

German Beatles Extended Play Releases On Odeon and Polydor

by Frank Daniels

Green Odeon Label with "Alle" Rim Print



The German Odeon label adopted a green design in 1957. At the bottom of the label appear the words "Made in Germany," along with a symbol indicating the record's speed. The main Odeon sequence number began with approximately O-40-401 in 1959; at that time, earlier EPs in the GEOW-1000 also received numbers in the new 40000 series (beginning approximately with O-40356).

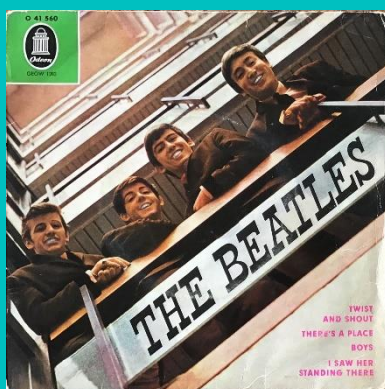
Odeon's green-label EPs appear in two major styles. The first of these styles, shown above, features the following print around the rim of the label:

**ALLE HERSTELLER. UND URHEBERRECHTE VORBEHALTEN
ÜBERSPIELUNG**

ÖFFENTLICHE AUFFÜHRUNG UND RUNDFUNKSENDUNG UNTERSAGT

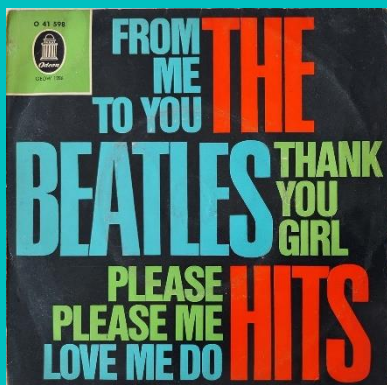
For the benefit of non-German-speaking people, I refer to these as the "Alle" pressings. German Odeon released records with "Alle" as the first word of the rim until mid-1966. EPs from 1957-1967 normally feature a larger label that was glued over the top of the EP's non-slip ridges. Earlier EPs came out in mono. Later EPs appear in stereo, with "STEREO" in black on a white rectangle. Those Beatles EPs which were originally issued on the "Alle" label are as follows:

Odeon O-41-560 *The Beatles (Twist and Shout)*
Released in June 1963.

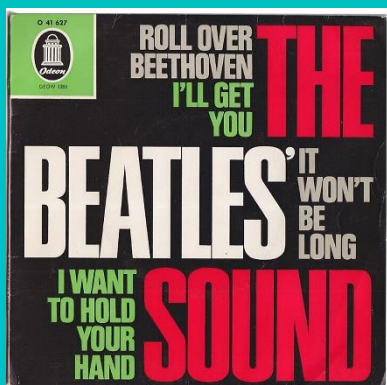


Later copies of the EP (1964-65) show only GEMA on the label and have an Odeon-EMI logo on the back cover.

Odeon O-41-598 *The Beatles' Hits*
Released in September/October 1963.

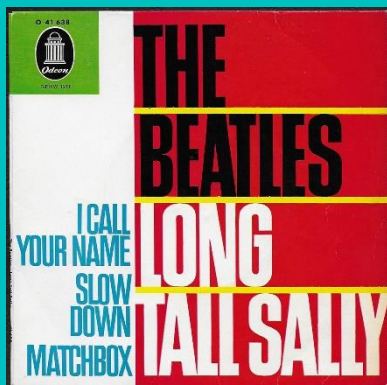


Odeon O-41-627 *The Beatles' Sound*
Released in February 1964.

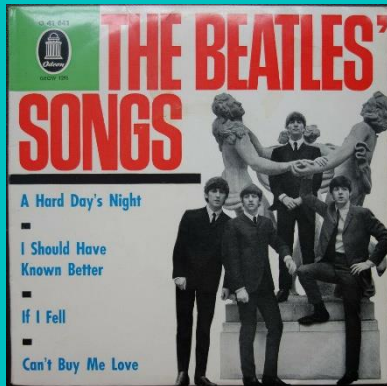


Later copies of the EP (1964-65) show only GEMA on the label and have an Odeon-EMI logo on the back cover. This was the first German EP to deviate from the pattern established by Parlophone in the UK.

Odeon O-41-638 *Long Tall Sally*
Released in August 1964.

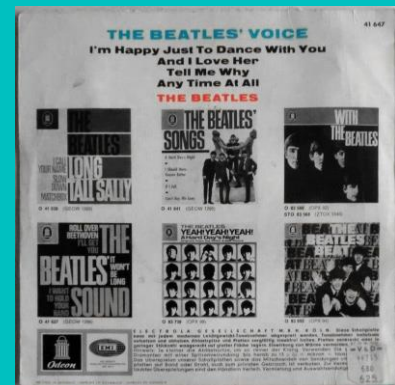
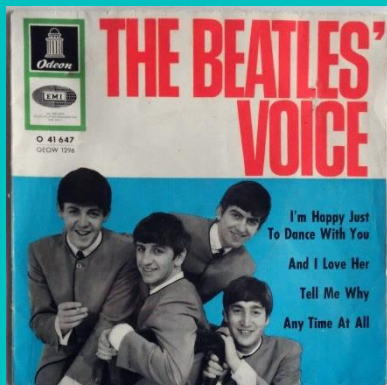


Odeon O-41-641 *The Beatles' Songs*
Released in September 1964.



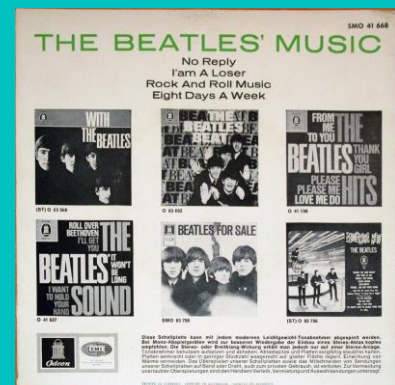
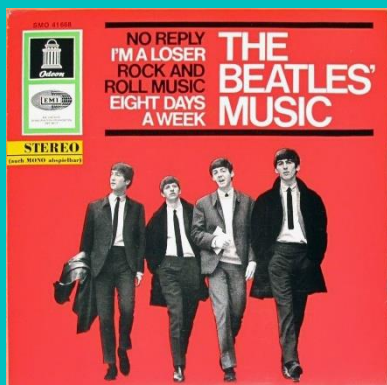
The apostrophe is misplaced in the title on the label.

Odeon O-41-647 *The Beatles' Voice*
Released in October 1964.

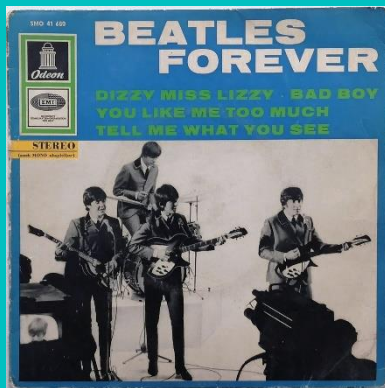


In November 1964, Odeon of Germany began releasing LPs (and EPs) in stereo only. From this point on, then, all German Beatles LPs came out in stereo.

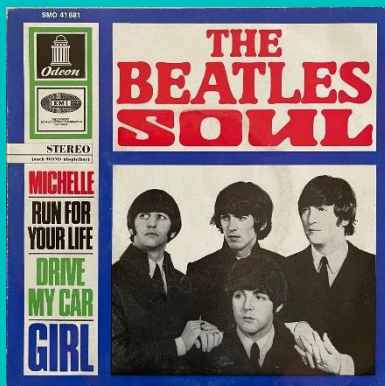
Odeon SMO-41-668 *The Beatles' Music*
Released in April 1965.



Odeon SMO-41-680 *Beatles Forever*
Released in October 1965.



Odeon SMO-41-681 *The Beatles' Soul*
Released in March 1966.



Green Odeon Label with "Urheber" Rim Print



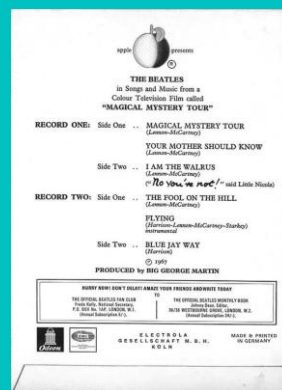
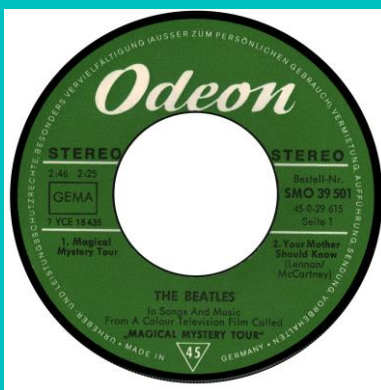
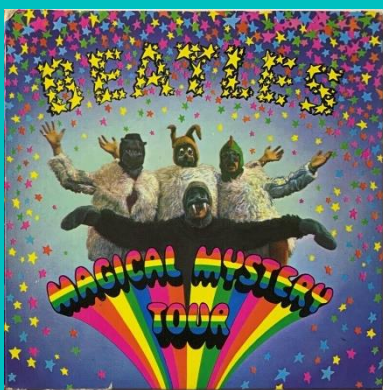
In mid-1966, the rim print was changed on all Odeon releases to read:

**URHEBER. UND LEISTUNGSSCHUTZRECHTE, BESONDERS Vervielfältigung
(AUSSER ZUM PERSONLICHEN GEBRAUCH),
VERMIETUNG.**

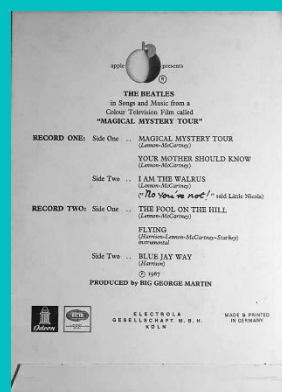
AUFF&220;HRUNG, SENDUNG, VORBEHALTEN

I will call this the "Urheber" issue. EPs made from 1967 to 1969 are of the "Urheber" variety. The only original Beatles EP to have come out in the Urheber style is *Magical Mystery Tour*. The word "stereo" on this EP appears against the green background, instead of on a white rectangle.

Odeon SMO-39-501 *Magical Mystery Tour*
Released in December 1967.



The inside back cover originally showed the addresses of the British Fan Club and *Beatles Monthly Book*. Since those addresses were in the UK rather than Germany, later copies removed that box of information.



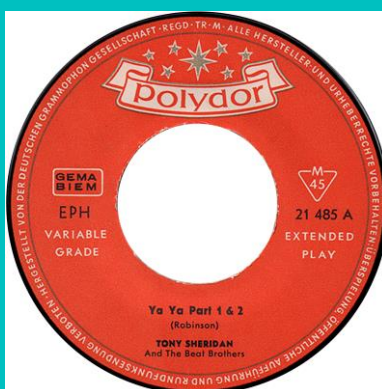
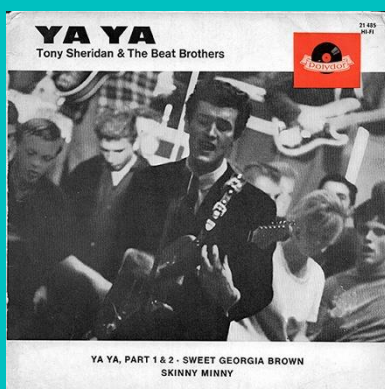
By 1972 *Magical Mystery Tour* was removed from the catalog and was replaced with the American-lineup LP. Eventually, Odeon replaced the EP series with a set of ten four-song EPs in paper covers. Most of those newer EPs had different lineups than the 1960s EPs had.

German Polydor EPs

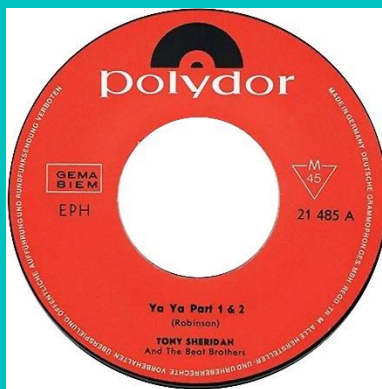


German Polydor was the Beatles' first label. As such, the Beatles released one EP in Germany before they were signed with Parlophone in England (or Odeon in Germany). German Polydor EPs released before early/mid-1964 were on an orange label with a scroll at the top. Later EPs appeared on a red Polydor label.

Polydor EPH 21-485 Tony Sheridan and the Beat Brothers *Ya Ya*
Released in October 1962.



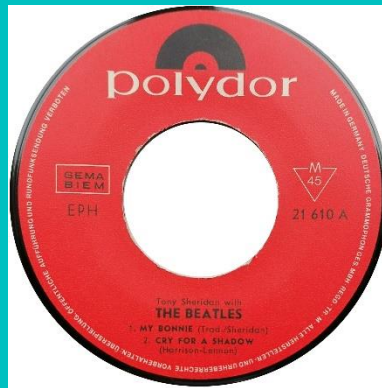
NOTE: The *Ya-Ya* EP features only one song by the Beatles, the "first" version (or "original lyrics" version) of "Sweet Georgia Brown." This EP is one of the few places where the original Beatles-backed version of the song was released in the 1960's.



Polydor EPH 21-610 Tony Sheridan and the Beatles *My Bonnie*
Released in July 1963.



NOTE: The *My Bonnie* EP features the English-intro version of the title song. The records were made in Germany and shipped to the UK, where British covers accompanied them.



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