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## Check out Beatles 4 video game, remastered CDs

By James Grant of The News-Sentinel  
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The number nine holds a special place in the long and winding history of the Beatles' music.

First, there was the song "Revolution 9" from the album "The Beatles" (aka the "White Album"), with its ominous chant of "number nine, number nine." Then came the John Lennon solo hit titled "No.9 Dream," which peaked at the No.9 position on the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart.

Now, on the cosmic date of 09-09-09, "The Beatles: Rock Band" video game and remastered CDs of the entire Beatles music catalog will be released worldwide.

### Music video game

These releases promise something special for Beatles fans of all ages. For younger fans (some of whom will probably be introduced to the Beatles' music for the first time), there is "The Beatles: Rock Band" music video game.

The game (available in Nintendo Wii, PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360 formats) was developed with the assistance of George Harrison's son, Dhani, who helped Harmonix Music Systems create a video game based on famous moments in the Beatles' career.

Players can discover how the Beatles made their music while simulating playing along with 45 actual Beatles recordings using controllers shaped as musical instruments.

List prices are \$249.99 for the limited-edition set, \$159.99 for the value-edition game and \$59.99 for the game software only, Amazon.com reports on its Web site, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

### Remastered catalog

For older fans, the entire catalog of Beatles recordings has been remastered by a team of seven engineers at Abbey Road Studios (the famed studio where the Beatles recorded most of their music). CD list prices are \$24.98 each for the "White Album" and "Past Masters," and \$18.98 each for the other albums.

Every Beatles album will be available individually in stereo for the first time on CD (the first four albums had been previously available on CD in mono sound). For a limited time, each disc also will contain a mini documentary (in QuickTime format) about the making of that album that can be viewed on a computer.

There will also be two special box sets available:

- "The Beatles Stereo Box Set" (list price \$269.98) will contain all the Beatles' albums in stereo, plus the two-disc "Past Masters" CD. It also will contain a DVD with all the mini documentaries on one disc.
- "The Beatles in Mono" box set (list price \$309.98) contains all the Beatles' albums that were released in mono sound (most available for the first time in mono on CD), plus a CD titled "Mono Masters." This set is a limited edition and has already sold out on several Web sites.

Capital Records, which is releasing the remastered Beatles music, underestimated the demand for box sets, which likely will cause a shortage Wednesday, said Bob Roets, owner of the local Wooden Nickel Music stores. All his customers who pre-ordered a box set should get one, Roets said, but he may not have many for walk-up sales until Capitol Records produces more.

He will have plenty of the new individual Beatles CDs available, though, he said.

Beatles fans have been clamoring for years to have the band's catalog upgraded in sound quality and have high hopes they will have a lot to celebrate Wednesday. The CD upgrade took place over a four-year period using state-of-the-art and vintage equipment for the best sound possible.

Locally, Wooden Nickel Music will celebrate the release of the upgraded Beatles CDs with a performance of Beatles music Wednesday by two local bands, the Orange Opera and the Wailhounds, at the Wooden Nickel collectors' store, 3422 N. Anthony Blvd. The live show starts at 5:30 p.m.

"My idea is to have Orange Opera, who's like the biggest Beatles fans in town, do a performance of Beatles music, and they're going to replicate songs from the Beatles' rooftop concert - 'Get Back,' 'One After 909,'" Roets said.

"And then I was talking to Scott from the Wailhounds ... and they said they could do an hour's worth of Beatles music also," Roets said.

Wooden Nickel will give away one of the CD stereo box sets as well as limited-edition, numbered Beatles lithographs from Capitol Records, he said.

Wooden Nickel also will offer "Beatle bucks" to people who trade in old Beatles CDs. The bucks provide a discount on the purchase of the new remastered CDs, Roets

### More Information

#### Online

For more information on remastered "The Beatles" CDs and "The Beatles: Rock Band" video game, go to:

◆ [www.thebeatles.com](http://www.thebeatles.com)

◆ [www.thebeatlesrockband.com](http://www.thebeatlesrockband.com)  
Locally

**What:** Wooden Nickel Music Beatles CD release celebration

**When:** 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday

**Where:** Wooden Nickel, 3422 N. Anthony Blvd.

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said. His stores will sell the used CDs later at a reduced price, he added.

*- Kevin Kilbane of The News-Sentinel contributed to this report.*