

## BLUE NOTE

**History:** The Blue Note label was formed in 1939 in NYC by Alfred Lion. They released their first 10" LP in 1951 and their first 12" LP in 1956. They released primarily Jazz LPs of the "hard bop" style. The label is currently owned by the EMI Group and is distributed in the US by Capitol Records.

**Mono/Stereo identification:** Most Stereo issues have added an "8" in front of the record number such that the Stereo pressing of LP 4020 is 84020. However, some of the Stereo releases did not have an '8' but carried a BST prefix to the usual Mono number. We have only found 7 examples of this so far – LPs 1554, 1577, 1595, 4003, 4008, 4011, & 4014.

### Label Numbering Series:

**Standard Series:** The 10" LPs were issued in the 50xx & 70xx series. The 12" LPs were first issued in the 15xx series that ended with #1600.

The next series was 4xxx which lasted to the end of the Mono releases at #4276. The Stereo numbers continued until 84431.

When distribution was taken over by Liberty, there was a short lived 899xx series but they also continued with the old 84xxx series. Then when United Artists purchased the Liberty label in 1969, the number of each release was eventually incorporated into the UA numbering system; i.e. UA-LAxxx-F (or G).

### LABEL: #1



**DESCRIPTION:** Blue and white label with "BLUE NOTE RECORDS 767 LEXINGTON AVE NYC" in semi-script around the inner deep groove perimeter.

**FROM:** .  
**UNTIL:** .

### LABEL: #1a



**DESCRIPTION:** Blue and white label with "BLUE NOTE RECORDS • 47 WEST 63<sup>rd</sup> • NEW YORK 23" around the inner deep groove perimeter.

**FROM:** .  
**UNTIL:** .

### LABEL: #1b



**DESCRIPTION:** Blue and white label with "BLUE NOTE RECORDS • 47 WEST 63<sup>rd</sup> • NYC" address on label around the inner deep groove perimeter and no registration symbol under the "E" in "Note" at the bottom of the label.

**FROM:** .  
**UNTIL:** .

**LABEL: #1c**



**DESCRIPTION:** Blue and white label with "BLUE NOTE RECORDS Inc • 47 WEST 63<sup>rd</sup> • NYC" address on label around top perimeter and a registration symbol under the "E" in "Note" at the bottom of the label.

**FROM:** .  
**UNTIL:** .

**LABEL: #1d**

(no image added yet)

**DESCRIPTION:** Blue and white label with a West 61<sup>st</sup> street address on label around top perimeter. It is rumored that this variation exists; however, we have not seen any examples of it.

**LABEL: #1e**



**DESCRIPTION:** Blue and white label with "BLUE NOTE RECORDS INC • NEW YORK USA" address on label around top perimeter.

**FROM:** .  
**UNTIL:** .

**LABEL: #1f**



**DESCRIPTION:** Blue and white label with "BLUE NOTE RECORDS • A DIVISION OF LIBERTY RECORDS, INC." printed on label.

**FROM:** .  
**UNTIL:** .

**NOTE:** Liberty Records purchased Blue Note in 1965/6 and all releases (and re-issues) up to 1969 appear on this label. LP #4276 was the last LP issued in Mono.



**LABEL: #1g**



**DESCRIPTION:** Blue and white label with "BLUE NOTE RECORDS • A DIVISION OF UNITED ARTISTS RECORDS, INC." printed on label.

**FROM:** .  
**UNTIL:** .

**LABEL: #2**



**DESCRIPTION:** Dark blue at right and light blue left portion of label, logo at left in box. The bottom perimeter print reads "LIBERTY/UA, INC., LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA".

**NOTE:** A few titles appeared on this label in 1970. So far we have seen most of them in the 843xx series as well as re-issues. They seem to appear at the same time as label #1f and may have been used concurrently.

**LABEL: #3**



**DESCRIPTION:** Blue label with a blue note inside a black logo in upper right area. The bottom perimeter print reads "BLUE NOTE RECORDS • A DIVISION OF UNITED ARTISTS RECORDS, INC. • MADE IN U.S.A. • ALL RIGHTS RESERVED"

**FROM:** .  
**UNTIL:** .

**LABEL: #3a**





**DESCRIPTION:** Blue label with a blue note inside a black logo in upper right area. The perimeter print reads “• BLUE NOTE RECORDS • MANUFACTURED BY UNITED ARTISTS MUSIC AND RECORDS GROUP, INC. • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90026 • MADE IN U.S.A. •”.

**FROM:** .  
**UNTIL:** .

**LABEL: #3b**



**DESCRIPTION:** Blue label with a blue note inside a white logo in upper right area. The perimeter print reads “• BLUE NOTE RECORDS • MANUFACTURED BY UNITED ARTISTS MUSIC AND RECORDS GROUP, INC. • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90026 • MADE IN U.S.A. •”.

**FROM:** .  
**UNTIL:** .

**LABEL: #3c**



**DESCRIPTION:** Blue label with a blue note inside a white logo in upper right area. The perimeter print reads “© © 1979 LIBERTY/UNITED RECORDS, INC. MANUFACTURED BY LIBERTY/UNITED RECORDS, INC. • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90026 PRINTED IN U.S.A.”.

**FROM:** .  
**UNTIL:** .

**LABEL: #4**



**DESCRIPTION:** Blue label with “re-issue series” and logo at left in black and white. The bottom perimeter print is the same as #3a & 3b.

**NOTE:** As stated on the label; this was the 1970s re-issue label.

**LABEL: #5**



**DESCRIPTION:** Blue and white label with “finest in jazz since 1939” on label.

**NOTE:** Re-issue label of 1985 by Capitol Records. There are several versions with the print on the left different. We need additional examples of these with the print large enough to read!

Do you have a label variation not shown or a better graphic of a label variation that is shown? Please send new or improved images of any examples via email to:

[rlguide@recordbranch.com](mailto:rlguide@recordbranch.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 any images.

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