

“Misirlou”/ “Eight Till Midnight”
Dick Dale and the Del-Tones

A Song for an Egyptian Woman

The word “Misirlou” is the feminine form of a Turkish word for “Egyptian.” Thus, Misirlou refers to an Egyptian woman. The Greek lyrics depict the singer pining away for his “sweet-looking” Egyptian woman, whom he longs to take away from Arabia.

The folk song was well-known throughout the middle east by the 1920s. Its first known recording was by Tetos Demetriades, who released it as Columbia 56073 in 1927. Woody Herman recorded a “band” version in 1941, with new lyrics in English. Jan August released the song as an instrumental for piano in August 1946 (Diamond 2009). August’s work put a spotlight on August’s piano-playing and quite likely led eventually to the recording by Dick Dale.

Eight Till Midnight

As Dick Dale released it, the B-side was a Dale original called “Eight Till Midnight.” Like “Misirlou,” the spotlight is on Dale’s guitar work, but the performers take turns performing solos. As you will see on the following pages, both *Billboard* and *Cash Box* rated “Eight Till Midnight” as the single’s top side. In contrast to “Misirlou,” they favored the dance sound of “Eight Till Midnight,” but it was “Misirlou” that was to be the attention-getter.



Deltone

D-5019

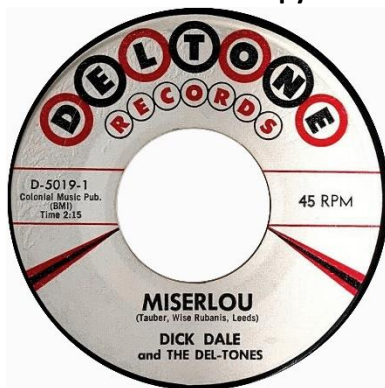
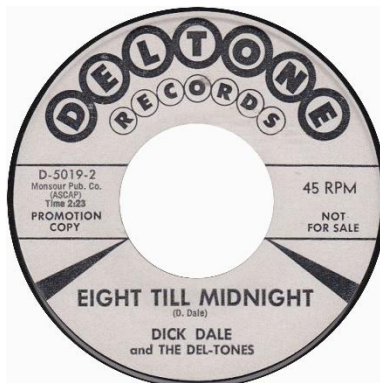
Label 61

Horizontal bands across label and "arrows" at left and right.

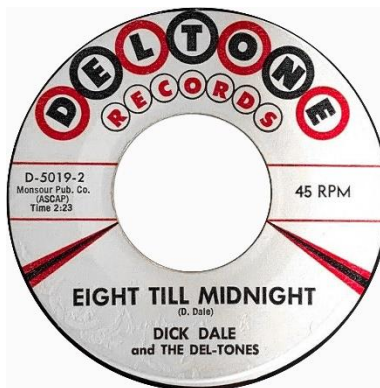
First Appearance in Trade Magazines: April 21, 1962



Promotional Copy



Commercial Copy



Copies with "45 RPM" alone at the right were pressed for local distribution at first.

Label 61r

Horizontal bands across label and "arrows" at left and right. Rendezvous distribution credit at right.

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: April 21, 1962



Promotional Copy



DICK DALE AND THE DELTONES
 ★★★★★ **Eight Till Midnight**—DEL-TONE
 5019—Bluesy effort is played with sparkle by the instrumental combo on this driving side. Good juke wax, and good item for teen dancers. (Monsieur, ASCAP) (2:23)
 ★★★ **Miserlou**—(Colonial, BMI) (2:15)

DICK DALE (Deltone 5019)
 (B+) "EIGHT TILL MIDNIGHT" (2:23) [Monsieur ASCAP — [Dale] Dale & his Del-Tones, who recently scored with "Let's Go Trippin'," can come thru once again with this infectious bouncer. Lotsa ear-arresting sounds.
 (B+) "MISERLOU" (2:15) [Colonial BMI—Tauber, Wise, Rubanis, Leeds] This driving, jet-spaced instrumental revival of the Jan August classic can also make the chart grade. Both ends feature a host of musical gimmicks.



Commercial Copy

Copies indicating that they were distributed nationally by Rendezvous Records were intended for nationwide distribution.

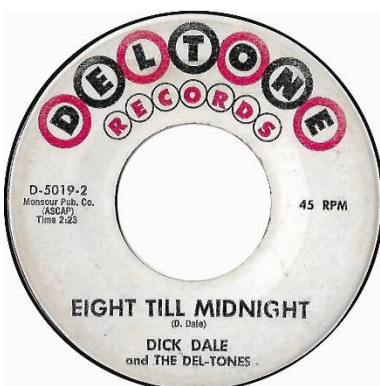
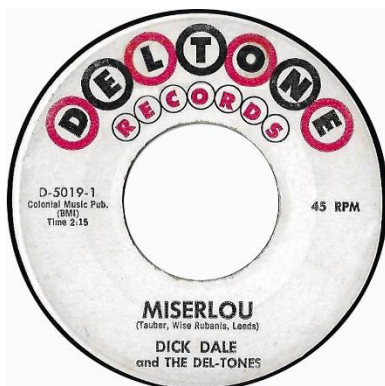
Label 63

Horizontal bands across label but no “arrows” at left and right.
Released c. January 1963.



Label 63a

No horizontal bands or “arrows”
Released c. January-February 1963.



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Album Surfers' Choice (D)T-1886

Singles Misirlou No. 4939

Peppermint Man No. 4940



Deltone/Capitol

4349

Label 63

Horizontal bands across label and “arrows” at left and right.

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: April 21, 1962



Los Angeles



Scranton

In early 1963, Capitol Records negotiated successfully to press and distribute Dick Dale’s recordings on the Deltone label. Their reissues of “Misirlou” corrected the earlier spelling error. By this time, Dick Dale was influencing the whole surf-music movement. His move to a larger label helped to secure his well-deserved place in music history.

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