

THE OFFICIAL UK CHARTS

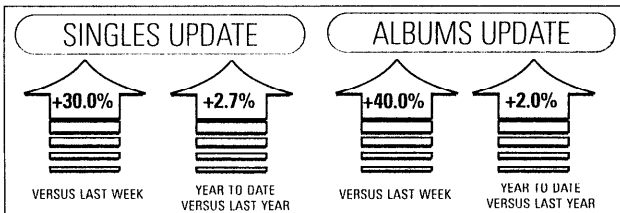


The Spice Girls had a phenomenal week last week, selling some 440,000 copies of their album

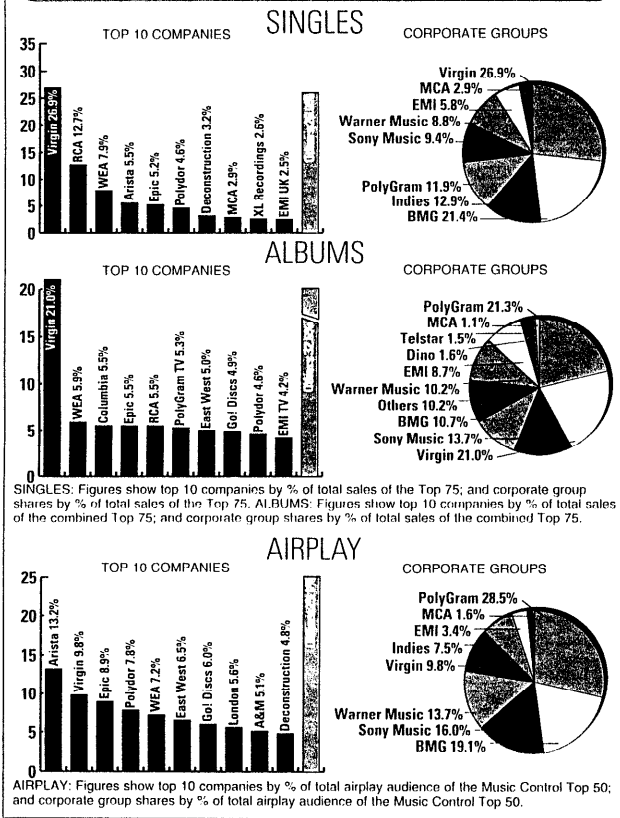
Spice and 500,000 copies of their single 2 Become 1. Spice, which has been number one for five of its seven weeks on release, sold more copies last week than any album in any previous week, save for Robson & Jerome's self titled debut, which sold 483,000 copies in a week exactly a year ago. So far, Spice has sold exactly 1.5m copies. It remains to be seen whether or not it can sell enough copies in the remaining days of 1996 to overhaul Alanis Morissette's Jagged Little Pill and become the year's biggest seller. The Spice Girls' performance is rather overshadowing Robson & Jerome, but the singing soldiers nevertheless deserve great credit. Their Take Two album fought off strong challenges from both the Beautiful South's Blue Is The Colour and Celine Dion's Falling Into You to retain second place in the chart. It sold 246,000 copies last week to bring its total to 1,134,000 in six weeks.

The massive sales of 2 Become 1 last week was the highest of any single since Band Aid's Do They Know It's Christmas in 1984. It outsold the Dunblane single by 3-1 and delivered the Spice Girls their third consecutive number one. They join a select group of acts who scored a hat-trick of chart toppers with their first three singles - Gerry & The Pacemakers, Frankie Goes To Hollywood, Jive Bunny and Robson & Jerome. They're only the second act to have three number ones in the same calendar year in the Nineties, emulating Take That's 1993 achievement. And they're only the fourth act to have the number one single and album at Christmas, following The Beatles, Cliff Richard and Queen.

Outsold by 2 Become 1 by a factor of six to one, Madonna's Don't Cry For Me Argentina nevertheless debuts at number three and becomes her biggest hit since Erotica four years and 13 hits ago. The second single from Evita, it obviously benefitted greatly from the media circus surrounding the movie premiere in London last week, which also helped hoist the album from 29 to 17 on a 170% increase in sales. With Mike Flowers Pops' version of Don't Cry For Me Argentina debuting at number 30, the Tim Rice/Andrew Lloyd Webber composition has now been a hit for five different artists, having also been a chart-topper for Julie Covington, a number five hit for The Shadows (1978) and a number 53 hit for Sinéad O'Connor (1992). While Madonna prospers, fellow singing icon Whitney Houston's latest movie soundtrack is something of a disappointment. Step By Step, the introductory single from Houston's new picture The Preacher's Wife, rises 17-15 but the album, which



AT-A-GLANCE WEEKLY MARKET SHARE



SINGLES: Figures show top 10 companies by % of total sales of the Top 75, and corporate group shares by % of total sales of the Top 75. ALBUMS: Figures show top 10 companies by % of total sales of the combined Top 75; and corporate group shares by % of total sales of the combined Top 75.

AIRPLAY: Figures show top 10 companies by % of total airplay audience of the Music Control Top 50; and corporate group shares by % of total airplay audience of the Music Control Top 50.

features the signer's take on gospel favourites alongside new pop material, is still outside the Top 75 after three weeks in the stores. It debuted at 80, dropped to 87 and now climbs to 77. It will surely turn in a better performance once the movie is out.

A year ago, we were heralding the best week in the history of the record industry's, with 10,607,000 albums sold over the counter. Last week, in comparison, some 8,868,000 albums were sold. Although that's a 40% week-on-week increase, it is 16% fewer than a year ago. There is one mitigating circumstance though. Last year, Christmas fell on a Monday, which



More plays, smaller audience - that's the story of the week for Toni

Braxton's Unbreak My Heart which boasts its tally of plays to an airplay chart record of 1,860 after 11 consecutive weeks of growth. Its audience had grown every week too, but this week dips more than 4m. With the number two record - Jamiroquai's Cosmic Girl - also being heard 4m times fewer than last week, Toni still retains a commanding lead.

The Beautiful South's challenge falters a little this week. Chasing their second airplay number one in a row, they slip 3-6 with Don't Marry Her, even though it actually increased its monitored plays from 1,002 to 1,135. Taking its place in third, the Spice Girls' 2 Become 1 made massive gains, with 60% more plays (up from 790 to 1,264) and a 44% larger audience fuelling a 10-3 climb. Radio One, whose Lisa L'Anson hosted a Spice Girls interview last week, played 2 Become 1 some 18 times last week, compared to 16 the week before.

George Michael is the only artist with three singles in the Top 50; Spinning The Wheel (36-39), FastLove (69-44) and Older (new at 45). The combined airplay of the three records are attracting put George among the 10 most popular acts on radio last week. All three are from George's Older LP. The title track is due imminently as a single, so its popularity is no surprise, but FastLove is proving particularly tenacious. On the airwaves for eight months, it has never lost its place in the Top 100. It's upsurge this week is something it shares with many of the year's biggest hits, as radio switches to a more retrospective style ahead of Christmas, not least because new hits are thin on the ground at this time.

Among upcoming 1997 hits, Texas' Say What You Want continues to be the star performer. It surged 35-18 this week, attracting considerable support including 10 plays from Radio One. The only records in the Top 50 by new acts with no chart history are much lower - R'n'B newcomer Puff Johnson is placed 48th with Over & Over while commercial alternative band White Town are a notch lower with Your Woman, the obvious airplay choice from their EP >Abort, Ietry, Fail? , and the most successful song in their six-year history.

Radio One takes the sound of Faithless to its collective heart this week, increasing its exposure of their latest single Salva Mea from 20 to 26 plays and hoisting it 16-1 on the station's playlist. Though a favourite with radio all over Europe, the track is not popular with the commercial sector - it contributed only 22% of the record's audience last week.

Alan Jones

Alan Jones

CHART FOCUS

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TOP 75 ALBUMS

28 DECEMBER 1996

This Week	Last Week	Title Artist (Producer)	Label/CD (Distributor) Cass/Vinyl
▲ 1	1	SPICE ★ 6 Spice Girls (Absolute/Stannard/Rowe)	VIRGIN CDV 2812 (E) TCV 2812/V 2812
△ 2	2	TAKE TWO ★ 4 Robson & Jerome (Wright/Stock/Aitken)	RCA 74321426252 (BMG) 74321426254/-
▲ 3	9	BLUE IS THE COLOUR ★ 2 The Beautiful South (Kelly)	Go!Discs 8288452 (F) 8288454/8288451
▲ 4	41	FALLING INTO YOU ★ 5 Celine Dion (Stenberg/Novels/Goldman/Wake/Foster/Stelman/Gatica/Novel)	Epic 4837922/4837924/- (SM) 4837922/4837924/-
△ 5	11	GREATEST HITS ★ 3 Simply Red (Levine/Hucknall)	East West 0630165522 (W) 0630165524/-
▲ 6	40	THE SCORE ★ 3 Fugees (Prakazrel-Pras)	Columbia 4835492 (SM) 4835494/4835491
▲ 7	8	A DIFFERENT BEAT ★ Boyzone (Hedges/Harding/Curnow/Wake)	PolyDor 5337422 (F) 5337424/-
▲ 8	15	TRAVELLING WITHOUT MOVING ★ Jimmy Fallon (Kay/Stone/M Beat)	Sony 52 4839999 (SM) 4839994/4839991
▲ 9	12	OLDER ★ 4 George Michael (Michael/Douglas)	Virgin CDV 2802 (E) TCV 2802/V 2802
△ 10	11	CROCODILE SHOES II ● Jimmy Nail (Nail/Robson)	East West 0630169352 (W) 0630169354/-
▲ 11	43	OCEAN DRIVE ★ 3 Lighthouse Family (Peden)	Wild Card/PolyDor 5237872 (F) 5237874/-
△ 12	8	AROUND THE WORLD - THE JOURNEY SO FAR ★ 2 East 17 (Harding/Curnow/Kean/Stannard/Mortimer/Variuos)	London 8228522 (F) 8228504/-
▲ 13	26	RECURRING DREAM - THE VERY BEST OF ★ 2 Crowded House (Finn/Finn/Froom/Youth)	Capitol CD/ES 12783 (E) TCEST 2279/EST 2279
△ 14	14	K ★ Kula Shaker (Leckie/Mills/Shep/Dodge)	Columbia SHAKER 1CDK (SM) SHAKER 1MC/SHAKER 1LP
△ 15	12	SHERYL CROW ★ Sheryl Crow (Crow)	A&M 5406092 (F) 5405904/-
△ 16	9	CHRISTMAS PARTY ★ The Smurfs (Jackson/Corbett/Erkelens)	EMI TV CDEM TV 140 (E) TCEMTV 140/-
▲ 17	29	EVITA (OST) ● Various (Wright/Parker/Webber/Caddick)	Warner Bros 9362464322 (W) 9362464324/-
△ 18	17	JAGGED LITTLE PILL ★ 7 Alanis Morissette (Morissette/Ballard)	Maverick/Reprise 9362459012 (W) 9362459014/9362459011
▲ 19	26	SECRETS ★ Toni Braxton (Babyface/Variuos)	LaFace 73008260202 (BMG) 73008260204/73008260201
▲ 20	7	IF WE FALL IN LOVE TONIGHT ● Rod Stewart (Various)	Warner Bros 9362464672 (W) 9362464674/-
▲ 21	22	EVERYTHING MUST GO ★ Manic Street Preachers (Hedges/Hague/Eringa)	Epic 4839302 (SM) 4839304/4839301
△ 22	18	THE FINEST ● Fine Young Cannibals (Fine Young Cannibals/David/Variuos)	ffrr 8288552 (F) 8288544/-
△ 23	21	(WHAT'S THE STORY) MORNING GLORY? ★ 2 Oasis (Morris/Gallagher)	Creation (3MV/V) CRECD 189/CCRE 189/CRELP 189
▲ 24	24	DREAMLAND ● Robert Miles (Miles)	Deconstruction 74321391262 (BMG) 74321391264/74321391261
▲ 25	25	MOSELEY SHOALS ★ 3 Ocean Colour Scene (Lynch/Ocean Colour Scene)	MCA MCD 60008 (BMG) MCC 60009/MCA 60008
△ 26	23	NATURAL ★ Peter Andre (Various)	Mushroom DX 2005 (3MV/BMG) C 2005/L 2005
▲ 27	37	DANCE INTO THE LIGHT ● Phil Collins (Collins/Pardgham)	Face Value 0630160002 (W) 0630160004/-
△ 28	27	THE VERY BEST OF Buddy Holly (Petty/Jacobs)	Dino DINCED 133 (P) DINMC 133/-
△ 29	35	SPIDERS ★ Space (Lironi, except for one track)	Git GUTCD 1/GUTMC 1/GUTLP 1 (TV/P)
△ 30	28	SONG REVIEW - A GREATEST HITS COLLECTION Stevie Wonder (Wonder/Variuos)	Melown 5307521 (F) 5307574/-
△ 31	26	EMMERDANCE ● Woolpackers (Wright)	RCA 74321444052 (BMG) 74321444054/-
△ 32	38	LE ROI EST MORT, VIVE LE ROI! ● Enigma (Cretu)	Virgin COVIR 60 (E) MCVIR 60/-
△ 33	31	THE SMURFS GO POP! ★ 2 The Smurfs (Jackson/Corbett/Erkelens)	EMI TV CDEM TV 121 (E) TCEMTV 121/-
△ 34	32	SONGS OF INSPIRATION Daniel O'Donnell (Ryan)	Ritz RITZBCD 709 (P) RITZBLC 709/-
▲ 35	52	THE VERY BEST OF - ACROSS AMERICA ○ Art Garfunkel (Garfunkel/Breed)	Virgin VTCD 113 (E) VTMC 113/-
▲ 36	30	THE MUSICALS ● Michael Ball (Smith)	PolyGram TV 5338922 (F) 5338924/-
▲ 37	33	THE VERY BEST OF Roy Orbison (Various)	Virgin CDV 2804 (E) TCV 2804/-
△ 38	34	18 TIL I DIE ★ Bryan Adams (Adams/Lange)	A&M 5405602 (F) 5405514/5405511
▲ 39	44	WILDEST DREAMS ★ Tina Turner (Horn/Variuos)	Parlophone CDEST 2279 (E) TCEST 2279/EST 2279
▲ 40	36	HANK PLAYS HOLLY ● Hank Marvin (Marvin)	PolyGram TV 5337132 (F) 5337134/-
▲ 41	40	DIZZY HEIGHTS Lightning Seeds (Bascombe/Broudie/Rogers)	Epic 4866402 (SM) 4866404/-
△ 42	39	GABRIELLE ● Gabrielle (The Boilerhouse Boys)	Go Beat 8287242 (F) 8287244/8287241
△ 43	41	NAKED ★ Louise (Charles/Wilson/Climie/Douglas)	1st Avenue/EMI CDEM COP 3748 (E) TCMC 3748/-
△ 44	42	FREE PEACE SWEET ★ Dodgy (Jones)	A&M 5405732 (F) 5405734/5405771
▲ 45	51	NEW ADVENTURES IN HI-FI ★ REM (REM/Litt)	Warner Bros 9362463202 (W) 9362463204/9362463201
△ 46	43	ALISHA RULES THE WORLD Alisha's Attic (Stewart)	Mercury 5340272 (F) 5340274/5340271
▲ 47	56	COMING UP ● Suede (Buller)	Nude 4851292 (3MV/V) NUDE 6MC/NUDE 6LP
△ 48	50	DEFINITELY MAYBE ★ 5 Oasis (Oasis/Coyle)	Creation (3MV/V) CRECD 169/CCRE 169/CRELP 169
△ 49	55	GARBAGE ★ Garbage (Garbage)	Mushroom D31450 (3MV/BMG) C31450/L31450
△ 50	47	HEATHCLIFF LIVE (THE SHOW) Original Cast Recording (Farrar)	EMI CDEM/EMD 1099 (E) TCEMDX 1099/-
▲ 51	48	ONLY HUMAN ● Dina Carroll (Lewis)	1st Avenue/Mercury 5340962 (F) 5340964/5340961
△ 52	46	GREEN MAN ● Mark Owen (Leckie/Leon)	RCA 74321435142 (BMG) 74321435144/-
△ 53	53	VOICE OF LOVE Diana Ross (Various)	EMI CDEM 1100 (E) TCEMD 1100/-
△ 54	45	PAVARTTI & FRIENDS FOR WAR CHILD Pavarotti & Friends (Ramone)	Decca 4529002 (F) 4529004/-
△ 55	49	SOMETHING SPECIAL - 100 GOLDEN LOVE SONGS Foster And Allen (Fraser/Allen/Cullinane)	Telstar TCD 2846 (BMG) STAC 2846/-
△ 56	57	THE VERY BEST OF ● The Moody Blues (The Moody Blues/Clarke/Variuos)	PolyGram TV 5358002 (F) 5358004/-
△ 57	54	THE ULTIMATE COLLECTION ● Neil Diamond (Various)	Sony TV/MCA MOODCD 45 (SM) MOODC 45/-
△ 58	60	THE ESSENTIAL COLLECTION Dionne Warwick (Bacharach/David/Variuos)	Global Television RADCD 48 (BMG) RADMC 48/-
△ 59	61	ANTHOLOGY 3 The Beatles (Martin/Thomas/The Beatles)	Apple CDPSP 729 (E) TCPCSP 729/PCSP 729
△ 60	58	THE MEMORY OF TREES ★ 2 Enya (Ryan)	WEA 0630128792 (W) 0630128794/-
△ 61	59	THE CHOIRBOY'S CHRISTMAS Anthony Way (I)	Decca 4550502 (I) 4550504/-
△ 62	62	HISTORY - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE, BOOK 1 ★ 4 Michael Jackson (Jam/Lewis/Jackson/Jones/Variuos)	Epic 4747091 (SM) 4747092/4747094
△ 63	64	STOOH ● Skunk Anansie (Gggarth)	One Little Indian TPLP 85CDL (P) TPLP 85C/TPLP 85
△ 64	63	ALL CHANGE ★ Cast (Leckie)	PolyDor 5293122 (F) 5293124/5293121
△ 65	65	REVERENCE Faithless (Hollo)	Cheeky CHEKXCD 500 (3MV/BMG) CHECK 500/CHEKLP 500
△ 66	68	THA DOGGFATHER Snoop Doggy Doggy (Snoop Doggy Doggy/Dr/Daz/Brooks/Sheed/Altim & Flan)	Interscope INTD 90038 (BMG) 900384/900386/900388
▲ 67	71	LONG DISTANCE - THE BEST OF ○ Runrig (Harley/Brown/Young/Runrig/Malcolm/Mainwaring)	Chrysalis CDCHR 618/TCCHR 618 (E) 618/619
▲ 68	73	MUSIC FOR THE JILTED GENERATION ★ The Prodigy (Howlett/McLellan)	XL XLCD 114/XLMC 114/XLLP 114 (W)
▲ 69	69	BIZARRE FRUIT/BIZARRE FRUIT II ★ 5 M People (M People)	Deconstruction/RCA (BMG) 74321328172/74321328174/-
▲ 70	65	THE SHOW MUST GO ON ○ Shirley Bassey (Smith)	PolyGram TV 5337122 (F) 5337124/-
▲ 71	67	EMANCIPATION The Artist (The Artist)	NPG CDEM D 1102 (E) TCEMD 1102/-
▲ 72	72	RETURN OF THE MACK ● Mark Morrison (Morrison/Chili/Rielly/Brackpocket/Taylor)	WEA 0630145862 (W) 0630145864/0630145871
▲ 73	72	PRESLEY - THE ALL TIME GREATS Elvis Presley (V.Ariuos)	RCA PD 90100 (BMG) PK 90100/PL 90100
▲ 74	74	BROTHERHOOD ● 3T (Various)	MJJ/Epic 4816942 (SM) 4816944/-
▲ 75	75	THE BEST OF ○ Everything But The Girl (EBTG/Coxon/Lipman/Ramone/Millar/Hooper/Massive Attack)	Blanco Y Negro 0630166372/0630166374/- (W) 0630166376/0630166378

TOP COMPILATIONS

This Week	Last Week	Title Artist	Label/CD (Distributor) Cass/Vinyl
▲ 1	5	NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC! 35 ★ 5 EMI/Virgin/PolyGram CDNOW 35/TCNOW 35/NOW 35 (E)	EMI/Virgin/PolyGram CDNOW 35/TCNOW 35/NOW 35 (E)
2	3	THE BEST SIXTIES ALBUM IN THE WORLD...EVER! II ★ Virgin VTDCD 106/VTDCM 106/- (E)	Virgin VTDCD 106/VTDCM 106/- (E)
3	4	HITS 97 Warner.esp/Global TV/Sony TV MOODCD 49/MOODC 49/- (SM)	Warner.esp/Global TV/Sony TV MOODCD 49/MOODC 49/- (SM)
4	2	THE BEST CHRISTMAS ALBUM IN THE WORLD...EVER! ★ Virgin VTDCD 103/VTDCM 103/- (E)	Virgin VTDCD 103/VTDCM 103/- (E)
5	6	THE ANNUAL II - PETE TONG & BOY GEORGE ● Ministry Of Sound ANNCD 96/ANNMC 96/- (3MV/SM)	Ministry Of Sound ANNCD 96/ANNMC 96/- (3MV/SM)
6	7	THE LOVE ALBUM III ★ Virgin VTDCD 104/VTDCM 104/- (E)	Virgin VTDCD 104/VTDCM 104/- (E)
7	6	THE ULTIMATE PARTY ANIMAL Global Television RADCD 47/RADMC 47/- (BMG)	Global Television RADCD 47/RADMC 47/- (BMG)
8	8	HEARTBEAT - NUMBER 1 LOVE SONGS OF '60S ★ RCA/Global Television RADCD 46/RADMC 46/- (BMG)	RCA/Global Television RADCD 46/RADMC 46/- (BMG)
9	10	SMASH HITS MIX 97 ● Virgin VTDCD 110 (E) VTDCM 110/-	Virgin VTDCD 110 (E) VTDCM 110/-

ARTISTS A-Z

3T	73	MARVIN, Hank	36
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HOLLY, Buddy	27	VARIOUS	19
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JAMIROQUAI	13	WAY, Anthony	61
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