



## The Billboard Book of Number One Hits

By Fred Bronson



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Before MTV and VH1 . . . before books with “Stories Behind the Songs” of popular recording artists, there were Fred Bronson’s stories behind the top chart hits. Now in its 5th edition, *The Billboard Book of Number 1 Hits* once again provides the inside scoop behind every song since 1955 known to reach the pinnacle of the legendary and most respected record chart in the world—Billboard’s Hot 100.

Entries include vivid anecdotes from the hit-making artists, songwriters, and producers; a brief history of the song; the chart entry date and position; the number of weeks on the chart; the date the song reached number one; and much more. Fascinating and engrossing, this reference is the ultimate music source for every rock fan!

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### Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

YA Songs which reached number one on the Billboard charts between July 1955 (Rock Around the Clock) and April 1985 (We Are the World) are covered. One page is devoted to each song, with a black-and-white photograph of the performer(s) (the same picture of the Bee Gees is used several times in different sizes and cropped differently), a short history of the song and performer(s) and a list of the top five songs for the week(s) it was number one. A "top 40" history of rock and pop during the last 30 years, not as complete as other rock encyclopedias or histories, but still useful as a supplement and a fun browsing item.

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From Library Journal

All 605 singles to reach the top spot on Billboard's pop charts during the rock era are profiled in this handsome reference work. Coverage begins July 9, 1955 with Bill Haley's "Rock Around the Clock" and ends April 13, 1985 with USA for Africa's "We Are the World." Each full-page entry includes a picture of the artist(s) and lists label number, songwriter(s), producer(s), date first reached number one, weeks at top, and the top five hits for that first week. The accompanying essays give important background information on the songs and artists. Norm N. Nite's Rock On books are more comprehensive but not as detailed on the top hits and hitmakers as Bronson. Suitable for all but the smallest libraries and highly recommended as a worthy companion to Joel Whitburn's *The Billboard Book of Top Forty Hits* (LJ 11/15/83). Thomas Jewell, Waltham P.L., Mass.

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About the Author

**Fred Bronson** has been called "America's foremost chart journalist." He writes the popular "Chart Beat" column in *Billboard* magazine, as well as his own chart-oriented section of *Billboard.com*. The author of *Billboard's Hottest Hot 100 Hits*, now in its third edition, he lives in Los Angeles.

### Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

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