



Early Vee-Jay Albums

1. Album Label Styles
 2. Album Listings,
LP-1001 through 1016,
1022; LP-100 and LP-101
 3. Unused Numbers
- Produced by Frank Daniels

Early Vee-Jay Album Label Styles

VJ58

The first Vee-Jay label was maroon-colored and featured "Vee-Jay" in script across the middle of the label. The first Vee-Jay album has matrix numbers from 1957, but it first appeared in *Billboard* in Spring, 1958.

Stereo albums appeared on gold labels, although album VJSR-1006 came out with a silver label.



There are two variations of the script label. This variation, which began with LP-1001, has a thin band around the edge of the label. There is nothing written underneath the word "Vee-Jay." Based on the dating for Vee-Jay singles, only the first six albums should exist on this label. However, albums 101, and VJLP-1001 through VJLP-1016 may all occur on this label style. See below.

During the early period, RCA Victor usually manufactured albums for Vee-Jay. Apparently the albums pressed by RCA Victor for Vee Jay continued to carry this label style until the rainbow label came along. These copies have an RCA matrix number on the label.



VJ58t

This maroon script label is slightly different from the one above. The label has a thicker silver band around it. Also, the abbreviation "TRADE MARK REG" appears under the "Vee" of "Vee-Jay."

This second album label corresponds to a similar label for singles. The singles

label in this style began in mid-1958, but the above label style and this one appear to have been used on LP's at the same time...by different pressing plants. These earlier albums are known to exist on

the "trade mark" label: 1001, 1006; 1007; 1008; 1010; 1011; 1012; 1015. VJLP-1022, the last album issued on the script label in 1960, is likely to exist only on the "trade mark" script label.

Albums VJLP-1019, 1020, and 1021 came out after VJLP-1022 and are not believed to exist on the script label.

VJ60

In August, 1960, Vee Jay modernized to a more colorful label that allowed more space for information. That label featured Vee-Jay's new "oval logo" against a black background. Around the perimeter of the label is a rainbow color band.



Early Vee-Jay Albums



VJLP-1001 Crazy Little Mama

The El Dorados

Release Date: BB April 14, 1958

The Magnificents performed two songs.

RHYTHM & BLUES ★★

CRAZY LITTLE MAMA
The El Dorados (11-12") Vee-Jay VJLP 1001
The El Dorados, who had a smash hit last year with their recording of "Crazy Little Mama" (At My Front Door) are featured here on their first LP, made up of singles they have released previously. As guest stars the Magnificents appear, too, singing "Up on the Mountain," their big hit tune. The El Dorados sides are all fine and the album should appeal to those rock and roll followers who do not have the original sides on singles.



VJLP-1002 Goodnite, It's Time to Go

The Spaniels

Release Date: c. March/April, 1958

The matrix number and the RCA job number indicate that this album was prepared at the same time as LP-1001. The label gives the title as *Goodnight, It's Time to Go*.



VJLP-1003 We Bring You Love

Sarah McLawler and Richard Otto

Release Date: CB March 8, 1958

The matrix numbers immediately precedes those of 1001 and 1002.



"WE BRING YOU LOVE"—Sarah McLawler and Richard Otto—Vee-Jay LP-1003 (1-12") LP)
The two artists bring the listener an unusual instrumental duet, Otto on the violin, and Miss McLawler on the organ. The team is a beautiful example of musical co-existence as they blend their impressive talents. One of the tunes receiving the duo's smoothly distinctive delivery is the popular "My Funny Valentine." McLawler and Otto have a well done effort. Okay deck.

Vee-Jay's first LP, "We Bring You Love" by Sarah McLawler and Richard Otto, currently handled by All-State Distribs, in Chi, is creating quite a stir.

Vee Jay sent a message to *Cash Box* (18 Ja 58) that their first album, **VJLP-1003**, was "causing quite a stir" in Chicago. This may have been just a good public relations effort, since they were advertising regularly in the trade magazines but no ads for the LP appear until March.

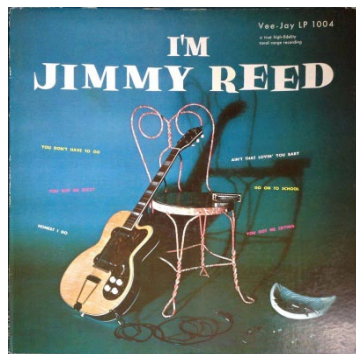


VJSR-1003 We Bring You Love

Sarah McLawler and Richard Otto

Release Date: August, 1959

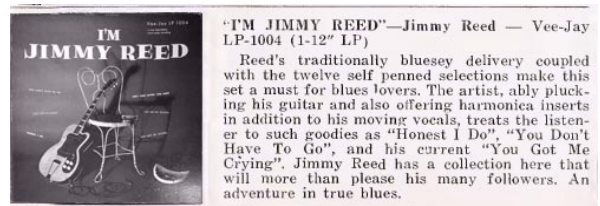
The RCA Victor job numbers indicate a date in 1959. According to *Billboard* and the back cover of the mono LP, Pentron of Chicago made the album available on stereo inline tape as Pentape AUS-901 and Pentape AUS-902 as early as January, 1958. The mono album came out in 1958 and featured eight songs. The stereo album from 1959 not only features nine songs, but also the songs are in an entirely different sequence, and they are not the same. One of the songs from the mono album, "Babe in the Woods," does not appear on the stereo album. On the other hand, the stereo lineup sports two songs, "Alone" and "Sophisticated Lady," that are not on the mono album.

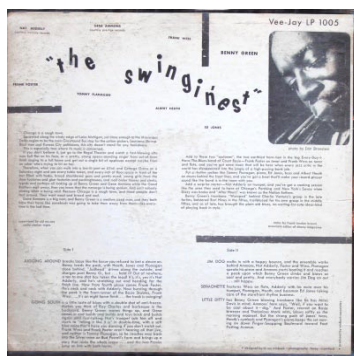
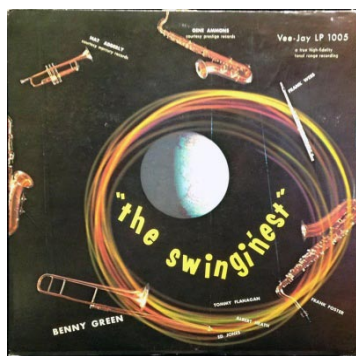


VJLP-1004 I'm Jimmy Reed

Jimmy Reed

Release Date: CB August 23, 1958





VJLP-1005 *The Swingin'est*
 Bennie Green
 Release Date: CB June 13, 1959



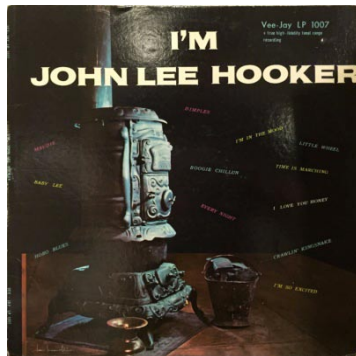
VJLP-1005 *The Swingin'est*
 Bennie Green
 Release Date: August, 1959



VJLP-1006 *We Bring You Swing*
 Sarah McLawler and Richard Otto
 Release Date: CB August 8, 1959



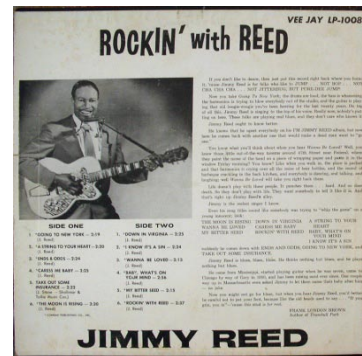
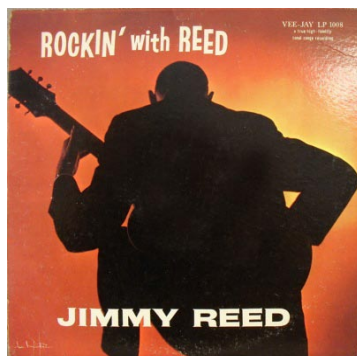
VJSR-1006 *We Bring You Swing*
 Sarah McLawler and Richard Otto
 Release Date: CB August 8, 1959



VJLP-1007 *I'm John Lee Hooker*
 John Lee Hooker
 Release Date: c. July, 1959; CB August 8, 1959

The XCTV- prefix on one pressing indicates that Columbia Records made it. I know of no copies from RCA Victor, so this may have been the first album that another company pressed, and in addition it is the first album known on Label 58t, but not on Label 58.

The Vee-Jay job numbers on this album precede those of LP-1006.



VJLP-1008 *Rockin' With Reed*
 Jimmy Reed
 Release Date: CB August 8, 1959





RHYTHM & BLUES ★★★
★★★ GENE ALLISON
 Vee-Jay LP 1009 — Allison is a good ballad singer, judging from this package. Material here is not blues; but rather tunes which are quite inspirational, as "You Can Make It If You Try," "Reap What You Sow," etc.

VJLP-1009 *Gene Allison*

Gene Allison

Release Date:

BB October 5, 1959

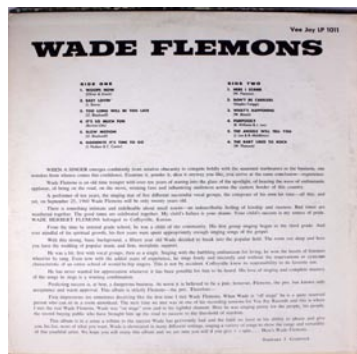
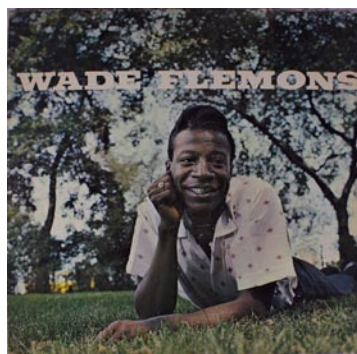


VJLP-1010 *Oh, What a Nite*

The Dells

Release Date:

BB October 5, 1959

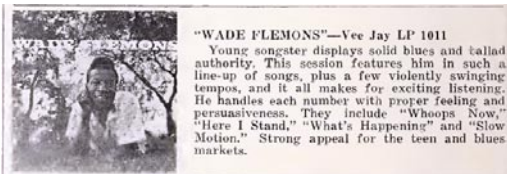


VJLP-1011 *Wade Flemons*

Wade Flemons

Release Date:

BB October 5, 1959



"WADE FLEMONS"—Vee Jay LP 1011
 Younger songster displays solid blues and ballad authority. This session features him in such a line-up of songs, plus a few violently swinging tempos, and it all makes for exciting listening. He handles each number with proper feeling and persuasiveness. They include "Whoops Now," "Here I Stand," "What's Happening" and "Slow Motion." Strong appeal for the teen and blues markets.

Vee Jay changed the album's track selection at the last minute, so that a few songs are different on the final version. The first batch of labels lists the "original" track listing. As far as I know, all of the albums play the correct listing, and every cover shows the correct listing.

| Original Listing (some labels) | Corrected Listing (most labels, all covers) |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Side One | Side One |
| What's Happening | Woops Now |
| Never Let Me Go | Easy Lovin' |
| Too Long Will Be Too Late | To Long Will Be Too Late (misspelled) |
| It's So Much Fun | It's So Much Fun |
| Slow Motion | Slow Motion |
| Goodnite, It's Time to Go | Goodnite It's Time to Go |
| Side Two | Side Two |
| Here I Stand | Here I Stand |
| Don't Be Careless | Don't Be Careless |
| A Great Romance | What's Happening |
| Purposefully | Purposefully |
| The Angels Will Tell You | The Angels Will Tell You |
| The Baby Likes to Rock | The Baby Likes to Rock |

Observe that "A Great Romance" and "Never Let Me Go" were replaced by two recent single sides, "Woops Now" and "Easy Lovin'." I am not aware of the other two songs ever being released.



Tempus TL-101 *Danceable Dixieland Jazz*

Dave Remington and his Dixie Six

Release Date: c. October, 1959; BB December 14, 1959

Cash Box reported in its September 6, 1958, issue that Tempus Records was a new label in Peoria (IL) that had just released its first record. Operated by young entrepreneur Steve Clark, Tempus was a local label that quickly picked up talent. Vee-Jay executives observed Clark's talent, and by November of the following year they convinced him to join them at Vee-Jay — where he eventually became a corporate vice president. Clark brought artists such as the Dixie Six with him to Vee-Jay.

★★ DANCEABLE DIXIELAND JAZZ
Dave Remington Sextet. Tempus TL 101—
 The music is not only danceable, as advertised in the title, but is quite listenable, too. While the musicians are not of the big name variety, and the way they play may sometimes startle the purist, their efforts do justice to such old favorites as "When the Saints Go Marching In," "South Rampart Street Parade" and "Friendless Blues."

Tempus Records, a new diskery based in Peoria, recently debuted with a rock 'n' roll slicing "The Beat" b/w "Crazy Baby" by The Rockin' R's. Tempus' Steve Clark popped into town just long enough to tell us that Terry Burns and A & R chief Ossie Osborne expect mucho action with a host of soon to be released decks. M. S. Distribs was appointed to handle Tempus sales Hereabouts. . .

Clark To Vee-Jay Post

CHICAGO—Ewart Abner Jr., general manager of Vee-Jay Abner Records, this city, announced the appointment last week of Steve Clark to the position of sales and promotion manager for the south and southwestern territories of the United States.

Clark, who formerly headed Tempus Records of Peoria Illinois, brought several recording artists from Tempus into the Vee-Jay family. They are The Rocking R's and Dave Remington and his Dixie 6.



Kats Karavan LP-100

Various Artists (DJ Jim Lowe)

Release Date:

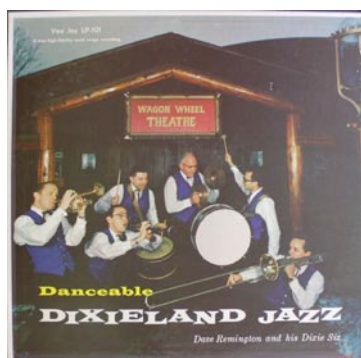
BB November 30, 1959

Old Favorites



NEW RELEASES

OLD FAVORITES: Under one LP cover, all the following hits: All Nite Long (Rusty Bryant); Play It Cool (The Spaniels); Honest I Do (Jimmy Reed); Over the Mountain, Across the Sea (Johnny and Jan); Money Honey (Clyde McPhatter and the Drifters); You Can Make It If You Try (Gene Allison); Sincerely (The Moonglows) and many other all-time favorites. (Vee-Jay LP 100)



Vee Jay LP-101 Danceable Dixieland Jazz

Dave Remington and his Dixie Six

Release Date:

BB November 30, 1959

DANCEABLE DIXIELAND JAZZ: Riverboat Shuffle, When the Saints Go Marching In and other stellar two-beat instrumentals by the top new name in the Bourbon St. tradition. DAVE REMINGTON AND HIS DIXIE SIX (Vee-Jay LP-101)

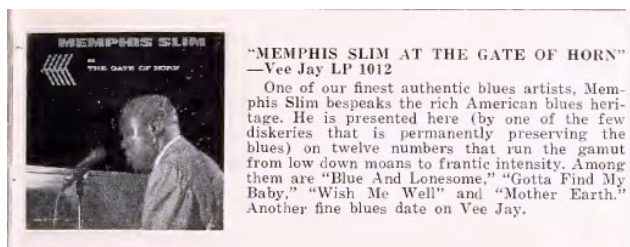


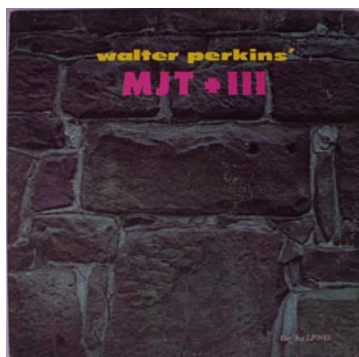
VJLP-1012 At the Gate of Horn

Memphis Slim

Release Date:

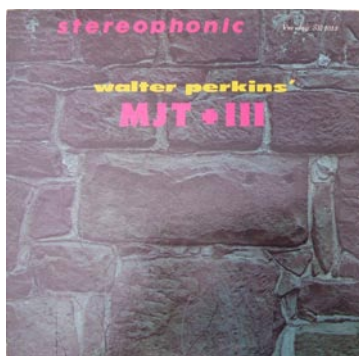
CB January 9, 1960





VJLP-1013 *Walter Perkins' MJT+III*
 MTJ+III
 Release Date: BB November 23, 1959

*** MJT PLUS 3
 Walter Perkins. Vee Jay LP 1013—An exciting small jazz group sparked by Walter Perkins on drums. Good ideas a-plenty here, and they are well played. Material is blues-oriented as a basis, and goes off into fresh directions. Dealers with knowledgeable or inquisitive jazz clients should carry some of this package.



VJSR-1013 *Walter Perkins' MJT+III*
 MTJ+III
 Release Date: BB November 23, 1959



VJLP-1014 *Go*
 Paul Chambers
 Release Date: BB December 7, 1959

*** GO . . .
 Paul Chambers. Vee Jay LP 1014 — A swinging, driving set with bassist Paul Chambers turning in some virtuoso work on both a plucking and bowing kick. "Canonball" Adderly naturally comes in for much of the highlight solo work and he adds much power to the set. Philly Joe Jones, tho billed as the lead drummer, appears on only band one, "Awful Mean," with Jimmy Cobb taking over on the other five bands. Also heard are Wynton Kelly on piano and Freddie Hubbard on spot trumpet work. Good cover idea hus a green traffic light conveying the "go" idea.

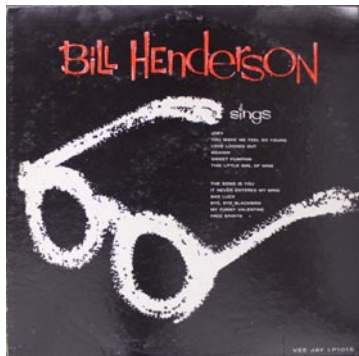


VJSR-1014 *Go*

Paul Chambers

Release Date:

BB December 7, 1959



VJLP-1015 *Bill Henderson*

Bill Henderson

Release Date:

BB April 11, 1960

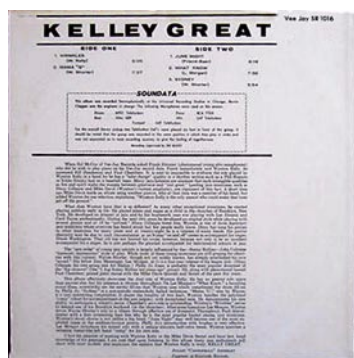
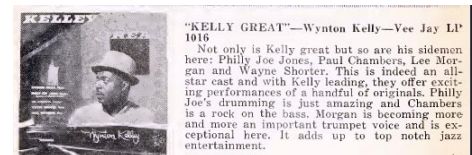


POP TALENT

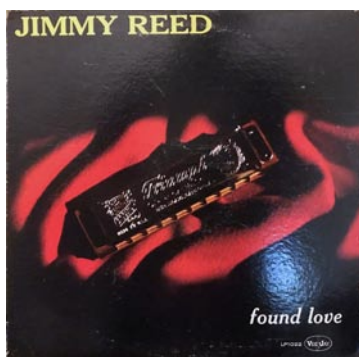
BILL HENDERSON SINGS
Vee Jay LP 1015—A singer with the ability to get inside the feeling of a tune, not merely sing the words, Bill Henderson is truly musical. He does an especially meaningful job on deeply emotional ballads such as "Joey," "Moanin'" and "My Funny Valentine," as well as on up-beat numbers like "The Song Is You" and "This Little Girl of Mine." These and others make excellent jockey material.



VJLP-1016 Kelly Great
Wynton Kelly
Release Date: CB April 16, 1960
Kelly's last name is misspelled on the cover.



VJSR-1016 Kelly Great
Wynton Kelly
Release Date: c. July/August, 1960
Kelly's last name is misspelled on the cover.
Based on the RCA Victor job number, Vee-Jay released the stereo album later in the year.



VJLP-1022 Found Love
Jimmy Reed
Release Date: c. late July, 1960 (CB August 6, 1960)
Pressed by ARP.



A Few Unused Album Numbers

In the July issue of *Jazz Review*, Vee Jay advertised the release of three new jazz albums, numbered VJLP-1017, VJLP-1018, and VJLP-1021 – the first two of which were also to be available in stereo. However, Vee Jay was in the middle of a rebranding process. That process involved the creation of a new logo and label design and resulted in the label's jazz albums being moved from the main (1001) series into a new jazz series beginning with 3005. Apparently Vee-Jay reissued Wynton Kelly's album with the number "3004" at a later time, and numbers 3001 to 3003 do not seem to exist.

All three of the jazz albums that had been slated for release in July were renumbered and became part of that new series. The Strozier album was numbered 3005, the Shorter album became 3006, and the Remington LP emerged as number 3009; all three were available in stereo. Numbers 1017 and 1018 were not used for any other albums, but in the August 22, 1960, issue of *Billboard* the label announced the release of an ad campaign called *Teen Delights* – capped off by a newly-issued VJLP-1021 with that title.



3 More From VEE JAY

1 "VJLP 1017"
fantastic FRANK STROZIER
 Fantastic FRANK STROZIER with Booker Little, Paul Chambers, Wynton Kelley and Jimmy Cobb

2 "VJLP 1018"
 Introducing... WAYNE SHORTER in his first solo appearance on VEE JAY Records

3 VJLP 1021
DIXIE ON THE ROCKS with DAVE REMINGTON and the DIXIE SIX. Dixie at its best!

*Also available on Stereophonic Disc.

VEE JAY
 VEE JAY RECORDS
 1449 South Michigan, Chicago Illinois