

Ross Russell opened the Tempo Music Shop on Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles in 1945. By the end of the year, he was publishing his own newsletter, *Jazz Tempo*. The following spring, he started up his Dial label, signing Charlie Parker, "the Bird," and other jazzmen to recording contracts. His plan at the time was to devote recordings to bebop jazz, but the plan eventually expanded to include historical jazz and contemporary classical music. Parker moved to New York in the middle of 1947, and Russell's Dial Records followed him, continuing to release modern jazz records. Although Russell stopped recording new jazz in 1948, he continued to release jazz recordings on Dial through 1953. In spring 1954, Russell sold his jazz recordings to Concert Hall Records (run by the Josefowitz brothers).

Charlie Parker Waxes For Dial

Los Angeles—Ross Russell, Tempo Music Shop proprietor, who launched his new Dial label with Dizzy Gillespie offers, is continuing in ultra-modern path by signing alto-man Charlie Parker to exclusive waxing pact. Agreement gives Parker guarantee of 12 Dial sides during this year and free hand in selection of musicians and material. Parker, for his first session, planned to use Miles Davis, trumpet (from Benny Carter); Lucky Thompson, tenor; Dodo Marmarosa, piano; Jackie Milles, drums; Arv Garrison, guitar; Red Callender, bass.

'Bird' Parker Working Again

Los Angeles—Charlie Parker has been released from the California sanitarium after several months confinement. He suffered a nervous breakdown here last fall.

The be-bop altoist had no immediate plans, but it is likely he will return to New York after a couple of recording sessions for Dial with Howard McGhee.

McGhee has had Parker working with him recently and he says "Bird" is playing as well as ever.

Dial Back Covers

For most releases, Dial employed only “generic” back cover designs – rather than covers that were devoted to the specific album release.

Blank Back

Single-color back cover with no print. These were used prior to 1952 and intermittently afterward.

Cover 206

This cover shows only Dial 201 through 206 as being available from the label.

Printed in 1952.

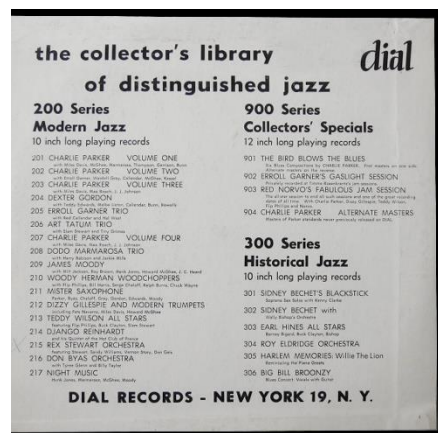


Cover 217

The cover lists through 217 in the Modern Jazz series, through 904 in the twelve-inch special series, and 306 in the Historical Jazz series. Album 306 was still in the planning stage. The slick shows it as an album by Big Bill Broonzy; that album was never released. Printed in 1953.

Cover 219

The cover lists through 219 in the Modern Jazz series, through 905 in the twelve-inch special series, and 306 in the Historical Jazz series. Album 306 is the correct album by Earl Hines. Album 219 was a planned release by Lou Ann Williams that never came out. Printed from late 1953 to 1954.



Dial Label Styles

Label 49

Yellow label with DIAL in thin print at the top.



Label 50

Black-and-red (classical) or salmon and yellow (jazz) label with stylized “dial” in the upper left.

Reportedly, David Stone Martin – who designed many jazz album covers – created the design for Design’s Label 50.

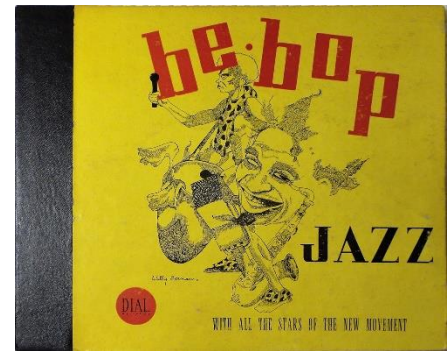


Be-Bop Jazz

Charlie Parker

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: December 2, 1946

D-1

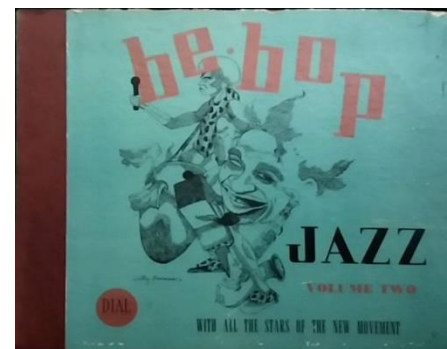
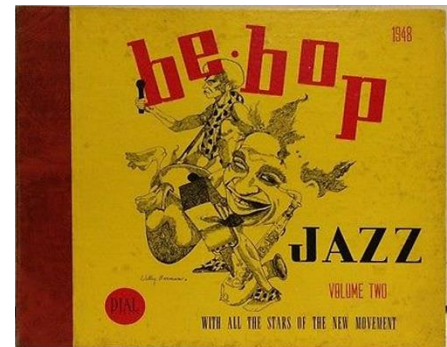


Be-Bop Jazz, Volume Two

Charlie Parker

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: March 10, 1948

D-2



DLP-1 / LP-901

Charlie Parker

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: June 3, 1949

Label 49



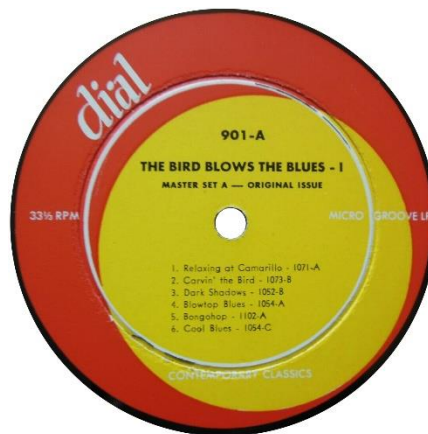
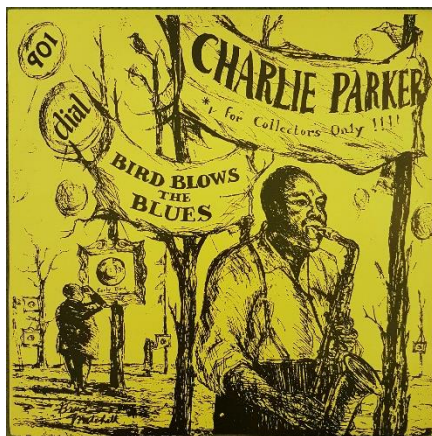
Charlie Parker
Relaxing at Camarillo
Carvin the Bird
Dark Shadows
Blontop Blues
Rongobop
Cool Blues

Album Rating—♪♪♪

This is Dial records' first LP side, with 13 tracks by Bird (3 of *Relaxing*, two each of the others). All of these records have been previously issued, and, while with the additional takes it is interesting stuff for students of Parker, it still is an expensive buy for the music involved. Then, too, Ross Russell has annoyingly coupled these so that there is no complete previous record on the LP platter. Thus, you can't replace present records in your collection with the LP, and if you want the other side of a disc with one dubbed on this platter, you have to shell out a buck for a record, one side of which you already have. This may be smart salesmanship, but I think in the long run it will diminish, rather than increase, Dial's sales. (Dial LP 1.)



This album, the first twelve-inch Jazz album, came out in 1949 with no cover. At first, it was numbered DLP-1, but by December, Dial had changed the number to 901. Some copies from 1950 were on red vinyl. It was reissued with a cover in 1952, and in 1953 Dial created a more artistic cover for the monumental album.



Gaslight

Erroll Garner

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: December 31, 1949

Label 49



LP-902

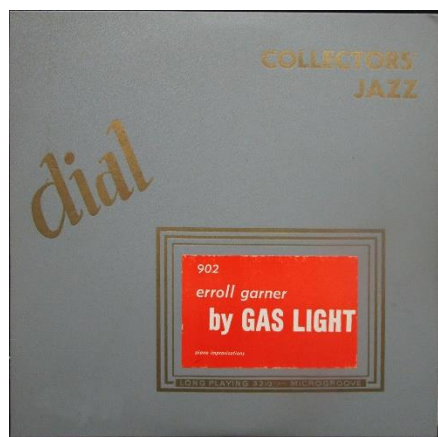
GASLIGHT—Erroll Garner (1-12")
Dial (33) 902

62

"Cloudburst," "Variations on a Nursery Rhyme," "In the Beginning," "Easy To Love." The piano stylings of Erroll Garner have, of late, proven to be commercially pleasing. His etchings, mainly of standards, on many labels have attained reasonably healthy figures. This 12-inch long play diskling will undoubtedly sell a number of copies to those who have found Garner to their liking. But these probably will find this record quite disappointing. It consists of four lengthy and windy piano solos etched by Timmie Rosenkrantz, Danish jazz entrepreneur, at one of his "Gaslight" sessions. These etchings, tho they have a moment here and there of fine jazz, sound like a guy sitting in a living room who is toying with a keyboard to figure out the execution of a couple of ideas he has. The result, on this diskling, is hardly satisfying and not worthy of 40 minutes of listening time.

JUKES
Not suitable.

JOCKS
Lengthy piano solos of abstract living room jazz for purist.



This second twelve-inch jazz album appeared on the market at the end of 1949, again with no cover. Some copies from 1950 were on red vinyl. It was reissued with a cover in 1952.

Bartok: Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion

Masselos, Ajemian, Goodman, and Marcus

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: March 4, 1950

LP-1

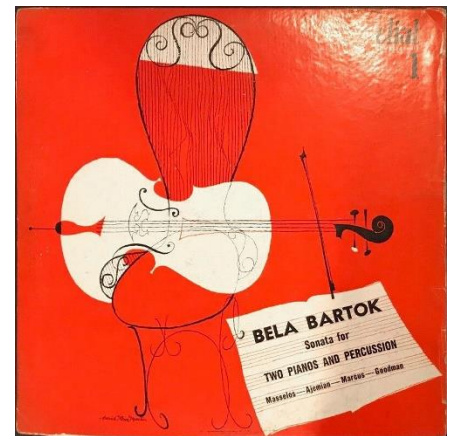
Label 50



Dial Embarks On LP Classics

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—Dial Records, pioneer pop indie, is embarked on an intensive program of contemporary classical recording on L.P. Aiming at a coterie market, the waxery is concentrating on avant garde composers which most of the larger waxeries find profitable to avoid. Already released on Dial are Bartok's *Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion* and Schoenberg's *Kammersymphonie*.

The next scheduled release will be Schoenberg's *Third Quartet* and Alban Berg's *Lyric Suite*. More diskings of the above-mentioned modern three are in the works, along with John Cage's "Prepared" piano works, Webern, Messiaen, Jolivet, Dellapiccola and Hovhanness. Future plans also include samplings of Hindemith, Charles Ives, Milhaud, Satie and other contemporary leaders.



Dial's second album numbered 1 inaugurated their classical series. Two albums came out immediately in February 1950. The series continued through LP-20 in early 1952.

Charlie Parker (Vol. 1)

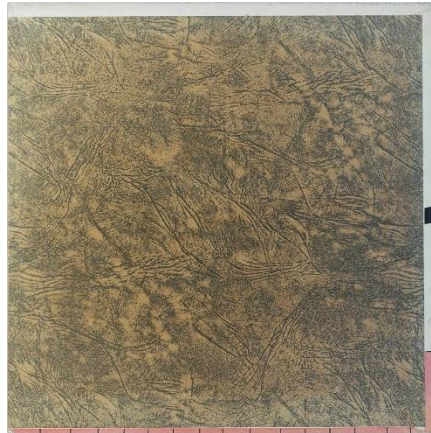
LP-201

Charlie Parker

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: No Show

Released 1950

Label 56



First released with a colorful, but blank, back cover.

Later released with back cover 206, back cover 217, and back cover 219.

Series 201 were ten-inch albums. Almost all of the music in the series was recorded in 1946 and 1947, and many had been Dial singles. For this reason, the broad trade magazines (*Billboard* and *Cash Box*) did not announce the release of most of them – as their habit was with compilation albums and reissues.

Charlie Parker (Vol. 2)

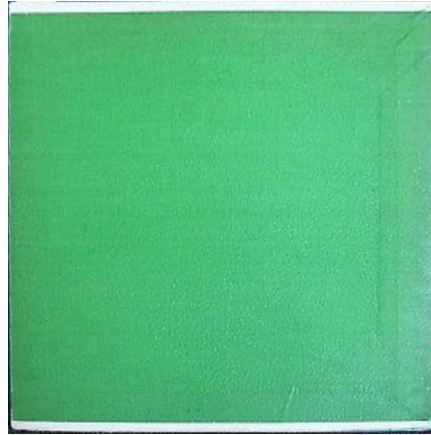
LP-202

Charlie Parker

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: No Show

Released 1950

Label 50



First released with a colorful, but blank, back cover.

Later released with back cover 206, back cover 217, and back cover 219.

Charlie Parker (Vol. 3)

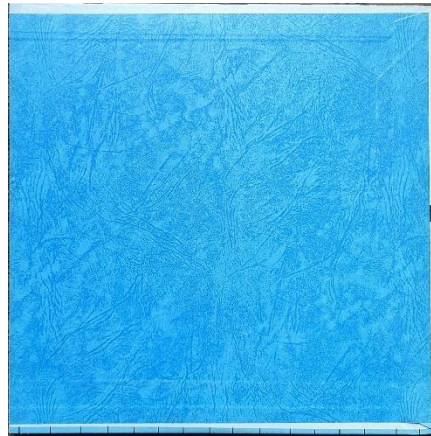
LP-203

Charlie Parker

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: No Show

Released 1950

Label 50



First released with a colorful, but blank, back cover.

Later released with back cover 206, back cover 217, and back cover 219.

Dexter Gordon

LP-204

Dexter Gordon

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: No Show

Released 1950

Label 50



First released with a blank back cover.

Later released with back cover 206.

Cocktail Time

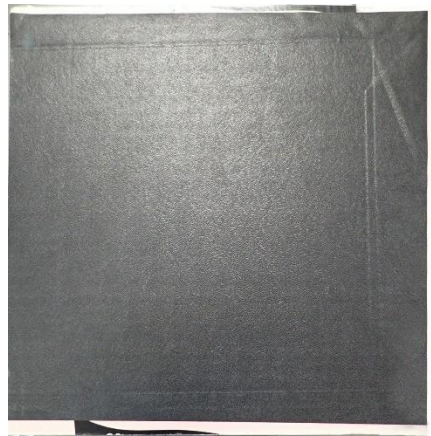
LP-205

Erroll Garner

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: No Show

Released c. 1951

Label 50



First released with a blank back cover.

Later released with back cover 206.

Art Tatum Trio

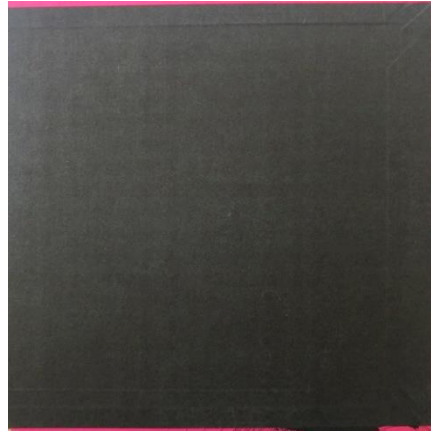
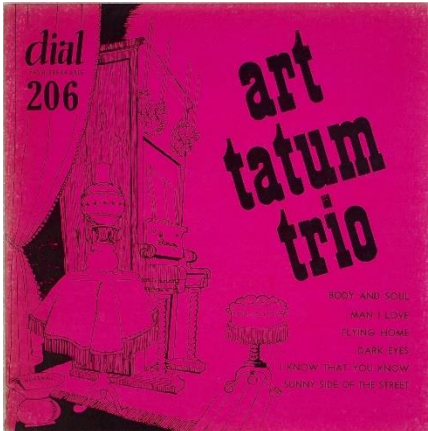
LP-206

Erroll Garner

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: No Show

Released c. 1951

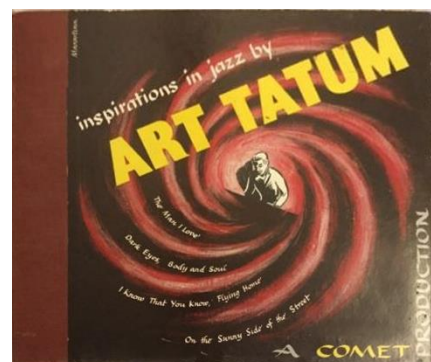
Label 50



First released with a blank back cover.

Later released with back cover 206.

This is a reissue of Comet Album 2 (released October 1946), which material Tatum recorded in 1944.



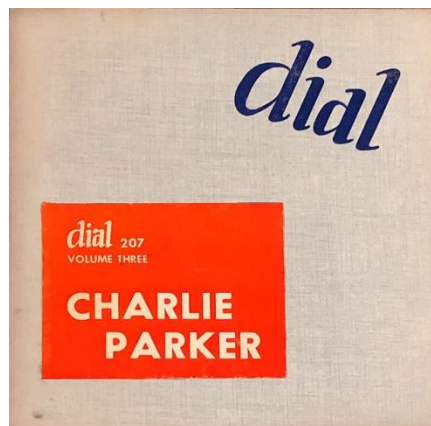
Charlie Parker (Vol. 4)

Charlie Parker

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: No Show
Released 1951

LP-207

Label 50



First released with a colorful, but blank, back cover.

Later released with back cover 206, back cover 217, and back cover 219.

The second front cover dates to 1952, when most Dial releases had a common design. It mistakenly refers to this album as "Volume Three," when it is the fourth volume.

Piano Moods

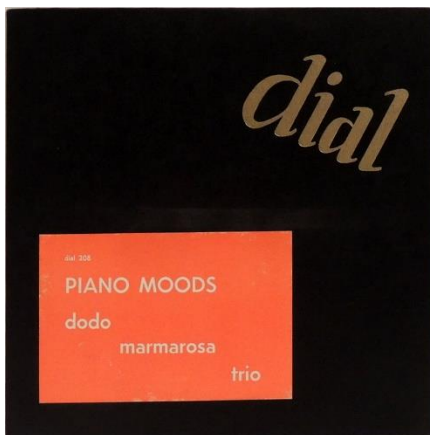
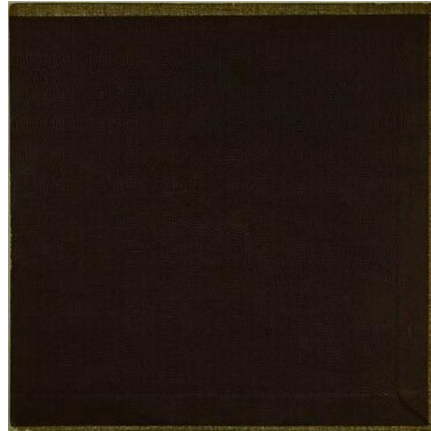
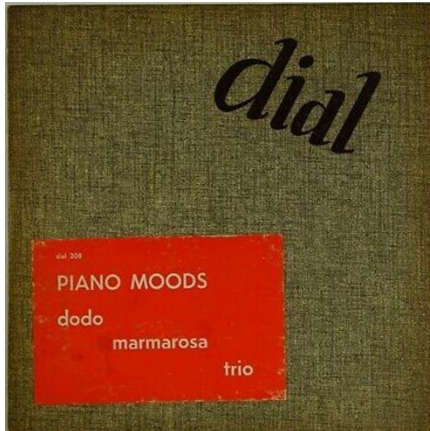
LP-208

Dodo Marmarosa

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: No Show

Released 1952

Label 50



First released with a colorful, but blank, back cover.

Later released with back cover 217.

At about this time, Dial began to print back cover 206.

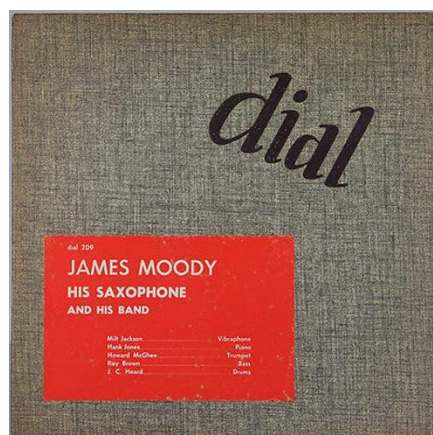
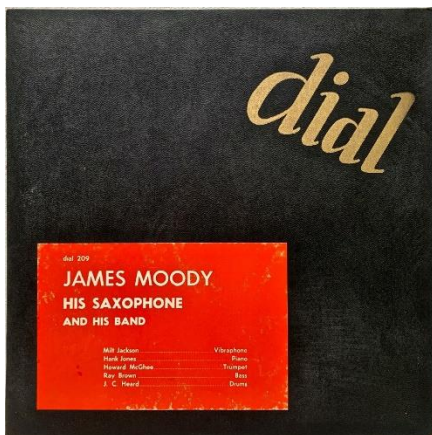
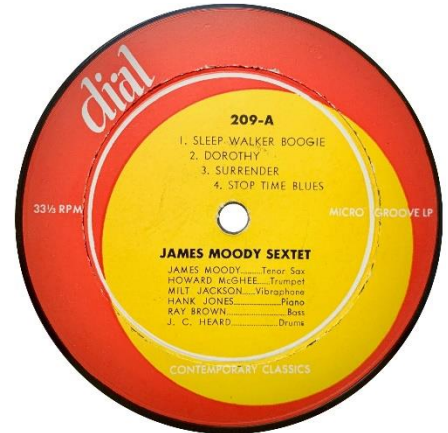
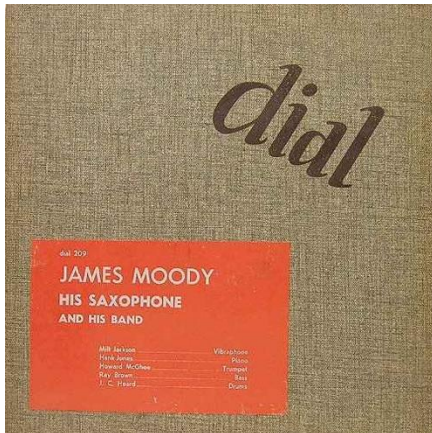
His Saxophone and His Band

LP-209

James Moody

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: No Show
Released 1952

Label 50



First released with back cover 206.

Swinging

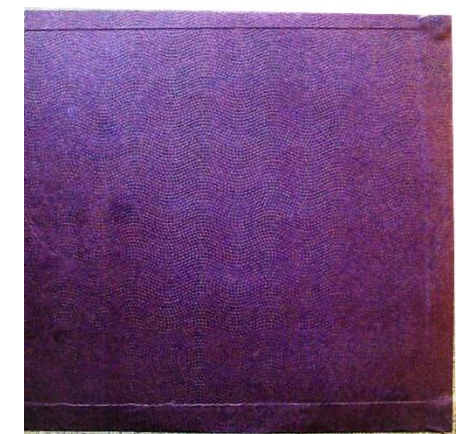
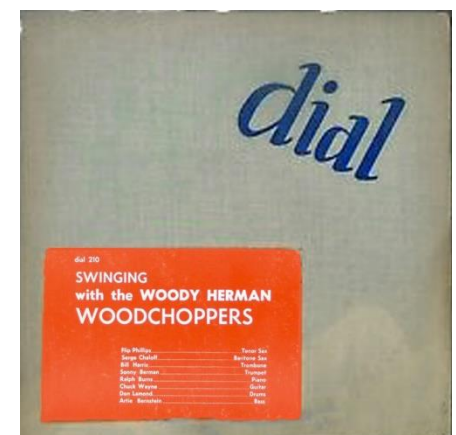
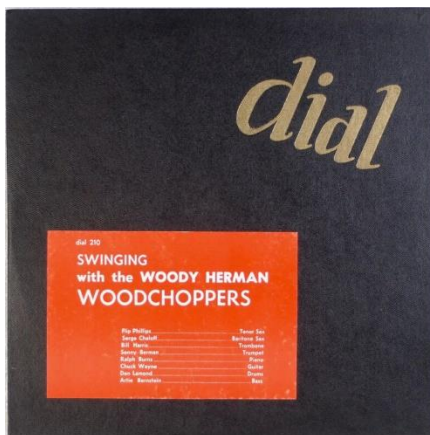
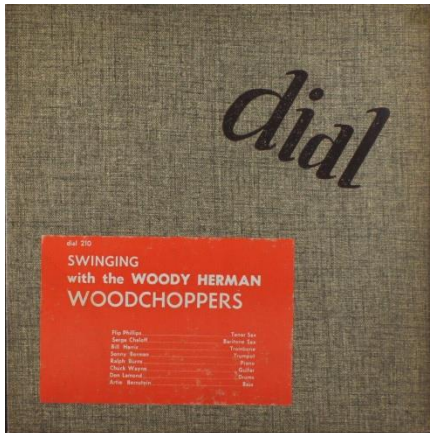
LP-210

The Woody Herman Woodchoppers

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: No Show

Released 1952

Label 50



First released with either back cover 206 or a blank back cover.
Later released with back cover 217, and back cover 219.

Mr. Saxophone...?

The Saxophones

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: No Show
Released 1952

LP-211

Label 50



First released with back cover 206.

Later released with back cover 217.

Dizzy Gillespie and Modern Trumpets

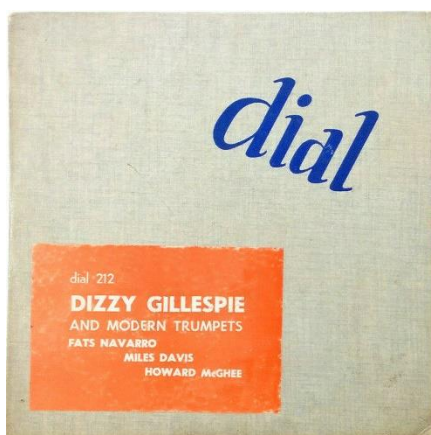
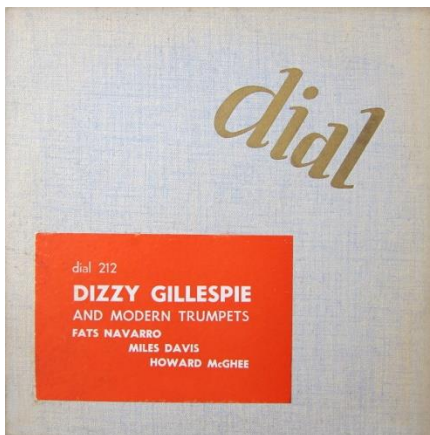
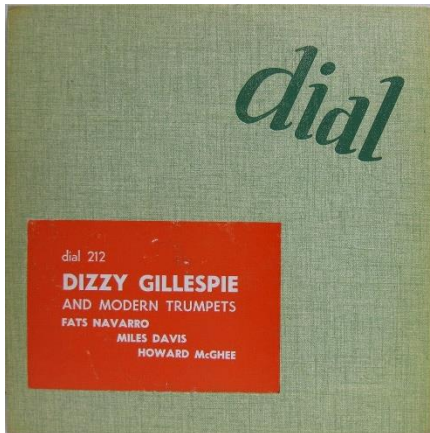
LP-212

Dizzy Gillespie

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: No Show

Released 1953

Label 50



First released with either back cover 206 or a blank back cover.

Later released with back cover 217.

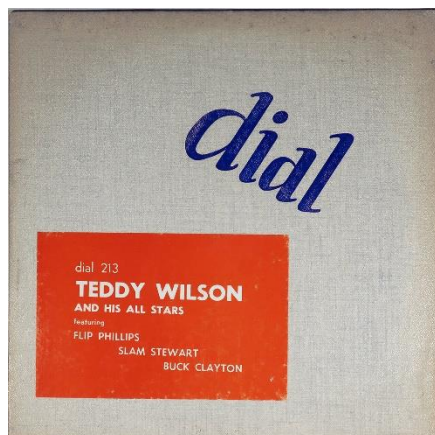
Teddy Wilson and his All Stars

LP-213

Teddy Wilson

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: No Show
Released 1953

Label 50



First released with either back cover 206.

The Quintet of the French Hot Club

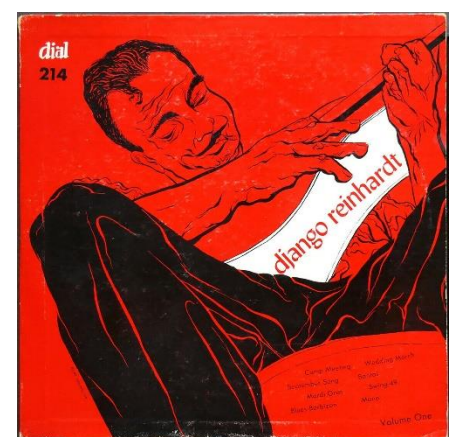
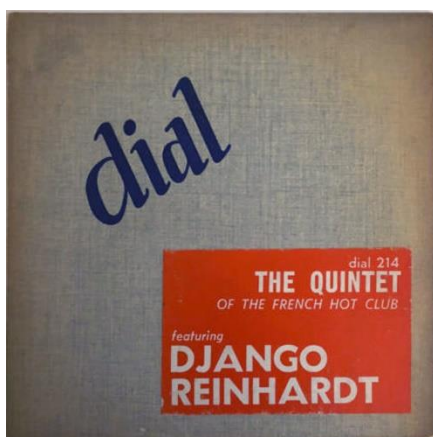
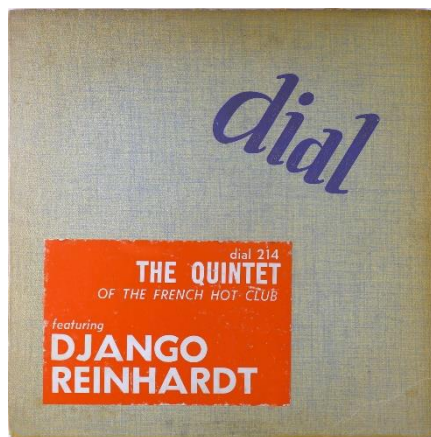
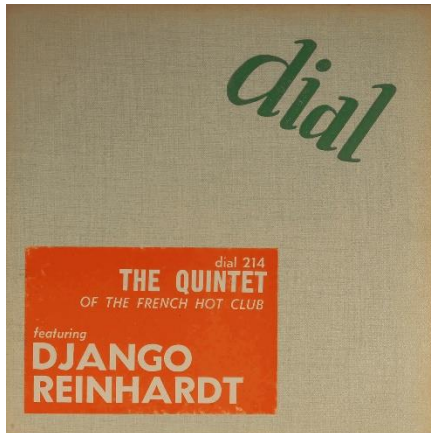
LP-214

Django Reinhardt

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: July 29, 1953

Released summer 1953

Label 50



First released with a blank back cover.

Later released with back cover 217, and back cover 219.

The second front cover came out in late 1953, along with album 218.

1946-7 sides . . . Quintet of Hot Club of France—★★★ (Dial 214) . . . Some relatively recent Django Reinhardt, with clarinet and rhythm . . . Sidney Bechet—★★

Ellingtonia

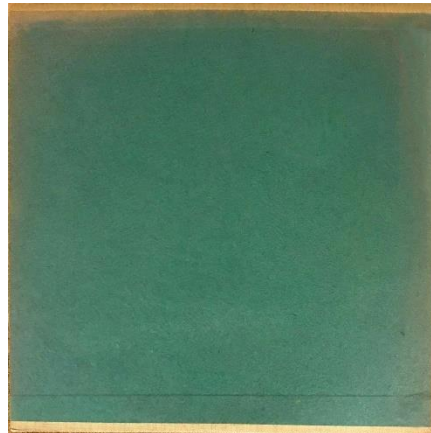
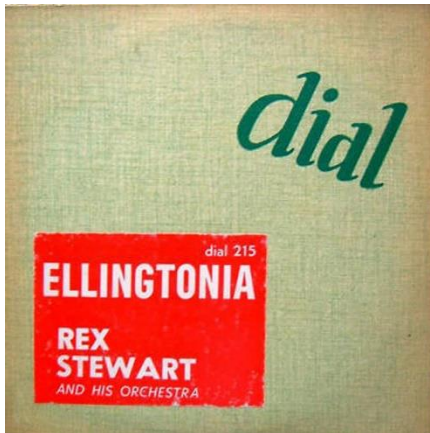
LP-215

Rex Stewart and his Orchestra

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: No Show

Released summer 1953

Label 50



First released with a blank back cover.

Later released with back cover 217.

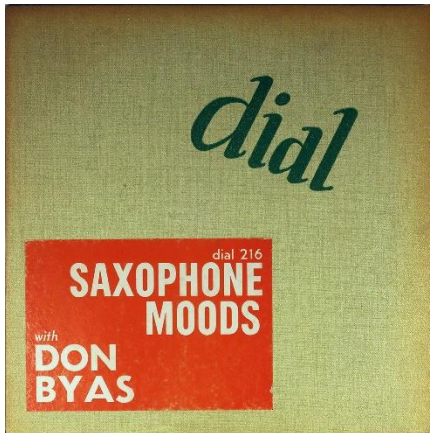
Saxophone Moods

Don Byas

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: No Show
Released fall 1953

LP-216

Label 50



First released with a back cover 206.

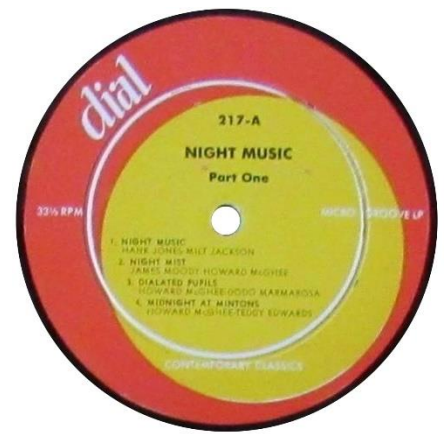
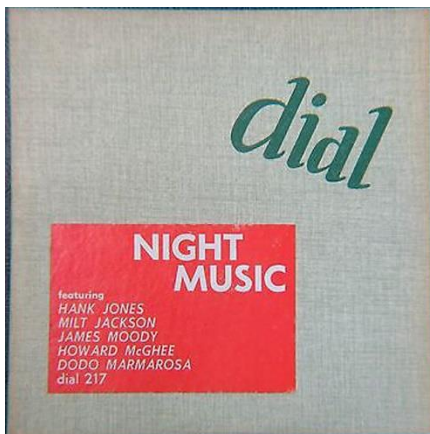
Night Music

LP-217

Hank Jones, et. al.

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: No Show
Released fall 1953

Label 50



First released with a blank back cover.
Later released with back cover 217, and back cover 219.

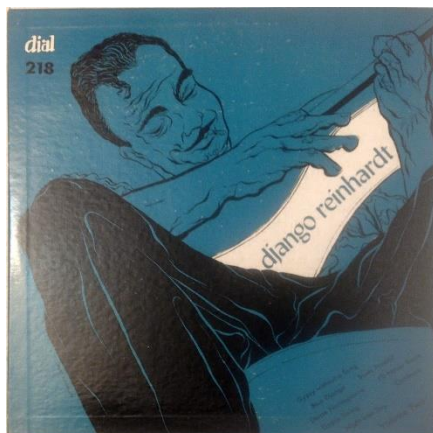
Django Reinhardt (Vol. 2)

Django Reinhardt

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: December 16, 1953

Released December 1953

Label 50



First released with a back cover 217.

Later released with back cover 219.

Mary Lou Williams

Mary Lou Williams

First Appearance in Trade Magazines: No Show

Withdrawn

LP-219

