

Fantasy Records

The story of Fantasy begins with Jack Sheedy, a man who was never associated with Fantasy. Sheedy was a trombone player who had been part of the Rainy City Jazz Band in Seattle, when they recorded for the local Exner label at the end of 1947. By 1949 he was in the San Francisco Bay area, fronting his own jazz band. Jack Sheedy's Dixieland Jazz recorded four sides – intended for local release. For this purpose he formed the Coronet record label, which contracted with a local pressing plant, the Circle Record Company, to make copies of his singles. These were:

"Down in Jungletown"/ "Gambler's Blues"	Coronet J-101
"Tiger Rag"/ "Lady Maud's Dream"	Coronet J-102

That September, Sheedy was approached by a piano player named Dave Brubeck, who hoped to record his trio and to release their recordings on his Coronet label. At an expense to Sheedy of \$350, the Brubeck Trio recorded four songs for two singles. The singles were:

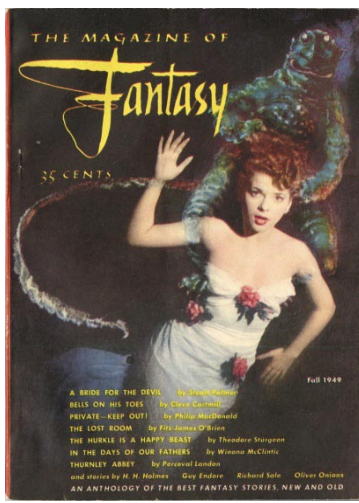
"Laura"/ "Indiana"	Coronet 103
"Blue Moon"/ "Tea for Two"	Coronet 104

Coronet released the two singles to modest success, and Brubeck had difficulty getting paid for their sales – although the recordings were earning a degree of acclaim for the trio. The records were popular locally, in Seattle, and in Portland – where the Dave Brubeck Trio performed. According to Brubeck himself, "Jack Sheedy wouldn't pay me so I could pay Cal Tjader and Ron Crotty. Sol and Max Weiss who ran the Circle Record Company told me, 'Go tell Jack Sheedy that you'll buy back the masters for what they cost him. Because we can press them and we know they're selling.'"

By this time it was early 1950. The Weisses created their own record label in order to press Brubeck records. They signed him as their first recording artist, as he recorded enough for three singles at a recording session in March.

The Coronet label continued without Dave Brubeck, releasing singles 105 and 106 in February (Sheedy's band), singles 107 and 108 in July (the Jack Ross Quintet), and eventually singles 109 and 110 (Sheedy). By this time, Sheedy's company spelled its name Koronet. As long as it lasted, Coronet/Koronet remained a local San Francisco label, although *Billboard* reviewed Coronet 108.





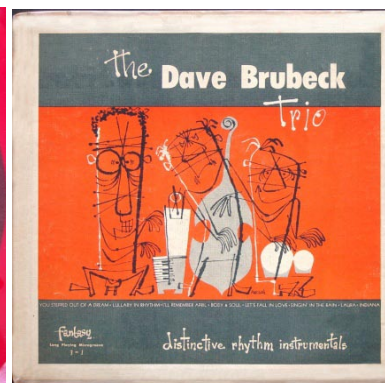
Fantasy Records released the first two singles during spring, 1950. These bore the “original” Fantasy logo. Actually, it is somewhat ironic to use the word original, for in October, 1949, Lawrence Spivak had published the first issue of *The Magazine of Fantasy* – a periodical that immediately became the *Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*. This remains the longest-running periodical associated with either genre of fiction.

It was from the cover of this magazine that the Circle Record Company borrowed the first Fantasy Records logo. By the time “Body and Soul” came out in June, they had created the classic Fantasy logo.



For the next year, Fantasy Records released only singles. Brubeck played for them with his Trio and his Octet, and in the middle of 1951 Fantasy decided to enter the LP market with collections of Brubeck singles onto long-playing albums. Between 1951 and 1955 they released twenty-one ten-inch LPs. These appear on the following pages.

Ten-Inch Long-Playing Albums

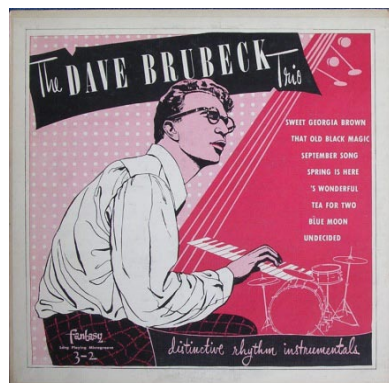


3-1 Dave Brubeck Trio *The Dave Brubeck Trio*

Release Date: BB August 18, 1951

Known vinyl colors: red; black; blue; green; purple

This first album originally appeared with an envelope cover that depicted stylized forms of the instruments that Brubeck, Tjader, and Crotty played. Fantasy designed a more exotic cover (portraying the artists at work) which also appeared on the third volume of this set of Trio albums.

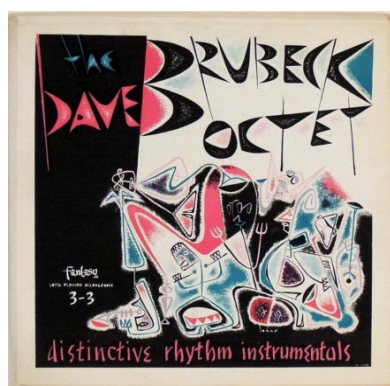


"I define jazz as an improvised music based on European harmony and African rhythms. The challenge is to improvise on a known theme, using with taste the most advanced ideas of our times without losing the drive and rhythmic complexity of early jazz." This statement of his musical credo by Dave Brubeck is effectively corroborated by the eight selections embodied in this Long-Playing disc by the Dave Brubeck Trio.

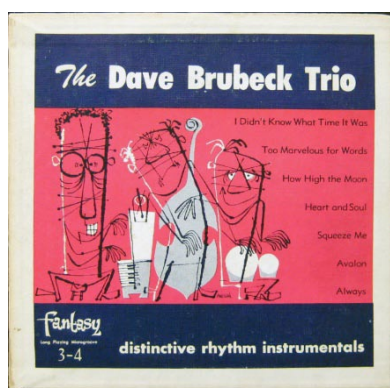
3-2 Dave Brubeck Trio *The Dave Brubeck Trio (Vol. 2)*

Release Date: BB August 18, 1951

Known vinyl colors: red; black; blue; green



3-3 Dave Brubeck Octet *The Dave Brubeck Octet*
 Release Date: 1951
 Known vinyl colors: red; black; purple



3-4 Dave Brubeck Trio *Dave Brubeck Trio (Vol. 3)*
 Release Date: February, 1952
 Known vinyl colors: red; black; green



3-5 Dave Brubeck Quartet *The Dave Brubeck Quartet*
 Release Date: early 1953
 Known vinyl colors: red; black; blue; green
 Later copies of the red-vinyl release have the print face associated with later releases.

GERRY MULLIGAN QUARTET74
 (1-10")
 Fantasy 3-6
 This is an outstanding jazz set. It features the bright, fresh baritone work of Gerry Mulligan, helped by trumpeter Chet Baker, Carson Smith on bass and Chico Hamilton on drums. Mulligan's graceful and precise work stands out on every selection. He comes thru beautifully on the haunting "My Funny Valentine," "Moonlight in Vermont" and "Carrioca." The last named effort, tastefully arranged by Mulligan on this set, also features the solid drumming of Hamilton. "Turnstile," a Mulligan original, and the evergreen, "The Lady Is a Tramp," help make this set of great appeal for the many Mulligan aficionados.

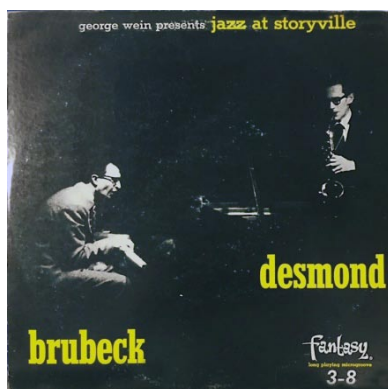


3-6 Gerry Mulligan *The Gerry Mulligan Quartet*
 Release Date: BB April 4, 1953
 Known vinyl colors: red; black; blue; green
 Some copies on red vinyl have a different typeface.



THE DAVE BRUBECK QUARTET (1-10")—Fantasy 3-7 77
 The Brubeck release on Fantasy, a label created especially for the jazz pianist, features the 88-ers with his quartet playing a group of jazz standards in his own distinctive and startling style (some of which have been released as singles), and with all the excitement his fans have come to expect.

3-7 Dave Brubeck Quartet *The Dave Brubeck Quartet (Vol. 2)*
 Release Date: BB September 19, 1953
 Known vinyl colors: red; black; blue; green



3-8 Brubeck, Desmond *Jazz at Storyville*
 Release Date: BB July 4, 1953
 Known vinyl colors: red; black
 Later copies on black vinyl have a different typeface for the catalog number.

JAZZ AT STORYVILLE 70
 Brubeck-Desmond (1-10")
 Fantasy (33) 3-8
 There are some great kicks available for jazz collectors in this package of jazz meanderings by Dave Brubeck, Paul Desmond, with hefty assists from Lloyd Davis on drums and Ron Crotty on bass. Material was cut early this year and last fall in Boston's Storyville. Most of the album is sans the group bassist of last season, Bull Ruthier. Music ranges from moody, fugue-like material to out-and-out bop. Packaging and recordings are strong assets.



3-9 The Cal Tjader Trio *The Cal Tjader Trio (Swing's the Thing)*

Release Date: BB December 19, 1953

Known vinyl colors: black; blue; green



THE CHARLIE MARIANO SEXTET (1-10")—Fantasy 3-10..... 67

From the Fantasy label, which has done so much to introduce new modern jazz artists, comes the first set with the **Charlie Mariano Sextet**, subtitled "Avante-Garde Alto From the Back Bay." That Mariano has been greatly influenced by Charlie Parker is evident on this set. The sextet's music is at times moody, at times happy, but always interesting and always cool. Those on the lookout for new names and new talent could want this Fantasy release.

3-10 Charlie Mariano *The Charlie Mariano Sextet*

Release Date: BB November 14, 1953

Known vinyl colors: red; black; blue; green; purple



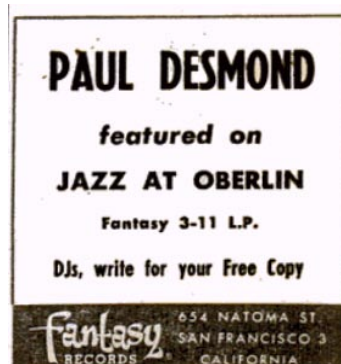
3-11 Dave Brubeck Quartet *Jazz at Oberlin*

Release Date: BB January 30, 1954

Known vinyl colors: red; black; blue; green; purple

Later copies on red vinyl have the catalog number in a different typeface.

JAZZ AT OBERLIN: DAVE BRUBECK QUARTET (1-10") —
Fantasy 3-11 80



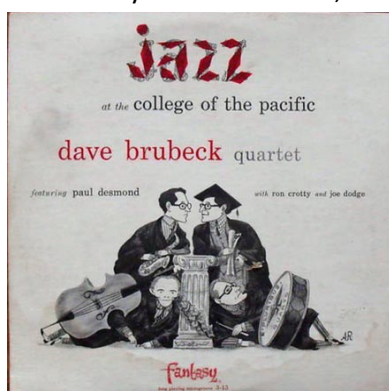
The **Red Norvo Trio** package on Fantasy is a collection of standard ballads done by Norvo, guitarist **Jimmy Raney** and bassist **Red Mitchell**.



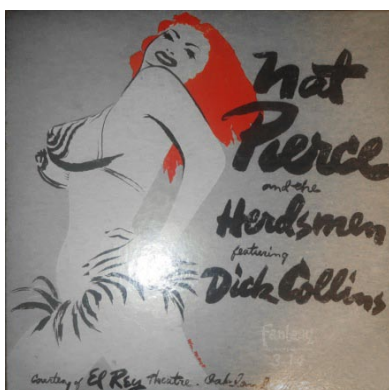
JAZZ AT COLLEGE OF PACIFIC...81 Dave Brubeck Quartet (1-10") Fantasy 3-13

Dave Brubeck, one of the brightest lights of the modern jazz school, should pick up many new fans, and make his old ones even more loyal with this new "jazz goes to college" release. It features the exciting pianist with his quartet, consisting of Paul Desmond on alto, Ron Crotty on bass and Joe Dodge on drums. Brubeck is at his sparkling best here and Desmond gets a chance to show off his amazing technique, too. Tunes are "I'll Never Smile Again," "All the Things You Are," "For All We Know," "Laura" and "Lullaby in Rhythm." A sock jazz concert by the quartet, helped by the audience applause on the disk. It should sell well.

3-12 Red Norvo Trio *The Red Norvo Trio*
Release Date: January 2, 1954
Known vinyl colors: red; blue; green



3-13 Dave Brubeck Quartet *Jazz at the College of the Pacific*
Release Date: BB May 15, 1954
Known vinyl colors: red; black; blue; green
Later copies on red vinyl have the catalog number in a different typeface.



3-14 Nat Pierce *Nat Pierce and the Herdsmen, featuring Dick Collins*
Release Date: BB October 9, 1954
Known vinyl colors: red; blue
From this point on, albums on red vinyl have a different typeface than their counterparts in other colors.

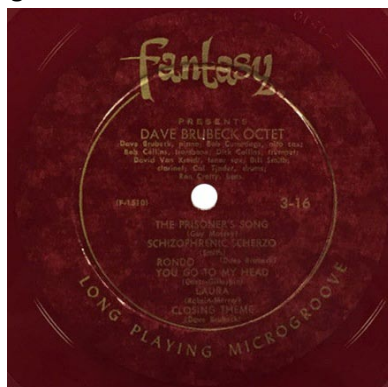
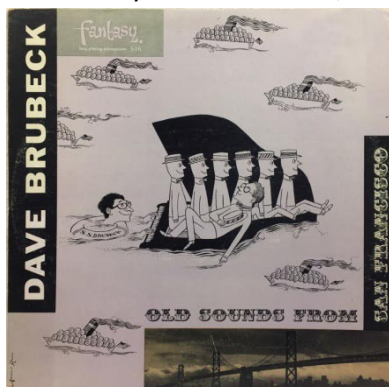
NAT PIERCE AND THE HERDSMEN...75
Dick Collins (1-10")
Fantasy 3-14
Young Dick Collins, now in the Woody Herman band, is one of those from the early Brubeck-Milhaud days in California. The trumpet ace has much to say and says it superbly with his trumpet. This set was cut by pianist Pierce with a batch of other Herman Herdsmen. Fine arrangements, excellent section work and sharp solos make this a first-rate addition to any jazz catalog.



3-15 Odetta and Larry Odetta and Larry

Release Date: October, 1954

Known vinyl colors: red; blue; green



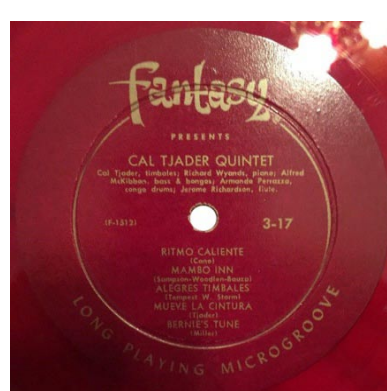
OLD SOUNDS
FROM SAN FRANCISCO80
 The Dave Brubeck Octet (1-10")
 Fantasy 3-16
 The popularity of one Dave Brubeck is such that most any disk bearing his name is sure of a healthy sale. This is one of those. It contains material recorded by a fine young Brubeck-styled octet of the 1946-'48 period. The material, mostly original, is excellent and so is much of the music, but it isn't the commercial Brubeck of today—if that's any criticism. The fans will undoubtedly want it, and any serious jazz musician will consider it a must. Recording and packaging are fair-to-good.

3-16 Dave Brubeck Octet Old Sounds from San Francisco

Release Date: October 9, 1954

Known vinyl colors: red; green; purple

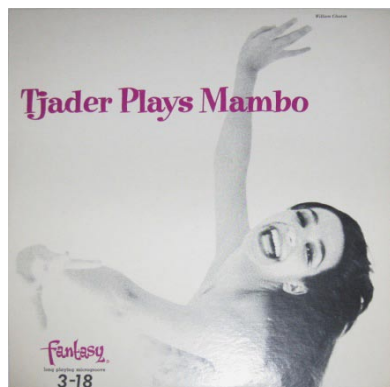
Some copies in red vinyl have the thin bold typeface for the catalog number.



3-17 Cal Tjader Cal Tjader Plays Afro-Cuban

Release Date: October 9, 1954

Known vinyl colors: red; black; green; purple



3-18 Cal Tjader *Tjader Plays Mambo*

Release Date: BB April 23, 1955

Known vinyl colors: red; black; blue; green

White-label promotional copies exist from this point on.



3-19 Red Norvo Trio *Red Norvo Trio (Vol. 2)*

Release Date: BB April 23, 1955

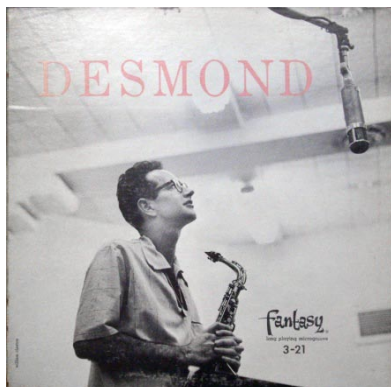
Known vinyl colors: red; black; blue; purple



3-20 Brubeck Quartet *Jazz Interwoven (Concert Versions)*

Release Date: BB April 23, 1955

Known vinyl colors: red; blue; green; purple



3-21 Paul Desmond *The Paul Desmond Quintet*
 Release Date: BB April 23, 1955
 Known vinyl colors: red; black; green

FANTASY RECORDS			
SPRING RELEASES			
TJADER PLAYS MAMBO		RED NORVO TRIO	
3-18 12" LONG PLAY	EP-4033 FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE YESTERDAYS WACHI WARA BEI MIR BIST DU SCHOEN	3-19 12" LONG PLAY	EP-4023 PRELUDE TO A KISS JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS OUT OF NOWHERE JY HATE K9
EP-4034	I CONCENTRATE ON YOU FASCINATING RHYTHM IT AIN'T NECESSARILY SO MAMBO MACCUMBA	EP-4026	EVERYTHING I'VE GOT CRAZY RHYTHM
		EP-4027	BERNIE'S TUNE PUBY LA KEG
JAZZ INTERWOVEN -- DAVE and PAUL (Concert Versions) Brubeck Desmond		THE HERDSMEN PLAY PARIS	
3-20 12" LONG PLAY	EP-2-800 STAR DUST CRAZY CHRIS AT A PERFUME COUNTER	EP-4030	WETBACK ON THE LEFT BANK SO WHAT CAN BE NEW?
		EP-4031	PALM CAFE POT LUCK
3-21 12" LONG PLAY	EP-2-801 JERUVIAN -- BAROQUE -- BUT HAPPY MISTY WINDOW -- WARM CRADLE GARDEN IN THE RAIN -- SOON WINKY -- WILL I KNOW	EP-4032	THE GYPSY EMBARKATION THANKS FOR YOU JUST 40 BARS
GERRY MULLIGAN QUARTET		EP-4028	MY FUNNY VALENTINE LINE FOR LYONS CARIOCA BARK FOR BARKSDALE
		VIDO MUSSO SEXTET	EP-4029 (COME BACK TO SORRENTO CUTTING THE NUT GRUNNIONS A-RUNNIN'
By request! • The Famous "Trolley Song" rehearsal by the Dave Brubeck Quartet • Fantasy 535 and 535-X			
THESE WORLD RENOWNED JAZZ ARTISTS FEATURED ON FANTASY RECORDS			
CHET BAKER DAVE BRUBECK DICK COLLINS		PAUL DESMOND BARNEY KESSEL CHARLIE MARIANO	
		VIDO MUSSO GERRY MULLIGAN RED NORVO	
		NAT PIERCE JIMMIE RANEY CAL TJADER	

Fantasy made the switch from ten-inch to twelve-inch albums in spring, 1955. At that point the colors calmed down, too – with usually one color of vinyl being available for each LP. For album 3-201 the color of choice was green, but *Mambo With Tjader* (November, 1955) and subsequent albums on the red label were also on red vinyl.

