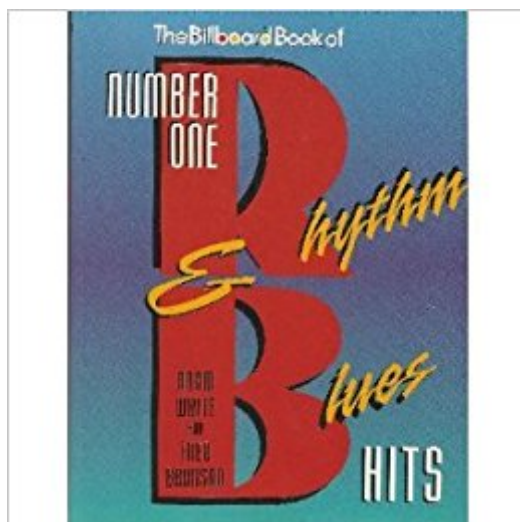


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The Billboard Book Of Number One Rhythm & Blues Hits



Synopsis

Similar in format to the "Billboard Book of Number One Hits" and "The Billboard Book of Number One Country Hits", this book traces the history of soul and R&B music by focusing on the songs that topped Billboard's Top R&B Singles chart over the past 40 years. All the great Motown hits are covered as are the classic tunes by such non-Motown stalwarts as Sam Cooke, James Brown, Ray Charles, Aretha Franklin, Otis Redding, and Sam and Dave, as well as contemporary stars like Prince and Michael Jackson. Arranged chronologically, the book looks at each number-one hit and probes the stories behind the songs, providing trivia, key biographical information on artists and songwriters, and basic chart data. Taken as a whole, "The Billboard Book of Number One Rhythm & Blues Hits" amounts to a detailed overview of an immensely popular musical genre - a genre that has been enjoying a huge historical reassessment in recent years, with soul artists finally getting their due and being recognised as having been every bit as important as Elvis and the Beatles in shaping the course of modern rock and roll.

Book Information

Paperback: 506 pages

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Great book. My one complaint is the book starts with 1965 and ends in 1990. I know there was no R&B chart in Billboard magazine in 1964, but R&B chart in Billboard goes back to 1940. You could use Cashbox charts for the missing year - Joel Whitburn does in record research books. This book is screaming for a second edition that stretches back and brings us up to date.

This book was truly beat up and worn out. It looked like it had been abused by a spouse. Coffee stains. GREAT BOOK. The used copy I received, not so much.

Welcome addition to any music library!

A good read - lots of detail.

It went to a friend as a gift

"Being With You," the highest charting hit of Smokey Robinson's solo career, was originally written for pop singer Kim Carnes, who had recently scored a hit cover of the Miracles' "More Love." However, when Smokey presented the song to Carnes' producer, George Tobin, he learned that Tobin was no longer acting in that capacity. Tobin, however, saw a hit and in an attempt to show Smokey his good faith in the song, agreed to pay for the recording sessions. Upon release, "Being With You" shot to the top of both the R&B and Hot 100 charts, achieving the top spot in the R&B category. However, the song failed to reach the top spot on the Hot 100 and stalled at number two. What song kept it from reaching number one? Kim Carnes' "Bette Davis Eyes." Such behind the scene details form the backbone of THE BILLBOARD BOOK OF NUMBER ONE RHYTHM AND BLUES HITS. From smooth Motown soul to gritty Memphis funk, this book tells the fascinating stories behind twenty-five years of hit singles on the Billboard Charts. More than a mere collection of music business anecdotes, this book also serves as a very readable history of some of the most memorable pop music of this century. Highly recommended.

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Billboard Sheet Music Hits 2000-2010: Piano/Vocal/Guitar (Billboard Magazine)
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