

## Dark Horse Records Albums 1974-1989

In early 1974, George Harrison was considering purchasing the remaining stock in Apple Records so that he and Ringo could run the company, given that Paul and John seemed disinterested. However, by that point Apple had too much "baggage," so George began working on ideas for his own label — a label that would allow artists to do creative things without worrying about commercial sales. That had been one of the concepts behind Apple in 1968.

George had seen an Indian tin that featured the image of the Uchchaiskravas, a snow-white seven-headed horse that artists occasionally depicted as the steed of the Indian sun god, Surya. *Bhagavad-Gita* 10:27 reveals the horse to be an incarnation of Krishna. In British slang, the term "dark horse" indicates someone who is somewhat mysterious — perhaps someone having surprising skills. The quote on this page comes from Joseph Conrad (in a book of his works published in 1921). The term "dark horse" described George Harrison perfectly.

The third, a bit of a dark horse from the first, was at the end of eighteen months something of a dark horse still to the department.

George combined the concept of a dark horse in the British sense with the same expression in American English (meaning a longshot, an unlikely winner). Then he commissioned an image based on the Uchchaiskravas of an Indian-themed dark horse. After talking with Jerry Moss of A&M Records in Paris in May 1974, Dark Horse Records was born.



### A&M Signs Harrison's Dark Horse Label

■ LOS ANGELES — Following signing of a worldwide distribution agreement with A&M Records president Jerry Moss in Paris on May 18, George Harrison has become the first of the four ex-Beatles to acquire his own label. Dark Horse Records, as the label is to be called, will have Harrison's exclusive services as a producer. It has been set to debut in August with the release of a rock/pop album produced by Harrison, and in September it will release an album by the Shankar family and friends which Harrison will also produce.

According to Moss, who returned here last week, A&M's agreement with Dark Horse is for "an extended period of time" that is "longer than the average," which he defined as three years. The agreement calls for Harrison to produce at least two albums for Dark Horse a year, he said, but there is no ceiling on the number

of albums that the label may release annually.

#### Initial Release

Moss said that Dark Horse's first release is all but completed and is by a British duo backed by several other musicians. But he said that the name of the group is still in question since there is another English group with the name they originally chose. The name Dark Horse, he added, was Harrison's choice, and "if you'll listen to his next single, you'll know why he chose it." Harrison's next solo release is due from Apple Records in September.

In Paris after the conclusion of the agreement, Moss issued the following statement: "This is a great moment for A&M Records. The stimulation of working with one of the world's most creative

and unique personalities is heightened by our involvement in and support of his well-known humanitarian interests. Herb Alpert joins me in welcoming George Harrison and Dark Horse Records to our associates, affiliates and distributors throughout the world. I know I speak for Lou Adler when I say that the addition of Dark Horse Records to the A&M/Ode family flatters us immensely, and the possibilities for the future are nothing short of dazzling."

At the same time, Harrison commented, "I feel very happy with the unlimited potential now available through the relationship with Mr. A., Mr. M. and the entire staff of A&M Records, not only musically and commercially, but also in areas outside of the record industry, and look forward to this association. May the Lord bless us all."

### Harrison's Dark Horse Records To Debut In August Via A&M: Artist To Act Only As Producer

HOLLYWOOD — In one of the most significant music industry developments of the year George Harrison and Jerry Moss, president of A&M Records, announced in Paris last Wednesday, May 22, the signing of a worldwide distribution agreement for a new label, Dark Horse Records. The label, which will be launched in August, will have the exclusive services of George Harrison as producer. The first release of Dark Horse Records will be a rock/pop album produced by George Harrison, details of which will be announced at a later date. In Sept. Dark Horse will release an album by the Shankar family and friends that will also be produced by Harrison.



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George Harrison has progressed from his early days as the quiet, "deadpanned" Beatle to perhaps one of the

most influential singer-writer-producers of today's musical era. His songwriting abilities were tried and proven on the first Beatle album released in the U.S. Meet the Beatles. On this LP, he sang and wrote a powerful rocker called "Don't Bother Me." Oddly enough, he remained silent for the next few albums.

The song that was recorded by the Beatles a number of years later — "Something" — was one of the group's biggest singles and although it was written and sung by Harrison himself, it is still sometimes ironically credited to the Lennon & McCartney team.

Harrison came into his own as a producer after the breakup of the Beatles. Working at times with Phil Spector, Harrison has produced some of the finest material in recent years. A few examples would be "My Sweet Lord," "Bangla Desh" and "Give Me Love." He has branched out into a diversified career that has been both rewarding creatively and financially. A career that will continue to grow and give good music to people for many years to come. And his new situation with A&M Records should provide an effective outlet for even more of that "Harrison sound."

#### Selecting A&M

A&M's reputation within the record industry, best described as "an organization with the product and substance to back it up," was one of the key factors which attracted Harrison to this deal among many other arrangements available. Harrison himself had been un-

### Dark Horse's Debut

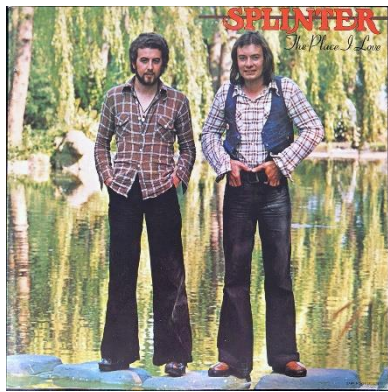
■ HOLLYWOOD — This month, A&M Records will launch a major promotional campaign to announce the first release from Dark Horse Records. Dark Horse Records will have the exclusive services of George Harrison as a producer.

The first album will be a rock/pop affair from an English duo, Splinter, consisting of Bobby Purvis and Bill Elliott, both of whom hail from Newcastle, England.

In September, Dark Horse will release an album by Ravi Shankar and Friends. Both albums are produced by George Harrison.

A&M will distribute Dark Horse Records throughout the world. The label will have offices in London, Los Angeles and Rotterdam.





Front Cover



Monarch DJ



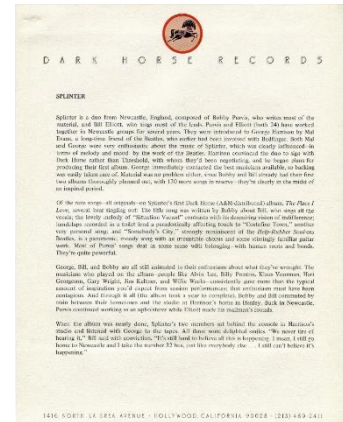
Monarch



CTH DJ



Terre Haute



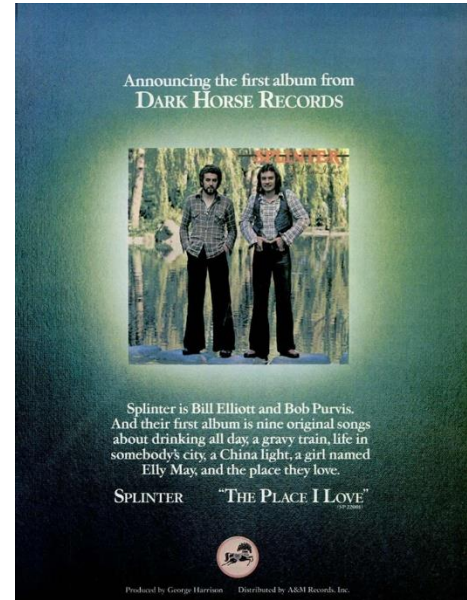
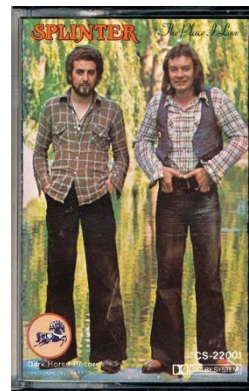
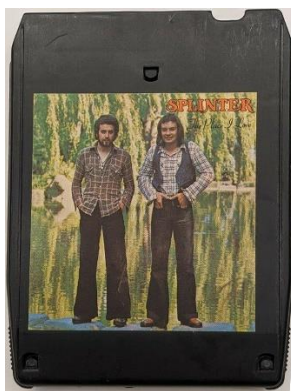
CP DJ



Pitman



Clog Music pub credits



**SP-22001**      **Splinter**      **The Place I Love**

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: October 5, 1974

The Monarch job number is Δ 19284.





Front Cover



Monarch DJ 1



Monarch DJ 2



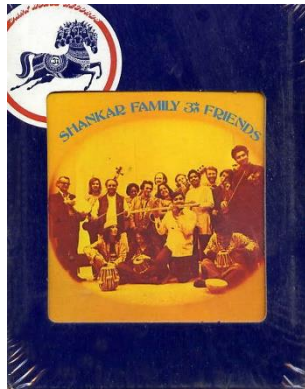
CP DJ



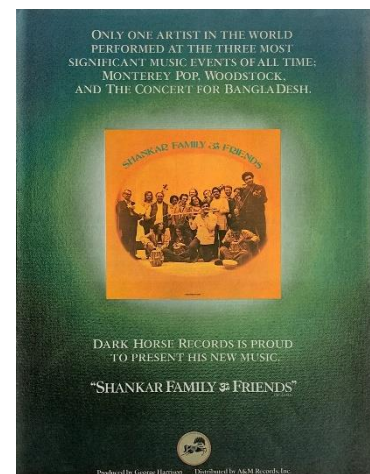
Santa Maria



Columbia, Monarch



Clog Music pub credits



**SP-22002** **Ravi Shankar** **Shankar Family & Friends**  
 First Appearance in Trade Magazines: October 5, 1974  
 The Monarch job number is Δ 19362.

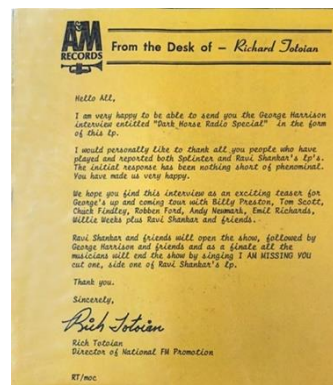
Shortly after the release of the first two albums, as George Harrison was preparing for his latest tour, Dark Horse Records released an interview with George that promoted the new label and its LP releases.

No Cover



Front Cover

Monarch DJ 1



Letter

Elaine Corlett joined with Dark Horse in December 1974, with the intent of serving as a general administrator for the label. Within four months, she resigned. Dark Horse released no albums between October 1974 and October 1975.

## Capitol Fetes Harrison



Bhaskar Menon, chairman, president, and chief executive officer, Capitol Records, Inc., hosted a party in the Executive Suite at the Capitol Tower in honor of Apple Records' (distributed by Capitol) recording star George Harrison, who presented his latest Apple album, "Dark Horse." Also in attendance from Capitol Records were Al Coury, senior vice president, a&r/promotion/artist development; Don Zimmermann, senior vice president, marketing; Bruce Wendell, national promotion manager; Roy Kohara, art director; Dennis Killeen, director, merchandising; Rupert Perry, general manager, a&r; Bob Buziak, executive assistant to Coury; Stu Yahm, executive producer and director of artist development; Bob Dombrowski, national artist relations manager; Phil Caston, national marketing coordination manager; and Patti Wright, national publicity manager. In addition to Capitol personnel, Olivia Arias, Dark Horse Records representative, was present. Pictured (standing, from left) Buziak, Pahm, Menon, Harrison, Arias, Coury, Zimmermann, Wendell, and Perry; (seated, from left) Caston, Kohara, Dombrowski, Wright and Killeen.

**Notice** the presence of Olivia Arias in this 1974 photo. She went on to become Olivia Harrison in 1978.

G. Harrison Int. 1/2

George Harrison

Dark Horse Radio Special

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: November 1974

Although Monarch pressed this record, the matrix indicates no job number.

## Corlett to Dark Horse

■ LOS ANGELES — Effective immediately, Elaine Corlett has been named administrative manager for Dark Horse Records. Just prior to her new position, Ms. Corlett was national artist relations manager at Capitol Records.

In her new post, Ms. Corlett will be responsible for organizing Dark Horse releases through A&M Records and in particular, will coordinate marketing, merchandising and creative services for such releases. She will serve as general administrator for the U.S. office and for a period will screen tapes submitted to Dark Horse.

Ms. Corlett is also devoting much of her time to the supervision of activities as an artist with Capitol Records, as Mr. Harrison's production and record activities are now being administered by Dark Horse, rather than Apple. She is currently working on the marketing/promotional campaign for Harrison's new album, "Dark Horse."

Ms. Corlett will be located at the Los Angeles offices of Dark Horse at A&M Records, 1416 North La Brea Avenue, Hollywood, California.

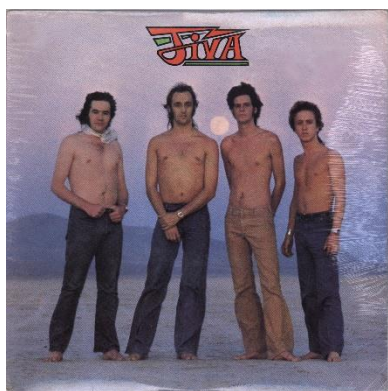


Elaine Corlett

## Corlett Exits Dark Horse

HOLLYWOOD — Elaine Corlett has resigned her post as administrative manager of George Harrison's Dark Horse label, effective immediately. Corlett, who operated out of the Dark Horse A&M offices here will announce her future plans shortly. Previous to being associated with Dark Horse she was national artist relations manager at Capitol Records.





Front Cover



Monarch DJ



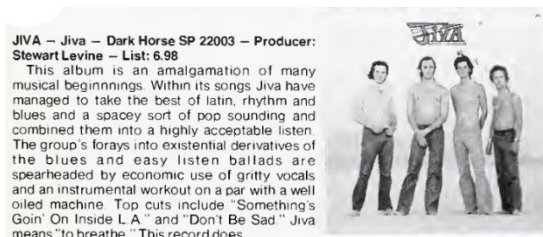
Monarch



Columbia DJ



Columbia



SP-22003

Jiva Jiva

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: October 11, 1975

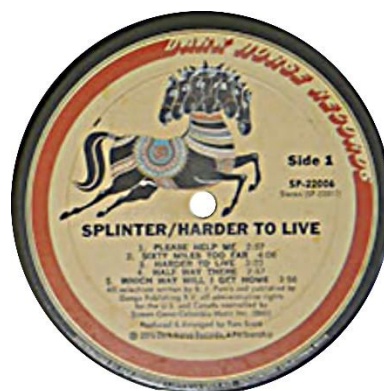
The Monarch job number is Δ 20082.



Front Cover



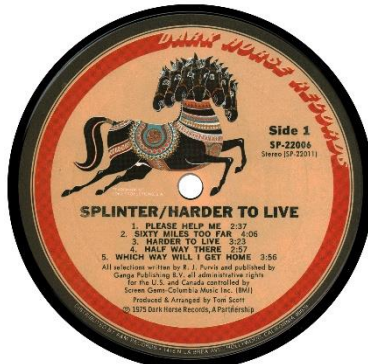
Monarch DJ



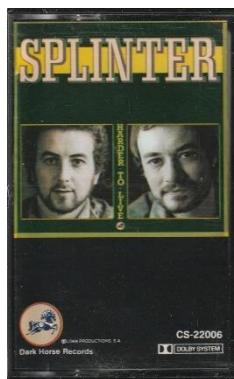
Monarch



Columbia DJ



Columbia



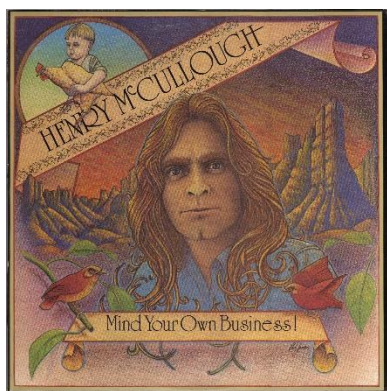
**SPLINTER—Harder To Live**, Dark Horse, SP-22006 (A&M). Second set from the pair that debuted George Harrison's label is another grouping of extremely pretty, acoustically oriented songs highlighted by the duo's fine harmony vocals. Sound at times is like the early days of the British musical invasion, though far more sophisticated. A bit of good hard rock as well, as well as a country flavored cut. The Harrison influence is definitely felt, both vocally and instrumentally. Guests include Harrison, Billy Preston, Jim Keltner and Tom Scott. LP right in the easy rock sound so prevalent today. **Best cuts:** "Sixty Miles Too Far," "Harder To Live," "Which Way Will I Get Home," "Green Line Bus."

**SP-22006**      **Splinter**      **Harder to Live**

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: October 11, 1975

The Monarch job number is Δ 20083.





Front Cover



Monarch DJ



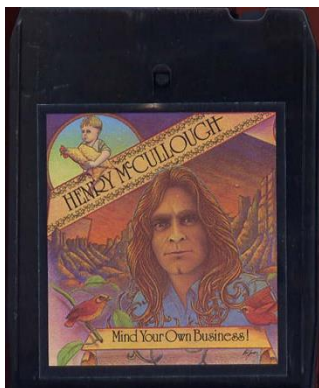
Monarch



Columbia DJ



Columbia



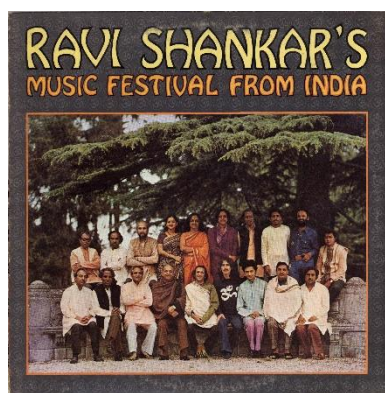
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS – Henry McCullough – Dark Horse SP 22005 – Producer: Henry McCullough & John Jansen – List: 6.98  
 "Mind Your Own Business" is an easy album. There's nothing very overt but the smooth flowing energy of the music strives for and succeeds on a level of music communication. McCullough's laidback vocals and the slow country-blues nature of the music make for a palatable and pleasing to the ear mix. Top listens include "Mind Your Own Business," "Baby What You Do To Me" and "I Can Drive A Car." Musicians and expression are often a twin that do not meet. "Mind Your Own Business" by Henry McCullough is what happens when they do.



**SP-22006 Henry McCullough Mind Your Own Business!**

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: November 1, 1975

The Monarch job number is Δ 20100.



Front Cover



Monarch DJ



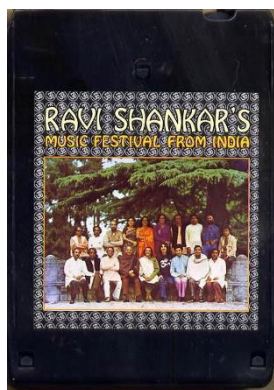
Monarch



Columbia DJ



Columbia



This album was recorded in August-September 1974.



**RAVI SHANKAR'S MUSIC FESTIVAL FROM INDIA**  
 — Ravi Shankar — Dark Horse SP 22007 —  
 Producer: George Harrison — List: 6.98

The spiritual and moving music of India is brought to the west via Ravi Shankar's "Music Festival From India." Shankar and company explore the traditional forms of music as basic percussion and exotic vocals interplay with the classic sitar runs. Production is clear and captures much of the flavor of the music at its purest. Foreign language stations and some FM possibilities here. Top cuts include "Raga Jait," "Dehati," "Nadersani" and some spirited sitar passages on "Tarana."

**SP-22007 Ravi Shankar Music Festival From India**

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: February 21, 1976

The Monarch job number is Δ 20277.





Front Cover



Monarch DJ



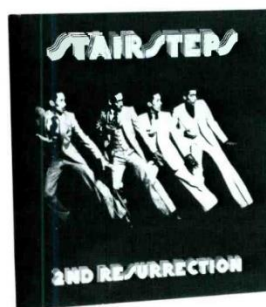
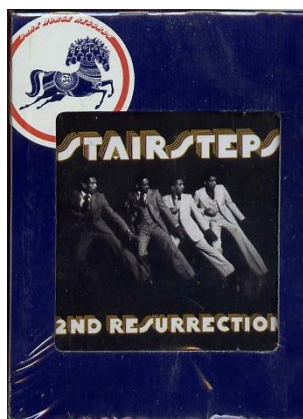
Monarch



Columbia DJ



Columbia



## STAIRSTEPS 2nd Resurrection

SP-22004  
Produced by Billy Preston,  
Robert Margouleff and Stairsteps

## ATTITUDES Attitudes

SP-22008  
Produced by Lee Kiefer  
and Attitudes



BLOKA PRODUCTIONS, S.A.



# TWO INCREDIBLE NEW ALBUMS ON DARK HORSE RECORDS & TAPES

Distributed by A&M Records, Inc.

SP-22004 **Stairsteps** **2nd Resurrection**

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: February 14, 1976

The Monarch job number is Δ 20291.



Front Cover



Monarch DJ



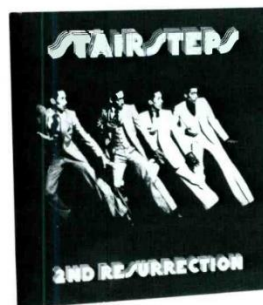
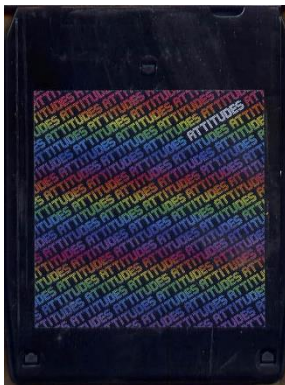
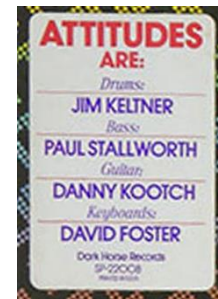
Monarch



Columbia DJ



Columbia



## STAIRSTEPS 2nd Resurrection

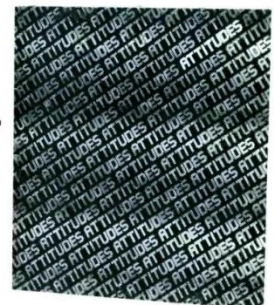
SP 22004  
Produced by Billy Preston,  
Robert Margouloff and Stairsteps

## ATTITUDES Attitudes

SP 22008  
Produced by Lee Kiefer  
and Attitudes



DARK HORSE RECORDS, S.A.



# TWO INCREDIBLE NEW ALBUMS ON DARK HORSE RECORDS & TAPES

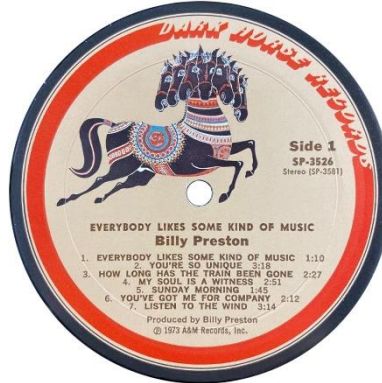
Distributed by A&M Records, Inc.

SP-22008 **Attitudes** **Attitudes**

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: February 21, 1976

The Monarch job number is not known.



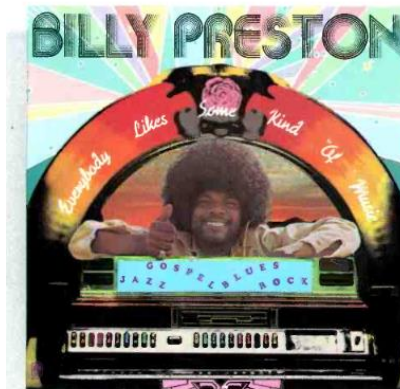


**Dark Horse Pressing**



**Original Pressing**

Around the time when Billy Preston was working on his tenth studio album, *It's My Pleasure*, Billy and George Harrison considered seeing whether A&M Records would be amenable to moving some of Billy's back catalog over to Dark Horse. Labels were printed and used, but the project was scrapped. To date, only one copy is known to exist of this record with Dark Horse labels, and no copies of his other A&M records are known on Dark Horse.



**BILLY PRESTON**  
Everybody Likes Some Kind of Music (SP 3526)  
With a title like that, Billy's got everything covered.  
(As if he didn't already.) Includes "Space Race"  
(Produced by Billy Preston)

**SP-3526**      **Billy Preston**      **Everybody Likes Some Kind of Music**  
First Appearance in Trade Magazines: September 29, 1973

One of the key features of the contract between Dark Horse Records and A&M Records was the provision for A&M to release records by George Harrison after his departure from EMI in early 1976. When Harrison signed with A&M on May 15, 1974, they understood that they would be able to release Harrison solo albums as soon as the former Beatle's contract with EMI expired. A&M's position was that they would release other artists on Dark Horse, but they were due from Harrison a total of four albums of new material – the first of which would be available by July 25, 1976. George himself had chosen that date. He had planned to release his next album on or about June 26<sup>th</sup>, which was George's 33 1/3 birthday. The date of July 25<sup>th</sup> gave him an extra month to complete the project.

Although George started recording on May 24<sup>th</sup>, he began to feel as though he had food poisoning. Instead, that turned out to be a case of Hepatitis B, which George battled for most of the summer. When the deadline for submission passed, A&M quickly pointed out that George now owed them the return of the advance that they had paid him – which counted as a loan (under the terms of the contract). George completed the recordings for the album on September 13<sup>th</sup> and would have it ready for his 33 2/3 birthday. He met with A&M executives in Los Angeles on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Harrison said later that he believed that his relationship with A&M was being "rebuilt" during those talks. However, A&M was shocked to learn that on September 24<sup>th</sup>, Dark Horse cleaned out their offices in the A&M building without telling anyone at the parent company what was going on.

That action signaled to A&M an intent by Harrison to renege on his contract, and they filed suit against him on September 28<sup>th</sup>. His attorneys responded on the 29<sup>th</sup>, and the matter went to court. While the matter was being litigated, George took the opportunity to shop Dark Horse around. He met with Mo Ostin of Warner Brothers Records, and on November 1<sup>st</sup>, Warner Brothers announced that they were going to throw a party for George to celebrate his signing with the label. The party was timed to coincide with the conclusion of the legal case on November 15<sup>th</sup> – at which point George had agreed to repay the advances to A&M and was free to turn Dark Horse over to Warner Brothers.



**DARK HORSE FINDS A NEW HOME:** Principals involved in the agreement between George Harrison's Dark Horse Records and Warner Bros. Records include: (bottom, left to right) Dennis Morgan, Dark Horse Label Manager; Warner Bros. Board Chairman and President Mo Ostin; George Harrison; Warner Bros. Vice President and Director of National Promotion Russ Thyret. Top row, left to right: Tom Draper, Warner Bros. Vice President and Director of Black Music Marketing; Bob Cato, Dark Horse Creative Consultant; Ed Rosenblatt, Warner Bros. Vice President and Director of Promotion and Sales; Warner Bros. Executive Vice President and Director of Creative Services Stan Cornyn; Bob Regehr, Warner's Vice President and Director of Artist Development.

Warner's placed Dark Horse records in their main series. At the time, their prefixing used two letters. Dark Horse albums had a DH- prefix.

## George Harrison And Dark Horse Couldn't Resist Mo And His Big Button.

Warner Bros. Records Button Master Mo Ostin was, therefore, tickled near to ecstasy when he learned that George Harrison's Dark Horse Records wanted most to be distributed by Warner's Worldwide.

One might ask why.

Mr. Harrison knows why. Here he explains this sudden turn of events:

"There's no doubt in my mind that Mo Ostin pushes the biggest button in the business. I've seen Mo's button. I've actually touched it, and he uses it well!"

We feel certain that George is aware that the reason Mo's button is so big is that the sales of Mo's distribution company, Warner/Elektra/Atlantic, surpass the

sales of any other record company. A performance that should prove to be instrumental in the success of Dark Horse Records' artists: Attitudes, Kenny Burke, Splinter and Stairsteps.

"Every year for five years they've broken their own sales record... can't be bad, Squire!" says George.



The Dark Horse Records/Warner Bros. distribution pact is celebrated by George Harrison's debut single, scheduled for release imminently with the album hot on its heels.

And Harrison, who just turned 33 & 1/3 years old, leans back on Mo's sofa and asks, "Did you know MO spelled backwards is OM?" Come visit Dark Horse in Burbank.

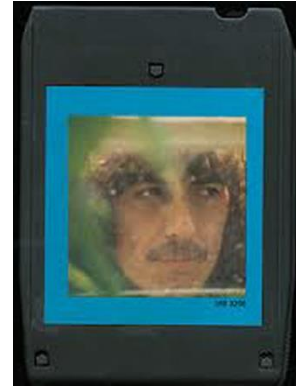


BUENA VISTA RECORDS S.A.

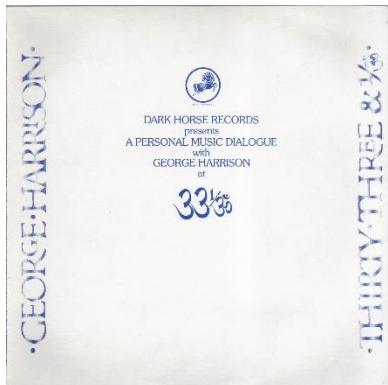
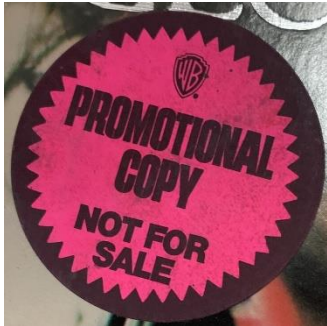
**Distributed by the people  
with the Biggest Button in the Business.**

A Warner Communications Company





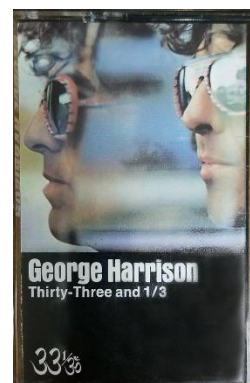
Capitol: LA; Jax; Winchester



PRO-649

George Harrison

*A Personal Music Dialogue With George Harrison*

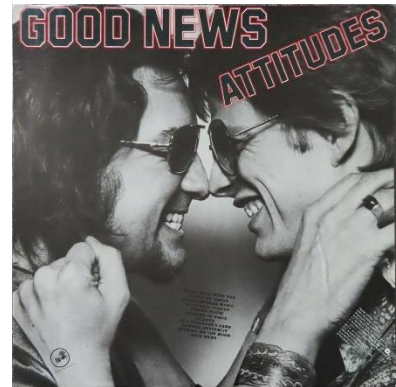


DH-3005

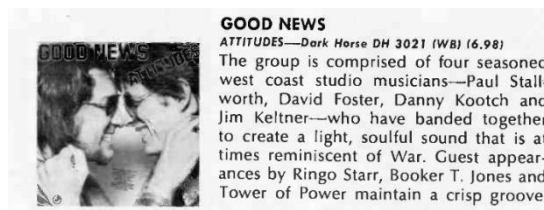
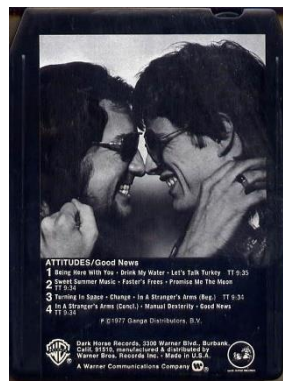
George Harrison

*Thirty-Three and 1/3*

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: November 27, 1976.



Capitol: LA; Jax; Winchester



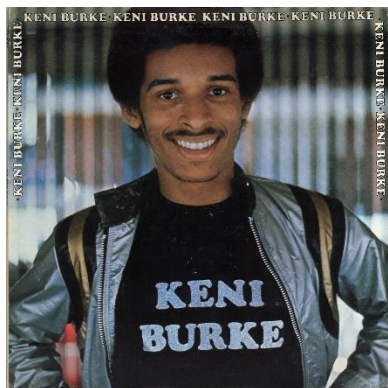
DH-3021

Attitudes

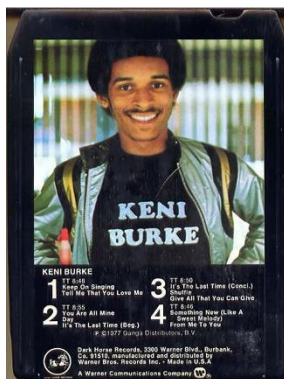
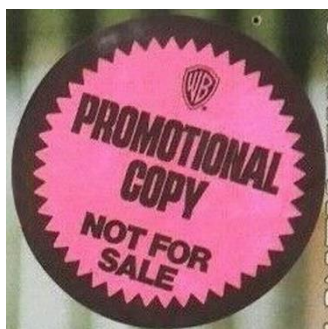
Good News

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: May 14, 1977.





Capitol: LA; Jax; Winchester



#### KENI BURKE

**KENI BURKE—Dark Horse DH 3022 (WB) (6.98)**

Perhaps better known as a member of the Stairsteps, Burke steps out as a talented tunesmith and multi-instrumentalist, handling bass, guitar and electronic key-boards. The self-produced set is highlighted by the perky "Keep On Singing," and "You Are All Mine."

**DH-3022**

**Keni Burke**

**Keni Burke**

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: September 3, 1977.



Capitol: LA; Jax; Winchester

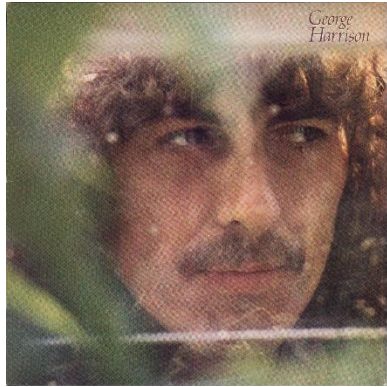


**TWO MAN BAND**  
**SPLINTER—Dark Horse DH 3073 (WB) (6.98)**  
 The duo of Bill Elliott and Bob Purvis purvey a sweet pop sound that at times is reminiscent of the Sutherland Brothers and Quiver ("Black Friday," "Little Girl"). "Round & Round," a song penned by Parker McGee (who also adds guitar), could give them their biggest hit since "Costafine Town."



**DH-3073      *Splinter*      *Two Man Band***  
 First Appearance in Trade Magazines: October 15, 1977.

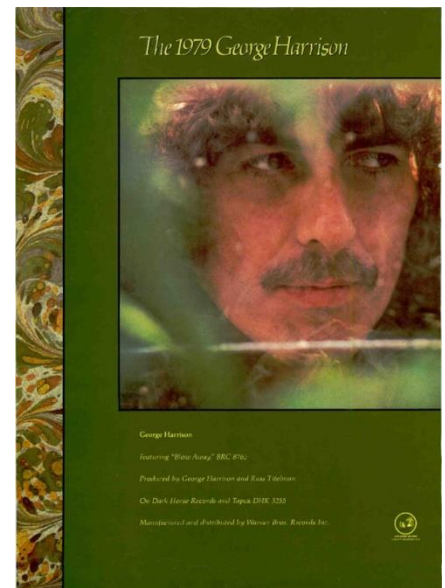
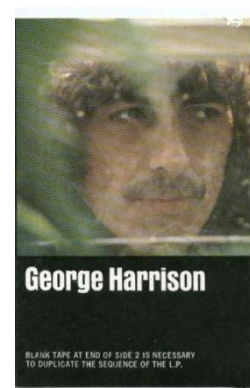
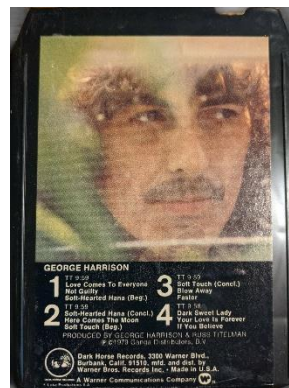
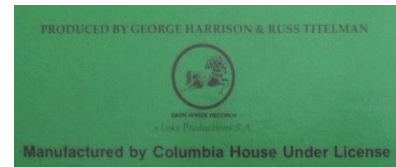
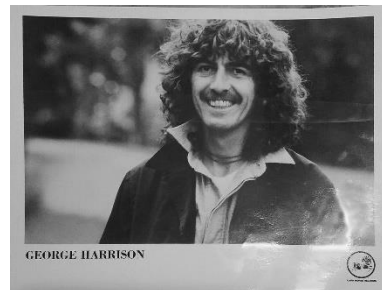




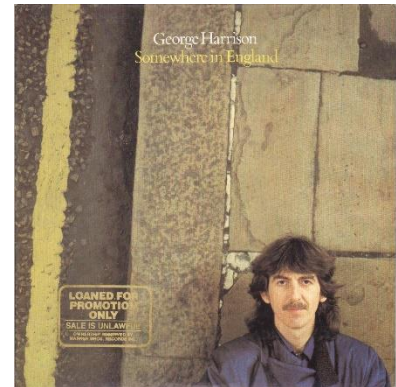
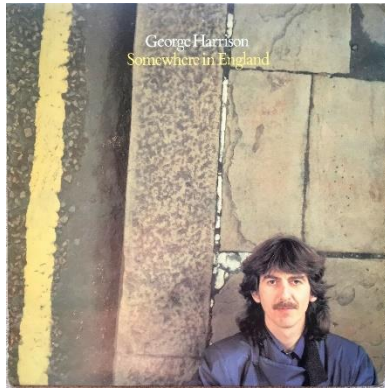
Capitol: LA; Jax; Winchester



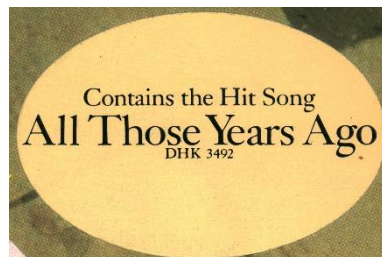
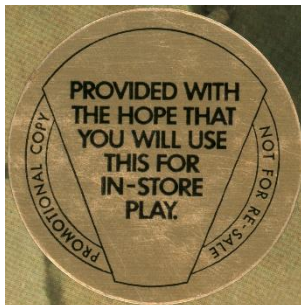
Columbia Record Club



DHK-3255 **George Harrison** **George Harrison**  
First Appearance in Trade Magazines: February 24, 1979



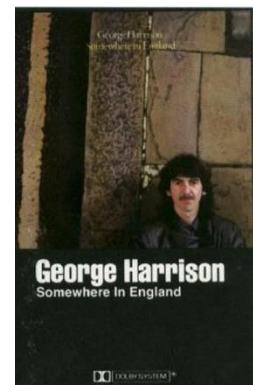
**Allied (ARC), Specialty**



In November 1967, Mark Boyle produced one of a series of conceptual studies. He later published these studies in volumes known as *Journey to the Surface of the Earth*. The study of interest was one of 100 randomly-selected parts of London. This one was located on Holland Park Avenue near Norland Road; it is known simply as "Holland Park Avenue Study." The original work of art has been in the Tate Gallery since 1969. Famously, George is photographed in front of it on the cover to his 1981 LP.

George originally completed the album in September 1980, but Warner Brothers found it not suitable for release. George needed to remove some tracks and make the album more commercial.

The label also rejected the dark cover art, prompting George to select Mark Boyle's image. One of the songs that George added to the album was "Blood from a Clone," and upbeat-sounding song about his struggles with Warner Brothers.

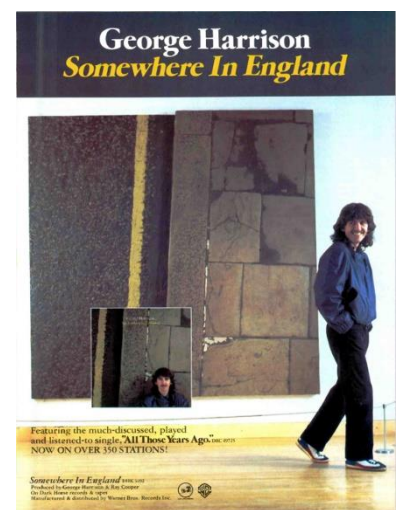


**DHK-3492**

**George Harrison *Somewhere in England***

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: June 20, 1981

The Allied job numbers are B-15669 and B-15670.



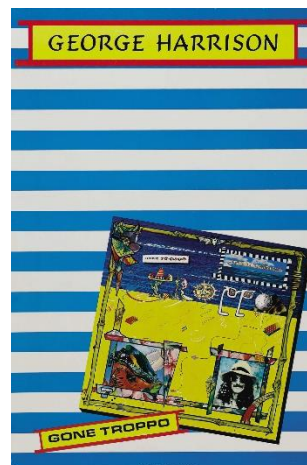




GEORGE HARRISON—Gone Troppo, Dark Horse 23734 (Warner Bros.). Produced by George Harrison, Ray Cooper & Phil McDonald. Harrison's sunny lyricism shines brightest when least encumbered by self-consciousness, and here that equation yields a breezy, deceptively eclectic charmer. While the opening song and first single, "Wake Up My Love," nods to techno-pop through its synthesizer-drenched arrangement, elsewhere the title's playful island mood prompts a gentler, lilting pace that hints Harrison may be taking some astute pointers from Ry Cooder's recent work.

**Allied (ARC); Specialty;  
Capitol Jax, Winchester**

This was the fourth album for George on Dark Horse. It would have concluded his contract with A&M; instead, it finished out his contract with Warner Brothers.



**1-23734**

**George Harrison**

**Gone Troppo**

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: November 13, 1982

The Allied job numbers are B-17210 and B-17211. Also Sheffield number Δ-2628.

Peaked at #67 (*Cash Box*) and #108 (*Billboard*).

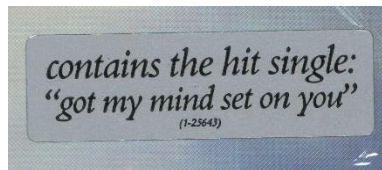


**Allied (ARC); Specialty;  
Capitol Jax, Winchester**

**RCA Record Club**



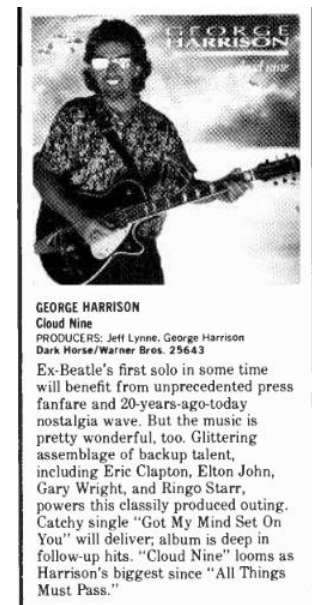
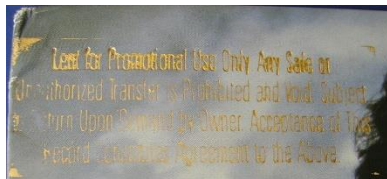
**Columbia Record Club**



**Sticker**

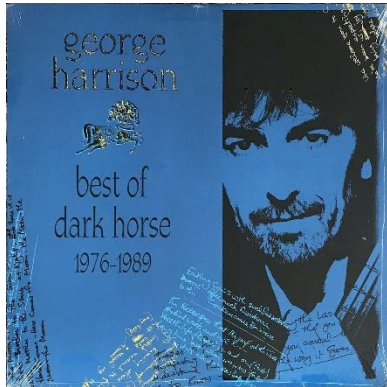


**Standup**



**25643-1**      **George Harrison**      **Cloud Nine**  
First Appearance in Trade Magazines: November 14, 1987





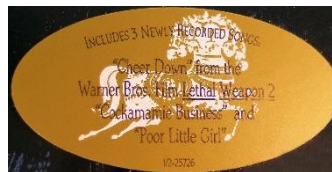
Specialty



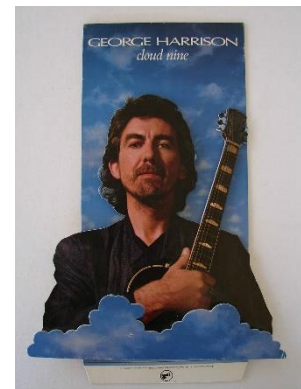
RCA Record Club



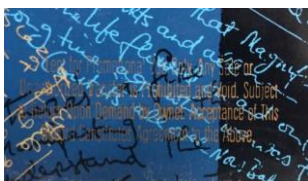
Columbia Record Club



Sticker



Standup



**1-25726** **George Harrison** **Best of Dark Horse 1976-1989**  
First Appearance in Trade Magazines: November 11, 1989