

Mercury 25000 Series: The First Thirty

Produced by Frank Daniels

Introduction

In January, 1949, Mercury announced that they would begin releasing long-playing albums in February. These records, classical releases, probably came out in mid-March – based on an ad in the March 19th issue of *Billboard*. Immediately thereafter, they test-marketed their first popular LP – a reissue of Majestic's *Student Prince* album. This sold well and was followed by their own recording of selections from *South Pacific* and *Kiss Me Kate*. That led to several roll-outs of ten-inch popular LPs.

The first label style was a semi-glossy black label with gold print. This label style lasted from 1949 to 1952 (album MG-25152 is known).

The light blue and white label with black print appears on a few releases. Currently I do not know when this label style came out.

The black label with silver print exists with a semi-glossy finish and with a matte finish. It continued until May/June, 1955, when Mercury phased out their ten-inch LPs.

At least one label was red from 1952 on. These were not connected to the Olympian Series that was deep red and which indicated that the recordings were in High Fidelity.



MG 25000 Series Albums



MG-25001 Paul Baron *The Student Prince*
 Release Date: March/April, 1949 (original release BB August 9, 1947)
 A reissue of Majestic MZ-4.



MG-25002 Frank Parker *Kiss Me Kate/South Pacific*
 Release Date: May, 1949



MG-25003 Jan August *Piano Rhythm*
 Release Date: June, 1949

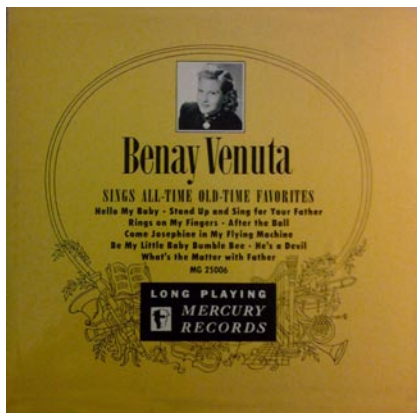
Contains the cover art and three songs from Mercury A-31 (1948). The five other songs come from Mercury singles: 5112A, 5112B, 5140A, 5140B, and 5231.



MG-25004 Tony Martin *Tony Martin*
Release Date: June, 1949
LP issue of A-26 from 1948 with the addition of Mercury songs 3022A and 3042A.



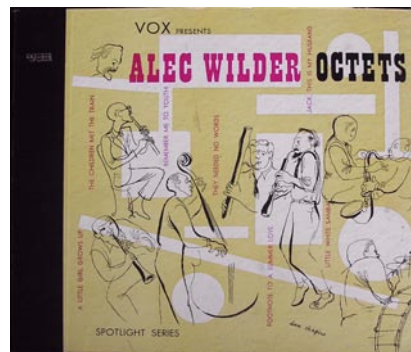
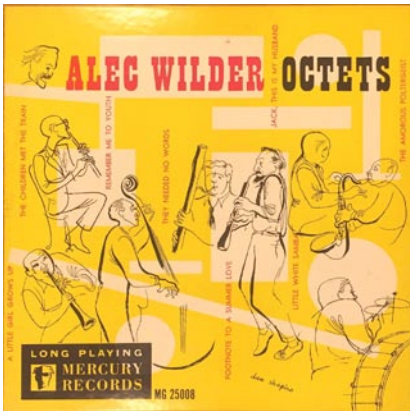
MG-25005 Billy Eckstine *Billy Eckstine Sings*
 Release Date: June, 1949 (withdrawn?)
 According to a *Billboard* ad from July, Mercury was releasing a set of sides from National. However, National wound up issuing an album with that same title in October.



MG-25006 Benay Venuta *Sings All-Time Old-Time Favorites*
Release Date: June, 1949
Contains four songs from Mercury A-28 (1948). Two other songs come from Mercury single 5300, and the remaining two were previously-unreleased tracks.



MG-25007	Frankie Laine	<i>Songs that Made Me Famous</i>
Release Date:	June, 1949	



MG-25008 Alec Wilder *Octets*
Release Date: June, 1949 (original release BB May 24, 1947)
A reissue of Vox VSP-301.



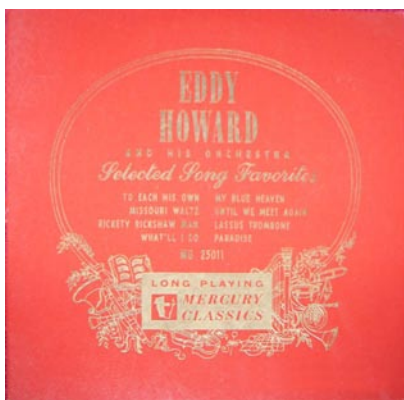
MG-25009	Machito	<i>Latin-American Rhythms</i>
Release Date:	June, 1949	



MG-25010 Frances Langford *Rainbow Rhapsody*

Release Date: June, 1949

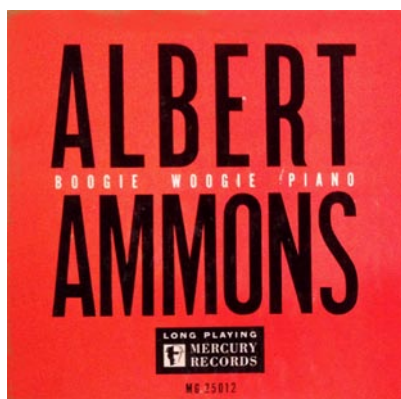
Contains four songs from Mercury A-25 (1948). The other songs come from Mercury singles: 3029A; 3041A; 3050B; and 5183A.



MG-25011 Eddy Howard *Selected Song Favorites*

Release Date: June, 1949

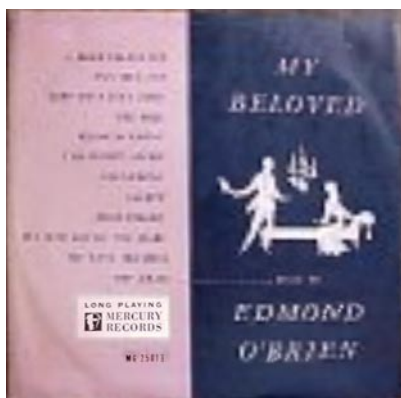
The songs were recorded for Majestic in 1947.



MG-25012 Albert Ammons *Boogie Woogie Piano*

Release Date: June, 1949

A collection of Mercury single sides

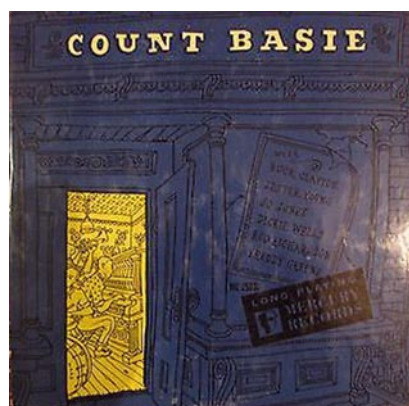
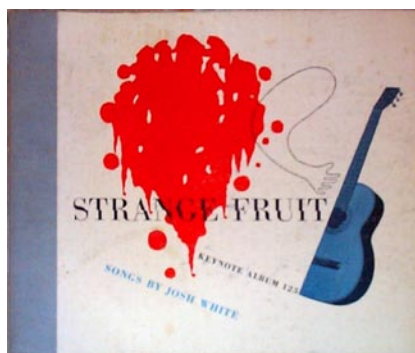


MG-25013 Edmond O'Brien *My Beloved*
 Release Date: June, 1949
 A reissue of Mercury A-15 from 1946.

POPULAR	25000 Series
10 Inch	\$2.85
STUDENT PRINCE	MG25001
SOUTH PACIFIC— Kiss Me, Kate	MG25002
JAN AUGUST, Piano	MG25003
TONY MARTIN Sings	MG25004
BILLY ECKSTINE Sings	MG25005
BENAY VENUTA Sings All Time-Old Time Favorites	MG25006
FRANKIE LAINE Favorites	MG25007
ALEC WILDER Octets	MG25008
MACHITO and His Latin American Music	MG25009
FRANCES LANGFORD Rainbow Rhapsody	MG25010
EDDY HOWARD Selected Song Favorites	MG25011
ALBERT AMMONS Boogie Piano Stylings	MG25012
EDMOND O'BRIEN My Beloved	MG25013



MG-25014 Josh White *Strange Fruit: Songs by Josh White*
 Release Date: Fall, 1949
 A reissue of Keynote No. 125, plus two songs from Keynote No. 108.



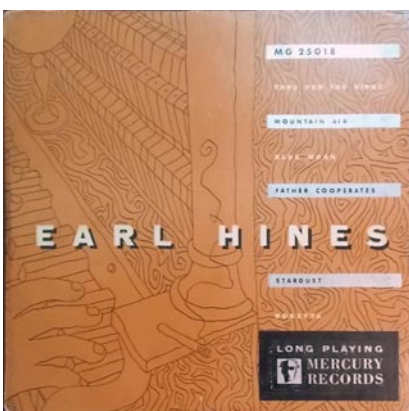
MG-25015 Count Basie and Lester Young *Count Basie*
 Release Date: Fall, 1949 (BB July 15, 1950)
 LP release of album Mercury A-39, minus one song, plus four songs from Lester Young – all from Keynote.



MG-25016 Irving Fazola *Dixielanders*
 Release Date: c. Fall, 1949
 A collection of sides recorded for Keynote.



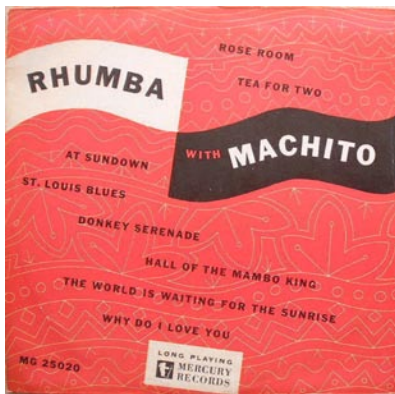
MG-25017 Jack Fina *Piano Classics*
 Release Date: c. Early 1950
 A collection of Mercury sides.



MG-25018 Cozy Cole/Charlie Shavers *Earl Hines Album*
 Release Date: BB July 15, 1950 (Original issue BB October 4, 1947)
 A reissue of Keynote K-145 minus "Curry in a Hurry" and "Just One More Chance." Issued Spring, 1949, as album A-41.



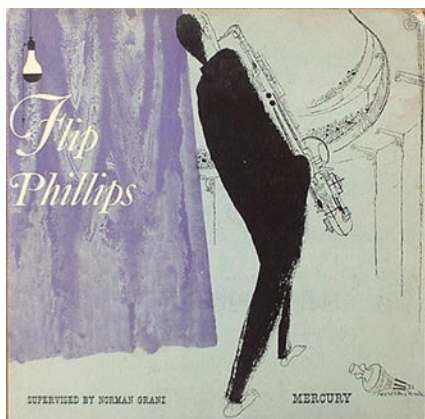
MG-25019 Jan August *More Favorites*
Release Date: Summer, 1950



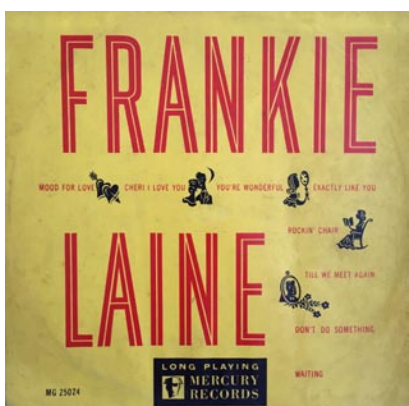
MG-25020 Machito *Rhumba With Machito*
Release Date: Summer, 1950



MG-25022 Hank Jones *Hank Jones' Piano*
Release Date: Summer, 1950
LP pressing of album A-61 from 1948; reissue of Clef 104



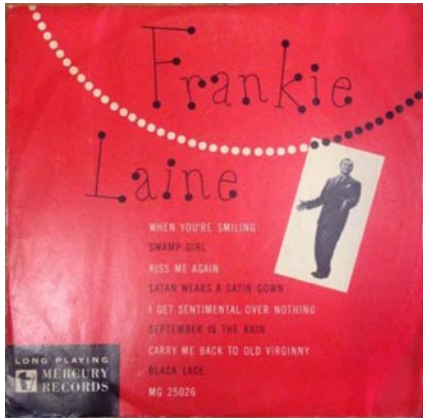
MG-25023 Flip Phillips *Flip Phillips*
 Release Date: Summer, 1950
 A collection of Mercury recordings



MG-25024 Frankie Laine *Frankie Laine*
 Release Date: July, 1950
 The same as album A-81 with the addition two sides from single 5337.



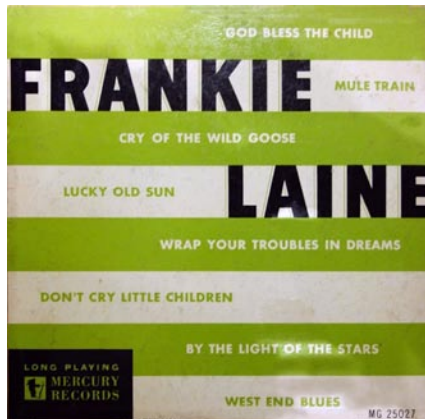
MG-25025 Frankie Laine *Frankie Laine*
 Release Date: BB July 15, 1950



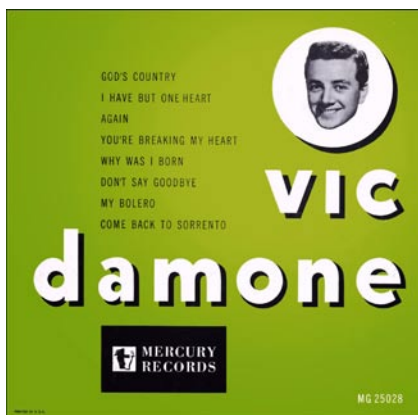
MG-25026 Frankie Laine *Frankie Laine*
Release Date: BB July 15, 1950

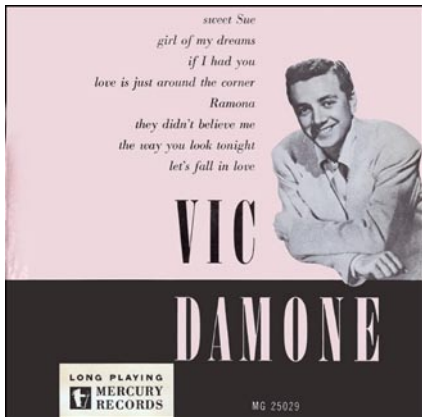


MG-25027 Frankie Laine *Frankie Laine*
Release Date: BB July 15, 1950



MG-25028 Vic Damone *Vic Damone*
Release Date: BB July 15, 1950
A collection of Mercury songs.

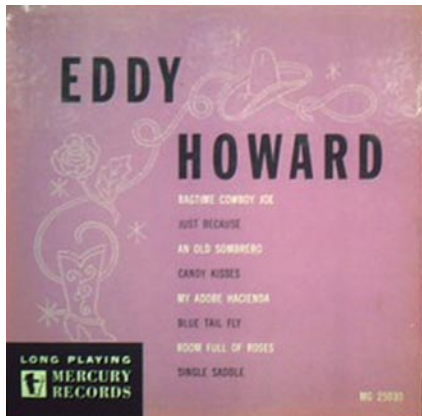




MG-25029
Release Date:

Vic Damone
July, 1950

Vic Damone



MG-25030
Release Date:

Eddy Howard
July, 1950

Eddy Howard

A collection of Majestic recordings.

Back Covers



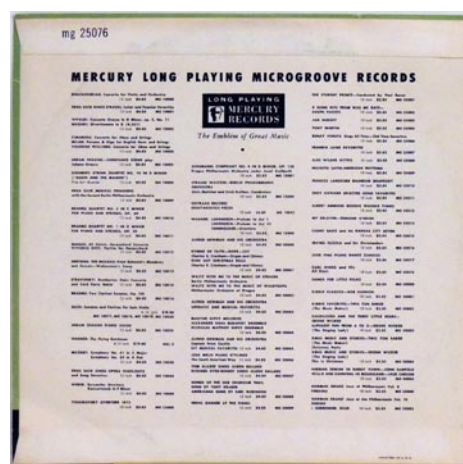
25001 original back cover (1949)



Spring-Summer, 1949 (sometimes cropped differently)
Cardboard cover folded front-to-back
Lists up to 10010, 15005, and 25018



Summer, 1949, to 1950
Cardboard cover folded front-to-back
Lists up to 10025, 15005, and 25018



1950 and 1951
Soft paper cover
Lists up to 10048, 15008, and 21018

Albums that were originally released in one cover configuration appear with later configurations as long as they continued to be in print. Sometimes, Mercury changed the front cover graphics as well. Shown here are the generic back cover graphics that Mercury used on the 25000 series from 1949 to 1955. Later albums in the series have back covers dedicated to the release, complete with liner notes.



1952

Soft paper cover with New Logo
Lists up to 25085



1952

Cardboard cover with paper slicks
Lists up to 25085



1952 to ?

Cardboard cover folded back-to-front
Lists up to 25106; A at bottom right



1952 to ?

Cardboard cover folded back-to-front
Lists up to 25112; B at bottom right



1952 to 1955

Cardboard cover folded back-to-front; lists up to 25095; C at bottom right