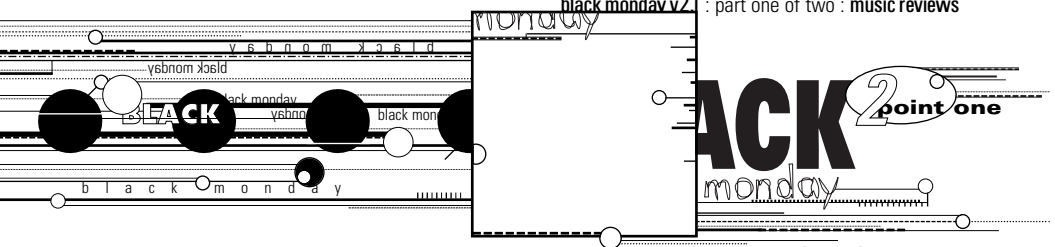


black monday v2.1 : part one of two : music reviews



black monday magazine : electronic music

black monday v2.1

www.netcity.co.uk/~lundinoir/blackmonday

comes in two parts.

lundinoir@netcity.co.uk

part one, which you

are now reading,

contains a plethora

of music reviews.

part two, printed

separately, contains

interviews with

musicians such as

frontline assembly,

black

sunshine blind and

snog. also included

within part two

are additional

music reviews and

the introduction

of a very unique

cookbook. enjoy

the continuing

evolution of

black monday.

162

et sixit illis ete et vos in vineam meam
(demo)

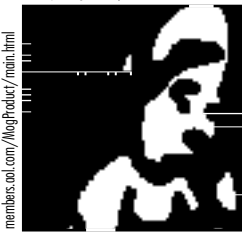
John Prassas is the brains behind the dramatic **162**, which also features the operatic voice of Danielle Lang. **162** is unlike any other industrial, gothic or electronic band. The mixture of dramatic rhythms and sequencing mix well with the vocals and text. Driving synthlines, siren-like vocals and an anthemic-ballad style showcase what makes **162** a brilliant group of musicians and performers. Note: *et sixit illis ete et vos in vineam meam* is a remarkable and unique direction from past **162** releases. (miles)

Alien Faktor :

arterial spray...
and cattle mutilations
(Decibel)

Alien Faktor, the vision of Tom Muschitz and Mike Hunsberger, continues their descent into the dark and lecherous path with their fifth album. *arterial spray...* is more accessible in structure whilst maintaining an underlying rage and modern psychedelic. At times there is a anthemic quality to arterial spray, but this becomes lost in danceable repetitiveness of textures and abhorrent lyrics found throughout. *arterial spray...* is also an enhanced CD (**Macintosh** and **Windows 95**) containing information about past releases, a discography, two quicktime videos and more. This is yet another prolific release containing some of the best creations from **Alien Faktor**. You won't be disappointed. (miles)

www.pmcmgmt.com/162



The Aggression :

Whitelineoverride

(Tinman)

Thick, audacious, synthetic industrial rock is **The Aggression**. Born in New York during the early 90's, the unique sound of **The Aggression** is as easily accessible as synthpop, while maintaining a unique style of thunder and angst. The stylistic guitar sound never becomes mundane whilst blending seamlessly with the mischievous programming, all adding to the pummelling. **The Aggression** also delve into the ambiance of electronic manipulation as well as a surpassingly wonderful acoustic sound, adding balance and diversity to *Whitelineoverride* overall uniqueness. **The Aggression** are worthy... listen and live. (miles)

Collide :
Distort

(Re-Constriction / Cargo Music)

Ten remixes, three cover songs (including **Siouxië & the Banshees**, **Devo**) and one new track are only the beginning of **Collide's Distort** and the continuation of their atmospheric sound. This creative duo is augmented by an electric throng of artists including **Das Ich** and **Alien Faktor** providing the talent on the remixes. Karin once again provides the infectious and ethereal vocals, blending and contrasting with the aggressive machine manipulation of Statik. **Collide** continue to grow and evolve into their own hybrid sound of synthpunk and dark laden sounds. (miles)

Cranes :

EP Collection - Volumes 1 & 2

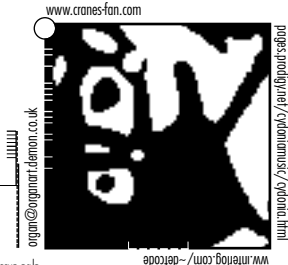
(Dedicated)

Alison and Jim Shaw have been creating dense, mesmerizing music that is unmistakably **Cranes**. This is the first time many of their past creations are available in the United States as a domestic release. This assortment is mind-boggling, representing the diversity of this duo. From the ominous to an acoustic simplicity to the overall jarring manifestations of sparse sonics', this release reveals their remarkable journey of haunted sounds reaching through the light beats that have helped establish the bands trademark sound. *EP Collection...* is a bizarre and comforting journey through two remarkable individuals that will leave you hungering for more **Cranes**, as well as ignite your own creativity. (miles)

Cydonia: Indoctrinate EP

(Demo)

Pure tension, ruthless in its attack and brilliant in form, **Cydonia's** 3-song EP is of extremely high quality. "Indoctrinate" begins with an aural assault of intense proportions. There are points where repetition begins to wane one's interest, but this is remedied with various sequences and noises. "Sun Devil" follows, and is a very powerful anthem. Simple, effective and chock full of grooves this is has dance-floor hit potential. *Indoctrinate EP* ends with "Sentient", a nightmarish ambience of personified insanity. **Cydonia** showcase their creativity and originality with *Indoctrinate*. Will this be enough? Only those who listen can make judgment. (miles)



Dream City Film Club :

Dream City Film Club

(Beggars Banquet)

Dream City Film Club are dark-pop. Not even close to being gothic, so don't be confused. There is an underlying hatred at work here, towards the insane stupidity of people and the encouragement they receive. Think of **Violent Femmes**, but radically sick and twisted. This foursome from London, England prove that there is more to music than **Oasis** or **Pulp**. There is **Dream City Film Club**; luscious and heinous. Not for everyone, but adequate for those moments you dream of being a serial killer. (miles)

Decoded Feedback :

Technophoby

(Metropolis / Zoth Um-mag)

Intelligent electronic body music, ominous and boundless. This is where the dark electro-industrial duo, **Decoded Feedback**, exists. *Technophoby* is their second release, revealing the bands growth from a cold electro-punk spirited sound into more of a mood that embraces a darker ambience of pensiveness and moving allegory. **Decoded Feedback** transcend to a level of acceptance that can and will entrance most who embrace their sound and discombobulate those who pass by. (miles)

Download :
Charlies Family
(Metropolis)

This is the third permutation of **Download**, including cEvin Key, the late Dwayne Goettel and Phil Western. *Charlies Family* is the soundtrack composed for Jem and the Holograms's film of the same name. Past **Download** releases have been harsh, avant-garde induced industrial fusion with a semblance of danceable beats. *Charlies Family* is darker, ambient and atmospheric, delving into ones mind and lurking in the forgotten corners of memories and nightmares. Experimental sonic exploration sets the mood for this neoteric direction **Download** dares you to rove. (miles)

Dive :
Snakedressed
(COP International)

The leader of Belgian electronic body music, Dirk Ivens (formerly of **Klinik**) returns with his successful collaboration with Ivan Iusco (**Nightmare Lodge**) as **Dive**. This duo's trademark sound of dark mechanised beats and distorted vocals have been mimicked by others, but ultimately **Dive** rises to the top with their honesty and integrity. There is internal beauty with **Dive**'s sound and lyrics, moving in and out of life's conundrum and ultimately eroding the disorder surrounding life. This is music for the cerebral person, eroding layers of discontent into the swirl of life's journey. Note: Not for the majority of mindless lemmings' who think highly of acts such as **Korn**. (miles)

www.process.org/download



www.klinik.com/subconscious/thomas

Doubting Thomas :
Fathers Don't Cry
(Metropolis)

This is the re-release of one of the greatest examples of modern electronic music. **Doubting Thomas** was the side project of cEvin Key and the late Dwayne Goettel of the now dis-constructed **Skinny Puppy**. This is a classic, a must have for anyone who enjoys experimental, electronic, ambient, industrial, gothic music, plus there is the addition of two previously unreleased tracks. There is nothing more that can be said about this moving release. Thank you Metropolis for making *Fathers Don't Cry* once again available. (miles)

Dark Illumination :
Realize the Error
(Metropolis)

The German duo of Daniel Gamradt and Thomas Kruger, **Dark Illumination**, is yet another example of astounding 'intelligent body music' that shows the influence techno and trance have on industrial. There is a lot in common with the mood of **Clock DVA** as well as sound of **Index**. The combination of dark ambient and uplifting dance beats create a mood that entices one to dance and move. *Realize the Error* is as astounding a debut as any, blending qualities that are prime for world domination. The well thought-out evolving electronic mayhem of this duo is never monotonous as it creates a melancholic atmosphere out of a sombre world. **Dark Illumination**'s pulsating rhythms and dark noises will entrance you. (miles)

Death & Horror, Inc. :
Transmissions from the Chemical Land
(Van Richter Records)

Vicar, Graf, Speed and Nocturne are Toronto's **Death & Horror, Inc.**, which began its journey in 1987. In 1997 Van Richter releases in the United States, *Transmissions from the Chemical Land*, containing previously unreleased and out of print material, plus their successful single, "Chemical Land". **DHI**'s sound is massive and at points unnerving. You'll find your standard line-up of vocals, guitars, synths and samples, but with the added touch of violins by Nocturne. In the past **DHI** was the innovator, which makes this release an important collection. However the sound as it's heard today is lackluster and normal. If you're a collector, this is one release to obtain. If you're not a collector, there are many other new releases worthy of your money. (miles)

vr.dv8.net/dhi.html



margot@gather.net

www.deepsynth.com

www.metropolis-records.com/27-domin.htm

Margot Day :
Margot Day
(Future Records)

Margot Day is a very peculiar female. Her voice is extremely flexible and unforgettable. There's really no resemblance to industrial or electronic music in the traditional sense, nor is it similar to gothic. Yet it is. Light, with pop-music sensibilities linger alongside the dark and ominous, creating an atmosphere of compounded emotions. Extremely accessible, Margot Day has created a fun sound, not unlike mixing **Siouxsie and the Banshees** with **Book of Love**, resulting in an ok release. (miles)

Dominion :
Only the Strong Survive
(Metropolis)

Dominion began in 1985 as one of Andrew Szava-Kovats innovative bands, the others being **Data Bank A**, **Compound** and **Parade of Sinners**. **Dominion** delves into a mixture of gothic and electronic styles. Think of **Sisters of Mercy** done electronically with no guitars. The vocals are deep and the bass sounding traditionally analog giving *Only the Strong Survive* a slight eighties feel. There is a lot of repetitiveness, leading to a not so distant monotony underlying this release. At the same time there is an ominous underlying that flows as gently as a night-time breeze in a dense wood, just after dusk, with a howling in the distance. (miles)

Die Symphony
Foundations of Malice
(Self-release)

The name **Die Symphony** conjured visions of a gothic band. Was I wrong! **Die Symphony** is a group of four musicians who compose and perform modern rock with an underground sensibility. *Foundations of Malice* combines the finesse of programming with guitar and drums into a mixture of hard-edge synth and hard rock with melodic vocals. There is an attempt to create catchy pop-hooks, which almost succeed, but don't lead to anything memorable. The musicianship is flawless, but the interest level wanes. I can't help but think of 80's hard rock, but done with style and honesty. This IS modern hard-rock. (miles)

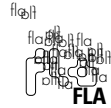
Fly :

Bombthreat (Before She Blows)

(Kneeling Elephant / RCA)



I really don't know how **Fly's** debut release found it's way to a small publications focusing on electronic bands/musicians. **Fly** are your typical pop with an edge, no-nonsense rock'n'roll that is popular of rock radio and white trash bars around the world. I've never liked this style of music, therefore I'm not sure how to respond. This is lacking in originality and creativity. It is raw and colourful, but lacks edge. As band member Johnny is quoted, "Blah, blah, blah, just listen." (miles)



FLA :

Flavour of the Weak

(Metropolis)

With the departure of Rhys Fulber and the addition of Chris Peterson, **Frontline Assembly** becomes **FLA** and release *Flavour of the Weak*. This is pure electronic mayhem in the tradition of **Frontline Assembly**. One groove after another, pulsating to the reoccurrence of noise and intricate sampling. There is a common thread with **Die Krüpps** and, at times, **Delirium** and **Intermix**, yet the sound remains uniquely **FLA**. The vocals are still uniquely **Frontline** as is the song structure. The later delves into today's popular musical themes, breaking them apart and revealing an uncompromising assemblage of joyful, yet bleak dance beats. Take the **Spice Girls**, throw in a molotave cocktail, the resulting reaction is **FLA**. Note: Dave McKear @ **Hourglass** has created another masterpiece which is itself a worthwhile reason to purchase this disc. (miles)

www.kneelingelephant.com/roster.htm



Fishtank [No.9] :

Itself

(COP International)

Itself is the debut release of War-n Harrison, formerly the musical force behind ...**of skin and saliva**. **Fishtank [No.9]** poises on the edge of many styles, with one unifying factor, mystery. This is a very distinctive quality of **Fishtank** which is hard to expound in words. It combines dark with light, mixing not into greys, but brilliant colours transcending reality with an sound that becomes back to an ancient, primitive time whilst grinding an opulence that is pure modern electro-pop that entwines the listener with distorted beauty. Plus, War-n is one loopy individual! (miles)



Gooding :

Songs from the unrealized film script Factory Blue

(Sixth Sense)

Factory Blue is an aural odyssey of majestic proportions. Imagine yourself atop the highest mountain peak on a clear day, what you see before you is similar to experiencing **Gooding**. Frightening and wonderful, *Factory Blue* pulls you into the darkest realms of electronic music, only to reveal that all is not lost... or is it? Melancholly, dramatic and focused, **Gooding** has put together a most intriguing album of synthetic dirge and dreams. (miles)



God's Girlfriend Whore Damage

(Tinman)

Upon first inspection, *Whore Damage* looks like a joke, the packaging is silly, the song titles even more so. However, after one listen, I was hooked. Brigit Brat is the force behind **God's Girlfriend** and has endured me to become a fan of *Whore Damage*. The pulsating rhythms underlie suburb guitar musicianship. Having been tagged as 'a shockingly sexy electro-gothic horror-show that utterly disregards conventional mores and morality', I'm addicted! This is original and exciting, from the various distorted vocals to the rock'n beat. I'm remind ever so slightly of **Alien Sex Fiend**, but purely American in sound. There is nothing obvious about *Whore Damage*, making it near impossible to peg Brigit as anything but a creative music guru. **God's Girlfriend** may be to caustic for most, but those who dare to listen will be enraptured. (miles)

Index

Faith In Motion

(COP International)

The prolific Eric Chamberlain has unleashed **Index** for the fourth time with the dark and anguished *Faith In Motion*. As with **Index** of the past, there are a plethora of bleeps and odd noise, mixed into a congealed mass of beats and rhythms that are uniquely **Index**. Eric has continued his journey of experimentation and exploration in his bid to move **Index** in a greatly expanding spiral outward into the cerebral unknown. Included is an interpretation of **Kraftwerk's** "The Model", which lacks the creative intensity of the original, as well as most of the other tracks include in this collection. *Faith In Motion* is dense, danceable and threatening. (miles)

www.geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Studio/9616



Ikon :

A Moment in Time • Flowers for the Gathering

(Metropolis)

Ikon has a lot in common with **Handful of Snowdrops**. Most noticeable is their brilliance layering of guitar, bass and synth, blended seamlessly with the vocals of Michael Corrodus. There is also an overwhelming dose of solace and mourning, blended with a gothic rock sensibility, similar to **Joy Division**, **Rosetta Stone** and **Mission UK**. Australia's **Ikon** are no copycat, though. Accessible and mood encouraging, **Ikon** are destined to rule the Gothic world with their sombre sound, whilst enduring the masses outside the Gothic realm. (miles)

Information Society

Don't Be Afraid

(Cleopatra)

Remember the eighties electro-pop group **Information Society**?

Original member Kurt Harland has reformed this success into a more dramatic and caustic creature. Kurt has grown as a musician and this is true of **Information Society** as well, which is darker and more intimate. The ever present pop music hook still pop up every once in awhile, creating an extremely erie feel and purpose to the layered synths and programming. There is a underlying urgency to *Don't Be Afraid*, a prevailing mood of anthemic millennial proportions.

Both relaxing and tormenting, **Information Society** have grown up. Note: There is the added bonus of a second CD which is Windows 95 based, loaded full of past **Information Society** memorabilia. Due to an abhorant negligence, there is no **MacOS** based information, a lacking of insight which is forgivable. (miles)

Joy Electric :

Robot Rock

(BEC Recordings)

Joy Electric are disgustingly happy, and I love it! I've been a fan of Ronnie Martins since his days with **Rainbow Rhyder**. Ronnie and Jeff Cloud make up the current **Joy Electric** roster and show case their obsession with an ancient (now classic) Roland Modular Analog Synthesiser and a no-nonsense punk sensibility. No sampling, no drum machines; just pure analog synthesis. If you remember *The Breakfast Club* or *Sixteen Candles*, then you're already half way to understanding the wonder of **Joy Electric**. It's so sugary and gooey that you'll be back again and again. The only fault is the previous 4 releases under the moniker **Joy Electric** are no longer available or near impossible to locate. Good hunting. (miles)

In Strict Confidence :

Collapse

(Metropolis / Earth Ummog)

Hailing from Höchst, Germany,

In Strict Confidence are the European answer to Australia's **Snog**. *Collapse* is nothing short of a masterful. Dark, brooding, overwhelming and rapture, is only the beginning of the grandeur that is **In Strict Confidence**. It is rare that a band can move one deep inside, create a tear, enrage and torment as **In Strict Confidence** does. The future may very well see this duo compared to the likeness of past musical genius such as **Ravel**, **Oreck** or **Gorecki**. Even the timid will be endured and grow stronger with each listen of *Collapse*. (miles)

Kill Switch, Klick :

Alt

Seven new songs and with remixes and updates of earlier works comprise *Alt* into a very intense experience of pure electronic industrial. **Kill Switch... Klick** will move your butt and get you feet squirming on the dance-floor. Then there are the unfortunate times where *Alt* falls into the mundane category of lack-lustre performance. There is an underlying groove throughout, but something happens now and then that makes your finger move toward eject, then, just before flesh meets cold hard surface, the mood changes and your tapping your fingers once again. (miles)

Killing Floor

Divide by Zero

(Re-Constriction / Cargo)

Killing Floor is very typical of the current American style of industrial music. Aggressive, guitar driven and apocalyptic.

Killing Floor has been described as 'Politico', mixing an aggressive message with bone crushing punk tendencies. *Divide By Zero* also delves into none-electronic mayhem that approaches pure hardcore. Read William Gibsons short story, *Johnny Mnemonic*, and you'll begin to understand **Killing Floor**. (miles)

Killing Floor:

Come Together Single

(Re-Constriction / Cargo)

Come Together contains two songs, "Come Together" and "About to Break", from the **Killing Floor's** full-length album *Divide by Zero*; plus an additional remix by **Alien Faktor** of "About to Break", **Institute of Technology's** mix of "Tear It All Away" and "Wood", remixed by the venerable **Christ Analogue**. Lots o' guitar and madman abound create a single that is better than the full-length album. If danceable, crunchy music is what your looking for, then *Come Together* is the single your in need of. (miles)

Lapse:

Lapse

(Breathing Walls Communications)

Lapse is one of two brilliant tapes (please see **Wilt**) we received from Breathing Walls Communications, a independent American label. Ryan Kodzik creates ebbing rhythms, washing over melodies, creating a traumatically dulcet atmosphere. There is nothing standard about **Lapse**. A melding of sound and form that will move and provoke, **Lapse** can, and does, torment in the most ambiguous demeanour that is stylistically unique. (miles)

www.morphine.com/~cvoid/kf_home.html



www.eveqrc.com/~skin/breathing_walls

www.eveqrc.com/~skin/breathing_walls

members.aol.com/mj1zecs/sd.html

Lights of Euphoria :

Blood Brothers

(Cleopatra / Hard Records)

(Cleopatra / Hard Records)

Lights of Euphoria have a uniquely European feel to their sound with pulsating rhythms distantly related to hard-trance, all of which flows smoothly through the minds of their creators, Torben Schmidt and Jimmy Machon. This is intelligent electronic body music blending ambient textures with unique dance beats pushing the limits of tradition industrial. With 15 tracks and over one hour of music, *Blood Brothers* will be a welcome addition to most music libraries. (miles)

Liquid Sex Decay:

Liquid Sex Decay

(MJ-12)

Liquid Sex Decay is comprised of former members of **Apparatus** (Re-Constriction). There is nothing even comparable between the old and the new. **LSD** is fresh, fun and exciting, including ambient, industrial and electronic elements in dark trip into gorgeously textured imagery. **LSD** is the far side of the moon; intriguing. Mafic smooth sounds, contradictions and experimentation, **Liquid Sex Decay** are there. (miles)

Mortuis :

Fodt Til a Herske pt. 1 & 2

(Projekt / Dark Dungeon)

Fodt Til a Herske represents some of the earliest journeys of controversial **Mortuis**. The unique blend of minimalism, ambient and gothic tendencies are riveting and disturbing. I must stress the minimal nature of this creation, which emotes more feeling than most of what you will ever witness. Originally recorded in Norway from December 1993 through March 1994, *(Fodt) Til A Herske* is a masterpiece that will be overlooked by many until it's too late. (miles)

Mentallo & the Fixer :

False Prophets EP

Mentallo & the Fixer, the Texas duo of brothers Gary and Dwayne Dassing, have created *False Prophets*, electronic industrial in it's purest form. Throughout this release, there is a sense of electro-pop without the hooks. Layer upon layer of synth build a powerful sound, however there are times the repetitive nature becomes a repetitive routine, cut short by the short nature of an EP. Even with that in mind, there is a lot to like about **Mentallo & the Fixer's** *False Prophets* making it as good as any of their previous releases. (miles)

Perfume Tree :

Feeler

(World Domination Recordings)

Feeler = textured, ambient landscapes surrounding lush vocals in an ethereal mist. Vancouver's **Perfume Tree** has captured the sensibility of trance with out repeating any of the mundane qualities that are inherent within this genre. However, *Feeler* lacks a holding interest. **Perfume Tree** locks on to the ethereal qualities of life, but loses it's hold along the way. *Feeler* has too soft a touch to make an impact on my psyche. I do find the slight resemblance to **Delerium** intriguing, and the experimental quality rousing. (miles)

Out Out :

Voiceprint

(Metropolis)

Out Out is the result of musician Mark Alan Miller. The name taken from a poem by Robert Frost. *Voiceprint* contains technically superior music, but lacks emotion. There's a high level of aggression, but it never wanes or intensifies, resulting in a release that is somewhat lackluster. There is a semblance to classic **Ministry**, due to the fact that Mark's largest inspirations is Adrian Sherwood. The fact that Miller records in analog rather than digital does add a warm fuzziness, which gives *Voiceprint* a nice quality. (miles)

Pulse Legion :

Evolve

(COP International)

Evolve is the debut from **Pulse Legion**. Known for their outstanding live performances, **Pulse Legion** attempt to capture and relay this with *Evolve*. Hard electronic masochism blended with the production prowess of Count 0 (**Battery**, **Deathline International**) of the Fringe Studio create something that is at once decadent and eager to explode. Electronic body music currently reigns supreme in Europe, but is positioned to once again dominate North America as it once did. **Pulse Legion** is at the forefront of this new breed of hard-hitting, exotic collection of textures and beats, with no end in sight. (miles)

Pax : *The Power of Pure Intellect*

(Cleopatra / Zoth Ommog)

Sevren Ni-Arb best known as **X Marks the Pedwalk** has collaborated with ECO of Frankfurt, Germany, to produce **Pax**. This is hyper-intelligent dance music revealing a trance-like symbiosis. *The Power of Pure Intellect* is fun, but not the most accessible CD to listen to time and time again. It could be described as EBM if only it were a bit more bellicose, thus resulting in a tedious listen best. It's just too comfortable, with it's repetitive sequences and lackluster, monotonous vocal performances. **Pax** has created something that is good, nothing more, nothing less. (miles)

members.aol.com/pulse555/home.html



Second Skin *Choir Invisible*

(Euphoria Records)

Melodic and ethereal best describe the gothic release, *Choir Invisible*, from **Second Skin**. It flows, yet there are not catchy phrases or hooks. It inspires without being enduring. The vocals of Arron strive to break the typical gothic sound of **Sisters of Mercy**. The music is more acoustic than electronic, except for the drum which are programmed. There is an overwhelming sense of sadness and release throughout *Choir Invisible*, creating an overall sense of uncertainty. (miles)

Porcupine Defence *Splinter*

(Metropolis)

Colin Schwen of New York City based **Terminal Sect** has created a solo side-project he calls **Porcupine Defence**. With influences such as **Skimmy Puppy** and **Frankie Goes to Hollywood**, Colin proves himself to be a serious contender in the realm of aggressive industrial. *Splinter* is a conglomeration of heavily distorted vocals, radical rhythms and beats, and portentous electronic textures. Along with Colin's artwork, **Porcupine Defence** is a welcome treat. (miles)

Seven Trees :

Embracing the Unknown

(Metropolis / Zoth Ommog)

Seven Trees on Germany's Zoth Ommog is yet another grand accomplishment, both on part of the label and this talented Swedish duo. *Embracing the Unknown* continues in the industrial music tradition, embracing and revealing the dark menace of despair and desolation. Whilst maintaining a strong understanding of modern technology, **Seven Trees** is strongly connect to the ancestry of industrial music, re-evaluating and redefining the successes that have come before. This is what makes **Seven Trees** different in today's world of carbon's and copies. (miles)

Seely :

Seconds

(Too Pure)

This is a beautiful, melodic, transcending second release from **Seely**. *Seconds* is a wonderful, artful pop-electro-alternative album that will please anyone who likes the same confines of controlled bliss. I personally find Seely a good listen as background music, but to actually listen too... no. However, I do find the wispy female vocals to be a nice integration into the sometimes bland music. (miles)

home3_swipnet.se/~w-36486



Sielwolf :

Nachstrom

(Van Richter / Cash Beat)

Nachstrom is the third US release from Germany's brutal **Sielwolf**. Full of EBM beats and intense guitars and manic samples, *Nachstrom* continues the dark and haunting ritual that **Sielwolf** has become known for. Not to be cornered into one style of music, **Sielwolf** combines metal, industrial, ambient and noise into a creature that is worthy of the expanding international cult surrounding these musicians. (miles)

Society Burning :

Tactiq

(Re-Constriction / Cargo)

Society Burning are the dominator of California industrial. The blend of electronic and guitars is more than addictive, it borders on brilliant. *Tactiq* has an overall anthemic explosiveness as the catchy guitarwork grasp you by the neck. Combine this with synth on a grand scale and you have **Society Burning**. Ravaging and desolating, **Society Burning** have the right combination for commercial success, as well as maintaining the interest of hardcore industrial fans and *Tactiq* will become one of your most listened to albums, if you dare. (miles)

Scar Tissue :

TMOTD

(21st Circuitry)

Caustic. Ambient. Dark. Violent. Random. Rhythmic. Jarring. Stylistic. Intuitive. Instrumental. Noisy. Chaotic. Sequenced. Logical. Methodical. Atypical. Percussive. Memorable. Unrestrained. Intense. Monotonous. Textured. Dense. Improvisational. Insane. Heavy. Ordered. De-Constructive. Pulsating. Evil. (miles)

Soil & Eclipse

Necromancy

(COP International)

Electro-goth, pure and simple in approach with powerful pop-ish synth-lines, flowing from one to the other, augmented by operatic vocals revealing hope. **Soil & Eclipse** are many things, including styles ranging from gothic power-pop to chilling techno-goth. *Necromancy* is never abrasive, it is soothing and relaxing, with aural mannerisms that inspire and energize. Original in content, **Soil & Eclipse** offer a sophisticated sound that is appealing and accessible to everyone. (miles)

Soft Ash :

Seven Treatments of Lethal Atmospheric Inversions (with a drifting narrative sense)

(Darkwave / Doroba)

This is a true modern composition of minimalism in classical proportions. Unbound originality creates a unique atmosphere of shapes and colours. **Soft Ash** uses various historical accounts of fog and pollutant. Each composition list a scenario, including accidents at nuclear power plants and chemical spill, and their respective results. Also included in the detailed liner notes are the various musical approaches, instruments, recommended listening volumes and people involved with each piece. The instruments used are varied, including violin and trombone, tape hiss, bongos and filtered pumpkin scraping. This is a sombre look into evil and its effects on the innocent. (miles)

The Table :

8 Memory Tips

(Demo)

The Table have done it again.

This is the latest in a continual growth from one of Europe's most prolific and astounding electronic bands. No guitar, only brutal sampling, synthesising and programming. Ambient textures blend with driving rhythms to produce an aural sensation on par with (enter your favourite sensation here). Close your eyes and you'll be transmitted into your most exhilarating dreams. *8 Memory Tips* is groovy, 'nuff said. (miles)

url unknown



url unknown

www.the-table.com

url unknown

TCH :

Sinflow

(Iridium / Darkwave)

Australia's **TCH** have created a very disturbing creation with *Sinflow*. Corrupt samples, ever present droning, and repetitive trance-like qualities all add to the ambience of the ruminating attitude of **TCH**. Occasionally, through the haze, a violin can be heard, a very nice effect. Overall, there is a grand pulsating rhythm which contrast chaotic ambient waves of sound, pulling at the listener, beckoning them to enter into *Sinflow*. This is modern Avant Garde, a subdued Art Nouveau blending with the modernistic views of the late 20th century. **TCH** transcends bliss, entering beyond. (miles)

Thanatos :

Blisters

(Projekt)

Thanatos are acoustic-darkwave while maintaining a dance-friendly sound. The textures created on *Blisters* are as rich as they are simple, whilst maintaining a high level of mystery and suspense. Lyrically, **Thanatos** have chosen the cryptic and philosophical as so many dark bands have. It is the british simplicity that proves **Thanatos** to be more than just another gothic-noise band. *Blisters* isn't the easy listen, but does have a moderate level of pensive charm to fill it's 48+ minutes. (miles)



Unit:187 :

Loaded

(21st Circuitry)

Vancouver's **Unit:187** returns with *Loaded*, their second LP. The sound has become more synthcore than in the past while retaining pent up anger and anguish that is their trademark. There is less emphasis on guitar as the main element. Instead, **Unit:187** has a more agreeable blend of synth and guitar, each complimenting the other, never overpowering. Tod Law's vocals remain dark and as caustic as ever while keyboardist John Morgan continues as the bands leader. Jed Simon, **Frontline Assembly**'s live guitarist, and Byron Stroud, formerly of **Caustic Thought**, are the newest members and round out one of the most aggressive and enjoyable bands of the day. (miles)

url unknown



Urania :

Aquarious EP

(COP International)

George Hagegeorge, former member of the now defunct **Under the Noise**, has teamed up with Melissa Sharlat to create **Urania**. The *Aquarious EP* is brimming with synthetic industrial-strength power-pop and endless rhythmic grooves with an overdose of sanity gone awry. Dreamy, strong female vocals combined with detailed programming and creative sampling create a club like atmosphere in even the smallest of spaces (ie- my apartment!). Think big, think **Urania**. (miles)



Vond :

Slipp sorgen Los (Dark Dungeon)

Vond is Mortiiis. *Slipp sorgen Los* is a re-release of his 1994 *Selvord*, which has since been banned in Germany. *Slipp sorgen Los* is intertwining ethereal simplicity flowing seamlessly from **Mortiiis**. Very dark, very gothic, and very desirable, each of the four tracks are unique from the other, yet remain tied together by an intense agony. For those looking for something unique and original, **Vond** is the right choice. (miles)

Waiting for God's Desipramine (Re-Constriction / Cargo)

"Hard grim electronica with gothlike female vocals." The how **Waiting for God's** has been described. There are no hooks, the vocals are grating, and the rhythms are erratic in their pulsating monotony. **Waiting for God's** has the potential for mass appeal as well as the possibility falling short of that goal. The female vocal arrangements of Daemon Cadman are the saving grace to the monotony of **Waiting for God's Desipramine**. (miles)



Wilt (Breathing Walls Communications)

Wilt is one of two brilliant tapes (please see **Lapse**) we received from Breathing Walls Communications, an independent American label. As erie as they are breathtaking, **Wilt** reach deep into their psyche to create something new in the realm of industrial and electronic music. Both lyrics and vocals are seamless with the flowing rhythms and soft sounds, creating an hypnotic ambience that is extremely addictive. (miles)

:wumpscut: **Embryodead** (Metropolis)

:wumpscut: is the solo project of Germany's Rudy Ratzinger. *Embryodead* is a collection of his newest music, which is awe inspiring. There is a majestic quality to **:wumpscut:** that shreds through every possible emotion, leaving the listener in disbelief at what they have just heard. Synthetic body music, created in only the darkest of traditions, mixing images of bleakness and seclusion with pulsating industrialism, to produce a future underground dance classic. **:wumpscut:** is future now. (miles)

Xorcist :

Scorched Blood EP • *Soul Reflection*
(21st Circuitry)

For almost 13 years Peter Stone has been releasing material under the moniker **Xorcist**. Since that time his music has remained virtually un-classable, except for the obvious, dark and luscious. His latest release, *Soul Reflection*, continues where the previous EP *Scorched Blood* left off. Rhythmic samples, pulsating and pounding programming and sequencing, and intense lyrical content interpreted by not only Peter, but Evoltwin, who's chilling voice is unsettling and intriguing. **Xorcist** is clear and with intent, will you listen? (miles)

X-Act :

No Matter
(Cleopatra Zoth Ommog)

Germany's **X-Act** is one of a new breed of late 90's retro synth-pop bands. Their first success occurred in Germany with their interpretation of **Depeche Mode's** "Barrel of a Gun". With comparisons to **Anything Box, Depeche Mode, Erasure, Information Society** and **Electronic**, **X-Act** is bound to repeat this success throughout Europe and North America. If Cleopatra and Zoth Ommog put some effort into marketing, this will be no problem. Will this happen? Unfortunately this isn't a likely scenario. **X-Act** has successfully taken synth-pop to an all new level of intense enjoyment, elevating this musical genre into a all new level of enjoyment and intrigue. (miles)

www.cyberden.com/xorcist



www.infonie.fr/public.html/vnc

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ut unkown

Wake Up Call :

7 Pre-Apocalyptic Anthems
(demo CD)

Gothic-punk-acoustic-alternative-pop. That's one of many ways to describe **Wake Up Call's** bombastic display of musician ship. Three members strong and bristling with energetic originality, there is wonder and amazement in the fact that they remain unsigned. The blend of aggro-punk guitar with soft synthlines, molded with unique and uncanny programming and drums are remarkable to hear. In the midst of this, **Wake Up Call** manage a to surprise by showcasing their acoustical prowess and ethereal magic. (miles)

Various :

Tales from the Vault
(Alligence Productions)

Tales from the Vault is a dark collection taken from the underground of independent gothic and industrial musicians from the States. The goal of this compilation is to present quality bands in need of recognition and to broaden a sometimes narrow-minded fanbase. Included are **Second Skin, Apocalypse Theatre, Black Atmosphere, Chorus of Souls, The Prophetess, Collide, Diesel, Wreckage, Usherhouse, Kore, Nihil, Patrik Mata & the Nu Ambassadors of FK, Stone 588, Ghost Train & The Sorcerers of Caffeine Revelation, and Eleven Shadows.** (miles)

Various :

TV Terror (felching a dead horse)

(Re-Constriction / Cargo)

In response to the recent influx of over zealous and cash-minded tributes, *Permission Magazine* began to realize *TV Terror* as a way to beat this dead horse movement at their own game. Financial strains lead to an arrangement with Re-Constriction and the final result is a double-CD of notorious portions. Obviously, *TV Terror* is to be taken lightly, with most of the music lacking in quality and merit. This 'tribute' isn't without merit; **Numb** interprets "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" in a most evil manner, whilst **Alien Sex Fiend** pounds out "Batman" as only they could. There are over 30 bands from the dark, industrial, gothic, and noise realm. If your sick of the monthly inundation of tributes, obtain *TV Terror* in protest. That is all. (miles)

Various :

14 Years of Electronic Challenge, Vol. II

(COP International)

X Marks the Pedwalk.

:wumpscut. **Skinny Puppy.**
Alien Sex Fiend. **A Split**
Second. **Apotygma Berzerk.**
Haujobb. **Laeatherstrip.**
Nitzer Ebb. **Battery.** **Die**
Krupps. **Frontline Assembly.**
Bigod 20. **Yelworc.** Whew, with this lineup, how could one not be impressed with *14 Years...*? You may be familiar with these bands, but the songs found here are mostly unknown or rare mixes, showcasing the classic along with the new breed of electronic musicians. **Alien Sex Fiend**, "I Walk the Line", and **Nitzer Ebb**, "Getting Closer", alone make this a necessity in a world where most have forgotten the roots of today's 'industrial' music. (miles)

www.fiu.edu:80/~wjones01/recon.html



Various :

Escape the Furnace, Vol. I & II

(Blacklight Records)

30 bands from a small corner of the electro-underground explode from this two disc set. The **Way Sect Bloom** begin ... Vol. I with a melodramatic score of electro-guitar. Also found on both volumes is a wide variety of sounds and textures, from ambient noise to slick pop-induced architecture, and typical industrial. There is one element that remains consistent throughout, and that is the message, "All Glory to the Holy Trinity". It is this unifying characteristic that makes this a consistent compilation, even though at times it wanes musically. The highlight for me is **Blackhouse**, who have been a forging pioneer in industrial noise for as long as there has been such a musical designation. Dip into a realm of electronic music that you may have overlooked, the sheer variety and magnitude may overwhelm and inspire. (miles)

Various
Futronik Structures, Vol. 1
(DSBP)

Decaying Skunk Bud Productions presents *Futronik Structures, Vol. 1*, their second compilation pulled from the heart of rivethead culture. Mostly dredged from the true underground, many of the bands represent a new and exciting direction of electronic music. Diversity is key, with ethereal female domination to elektro-hardcore. **Biopsy**, **162**, **Crying Room** and **in-Fused** are but a few of the bands featured. There is a high level of excitement and creativity surrounding DSBP and the musicians they feature. Look out world. (miles)

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