

US Originals - Made In England

By John Rutherford

Over the years, I have been collecting a number of record label variations of the early LONDON Records.

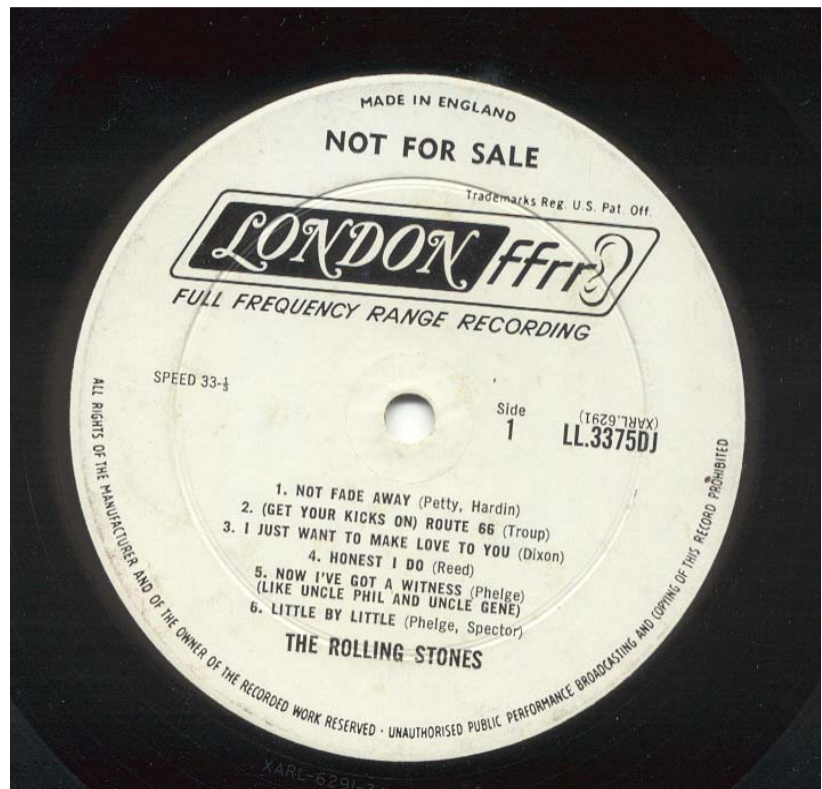
This has produced a confusing chronology that has driven a few collectors over the brink of sanity. This article will attempt to give the collector a brief understanding of the complicated chronology for early Rolling Stones **FFRR** records.

"FFRR" stands for *"Full Frequency Range Recording"*. These UK pressings of the US releases are highly sought after for their fabulous sound. For serious collectors of the US market it's today a sign for "Original" like the wine red labels with gold letters on the early German releases.

I have more than a few variations of MONO records on the FFRR labels. Some were printed in the UK (the most common). A new US variation has recently come to light, and then there are the UK exports to Japan. Canadian variations can be confusing since they used the FFRR label at least until the late 1970's. This article will try and set up a useful chronological setting, and a guide to inform the collector of the rarest variations.

Of special note, is a recent find I made on an online auction service. Until recently, no blue label made in UK FFRR London versions of *"12 x 5"* had been known. This record does exist, but likely only as an early test pressing. The cover that accompanied this record is an early mock up. The front cover shows a small image of the 1st LP, but with the graphics that were used on the officially released cover, but the colors of the text are changed. The only other Stereo FFRR label that I have seen is for the UK LONDON export to the US of *"Out Of Our Heads"*.

This article will attempt to show photographs that will help the collector visualize the variations that exist and hopefully allow them to



BN # 30 / 1: *"England's Newest Hit Makers"*, promotional copy, black & white label

fill in all of the gaps that one needs to complete a collection.

I will start with the records in chronological order and attempt to list them by earliest pressing to later pressings. If you have variations not described in this article, please contact Dieter Hoffmann or me. For quick information, such as at record fairs, etc, see the checklist of all known variations on page 12 & 13.

The first US release, is the US white label promotion copy of *"England's Newest Hit Makers"* (photo # BN 30/1). This variation is difficult to find, and especially hard to get in mint condition. The standard stock copies of *"England's Newest Hit Makers"* are available with only *"Made in England"* (photo # BN 30/2 on page 4) at the top of the label. Later pressings state *"Made in England by the Decca Record Co. LTD"* (photo # BN 30/3, page 4).

For full collector's details about the 1st US album please see BN # 16 page 4 - 7.

"12 x 5" also is available with both red / silver mono label variations (Photo # BN 30/4).

The next LP is the newly discovered *"12 x 5"* prototype with the Blue LONDON FFRR Made in UK STEREO label. Likely, this is the first documentation of this record. The front cover is shown on the front of this issue. Note the image is the photo from the 1st LP with reworked text design. Please note flip backs on the rear sleeve (not available on US records). Also, flip backs have been cut to follow outer edge of the record arc, which is unlike even the UK pressings (photo # BN 30/6, page 4).

The labels are very unusual (BN photo # 30/7, page 4 and BN 30/7 page 9). Only one *known* other copy exists in collector's circles, in the UK, but this copy has no sleeve.

It is only the record, in a plain white jacket, and was perhaps an early test, prior to the printing of the sleeve.