

Identifying Japanese Beatles Albums



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, some of Odeon's releases through 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 (such as what the original price of each record was), 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.

One good thing to start out with at this point is that all of the issues, including reissues, were numbered sequentially. So record 7123 came out before record 8026, for example.

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. Because the obis were normally discarded, an original obi is often worth more than the record it wrapped around.

NOTE: Where the catalog number is in red, the record is on **RED VINYL**.

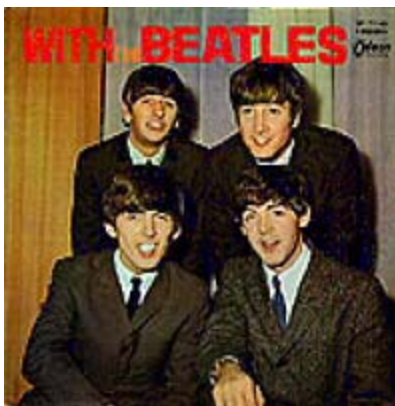
Odeon Label with "Long Playing"



The first style Odeon label (until the end of 1965) does not mention EMI and has the words "LONG PLAYING" at the bottom of the label. The following albums were originally released on the first style Odeon label.

Number	Title	Value	Other Information
OR 7041	<i>Meet the Beatles</i> (Japan)	\$250	mono
OR 7058	<i>Beatles Second Album</i> (Japan)	\$300	mono
OP 7123	<i>Hard Day's Night</i>	\$175	diff. cover OBI=2000
OP 7179	<i>Beatles For Sale</i>	\$175	gatefold
OP 7179	<i>Beatles For Sale</i>	\$300	gatefold
OR 7103	<i>Beatles No. 5</i>	\$175	mono
OP 7387	<i>Help!</i>	\$175	gatefold OBI=200

NOTE: The albums *Meet the Beatles* and *Beatles Second Album* have (Japan) after them because although their covers and titles resemble US releases, the songs on those albums are different from any releases outside Japan.



Odeon Label without "Long Playing"

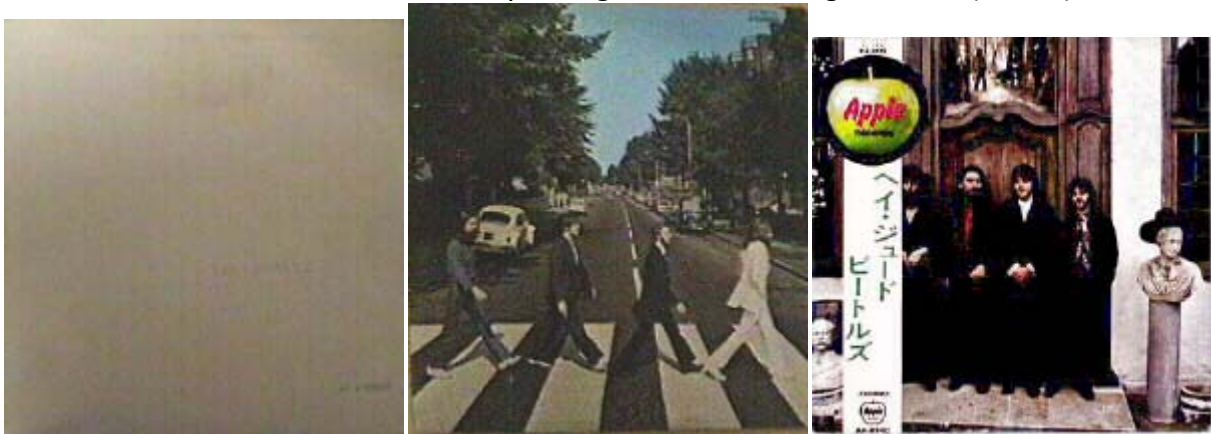


This label style looks like the earlier style, but the words "LONG PLAYING" have been removed.

Number	Title	Value	Other Information
OR/OP 7***	reissue of earlier LP	\$150	1966
OP 7450	<i>Rubber Soul</i>	\$200	1966
OP 7548	<i>Please Please Me</i>	\$175	stereo; coincided w/Japan trip diff cvr
OP 7548	<i>Please Please Me</i>	\$300	stereo; coincided w/Japan trip diff cvr
OP 7549	<i>With the Beatles</i>	\$200	stereo; Japan trip, no OBI diff cvr
OP 7549	<i>With the Beatles</i>	\$300	stereo; Japan trip, no OBI diff cvr
OP 7553/4	<i>Beatles Story</i>	\$200	
OP 7600	<i>Revolver</i>	\$150	
OP 8016	<i>Collection of Beatles Oldies</i>	\$150	OBI=200
OR 8026	<i>Meet the Beatles</i> (Japan)	\$200	mono
OR 8027	<i>Beatles Second Album</i> (Japan)	\$250	mono
OR 8028	<i>Beatles No. 5</i>	\$250	mono
OP 8147	<i>Hard Day's Night</i>	\$150	
OP 8151	<i>Help!</i>	\$150	
OP 8156	<i>Rubber Soul</i>	\$150	OBI=200
OP 8163	<i>Sgt. Pepper's LHCB</i>	\$150	
OP 8442	<i>Beatles For Sale</i>	\$150	
OP 8443	<i>Revolver</i>	\$150	

As a general rule, prices for black vinyl are about 150% of those for red vinyl – due to the fact that black-vinyl copies are scarcer.

When the catalog switched to Apple, Japan also began pressing Apple label reissues of the earlier albums, in both red and black vinyl, using the same catalog numbers (8000's).



Apple Label Issues




On the first Apple-label issues, EMI is not mentioned at the bottom of the label.

Number	Title	Value	Other Information
AP 8570/1	<i>The Beatles</i>	\$200	numbered; w/Apple OBI; w/inserts
AP 8570/1	<i>The Beatles</i>	\$200	numbered; w/Apple OBI; w/inserts
AP 8610	<i>Yellow Submarine</i>	\$100	
AP 8675	<i>Please Please Me</i>	\$100	red OBI, diff cvr
AP 8676/7	<i>Beatles Story</i>	\$250	boxed
AP 8678	<i>With the Beatles</i>	\$175	diff cover; stereo, red OBI; gatefold
AP 8815	<i>Abbey Road</i>	\$100	OBI=250
AP 8815	<i>Abbey Road</i>	\$100	
A couple of Polydor releases:			
Polydor 1189	<i>Beatles First</i>	\$250	
Polydor MP 1476	<i>The Young Beatles</i>	stereo	1969
AP 8940	<i>Hey Jude</i>	\$75	OBI=50
AP 9009	<i>Let It Be</i>	\$300	boxed edition w/book
AP 9009	<i>Let It Be</i>	\$300	boxed edition w/book
AP 9009	<i>Let It Be</i>	\$75	gatefold cover
Odeon OP 9728	<i>Magical Mystery Tour</i>	\$150	1970
Odeon OP 9728	<i>Magical Mystery Tour</i>	\$150	1970
Apple AP 9728	<i>Magical Mystery Tour</i>	\$100	OBI=300, 1970?

Post-Beatles Issues

Making a break from my normal method of inclusion, I have decided to include certain reissues. The reason for their inclusion is that most Americans collecting Japanese Beatles issues do not realize what issue they have or when that issue was released. Just as in all the other countries, the later reissues are more common and less valuable than original copies. Generally, anything with an EAS or EAR prefix is later. Anything with that prefix on the Odeon label dates to the post-Apple period.

Number	Title	Value	Other Information
Credits at bottom of label of first issues. EMI not mentioned.			
Apple AP 80011	<i>Meet the Beatles (US)</i>	\$50	1970
Apple AP 80012	<i>Second Album (US)</i>	\$40	1970
Apple AP 80033	<i>Something New</i>	\$40	1970
Apple AP 80034	<i>Early Beatles</i>	\$40	
Apple AP 80035	<i>Beatles VI</i>	\$40	
Apple AP 80060	<i>Help! (US)</i>	\$40	OBI=20
Apple AP 80061	<i>Yesterday and Today</i>	\$75	UK song mixes, 1970
Apple AP 80189	<i>Let It Be</i>	\$100	gatefold cover, 1971
All of the releases below are on black vinyl only.			
Apple EAS-80550	<i>Please Please Me</i>	\$30	stereo, 1973
Apple EAS-80551	<i>With the Beatles</i>	\$30	stereo
Apple EAS 80552	<i>Hard Day's Night</i>	\$30	
Apple EAS 80553	<i>Beatles For Sale</i>	\$30	
Apple EAS 80554	<i>Help!</i>	\$30	
Apple EAS 80555	<i>Rubber Soul</i>	\$30	
Apple EAS 80556	<i>Revolver</i>	\$30	
Apple EAS 80557	<i>Collection of Beatles Oldies</i>	\$30	
Apple EAS 80558	<i>Sgt. Pepper's LHC B</i>	\$30	
Apple EAS 77001/2	<i>The Beatles</i>	\$50	
Apple EAS-77007/8	<i>Beatles Story</i>	\$75	boxed
Apple EAS-80559	<i>Yellow Submarine</i>	\$30	
Apple EAS-80560	<i>Abbey Road</i>	\$30	

Apple EAS-80561	<i>Let It Be</i>	\$30	
Apple EAS-50021/2	<i>1962-1966</i>	\$40	
Apple EAS-50023/4	<i>1967-1970</i>	\$40	
Apple EAS-80562	<i>Meet the Beatles (US)</i>	\$30	
Apple EAS-80563	<i>Second Album (US)</i>	\$30	
Apple EAS-80564	<i>Something New</i>	\$30	
Apple EAS-80565	<i>Early Beatles</i>	\$30	
Apple EAS-80566	<i>Beatles VI</i>	\$30	
Apple EAS-80567	<i>Help! (US)</i>	\$30	
Apple EAS-80568	<i>Yesterday and Today</i>	\$30	
Apple EAS-80569	<i>Magical Mystery Tour</i>	\$30	
Apple EAS-80570	<i>Hey Jude</i>	\$30	

Also of Note

A mono reissue series (Odeon EAR-701**), in red vinyl, came out in 1982. These are collected along with the other Japanese releases, but even though they are mono, their catalog numbers indicate that they are NOT the original releases.

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