

o u t t h i s w e e k

album of the week

crippled black phoenix : 200 tons of bad luck / the resurrectionists & night

raider (cd or very limited 2 cd box set) the follow up to 2007's brilliant 'a love of shared disasters' is available as an edited 1 cd set, '200 tons...', or as originally intended, a deluxe 2cd opus 'the resurrectionists...' the band, formed by ex-iron monkey drummer justin greaves are something of a prog/doom/post rock/folk supergroup based around a nucleus of justin(now mainly on guitar), mogwai's dominic aitchison, gonga vocalist joe volk, pantheist's kostas panagiatou & cellist charlotte nichols, plus an ever evolving cast of guests including label boss, portishead's geoff barrow. they take elements of all their previous incarnations, never quite settling down into any fixed style, to produce an even more ambitious, expansive progression from their 1st album. if you've grown tired of cliched post rock & doom by numbers, this album shows where the genres are capable of going. highly recommended. "godspeed meets the league of gentlemen" 4/5 - uncut. [invada](#)

rock / indie / modern classical

bob dylan : together through life (cd, 2cd/dvd, 180g double lp/cd) dylan's 33rd studio album in a career spanning 5 decades. backed by his usual band of musicians, it sees the legendary dylan tackle more personal material than his last major release (2006's 'modern times'). this record aligns more closely with dylan's more introverted works, such as 1975's 'blood on the tracks' & features significant contributions from mike campbell of tom petty & the heartbreakers & accordionist david hidalgo of los lobos. "his warmest, most unforced, set of songs in recent memory" 4/5 - the times. "dylan searches his heart, finds emptiness, pain & a splinter of hope" 4/5 - mojo, album of the month, "a glorious, ramshackle rag-bag stuffed with good times, black humour & great swathes of accordion" 5/5 - uncut. [columbia](#)

bell orchestre : as seen through windows this montreal-based outfit formed around the talents of bassist/percussionist/keyboardist richard reed parry (arcade fire), violinist sarah neufeld (arcade fire), drummer stefan schneider (the luyas), french horn player pietro amato (torngat, the luyas), trumpet player kaveh nabatian & lap steel guitar player mike feuerstack (snailhouse). with influences that range from lee "scratch" perry & talk talk to arvo pärt & the penguin café orchestra, they create wonderfully fluid & organic instrumental pieces. their 2nd album was recorded with john mcentire (tortoise) & the result is fierce & beautiful, delicate & dirty - a richly layered & sonically expansive recording. opening with the distressed sound of muted & distorted horns, strings & drums - an almost monstrous sound - the album effortlessly shifts into an elaborate & soaring movement, sometimes edging close to fragility, sometimes on the verge of exploding. [arts & crafts](#)

metric : fantasies metric are back in a big way! the 3rd full length album from the canadian quartet is a collection of the finest polished, harmonic melodic/electro/rock tracks. they've taken the best bits of their synth-pop-rock classic 'live it out' & combined these with the softer, more heart-breaking songs that the shimmering vocalist emily haines displayed on her gorgeous solo album 'knives don't have your back' & the result is a perfect pop mixture of blondie, garbage, the breeders & stars, that will sound massive blasting from the radio this summer. it's maybe not as urgent as its predecessor but it's still pretty much impossible to resist. "finely crafted, totally focused & powerful pop songs that blend '80s new wave, '90s alt-rock & timeless pop songcraft into compact pop nuggets" 4/5 - amg, "compelling" - popmatters. [metric music international](#)

mokira : persona (cd & limited lp) it's hard to believe that 5 years have passed since the release of 'album', andreas tilliander's first outing on the type label. 'album' marked the final stage in andreas's development as a "laptop" artist & since then he has collected synthesizer upon synthesizer & enough tape to make the boys in berlin jealous. ditching the zeroes & ones, andreas set about constructing the follow-up album entirely in the analogue realm - the warming hiss of tape, the decomposing buzz of a monosynth & the nostalgic twitch of the roland tb303. andreas has clearly heard his fair share of cluster & harmonia records, but his sound is just as rooted in psychedelic rock & even basic channel-era dub techno as germanic ambience. just listen to the thick, pulsating ode to spacemen 3 'oscillations & tremolo' & you quickly realise that you are not merely listening to 'another' synthesizer album. a stunning collection of modern electronic music. [type](#)

thee oh sees : help (cd & lp) the new recordings from john dwyer's combo...if you've followed the san francisco underground for the past 10 years, you might already be familiar with john dwyer. dwyer's repertoire falls on the indie spectrum's more visceral wavelengths. he was pink in pink & brown, fronted coachwhips & played guitar in the dysfunctional hospitals. thee oh sees started as an extension of dwyer's softer side. their early recordings were sombre & beautiful but last year, they delivered their wildest, weirdest, hardest rocking record yet & now, they've gone even further. 'help' draws straight, dark lines to both the psychedelic rock of bands like the creation & the caveman thud of the troggs, while a cramps-like appreciation for rockabilly lies not far below. the album weaves dwyer's signature am radio howl with the driving tunes, brigid dawson's gorgeous harmonies, thick spring-reverbed bombast, mighty drums & an undeniable pull. essential. [in the red](#)

htrk : marry me tonight this is the completely hypnotic debut album proper (following the live ep 'nostalgia') from the melbourne/berlin/london trio. an electronic concoction of primitive beats, post-rock guitars, thudding drone-rock sensibilities, crisp drum machine beats, skeletal no-wave influences & grinding bass tones, topped off with vocals of jonnie standish that sound like they belong to a sedated kim gordon, make up this woozy time warp of corroded psychedelia. recalling suicide & drawing on krautrock influences, the band create a bewitching noir-ish universe. highly recommended. *"icy minimalists from down under render stark expansive architectural slabs of noise & mesmerizing grooves"* - jim sclavunos. [blastfirstpetite](#)

manchester orchestra : mean everything to nothing the 2nd album from the atlanta quartet, is everything you want a rock record to be : raw, urgent, emotional & 100 percent authentic. "there is nothing fake about this record", says frontman & lyricist andy hull. "there's not one fake sound on it. we recorded it live because we wanted it to sound live & loud!" inspired by the pounding, primal assault of weezer's 'pinkerton', nirvana's 'in utero' & foo fighter's 'the colour & the shape', this young band has created its own version of what a classic rock album should sound like. *"deceptively complex & overtly southern, giving the impression of a straight-ahead rock album, but riding countless dynamic shifts, instrumentation changes & separate song movements"* - alternative press. [columbia](#)

golden silvers : true romance the london-based trio release their debut. produced by the latest wunderkid lexxx (crystal castles, esser), 'true romance' features 9 brand new songs & updated versions of the previous singles. this record of odd-ball pop veers all over the place, drawing from myriad influences, so we get super furies-like melodies, blur-esque ballads, the vocal stylings of peter doherly, beach boys-style harmonising, mystery jets-esque ramshackle singalong choruses & much more from pop music past, present & future. *"a frightfully charming mix of gershwin-inspired chord progressions, psychedelic synths & estuary accents...a wonderfully weird pop album"* 4/5 - the skinny. *"entirely marvellous"* - nme, *"golden silvers are very special indeed"* - arena, *"these cats have got midas paws"* - artrocker. [xl](#)

ben harper & relentless7 : white lies for dark times in a hostile sea of disposable, throwaway singles, ben harper & relentless7 have made a true album. 'white lies for dark times' is a timeless rock record, with a cohesive collection of music that is as raw, unrelenting & thunderous, as it is arrestingly haunting & emotional. on the raucous opening track, 'number with no name', harper bellows 'the very thing that drives you can drive you insane' over an infectious guitar line & a deftly serious groove that both thumps & propels the listener. the band then brings the listener full circle in the closing track 'faithfully remain' as harper sings 'the truth just wastes away in all we can't explain, but i faithfully remain'. *"this is american rock, the way it is supposed to sound & feel"* - hitfix. [virgin](#)

the enemy : music for the people (standard + cd/dvd) the enemy follow their all-conquering, chart-topping debut 'we'll live & die in these towns' with this, their sophomore effort. this album is a bold step ahead of the coventry trio's debut, mixing the warm, richer texture of recording to tape with songs full of strident ambition. already a live favourite, 'sing when you're in love' is an ode to the redemptive power of song, boasting a more widescreen take, drawing from fellow anthem writers like springsteen. meanwhile closing track 'silver spoon' was one of the last songs to be written for the album yet it bristles & swaggers as only the climax of an enemy album can. elsewhere, 'last goodbye' unveils a darker edge some might have doubted the enemy possessed. *"they inject into british rock music the sense of standing for or against something, the feeling that there is something more at stake than money, fame & self"* 4/5 - guardian. [warner bros](#)

aun : motorsleep aun is the ambient doom project of montreal's martin dumais who describes his take on outsider-metal-meets-shoegaze as 'blight metal'. elements of aun's sound can be traced to the classic period of ambient music marked by the likes of cluster & eno as well as to contemporary players such as tim hecker. on 'motorsleep' the intensity of the drone gently climaxes to the point where ambience gives way to power & grandeur. it is here that the influence of early industrial music is revealed & trace elements of bands such as the swans lie just beneath the surface. the intensity slowly picks up over the course of the 1st few movements & reaches full power during the 3rd & 4th pieces. here the sound is rather dense & saturated with grainy ambient noise that slowly subsides & eventually gives way to a series of closing movements that recall the likes of fennesz or a more menacing william basinski. for fans of any of the aforementioned. [alien8](#)

data select party : hanging out with humans debut mini album from the spiky indie rockers. coming across like the best bits of a classic john hughes 80's movie soundtrack via the last days of disco crashing into the most ambitious, catchy post punk singles collection ever. combining a love of hardcore punk rock & classic bar tunes, data select party's sun blessed, addictive & offbeat pop melodies are loaded with intricate geek fretwork, gang vocals, time signature changes & disco punk rock. [fear & records](#)

nofx : coaster after recently celebrating their 25th anniversary as a band, nofx are still firing on all cylinders with the release of their 11th studio full-length. 'coaster' showcases nofx's limitless proficiency in crafting songs that simultaneously electrify & entertain. as always, fat mike tackles a diverse range of topics including politics, drug abuse, religion & of course, lesbians, all of which are adeptly fused with the fast, technical & melodic sound that nofx spawned to create an entire genre of punk rock. in addition to the expected hallmarks of a nofx album, the band keeps their latest material fresh by embracing the early la punk rock sound on tracks like 'the quitter' & 'we called it america'. 'coaster' is yet another credit to their legacy. [fat wreck](#)

assemble head in sunburst sound : when sweet sleep returned san francisco's assemble head in sunburst sound is a soundtrack for strange days & futures bright & bleak but there is also a crooked thread that runs backward through every assemble head record - the celestial trajectories of the notorious byrd brothers & circa '70 floyd ; the dusty canyon stomps of crazy horse, slashing action pop of the savage young who, italian bastardisations of lalo schifrin cop movie scores & the scuzz-bomb shrapnel of latter-day garage mongers like mudhoney & monoshock. clearly, for these guys, the sounds of an earlier era never went out of fashion. thus the cloudy production, fuzzy guitars & meandering song structures sound less like nostalgia than faith-keeping. "*sunlit, pot-addled, west coast rock-pop perfection*" – *uncut*, "*all the familiar old blue cheer/floyd/elevators touchstones another thunderous & sympathetic throttle*" – *pitchfork*. [tee pee](#)

thought forms : thought forms (upfront release) thought forms are charlie romijn (guitars / vocals), deej dhariwal (guitars / vocals) & guy metcalfe (drums). hailing from the rural south west, the trio were brought together amongst the ley-lines & ancient vibrations by a shared love of guitar abuse & pedal worship. the band take influence from luminaries sonic youth, slint & my bloody valentine, blending their structure with inspiration from modern experimental noise bands like the skaters, double leopards & emeralds & it's this which gives rise to a more psychedelic sound. this is post-rock of a sort but it's more than that - it's tight but also free-form. all 3 band members play in their own zone & create individual sounds but ultimately come together as one seamless unit. [invada](#)

micko westmoreland : wax & wayne westmoreland has been making records since april 1996. he has clocked up 3 nme singles of the week, a peel session with si begg & a deal with interscope records under the moniker of 'the bowling green'. wax & wayne' signals a new departure for micko, away from his electronic dance-based past. it features performances from ed harcourt, leo abrahams, luke bullen, arnulf lindler & sartorial label boss terry edwards. this is a highly textured & personal selection of songs with influences from beck, bowie, nick drake, mark hollis & morrissey. the vocals & lyrics have a very british slant yet the arrangements owe a debt to the wide open heart of america, featuring slide guitars & a lilting country twang, hence the 'wayne' of the title (as in 'john.')

[sartorial records](#)

video nasties : on all fours from dinosaur jr to sebadoh to sonic youth to nirvana, via the oddball slacker time signatures of pavement, video nasties coat their monstrous sound with an injection of noise & fervent energy. from the opening crashes of 'hnb', their sound lies with the us college rock pioneers of the early 90s, loaded with a dizzying ingredient of youthful zest. "*it's immediately evident that few bands in this country can hold a candle, let alone a torch, to video nasties when they're lost in music most malevolent – truly, this bucking blues-scorched monster is a fiery beast & no mistake...an act to truly cherish*" – *clash*. [dead again](#)

nick cave & the bad seeds : the first four albums in a series that will see the band's entire album catalogue digitally remastered & remixed for the first time since their original release. all 4 are available as either a remastered cd of the original album or as deluxe collectors editions featuring the remastered album plus a dvd with the entire album in 5.1 surround sound, a specially commissioned short film made by acclaimed uk artists iain forsyth & jane pollard plus the b-sides from the singles & exclusive sleeve notes.

from her to eternity (cd & ltd cd/dvd) cave's 1st solo release, whist still obviously close to the sound of the birthday party, sets the tone for most of what was to follow: the bad seeds, with mick harvey, barry adams & blixia bargeld already in place, providing blues, gospel, garage & post punk combined with cave's apocalyptic lyrics. the interpretations of other people's songs also started here, with cave not so much covering, more totally taking over cohen's 'avalanche' & (only on the dvd version) elvis' 'in the ghetto'. [mute](#)

the firstborn is dead (cd & ltd cd/dvd) a further move into the sound & iconography of the blues, an exploration of southern gothic at its extremes from the opening thunder of 'tupelo' & it's account of the birth of presley, through 'knockin' on joe's story of life on a prison work gang to the johnny cash cover 'wanted man' to the explicitly southern blues referencing 'blind lemon jefferson'. still one of the highlights & most consistent albums of cave's career. [mute](#)

kicking against the pricks(cd & ltd cd/dvd) this is a very rare thing, a consistently great covers album, notable also for reuniting nick & mick harvey with the birthday party's rowland s howard & tracey pew for the last time before pew's death. the songs range from the blues ('i'm gonna kill that woman', 'black betty'), johnny cash & velvet underground songs that people might have predicted to the less expected pop hits (gene pitney & the seekers), as well as a stunning version of 'by the time i get to phoenix'. [mute](#)

your funeral... my trial (cd & ltd cd/dvd) overall, a more reflective refinement of the previous bad seeds albums, from the melancholy of the opening 'sad waters' through the sinister music box sounds of 'the carny' (not a fairground you'd care to visit) through the sorrowful regret of the sonny boy williamson referencing title track, to the brutality of 'hard on for love' to the prison blues of 'long time man'. if you want an archetypal nick cave album, this is a great place to start. [mute](#)

tommy james & the shondells : crystal blue symphonies / the psychedelic years another in rev-ola's splendid series of overlooked psychpop...& what a corker it is! in europe at least, tommy james is kind of the forgotten man of the 1960s. after a run of megahits that included 'mony mony' (come on, everyone remembers that!), tommy was ready to unleash his very own psychpop masterpieces : 2 fabulous albums released in short order, 'crimson & clover' & 'cellophane symphony' - veritable orgies of bendy pop, psych extravaganzas, early moogs, theremins & tremolo! [rev-ola](#)

william basinski : 92982 62 minutes / 4 tracks - it's crunchy, it's distorted...it's basinski archive circa 1982. "something from a long time ago...in brooklyn, 351 jay street...a fruitful evening in the studio...home at last after a day of work : home in my studio experimenting live. the sound is spreading all over downtown brooklyn mixing with the helicopters, sirens, pot smoke & fireworks...so, this night in the studio spawned a direction i would follow for some time. as i love this document of that night, i thought you might like to put what came later into context, so i'm releasing this archival recording. the last track is a newly recorded reprise of the 1st track that i recorded with the original loop in february 2009 in los angeles" – basinski. essential listening for fans of the caretaker or tim hecker & other such fine kranky releases. [2062 records](#)

black crows : warpaint live (2cd) the black crows are one of the all-time great live rock bands, their shows are legendary & regularly sell out wherever in the world they play. this new live album was recorded last year on the tour in support of their critically acclaimed new studio album 'warpaint'. it features the whole of the 'warpaint' album in extended live versions plus a mixture of previously unreleased cover versions & some of their own classics. the black crows deliver here, proving that they are one of the most powerful & best live rock 'n' roll acts around. [eagle/ada/cinram](#)

chad & jeremy : the ark after rev-ola's well received release of chad & jeremy's 'of cabbages & kings', they now present their follow up, 'the ark'. put together by the same gary usher-helmed team with the same sumptuous results, this is an amazing album. little were chad & jeremy to know it would be their swansong as 1960s recording artists. with songs informed by their own personal brit odyssey through 1960s california & their support for rfk's presidential campaign, this is a very fitting addition to the great run of psychpop the label have put out lately. [rev-ola](#)

andwellas dream : love & poetry andwellas dream released 1 album, 'love & poetry', on cbs in the late 60s that is highly regarded by psychedelic collectors. it's an eclectic affair that touches on a number of approaches - heavy progressive rock-tinged psychedelia with keyboards, fruity pop-psych with strings & fairytale-type lyrics, folk & blues-informed material bridging psych & prog - common to british rock of the period. the group changed their name to andwella & subsequently released a couple of albums under that name. "a highly-rated psychedelic album. most tracks are slow & melodic, with killer guitar leads, occasionally veering towards progressive rock with plenty of organ & jazzy guitar" – *tapestry of delights*, "walks the line between freakbeat & heaviness, swirling organ, husky vocals & pastoral acoustic folksy tunes" – *amg*. [sunbeam](#)

morrissey : southpaw grammar originally released in 1995, this was morrissey's 5th solo album & it features the classic hits 'dagenham dave' & 'boy racer'. the original album has been remastered & resequenced by morrissey himself & now includes 4 previously unreleased tracks, brand new sleeve & artwork, with extensive new liner notes & previously unseen photos. [rca victor](#)

morrissey : maladjusted originally released in 1997, this was the follow-up to 'southpaw grammar'. this expanded version comes with a 24-page booklet in a stylish new hardback 'ecolbook'. this format now includes the controversial track 'sorrow will come in the end', originally withdrawn from the british album, it features morrissey intoning, rather than singing, over a backing of manic strings & the beat of a judge's gavel - the song clearly about a bitter dispute over smiths' royalties! [island](#)

dance/electronica

martyn : great lengths (cd & lp) this is the one we've all been waiting for. dutch production whizz martyn is relatively new to the scene, having formerly produced drum & bass for a number of labels but it's his recent forays into dubstep (such as the now classic 'vancouver') which have really made his name. unlike the dirty bass overload of uk producers such as skream or benga, martyn's sound is a sleeker, refined beast informed more by the mechanics of detroit techno than the ruffness of the grime/garage scene. the beats are tight & pristine, the tempo skips occasionally through techno & into d&b territory & there are a couple of vocal collaborations including the album centrepiece 'these words'. a massive album for the scene that should crossover to those who simply appreciate forward thinking dance music for headphones & dancefloors alike. "it's unlikely that anyone will top this masterpiece in the dubstep scene in 2009" - *boomkat*. [3024](#)

kid606 : shout at the döner easily kid606's most accomplished record to date, 'shout at the döner' combines all the brash & exciting plunderphonic & sampledelic elements he is best known for, with a whole new world of uncharacteristically musical & danceable hooks & styles which are both fresh & timeless. 606 draws on some of his biggest electronic influences like lfo, afx, mike ink, green velvet, mouse on mars, the prodigy, daft punk, shizuo, mr. oizo & giorgio moroder, to make bold & powerful songs. this is the kid's 1st successful stab at schizotronics - combining elements of many different dance music styles into new songs without pretension. intelligent dance music or unintelligent vacant technopunk trash? your call..... [very friendly](#)

wisp : the shimmering hour a magnificent album of epic, uplifting, symphonic braindance. hailing from niagara falls ny, reid dunn, otherwise known as wisp, is becoming a fast-rising figure in the world of electronic music. driven by an obsession with all things mythological, wisp has been melding the new & old sounds of beat driven experimentation & bardic lore to offer up a distinct sound that stands out from the electronic crowd. in the absence of any new material from aphex twin, this album should go a long way to satisfy many electronica nuts with its uncannily similar fusion of extreme beat complexities, emotive melodies & florid harmonics. for fans of squarepusher, autechre, µ-ziq (aka mike paradinas) et al. [rephlex](#)

fosca : no hassle (limited 2cd version in deluxe packaging) the viennese masters of deluxe soundscapes & sensual rhythm are back with their 5th magical & mesmerising album. multi-instrumentalists richard dorfmeister & rupert huber have been friends since their vienna schooldays. richard later became half of the globally acclaimed dj-producer duo kruder & dorfmeister, while rupert worked in piano composition & sound-art installation. the overall sound of 'no hassle' draws on classic toska ingredients : dub & funk, blues & krautrock, acoustic & electronic, strings & samples, mellow grooves & elegant piano melodies. 'no hassle' is a luxurious tapestry of analogue & digital sounds, submerged samples & live instruments, it evolves & expands into an hour-long ambient symphony - a single seamless sea of sound, deeply layered with liquid rhythms & tidal melodies. warm & enveloping, each leisurely track flows gently into the next. [k7](#)

cathode : sparkle plenty the 2nd album from newcastle's steve jefferis. cathode's 2004 debut, 'special measures', was acclaimed for its winning combination of precision-glitch electronics & a warm melodic sensibility, gaining the judgement of "first class" from john peel. 'sparkle plenty' finds cathode coupling the precision & warmth of the debut with a richer sonic palette - for instance, the skittering improv percussion of 'dream feeder', the strings, flutes & piano of 'without memory or desire', or the battered acoustic guitar & ticking clocks of 'nightly builds'. album centrepiece 'structure hunger' is a juddering serialist-krautrock wonder. these moody, melodic soundscapes of carefully controlled clicks, beats & bleeps, produce a beautifully set of electronic rhythms that should appeal to fans of kettel, boards of canada or bola. [expanding](#)

berliner ring : orbital this is the first contemporary release on the art yard imprint (known for sun ra releases). these tracks were created with an amalgamation of elements, electro mechanical devices, invented instruments, modified keyboards & delays, self-constructed percussion rhythm machines & string devices. this "half man, half machine" cross-over consists of arrangements with electromechanical drums, loops, samples, 12 string guitar, timpani, heckeshorn, metallophone. this is a visit to the electro mechanical sub-underground - a combination of themes & moods from the berlin landscape. berliner ring make all manner of bizarre noises on this record but their real achievement is in managing to configure them into easily digestible, very musical shapes. [art yard](#)

groupshow : the martyrdom of groupshow an outstanding krautrock influenced electronic album by jan jelinek, hanno leichtmann & andrew pekler who all have a longterm musical history within the electronic music scene under their own names & various monikers. the tracks collected here re-live the most memorable moments from approximately 200 gigabytes of improvised jam sessions. an impressive arsenal of low quality effects pedals played by these 3 talented musicians comprises the bedrock on which 'the martyrdom of groupshow' was built. pekler (guitar, effects), leichtmann (drums) & jelinek (electronics) switch instruments on a regular basis, resulting in a free-improv, krautronic assemblage of silence & noise. [~scape](#)

longstone : kabuki the west country electronic experimentalists mike cross & mike ward formed longstone in 1996 as a crossover project between rock & electronica. they have more recently been joined by improvising reeds player chris cundy (of grace & delete & guillemots) & now they return to ochre records for the release of their 6th studio album. their experimental electronica blends organically with improvised woodwind, percussion & guitar, creating a fascinating suite of music - ranging from alien soundscapes, through to krautrock infused, beat driven workouts. all 6 members of the current live band participated in the studio recordings, making this the most complete longstone band recording to date & this album comes very close to representing the recent live sound of the band. [ochre records](#)

b12 : b12 records archive vol. 6 volume 6 of this epic series contains a remastered disc from the legendary b12 cassette which was first issued in cardboard box (!) & a 2nd disc of 6 previously unreleased tracks. cd1 collects the experiments of mike golding & steve rutter from 1992 & 1993 which was originally released as 'prelude part 2'. only ever released in a limited pressing of 400 cassettes & later 500 cds, this inventive piece of history combines snippets from a rare belgium radio interview in 1992 & sections & remixes from the duo's past & future works. cd2 is comprised of previously unreleased material which was recorded between 1993 & 1994. the tracks show new twists in the techno footprint - as dark as they are fresh & as twisted as they are peaceful. these classic undiluted techno masterpieces should not be missed. [b12 records](#)

comfort : sleep talking shared comfort's 2nd record, sees the italian band reduced to a core of two multi-instrumentalists: drummer/guitarist/programmer alessandro baris & keyboardist leonardo chirulli. however, a string of guests appear here & there, adding bass, flute, viola, & even a touch of vocals. this is a finely crafted instrumental journey that takes you from tortoise-influenced post-rock to cinematic orchestra-like electro-jazz, with the music easygoing but well composed & exquisitely arranged. chirulli's playing on the electric piano is mellow, atmospheric even, without losing a certain fusion-jazz-meets-ennio morricone feel. melodic & driving, though also ambient & richly detailed, this is a recommended listen for fans of any of the above. [still/off](#)

v/a - recession vol 1 mixed by october the caravan imprint outta bristol serves up a very enticing proposition with the label's 1st compendium selected & mixed to perfection by head honcho october. the caravan imprint has carved out a solidly respectable niche as the city's answer to the hardwax family of techno enhanced house music with a dub styled aesthetic applied to cutting edge techno & house minimalism. while still only six releases deep, this mix draws on the label's forthcoming tracks & unreleased exclusives from emptyset, jilt van moorst, tg & etalon to pad out the hefty load of october's own productions providing a privileged glimpse into the future of the bristol minimal tech sound. guaranteed to appeal to any berghain/ostgut/hardwax fiends. [caravan](#)

hip hop

clutchy hopkins meets lord kenjamin : music is my medicine this whole clutchy hopkins business is very confusing. whilst stories abound of a mysterious figure leaving traces of himself via bags of 2-inch reels & a vintage caribbean tracksuit jacket found in the office fridge, if you sidestep the twaddle, you'll find yourself in the presence of an instrumental funk/hip hop/dub melting pot; a record that plays out a little bit like a very live sounding shawn lee album, & rumours that money mark might be involved in this don't seem entirely frivolous given the emphasis on vintage keyboard instruments. other prime suspects include cut chemist & dj shadow, but whoever clutchy is, this meeting with lord kenjamin features some great organic, analogue instrumentals that aren't taking themselves too seriously. good smoked out grooves for the sunshine. [ubiquity](#)

soul

raphael saadiq : the way i see it (uk release with 2 exclusive bonus tracks) in this day & age where commercial soul music is anything but soulful, it's refreshing to hear a record like saadiq's unabashedly retro 'the way i see it', which doesn't try to update old soul sounds to a hip-hop world & a white singer. instead he works under the simple belief that those styles created in philadelphia, detroit, & memphis during the 1960s speak as loudly now as they did then. they don't need to be revived, resurrected, retrofitted or revitalized. they just need to be played & so this album serves as a loving tribute to 60's era motown, an education in classic soul for newer fans & an enjoyable nostalgia trip for older ones. even the recording techniques of yesteryear have been researched, with saadiq's voice slightly distorted & buried deeper in the mix, while the drums possess that thundering, echo-laden quality present in many of the classic soul recordings. "few artists live so vitally in the past as saadiq" – [pitchfork](#). [rca#](#)

carnival collective : freak rocket carnival collective are a 30 to 50 piece band from brighton. constantly evolving & changing, moving quickly from their origins as a purely percussive group to a highly dynamic & original band comprising a full horn section, vocalists, guitar, bass & electronics. all of this backed up by their massed ranks of drummers. the new album was recorded & engineered at brighton's concorde 2, the first release to fully use this facility. all of the tracks are self-penned, the title track being written by a former scientist from the infamous beagle 2 mission to mars! the new tunes take the band into uncharted territory; from surf guitar through funk & reggae influences to drum & bass as well as their finely honed soul samba sound. "despite their latin-american style massed ranks & hip hop dancers, they come from the sussex coast – their sound not so much batucada as live drum & bass" – [the independent](#). [self released](#)

folk

peter walker : long lost tapes 1970 guitarist peter walker came up in the cambridge ma & greenwich village folk scenes of the 60s. he recorded 2 albums for the vanguard label in the late 60s in a style best described as american folk-raga. he studied with ravi shankar & ali akbar khan & was dr.timothy leary's musical director, organizing music for the lsd advocate's "celebrations". during this time, peter played or was associated with such musicians as lowell george, fred neil, karen dalton, tim hardin & joan baez, among many others. 'long lost tapes 1970' is a revelation. featuring peter on electric guitar in a band setting with five other musicians, the session took place in levon helm's woodstock home while helm was out of town. the tapes languished until now. [tompkins square](#)

reggae

laurel aitken : ska with laurel it is not without reason that during his lifetime laurel aitken acquired the mantles of the godfather of ska & the high priest of reggae, for he was true pioneer of the modern jamaican music industry whose works helped shape the sound of reggae. by the early 60s, he was jamaica's most popular artist, recording in variety of styles from calypso & mento to the local blues or boogie beat, an early form of ska. originally issued in 1966 & pressed in limited numbers, 'ska with laurel' promptly sold out & over the years, has acquired an almost mythical status among collectors. this expanded version of the groundbreaking, ultra-rare lp features its original dozen tracks supplemented by 14 bonus recordings, almost all of which have been unavailable for over 4 decades & extensive notes by the singer's close friend mark wyeth. this collection perfectly illustrates why aitken was & will always be, regarded as the godfather of ska. [pressure drop](#)

vinyl

dock boggs : false hearted lover's blues born in 1898 in norton, virginia, singer / songwriter & banjo player, dock boggs, got his start playing in the mining camps while working in the mines all over the appalachian region. in 1927 he got a contract with brunswick records & began recording & playing parties all over the area. this collection represents his complete recordings from 1927-1929 when dock was at the beginning & height of his short-lived recording career. 1929, however, was also unfortunately the beginning of the great depression & like many musicians, dock was forced to give up playing professionally due to lack of audience. thankfully, he was rediscovered in the 1960s by the folk revival movement & went on to record 3 great albums for folkways, before his death in 1971. highly recommended by charlie parr! [monk records](#)

charley patton : electrically recorded - prayer of death from the granddaddy of delta blues comes this incredible compilation of his greatest songs. charley patton's influence on music cannot be overstated. he began playing music around 1900 & by the time he was 19, about a decade later, he had already written his most popular tune 'pony blues' & was on his way to becoming the first superstar of the delta blues & a household name. he was soon the most requested performer all over the south & influenced many young musicians, like howlin' wolf, john lee hooker & robert johnson, to name a few. like a true rock star, by age 42 he was dead, which of course, only fuelled his fame. essential listening. [monk records](#)

wooden shjips : dos [holy mountain](#)

woods : songs of shame [shrimper/woodsist](#)

sunburned hand of the man : fire escape (double lp with new bonus track & new artwork by eye (boredoms). [smalltown supersound](#)

jeffrey lewis & the junkyard : em are i [rough trade](#)

blue roses : blue roses [xl](#)

the juan maclean : the future will come [dfa](#)

d v d

grails : acid rain following up their widely acclaimed & most successful album, 'doomsday's holiday', grails unleash their 1st ever dvd - the career-spanning 'acid rain'. centred around a half dozen mind-altering music videos from their last few albums, it also features nearly 2 hours of live shows from the past several years. packed full of bonus material & special treats, 'acid rain' is as bizarre, eclectic & otherworldly as their albums, with the added spectacle of debaucherous activities, vicarious cult obsessions & street preachers on rollerskates. "amazing in a word. terrifyingly amazing in two" – *losing today*, "grails have accomplished one of the most remarkable genre rewirings since pere ubu's the modern dance threw acid in the face of punk rock in 1978." – *baltimore city paper*, "concise, evocative & utterly fucking gorgeous." – *decibel*. [temporary residence](#)

m a g s

uncut : dylan & springsteen cd, features on pete townshend, david bowie, keith richards, metallica & more.

mojo : 'island folk' cd & features on nick drake, depeche mode, jeff beck & bob dylan & more.

s i n g l e s

single of the week

the maccabees : love you better 2 x 7" & cd (all 3 formats for £5) [polydor](#)

the big pink : velvet 7". [4ad](#)

slayer : psychopathy red ultra limited 7". [american recordings](#)

lee perry ft roots manuva vs the moody boyz : international broadcaster / broadcaster version limited 12". [on-u sound](#)

twisted wires : one night at the raw deal v.limited 12". [italians do it better](#)

cave : the ride/ bobbyshash (featuring bobby conn) very limited 7". [static caravan](#)

elvis perkins in dearland : hey/shampoo very limited 7". [xl](#)

je suis animal : the mystery of marie roget / secret place 7". [angular](#)

the chapman family : kids 7". [electric toaster](#)

the xx : crystallized 7". [xl](#)

television personalities : people think that we are strange limited 7". [elefant](#)

super tennis : theme song very limited 10". [banquet](#)

morrissey : something is squeezing my skull 2 x cd & 7". [polydor](#)

bloc party : signs 12". [polydor](#)

the rumble strips : london v.limited 7". [island](#)

detachments : the flowers that fell 7". [thisisnotanexit](#)

wave machines : keep the lights on 7". [neapolitan](#)

peaches : talk to me limited 7". [xl](#)