

Golden Oldies

Set to Storm the Charts

Changes to the new UK singles chart this week are expected to trigger the return of many golden oldies to the top 40. Until now, the chart only took into account songs that were physically available to purchase in record shops. But with the new chart rules, any recordings available as internet downloads will also be eligible for a chart placing – regardless of when the track was first released.



With so many music fans choosing to download their tracks from the internet these days, the new chart system should certainly offer a more accurate representation of the nation's true musical tastes. Under the old chart system singles were automatically removed shortly after the physical copy was discontinued; this will no longer be the case. Industry experts are expecting the move to result in some interesting chart positions under the new-look system.

One HMV spokesman even claimed "if the Beatles' songs were made available digitally, there would be such a rush to download them that a top 10 made up entirely of their music would be almost guaranteed."

Some of the biggest records of last year – still popular as downloads - are almost certainly due to reappear on the singles charts during upcoming weeks. The rule change also means that songs used for adverts, films, or indeed video games are more likely to make a chart appearance. For example, there has been a recent surge of downloads for 'Mad World' (a 2003 Christmas number one by Michael Andrews featuring Gary Jules). Why? Because the song is currently being featured in an advert for an Xbox computer game.

Getting back to the real oldies though, rumour has it that EMI may indeed be planning to re-release the entire Beatles back-catalogue in downloadable format. If this happens, that top 10 comprising entirely of the Fab Four's records could become a reality.