

WHITE AND YELLOW

For some reason, from time to time people on the newsgroup **rec.music.beatles** and on the Internet at large speculated about what might have been the lineup of the White Album (officially called *The Beatles*) had they taken George Martin's suggestion to reduce the collection to one album's worth of songs. Most commentators have chosen the songs that they liked, adding them to a single-record White Album and excluding the others. I refrained from this exercise until I believed I could contribute more than my most favorite tracks.

Rather than merely picking the songs I liked best, I decided to pursue the matter along criteria that were used and/or might have been used by the Beatles and George Martin. My considerations include:

1. George Martin placed the tracks that he thought were "strongest" at the beginning of each side. All four of these songs are included.
2. George Harrison was allotted one song per side.
3. John and Paul normally filled out the remainder of the fourteen songs, with Ringo being allowed to add songs if he had written them. My compilation includes the song written by Ringo.
4. "Good Night" was clearly intended as the album's closer and had to be included.
5. Singles were often issued contemporary to the album but containing none of the album's songs. I have selected two "single" tracks as well.
6. As to the order, Paul's and John's were usually being alternated by this time. George Martin made a point of not putting more than 2 of John's or Paul's songs back to back.
7. No songs dropped from the double album were considered for the single album.
8. I considered also the possibility that the songs that they recorded earlier (after coming back from India) were possibly the ones they were most keen on.
9. Animal songs were placed together deliberately on the double album.

Those things having been said, here are my selections:

SINGLE:

"Helter Skelter"/"Julia" (Apple 2385)

One selection from Paul and another from John would have been selected as the single to promote *A Doll's House*. Since "Helter Skelter" is such a strong rocker, Paul would have been urged to select it, while John would have promoted his tribute to his mother.





ALBUM:

A Doll's House (Apple SW-101)

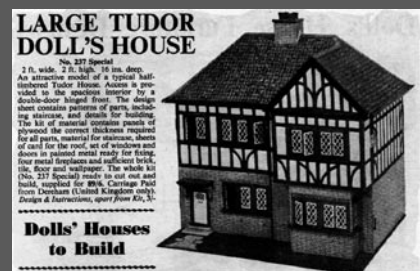
Side One	Side Two
Back In the USSR	Birthday
Sexy Sadie	I'm So Tired
Ob-la-di; Ob-la-da	Piggies
Revolution 1	Blackbird
Don't Pass Me By	Cry Baby Cry
Mother Nature's Son	Martha My Dear
The Continuing Story of Bungalow Bill	Everybody's Got Something to Hide Except for Me and my Monkey
While My Guitar Gently Weeps	Good Night

Notes:

Per my own preference, I would have included "Glass Onion," but I considered that George Martin would have reasoned that "Cry Baby Cry" had a nicer pastiche of lyrics and that "I'm So Tired" had fit well on side 3 of the original album. "Glass Onion" may have stood as an alternate to "I'm So Tired" and would have been saved for the next release.

The heavier sounds were separated from one another. The "strongest" tracks were placed first on each side. Two more folksy numbers ("Don't Pass Me By" and "Mother Nature's Son") were placed together.

For the most part, I believe George Martin would have been keen on lyrical content. Songs that had powerful ("Blackbird"), pointed ("Sexy Sadie"), or picturesque ("Mother Nature's Son") lyrics would have been included.



The follow-up release would then have been the soundtrack to *Yellow Submarine* (and other songs), along with a single having a non-album B-side. These would be:

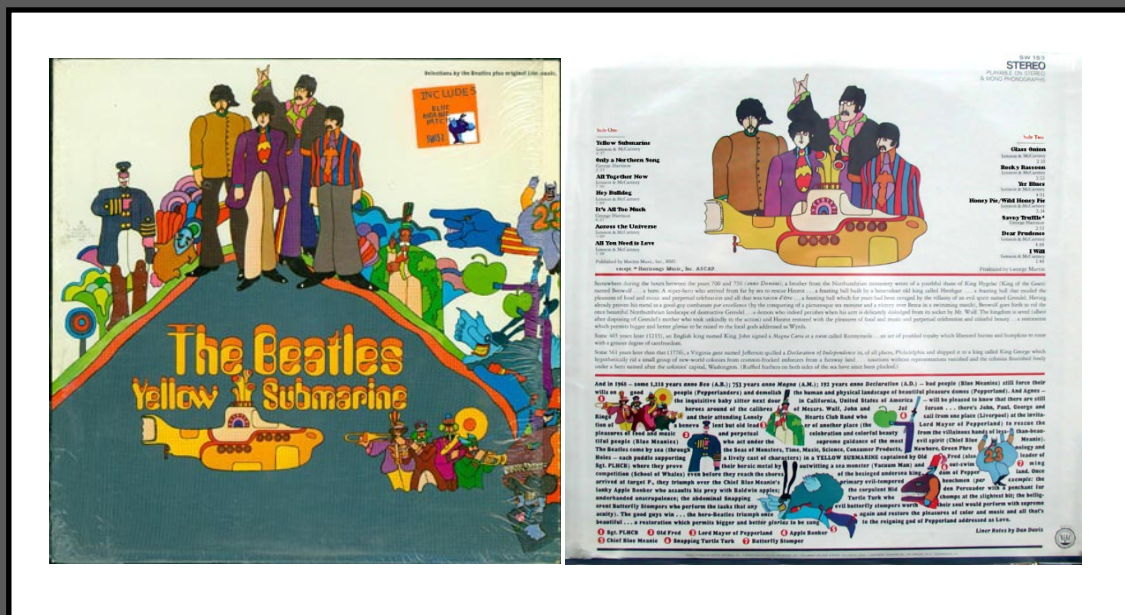


SINGLE:

"All Together Now"/"Not Guilty" (Apple 2403)

The A-side was selected for single release in several countries outside the United Kingdom and America. It was quite popular, and among the film tracks it would have been an outstanding release – one that would have promoted both the movie and the album.

George's song was clearly ready for release; however, since the band did not consider it to be a suitable album track it would have been chosen for release as the B-side of a single.



ALBUM:

Yellow Submarine (Apple SW-153)

Side One (from the film <i>Yellow Submarine</i>)	Side Two
Yellow Submarine	Glass Onion
Only a Northern Song	Rocky Raccoon
All Together Now	Yer Blues
Hey Bulldog	Honey Pie/Wild Honey Pie
It's All Too Much	Savoy Truffle
Across the Universe	Dear Prudence
All You Need Is Love	I Will



Notes:

1. The title song had to be included.
2. "All You Need Is Love" is a central theme in the film. Also, it had not appeared on any UK album. Therefore it must be included and must close side one.
3. "Across the Universe" (version 1) was considered for possible EP release in the United Kingdom. As producer, I would have suggested it be placed into the animated film.
4. I picked another Harrison song for side 2 even though there were 2 on side 1. George's white album stuff was really good. I also sort of considered the film songs to be separate from the "album tracks." The group seemed to regard their album stuff seriously but the film as a throwaway...at least until they saw it.
5. As a "full release," the album might have contained a Blue Meanie iron-on or some such thing (see below).

This would have left several songs **unreleased**, at least temporarily:

1. "Happiness is a Warm Gun"
An interesting merging of three songs, probably left for the "next" album. Since the next "studio-type" album was *Abbey Road*, and this wouldn't fit, it would've been omitted entirely, left for a Plastic Ono Band release.
2. "Why Don't We Do It in the Road?"
This song may have wound up unreleased, or see below.
3. "Long Long Long"
This haunting song George would probably include on *All Things Must Pass*, along with the others that he was in the process of writing.

The above three songs might have been released as a three-song EP in Great Britain.

4. "Revolution 9"
I don't mind this track, and I like the way it was placed between the soft "Cry Baby Cry" and the soppy "Good Night," but as a track in and of itself, almost everyone regards it as their "least favorite." It would have wound up being released by the Plastic Ono Band.
5. "What's the New Mary Jane?"
This song and "Revolution 9" would have coupled as a Plastic Ono Band single in mid-1969.

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