

Beatles Costa Rican Albums

Identification Guide

Last Updated 01 Ja 24

Red Odeon Label



By the end of 1963, the Beatles were rising to popularity in Costa Rica. When it came time for the group to release their first LP there in early in 1964, Odeon Records chose a red “old-style” label. An Odeon logo appears at the top of the label. These records seem to have been part of a two-year arrangement between EMI and INDICA, the Costa Rican label. INDICA may not have released any albums prior to late 1963.

Odeon (INDICA) released the following Beatles albums in 1964-1965. Note: there is one known copy of *A Hard Day’s Night* for which the seller indicated that the original owner purchased it in Costa Rica. It bears the British lineup and stereo catalog number, but there is no label – making it likely a bootleg (pirate) copy.

Title	Catalog Number
<i>Meet the Beatles!</i>	Odeon T-2047
<i>The Beatles’ Second Album</i>	Odeon T-2080
<i>A Hard Day’s Night?</i>	3058
<i>Something New</i>	Odeon T-2108
<i>Beatles For Sale</i>	Odeon PMC-1240
<i>Beatles ‘65</i>	Odeon T-2228
<i>The Early Beatles</i> , mono	Odeon 2309
<i>The Early Beatles</i> , stereo	Odeon Stereo 2309
<i>Help!</i> (mono?)	Odeon 2386
<i>Help!</i> (stereo exists?)	

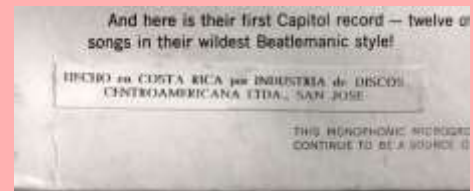
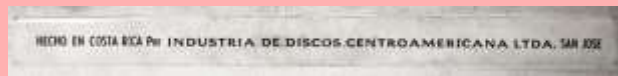
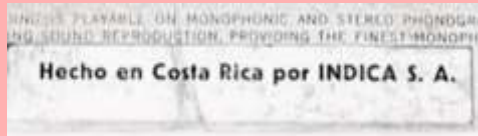
The earliest labels seem to be those having (Recorded in England) in wide print at the left side of the label. After that come the labels that have micro-thin print and "Lado 1." The labels with "A" or "Lado A" instead of "Lado 1" come last.





Covers

Some covers were simply American imports with stickers indicating their use in Costa Rica. American manufacturing information was sometimes crossed out by hand.



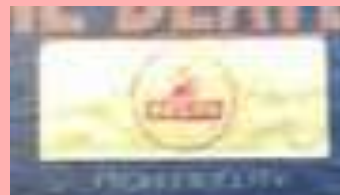
Other back sleeves were printed from templates provided by Capitol-USA. However, the manufacturing information at the bottom was replaced by local (CR) information.



Finally, other covers (from 1965) have information stamped in black onto cover slicks sent from the USA.



On some covers, the Capitol (or Parlophone) logos remain from the original cover designs. On other covers, INDICA placed any of the several gold foil stickers that one frequently sees on export records. There was also a locally-printed black-and-white ODEON sticker on some albums. The *Help!* album appears with American import covers, but there is also a locally-printed cover having an Odeon logo printed on the front. These covers correct “New Improved Full Dimensional Stereo” to remove the word “Stereo” (since the album was in mono).



Indica (Odeon) stopped releasing Beatles records in fall of 1965; there is nothing from the end of the year or '66. However, Odeon of Costa Rica (INDICA) did release several singles in 1966.



(*Billboard*, March 26, 1966 -- page 30) reports:

After conversations which took several months, CBS bought Industria de Discos Centroamericana (INDICA), the first and biggest record company in Central America. INDICA was founded in 1963 by Oscar Stupp, owner of a leading record shop in San Jose. The company has all the necessary services for manufacturing records (actually eight presses are working) and has a distribution net all over the six Central American republics (with a population of about 12 million). Most of the important international labels with the exception of RCA, as well as many Mexican catalogs, are represented by INDICA.

So, near the end of 1965, INDICA and CBS entered talks which resulted in CBS buying INDICA. EMI probably had a two-year arrangement with INDICA (1963-1965), and they shopped around to find other outlets for distribution in Central America.

A Word About Condition

The **condition** of a record is all-important as to determining its value. The values shown are drastically reduced for lesser condition copies, as shown below:

Near Mint, or NM, condition records are unscratched. If the label has stickers or tape, this must be noted. Essentially, they look like they just came from the store.

Very Good Plus, or VG+, condition records will have very few scratches. Without close inspection, they might pass for Near Mint copies. A VG+ record normally sells for half what a NM copy goes for. In Europe, this condition is known as **Excellent**, EX.

Very Good, or VG, condition records have a fair number of scratches, but they by no means appear "beat up". A VG condition record normally sells for one fourth of the NM price. In Europe, this condition is known as Very Good Plus.

Very Good Minus, or VG-, condition records are starting to appear quite scratched. Still, when played, they play through, although the surface noise is becoming distracting. Many singles are commonly found in this condition. A VG- condition record normally sells for one sixth of the NM price. In Europe, this condition is known as Very Good.

Good, or G, condition records look scratched--basically all over, but they'll play through well enough to enjoy the song. A G condition record sells for one tenth of the NM price. [Some dealers also use a grade of G+, which sells for one eighth of the NM price.]

Fair, or fr, condition records are generally worthless unless the record is rare. They're scratched up and have distracting surface noise, but they're not completely ruined. No chips missing, and not cracked. They sell for one twentieth of the NM price or less.

Poor, or pr, condition records are basically ruined. They may be warped, cracked, chipped, or otherwise unsuitable for collecting. Most collectors only accept poor condition copies of something really rare until a better one comes along. They're virtually worthless.

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