

VERVE Records

Verve Records

1948, Norman Granz, having signed with Mercury, continued to release live recordings of his produced Jazz at the Philharmonic (JATP) until 1953. (The JATP recordings from 1946 were released around 1947-48.)

1951 while still under contract with Mercury, Granz established Clef.

1953 or 1954, upon the expiration of his Mercury contract, he renamed his label Norgran, a play on his own name.

1956 Granz consolidated Clef and Norgran into Verve when moving to 12-inch LPs.

1960 In December, he sold Verve to MGM for \$3 million.

(Granz himself moved to Columbia, collecting rare while continuing to manage American musicians such as Ella Fitzgerald and Oscar Peterson.)

1961 In April, Creed Taylor joined ABC as a producer.

(In November 1964, Wes' first album after moving, 'Movin' Wes/Verve V6-8610,' was recorded.)

(In June 1967, Taylor left MGM to establish CTI under A&M, where Wes joined.)

1972 MGM was sold to PolyGram, with its Jazz division under Polydor.

(PolyGram: Formed in 1962 by merging the music divisions of Dutch Philips and German Siemens, establishing its American headquarters in 1972 with Polydor under its umbrella.)

(That year, Norman Granz returned as a producer, founding Pablo, and retired in 1987 due to health reasons.)

1980 PolyGram acquired Decca, integrating Verve into Decca's Jazz division.

1987 merged Siemens withdrew from the music business.

1990 PolyGram acquired A&M.

1993 PolyGram acquired Motown.

1998 In May, PolyGram was sold to Seagram's Universal Music Group in Canada.

(In January the following year, already acquired MCA, GRP, and Impulse were merged to form Verve Music Group.)

2005 it was sold to a consortium led by Sony and investment banks.

Currently, under the holding company MGM Holdings, MGM Inc. owns MGM Studios, MGM Pictures, UA, Orion, and various business entities handling copyrights and trademarks.

Regarding the Verve label where Wes appears chronologically, after founder Norman Granz sold it to the movie company MGM, the labels from the "8600 series" to the "8800 series" feature a distinctive design with a black background and a large silver "V" in the center, with the bottom of the label stating "MGM RECORDS-A DIVISION OF METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER, INC.-Made in U.S.A."

During his tenure, Wes released seven albums, starting from "Movin' Wes" to "The Dynamic Duo/ Jimmy And Wes," as well as an anthology album "Leonard Feather/Encyclopedia Of Jazz, Vol.1" featuring various artists. This anthology album is known for mistakenly including an alternate take of "O.C.D." from "The Dynamic Duo/Jimmy And Wes," making it a rare find. Subsequent albums were released either after Wes moved to A&M or posthumously.

[release]	[mono][stereo]	[title]
1965年9月	V-8625 V6-8625	Bumpin'/Wes Montgomery (*) (+10)
1966年1月	V-8633 V6-8633	Smokin' At The Half Note/Wynton Kelly Trio-Wes Montgomery (*) (+10)
1966年3月	V-8642 V6-8642	Goin' Out Of My Head/Wes Montgomery (*) (+10)
1966年8月	V-8653 V6-8653	Tequila/Wes Montgomery (*) (+10)

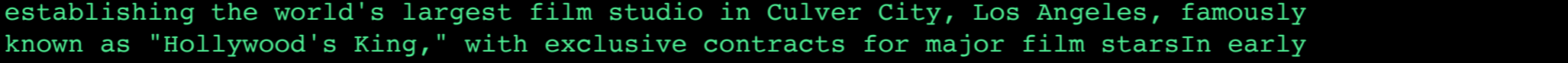
1967年2月	V-8672 V6-8672	California Dreaming/Wes Montgomery (*) (+11)
1967年2月	V-8677 V6-8677	Leonard Feather/Encyclopedia Of Jazz, Vol.1 (*) (+11)
1967年2月	V-8678 V6-8678	The Dynamic Duo/Jimmy And Wes/Jimmy Smith-Wes Montgomery (*) (+11)
1967年12月	V-8714 V6-8714	The Best Of Wes Montgomery (*) (+11)
1968年8月	? V6-8757	The Best Of Wes Montgomery, Vol. 2 (*) (+11)
1969年1月	/ V6-8765	Willow Weep For Me/Wes Montgomery (*) (+11)
1969年3月	/ V6-8766	Further Adventures Of Jimmy Smith And Wes Montgomery (*) (+11)
1970年	/ V6-8796	Eulogy/Wes Montgomery (*) (+10)
1971年	/ V6-8804	Just Walkin'/Wes Montgomery (*) (+12)

1972年	/ 2-V6S-8813	The History of Wes Montgomery (+2) (+12)
1974年	/ V3HB 8839	Return Engagement/Wes Montgomery (+2) (+12)
1977年	/ VE-2-2513	The Small Group Recordings/Wes Montgomery (+3) (+4)(+13)

[MGM Label]-----		
1970	GAS-126	Wes Montgomery/Wes Montgomery (+2) (+12)

[address on the label]		
(*) "MGM RECORDS-A DIVISION OF METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER, INC.-Made in U.S.A." (PIC 1)		
(+2) "MANUFACTURED BY MGM RECORDS, INC., 7165 SUNSET BOULEVARD, HOLLYWOOD, CALIF. 90046" (PIC 2)		
(+3) "MANUFACTURED AND MARKETED BY POLYDOR INCORPORATED/810 SEVENTH AVENUE/N.Y., N.Y. 10019"		
(+4) "MANUFACTURED AND MARKETED BY POLYGRAM CLASSICS, INC., 13740 25TH ST., B.V., N.Y. 10019"		

[address on the cover]		
(+10) There is no description		
(+11) "MANUFACTURED BY MGM RECORDS, INC., 1350 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019"		
(+12) "MANUFACTURED BY MGM RECORDS, INC., 7145 SUNSET BOULEVARD, HOLLYWOOD, CALIF. 90046"		
(+13) "MANUFACTURED AND MARKETED BY POLYDOR INCORPORATED/810 SEVENTH AVENUE/N.Y., N.Y. 10019"		



(PIC 1) **(PIC 2)**

MGM RECORD

In 1924, MGM was formed through the merger of three film studios on the West Coast, establishing the world's largest film studio in Culver City, Los Angeles, famously known as "Hollywood's King," with exclusive contracts for major film stars.In early 1947, they began releasing movie soundtracks on records, expanding into other genres like Country & Western from the following year. By the early 1950s, they had their own pressing plant, joining the ranks of majors like Columbia, RCA, Decca, Capitol, and Mercury.

In December 1960, MGM acquired Verve, owned by Norman Granz, thereby establishing its first Jazz division, continuing its rapid growth trajectory.

By the mid-1960s, amidst the rise of new musical styles by bands like The Beatles and The Rolling Stones, MGM attempted to embrace trends such as Acid Rock (psychedelic music influenced by hallucinogens), which led to significant losses of \$18 million despite efforts in promoting Detroit Rock's success.

Lesser known, in 1967, Granz established Verve Rosecast, a folk music label under MGM, but management worsened following Taylor's move to A&M in June of that year.

Despite efforts like Bubblegum (child-oriented) music with talents like Sammy Davis Jr., Petula Clark, and the Osmond brothers in 1970, MGM's financial troubles persisted, leading to its acquisition by PolyGram, a newly formed conglomerate in Germany, in 1972.

Following this, new releases under the Verve label were interrupted, with the label primarily releasing compilation albums and maintaining connections amidst the challenges of becoming too expansive and facing consolidation, mergers, and bankruptcies throughout its history, reflecting the challenges faced by giant corporations across various eras.

Regarding the labels:

The Verve label under MGM produced a total of 16 titles released between 1965 and 1974. The addresses listed on the labels and jackets are classified as follows (including those pressed by MGM after its acquisition by PolyGram in 1972):

- From 1965's "Movin' Wes" to 1966's "Tequila," neither the labels nor the jackets indicate a specific location.
- From 1967's "California Dreaming" to 1969's "Further Adventures of Jimmy and Wes," the jackets list a New York address.
- From 1971's "Just Walkin'" to 1974's "Return Engagement," the address switches to California.

Additionally, for Verve label releases under PolyGram:

- In 1974's "The Small Group Recordings," the address once again switches to a New York location.

In collecting circles, labels are evaluated based on the presence or absence of "deep grooves." In this context, "deep groove" ('A') is considered a "1st press," while "no deep groove" ('B') is categorized as a "2nd press." Additionally, 'A' on a white label promotional disc indicates a "West Coast press," while 'B' on a yellow label disc jockey promotional disc indicates an "East Coast press," both classified as "1st press."

For instance, if the label for "California Dreaming" is marked (+2), it should be determined as a 2nd press regardless of the presence of deep grooves, as it should ideally be marked (+1). If marked as (+1) but with both 'A' and 'B' present, it indicates complexities in assessment.

Considering these factors, differences in pressing plants come into play. As described with MGM Records, MGM had its own pressing plant on the West Coast in California, with no known presence mentioned on the East Coast. In New York, if such a presence existed, it wouldn't be surprising if they outsourced production there.

During Norman Granz's era at Verve, which was also quite large-scale, there's no mention of them having their own pressing plant. It likely involved outsourced operations centered around New York. In the 1950s, clear 'A' can be seen on presses from the 8400 series, transitioning from Trumpeter label to "Z" label.

Thus, the distinction between 'A' and 'B' across East and West Coast presses doesn't apply universally to all record companies but rather reflects regional specifics or simply differences in pressing facilities.

Certainly, upon observing 'A' from 'Movin' Wes," the grooves are deep and wide, and the record itself feels solid. Similarly, 'B' also feels thick and heavy, with faint, linear small circles visible. Therefore, let's classify them as follows:

- [A]—— Those with a diameter of 70mm, varying in depth and width but clearly identifiable as grooves.
- [B]—— Those with a diameter of 30mm, showing faint linear lines.

The theory of 'East Coast vs. West Coast presses' holds considerable weight, but there are aspects that are hard to reconcile. While labels up to "Tequila" marked (+1) are acceptable, the absence of location on the jackets makes it unclear where the headquarters truly were. However, starting with "California Dreaming," the location is noted on the jackets as New York.

The question arises: why is the headquarters attributed to New York rather than California? If we assume that immediately after the acquisition, only the jazz record division's headquarters were relocated to New York, it would make sense. However, following the failure post-1971 and the rise of Acid Rock ventures in 1968-69, the New York address was consolidated, and around "Just Walkin'" in 1971, the grooves themselves underwent a sudden change.

Up until "The Best Of Wes Montgomery Vol.2," we could perfectly classify them as (a) and (b) with 'A' and 'B'. From "Willow Weep For Me" to "Eulogy," 'A' varies from narrow and somewhat deep to shallow. Around "Just Walkin'," they become linear in appearance. Therefore, let's classify them as follows:

- [C]—— Grooves that are narrow but identifiable as grooves with a diameter of 70mm.
- [D]—— Clear linear grooves with a distinct appearance at a diameter of 70mm.

However, (b), 'B'-marked by faint linear lines with a diameter of 30mm-can be traced up to around "Eulogy," suggesting that "East Coast press" was likely outsourced. On the other hand, the possibility exists that the "West Coast press" with its own pressing plant was closed and outsourced after "Willow Weep For Me."

Starting from "Just Walkin'," grooves disappear, replaced by several types of linear patterns also used in reissues. As a result, the perfect classification of (a) and (b) for "East Coast vs. West Coast press" applies up to labels like "The Dynamic Duo," excluding the least examples, and from "Willow Weep For Me" onward, it categorizes as (c) 'C' for "West Coast press," and (d) 'D' for "Just Walkin'."

The table below contrasts labels from their initial 1st releases.

[mono][stereo]	[title]	[label]	[VANGELDER]	[mono] [D?]
V-8610 V6-8610	Movin' Wes	(a) (b) Ⓞ	×	×
V-8625 V6-8625	Bumpin'	(a) (b) Ⓞ	×	×
V-8633 V6-8633	Smokin' At The Half Note	(a) (b) Ⓞ	×	(b)*
V-8642 V6-8642	Goin' Out Of My Head	(a) (b) Ⓞ	(a)*	×
V-8653 V6-8653	Tequila	(a) (b) Ⓞ	×	(b)*
V-8672 V6-8672	California Dreaming	(a) (b) Ⓞ	×	(b)*
V-8677 V6-8677	Encyclopedia Of Jazz Vol.1	(a) (b) Ⓞ	(a)*	(b)*
V-8678 V6-8678	The Dynamic Duo	(a) (b) Ⓞ	(a)*	(b)*
V-8714 V6-8714	The Best Of Wes Montgomery	(a) (b) Ⓞ	×	(b)*
× V6-8757	The Best Of Wes Montgomery Vol.2	(a) (b) Ⓞ	(a)*	(b)*
/ V6-8765	Willow Weep For Me	(c) (b)	(c)	(b)
/ V6-8766	Further Adventures	(c) (b)	(c)	(b)
/ V6-8796	Eulogy	× (b)	×	(b)
/ V6-8804	Just Walkin'	× (d)	(d)	×
/ 2-V6S-8813	The History of Wes Montgomery	×	(d)	×

(* = mono, Ⓞ Confirmed, × Unconfirmed)



East Coast [B] **East Coast [B] Disc Jockey Copy**



West Coast [A] **West Coast [A] Promotion Copy**

[A] Pressing has clear grooves with a 70mm diameter from the center.



Sunset [D] **Sunset/Promotion [D]**

After being acquired by PolyGram in 1972, the labels changed to what is referred to as the (+2) Sunset address labels rather than the California headquarters. Based on the location, it would be considered a "West Coast press" with 'A', but instead, linear patterns 'D' are observed.

For example, in "Smokin' At The Half Note," there are versions with and without the "VANGELDER" inscription, even though they have linear pressings'D'.

Even with the same Sunset address, by 1974's "Return Engagement," the "VANGELDER" inscription is gone, and the label appears more grayish than black, resulting in a rather poor-quality pressing.

The last release on the Verve label, "The Small Group Recordings," is a double reissue that came out completely after the PolyGram acquisition.

These labels have linear patterns, indicating post-1971 pressing, yet this inconsistency is puzzling. The sound quality of second pressings with the "VANGELDER" inscription is also difficult to assess.

About the Jacket:

About the Sound Quality:

Among sound enthusiasts, it is said that grooved stereo records have good bassline, while grooved mono records have superior sound pressure. However, preferences vary, so this isn't a universal rule. Pressings with the "VANGELDER" inscription are generally valued for their sound quality. From 1965's "Movin' Wes" to 1967's "The Dynamic Duo," this inscription can be found on both East and West Coast presses (+1). After that, from "The Best Of Wes Montgomery" onwards, the "VANGELDER" inscription is no longer seen on (+1) labels.

(It seems that by the end of 1967, Van Gelder had terminated his contract with Verve. Creed Taylor was preparing to establish CTI between May and June 1968 and planned a new contract with Van Gelder, which may have prompted Van Gelder's early departure.)

However, in the case of "Smokin' At The Half Note," some labels have (+1) addresses but no "VANGELDER" inscription. On the other hand, some second pressings with (+2) addresses do have the "VANGELDER" inscription. These labels have linear patterns, indicating post-1971 pressing, yet this inconsistency is puzzling. The sound quality of second pressings with the "VANGELDER" inscription is also difficult to assess.

About Mail-Order Delegation:

Around the time Verve was consolidated, a mail-order service called ARS (American Records Society) was established. However, by around 1969, as MGM's management deteriorated, the mail-order division expanded, and records were sold through large marketing companies. One example is Capitol Records' mail-order division, the Capitol Record Club. Another example is Time Warner's Book-of-the-Month Club (BOMC). Records sold through the Capitol Record Club have catalog numbers like SMAS-9****, MAS-9****, and SW-9****, with "Mtd By Capitol Records, Inc. U.S.A." written in the margin. Records sold through the Book-of-the-Month Club do not have catalog numbers on the label, but they have numbers like "88-5010" stamped on the back of the jacket. This practice likely continued until around 1972 when PolyGram acquired the label.

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Movin' Wes/Wes Montgomery



MONO

STEREO

The following notations will be used: West Coast Pressing with grooves: [A] East Coast Pressing without grooves: [B]

MONO



East-Original

- 1.MONO :V-8610
- 2.Label :E.pres
- 3.groove: [B]
- WG signed: Y :



West-Original

- 1.MONO :V-8610
- 2.Label :W.pres
- 3.groove : [A]
- 4.VG signed: Y

STEREO



East-Original

- 1.STEREO :V6-8610
- 2.Label :E.pres
- 3.groove : [B]
- 4.VG signed: Y



West-Original

- 1.STEREO :V6-8610
- 2.Label :W.pres
- 3.groove : [A]
- 4.VG signed: Y

Bumpin' /Wes Montgomery



MONO

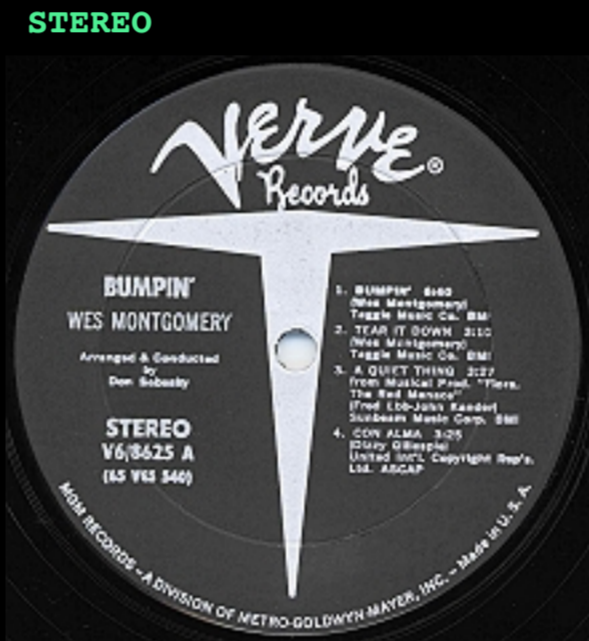
STEREO

MONO



West-Original

- 1.MONO :V-8625
- 2.Label :W.pres
- 3.groove : [A]
- 4.VG signed: Y



West-Original

- 1.STEREO :V6-8625
- 2.Label :W.pres
- 3.groove : [A]
- 4.VG signed: Y



Promo ?

- 1.STEREO :V6-8625
- 2.Label :Unknown
- 3.groove : [D]
- 4.VG signed: N

there is no "Promo" marking
Label address
7165 SUNSET BOULEVARD, HOLLYWOOD, CALIF. 90046
Blue Label color



Promo ?

- 1.STEREO :V6-8625
- 2.Label :Unknown
- 3.groove : [D]
- 4.VG signed: N

Though there is no "Promo" marking, MGM Records, after being sold to Polygram in 1972, retained the right to use the MGM trademark and logo for up to 10 years. The label seems to belong to this period.

Smokin' At The Half Note/Wynton Kelly Trio-Wes Montgomery



MONO

STEREO

MONO



West-Original

- 1.MONO :V-8633
- 2.Label :W.pres
- 3.groove : [A]
- 4.VG signed: Y

STEREO



East-Original

- 1.STEREO :V6-8633
- 2.Label :E.pres
- 3.groove : [B]
- 4.VG signed: Y



West-Original

- 1.STEREO :V6-8633
- 2.Label :W.pres
- 3.groove : [A]
- 4.VG signed: Y



2nd.

- 1.STEREO :V6-8633
- 2.Label :Unknown
- 3.groove : [D]
- 4.VG signed: Y

Label address
7165 SUNSET BOULEVARD, HOLLYWOOD, CALIF. 90046

DJ



East-DJ

- 1.MONO :V-8633
- 2.Label :E.pres
- 3.groove : [B]
- 4.VG signed: Y

Goin' Out Of My Head/Wes Montgomery



MONO



STEREO

MONO



Past-Original

- 1.MONO :V-8642
- 2.Label :B.pres
- 3.groove : [B]
- 4.VG signed: Y



West-Original

- 1.MONO :V-8642
- 2.Label :W.pres
- 3.groove : [A]
- 4.VG signed: Y

STEREO



West-Original

- 1.STEREO :V6-8642
- 2.Label :W.pres
- 3.groove : [A]
- 4.VG signed: Y

PROMO



Past-Promo

- 1.MONO :V-8642
- 2.Label :B.pres
- 3.groove : [A]
- 4.VG signed: Y



West-Promo

- 1.MONO :V-8642
- 2.Label :W.pres
- 3.groove : [A]
- 4.VG signed: Y

Tequila/Wes Montgomery



MONO



STEREO

MONO



Past-Original

- 1.MONO :V-8653
- 2.Label :B.pres
- 3.groove : [B]
- 4.VG signed: Y



West-Original

- 1.MONO :V-8653
- 2.Label :W.pres
- 3.groove : [A]
- 4.VG signed: Y

STEREO



Past-Original

- 1.STEREO :V6-8653
- 2.Label :B.pres
- 3.groove : [B]
- 4.VG signed: Y

West-Original

- 1.STEREO :V6-8653
- 2.Label :W.pres
- 3.grooves : [A]
- 4.VG signed: Y

DJ



Past-DJ

- 1.MONO :V-8653
- 2.Label :B.pres
- 3.groove : [B]
- 4.VG signed: Y

PROMO



West-Promo

- 1.MONO :V-8653
- 2.Label :W.pres
- 3.groove : [A]
- 4.VG signed: Y

California Dreaming/Wes Montgomery



MONO



STEREO

MONO



West-Original

- 1.MONO :V-8672
- 2.Label :W.pres
- 3.groove : [A]



West-Original

- 1.STEREO :V6-8672
- 2.Label :W.pres
- 3.groove : [A]

DJ



Past-DJ

- 1.MONO :V-8672
- 2.Label :B.pres
- 3.groove : [B]

Leonard Feather/Encyclopedia Of Jazz, Vol.1



MONO



STEREO

MONO



[West-Original](#)

1.MONO :V-8677
2.Label :W.pres
3.groove : [A]
4.VG signed: Y

STEREO



[West-Original](#)

1.STEREO :V6-8677
2.Label :W.pres
3.groove : [A]
4.VG signed: Y

DJ



[East-DJ](#)

1.MONO :V-8677
2.Label :E.pres
3.groove : [B]
4.VG signed: Y

PROMO



[West-Promo](#)

1.MONO :V-8677
2.Label :W.pres
3.groove : [A]
4.VG signed: Y

The Dynamic Duo/Jimmy And Wes/Jimmy Smith-Wes Montgomery



MONO



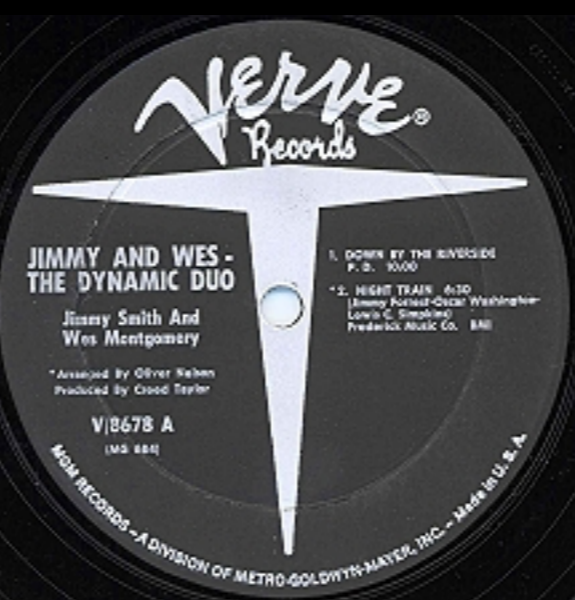
STEREO

MONO



[East-Original](#)

1.MONO :V-8678
2.Label :E.pres
3.groove : [B]
4.VG signed: Y



[West-Original](#)

1.MONO :V-8678
2.Label :W.pres
3.groove : [A]
4.VG signed: Y

STEREO



[West-Original](#)

1.STEREO :V6-8678
2.Label :W.pres
3.groove : [A]
4.VG signed: Y

DJ



[East-DJ](#)

1.MONO :V-8678
2.Label :E.pres
3.groove : [B]
4.VG signed: Y

PROMO



[West-Promo](#)

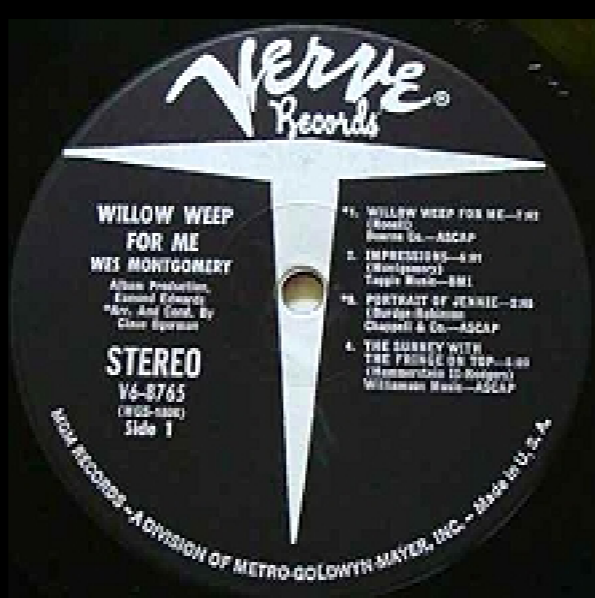
1.MONO :V-8678
2.Label :W.pres
3.groove : [A]
4.VG signed: Y

Willow Weep For Me/Wes Montgomery



STEREO

STEREO



[East-Original](#)

1.STEREO :V6-8765
2.Label :E.pres
3.groove : [B]
4.VG signed: N



[West-Original](#)

1.STEREO :V6-8765
2.Label :W.pres
3.groove : [C]
4.VG signed: N

DJ



[East-DJ](#)

1.STEREO :V6-8765
2.Label :E.pres
3.groove : [B]
4.VG signed: N

PROMO



[West-Promo](#)

1.STEREO :V6-8765
2.Label :W.pres
3.groove : [C]
4.VG signed: N

Further Adventures Of Jimmy Smith And Wes Montgomery



STEREO

STEREO



- East-Original
- 1.STEREO :V6-8766
 - 2.Label :E.pres
 - 3.groove : [B]
 - 4.VG signed: N



- West-Original
- 1.STEREO :V6-8766
 - 2.Label :W.pres
 - 3.groove : [C]
 - 4.VG signed: N



- 2nd.
- 1.STEREO :V6-8766
 - 2.Label :Unknown
 - 3.groove : [D]
 - 4.VG signed: N

Label Address
Though it states
"METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER, INC.-Made in U.S.A.,"
there is a difference in the text layout
compared to the West Coast pressings.

DJ



- East-DJ
- 1.STEREO :V6-8766
 - 2.Label :E.pres
 - 3.groove : [B]
 - 4.VG signed: N

PROMO



- West-Promo
- 1.STEREO :V6-8766
 - 2.Label :W.pres
 - 3.groove : [C]
 - 4.VG signed: N

Just Walkin'/Wes Montgomery



STEREO

STEREO盤



- 1st.-Original
- 1.STEREO :V6-8804
 - 2.Label :Unknown
 - 3.groove : [D]
 - 4.VG signed: N



- 1st.-2
- 1.STEREO :V6-8804
 - 2.Label :Unknown
 - 3.groove : [D]
 - 4.VG signed: N
- difference in the text layout

PROMO盤



- PROMO
- 1.STEREO :V6-8804
 - 2.Label :Unknown
 - 3.groove : [D]
 - 4.VG signed: N

The Small Group Rcordings/Wes Montgomery



STEREO

STEREO盤



- 1st.-Original
- 1.STEREO :VE-2-2513
 - 2.Label :POLYDOR
 - 3.groove : [D]
 - 4.VG signed: N



- 2nd.
- 1.STEREO :VE-2-2513
 - 2.Label :POLYGRAM
 - 3.groove : [D]
 - 4.VG signed: N

OTHER LABEL

JAPAN LABEL

The paper jacket releases with SMV numbers by Nippon Grammophon were introduced in the 1960s and were replaced by Polydor's MV series in the 1970s.



Nippon Grammophon



Polydor



Polydor/Promo

Other Coutry



UK



GERMAN



NETHERLANDS



CANADA



ITALY



ARGENTINE



BRAZIL



BRAZIL



BRAZIL



ISRAEL



NEW ZEALAND



former soviet union



TAIWAN



TAIWAN