

MGM Records Singles

MGM Records first burst onto the music scene on March 1, 1947. While their soundtrack (original cast) albums have been their best-selling LP's, their popular and country singles competed well with everything that the other labels had to offer.



MGM's Preem Album, 4 Disks, Pops for 60 Cents

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—Initial MGM Records' release sheet was mailed to dealers for orders this week. Initial shipments are scheduled for March 1, with listing highlighted by an album of recordings taken from the sound track of the flick, *Till the Clouds Roll By*, featuring an orchestra led by Lennie Hayton and vocals by Kathryn Grayson, Tony Martin, Judy Garland, Virginia O'Brien, Lena Horne, June Allyson and Caleb Peterson.

Single pop releases to be peddled at 60 cents retail are topped by a Jimmy Dorsey disk pairing *Heartaches*, in a two-voice arrangement, and *There Is No Greater Love*. Others include Kate Smith doing *Anniversary Song* and *If I Had My Life to Live Over*, and Sy Oliver's new ork pairing a novelty, *Hey Daddy-O*, with an instrumental, *Slow Burn*. In the longer-hair department, Lauritz Melchior's coupling of *Without a Song* with *For You Alone* will preem.

MGM47

This label featured a yellow backdrop with a black horizontal bar across it. M-G-M and the lion's head logo were located at the top center. In October, 1949, all MGM singles came to be pressed through their "Metrolite" process, which allowed for singles that weighed less and might last longer than the earlier, heavier records.

When MGM issued its first 45 RPM singles on May 1, 1950 (around single 10680), they created a complementary design for the new format. The lion's head logo was at the left and M-G-M was at the top of the yellow label. The first few singles carried numbers in an 8000 series, but right away MGM began using the prefix of K- to designate a 45 RPM record (as opposed to a 78).

The matrix numbers were added to the labels beginning at the very end of 1952.

The last 78 RPM singles were released in June, 1958, so that Sheb Wooley's classic, "The Purple People Eater," was one of the last to be released in the format.

Singles that were released during the week of November 16, 1959 marked the last use of this (original) label style.

MGM To Issue Platters on New Metrolite

NEW YORK, Sept. 24.—Effective with the firm's October 27 release, MGM Records will issue all its platters on the diskery's self-developed non-breakable material, Metrolite. The switch to an unbreakable disk will not alter the diskery's current 60-cent pop disk retail price. MGM thus joins Mercury in the all-unbreakable business. However, the Mercury products are pegged at a 75-cent retail figure.

The conversion to Metrolite will extend to the entire MGM catalog, once a two-month inventory of finished shellacs and shellac materials are disposed of. The initial all-Metrolite release will also feature the release of a first pair of disks which MGM obtained in its deal for the rights to the Musicraft Records' catalog. Initial diskings out of the Musicraft masters will include a pairing by Sarah Vaughan and another by Phil Brito.



THE BILLBOARD

M-G-M Records
1245 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10013

EVERYONE IS FLIPPING OVER THIS SIDE

CONNIE FRANCIS FRANCIS
LOCK UP YOUR HEART
(The flip side of Connie's "I'm Sorry I Made You Cry")
Her Album
WHO'S SORRY NOW
CONNIE FRANCIS
K12845, K12846, K12847, K12848

MARVIN RAINWATER I DIG YOU BABY K12842 an AB 45 78 rpm	MORTY CRAFT & HIS ORCH. PATRICIA K12843 an AB 45 78 rpm
DICK LEE GIANNINA MIA K12847	DON COGAN THE SINGING HILLS K12849
JOE "HARMONICA" HARPER LAZY TRAIN K12849	THE TOPHATERS CANDY BABY SHE'S MY GIRL K12848



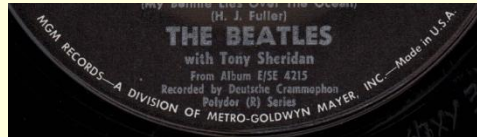
MGM59

The first incarnation of the classic black label began in November, 1959. The rim print indicates that MGM is part of "LOEW'S INCORPORATED."



MGM59m

In October, 1960, the rim print was fixed to read that the company was "a division of Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer." From that point on, the label backdrop remained untouched until 1968. The promotional labels, which remained yellow, had made the change in rim text in March/April, 1960.



MGM68



By June, 1968, MGM was changing. Some faltering sales may have prompted the change to the new blue and gold label. When stereo singles came along, MGM introduced a few but did not really commit to stereo replacing mono until 1970.

MGM68s

In 1972, MGM sold out to Polygram, which had formed due to the merger of Polydor and Phonogram. The new labels list an address on Sunset



Boulevard. This label style began at approximately K-14405 and continued to 1976. The promotional singles changed styles at this point, too. The K- prefix was replaced by M- in 1974 and by MG- in the middle of 1976. MG-14850 marked a temporary end for MGM singles.

MGM68p

MGM singles were on hiatus from 1976 to 1979. In 1979-80, they released a total of three singles, numbered MG-14851 to 14853. After that point, the MGM singles catalog was absorbed by Polydor.



MGM Album Labels

This label guide covers album labels by MGM Records from their first LP offerings in 1950 until the company merged with Liberty/UA in 1982. The early MGM label styles are recognized as classic designs.



MGM50

This original MGM label appeared on original pressings of all MGM ten-inch LP's (numbered E-501 through E-559 and, basically, E-85 through about E-322) and of early twelve-inch LP's (from E-3000 in 1953 through about E-3780 in 1959). This first label style was yellow and black, with "LONG PLAYING" and "MICROGROOVE" at the top. The yellow label continued to be used after the advent of stereo LPs in August, 1958. After about album SE-3780 in August 1959, MGM began to phase in their new label (see below), but the old-style cover logo continued to be used until after album E-3867 the following year.



MGM59

MGM's classic black label was introduced first in September 1959, on or about album SE-3781. Originally, the label had rim print reading "LOEW'S INCORPORATED." The black label continued until approximately January, 1968, and about album SE-4529.

MGM59m

At the beginning of 1961, the rim print was fixed to read that the company was "a division of Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer." The black label continued until approximately January, 1968, and about album SE-4529.



MGM68

By 1968, MGM was changing. Some faltering sales may have prompted the change to the new blue and gold label, which began appearing on LP covers and in advertising in late 1967. Slick labels with "STEREO" in thin print continued to be used through about album SE-4830 in 1972. Record clubs also continued to use this style, at least as late as 1976.

MGM68s

In 1972, MGM sold out to Polygram, which had formed due to the merger of Polydor and Phonogram. Within a few years, MGM Records was releasing only movie soundtracks and reissues of previous MGM material. The new labels have "STEREO" in round print, have the gold replaced by a beige/yellow color, and list an address on Sunset Boulevard. This label style began at approximately SE-4831.

In 1974, MGM's album prefixing began to align itself more with what Polydor was doing with other US releases.



MGM68p

In 1976, after the release of *That's Entertainment, Vol. 2*, the rim print changed again to mention "Polydor Incorporated" as the manufacturer. The last LP of which I am aware is a Connie Francis reissue, MGB 1-5412, from 1982. After that point, The MGM soundtracks were absorbed into MGM/UA, whose records were pressed by EMI. Therefore, MGM Records ceased to exist as a separate entity.

For far more detailed information about MGM Records, including their subsidiary labels (such as Metro) and labels distributed by MGM (such as Kama Sutra and Verve), visit [Both Sides Now](#).