

CD

OVERVIEW

Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab

MFSL
MFSL Releases in Japan

PINK FLOYD CD DISCOGRAPHY

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PINK FLOYD CD DISCOGRAPHY

OVERVIEW MFSL



Notes on MFSL releases

Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab (MFSL) is an American label which specializes in audiophile issues of vinyl LPs, cassettes and CDs. The quality of the MFSL pressings, even if one can hardly hear the difference except on high end systems, is legendary and not controversial. Not only first-class sound storage media which are painstakingly controlled during manufacturing, but also the reconditioning of the musical material - special mastering with application of partly patented MFSL technologies bring this quality to standard. The aimed purpose is not the straining for effects but a credible rendition of the sound.

Recently MFSL have begun to issue after some years of inactivity (between November 1999 and January 2002) and is distributing SACDs, and recently also ULTRADISC II™ gold CDs and vinyl. Beside industrially pre-recorded media, MFSL offers gold-layered recordable CDRs and DVDRs in best possible quality.

A few years after the reactivation of the MFSL through Music Direct, the logo was also changed. Since no Pink Floyd CDs were pressed after the reactivation, only the original MFSL logo can be found on Pink Floyd CDs.



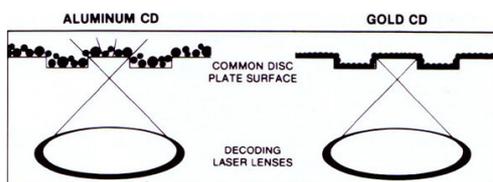
original logo



new logo

MFSL started with aluminum (standard, industry plating) CD series to get into the CD market, three years before gold CD was developed. The years of the aluminum series, all of which were Original Master Recordings and were mastered exactly the same way, and with same technology as the gold, until the series was discontinued, were January 1984 - February 1993.

MFSL CDs, trademarked as ULTRADISC™, are produced by using 24 karat gold instead of the usual aluminum. Comparing to aluminum, the gold oxidizes at a rate approximately 10 times slower. And during the manufacturing process, gold CDs are less susceptible to pinhole-sized errors that can plague an aluminum-made CD. The standard rough aluminum surface of CD creates 'sonic gaps' (resulting in 'drop outs'), the CD player must ignore these gaps artificially with the help of error correction (aka over sampling).



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The ULTRADISC™ has a non-corrosive highly reflective gold surface which provides the laser beam with a smooth, completely coated surface from which it receives information. The non-corrosive nature of gold discs allows the lifespan of the disc to be dramatically expanded.

It is noncontroversial that gold CDs sound better than the vast majority of their aluminum counterparts, but any difference in the sound quality is much more related to the quality of the master tape than anything else.

During the regular recording process more than one copy of the final tape will be produced. The final version, so-

called 'master tape' will be copied into 'next generation copy' to assist in mass-producing CDs.

MFSL use the master tapes directly for CD production - Original Master Recordings are exclusively transferred from the original stereo master tape, not from a second, or third generation copy of that master tape. On all master recording releases you will usually find the OMR label printed on it - identifying it as an Original Master Recording.

Four Pink Floyd CD albums were released on MFSL. The official release dates for the very first editions of the Gold CD versions are:

1988 March	<i>The Dark Side of the Moon</i>
1989 April	<i>Meddle</i>
1990 October	<i>The Wall</i> (contract officially ended on this highly limited release on March 31, 1992)
1994 January	<i>Atom Heart Mother</i>

Beside releasing Half-Speed mastered LP versions of all four of these Floyd titles, MFSL also released 'real-time' cassettes of *The Dark Side of the Moon* and *Meddle* as well.

ULTRADISC™ (released from 1988 until mid-1992) were previously pressed in Japan by a company called Superior Disc which later on changed their name to ULTECH. After a few years MFSL decided to press them domestically in the USA and shifted the manufacturing process to JVC's plant in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, thus having to print "Made in USA" on the product. So you can find the ULTRADISC™ editions of *The Dark Side of the Moon* with "Made in Japan" or "Made in USA" on the disc. ULTRADISC II™ (released between mid-1992 and November 1999) were entirely pressed in the USA. MFSL had also a line of standard aluminum plated CDs which were pressed by Sanyo. But Sanyo never pressed gold CDs for MFSL.

What differs ULTRADISC II™ from ULTRADISC™ is not only the stated place of manufacture, but also a new and improved technique during the mastering process called GAIN.

For collectors it is interesting that ULTRADISC II™ pressings were issued with a so-called j-card. This j-card, a sheet of paper, which is printed on both sides, covers the back cover, left and upper spines as well as a rounded piece of paper covering parts of the front cover of the jewel case. The round form of this layout gives its name to this j-card.

The outside of the j-card has info on the specific issue and the inside shows parts of the MFSL back-catalogue. Only a few ULTRADISC II™ longbox issues were sold without j-cards inside.



The original j-card from the ULTRADISC II™ *Atom Heart Mother* release.
(left front, right inside)

Unlike all CDs issued in standard jewel cases, MFSL CDs have always been packed in special patented cases made by MFSL. Externally not different from a usual jewel case,

the MFSL-cases have two specific characteristics:

- case locks when you close it and can be opened only with a little compression on the front spine
- there is no standard tray inside the jewel box. Instead of it, the case is fitted with a patented lift-lock tray. After opening the case, the mechanism pushes the CD up and releases the mechanical lock, which should prevent the CD from being released from the tray when the case is closed.



The original MFSL CD case: Patented mechanism raises the CD away from the tray when the case is open allowing you to remove the CD by the edges and locks the CD into the tray when the lid is closed.

The first Pink Floyd CD released by Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab was *The Dark Side of the Moon*. The first edition of *The Wall* makes an exception - the first (and until today) the only limited edition in the MFSL catalogue.

With exception of *Atom Heart Mother* all Pink Floyd MFSL editions were also released in longboxes which were characteristic for the American market. These boxes were made of cardboard or plastic and measured 31x14,5 cm. The boxes contained a normal CD edition. *The Dark Side of the Moon* was even released in several alternative longbox versions. Outside the USA MFSL CDs were sold without the longboxes.

In 1994, MFSL also had plans to produce a release of *Ummagumma*. This release never occurred because the original master tapes had been severely deteriorated over the years.

Seeing the very high prices of these issues nowadays, which can be paid for good or even still sealed issues, it is interesting to notice the former US prices of these issues:

<i>Dark Side of the Moon</i> ULTRADISC™:	29,99 \$
<i>Meddle</i> ULTRADISC™:	29,99 \$
<i>The Wall</i> ULTRADISC™ longbox:	32,49 \$
<i>Dark Side of the Moon</i> ULTRADISC II™:	24,99 \$
<i>Meddle</i> ULTRADISC II™:	24,99 \$
<i>Atom Heart Mother</i> ULTRADISC II™:	24,99 \$

In the MFSL CDs catalogue one can find only some different issues of *The Dark Side of the Moon* ULTRADISC™ and two different issues of *Meddle* ULTRADISC II™. Regarding to other albums (issued as ULTRADISC™ and ULTRADISC II™), all issues of each album were identical.

On *The Dark Side of the Moon* ULTRADISC™, one can find issues which have „Made in Japan“ as well as „Made in USA“ printed on bottom of the discs. The ULTRADISC™ logo on the disc has been printed in either normal or cursive.



The *Dark Side of the Moon* ULTRADISC™ logos: left on CD pressed in Japan, right on CD pressed in the USA.

And there is more than just one alternative of the booklet. Sometimes the last 2 pages of the booklet shows parts of the MFSL back catalogue. Or one can only find a general text about ULTRADISC™.



Examples from the inside of two different *Dark Side of the Moon* booklets.

On the ULTRADISC II™ one thing should be noteworthy: *Meddle* CDs have been found with and without barcode on the top spine of the j-card.

But there are explicit differences regarding longboxes, especially by the ULTRADISC™ versions of *The Dark Side of the Moon*: some issues were produced in specific longboxes created for this album only and others in generic standard boxes, used for other MFSL CDs too.

MFSL never issued special promo editions. Promo copies should have been defaced, with the barcode printed over but sometimes it wasn't done by mistake. MFSL never had 'PROMO' written or printed on any of the labels or packages. MFSL always tried to make sure the barcodes were defaced so they could not be traded at stores at full-price credit.

Some of the MFSL issues were also sold in Japan as imported CDs, but with a Japanese obi added - you can find those issues in the chapter Japan and also at the end of the Overview 'MFSL'. Generally the ULTRADISC™ issues have a brownish obi with a black text and they were imported by a company called WAVE. The ULTRADISC II™ issues have a white obi with a purple text and they were imported by YUKIMU Corporation. Consequently the obi makes the difference. Artwork and CDs were identical with the US editions of these albums. It is unknown to me, if any Japanese additional booklets or text sheets were included.

In the discography you'll find all officially known MFSL issues. But you can also find some MFSL ULTRADISC II™ CDs in cardboard boxes on the market, and no boxed issues are listed here. Even though such issues are impressive, they are not officially released.



Not official released cardboard boxes with Pink Floyd CDs.

MFSL are also warning about several fakes from Asia, which are mainly being distributed through the online shops. However, it is not clear whether any Pink Floyd fakes have reached the market or not and how to distinguish the fakes from the originals.

PINK FLOYD CD DISCOGRAPHY OVERVIEW MFSL

Atom Heart Mother



Label: MFSL

Catalog number:

UDCD 595

0 15775 15952 5 (barcode)

Country of origin: USA

Notes: ULTRADISC II™. Issued in a jewel case with a lift system and a 12 page booklet. Also includes a wrap around j-card (shown).

Meddle



Label: MFSL

Catalog number:

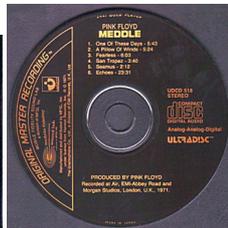
UDCD 518

0 1577-51518-2 6 (barcode)

Country of origin: USA

Notes: ULTRADISC II™. Issued in a black plastic longbox case. The CD is housed in a jewel case with a lift system. Includes a 8 page fold out booklet.

Meddle



Label: MFSL

Catalog number:

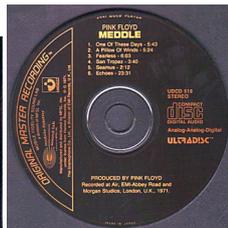
UDCD 518

0 1577-51518-2 6 (barcode)

Country of origin: USA

Notes: ULTRADISC™. Issued in a black plastic longbox case. The CD is housed in a jewel case with a lift system. Includes a 8 page fold out booklet. This issue has a different rear cover as the issue above.

Meddle



Label: MFSL

Catalog number:

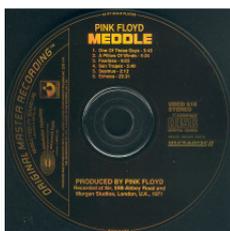
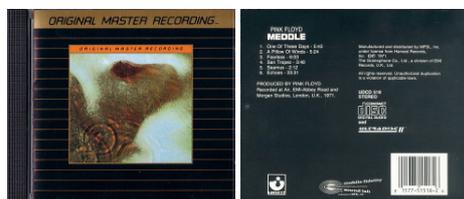
UDCD 518

0 1577- 51518- 6 (barcode)

Country of origin: Artwork: USA, CD: Japan

Notes: ULTRADISC™. Issued in a jewel case with a lift system and a 8 page fold out booklet

Meddle



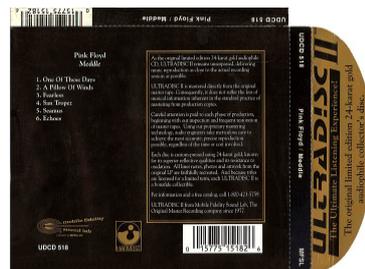
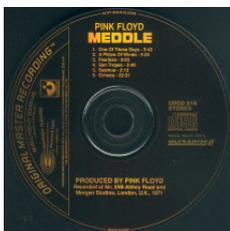
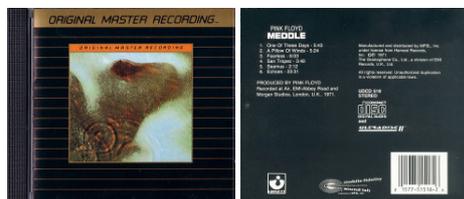
Label: MFSL
Catalog number:
 UDCD 518

0 1577 515182 6 (barcode on j-card)
 0 1577-51518-2 6 (barcode on rear cover)

Country of origin: USA

Notes: ULTRADISC II™. Issued in a black plastic longbox case. The CD is housed in a jewel case with a lift system. Includes a 8 page fold out booklet.

Meddle



Label: MFSL
Catalog number:
 UDCD 518

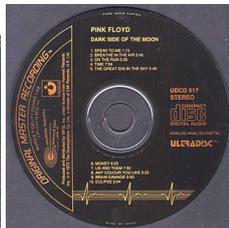
0 1577 515182 6 (barcode on j-card)
 0 1577-51518-2 6 (barcode on rear cover)

Country of origin: USA

Notes: ULTRADISC II™. Second issue in a jewel case with a lift system and a 8 page fold out booklet. Also includes a wrap around j-card (shown).

This issue has been found with and without barcode on the top spine of the j-card.

The Dark Side of the Moon



Label: Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab

Catalog number:

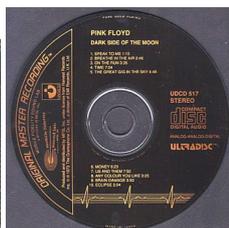
UDCD 517

0 1577-51517-2 7 (barcode)

Country of origin: Artwork: USA, CD: Japan

Notes: ULTRADISC™. Issued in a black plastic longbox case. The CD is housed in a jewel case with a lift system. Includes a 8 page booklet. This issue has a small difference in text and text formatting (the text is here left aligned) on rear as the issue below.

The Dark Side of the Moon



Label: Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab

Catalog number:

UDCD 517

0 1577-51517-2 7 (barcode)

Country of origin: Artwork: USA, CD: Japan

Notes: ULTRADISC™. Issued in a black plastic longbox case. The CD is housed in a jewel case with a lift system. Includes a 8 page booklet. This issue has a small difference in text and text formatting on rear as the issue above.

The Dark Side of the Moon



Label: MFSL

Catalog number:

UDCD 517

0 1577-51517-2 7 (barcode)

Country of origin: USA, CD: Japan

Notes: ULTRADISC™. Issued in a jewel case with a lift system and a 8 page fold out booklet.

This CD was issued with more than just one alternative of the booklet. Sometimes the last 2 pages of the booklet shows parts of the MFSL back catalogue, sometimes only a general text about ULTRADISC™.

The Dark Side of the Moon



Label: MFSL

Catalog number:

UDCD 517 (on spine, CD and rear cover)

0 1577-51517-2 7 (barcode)

Country of origin: Artwork: USA, CD: USA

Notes: ULTRADISC™. Issued in a jewel case with a lift system and a 8 page fold out booklet. The ULTRADISC™ logo is printed cursive on the CD. "Made in USA" printed at the bottom of the label.

The Dark Side of the Moon





Label: Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab

Catalog number:

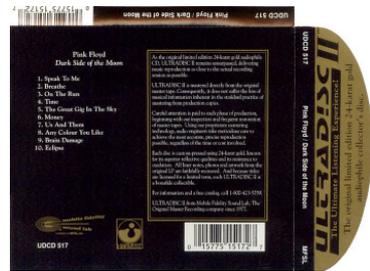
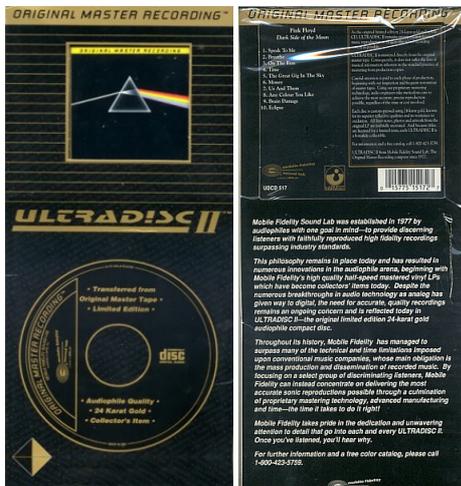
UDCD 517

0 1577-51517-2 7 (barcode)

Country of origin: USA

Notes: ULTRADISC II™ first issue. Issued in a black plastic longbox case. The CD is housed in a jewel case with a lift system. Includes a 8 page booklet.

The Dark Side of the Moon



Label: Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab

Catalog number:

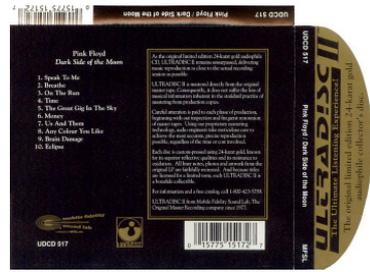
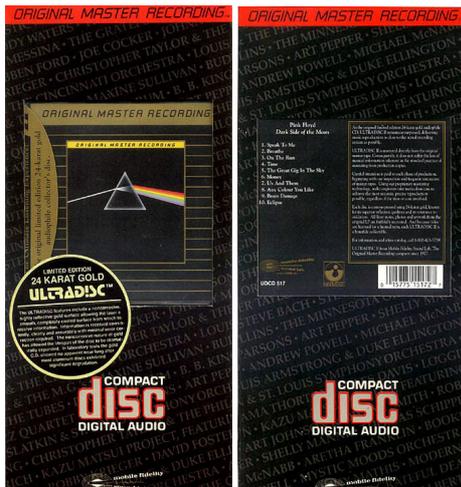
UDCD 517

0 15775 15172 7 (barcode)

Country of origin: USA

Notes: ULTRADISC II™. Longbox issue. CD is housed in a jewel case with a lift system. Includes a 8 page booklet. Also includes a wrap around j-card.

The Dark Side of the Moon



Label: Mobile Fidelity Sound Lab

Catalog number:

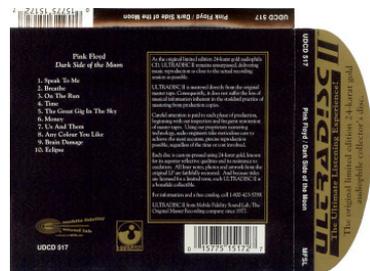
UDCD 517

0 15775 15172 7 (barcode)

Country of origin: USA

Notes: ULTRADISC II™. Longbox issue. CD is housed in a jewel case with a lift system. Includes a 8 page booklet. Also includes a wrap around j-card. This long box was used for a period of time for all MFSL gold CDs as US retailers required them.

The Dark Side of the Moon



Label: MFSL

Catalog number:

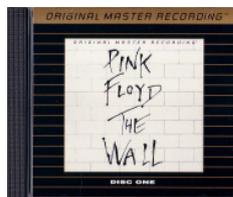
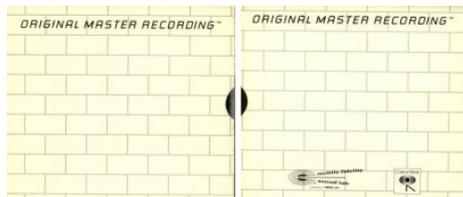
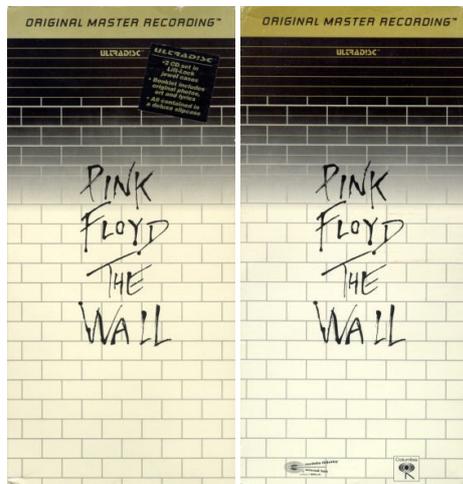
UDCD 517

0 1577 51517 2 7 (barcode)

Country of origin: USA

Notes: ULTRADISC II™. Issued in a jewel case with a lift system and a 8 page fold open booklet. Also includes a wrap around j-card (shown).

The Wall



Label: MFSL

Catalog number:

UDCD 2-537

0 15775 25372 8 (barcode on bottom spine of the slipcase)

Country of origin: Artwork: USA, CD: Japan

Notes: ULTRADISC™. Limited edition in a longbox. MFSL manufactured this release from October 1990 through February 1991. Inside the longbox is a cardboard slipcase that housed the two CDs, a foam separator, and a 16-page booklet. Each CD is housed in a separate plastic jewel case with the lift system and had a single pane insert cover.

The Wall





Label: MFSL

Catalog number:

UCD 2-537

0 15775 25372 8 (barcode on bottom spine of the slipcase)

Country of origin: Artwork: USA, CD: Japan

Notes: ULTRADISC™, second edition. This release was manufactured from March 1991. Contract officially ended on this release on March 1992. Issued in a cardboard slipcase that housed the two CDs, a foam separator, and a 16-page booklet. Each CD in a separate plastic jewel case with the lift system and a single pane insert cover.

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Atom Heart Mother II



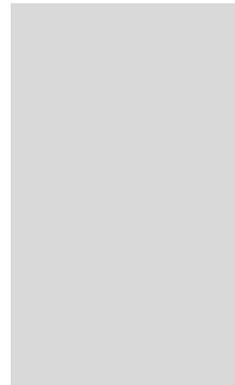
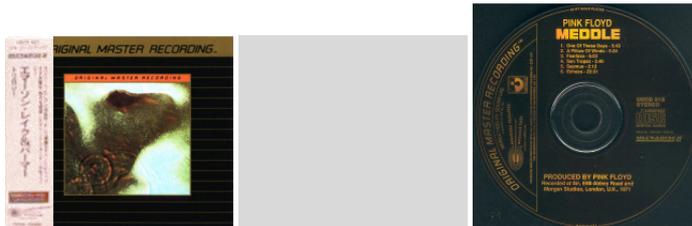
Label: MFSL
Catalog numbers:
 UDCD 595
 0 15775 15952 5 (barcode)
Country of origin: Artwork and CD: USA, obi and additional booklet: Japan
Notes: ULTRADISC II™. Imported by Yukimu Corporation.
 Issued in a jewel case with the lift system, with an obi and an additional Japanese booklet.

Meddle



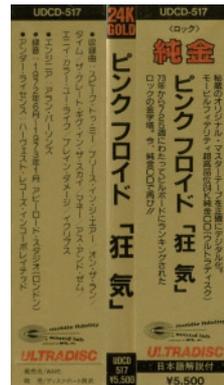
Label: MFSL
Catalog number:
 UDCD 518
 0 1577 51518 2 6 (barcode)
Country of origin: Artwork: USA, CD, obi and additional booklet: Japan
Notes: ULTRADISC II™. Imported by Wave Ltd.
 Issued in a jewel case with the lift system, with an obi and an additional Japanese booklet.

Meddle



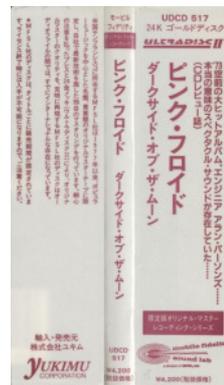
Label: MFSL
Catalog number:
 UDCD 518
 0 1577 51518 2 6 (barcode)
Country of origin: Artwork and CD: USA, obi and additional booklet: Japan
Notes: ULTRADISC II™. Imported by Yukimu Corporation. Issued in a jewel case with the lift system, with an obi and an additional Japanese booklet.

The Dark Side of the Moon



Label: MFSL
Catalog numbers:
 UDCD 517
 0 1577 51517 2 7 (barcode)
Country of origin: USA, CD, obi and additional booklet: Japan
Notes: ULTRADISC™. Imported by Wave Ltd.
 Issued in a jewel case with the lift system, with an obi and a 8 page additional Japanese fold out booklet.

The Dark Side of the Moon



Label: MFSL
Catalog numbers:
 UDCD 517
 0 1577 51517 2 7 (barcode)
Country of origin: Artwork and CD: USA, obi and additional booklet: Japan
Notes: ULTRADISC II™. Imported by Yukimu Corporation.
 Issued in a jewel case with the lift system, with an obi and an additional Japanese booklet.

