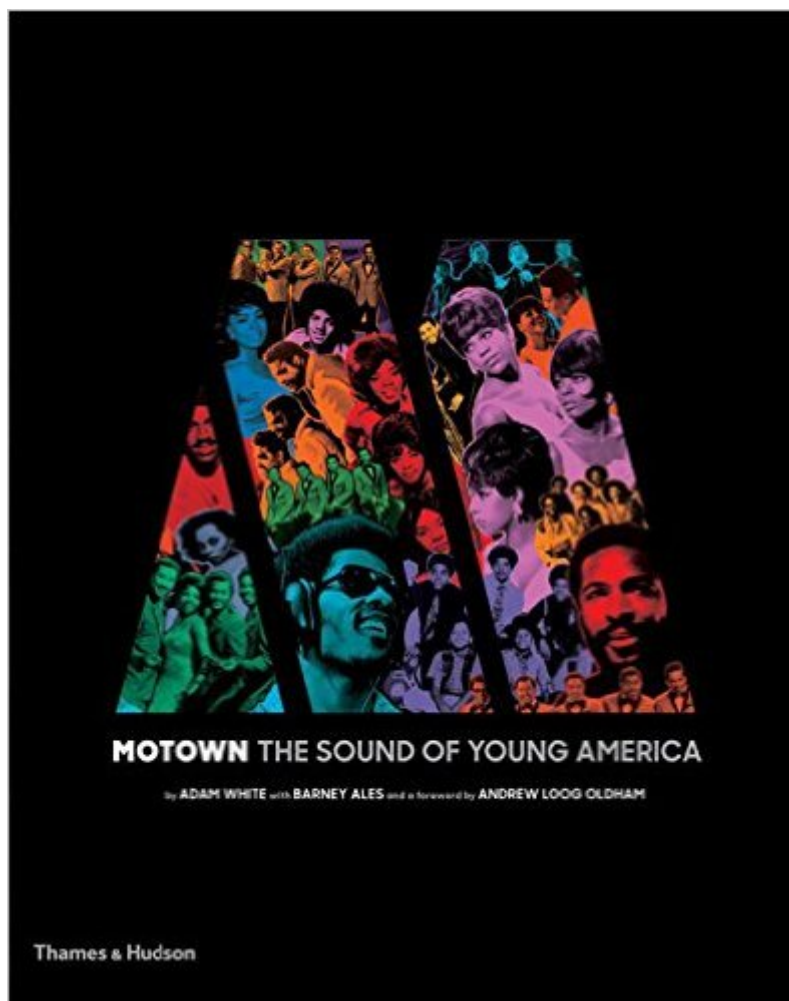


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Motown: The Sound Of Young America



Synopsis

The official visual history of Motown, the legendary record label that brought us some of the greatest recording artists of all time—from Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross and Smokey Robinson to Marvin Gaye and The Jackson 5—and changed music forever. The music of Motown defined an era. From The Jackson 5 and Diana Ross to Stevie Wonder and Smokey Robinson, Berry Gordy and his right-hand man, Barney Ales, built the most successful independent record label in the world. Motown not only represented the most iconic recording artists of its time and produced countless global hits, it created a cultural institution that redefined pop, and gave us the vision of a new America: vibrant, innovative, and racially equal. In this first official visual history of the label, new research, a dazzling array of images, and unprecedented access to the archives of the makers and stars of Motown lend new insight to the legend. In addition to extensive specially commissioned photography of treasures extracted from the Motown archives, as well as the personal collections of Barney Ales and Motown stars, *Motown: The Sound of Young America* draws on interviews with key players from the label's colorful history, including Motown founder Berry Gordy, Barney Ales, Smokey Robinson, Mary Wilson, founding member of the Supremes, and many more. 1000+ illustrations

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Though Motown is an American company, this Huge (and heavy, at five pounds in weight) book was written and published in the UK (so expect some English spelling of words). There was a lot of research done for it — and any real fan of Motown will want it — but it does have a few

issues that bothered me, and may bother you. Nearly all of these revolve around the graphic design and layout of the book. The volume is large (and, as I said, heavy), You will not find yourself sitting in an easy chair reading through the 400 pages. It needs to sit on a table. As an art book, it is filled with over 1,000 illustrations in color and black and white. These run the gamut for two-page spreads to small 3x3 inch photos. And, I'm not sure how the publishers counted the 1,000 but there are many pages showing a dozen 45rpm record labels (in gorgeous color but whose titles are difficult to read without a magnifying glass.). The photos all have caption but, in many cases they provided a few pages before, or, after the photo. You have to look for them. And the captions are (again) small. You'll want to have a magnifying glass handy as you go through the book. This is not just a picture book there is a lot of text in it and I found it both cumbersome to try to read the text (which is in a hard to read font and not really dark enough to read easily). Rather than being filled with company ephemera (contacts, catalogs, and things the consumer would not get to see, the illustrations are mostly artist photos (some for publicity, some taken by in house photographers) and color reproductions of album covers and 45 rpm records (not just the labels, but the whole 45. This forms a collector's scrapbook.

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