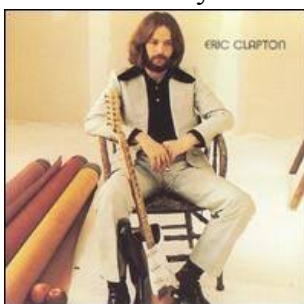


The Mystery Mixes of EC's 1st Solo Album by Eric Kay

Most rock stars stick with the band that made them famous. Some break out on their own, with varying degrees of success. Most don't start a solo career, start a completely new band for their next album, get addicted to heroin, kick heroin, and restart a solo career. But then again, Eric Clapton has never been typical.

In 1970, Eric Clapton had left his ill-fated band Blind Faith to strike out on the road with their lead-in act. Led by a charismatic married couple, Delaney and Bonnie Bramlett from Tulsa, Oklahoma, they gave Clapton exactly what he desired: a chance to step out of the limelight and just be a guitar player in someone's band.

Although Clapton had a few songs in The Bluesbreakers, Cream, and Blind Faith where he was the lead singer, he had as yet not released a solo album. Delaney Bramlett gave him the courage and confidence that he needed to do so. Using the Bramletts' band of crack musicians, and enlisting the likes of Leon Russell and JJ Cale, Clapton recorded his first solo album (self-titled) in late 1969 and early 1970.

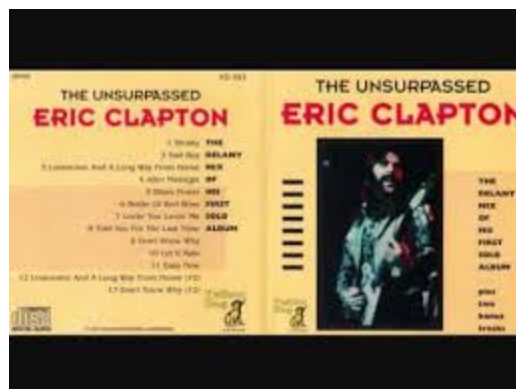


The album was to be released in the summer of 1970, but needed to be mixed. According to Marc Roberty's book, *Eric Clapton: The Complete Recording Sessions 1963–1992*, Clapton had gone back to England, assuming Delaney was going to mix the album, which he did. The record company was impatient and sent EC the rough mixes to mix in England, which he did, very poorly. The record company was not impressed, and brought in Tom Dowd who mixed the album for official release. (pg 55?)

Delaney's mix never saw the light of day officially for another 36 years. It was however, too good to not get bootlegged. Unofficial releases started popping up, most notably with Yellow Dog Records actually releasing a mix of the album on CD in 1992. The cover of *The Unsurpassed Eric Clapton* claimed to be "The Delany mix of his first solo album" but has a picture of (what looks like) Bob Seger on the cover. It also spelled Delaney Bramlett's first name incorrectly.

Most collectors took the cover at face value and assumed it was, in fact, the Delaney Bramlett mix. What Yellow Dog didn't realize though, is that they actually released Clapton's own sub-par mix.

It wasn't until 2006, when Polydor released the *Eric Clapton Deluxe Edition* of the solo album, which included both, a remixed version of Dowd's mix *and* the first



official release of Delaney's mix, that the mix up came to light. Up against the Yellow Dog release, the differences are obvious. Again, according to Marc Roberty, [the EC Mix has]

“Slunky”: Starts with what sounds like three beats of repeated backward tape before the jam.

“Bad Boy”: More prominent horns and piano

“Blues Power”: The tape starts off with twenty nine seconds of instrument before Leon Russell's piano intro. Eric has again put some reverb on his vocals and his guitar seems to be a little more prominent than the other mixes. (pg??)



Interestingly enough, the story doesn't stop there. For some unknown reason, Clapton's mix seems to have been given to one American record pressing factory, which pressed possibly 1000's of copies before it was replaced with the official Dowd mix. (CT or CTH = Columbia, Terra Haute, IN) The Delaney Bramlett mix did not see its official release, on vinyl **or** CD, until the *Deluxe Edition* in 2006.



Roberty also explained via the *Eric Clapton Music Lovers World Wide* Facebook page, “Yes, [Clapton's solo album] slipped out in error only in the US on Atco. There is a way of telling from the engraving on the vinyl if I recall correctly. The pressing plant [was] handed the wrong masters I believe. Can't recall how long it took to realise the error. There were several thousand out there in stores.”

Another anomaly stems from the covers. Some album copies have a longer playing time listed than the CD issue. For instance, “Bad Boy” on the LP clocks in at 3:33, the same as the cd, but the LP jacket and the label show 4:17. All but one song on the LP shows a longer playing time, “Easy Now.” This might indicate that more album jackets were printed with the EC mix times, but the error was corrected before they (EC mix) were used up, resulting in longer track times being listed than what was actually on the subsequent “fixed” record (Dowd mix).

The mystery of how and why these anomalies happened continues, and may never be resolved. How did EC's mix come to be released on vinyl? What indicators are there to the rare mix albums? Is there a consistent cover trait? Is there consistent “coding” on the covers or on the albums' outer matrix? How many are out there? How rare is it?

How many EC mix covers contain the “fixed” Dowd mix album? Are there other bootlegged versions of each mix? Some of these questions may never get answered.

Works Cited

Marc Roberty, *Eric Clapton: The Complete Recording Sessions 1963–1992*, Blandford or St. Martin's Press, 1993, 192 pp.

Eric Clapton Music Lovers World Wide (Facebook)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EricClaptonMusicLovers/> October 8, 2017

Notes _____ -

Title: Eric Clapton .

Label Information: Polydor SUPER 2383 021 STEREO LP.

Country Of Pressing: UK .

ERIC CLAPTON self titled LP
ATCO Sd 33-329
RARE CTH Version With Alternate Takes !!!

Pressing plant codes for LPs:

*PR = Presswell Records Mfg. Co., Ancora, NJ (they handled most of Atlantic's LP's during much of this period)

LY = Shelley Products, Huntington Station, NY

SP = Specialty Records Corp., Olyphant, PA

*MO = Monarch Record Mfg. Co., Los Angeles, CA
PL = Plastic Products, Inc., Memphis, TN
*RI = PRC Recording Corp., Richmond, IN
AR = Allied Record Co., Inc., Los Angeles, CA
*CT or CTH = Columbia, Terra Haute, IN
CP = Columbia (Pitman, NJ)
CS or CSM = Columbia (Santa Maria, CA; very infrequently)

*=found on EC solo album

EC Mix seems to be CTH

1st pressing seems to be MO (MR in deadwax)

Typical Tracklist (PR and MO and RI and CTH)

A1	Slunky Written-By – Bramlett* , Clapton*	3:40
A2	Bad Boy Written-By – Bramlett* , Clapton*	4:17
A3	Lonesome And A Long Way From Home Written-By – Bramlett* , Russell*	4:00
A4	After Midnight Written-By – John J. Cale*	3:15
A5	Easy Now Written-By – Clapton*	2:55
A6	Blues Power Written-By – Clapton* , Russell*	3:45
B1	Bottle Of Red Wine Written-By – Bramlett* , Clapton*	2:55
B2	Lovin' You Lovin' Me Written By – Bramlett & Clapton	3:45
B3	Told You For The Last Time Written-By – Bramlett* , Cropper*	2:30
B4	Don't Know Why Written-By – Bramlett* , Clapton*	3:35
B5	Let It Rain Written-By – Bramlett* , Clapton*	5:17

Nope, but I sure thought it was when I saw the "CTH". The label has (ST-C-701879CTH) on side one and (ST-C-701880CTH) on side two. Deadwax on side two is ST-C701880-3A CTH / T. Maybe when they got to the -3 cutting master they switched to the correct Dowd mix.

I just found a copy of this album on vinyl (US pressing). It says CTH on the labels, but not in the matrix. So this is not the obscure mix, but the standard mix, I think.

Matrix info is:

ST-C-701879-B LW AT QB W

ST-C-701880-B LW AT QB W

Considering that the "A" cutting is the obscure/rare EC mix, does that make the "B" cutting the first cutting for the standard/common mix?

The front cover also has the extra 1/4" black bar on the top.

<http://forums.stevemoffman.tv/threads/eric-clapton-self-titled-alternate-mix-cth-details.277556/page-2>

