

The Beatles' Christmas Album

Release date: February 1971

Label af1

Apple

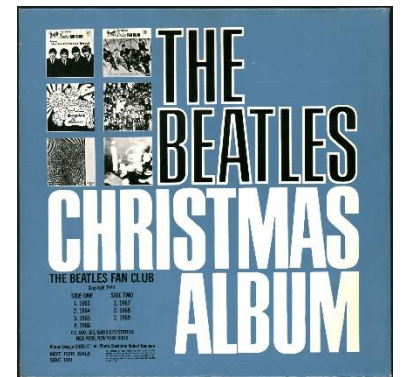
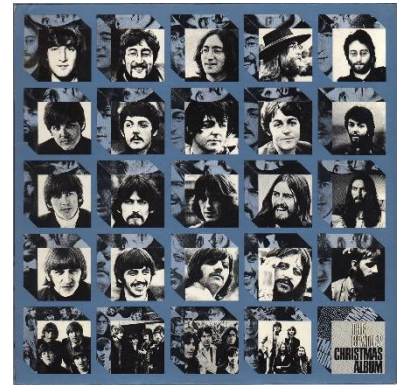
SBC-100

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

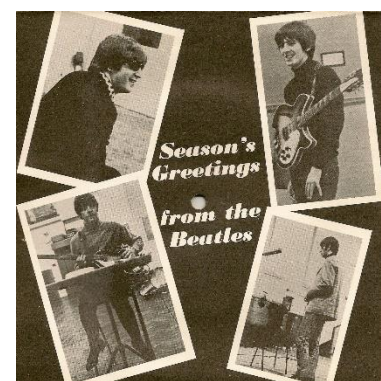


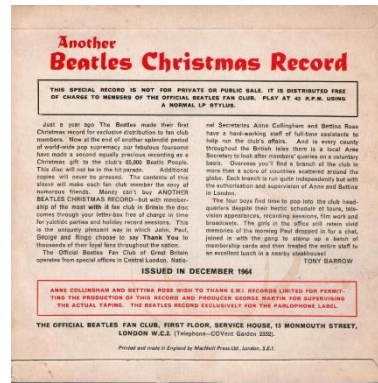
Factories: Winchester

This is a compilation of the Beatles' Christmas messages from 1963 to 1969. It was compiled in Great Britain from needledrops of the UK flexi discs.



When the flexi disc for 1963 went out to British fans, there was as yet no organized American fan club, and so the message did not reach American fans at that time. When the time came in late 1964 to send out an initial message in the United States, they used the 1963 message (apparently since the '64 message was not yet ready).

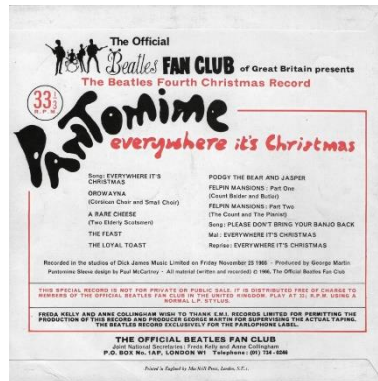
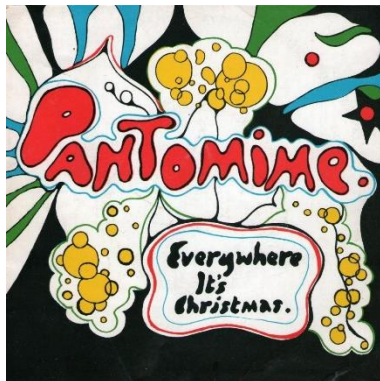




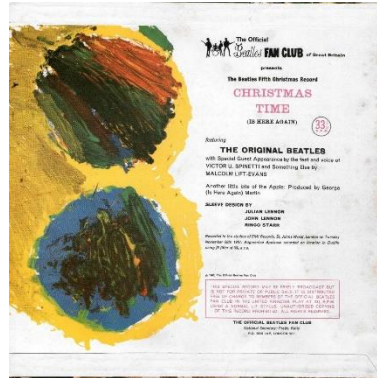
As a result, this album marked the first appearance of the 1964 Christmas message in the United States.



Similarly, the 1965 message did not appear in time to make copies for the USA, so fans skipped the '65 Christmas message until this album came out.



The 1966 Christmas message continued in the same format in the UK (Lyntone flexi disc with cover), but in the US there was great difficulty in finding a good, low-cost alternative to vinyl. The '66 message came out on a post card.



The 1967 message had come out in the USA on a post card like the '66 message. This was unacceptable for 1968, and the fan club found an alternative in Americom soundsheets. Americom was the same company that Capitol had contracted to release Pocket Discs for many of its releases (including several Apple singles).



Americom did not have the graphics to the 1968 release (shown). It had a cover resembling the British 1967 disc.

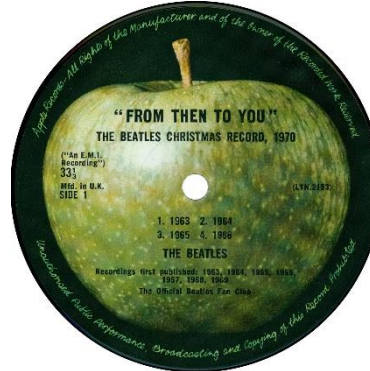


The last of the flexis featured an updated Americom design and a cover that matched its British counterpart.

In 1970, the Beatles Fan Club was still active, but the group itself had officially broken up. The Fan Club directed Lyntone to compile an LP from the flexi discs. This album was sent to Capitol in the USA and went out to British fans beginning in the third week of December, 1970.



The matrix numbers to the British release were supposed to be as they appeared on the label, with side one being LYN-2153 and side two being LYN-2154. However, Lyntone got the numbers reversed, and so the number 2154 appears on side one instead of side two. The *content* of the sides is correct; only the numbering is wrong.



Sam Feldman received a dub of the proposed Christmas Album in early December and sent a copy to Allan Steckler. During the month of January, Feldman worked on the release. His own notes say that he had it ready to send to the pressing plant on January 29, 1971. Copies went out to fan club members in early February.

Prod-
12/9/70 - 2f more ret dub to A. Steckler
1/29/71 - SBC-100 A'+B' to _____

Cover:

While the album was being prepared, Capitol redesigned the album cover to make an attractive package that showed the Beatles as they appeared from 1966 to 1970. There was no group photo from 1970, of course, since the band was no longer together.

Fan Club mailers containing the album show that they continued to send the record to fans between February and (at least) July, 1971.



