A-side and B-side

Two sides of phonograph records and cassettes / From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia 🚓 🕛



The **A-side** and **B-side** are the two sides of phonograph records and cassettes, and the terms have often been printed on the labels of two-sided music recordings. The A-side usually features a recording that its artist, producer, or record company intends to be the initial focus of promotional efforts and radio airplay, with the aim of it becoming a hit record. The B-side (or "flip-side") is a secondary recording that typically receives less attention, although some B-sides have been as successful as, or more so than, their A-sides.

Use of this language has largely declined in the 21st century as the music industry has transitioned away from analog recordings towards digital formats without physical sides, such as downloads and streaming. Nevertheless, some artists and labels continue to employ the terms *A-side* and *B-side* metaphorically to describe the type of content a particular release features, with *B-side* sometimes representing a "bonus" track or other material.^[1] The term B-side carries a more expansive definition in the K-pop industry, referring to all tracks on an album that are not marketed as title tracks.^[2] [unreliable source?]



History

Conventions shifted in the early 1960s, at which point record companies started assigning the song they wanted radio stations to play to side A, as 45 rpm single records ("45s") dominated most markets in terms of cash sales in comparison to albums, which did not fare as well financially. Throughout the decade



Victor 17929-A and 17929-B

the industry would slowly shift to an album-driven paradigm for releasing new music; it was not until 1968 that the total production of albums on a unit basis finally surpassed that of singles in the United Kingdom.^[3]

Double A-side

A "double A-side", "AA-side", or "dual single" is a single where both sides are designated the A-side, with no designated B-side; that is, both sides are prospective hit songs and neither side will be promoted over the other. In 1949, Savoy Records promoted a new single by one of its artists, Paul Williams' "House Rocker" and "He Knows How to Hucklebuck", as "The New Double Side Hit – Both Sides "A" Sides". [4] In 1965, Billboard reported that due to a disagreement between EMI and John Lennon about which side of the Beatles' "We Can Work It Out" and "Day Tripper" single should be considered the A-side and receive the plugging, "EMI settled for a double-side promotion campaign—unique in Britain." [5]

In the UK, before the advent of digital downloads, both A-sides were accredited with the same chart position, for the singles chart was compiled entirely from physical sales. In the UK, the biggest-selling non-charity single of all time was a double A-side, Wings' 1977 release "Mull of Kintyre"/"Girls' School", which sold over two million copies. It was also the UK Christmas No. 1 that year, one of only four occasions on which a double A-side has topped that chart, the others being Queen's 1991 re-release of "Bohemian Rhapsody" with "These Are the Days of Our Lives", Westlife's 1999 release "I Have a Dream"/"Seasons in the Sun", and the Beatles' "Day Tripper"/"We Can Work It Out" in 1965. [6] [7] Nirvana released "All Apologies"

and "Rape Me" as a double A-side in 1993, and both songs are accredited as a hit on both the UK Singles Chart, [8] and the Irish Singles Chart. [9]

Artists with the most top 10 double-side singles

More information Artist, Number	
Artist	Number
The Beatles	6
Elvis Presley	5
Ricky Nelson	4
Creedence Clearwater Revival	4
Close	

B/W

"b/w" redirects here. For the shortened form of "black and white", see black-and-white. For other uses, see B&W.

The term "b/w", an abbreviation of "backed with", is often used in listings to indicate the B-side of a record. The term "c/w", for "coupled with", is used similarly.^[10]

Characteristics

B-sides are often considered to be filler material: songs of lower quality. However, some pop artists such as the Smiths and Oasis have been particularly known for releasing strong material on B-sides.^[11] [12] B-sides have often been compiled on

expanded or "deluxe" editions of albums or may be compiled into a "B-side compilation album" across multiple periods of an artist's career.^[13]

B-side compilations

Main article: List of B-side compilation albums

See also

B movie

References



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English record producer (1926–2016)

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Extended play

Musical recording longer than a single but shorter than a full album

An extended play (EP) is a musical recording that contains more tracks than a single but fewer than an album or LP record. Contemporary EPs generally contain up to eight tracks and have a playing time of 15 to 30 minutes. An "EP" is usually less cohesive than an album and more "non-committal".

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The Beatles discography

Worldwide, the British rock band the Beatles released 12 studio albums, 5 live albums, 51 compilation albums, 36 extended plays (EPs), 63 singles, 17 box sets, 22 video albums and 53 music videos. In their native United Kingdom, during their active existence as a band, they released 12 studio albums, 1 compilation album, 13 EPs, and 22 singles. The...

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I Want to Hold Your Hand

1963 single by the Beatles

"I Want to Hold Your Hand" is a song by the English rock band the Beatles, written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney. Recorded on 17 October 1963 and released on 29 November 1963 in the United Kingdom, it was the first Beatles record to be made using four-track recording equipment.

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A Collection of Beatles Oldies

1966 compilation album by the Beatles

A Collection of Beatles Oldies is a compilation album by the English rock band the Beatles. Released in the United Kingdom in December 1966, it features hit singles and other songs issued by the group between 1963 and 1966. The compilation served as a stopgap release to satisfy EMI's demand for product during the Christmas period, since the Beatles...

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