

# Identifying Japanese Beatles EP's

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Japan holds the distinction of releasing more Beatles records than any other nation. At one time, they had the entire British catalog in print, along with most of the American album catalog and a few albums unique to Japan. Also, all of Odeon's releases until 1970 were available on regular black vinyl and on higher quality (low noise) red vinyl, creating even more variations. There are finer distinctions to be made, but the information that I provide should be sufficient for most collectors that want to start collecting Japanese releases, which most people consider to be on higher quality vinyl than most releases worldwide.

## What's an "OBI"?

"Obi" is the word for "sash." When talking about records, the obi is a paper sash that wraps around the cover, containing bits of information about the record. The only Japanese EP's that were sold with obis originally were the 1970 "British" series and a reissue of Magical Mystery Tour. These are not as scarce as the obis that accompanied original Japanese LP's.

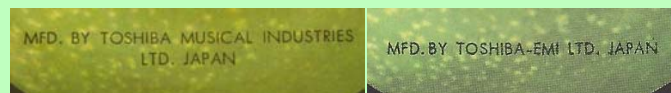
## Black Label With Odeon 33 Compact at Top



The sixties Odeon label has "Odeon 33 Compact" across the top and "STEREO" across the middle of the label. From the start, all Odeon Compact 33's were issued in stereo.

| Number    | Song Titles                     |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| OP 4016   | Twist and Shout + 3             |
| OP 4036   | Hard Day's Night +3             |
| OP 4044   | All My Loving +3                |
| OP 4055   | Long Tall Sally, I Feel Fine +2 |
| OP 4061   | Rock & Roll Music + 3           |
| OP 4110   | Help! + 3                       |
| OP 4113   | You're Going...Girl + 3         |
| OP 4118   | Anna, Sie Liebt Dich, +2        |
| OP 4160   | Michelle, Nowhere Man + 2       |
| OP 4198   | Paperback Writer + 3            |
| OP 4206   | Yellow Submarine + 3            |
| OP 4251   | Bad Boy, Penny Lane + 2         |
| OP 4335/6 | Magical Mystery Tour            |

**NOTE:** The Help! EP features the first appearance of "I'm Down" in true stereo. Until 1976, the song was rare in true stereo.



When the catalog switched to Apple in 1970, Japan also began pressing Apple label reissues of the earlier EP's, using the same catalog numbers. Apple releases carry AP prefixes instead of OP. All of the above EP's were reissued onto Apple when the price was 600 Yen. Later these

were stickered with the higher price of ¥700. Still later copies simply show the ¥700 price. Even later, they were reissued with a reference to EMI on the label.



## Apple Label UK Series (Original Compact Series 12)



Using the normal Apple EP label of the time (above), Japanese Odeon chose to release all twelve of the British EP's which they had not issued before. These too were issued as Compact 33's --on June 25, 1970. A few of the titles are known to exist on red vinyl.

| Number  | Title                   |
|---------|-------------------------|
| AP 4568 | Beatles Hits            |
| AP 4569 | Twist and Shout         |
| AP 4570 | The Beatles (No. 1)     |
| AP 4571 | All My Loving, Money +2 |
| AP 4572 | Long Tall Sally         |
| AP 4573 | A Hard Day's Night      |
| AP 4574 | A Hard Day's Night #2   |
| AP 4575 | Beatles for Sale        |
| AP 4576 | Beatles for Sale No. 2  |
| AP 4577 | Million Sellers         |
| AP 4578 | Yesterday               |
| AP 4579 | Nowhere Man             |

**NOTE 1:** The EP's known to exist on red vinyl have their catalog numbers in red in the list above.

**NOTE 2:** All of the above EP's were issued at first when the price was 600 Yen. Later these were stickered with the higher price of ¥700. Still later copies simply show the ¥700 price. Even later, they were reissued with a reference to EMI on the label.

**NOTE 3:** After the Beatles broke up, the entire series of the first twelve EP's was reissued to the Odeon EAS-300\*\* series.

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