

## ***"No No Song"/"Snookeroo"***

First appearance in trade magazines: February 1, 1975

### **Label wdjm**

Apple

P-1880

All-white label with no Apple markings

MONO/MONO promotional copy.



Factories: Los Angeles

### **Label wdjs**

Apple

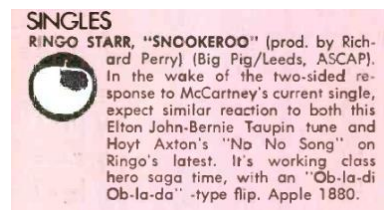
P-1880

All-white label with no Apple markings

STEREO/STEREO promotional copy.



Factories: Los Angeles



### Label an1

Apple 1880  
Ring Nebula label with Apple logos.  
The A-side author credit is "Hoyt Axton."



Factories: Los Angeles, Jacksonville, Winchester

### Label an2

Apple 1880  
Ring Nebula label with Apple logos.  
The A-side author credit is "Axton-Jackson."



Factories: Los Angeles, Jacksonville, Winchester  
B-side label is the same as Label an1.

### Label 78

Capitol 1880  
Purple label with "MFD." rim print  
Factories: Los Angeles, Jax, Winchester  
Jacksonville copies have Ringo's name above  
the song titles.  
The A-side now has two additional names:  
Glazer and Msarugwa.



### Label 83

Capitol 1880  
Black rainbow label with print in the color band  
Factories: Jacksonville, Specialty



### Label 88

Capitol 1880  
Purple label with "MANUFACTURED" rim print  
Factories: Specialty



"Skokiaan" is a Rhodesian song written by sax player August Musarurwa (whose name is usually spelled Msarugwa on records) in about 1950. In 1954, with a new band name, they recorded the song again, and this time it became an international hit. That year, folk singer Tom Glazer (who wrote "On Top of Spaghetti") added lyrics to the song, and the Four Lads released it (Columbia 40306; CB 08/21/54). Since Glazer only added lyrics – which do not appear in "No No Song" – his name should not be in the credits at all in my opinion.

Along came country singer Hoyt Axton, who by this time had written rock hits for Three Dog Night ("Never Been to Spain," "Joy to the World"). Axton wrote several anti-drug songs (including "The Pusher" and "Snowblind Friend"), so "No No Song" was right up his alley. Together with bass player David P. Jackson, he crafted the song and gave it to Ringo; for his own recording (1975) he solicited Cheech and Chong! The first custom labels seem to have left Jackson's name off accidentally.



Between 1975 and 1978, someone noticed that during the instrumental bridge, the horns were playing a tune that sounded like “Skokiaan.” This appears to have been how Glazer and Msarurgwa came to be added to the author credits.

As the A-side trails off, we hear Ringo and Harry Nilsson (ironically?) indicate that their own drug of choice was alcohol. “I’ll just have another drink, barman” and “I’ll have the same. Put mine in a boot.”

The B-side, “Snookeroo,” came from the piano of Elton John and the pen of Bernie Taupin. According to the November 21, 1974, issue of Rolling Stone, they wrote it especially for him:

“We’ve also written a song for Ringo, ‘Snookeroo.’ He said, ‘Listen, make it nice and commercial,’ so we did. Bernie wrote really simple lyrics, very Ringo-type lyrics, and I tried to write a simple sort of melody to it. And I play piano on it.”

(Bernie: “It’s a simple, biographical thing: ‘I was born in a Northern town’ . . . like that. Just that bit got me humming ‘Yellow Submarine.’”)

