

ABC

History: This was a New York City based label formed in 1955 as a subsidiary of American Broadcasting-Paramount Theaters, Inc. The label purchased many of the smaller labels of the day. In 1979, this label was purchased by MCA and all releases and re-issues after that time appear on the MCA label.

Mono/Stereo identification: The labels used on both Mono and Stereo releases were the same. The record number prefix was 'ABC' for Mono issues and 'ABCS' for Stereo. The last Mono record issued was approximately #607 in 1967.

Label Series:

Standard: The first LP released was #100 in 1955 and this series continued until approximately #1141 in 1979.

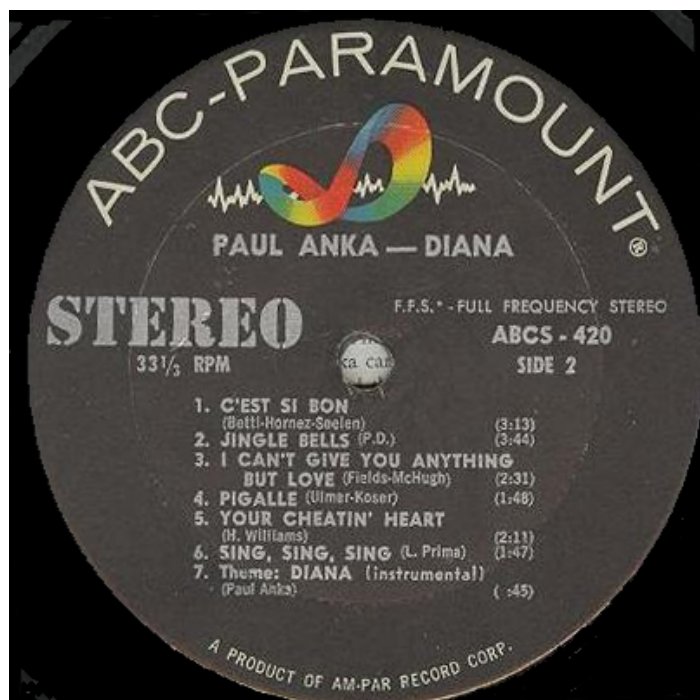
Soundtracks: OC-xx series issued from 1964 to 1970. After 1970, soundtracks were released in the standard series.

Aristocrat: 22xx series issued from 1959 to 1967.

Great Performances: 40xx series from 1974 to 1975.

ABC Collection: 300xx series was issued from 1976 to 1977.

LABEL: #1



DESCRIPTION: Black label with white "ABC-PARAMOUNT" in white text at the top, just above a colored ribbon with a 'heartbeat' line through it. The bottom perimeter print reads: "A PRODUCT OF AM-PAR RECORD CORP".

FROM: .
UNTIL: .

NOTE: The registration symbol begins to appear on these releases just to the right of the "T" in the logo about LP# 379.

LABEL: #1a



DESCRIPTION: Black label with white "ABC-PARAMOUNT ®" logo in white text at the top, just above a colored ribbon with a 'heartbeat' line through it. The bottom perimeter print reads: "A PRODUCT OF ABC-PARAMOUNT RECORDS, INC."

FROM: .
UNTIL: .

LABEL: #1dj



DESCRIPTION: White label, promotional issue. Some promotional white labels did not contain the "PROMOTION COPY NOT FOR SALE" wording.

Note: This label version appears to have been used on both label #1 & #1a releases.

LABEL: #2



DESCRIPTION: Black label with a round "ABC" logo (black & white) inside a color spectrum box at top.

FROM: .
UNTIL: .

Known bottom perimeter print variations:

1. "A PRODUCT OF ABC-PARAMOUNT RECORDS INC., A SUBSIDIARY OF AMERICAN BROADCASTING COMPANIES, INC."
2. "A PRODUCT OF ABC RECORDS INC. NEW YORK, N. Y. 10019 • MADE IN USA"
3. "ABC Records Inc. New York, N. Y. 10019 • Made in USA"
4. "Distributed by ABC Records Inc. New York, N. Y. 10019 • Made in U.S.A."

We are still gathering information on the above variations to determine if there was a dateable progression to each one. Please contribute your examples or information to this effort by letting us know what variations you have on what LP.

NOTE: The registration symbol sometimes appears on this label to the right of the logo at the top. We have not established a pattern as to a dateable timeframe that it may have been added.

LABEL: #2dj



DESCRIPTION: White label, promotional issue. During the time that label 2 is issued, the perimeter print remains the same on the promotional releases and it does not include the registration symbol even though the corresponding commercial releases do change.

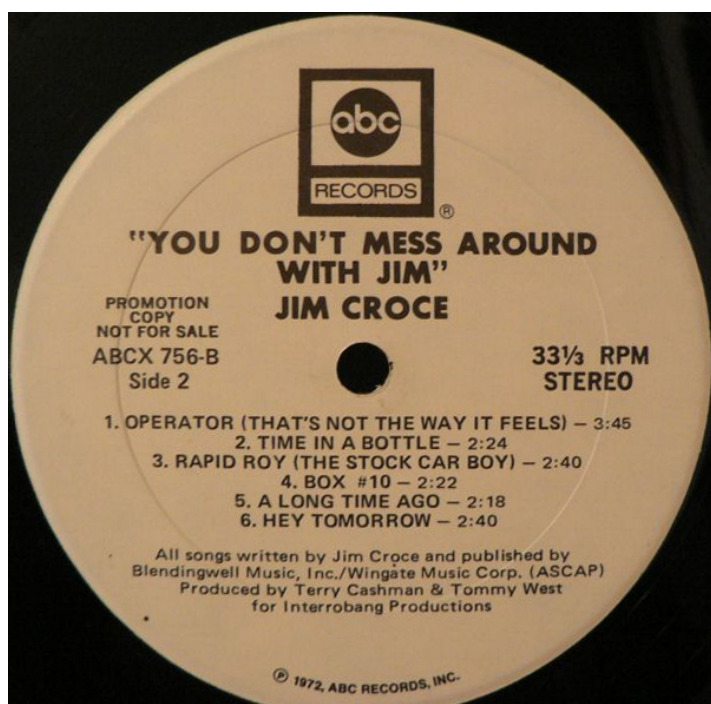
LABEL: #3



DESCRIPTION: Black label with a round "ABC" logo (black & white) inside a color spectrum box at top with the registration symbol to the right of the logo. The bottom perimeter print reads "© ABC Records, Inc. MCMLXXI". When LPs were issued in 1972, the Roman numerals were change to MCMLXXII.

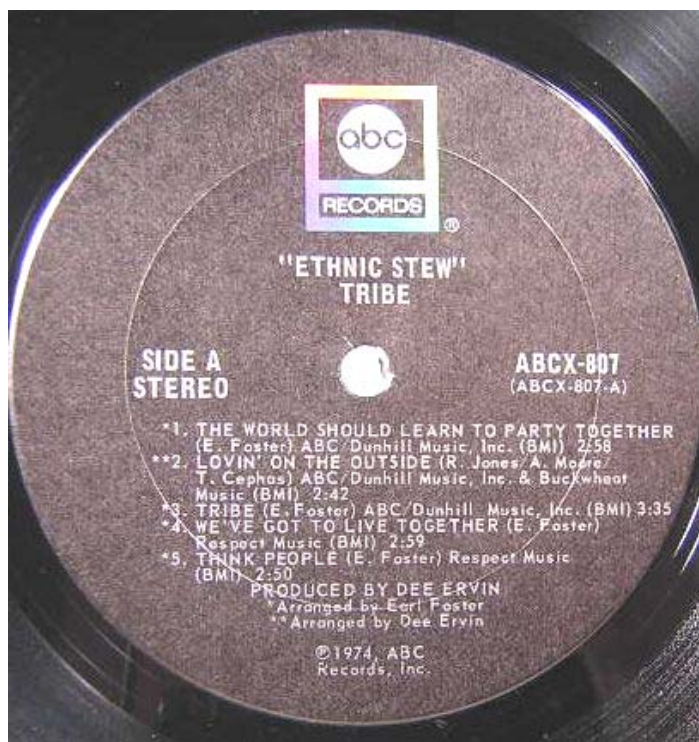
FROM: .
UNTIL: .

LABEL: #3dj



DESCRIPTION: White label, promotional issue.

LABEL: #3a



DESCRIPTION: Black label with a round "ABC" logo (black & white) inside a color spectrum box at top with the registration symbol to the right of the logo. The year of release is now located at the bottom of the label and there is no perimeter print.

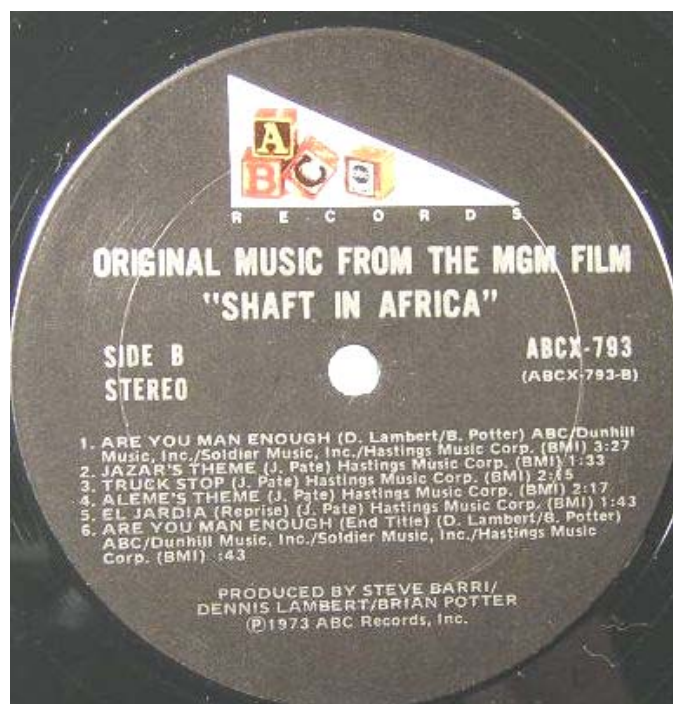
FROM: .
UNTIL: .

LABEL: #3a, dj



DESCRIPTION: White label, promotional issue.

LABEL: #4



DESCRIPTION: Black label with color 'building blocks' logo at top inside a white triangle. The year of release is located at the bottom of the label and there is no perimeter print.

FROM: .
UNTIL: .

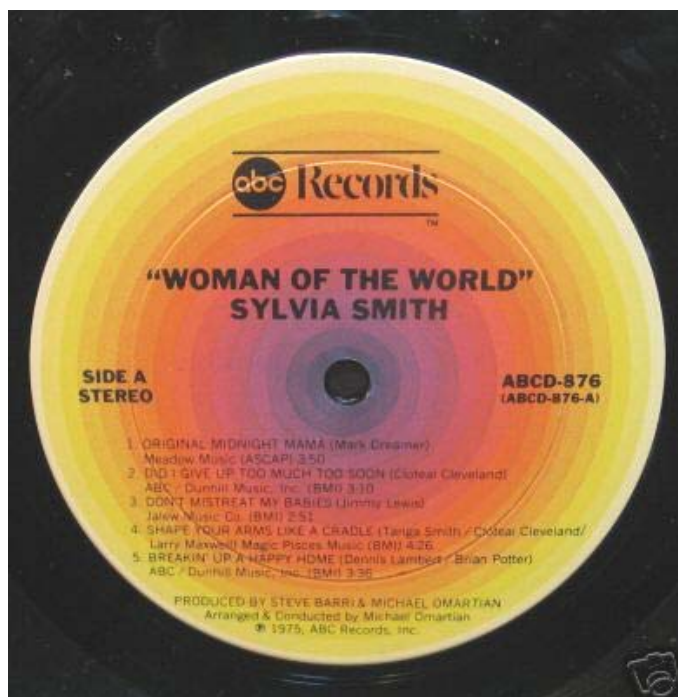
NOTE: Perhaps the #3 label style was temporarily shelved (though doubtful) at this time, and then used again in 1974. More than likely, both #3 and #4 labels were being issued concurrently until #4 was dropped in 1974.

LABEL: #4dj



DESCRIPTION: White label, promotional issue.

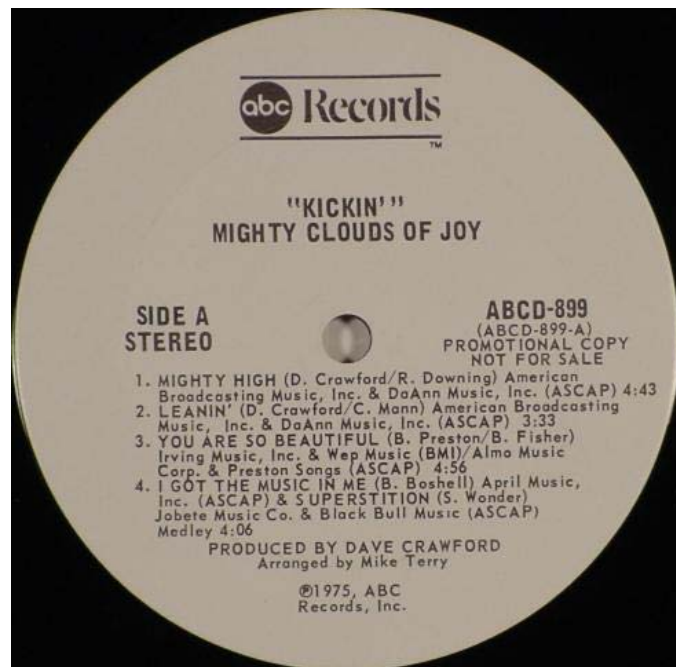
LABEL: #5



DESCRIPTION: Label with purple center and gold outer area with round "ABC" logo (black and white) at top.

FROM: .
UNTIL: .

LABEL: #5dj



DESCRIPTION: White label, promotional issue.

LABEL: #6



DESCRIPTION: Label with purple center and gold outer area with '1/8th note' (on musical scale) logo.

FROM: .
UNTIL: .

LABEL: #6dj

(no image added yet)

DESCRIPTION: White label, promotional issue.

LABEL: #6a



DESCRIPTION: Label with purple center and gold outer area with '1/8th note' (on musical scale) logo. The bottom perimeter print reads: "Manf. And dist. By ABC Records, Inc., Los Angeles, Ca. 90048. New York, N.Y. 10019".

FROM: .

UNTIL: .

LABEL: #6b



DESCRIPTION: Label with purple center and gold outer area with '1/8th note' (on musical scale) logo. The bottom perimeter print reads: "DISTRIBUTED BY MCA DISTRIBUTING".

FROM: .

UNTIL: .

ABC Special Series

LABEL: #S1 – Aristocrat Series



DESCRIPTION: Black label with a round "ABC" logo (black & white) inside a color spectrum box at top just like label 2. The bottom perimeter print reads: "A PRODUCT OF ABC RECORDS INC. NEW YORK, N. Y. 10019 • MADE IN USA".

NOTE: A 1960's label style. There may be other versions of this label and it may have followed the standard series variations.

LABEL: #S2 – Soundtracks



DESCRIPTION: Black label with a round "ABC" logo (black & white) inside a color spectrum box at top just like label 2.

NOTE: A 1960's label style. There may be other versions of this label and it may have followed the standard series variations.

LABEL: #S3 – Great Performances



DESCRIPTION: Label with blue center and white outer area with round "ABC" logo (black and white) at top. This is similar to label 5 with only the color changed.

Note: Approximately 15 LPs issued in the 40xx series during 1974/5.

LABEL: #S4 – ABC Collection



DESCRIPTION: Beige label with white logo.

NOTE: 1976 label style used on the ABC Collections series of re-issues of ABC related artists.

LABEL: #S5 - Quadraphonic



DESCRIPTION: Olive/Gold label used only for ABC's quadraphonic pressings. All of the quadraphonic pressings of the ABC subsidiary labels were issued on this label.

NOTE: For listings of other ABC associated labels of the 1970s, refer to:

BLUE THUMB, BLUESWAY, COMMAND, DOT, DUNHILL, HICKORY, IMPULSE, PROBE

Do you have a variation not shown? Please send images of any examples of new variations via email to:

rlguide@recordranch.com

Your contribution will be greatly appreciated and your name will appear on the "Credits" page of the next edition. If you would prefer not to have your name listed, please let us know when you send the images.