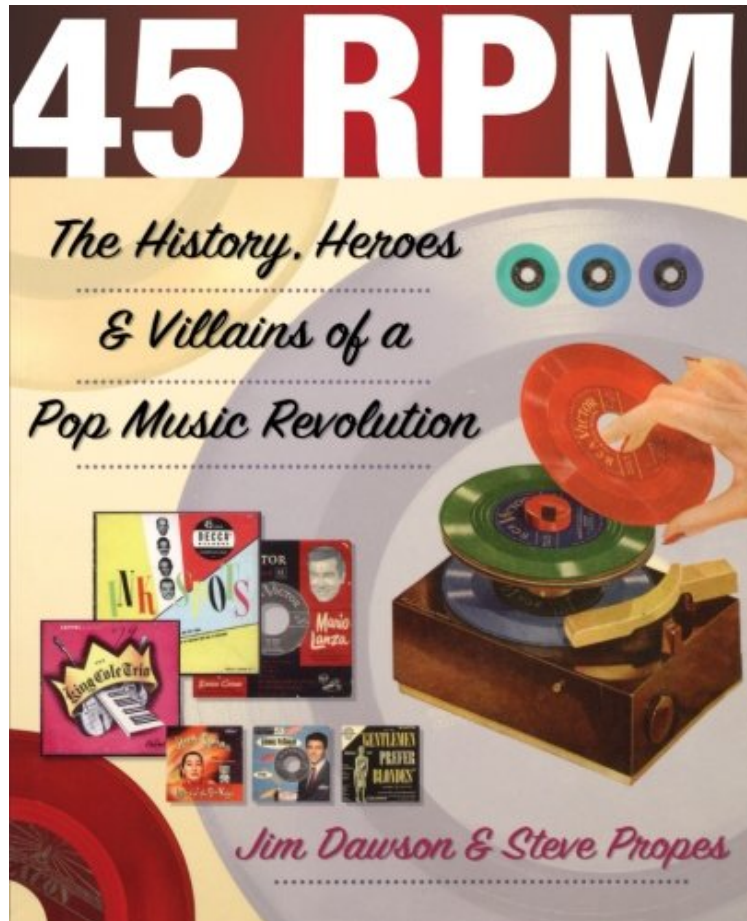



## 45 RPM: The History, Heroes, and Villains of a Pop Music Revolution

*Jim Dawson, Steve Propes*  
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**Jim Dawson, Steve Propes : 45 RPM: The History, Heroes, and Villains of a Pop Music Revolution** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 45 RPM: The History, Heroes, and Villains of a Pop Music Revolution:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great Rock Roll History!By R. SawyerCo-author "Big" Jim Dawson is a regular -- and always a delight -- on Ian Whitcomb's weekly Luxuria Music internet show, and "45 RPM" is like having him visit and sit down for hours of coffee and chat about the amazing history of the 45, and how it emerged from new technology and competition (and different visions) in the recording industry. With Steve Propes, Dawson has created a wonderfully entertaining and informative book. The only down side is that if you're my age, like me you may recognize some of fabulous 45's that your mother threw out after you left the house, and learn that at today's collector's prices, a good chunk of your retirement fund may have gone out in the trash! Seriously, fans of great 50's and 60's music shouldn't be without this wonderful book.12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Not as

good as it might have been. By Paul Tognetti. Perhaps I was expecting too much here, but as someone who has been collecting 45's for nearly 40 years I found this book to be a bit disappointing. The first half of the book, covering the early history of this format, was somewhat long winded and poorly written. Many of the sentences seemed to just ramble on and on. Things seemed to pick up a bit in the second half of the book, however, and I was able to glean a lot more information from the latter chapters. The book is liberally sprinkled with photos of rare and interesting 45 rpm labels and picture sleeves. As a collector, I saw many items I had never come across before. The authors also provide us with any number of fascinating stories about individual releases and the unscrupulous practices of some of the record companies. For the reader who is too young to remember what all the fuss was about during the heyday of the 45, this book would certainly be a good place to start. For the serious collector, this is not a bad book to add to your library but I would not consider it essential. I did not learn as much from it as I had hoped. At the halfway point in the book, I was prepared to rate the book just 2 stars. But as I stated earlier, the authors seemed to hit their stride later on and thus the three star rating. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Mostly interesting b/w annoying. By Biff Malibu. 45 RPM starts out good, with a fascinating look at the speed wars of the late 40s. Unfortunately, the chapter about EPs and then picture sleeves brings everything to a slow grind (16 rpm maybe?). The authors seem really hung up on why black artists generally didn't get their photo on picture sleeves, and they remind us more than once. The most bizarre display of this is an illustration of a Kay Starr sleeve with the caption "Before \*white\* (emphasis mine) songstress Kay Starr became a hitmaker for RCA in 1955, she recorded with several indie companies." We can see that she's white, what does this have to do with anything? They also make a big deal about Elvis getting a picture sleeve for almost every release. Hey guys, he was POPULAR. There are factual errors here and there, such as the tired myth that the Capitol Records building was designed to look like a stack of 45s (it wasn't). And the sleeve of the Beatles "I Want to Hold Your Hand" - they claim McCartney's cigarette was airbrushed out after complaints. It was the 20th anniversary 1984 reissue of this sleeve that featured a missing cigarette, and I doubt it was done out of complaints from fans 20 years earlier. On the positive side, the authors do have a good grasp of the history of the format and provide lots of details regarding the engineering and marketing of the 45, which I found interesting. There are several color pages of sleeves and discs as well. I think a record buff will generally enjoy this book, if they can overlook some of the more peculiar aspects in a couple of chapters.

Traces the 7inch single's origins back to the 1880s, and explains the personality conflicts that lead an eccentric genius to develop the 45 into one of postwar America's most popular consumer products.

Praise for "What Was the First Rock 'n' Roll Record?: " Manages to capture the fun of it all."