

Pacific Jazz Records

Richard (Dick) Bock and Roy Harte initiated the Pacific Jazz label in June, 1952. Bock was a jack-of-all-trades who had worked for Discovery Records and who also did work for *Down Beat* magazine, and as a publicity manager for The Haig (an LA jazz club that was at that time the leading venue for west-coast jazz). Harte was a drummer who did studio work and operated a retail drum store. Reportedly, it was Harte who designed the stenciled logo for Pacific Jazz.

Bock signed upcoming artists like Gerry Mulligan to record for the new label, and by late October, Pacific Jazz had released its first single. After another in February, it was time to begin issuing long-playing albums. Photographer William Claxton normally created the cover artwork. His approach was to integrate the photography with the text in order to generate a unified and distinctive look – with each cover being a work of art. In fact, the only covers in the series that were not by Claxton were the first in the series and, more notably, John Brandt's cover to PJLP-3 – which featured an edited Claxton photo.

The label gained in popularity, to the point where (in mid-1954) Bock expanded into the popular-music field by creating the Pacifica subsidiary. At the time Pacifica was not a hot seller, but in 1957 Pacific Jazz expanded to become World Pacific. The ten-inch line was long gone by then, as PJ had phased it out in 1955.

All in all, Pacific Jazz (and Pacifica) released 21 ten-inchers in approximately two years. Their legacy lasts to this day, and many of the LPs below are "classics." Shown below: a Pacific Jazz 10" LP label and a shot of their address at 6124 Santa Monica Blvd.



by Frank Daniels

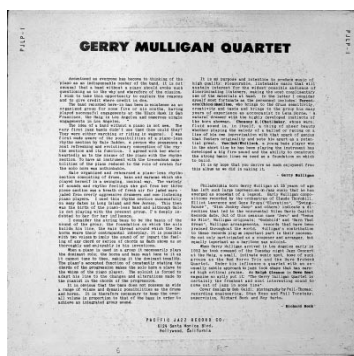
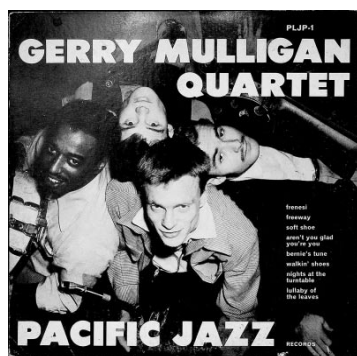
GERRY MULLIGAN QUARTET
Lullaby of the Leaves70
PACIFIC JAZZ 601—The group has etched a quiet and tastful reading of the ballad, to a subdued but steady beat. Mulligan blows the baritone, Chet Baker the trumpet, with Chico Hamilton on drums, and Bob Whitlock on bass.
Bernie's Tune....68
 Here, the combo bounces along in a free-wheeling interpretation, with each member taking over for a piece of solo work. Jazz fans should like both sides of this platter.



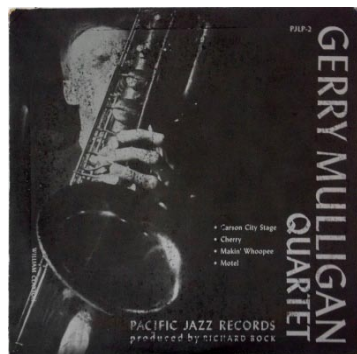
GERRY MULLIGAN QUARTET
(Pacific Jazz 602)
B "FRENESI" (2:37) The fast moving oldie gets a great send-off by the Gerry Mulligan Quartet. Mulligan on the sax; Chet Baker, trumpet; Chico Hamilton, drums; and Bob Whitlock, bass; blend instruments for a solid treatment and one that will be heard over and over.
C "NIGHTS AT THE TURN-TABLE" (2:41) Flip is a moderate rhythmic instrumental that makes good listening and dancing.



Pacific Jazz Ten-Inch Albums



PJLP-1 Gerry Mulligan Quartet *The Gerry Mulligan Quartet*
 Recording Dates: 8/16/52; 10/15/52; 10/16/52
 Release Date: c. March, 1953
 All front covers read PJLP-1. Labels of later LPs have a matte finish.
 Cover: Bob Guidi with photo from Pell-Thomas.



GERRY MULLIGAN QUARTET71
 (1-10")
 Pacific Jazz (33) PJLP 2
 The Mulligan Quartet is heard in a group of four readings on one side of this LP, two of them—"Cherry" and "Makin' Whoopee"—quiet and intimate, with trumpet and sax playing in cool counterpoint. The combo lets loose with an exciting "Motel," and "Carson City Stage" is somewhere in between. Saxist Lee Konitz joins the group on the flip side, and the arrangements become a bit more complex. Their reading of "Lover Man" shows much imagination and is the most striking of the four on this side. Good platter for Mulligan's many followers.

PJLP-2 The Gerry Mulligan Quartet *Featuring Chet Baker/Lee Konitz Plays*
 Recording Dates: 1/23/53; 1/30/53; 2/1/53; 2/24/53
 Release Date: BB May 2, 1953
 The first front covers wrap around completely to the back cover; the second front covers have a white border on the wrapped-around portion. Cover: William Claxton



CHET BAKER QUARTET68
 (1-10")
 Pacific Jazz PJLP-3
 Baker, young trumpet man heard previously with the Gerry Mulligan Quartet, leads the foursome in cool arrangements of standards and original music by Russ Freeman, pianist with the group. Freeman's compositions are better tailored to Baker's style than the standards and demonstrate his serious approach and emphasis on solid musical values rather than superficial display of technique. "Batter Up" is an especially successful example of brilliant solo work integrated with a swinging group. Larry Bunker and Bobby White alternate on drums; Carson Smith and Bob Whitlock switch on bass. It's for cool jazz fans only.



PJLP-3 Chet Baker *Chet Baker Quartet*
 Recording Dates: 12/15/52; 4/17/53
 Release Date: BB July 11, 1953
 Cover Design: John Brandt; photo by William Claxton at the Haig with Mulligan Quartet in '52.



HARRY EDISON QUARTET: SWEETS AT THE HAIG (1-10")
Pacific Jazz PJLP-4 65

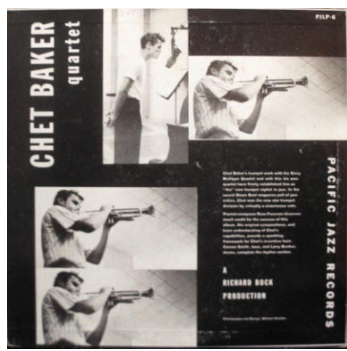
PJLP-4 Harry Edison Quartet *"Sweets" at the Haig*
Recording Dates: 7/1/53 (?)
Release Date: CB October 10, 1953
Cover: William Claxton



PJLP-5 Gerry Mulligan *The Gerry Mulligan Quartet*
Recording Dates: 4/27/53; 4/29/53; 4/30/53
Release Date: CB December 19, 1953
Cover: William Claxton

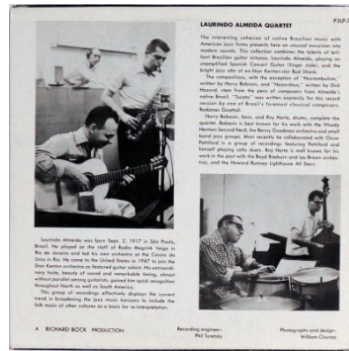
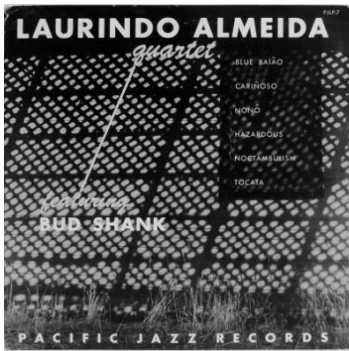
GERRY MULLIGAN QUARTET (1-10")—Pacific Jazz PJLP-5.. 70
THE CAL TJADER TRIO: SWING'S THE THING (1-10") — 69
Fantasy 3-9 69
SHELLY MANNE AND HIS MEN (1-10")—Contemporary C 2503 68
LESTER YOUNG TRIO NO. 2 (1-10")—Clef MGC 135 67
CHET BAKER QUARTET (1-10")—Pacific Jazz PJLP-6 66

The first front cover uses outline print for most of the writing; the first back cover has the titles in a red shade and lists PJLP-1 through 6 as available. The second front cover uses no outline print; the second back cover lists through PJLP-11.



PJLP-6 The Chet Baker Quartet *The Chet Baker Quartet*
Recording Dates: 7/29/53; 7/30/53; 10/3/53
Release Date: CB December 19, 1953
Cover: William Claxton

One cover printing has a bright orange/yellow background, and another has a pink background.



LAURINDO ALMEIDA QUARTET ... 68
Bud Shank (1-10")
Pacific Jazz PJLP 7
 Almeida plays a Spanish guitar (un-amplified) in a quartet including alto star Bud Shank, bassist Harry Babasin and drummer Roy Harte. Here indeed is an unusual grouping of jazz sounds and patterns, with the native Brazilian influence blending with American ideas.

PJLP-7 The Laurindo Almeida Quartet *The Laurindo Almeida Quartet*
 Recording Dates: 09/53
 Release Date: BB March 6, 1954
 Cover: William Claxton



RUSS FREEMAN TRIO
PACIFIC JAZZ PJLP 8. 10-in. 23 min. \$3.85.
 Russ Freeman, piano; Joe Mondragon, bass; Shelly Manne, drums.
Yesterday's Gardenia's; Rocky Top; Don't Worry About Me; Backfield in Motion; You Stepped Out of a Dream; Laugh Cry; At Last; The Eye Opener.

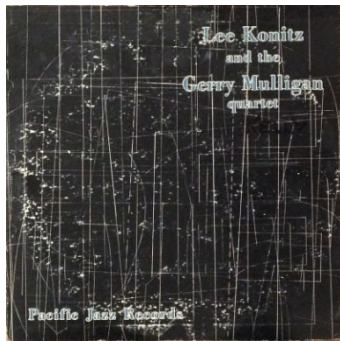
Three of the more intriguing of the West Coast modernists are involved in a game of musical chairs on these disks. The Mulligan Quartet, in which Chet Baker plays trumpet, appears to be a bit past its peak in this collection and inclined to ride on its reputation. This reputation was built on inventively conceived and tightly knit works in which the foursome worked together in warm intimacy, with Mulligan's baritone saxophone and Baker's trumpet blending in some startling, though subdued, effects. On their current disk, this hallmark is given full dress—and extremely good—display only on *The Narnius of Yau*. Otherwise, the tendency is to trade off solos, mostly pleasant and capable, the best being Baker's soulful brooding on *Damn That Dream*.

PJLP-8 The Russ Freeman Trio *The Russ Freeman Trio*
 Recording Dates: 10/27/53; 12/28/53
 Release Date: April, 1954 (*High Fidelity*, May, 1954)
 Cover: William Claxton



CHET BAKER ENSEMBLE 80
(1-10")
Pacific Jazz PJLP 9
 The new set by one of modern jazz's leading lights features Baker and his combo on a group of tunes composed and/or arranged by Jack Montrose, young West Coast tenor man. The ensemble, which includes such names as Shelley Manne on drums, Montrose on tenor, Russ Freeman on piano, Joe Mondragon on bass, Herb Geller on alto and Bob Gordon on baritone sax, and, of course, Baker on trumpet. They play them with the fluidity and technique that will flip all of their young followers. All in all, it's an exciting set that should have the same solid appeal to modern fans as have other Chet Baker releases.

PJLP-9 Chet Baker Ensemble *Chet Baker Ensemble*
 Recording Dates: 12/14/53; 12/22/53
 Release Date: BB June 19, 1954
 Cover: William Claxton



PJLP-10 Lee Konitz and the Gerry Mulligan Quartet
 Recording Dates: 1/23/53; 1/30/53; 4/27/53; 5/20/53
 Release Date: BB May 8, 1954
 Cover: William Claxton

Lee Konitz and the GM Quartet

Jazz
LEE KONITZ AND THE GERRY MULLIGAN QUARTET77
 (1-10")
 Pacific Jazz PJLP 10
 This is a powerful package for modern jazz aficionados, featuring the one and only Gerry Mulligan and the one and only Lee Konitz. They complement each other neatly and they get a chance to show off their cool musicianship on this new release. Tunes include standards such as "Too Marvelous for Words," "These Foolish Things," "My Old Flame" and the jazz epic "Four Brothers." The waxings were made at The Haig, the Los Angeles jazz spot, and Chet Baker helps out on trumpet with the combo. A strong item for the cool jazz collector.



PJLP-11 Chet Baker
 Recording Dates: 10/27/53; 2/15/54
 Release Date: BB May 8, 1954
 Cover: William Claxton

Chet Baker Sings

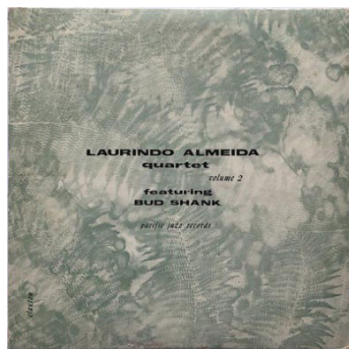
CHET BAKER SINGS 65
 (1-10")
 Pacific Jazz Records PJLP 11
 Chet Baker has built up a sizable following among modern jazzies via his releases on the label. On this new set, Baker's vocalizing rather than his trumpet work is the feature, tho he does not completely neglect his horn. Unfortunately, his vocal ability is nowhere near his trumpet work, and tho some diehard fans will want the set most will prefer Baker for his trumpet work rather than for his unemotional and limited vocal technique.



PJLP-12 Bob Gordon
 Recording Dates: 5/6/54; 5/27/54
 Release Date: BB August 7, 1954
 Cover: William Claxton

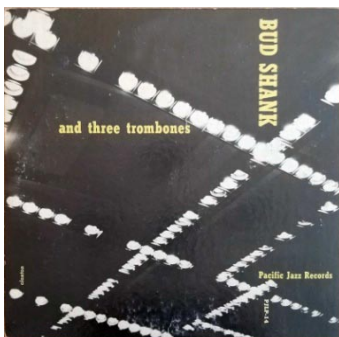
Bob Gordon died in an automobile accident on August 28, 1955.

MEET MR. GORDON75
 Bob Gordon Quintet (1-10")
 Pacific Jazz PJLP-12
 Those who follow the works and ways of the younger West Coast musicians are in for a musical experience of the first order in this collection of Jack Montrose compositions and arrangements, as played by the Bob Gordon Quintet. The playful, neatly turned counterpoint of Gordon's bold, clean style is heard on originals such as "Meet Mr. Gordon" and "For Sue." As well as other jazz albums have been going recently, this, too, should strike pay dirt with many modern collectors.



LAURINDO ALMEIDA QUARTET, VOL. 274 (1-10")
 Pacific Jazz PJLP 13
 Almeida's second jazz LP, like the first, spotlights Bud Shank, a young West Coast musician whose fine work on alto sax has been mentioned with increasing frequency in the trade press the past half year. His modest, relaxed approach to his instrument fits him naturally into the quietly purposeful Almeida Quartet. While the raw material from which Almeida works is basically Latin, he reconstructs it along highly individual jazz lines. These gracious, delicate harmonies with their swing, compulsive rhythms are bound to please a market transcending the usual jazz lines.

PJLP-13 The Laurindo Almeida Quartet *The Laurindo Almeida Quartet, Volume 2*
 Recording Dates: 4/22/54
 Release Date: BB September 18, 1954
 Cover: William Claxton



BUD SHANK AND THREE TROMBONES
 PACIFIC JAZZ PJLP-14. 10-in. 26 min. \$3.85.
 Bud Shank, alto saxophone; Bob Cooper, tenor saxophone; Bob Enevoldsen, Stu Williamson, Maynard Ferguson, valve trombones; Claude Williamson, piano; Joe Mondragon, bass; Shelly Manne, drums. *Valve in Hand; Cool Fool; Little Girl Blue; Mobile; Waiting Vessel; Baby's Birthday Party; You Don't Know What Love Is; Sing Something Simple.*

Judging by the frequency of his appearances on various recent jazz LPs, Bud Shank must rarely get outside of a recording studio. After associating himself with oboes, Spanish guitars, French horns and the plain, garden variety of jazz instrumentation, Shank now pitches his alto saxophone in with three valve trombones. If the idea of this association was to produce a new new sound, chalk it off as no cigar, for the trombones and Shank rarely work in ensemble and when they do nothing spectacularly aural occurs. In fact, the one moment when the assemblage of trombones seems worth while is at the opening of *Waiting Vessel* when they emit such a startling bass blast that I was convinced my equipment was blowing up.

PJLP-14 Bud Shank *Bud Shank and 3 Trombones*
 Recording Dates: 4/3/54; 6/22/54
 Release Date: c. November, 1954 (*High Fidelity*, December, 1954)
 Cover: William Claxton



PJLP-15 Chet Baker Sextet *Chet Baker Sextet*
 Recording Dates: 9/9/54; 9/15/54
 Release Date: CB December 18, 1954
 Cover: William Claxton

CHET BAKER SEXTET—Pacific Jazz Records PJLP-15 (1-10" LP) List: \$4.00
 TOMMYHAWK; STELLA BY STARLIGHT; DOT'S GROOVY; LITTLE MAN YOU'VE HAD A BUSY DAY; THE HALF DOZENS; I'M GLAD THERE IS YOU.
 Chet Baker fronts the new Pacific Jazz L.P. Chet has a strong supporting cast in Bud Shank on the sax; Bob Brookmeyer, trombone; Russ Freeman, piano. Also heard are Carson Smith, bass, and Shelly Manne, drums—though the solo spotlight is shared by the featured artists and, of course, Chet Baker. Chet's horn rides sometimes moody, sometimes merrily, but always of top-notch quality. For the modernist, Chet's a great talent.



BOB BROOKMEYER QUARTET77
 John Williams and Red Mitchell (1-10")
 Pacific Jazz PJLP-16
 Trombonist Bob Brookmeyer has become one of the more popular of the younger cool jazzmen. He first gained attention from recordings he made with Stan Getz and he furthered his reputation on his tour of Europe with Gerry Mulligan. These new recordings feature the trombonist in a group of new tunes and standards with some of the new efforts penned by bassist Red Mitchell and two by Brookmeyer himself. The other musicians on the date are John Williams on piano and Frank Isola on drums. The music is in the modern groove, moody and interesting. It should be of strong interest to cool fans.

PJLP-16 Bob Brookmeyer Quartet *Bob Brookmeyer Quartet*
 Recording Dates: 7/5/54; 7/7/54
 Release Date: BB January 29, 1955
 Cover: William Claxton

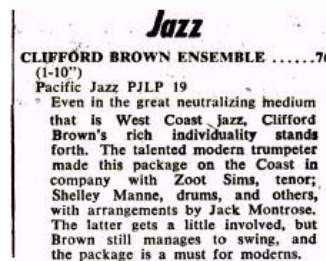


CHICO HAMILTON TRIO74
 (1-10")
 Pacific Jazz PJLP 17
 Hamilton was the drummer who provided the solid rhythm foundation for early Gerry Mulligan Quartet waxings. "Uganda," "Street of Drums" and "Broadway" all show, in varying degrees, the rich palette of sounds and rhythm patterns on which he draws. Hamilton's distinguished assistants are guitarist Howard Roberts and bassist George Duvivier, the latter also deserving credit for many of the arrangements in the set. This LP will arouse keen interest among the hipsters.

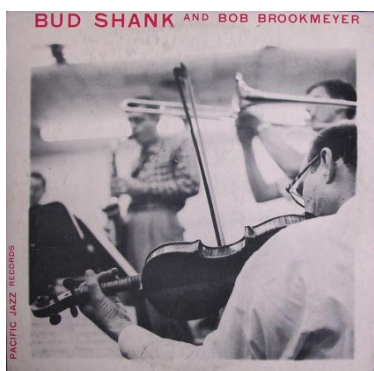
PJLP-17 Chico Hamilton Trio *Chico Hamilton Trio*
 Recording Dates: 12/6/53; 10/2/54
 Release Date: BB June 18, 1955
 Cover: William Claxton



PJLP-18 Al Haig Trio *Al Haig Trio*
 Recording Dates: 3/13/54
 Release Date: Unreleased
 Cover: C. Danest
 This album was released in other countries but not in the USA.

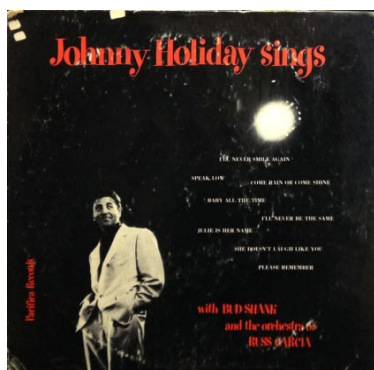


PJLP-19 Clifford Brown Ensemble *Clifford Brown Ensemble*
 Recording Dates: 7/12/54; 8/13/54
 Release Date: BB April 30, 1955
 Cover: William Claxton



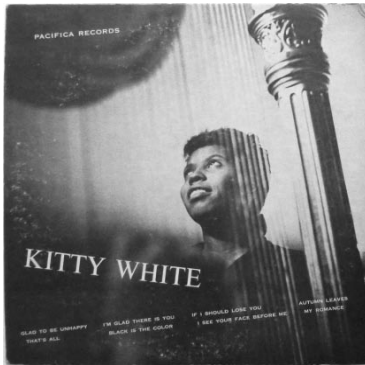
PACIFIC JAZZ Hi-Fi 10" Long Play \$2.98 incl. tax
 PJ-20 BUD SHANK and BOB BROOKMEYER (with strings)
 Available Extended Play EP4-29
PACIFICA 10" Long Play \$2.98 incl. tax
 PL-802 KITTY WHITE SINGS with CORKY HALE, HARP
 Available Extended Play PE-402
PACIFIC JAZZ ENTERPRISES, INC.
 7614 MELROSE AVE. HOLLYWOOD 46, CALIF.

PJLP-20 Bud Shank and Bob Brookmeyer *Bud Shank and Bob Brookmeyer*
 Recording Dates: 11/29/54; 1/7/55
 Release Date: BB July 23, 1955
 Cover: William Claxton



JOHNNY HOLIDAY SINGS60
 (1-10")
 Pacifica PL-801
 Could be that with this kind of exposure, and with a loyal and vocal cult kind of followers, Mr. Holiday could break thru. It's happened before. Certainly he's a musicianly singer and he has a sound. Arrangements by Russ Garcia and a band loaded with guys like Shelly Manne, Bud Shank and Barney Kessel should bring its own following. Holiday is a fine singer with a feeling for lyrics and melody line. His primary appeal now would seem to be among the jazz fans and musicians. He bears watching—and, of course, listening.

PL-801 Johnny Holiday *Johnny Holiday Sings*
 Recording Dates: June, 1954
 Release Date: BB December 25, 1954
 Cover: William Claxton



PL-802

Kitty White

Kitty White With Corky Hale, Harp

Recording Dates: 1954/1955

Release Date: BB July 23, 1955

Cover: William Claxton