

# USING THE BOOK AS A REFERENCE

I will use this space to describe the different categories in the book in order to help the reader fully understand the information within.

## Artist Name:

The first line in "bold" type on the left side of the page lists the group or single artist w/vocal backing and some duets.

The artists are listed in "alphabetical" order. I qualify this by saying it's altered a little due to many groups using a different spelling for the same name, such as: Hi Lites, Hi-Lites or Lovenotes, Love Notes etc. In order to keep these groups together, they are listed based on the order of the letters in the name regardless of spaces in the name or hyphens etc. The exception to this rule involves those groups whose name begins with "EL" followed by a space and then the rest of the name, such as El Dorados. These groups are all together in order using the second word in the name in alphabetical order.

In some cases I have cross referenced a record under the single artist name and again with the group that backed them, as they can be listed both ways depending on the media.

## Number on Same Line as Artist Name – Middle Right Side of Page:

If there is only one artist with that name, the number will be (1). If multiple artists with same name exist they are separated as (1) (2) (3) etc.

Some groups are listed separately and then with a front person such as: Accents and Accents, Jackie Aldelen &. If group is the same, they will both have the same number.

Exceptions: In many cases a group may have recorded with a group of members then changed many of the members, but keeping the same core group. In this case they may be listed as (1), (2), (3) etc. The members are always listed in these cases so you can tell they were the same basic group.

## Hometown:

This information is listed directly under the artist's name. If a city & state or just a state is listed that would be where the group or individual were from. In many cases this wouldn't necessarily be where the members were born, but rather where they met and began signing. In some cases you will see two cities listed. This will usually occur with a single artist, listing his/her birth place and additionally where they lived while initially recording.

### Members:

The member's information is in *italics* and is found directly under the hometown or artist name if no hometown is listed. I tried to list only those members that actually recorded with the group. Members are always the hardest to pinpoint as many times a group's member may have been sick or working another job at the time of recording. Contemporary groups are probably the hardest as members rotate or change frequently.

In many groups, leads changed from song to song but I've tried to list them with the primary lead first, followed by the tenors, baritone and bass. I've tried to list the original "recording" group with the last original member followed by a colon: Then the newer members.

### Year:

The year is listed to the left of the song title on each record or song. A two-digit number is used with an X used if the exact year is not known. In many cases the decade would be known but not the exact year. In these situations, 50's, 60's, etc., is used. The year is typically the year the record was released. With unreleased material the year would be when the song was recorded.

### Titles:

Records are listed with the "A-side" followed with a slash ( / ) then the "B-side." A-sides are not necessarily listed by what was actually the A-side on the record. In many cases it's because that side was the more known.

### Labels:

The label and number of the recorded song or the label of the unreleased song, such as Mercury unre or Mercury LP etc. In some cases it may just say "unre" or "unknown" as I don't have label information on the song.

I have tried to stay away from foreign labels, especially if they were released in conjunction with an American label counterpart. However some have found their way here and there are listings that were only released abroad.

### Label Variations:

Many songs came out on the same label and same number but had variations that can affect the value of the record. In many cases it was different colored wax. All records are assumed to be black wax unless otherwise stated.

In other cases it will be the color of the label as after the initial pressing, subsequent pressings were different colors. In many cases the variations involve different information or location of that information on the label or dead wax, again affecting the rarity and value. It may even be distribution information.

Many if not most records had promos or disc jockey (DJ) copies distributed as well and many are listed here. The criteria used in listing promos was an equal or higher value to the stock copy, or in some cases just because I've seen them. PS = picture sleeve. This information is listed in the column to the right of the label and number.

**Value:**

First of all let me state that this book is not intended to be a price guide. There are several more qualified references available for that information. I think most of us are intrigued by the value of our collectables and my system is just to give the reader an idea of the value of a specific item.

As we all know, the actual value of a collectable is what someone is willing to pay for it. Over the years I have noticed two key factors that have caused prices on records to soar. The first is the Internet; giving most of the world access and the ability to bid on this music has had a profound effect on the value. The second is the Northern Soul collectors. Many of our group sounds cross over into Northern Soul especially those in the mid-sixties. I've even seen some vocal group sounds as early as the late-fifties categorized as Northern Soul. Several recordings initially listed in some references as \$25.00 or less have soared to several hundred dollars per copy.

Having said that, I have indicated approximate value, where known, of records in mint or mint minus condition. The value is for 45rpm records. Seventy-eight rpm records are listed in the value column with the number 78.

When listed, the value is represented with asterisks as follows:

1	*	Up to	\$25.00
2	**	Over	\$25.00 to \$50.00
3	***	Over	\$50.00 to \$150.00
4	****	Over	\$150.00 to \$499.00
5	*****		\$500.00 to \$999.00
6	*****		\$1000.00 to \$2500.00
7	*****		\$2500.01 to \$4999.00
8	*****		\$5000.00 and up

If the column is empty, value is not known or is unreleased (including album) material.

### **Information Line:**

This is the area under the song title that will give miscellaneous bits of information such as: Acappella recording, artist real name, song was previous unreleased and in many cases the year or approximate year of the recording. Listing a CD where a song with otherwise unknown information can be heard, etc.

If group backing a single artist is known, they are listed under the song title (on the information line) as: w/group name

### **Reproductions or Boots:**

I've never known for certain the difference from a boot and a reproduction. I understand that the initial boots were intended to fool collectors and were supposed to be replicas of the original. As pointed out by experts, some originals may actually have been boots. Other boots were put out on a completely different label but have become known as boots. As a result, I have listed all such items as boots and have listed these two types differently.

The replica boot is shown with the letter B on the far right side of the page as explained in the next paragraph. The odd label boots are identified with the word "BOOT" in the "label variation" column, followed by the letter B after the value asterisks. If a 78 rpm has a 45 rpm boot, it is listed that way. You'll see the 78 rpm listed followed by another listing with the words 45 BOOT in the "label variation" column.

I've also tried to identify the variations in wax colors on bootlegs. Boots are identified in the last column on the right side of the page with the letter "B" followed by a 3-digit number. This number reflects the various colors of wax on each boot, with the first number representing the number of colors I have found. For example: B-100 means that there is one boot and is on black wax. B-102 represents the boot is on red wax and B-202 means there is a black wax and a red wax boot. If a boot has more than one color in the wax it is considered to be a "multi color wax" boot. The most colors I have found associated with any one boot is nine and these boots are represented as B-9## (## representing 2 numbers). I have a chart located at the end of the book for those who are interested in the colors available for a bootleg record.

### **Unreleased Material:**

Unless a 45 or 78 record was produced, a song would fall under the category of unreleased. As more and more music is coming out on CD that was never put out on 45, I've tried to list as much as possible. Again, this will always be a work in progress. Remember the initial reason the information was collected leading to this book was because I wanted to know where the song came from.

This information is given as 'UNRE' and in most cases in conjunction with a label, such as RAMA UNRE. In some cases it may just say UNRE as I don't know the label affiliation or the song was recorded independent of a label.

Many of the unreleased items listed are the same song as released on record. These unreleased items are alternate takes, and many ultimately were released on CD. If two unreleased items are listed twice, they would be alternate takes of each other.

Finally, I tried to note if the unreleased song was just unreleased or as part of an LP or CD.

### **Contemporary Groups:**

I've listed many groups that performed in 80's, 90's and many still in existence today. If these groups have individual songs on specific compact discs, I've listed them. If they have their own CD, I've just listed the title of that CD. On the information line I've noted that these are "Contemporary Groups w/CD(s)". It seems that new groups keep popping up all the time and are recording CD's. Listing them all is a work in progress.