third pressing of the boxed sets was coming out. With color covers referring to them now as "Vol. 1" and "Vol. 2," the manufacturer was now listed as Record Promotions Inc., with a different PO Box in Cincinnati as their address.



Industry 'On Attack' Vs. Piracy; CBS Sues in N.J.

NEW YORK—The recording in-dustry has "finally wrested the initiative and gone on the of-fensive against those who pirate fensive against those who pirate and counterfeit records and tapes," according to Stanley M. Gortikov, president of the RIAA. "We have far to go before piracy is effectively curtailed," continued Gortikov, "but we know we are hindering many operations, jeopardizing the pirates' profitability, and increasing their risk of criminal prosecution." Meanwhile, a class action suit has been filed by CBS, Inc. charg-ing eight companies and a number of individuals with piracy of tape recordings. The suit was filed in

of individuals with piracy of tape recordings. The suit was filed in the Chancery Division of Essex County Superior Court, N.J.

Named as defendants in the suit are Melody Recordings, Inc., and Al Cecci, also known as Al Cohen, American Copyright Research, Inc., and Joseph Barone; U.S. Tape, Inc., and George Tucker; National Cimematape, Inc.; American Cartridge Recordings, a division of National Communications Arts. Inc., and Alexander Magosci. vision of National Communications Arts, Inc., and Alexander Magosci, Ir.; Telecor Industries, and Charles Gellert and Harold Davidow; Au-diotape, Inc., and Elias Saka, also known as Lou Saka; and Diamond Sounds, Inc.

police in Pasadena Elsewhere, police in Pasadena, Calif. seized approximately 1,000 pirated 8-track tapes, several hundred master tapes, catalogs, labels, sleeves and a shrink wrap machine. Arrested in the seizure, and charged with obtaining property under false pretenses, were Gary Edward Stokes, 29, and Sandra Kay Jones, 23, both residents of Pasadena. Elsewhere,

Klein, Harrison Action:

ABC Net Takes Strong Stand Vs. Ads On Pirated Product

Apple. Capitol Also Plaintiffs



Harrison Suit Wins 1st Round



An ad from May 1973 shows that they were also operating out of California under the Record Promotions company name.

Along with the negative publicity regarding piracy, the release of the two official sets from Apple seems to have dramatically reduced the public interest in the pirate albums. The court case itself seemed to drag on forever, with Capitol Records getting involved as well. In January 1978, the US District Court for New York slapped down a permanent injunction against the sale of the Alpha-Omega boxed sets. By this time there were other company names in play: B&A Trading; PSI Inc; and Creative Consultants. Elias Saka continued in the piracy business and was ultimately convicted in 1988 in the same case which also convicted record-label president, Morris Levy. Saka went down for racketeering and extortion (RICO) charges. He appealed, but the appeal was not granted.

"In denying the earlier Rule 29 motions of Levy and Canterino, this court noted that Government Exhibit 138 ("G-138"), a tape recording of a September 23, 1985 meeting in Morris Levy's office at Roulette, could, in the context of the other evidence presented, support judgments of conviction against Levy and Canterino. Participating in this meeting at various times and to varying degrees were Morris Levy, Gaetano Vastola, Howard Fisher, Elias Saka and Dominick Canterino."

"Gaetano Vastola and Elias Saka appeal to this court from final judgments of conviction and sentence entered by the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey on May 3, 1989, following a jury trial in which they were found guilty of two substantive RICO offenses under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1962(c), a RICO conspiracy offense under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1962(d), and a conspiracy to use extortionate means to collect an extension of credit, in violation of 18 U.S.C. Sec. 894. In addition, Saka was found guilty of various other extortion offenses and of mail and wire bankruptcy and insurance fraud."



Court Stops Sales Of Phony Beatles

NEW YORK—Capitol Records has succeeded in getting a permanent injunction against the manufacture and sale of recordings purporting to be performances by the Beatles on a mail-order label.

The injunction, handed down here by the U.S. District Court, was granted in response to a civil suit brought by the label over a radio and television campaign for the sale of albums and tapes under the name "Beatles' Alpha-Omeza."

'Beatles' Alpha-Omega."

Defendants in the suit were

Joshua Jamal of B&A Trading Corp., David Sacks of PSI Inc. Creative Consultants Inc. and Creative Consultants Services Inc., and Robert Soukis, all of whom were charged with being involved in the mail-order campaign.

der campaign.

Also charged for allegedly exporting the disputed disks and tapes are L & S Import-Export Corp. and its principal officer, Jac M. Lesser.

The injunction specifically enjoins the defendants from manufac-

joins the defendants from manufacturing and selling recordings of Beatle performances or using the names of the Beatles individually of collectively where such recording do not contain Beatles' performances.

"Both appellants were sentenced to total prison terms of twenty years and, in addition, Vastola was ordered to pay fines totalling \$70,000 and Saka was ordered to pay fines totalling \$185,000." Saka passed away in 2007, leaving a legacy in copyright legislation.