
Singles
I Never Bought
& Guilty Pleasures
MG 25/25 ℗2026
MONO / STEREO
Michael Green
45 R.P.M.
MADE IN GT. BRITAIN
ALL RIGHTS OF THE MANUFACTURER AND OF THE OWNER OF THE PUBLISHED WORK RESERVED UNAUTHORISED PUBLIC PERFORMANACE BROADCASTING AND COPYING OF THIS BOOK PROHIBITED
THIS RECORD MUST BE PLAYED AT
45 R.P.M.
The use of "EMITEX" cleaning material (available from Record Dealers) will preserve this record and keep it free from dust.
E.M.I. RECORDS LIM
(CONTROLLED BY ELECTRIC AND MUSICAL INDUSTRIES
HAYES · MIDDLESEX · ENG
Made and Printed in Great Britain


UNAUTHORISED PUBLIC PERFORMANACE BROADCASTING AND COPYING OF THIS BOOK PROHIBITED
ALL RIGHTS OF THE MANUFACTURER AND OF THE OWNER OF THE PUBLISHED WORK RESERVED
Singles
I Never Bought
& Guilty Pleasures
MG 25/25 ℗2026
MONO / STEREO
Michael Green
45 R.P.M.
MADE IN GT. BRITAIN



The Wizard (demo) – Marc Bolan
9th October 1988, Epsom

One of my favourite record purchases. I placed an advert in Record Collector for rare Marc Bolan records and someone offered me a mint demo copy of Marc's first single, The Wizard. The journey to Epsom in torrential rain to collect it was awful but, as seen in this photo taken shortly afterwards, I was very pleased to get that record.

Introduction

The first record I ever bought, or as I was only 5 years old at the time, had bought for me, was I'm A Believer by The Monkees back in 1966.

Possibly spurred on by my older brother, who was a huge fan of The Rolling Stones, I always had an interest and passion for music and, in particular singles.

Being young and with a limited amount of pocket money, singles were a lot more affordable than albums and therefore a much less risky purchase. With a single, you knew what you were getting, whereas an album typically has one or two singles on it and then a lot of songs that you may, or may not, like.

Although I already had a few singles and a passion for music, my interest in records took off after buying T Rex's Get It On single in July 1971. With a B side every bit as good as the A side, Get It On remains my favourite single of all-time.

Although my record collection started in 1966, from 1971 until the 1990s, I bought literally hundreds of vinyl singles. Most were bought new from shops but from the mid 1980s onwards I went to numerous record fairs where I purchased many records, both singles and albums.

The following 25 singles are those which I liked when they were first released and, importantly, I still like them, but for one reason or another, I never bought them at the time.

The first 10 singles in the book are shown in order of how much I like them. In truth, when I started compiling a list of my favourite records that I never bought at the time, the first four singles picked themselves – they are that good! The singles 11 to 25 are shown in chronological order.

Interestingly, 14 of the 25 singles (56%) are from 3 years, 1970-72. My record collection is testament to the fact that I bought a lot of singles (and albums!) in that period, but obviously my pocket money didn't stretch to all the singles that I wanted. During that time, it wasn't unusual for me to have 3 or 4 singles from the top 10 at any given time.

Even though I am from Sunderland, where hard rock and heavy metal was very popular in the 1970s, it was a type of music I never liked. The strange thing I found when compiling this list of 25 singles is just how many disco songs are in there, and in some cases, out of sheer music snobbery, that may have been the very reason why I didn't buy them.

With the exception of a couple of singles, Virgina Plain by Roxy Music and Sylvia's Mother by Dr Hook, all the records shown here were bought recently.

Michael Green, February 2026

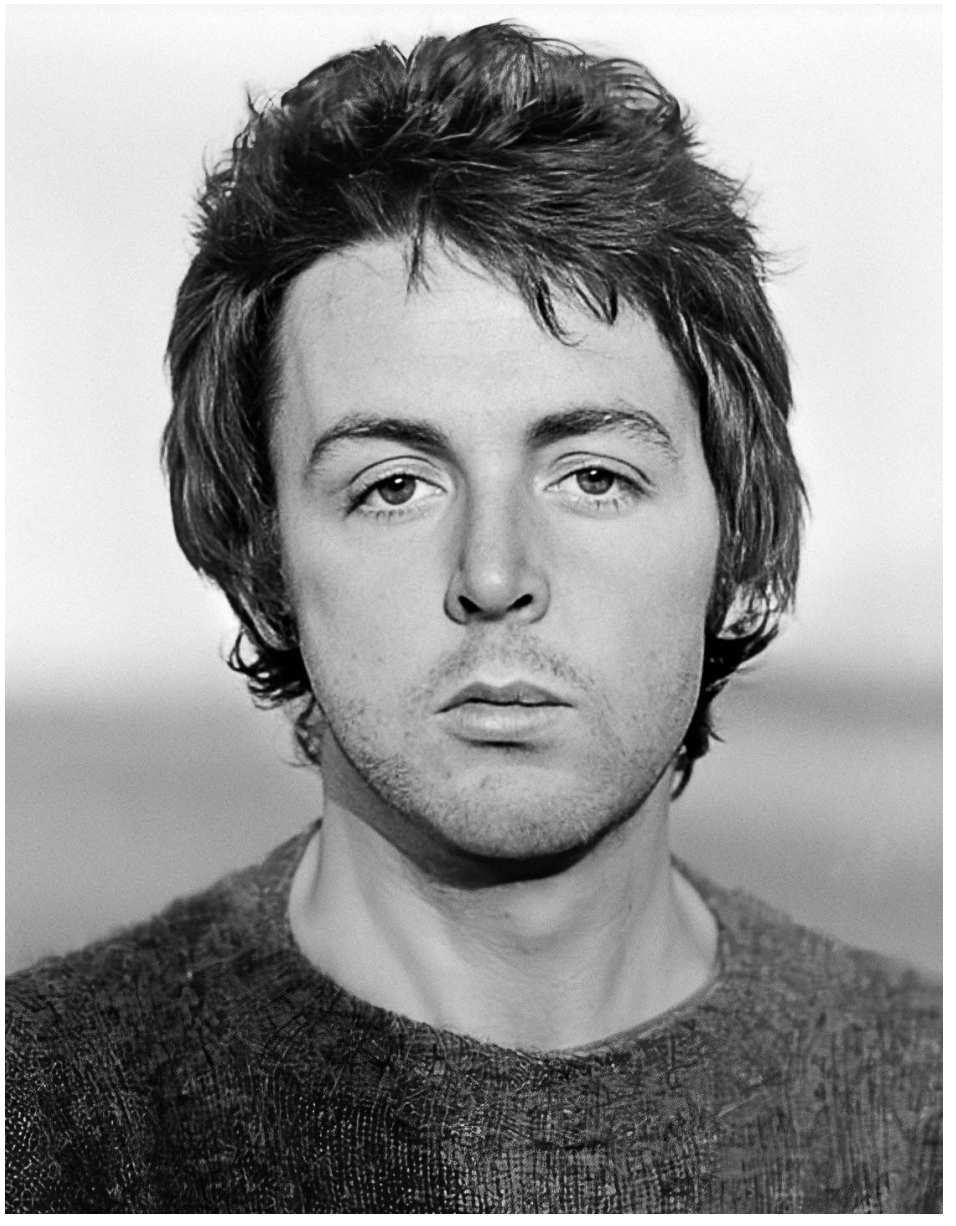
Another Day

Paul McCartney

It's incredible to think that this great song never got to number 1 in the singles chart. This is my favourite song by Paul McCartney and, I think, is better than anything he ever did with either The Beatles or Wings. I always loved this song, and I think I expected it to be on his Ram album which I bought when it was released in May 1971 (the album tracks weren't printed on the outer sleeve).

Another Day was kept off the top spot by, first, Mungo Jerry's Baby Jump (which I bought) and later by T Rex's Hot Love (which I didn't buy at the time, but that's a different story).

Released	February 1971
Peak chart position	2
Weeks in chart	12
Label	Apple
Catalogue number	R 5889
Songwriters	Mr & Mrs McCartney







Apple

Apple Records - All Rights of the Manufacturer and of the Owner of the Recorded Work Reserved

(7YCE.21523)
R 5889

Northern
Songs
NCB

* Copyright
also claimed
by Maclen
(Music) Ltd.

Joint interest
claimed by
McCartney
Music Inc.

Mfd. In U.K.

Produced
by
PAUL
McCARTNEY

An E.M.I.
Recording

℗ 1971

45 r.p.m.

ANOTHER DAY
(Mr. & Mrs. McCartney)
PAUL McCARTNEY

Unauthorised Public Performance, Broadcasting and Copying of this Record Prohibited

Band Of Gold

Freda Payne

As a 10-year-old I had no idea what this song was about or what the 'Band Of Gold' referred to and, even now, it appears that the song is open to several interpretations. Regardless of that, it is a great song and was a huge hit back in 1970.

Written by the legendary Motown producers Holland-Dozier-Holland (under the pseudonym of Edythe Wayne) and Ron Dunbar the song has a great beat and, despite the decidedly dodgy guitar solo by Ray Parker Jr. (famous for writing and performing the theme tune to the film Ghostbusters) has become a timeless classic. Love it!

Released	June 1970
Peak chart position	1
Weeks at number one	6
Weeks in chart	12
Label	Invictus
Catalogue number	INV 502
Songwriters	Ron Dunbar, Edythe Wayne





INVICTUS

TRADE MARK OF INVICTUS RECORDS INC.

INVICTUS

TRADE MARK OF INVICTUS RECORDS INC.

GOLD
FOREVER
MUSIC
INC.

℗ 1970

INV.502A 45

INV 502

BAND OF GOLD
(Dunbar—Wayne)

FREDA PAYNE

Produced by Holland—Dozier—
Holland Prod., Inc.

THE GRAMOPHONE CO LTD ALL RIGHTS OF THE MANUFACTURER AND OF THE OWNER OF THE RECORDED WORK RESERVED UNAUTHORISED PUBLIC PERFORMANCE BROADCASTING AND COPYING OF THIS RECORD PROHIBITED MADE IN GREAT BRITAIN

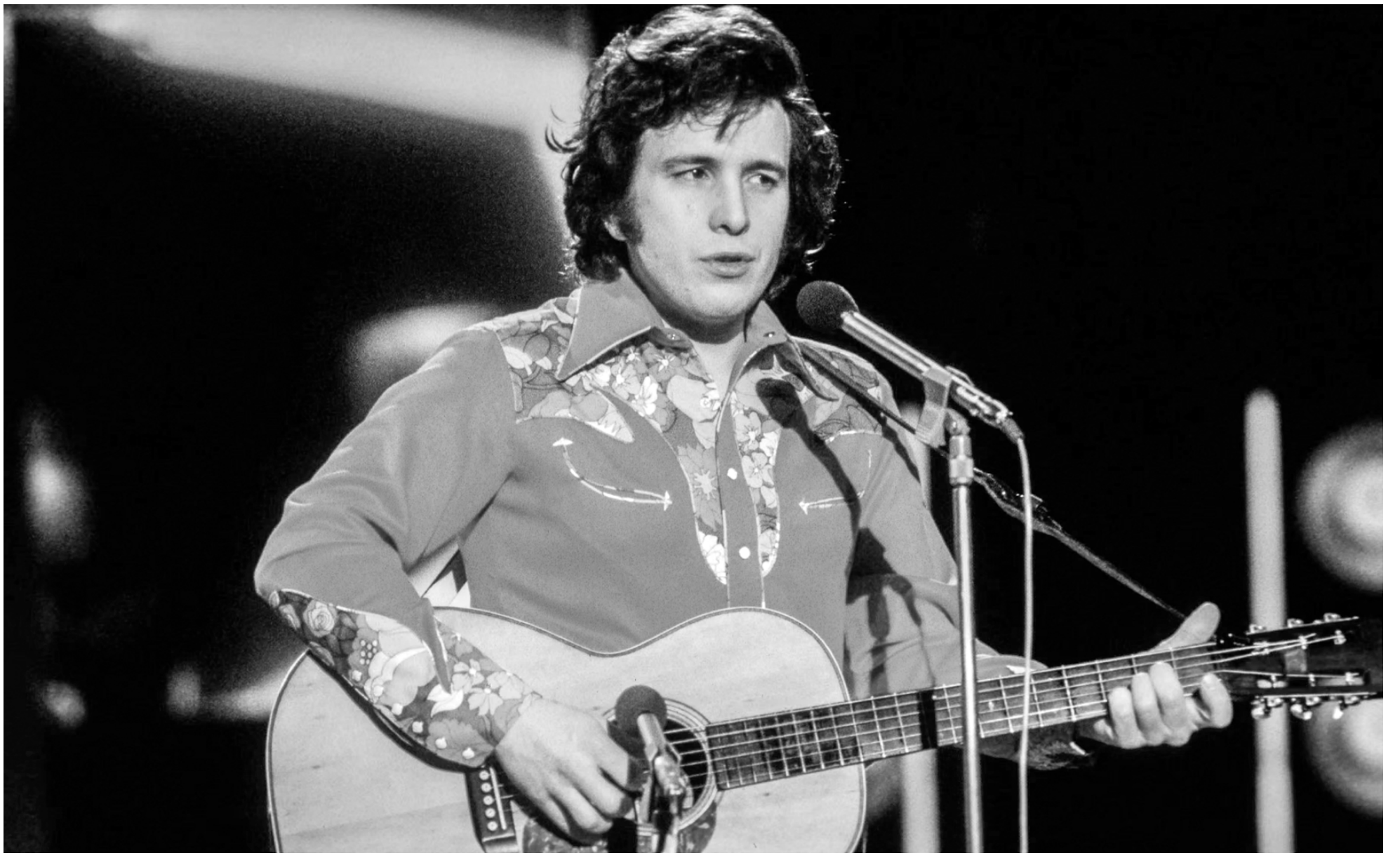
American Pie

Don McLean

This was a massive hit for Don McLean but failed to reach number 1 in the UK singles chart. The single spent 3 weeks at number 2 in the charts and was kept off the top spot, almost criminally, by Chicory Tip's Son Of My Father and then by Without You by Nilsson.

Not surprisingly, the song has lots of American references which I probably didn't understand at the time, but it still sounded great. Famously, the song mentions 'The day the music died' in reference to Buddy Holly's death in February 1959, though it was several years before I became a fan of Buddy Holly and fully appreciated the meaning of those lyrics.

Released	January 1972
Peak chart position	2
Weeks in chart	16
Label	United Artists
Catalogue number	UP 35325
Songwriter	Don McLean



United Artists Records

UNITED ARTISTS RECORDS

SIDE 1

United Artists Music

45 RPM

℗ 1971

UP 35325

4.11

STEREO

AMERICAN PIE—PART ONE

(Don McLean)

DON McLEAN

Produced by Ed Freeman
Engineer: Tom Flye
A BSM Production

ALL RIGHTS OF THE RECORD PRODUCER AND OF THE WORK REPRODUCED RESERVED COPYING, PUBLIC PERFORMANCES AND BROADCASTING OF THIS RECORD PROHIBITED MANUFACTURED IN ENGLAND. A PRODUCT OF LIBERTY—UNITED ARTISTS RECORDS LTD.

A PRODUCT OF LIBERTY/UA RECORDS LTD 37-41 MORTIMER STREET LONDON W1

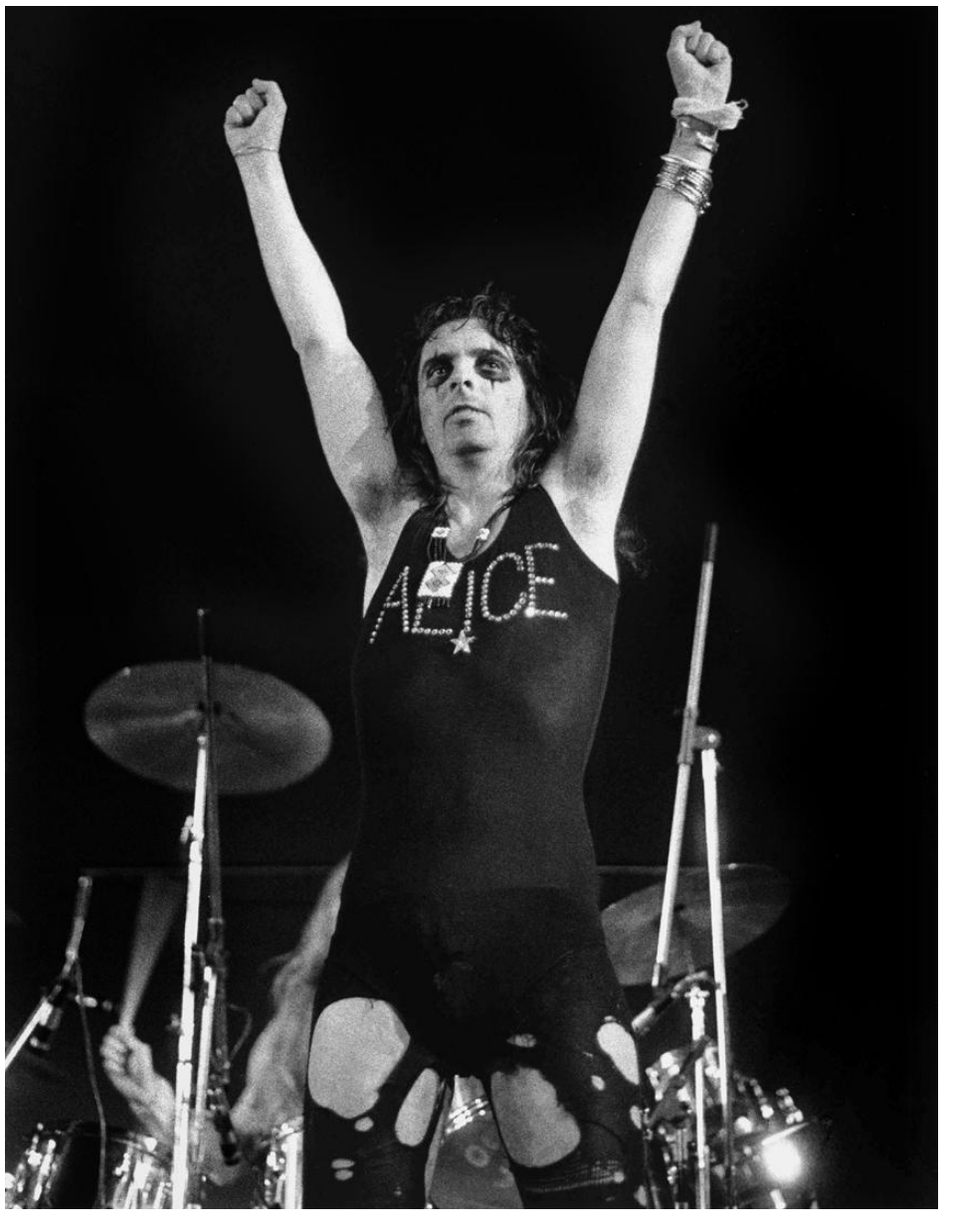
School's Out

Alice Cooper

Alice Cooper's first, and biggest, UK hit single and the only one to get to the top of the charts when it (thankfully) replaced Puppy Love by Donny Osmond. Although the single only credits Alice Cooper and Michael Bruce as the songwriters, the School's Out album credits all the band members.

My brother Colin had bought four albums by Alice Cooper before, like Marc Bolan, Alice moved into more mainstream pop rock. Consequently, I inherited the School's Out album, so I suspect that is why I never bought the single at the time. I became a fan of Alice's and bought the following four albums. A true original!

Released	23rd June 1972
Peak chart position	1
Weeks at number one	3
Weeks in chart	12
Label	Warner Brothers
Catalogue number	K 16188
Songwriters	Alice Cooper, Michael Bruce





WARNER BROS. RECORDS

ALICE
COOPER

45 RPM
K 16188
K 16188 A
℗ 1972
3.29
SIDE ONE

SCHOOL'S OUT (Cooper/Bruce)
(Taken from the album "SCHOOL'S OUT"
K 56007) Prod. by Bob Ezrin for
Nimbus 9 Productions Ltd.
An Alive Enterprises Prod.
A Warner Bros. Inc.
USA Recording
COP. CON.

ALL RIGHTS OF THE MANUFACTURER AND OF THE OWNER OF THE RECORDED WORK RESERVED · UNAUTHORISED COPYING PUBLIC PERFORMANCE AND BROADCASTING OF THIS RECORD PROHIBITED

Rose Garden

Lynn Anderson

For some reason, which I can't explain, I always liked this song. It's a country/pop crossover song that became a huge hit in 1971 and has been covered many times by a variety of artists.

Rose Garden peaked at number 3 in the charts when T Rex were at number 1 with Hot Love; Paul McCartney's Another Day was stuck at number 2 and Mungo Jerry's Baby Jump had just left the top spot. All great songs.

With a touch of genius in crowd pleasing, Morrissey opened his 2015 show in Nashville with an excellent cover of Rose Garden.

Released	29th January 1971
Peak chart position	3
Weeks in chart	20
Label	CBS
Catalogue number	5360
Songwriter	Joe South





CBS

CBS Records · 28/30 Theobalds Road · London WC1



More, More, More

Andrea True Connection

Another song that I always liked but never bought at the time, quite possibly because it was a disco song. The song has an incredible history.

Andrea True Connection starred in more than 50 hardcore porn films and while making commercials in Jamaica for a real estate company the Jamaican government banned asset transfers in response to sanctions imposed by America. This meant she either had to forfeit her pay or spend it in Jamaica, so she spent the money on a demo recording of More, More, More, a song she had been working on with record producer Gregg Diamond.

Released	12th March 1976
Peak chart position	5
Weeks in chart	10
Label	Buddah
Catalogue number	BDS 442
Songwriter	Gregg Diamond



BUDDAH

Pleasure from Buddah Records

BUDDAH RECORDS ®

45 RPM
BDS 442
†BDS 442-A†

MANUFACTURED & DISTRIBUTED BY
PYE RECORDS

℗ 1976

Copyright Control

Produced and arranged by Gregg Diamond

MORE, MORE, MORE (Pt. 1)
(Gregg Diamond)
ANDREA TRUE CONNECTION
"A Tom Moulton Mix"

ALL RIGHTS OF THE MANUFACTURER AND OF THE OWNER OF THE RECORDED WORK RESERVED - UNAUTHORISED PUBLIC PERFORMANCE BROADCASTING AND COPYING OF THIS RECORD PROHIBITED

Love's Unkind

Donna Summer

Donna Summer was one of the biggest disco stars of the mid and late 1970s and had already had 6 UK hit singles before releasing Love's Unkind.

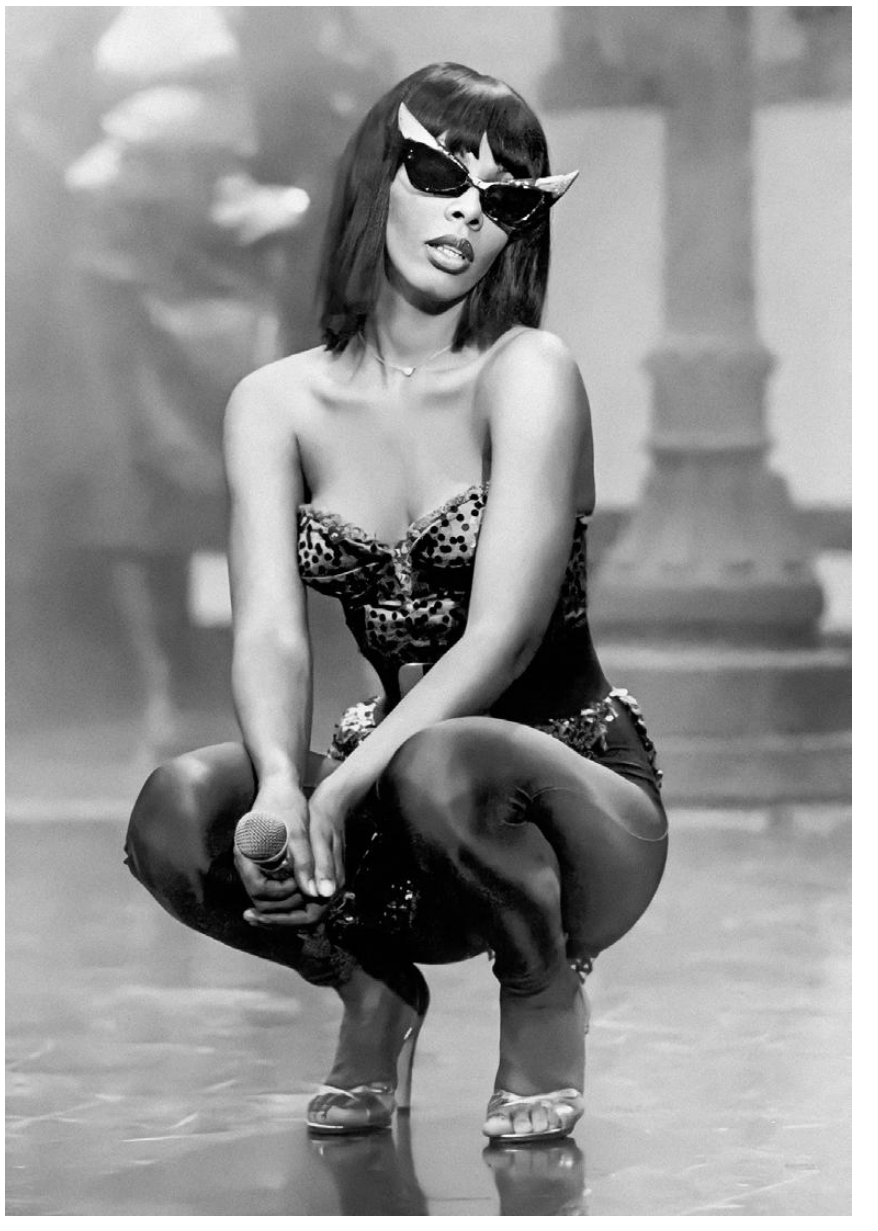
I remember it being played just after its release at The Hot Spot, a teen disco in Sunderland. Happy memories.

Although I never bought the single at the time, I did buy Donna Summer's Greatest Hits album that was released a few weeks later. Love's Unkind was by far the most played song on the album.

Disco at its best!

Released	November 1977
Peak chart position	3
Weeks in chart	13
Label	GTO
Catalogue number	GT 113
Songwriters	Donna Summer, Giorgio Moroder, Pete Bellotte






GTO
DONNA SUMMER
MADE IN ENGLAND ALL RIGHTS OF THE MANUFACTURER AND OF THE OWNER OF THE RECORDED WORK RESERVED · UNAUTHORISED PUBLIC PERFORMANCE BROADCASTING AND COPYING OF THIS RECORD PROHIBITED
GTO
Heath Levy Music Co. Ltd.
Side A
GT 113
45
℗1976 Casablanca Records & Filmworks Inc.
©1977 Heath Levy Music Co. Ltd.
LOVE'S UNKIND
(Donna Summer/Georgio Moroder/Pete Bellotte)
A Say Yes production by Giorgio Moroder and Pete Bellotte
Arranged by Thor Baldursson
Taken from the album
"I Remember Yesterday" GTLP 025
GTO RECORDS LIMITED
DISTRIBUTED BY CBS

There's A Ghost In My House

R. Dean Taylor

R. Dean Taylor had a big UK hit single with Indiana Wants Me in 1971 and it was a full 3 years before the re-issue of There's A Ghost In My House was released and became a hit single. The single was originally released in 1967 but failed to chart.

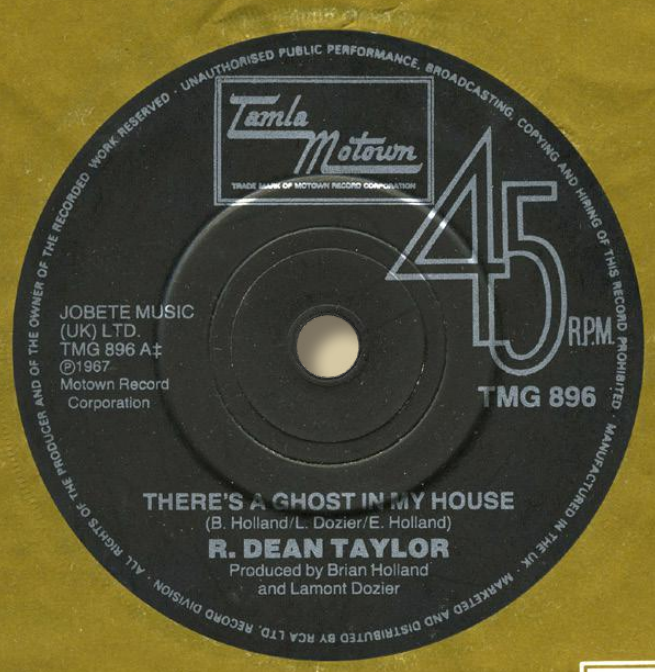
Like Band Of Gold, I never fully understood the lyrics when I was 13 years old and probably appreciated the song more as I got older. It's a great song about the loss experienced after a good relationship has ended – from an early age I seem to have be drawn to these type of songs!

Written by Holland-Dozier-Holland, the song has become a Northern Soul classic.

Released	3rd May 1974
Peak chart position	3
Weeks in chart	12
Label	Tamla Motown
Catalogue number	TMG 896
Songwriters	Holland-Dozier-Holland, Taylor



tamla motown



Tamla Motown
TRADE MARK OF MOTOWN RECORD CORPORATION

Everlasting Love

Love Affair

This is one of a handful of songs that just seemed to be 'there' throughout my childhood. I never bought it at the time but always loved it.

With a 40-piece orchestra and rhythm section the song almost has a Phil Spector Wall of Sound about it. Big and grand, it fills the room.

The single attracted controversy when it came to light that Love Affair's singer Steve Ellis was the only band member to feature on the song and that session musicians had been used at the recording.

Released	8th December 1967
Peak chart position	1
Weeks at number one	2
Weeks in chart	12
Label	CBS
Catalogue number	3125
Songwriters	Buzz Cason, Mac Gayden



CBS

CBS Records · 28/30 Theobalds Road · London WC1



Apeman

The Kinks

My introduction to The Kinks was when I saw them on Top of the Pops playing Apeman with the piano player wearing an ape head – that obviously caught my attention when I was only 9 years old.

Although I still like the Apeman single, it is probably more important to me as my gateway to becoming a Kinks fan and led to me getting most of their albums released in the 1960s and 70s.

Ray Davies is a fine writer of songs about Britain and, in particular, London often with a touch of nostalgia for bygone days and ways.

Released	27th November 1970
Peak chart position	5
Weeks in chart	14
Label	Pye
Catalogue number	7N.45016
Songwriter	Ray Davies



pye records



PYE RECORDS (SALES) LTD., A.T.V. HOUSE, GT. CUMBERLAND PLACE, LONDON, W.1.

Downtown

Petula Clark

Written and produced by the multi-talented Tony Hatch (later of New Faces fame), this is a song that was released when I was 3 years old so I cannot possibly remember it from 1964. I suspect it was just one of those songs that got played throughout the sixties that I always liked.

Like Love Affair's Everlasting Love, the song has a large orchestral backing and a big band sound. The single was kept off the top spot by I Feel Fine by The Beatles.

Released	23rd October 1964
Peak chart position	2
Weeks in chart	15
Label	Pye
Catalogue number	7N.15722
Songwriter	Tony Hatch



Young Girl

Gary Puckett & The Union Gap



Not without controversy, this power pop ballad was a big hit in 1968 and topped the charts for 4 weeks. The song's lyrics are open to interpretation, but I suspect were less scrutinised in the 1960s than the more enlightened/sensitive 21st century.

Like some other songs here, I never fully understood the meaning of the lyrics at the time, I just enjoyed the song.

Released	March 1968
Peak chart position	1
Weeks at number one	4
Weeks in chart	17
Label	CBS
Catalogue number	3365
Songwriter	J Fuller



Indiana Wants Me

R. Dean Taylor

Kept off the top spot by Dawn's massive hit single Knock Three Times, Indiana Wants Me was written by Taylor after watching the film Bonnie and Clyde.

The song tells the story of a man who has killed someone defending his wife's honour. It's a clever, well written song and, with police sirens and gunshots, is very memorable.

Released	5th February 1971
Peak chart position	2
Weeks in chart	15
Label	Tamla Motown
Catalogue number	TMG763
Songwriter	R. Dean Taylor



Brown Sugar

The Rolling Stones

Incredibly, Brown Sugar spent 3 weeks at number 2 in the charts and was held off the top of the charts by Double Barrel by Dave and Ansel Collins and then by Dawn's Knock Three Times.

The single had a short run picture sleeve and then copies were issued in the now familiar custom sleeve. The custom sleeves looked great at the time...less so when T Rex released Telegram Sam in a red/blue sleeve.

Undoubtedly a great song, but one which has recently been dropped from The Rolling Stones live set list.

Released	16th April 1971
Peak chart position	2
Weeks in chart	13
Label	Rolling Stones Records
Catalogue number	RS19100
Songwriters	Mick Jagger, Keith Richards



Meet Me On The Corner

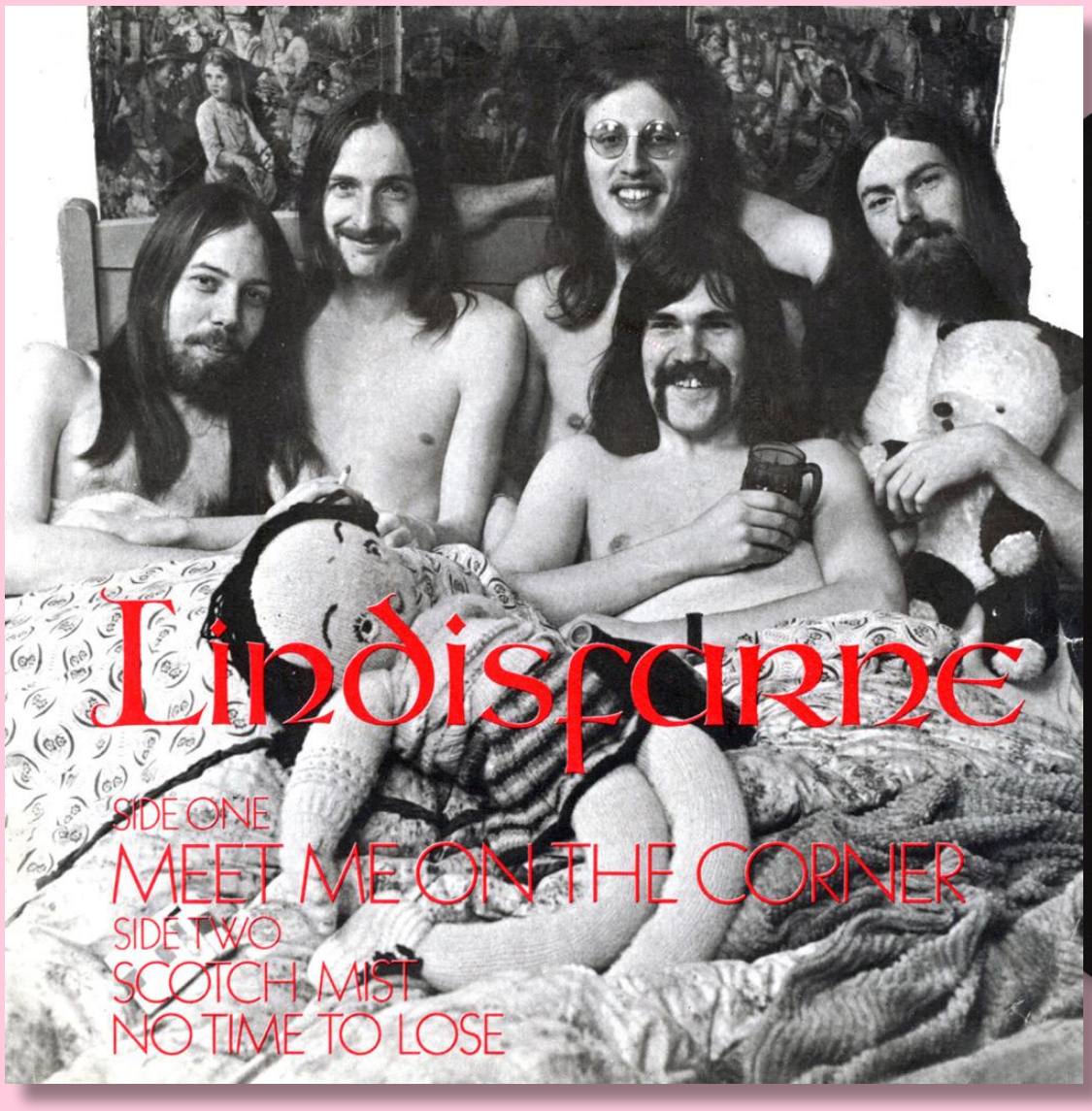
Lindisfarne

Lindisfarne are a folk-rock band from Newcastle and back in 1972 this was their first hit single. It's a gentle, well-constructed song that captures the innocence of childhood.

This was a song often performed by Zenith, the school group that I was a member of when I was at Farringdon School in Sunderland and remains the only song I performed backing vocals for on stage.

Not sure what to make of the picture sleeve...it is just too weird on too many levels!

Released	February 1972
Peak chart position	5
Weeks in chart	11
Label	Charisma
Catalogue number	CB173
Songwriter	Rod Clements





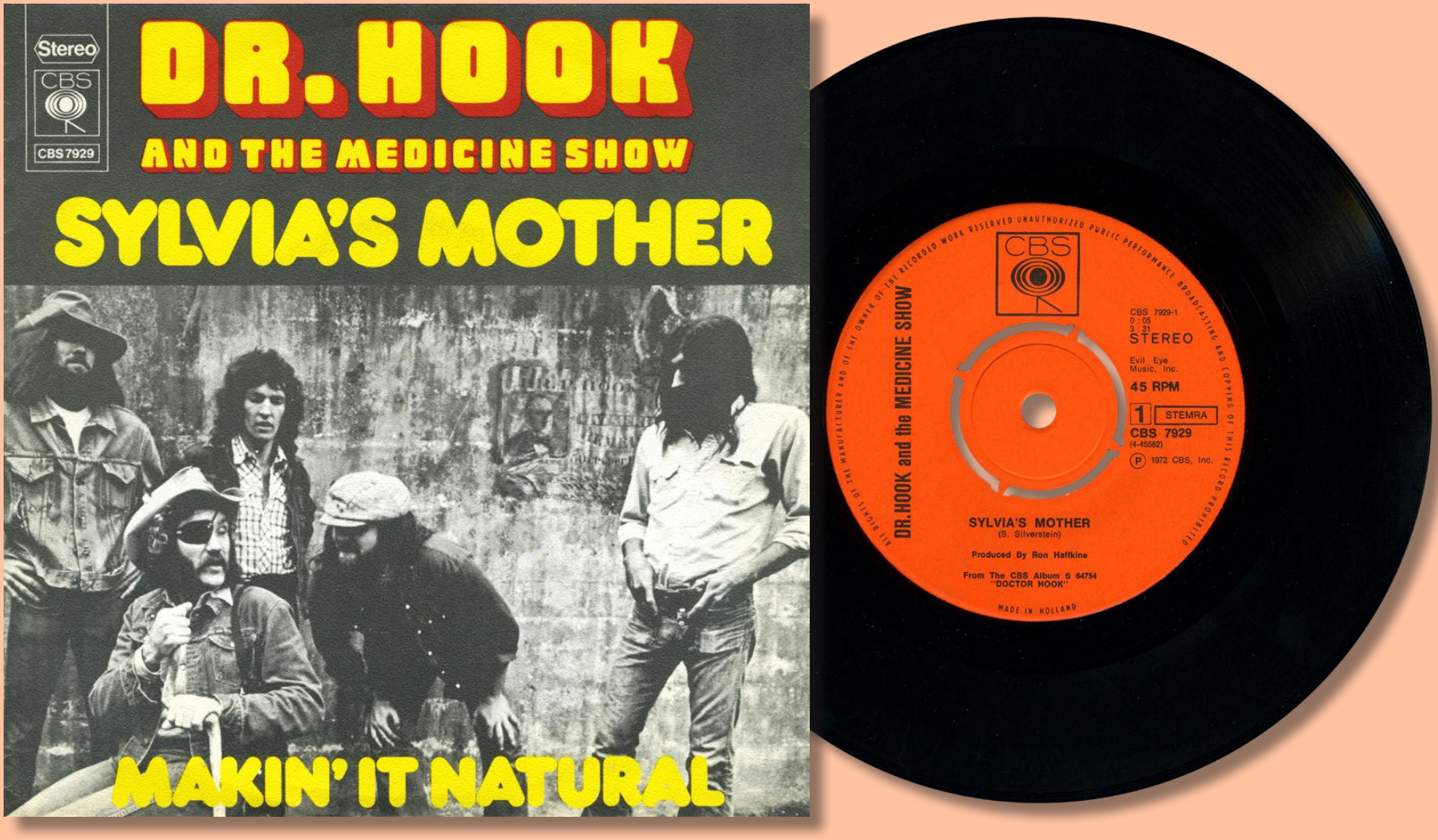
Sylvia's Mother

Dr Hook & The Medicine Show

Kept off the top spot by Donny Osmond's Puppy Love, this single told the true story of Shel Silverstein's unsuccessful attempt to revive a failed relationship. Desperate to continue the relationship, Silverstein called Sylvia's mother, but she told him the love had ended.

Not bought in 1972, but this Dutch copy was bought years later at a record fair.

Released	21st April 1972
Peak chart position	2
Weeks in chart	13
Label	CBS
Catalogue number	CBS 7929
Songwriter	Shel Silverstein



Silver Machine

Hawkwind

One of my very few forays into hard rock music. The single obviously had mass appeal as it reached number 3 in the charts and remains Hawkwind's only top 30 single.

I imagine its space age sounds probably added greatly to its appeal as it uses a fairly standard 12 bar blues guitar riff.

Released	9th June 1972
Peak chart position	3
Weeks in chart	15
Label	United Artists
Catalogue number	UP 35381
Songwriters	Bob Calvert, S. Macmanus



Virginia Plain

Roxy Music

Roxy Music's debut single and a big hit single for them.

A lot of people liken Bolan, Bowie and sometimes Cockney Rebel with Roxy Music. For some unknown reason, as much as I love those other 3 artists, I was never a fan of Roxy Music, though I did like a few of their singles.

Steve Harley was a fan of Roxy Music, and this is his actual copy of the single in the sleeve that it was in when I bought it.

Released	4th August 1972
Peak chart position	4
Weeks in chart	12
Label	Island
Catalogue number	WIP6144
Songwriter	Bryan Ferry



Burning Love

Elvis Presley

Elvis Presley, the King of Rock n Roll, already considered by many to be past his prime by the early 1970s, still had the ability to release some excellent singles, this being one of them.

This is the first 'new' song I remember hearing by Elvis and although the single only managed to get to number 7 in the UK charts, it did get to number 2 on the USA Billboard chart.

The single showed that, despite the critics, Elvis still had it in 1972.

Released	15th September 1972
Peak chart position	7
Weeks in chart	9
Label	RCA
Catalogue number	2267
Songwriter	Dennis Linde



Crazy Horses

The Osmonds

I may have begrudgingly liked this single but being by The Osmonds (the most uncool band on the planet at the time), I would never have bought it or even admitted to liking it. For three weeks, the single was kept from number 1 in the charts by the quirky Chuck Berry single My Ding-A-Ling.

Around 1984 time, the song was played at Busters, an alternative nightclub in Coventry. An art student friend came dashing over to me to ask who the artist was and was amazed when I told him that it was by The Osmonds.

Released	November 1972
Peak chart position	2
Weeks in chart	18
Label	MGM
Catalogue number	2006142
Songwriters	A. Osmond, W. Osmond, M. Osmond



Way Down

Elvis Presley

The single was already a minor hit before Elvis Presley's untimely death on the 16th August 1977. The single jumped from 42 to number 4 in the charts after his death, and the following week went to number 1 where it stayed for 5 weeks.

I always liked the single but in 1977, as the world was turning dayglo punk, Elvis just seemed to be an artist from a past era.

I suspect that I appreciate it more now than I did then.

Released	August 1977
Peak chart position	1
Weeks at number one	5
Weeks in chart	13
Label	RCA
Catalogue number	PB0998
Songwriters	L. Martin, J. Kennedy



Yes Sir, I Can Boogie

Baccara



Had I bought it at the time, this single could easily have fitted into the Guilty Pleasures section. A great 70's disco record by the Spanish female duo Baccara.

The song was later recorded by the supremely talented Sophie Ellis-Bextor in 2003 and released as the B side to I Won't Change You.

A first class disco single...which I still like.

Released	September 1977
Peak chart position	1
Weeks at number one	1
Weeks in chart	17
Label	RCA
Catalogue number	PB5526
Songwriters	Frank Dostal, Rolf Soja



Start Me Up

The Rolling Stones

Probably the best single by The Rolling Stones since Brown Sugar back in 1971 and it turned out to be their last top ten single.

The song has been an ever-present on their set list since 1981 and was one of the highlights when I saw them perform it live at Wembley Stadium in 1982.

Great guitar riff, great song. The Rolling Stones at their very best.

Released	14th August 1981
Peak chart position	7
Weeks in chart	9
Label	Rolling Stones Records
Catalogue number	RSR 108
Songwriters	Mick Jagger, Keith Richards





Come Dancing

The Kinks

Come Dancing was first released in the UK in 1982, but didn't chart, and then re-released in 1983 after its USA success.

The song was inspired by Ray Davies' memories of his older sister, Rene, who died of a heart attack while dancing at a dance hall.

Like so many of Ray Davies' songs, there is a large slice of nostalgia for bygone days. A well written song that gave The Kinks their last top 20 single.

Released	July 1983 (re-release)
Peak chart position	12
Weeks in chart	10
Label	Arista
Catalogue number	ARIST502
Songwriter	Ray Davies





Crash

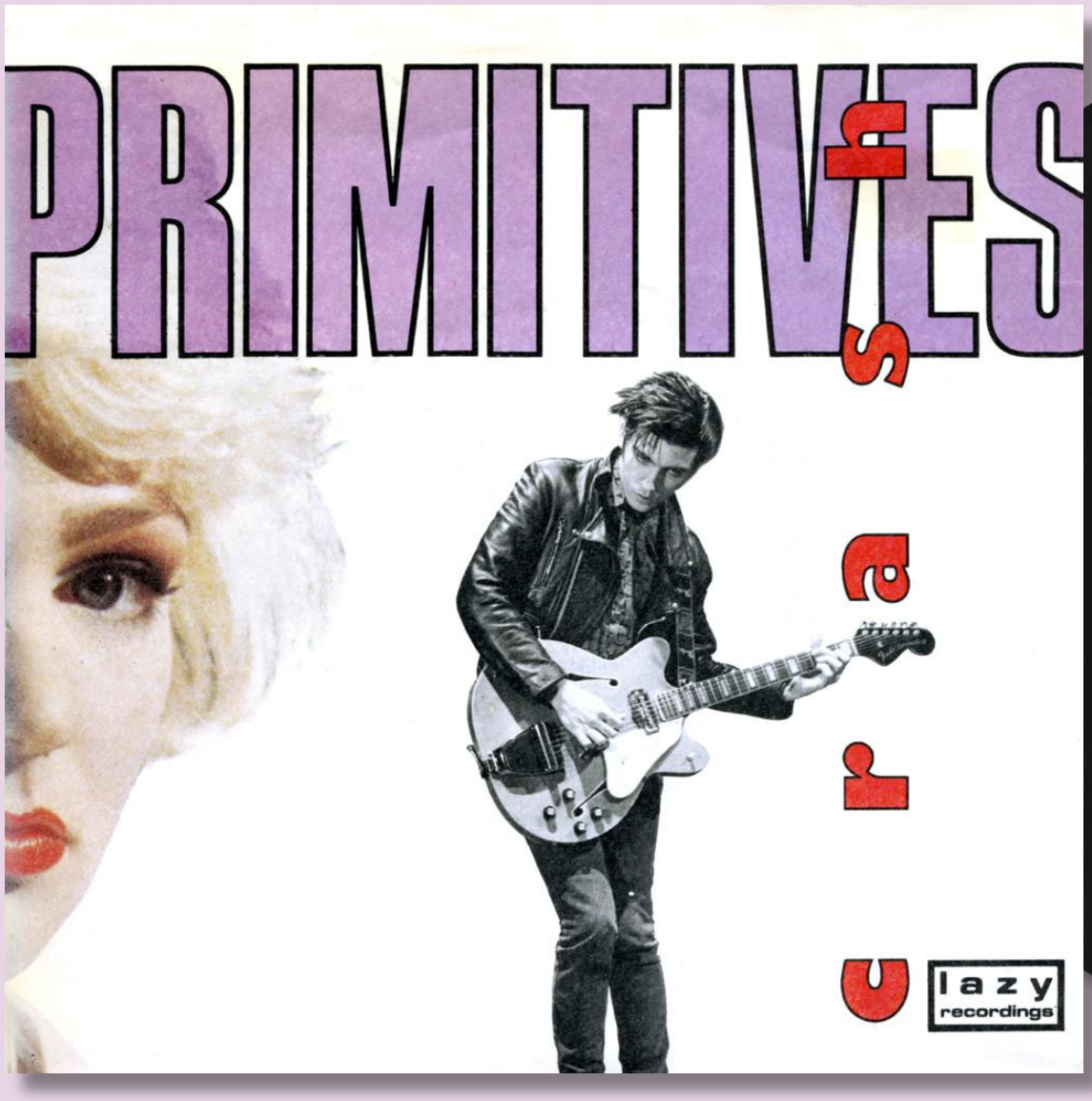
The Primitives

Originating from Coventry, this was The Primitives biggest hit single when it reached number 5 in the UK singles chart.

The producer of the record was Paul Sampson, one of the two DJs at the Dog and Trumpet on Sunday night. Although billed as a 60's Night, Paul tended to play mainly early 70s glam rock music, which obviously included T Rex.

Minor local celeb Tracy Tracy, the singer from The Primitives, was occasionally seen at the Dog and Trumpet.

Released	15th February 1988
Peak chart position	5
Weeks in chart	10
Label	Lazy
Catalogue number	PB41761
Songwriter	P J Court





First Records

The Monkees were an American band created to rival The Beatles. They had their own comedy programme on television and were hugely popular. Like many other children, I was 5 years old at the time, I watched and enjoyed The Monkees and wanted the Hey, Hey, We're The Monkees theme tune but somehow ended up getting I'm A Believer by the group. I'm not sure who bought the single for me, but it became my first record.

I'm A Believer was a huge global hit, getting to number 1 in 14 countries including the UK. Bizarrely, the theme tune to The Monkees show was not released in the UK and only had a release in a couple of countries.

The following pages show my first 10 records which were purchased between 1966 and early 1970. My favourite of the 10 records by far is Fire! by The Crazy World of Arthur Brown and is the only one to feature on my 1960s playlist saved on Spotify (a sign of the times!).

Perhaps surprisingly, none of the first 10 records I bought are that embarrassing (those are in the Guilty Pleasures section).

I still have all the records shown here, though I can't remember when they were last played. With the exception of Fire!, and possibly I'm A Believer, I suspect that they have not been played for well over 50 years.



I'm A Believer

The Monkees

The importance of this one is that it was my very first record!

Still housed in its original RCA company sleeve, the record is still in good condition.

B side to the single is (I'm Not Your Stepping Stone), a song that would later be performed by the legendary Sex Pistols.

Not a bad choice for first single…even if it was by accident!

Released	November 1966
Peak chart position	1
Weeks at number one	4
Weeks in chart	18
Label	RCA
Catalogue number	RCA-1560
Songwriter	Neil Diamond



Fire!
The Crazy World Of Arthur Brown



A great example of late 60's psychedelic rock, and a song that I always loved. With little, or no guitars, the song is dominated by a Hammond organ, and is similar in feel to songs by The Doors.

I met Arthur Brown, the self-proclaimed 'God of Hellfire', in 2002 when he opened a record fair in Newcastle. Although I got a nice autograph from him, on hindsight I wished I had got him to sign my original white sleeve for the single.

Released	June 1968
Peak chart position	1
Weeks at number one	1
Weeks in chart	14
Label	Track
Catalogue number	604022
Songwriter	Brown, Crane



Puppet On A String

Sandie Shaw

Released	March 1967
Peak chart position	1
Weeks at number one	3
Weeks in chart	18
Label	Pye
Catalogue number	7N.17272
Songwriters	Bill Martin, Phil Coulter

This was the UK's entry in the 1967 Eurovision Song Contest and went on to win the competition. Apparently out of the 5 songs put forward for the UK entry, this was Sandie Shaw's least favourite.

Although I can't remember it, I'm sure I will have watched the Eurovision Song Contest when it was broadcast. The song still has a certain amount of nostalgia and charm about it.



Thank U Very Much

The Scaffold

Released	3rd November 1967
Peak chart position	4
Weeks in chart	12
Label	Parlophone
Catalogue number	R5643
Songwriters	Mike McGear

The Scaffold are a comedy, poetry and music trio from Liverpool, consisting of musical performer Mike McGear, poet Roger McGough and comic entertainer John Gorman.

Thank U Very Much was written by Mike McGear after a phone call with his brother Paul McCartney thanking him for the camera he had given him for his birthday.

It's a humorous record with novelty appeal.





World

The Bee Gees

Released	November 1967
Peak chart position	9
Weeks in chart	16
Label	Polydor
Catalogue number	56220
Songwriters	Barry, Robin & Maurice Gibb

A song that I very much liked at the time, so much so that I later got Horizontal, the album that it was taken from. I can't be totally sure, but I suspect Horizontal was the first album I had bought for me.

It's a pleasant enough song by The Bee Gees in their pre-Saturday Night Fever era.



Ob-La-Di Ob-La-Da

The Marmalade

Released	December 1968
Peak chart position	1
Weeks at number one	3
Weeks in chart	20
Label	CBS
Catalogue number	3892
Songwriters	John Lennon, Paul McCartney



Reaching number 1 for 3 weeks, Marmalade's biggest selling single was a cover version of a Beatles song. The song was initially knocked off the top spot for a week by Scaffold's Lily The Pink, but then regained number 1 for a further two weeks. Marmalade was the first Scottish group to top the UK singles chart.

Incredibly, Marmalade was offered the wonderful Everlasting Love song before Love Affair, but rejected it.

(Call Me) Number One
The Tremeloes

Released	October 1969
Peak chart position	2
Weeks in chart	14
Label	CBS
Catalogue number	4582
Songwriters	Blakley, Hawes

The Tremeloes were an established pop band and had already had numerous hit singles before releasing (Call Me) Number One.

I must admit I hadn't heard it for years, but after playing it recently (on Spotify!), I can see why I liked it. Sometimes described as a 'psychedelic pop song' it's still a decent song.

(Call Me) Number One peaked at number 2 for two weeks where it was kept off the top spot by The Archies single Sugar, Sugar – which I also bought. Sugar, Sugar, helped by a cartoon promo video, was top for 8 weeks in the UK.



Two Little Boys
Rolf Harris



Released	November 1969
Peak chart position	1
Weeks at number one	6
Weeks in chart	25
Label	Columbia
Catalogue number	DB 8630
Songwriters	Morse, Madden, arr. Braden

Two Little Boys told the sentimental story of two boys in childhood playing soldiers and the friendship they had. Years later, the boys have grown up and are soldiers in a real battle. The song was a huge hit in the UK and spent 6 weeks at number one.

The first recording of Two Little Boys was made as far back as 1903 in the USA where it was a music hall song of the time.

Australian entertainer Rolf Harris was a big television personality throughout the 1960s and 70s but became persona non grata after being convicted for sex offences in 2014.





Come And Get It

Badfinger

Released	5th December 1969
Peak chart position	4
Weeks in chart	11
Label	Apple
Catalogue number	APPLE 20
Songwriters	Paul McCartney



Written by Paul McCartney for the 1969 film The Magic Christian and released on the Apple label, this was always destined to be a hit single.

Paul McCartney did a demo version of the song which he later offered to Badfinger on the understanding that they faithfully follow his demo.

The Magic Christian film featured Peter Sellers and Ringo Starr.



Back Home

England World Cup Squad

Released	April 1970
Peak chart position	1
Weeks at number one	3
Weeks in chart	17
Label	Pye
Catalogue number	7N 17920
Songwriters	Bill Martin, Phil Coulter



Sadly, I have no direct memory of England's legendary 1966 World Cup victory. The first World Cup that I have a memory of is when England defended the trophy in Mexico in 1970.

With high hopes of retaining the World Cup, the single was number 1 for 3 weeks in May 1970.

The songwriters, Bill Martin and Phil Coulter, also wrote the Sandie Shaw hit single Puppet On A String.

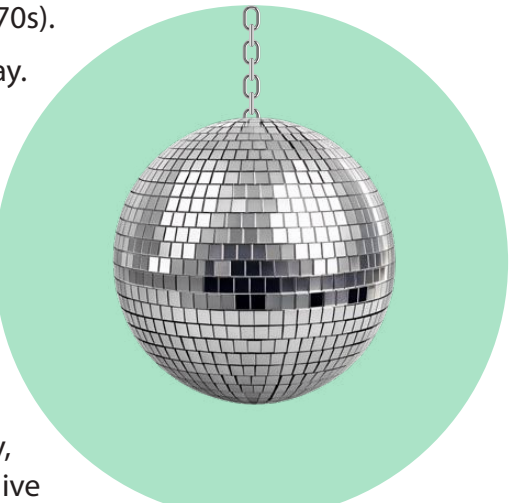
25 Guilty Pleasures

The following are records that I bought at the time of release which for one reason or another were not my typical purchases.

Through the years I have bought hundreds of singles so maybe having a few dodgy records in there isn't such a surprise, though some do make me wonder 'What the hell was I thinking about when I bought that single!'.

Some of the singles I still love, Freedom by Wham!; Into The Groove (Madonna) and Do You Really Want To Hurt Me (Culture Club). I still have a fondness for ABBA's Waterloo single (and the other half dozen or so singles I bought by them in the 1970s).

Some of the singles are much more difficult to explain away. What did I ever see in The Jacksons Shake Your Body (Down To The Ground)? I must admit, I had forgotten I had bought that in 1979 until I went through my record boxes.



Much to Lindsey's bemusement, I still have a liking for All Around My Hat by Steeleye Span. I was never a fan of Two-Tone music, but I still like Too Much Too Young by The Specials.

Although I never bought any singles by him in his heyday, I have several David Cassidy albums and I still think his live version of Please, Please Me is far better than the original by The Beatles. Definitely a guilty pleasure!

I think I have a broad taste in music which covers 1950's Rock 'n' Roll, Glam Rock, Punk, New Wave, Electronic, Goth, Alternative and Indie music. However, I have never been a fan of hard rock and, so I thought, disco music but looking through my record collection, the surprising thing is just how many disco singles I bought at the time. With the exception of the Black Night single by Deep Purple, I never veered into hard rock, but I repeatedly dipped into disco.

One of my favourite artists of the 21st century is Sophie Ellis-Bextor. Sophie's 70s disco influenced songs are pure pop/disco at its very best and she has made some great albums as well as singles.

Now where did I put that disco mirror ball?

Freedom

Wham!

With more than a hint of Motown about it, this is a great song. Wham! were just too popular to be cool, but this record shows just how good a songwriter George Michael was.

Back in 1984, having just left Art College, and very much enjoying the alternative music scene, this was one record that I wanted to buy but I just could not bring myself to walk into a record shop and ask for a Wham! single. In the end, I resorted to buying it from Boots in Coventry where they had the singles displayed on a rack so that I could pick it up and buy it without even saying the word, Wham!

Probably my favourite 'Guilty Pleasures' record.

Released	October 1984
Peak chart position	1
Weeks at number one	3
Weeks in chart	14
Label	Epic
Catalogue number	A4743
Songwriters	George Michael





Sugar, Sugar

The Archies

Released	September 1969
Peak chart position	1
Weeks at number one	8
Weeks in chart	26
Label	RCA
Catalogue number	RCA 1872
Songwriters	Barry, Kim

Bubblegum pop to the extreme! Unusual for its day, the single had a promo video showing a cartoon group performing the song which no doubt appealed greatly to the 8-year-old me. The single was a huge global hit and reached number 1 in over a dozen countries.

Sugar, Sugar was included on an audio cassette tape of songs chosen by Alan Bean (Apollo 12) and was played on the journey to the Moon.



Heaven Is Here

Julie Felix

Released	October 1970
Peak chart position	22
Weeks in chart	8
Label	RAK
Catalogue number	RAK 105
Songwriters	Errol Wilson, Tony Brown

This was a gentle folk-rock single that was written by Errol Brown and Tony Wilson of Hot Chocolate. It was only a minor hit but obviously had enough airplay for me to have heard it.

It's a pleasant enough song, but I never bought anything else by Julie Felix.





Watching The River Flow

Bob Dylan

Released	July 1971
Peak chart position	24
Weeks in chart	9
Label	CBS
Catalogue number	CBS 7329
Songwriters	Bob Dylan

I have never been a fan of Bob Dylan but for some reason I liked this at the time, and it doesn't sound bad even now. It's feels much more Rock n Roll than Dylan's usual songs.

Getting over the fact that I have a Bob Dylan record in my collection, the single was only a very minor hit single reaching a peak position of 24 in the chart, so it wasn't even a big hit!



Crocodile Rock

Elton John

Released	October 1972
Peak chart position	5
Weeks in chart	14
Label	DJM
Catalogue number	DJS.271
Songwriters	Elton John, Bernie Taupin

This is a great single, and one that I have always loved.

I bought a couple of Elton John albums (Honky Chateau and Don't Shoot Me) and was fan for a couple of years.

Zenith, the school folk/pop group I was in, performed this song a few times at school concerts.

Waterloo

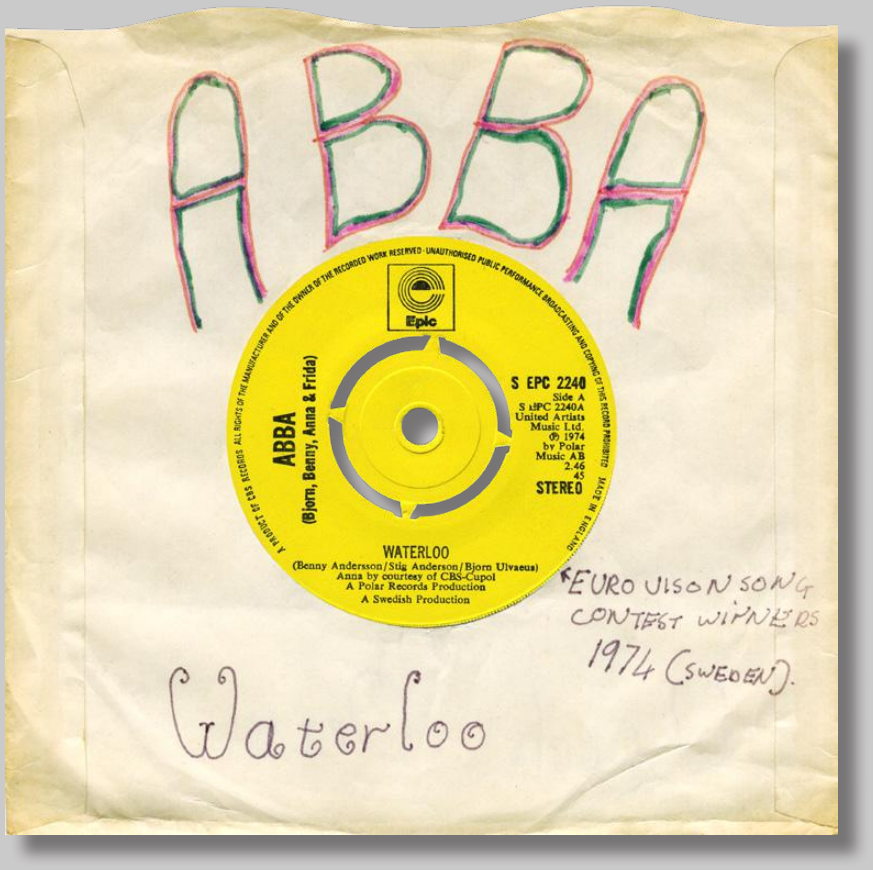
ABBA

Released	April 1974
Peak chart position	1
Weeks at number one	2
Weeks in chart	12
Label	Epic
Catalogue number	EPC 2240
Songwriters	Benny Anderson, Stig Anderson, Bjorn Ulvaeus

The Eurovision Song Contest (as it was known then) was generally full of Euro Pop songs that were, quite honestly, rubbish. Then, in 1974, along came ABBA and Waterloo.

I remember watching the show on TV and Waterloo was so much better than anything else that night. I bought the single (and then customised the sleeve!) and, in the pre-punk days, became a bit of an ABBA fan, buying half a dozen or so singles and the Arrival album.

ABBA released some great singles.



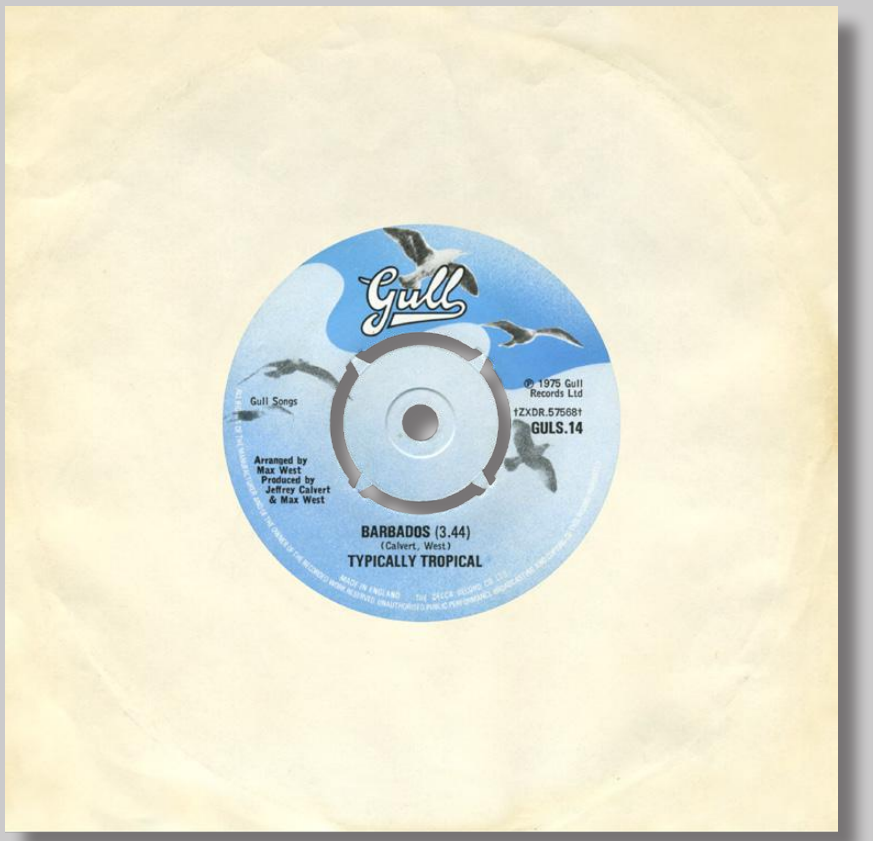
Barbados

Typically Tropical

Released	June 1975
Peak chart position	1
Weeks at number one	1
Weeks in chart	11
Label	Gull
Catalogue number	GULS.14
Songwriters	Jeff Calvert, Max West

A summer hit in 1975, the song, with the pilot talking at various parts in the song, has a slight novelty appeal about it. It's a feel-good summer song.

When I lived in Highfield Road in Coventry, my next-door neighbour was the ex-wife of one of the band members.





All Around My Hat

Steeleye Span

Released	November 1975
Peak chart position	5
Weeks in chart	9
Label	Chrysalis
Catalogue number	CHS 2078
Songwriters	Hart, Prior, Knight, Johnson, Kemp

The song has its origin in a song from 1820 and has been adapted and changed through the years.

Although it is not a Christmas song, it peaked in the charts in early December 1975 and I have always associated it with that time of year.

It's a folk-rock song, in much the same vein as Lindisfarne.

A good song...honestly!



Lost In France

Bonnie Tyler

Released	October 1976
Peak chart position	9
Weeks in chart	10
Label	RCA
Catalogue number	RCA 2734
Songwriters	R Scott, S Wolfe

Bonnie Tyler's second single and first hit single.

In the pre-punk days this was a good middle of the road type song. Although she later had much bigger hit singles, this is the only record I have ever bought by her. It's still a nice song.

Everybody's Talking About Love

Silver Convention

Released	January 1977
Peak chart position	25
Weeks in chart	5
Label	Magnet
Catalogue number	MAG 81
Songwriters	Levay, Kunze

Silver Convention were a German Euro disco group popular in the mid-1970s. They had several hit singles in 1975 and 76, however, this single only managed a chart high of 25.

I bought the single and then a little while later bought the Madhouse album that the song was taken from.

It reminds me of the Gloria Jones single Bring On The Love, the song doesn't really go anywhere with its repeated lyrics but is still a nice journey.



Black Night

Deep Purple

Released	October 1977
Peak chart position	31
Weeks in chart	4
Label	PURPLE
Catalogue number	PUR 135
Songwriters	Blackmore, Gillan, Glover, Lord, Paice

Although this is the live version of the song, I always liked the original Black Night single that was a number 2 hit for the group in 1970.

Not a fan of Deep Purple and never a fan of heavy rock, this is the only record I ever bought by them.

Heavy rock is just not my thing...





You're The One That I Want

John Travolta & Olivia Newton-John

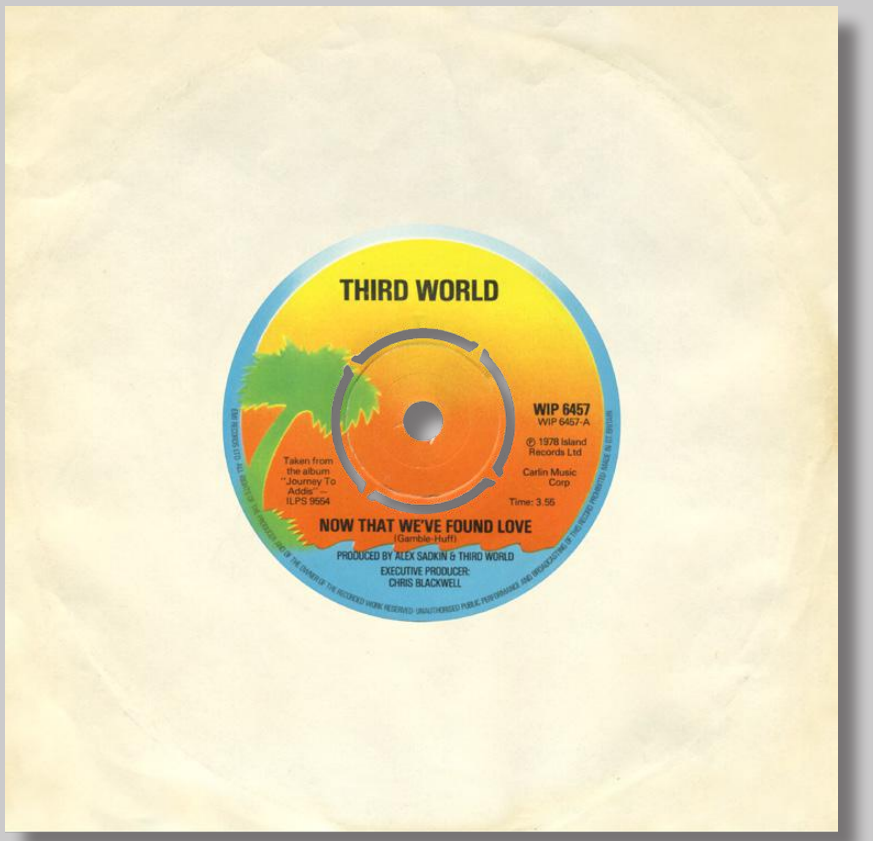
Released	May 1978
Peak chart position	1
Weeks at number one	9
Weeks in chart	26
Label	RSO
Catalogue number	006
Songwriter	John Farrar



Perhaps this is one of those songs that you hear so many times and over such a long period that you just begin to believe that you like it.

The song was HUGE in 1978 and no doubt benefitted from the accompanying promo video that was taken from the Grease film.

Definitely a feel-good song and just perfect for summer, this was one I bought but never played much. It just wasn't the same without the video of John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John.



Now That We've Found Love

Third World

Released	September 1978
Peak chart position	10
Weeks in chart	9
Label	Island
Catalogue number	WIP 6457
Songwriters	Gamble-Huff

The only reggae-disco song in my collection, and similar in feel to Eddy Grant songs of the period.

Although this is the only reggae single I have, I did have most of Bob Marley's albums from the 1970s and one or two Eddy Grant albums. It was a type of music I was interested in during the late 70s.

A good single.

Shake Your Body

The Jacksons

Released	March 1979
Peak chart position	4
Weeks in chart	12
Label	Epic
Catalogue number	S EPC 7181
Songwriters	R Jackson, M Jackson

Another disco single!

Never a fan of The Jacksons or Michael Jackson solo, this is another song that appealed to me at the time.

Very repetitive, this is another song that doesn't go anywhere.

There are much better disco records than this.



Too Much Too Young

The Specials

NUMBER ONE 1 NUMBER ONE

Released	January 1980
Peak chart position	1
Weeks at number one	2
Weeks in chart	10
Label	TWO-TONE
Catalogue number	CHS TT7
Songwriters	Dammers, Chalmers

My one and only Two-Tone purchase. The Specials originated from Coventry, were a huge group and central to the ska revival movement of the late 1970s/early 1980s.

With a reputation for being a good live act, Too Much Too Young was a live version of a song that appeared on their first album.

A good song, but ska music wasn't for me.





Do You Really Want To Hurt Me

Culture Club

Released	September 1982
Peak chart position	1
Weeks at number one	3
Weeks in chart	19
Label	Virgin
Catalogue number	VS 518
Songwriters	Culture Club

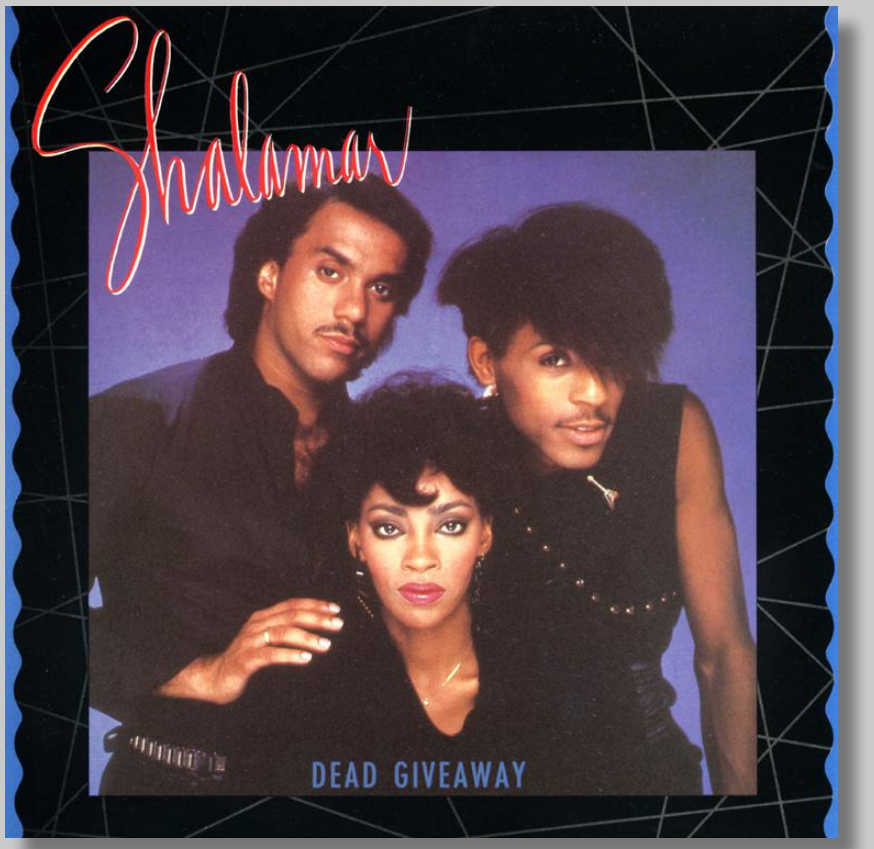


After two failed singles, this is the song that brought Culture Club chart success.

A song that was 'different' for the time and was a deserved hit. With its gentle reggae style, the song reminds me of The Clash's Armagideon Time.

An excellent single.





Dead Giveaway

Shalamar

Released	May 1983
Peak chart position	8
Weeks in chart	10
Label	Solar
Catalogue number	E9819
Songwriters	Joey Gallo, Marcus Dare, Leon F Sylvers III



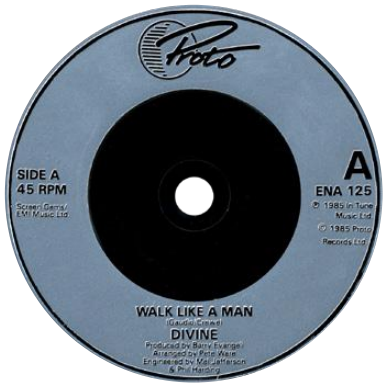
Shalamar was an American R&B and soul music group that was very popular in the late 1970s.

I imagine that this song would have been popular in the townie discos of the day...much more Pink Parrot than Dog and Trumpet!

Walk Like A Man

Divine

Released	April 1985
Peak chart position	23
Weeks in chart	7
Label	Proto
Catalogue number	ENA 125
Songwriters	Gaudio, Crewe



Divine was an American actor, singer and drag queen. Walk Like A Man was a popular single at the time but only managed to reach 23 in the charts. Divine had 8 minor hit singles (top 100) but, for a short period, was a cult star in the mid-80s.

Divine was a popular act on the student circuit.



Into The Groove

Madonna

Released	July 1985
Peak chart position	1
Weeks at number one	4
Weeks in chart	16
Label	Sire
Catalogue number	W 8934
Songwriters	Madonna, Steve Bray



Madonna is a huge global star and, certainly in the early days, released several excellent singles.

After Wham's Freedom single, this is probably my second favourite single in the Guilty Pleasures section.

A great song!





She Goes To Finos

The Toy Dolls

Released	1985
Peak chart position	93
Weeks in chart	2
Label	Volume Records
Catalogue number	VOL 12
Songwriters	Michael (Olga) Alagar



The Toy Dolls started out in Sunderland in 1979 on the tail end of the punk movement. They always had a great reputation for their live act and were, and remain, popular in Sunderland.

Finos was a popular nightclub in the centre of Sunderland. I went there once, maybe twice, and even have a membership card for the club. The place was full of townies and bad music. It wasn't a match for the Dog and Trumpet in Coventry.



So Macho!

Sinitta

Released	17th February 1986
Peak chart position	2
Weeks in chart	30
Label	Fanfare Records
Catalogue number	FAN 5
Songwriter	J. G. Hargreaves



This was Sinitta's first, and biggest, hit single and was kept from the top spot by Chris de Burgh's truly awful Lady In Red single. Although released in February 1986, it took 6 months before it reached its peak position of number 2 in the singles chart.

A good example of Hi-NRG music, the song is lively and upbeat.

A guilty pleasure at the time? Absolutely!

Fight For Your Right

Beastie Boys

Released	January 1987
Peak chart position	11
Weeks in chart	13
Label	Def Jam
Catalogue number	6504187
Songwriters	Beastie Boys, Rick Rubin





I remember that this single got a lot of airplay on Radio 1 at the time contributing to it becoming a sizable hit for the Beastie Boys.

The Beastie Boys were an American hip-hop/rap band, though this song does have a crossover with rock appeal about it.

Working at Birmingham Council at the time, whenever the song came on the radio Gary would turn it up as loud as he could.

A good, fun song.

I Think We're Alone Now

Tiffany

Released	January 1988
Peak chart position	1
Weeks at number one	3
Weeks in chart	16
Label	MCA
Catalogue number	1211
Songwriter	Ritchie Cordell



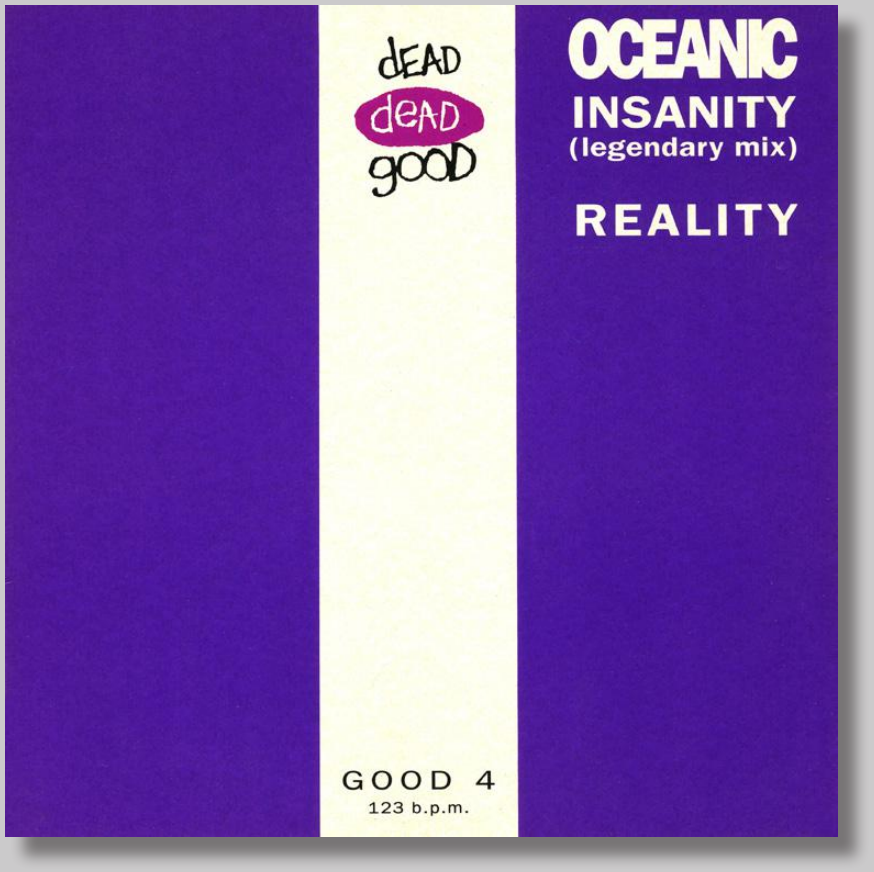


Definitely a guilty pleasure at the time!

The song was a cover version of a single by Tommy James and the Shondells which got to number 4 in the USA in 1967.
I'm sure most people, myself included, thought it was a new song.

A cheesy song!





Insanity

Oceanic

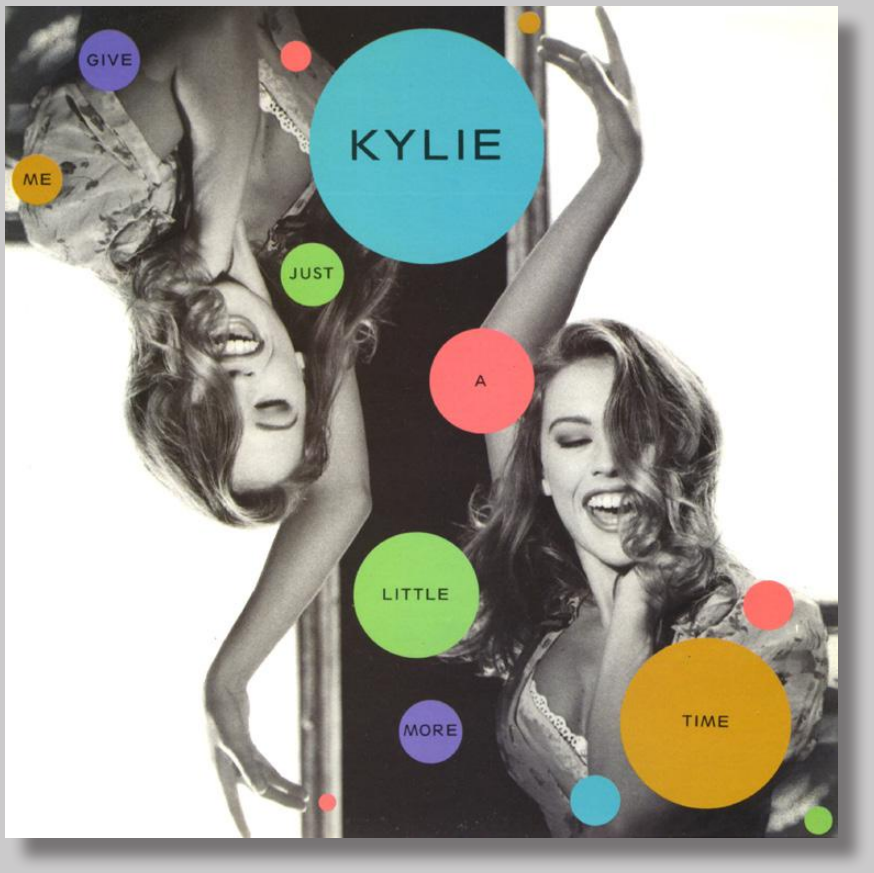
Released	August 1991
Peak chart position	3
Weeks in chart	15
Label	Dead Dead Good
Catalogue number	GOOD 4
Songwriters	Crofts, Harry, Lea, Williams



This seemed like an unusual choice for me even at the time.

The single is more akin to rave music than electronic, but for some reason it appealed.

A top 3 hit single at the time but sounds quite dated nowadays.



Give Me Just A Little More Time

Kylie Minogue

Released	January 1992
Peak chart position	2
Weeks in chart	8
Label	PWL
Catalogue number	PWL 212
Songwriter	Wayne, Dunbar



I remember the original version of this by Chairmen of the Board back in 1970. Kylie's version is simply a faithful updated version of the original song with great production.

Upbeat and lively, a touch of retro and Kylie singing, what's not to like?

Excellent single!

BONUS TRACKS BONUS TRACKS

Family Records

In the late sixties, we had around 20 singles in the house by different artists which were bought by my brother.

As my interest in music and records grew, I played all the records that we had and found that I liked some of them. We had a mono record player where I could stack the records so that it would play several singles one after the other – a sort of early version of a playlist I suppose. It was always a challenge to find out how many singles I could play before they started to 'slip' – those of a certain age will know what I mean.

For many years I have had an interest in music from the 1950s and 60s and, I suspect, in some part it goes back to hearing records from that period at an early age.

To varying degrees, I still like all the records shown here. An unusual choice for one so young, but I always loved Go Now! by The Moody Blues. Although I'm not a fan of Cliff Richard, I have always liked The Young Ones and Summer Holiday. I guess I also became familiar with the Summer Holiday song through the film with the same title that had a regular screening on television throughout the 1960s and 70s.

A Teenager In Love is just a great song and has been covered by many artists including T Rex back in 1975. T Rex also did a cover of Let's Dance in 1977 when it was performed on the MARC show.

Waterloo Sunset is one of my favourite songs by The Kinks and there was also the singles You Really Got Me and All Day And All Of The Night – all excellent songs.

As a child, Running Bear, written by The Big Bopper, had an appeal to me, though I was completely unaware of it being one of the death singles that were popular during the 1960s.

My brother Colin bought a number of singles back in the 1950s that I would later enjoy in the late 1960s and early 70s.



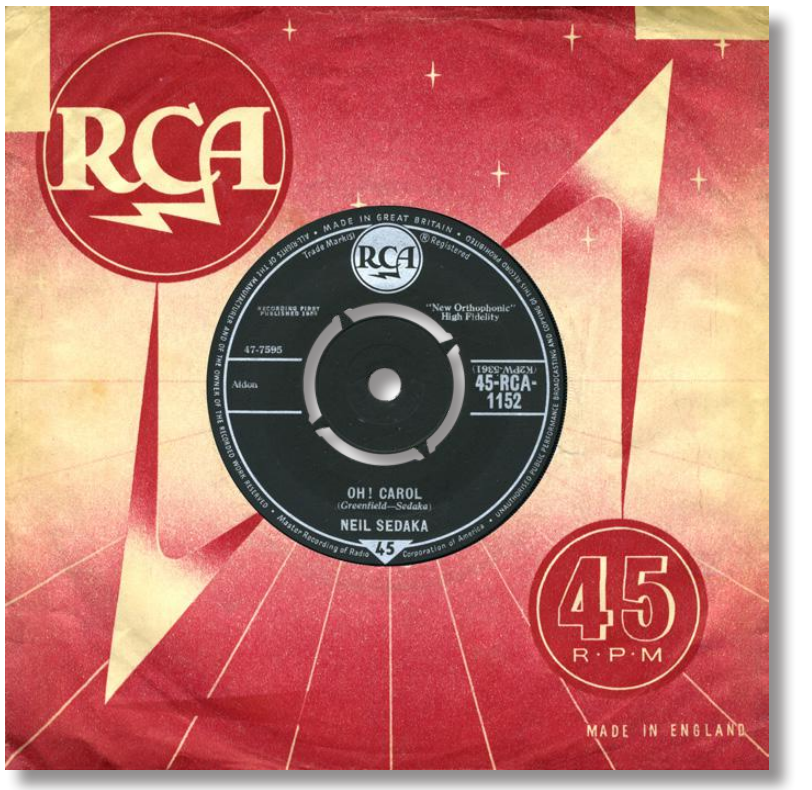
Dream Lover
Bobby Darin
1958



Lipstick On Your Collar
Connie Francis
1959



A Teenager In Love
Marty Wilde
1959



Oh! Carol
Neil Sedaka
1959



Running Bear
Dick Jordan
1960



Let's Dance
Chris Montez
1962



The Young Ones
Cliff Richard and The Shadows
1962



The Loco-Motion
Little Eva
1962



Summer Holiday
Cliff Richard and The Shadows
1963



Go Now!
The Moody Blues
1964



I Got You Babe
Sonny & Cher
1965



Waterloo Sunset
The Kinks
1967


ALL RIGHTS OF THE MANUFACTURER AND OF THE OWNER OF THE RECORDED WORK RESERVED · UNAUTHORISED PUBLIC PERFORMANCE BROADCASTING AND COPYING OF THIS RECORD PROHIBITED
Trade Marks used by authority and under control of Radio Corporation of America (R.C.A.)
RCA VICTOR
Trade Mark(s) Registered
Marca(s) Registrada(s)
Master Recording of Radio Corporation of America.
Made in England by The Decca Record Co. Ltd.
45
"New Orthophonic" High Fidelity
℗ 1966
N.C.B.
B.I.E.M.
GEMA
Screen Gems/ Columbia Music
HM
(TZKM-7744)
RCA-1560
(66-1002)
I'M A BELIEVER
(Diamond)
THE MONKEES
Arranged and produced by Jeff Barry
Music supervision: Don Kirshner
A COLGEMS Records Production
TZKM-7744-IC