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# BEE GEES

## Spicks and Specks

**SIDE A:** Monday's Rain · How Many Birds · Play Down · Second Hand People · I Don't Know Why I Bother With Myself · Big Chance  
**SIDE B:** Spicks and Specks · Jingle Jangle · Tint of Blue · Where Are You · Born a Man · Glass House

The Bee Gees...what more can be said that hasn't already been said? Music icons, millions of records sold, awards overflowing, the voices of at least two generations, legendary songwriters, million-selling producers of their fellow artists, and on and on.

In the Spring of 1967, the Bee Gees were on the cusp of a major breakthrough. Their first single for Polydor – “New York Mining Disaster” – was due to be released. The hits that would follow – “To Love Somebody,” “Massachusetts,” “I Started A Joke,” “Words,” “I Gotta Get A Message To You” – would catapult the group to international stardom. Soon, the whole world would know and love the music of the Brothers Gibb. But before music history could be made, a catalyst was needed, a spark that would ignite the flame that still burns to this day. This spark was the group's 1966 Australian hit “*Spicks and Specks*” and the album of the same name. Released in September 1966, the Barry Gibb penned hit reached #4 in the Bee Gees' adopted home of Australia, as well as #1 in New Zealand, #28 in Germany and #3 in The Netherlands. The success of “*Spicks and Specks*” led to the Bee Gees signing with Polydor and their subsequent career changing move from Australia to the UK where they began their recording career in earnest. Before leaving for England, their Australian label (Spin) released their second studio album entitled *Spicks and Specks* to take advantage of the success of the single. This album, recorded at St. Clair Studios in Hurstville, Sydney, and originally entitled *Monday's Rain*, was being readied for Australian release in late summer 1966, but once the “*Spicks and Specks*” single began to climb the charts, the *Monday's Rain* album was reconfigured and renamed to include and highlight the new hit single. Released in November 1966, the *Spicks and Specks* album, produced by Nat Kipner, featured the three brothers, plus newly added drummer Colin Peterson. Lead guitarist Vince Melouney joined the group in 1967 for their Polydor debut album *Bee Gees 1st*. *Spicks and Specks* proved to be the stepping stone that brought the Brothers Gibb to pop superstardom. To understand the Bee Gees, one has to listen to this album. One can hear the elements that led to their phenomenal success over several decades – Barry's inventive songwriting, Robin's emotional singing, Maurice's impressive instrumental and harmony work. It's all here on this essential piece of music history.

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**June 8, 2018**



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