

what we've been listening to this month...

with such an insane & somewhat overwhelming amount of music available to us all, we thought you might like to know what's really been working for us lately. so, here's a run down of what's been keeping our ears & souls happy this month.....

derry

v/a : dr boogie presents shim sham shimmy

'ethnic authentic electric' is what it says on the sleeve & that's exactly what it is. 30 tracks of raw & primitive electric blues from the late 40s, recorded as quickly as possible with no regard for anything as prissy as 'production values' & all the better for it. the lucky few on here such as albert collins went on to have proper careers but everyone else on here is just as great. if you like your blues at the fat possum end of the scale, this would be perfect for you. [sub rosa](#)

twine : violets

6th album from the baltimore glitch merchants & it's like the soundtrack to a david lynch movie set in a crumbling, midwestern town where disembodied vocals, guitar rattles, layered drones & bursts of static build up a picture of a place you'd definitely not want to visit in real life. [ghostly international](#)

natasha

bass communion : molotov & haze

i can't honestly say i've ever heard a porcupine tree album (i'd always had them down as some sort of experimental rock nonsense) but maybe i should check them out as this is the project dedicated to steven wilson's (the band's main songwriter) ambient, drone, electronic tendencies & i can't get enough of it. it's wonderfully textured, atmospheric & dark & it keeps you on your toes as one track will have you lost in a hypnotic, stars of the lid type trance & the next will blow your mind with his ferocious, rasping intensity. at all times though, it is both striking & beautiful. another one for my ever expanding droney, dark collection then. [important](#)

dino felipe : no fun demo

no fun is not a label i've made a lot of time for in the past (too much noise over substance for me) but ami said i should check out this release after she'd heard it & geez, was she right! this weird, quirky, off-kilter, charmingly lo-fi album from the miami-based sound wizard is danceable, fuzzy, scratchy & awkward 'pop' of the best possible kind. it's great for cooking to too – made one of my most successful curries whilst bopping around in the kitchen to this! [no fun](#)

matt

machinefabriek : dauw

even the casual drone fan will know that machinefabriek boshes out albums at a ridiculous rate, so with dauw i wasn't really expecting anything special. thankfully even on first listen this totally blew me away – every minute of this release is beautiful & absolutely spot on. a sublime record that will definitely be in my best of the year list. [dekorder](#)

v/a : back from the grave compilations

an awesome series of totally raw garage compilations. the evidently massive nerds behind these comps have unearthed tracks from some of the 60's most obscure garage bands. any garage fan will tell you these collections are the absolute business. [crypt records](#)





s a m

department of eagles : in ear park

(released 7th october) it seems that department of eagles have blossomed. daniel rossen has sprinkled some of the same magic that was dusted over grizzly bear's "yellow house" (his other band). the quirky samples of the previous album have been more or less abandoned in favour of dreamy psych-pop very much in the vein of that other band. it's almost like you stumbled into the attic & found some long lost tapes recorded by van dyke parks or abandoned recordings for mercury rev's deserters songs. it as if walking through a dream, everything seems slightly out of focus & it caresses & beguiles you... this should tide us over while we wait for that long time coming next grizzly bear record. [4ad](#)

jay reatard : singles 07-08

you may not have been one of the lucky ones that picked up the extremely limited 7" singles that master reatard has been releasing every few weeks. so while you wait for them to be compiled you wouldn't do so bad to pick up this great compilation of rare singles that were knocked out between 06-07 on various labels. this guy has mastered the short, spiky punk garage pop song and here are 17 prime examples. clearly he can't sit still for five minutes and these tunes barrel along with anxious, fidgety glory. it's all over in not much over half an hour but you're immediately reaching back to the play button. recommended! [in the red](#)

a m i

lucky dragons : dream island laughing language

(released 8th september) percussive, minimal, rhythm based wooziness that pulls you into repetitive trance like loops with muttering mantras. the los angeles twosome of sarah rara & luke fischbeck play recorders, clap hands & co-ordinate a kind of voodoo ceremony with unrelenting beats & steel drum / dulcimer type sounds that will have you writhing. the hummed or one-note singing creates a kind of glue that cements the songs outer body feel with a sense of euphoria. great stuff! [upset! the rhythm](#)

john coltrane : my favorite things

coltrane's 1961 album of songs from the likes of rogers & hammerstein, cole porter & gershwin has been constantly running around my head all month - the title track especially, it's great for whistling! not only does it highlight his ability on the soprano sax & his musical relationship with pianist mccoy tyner but it does so in such a laid back, rhythmical manner. the modal solos are totally inviting & upbeat & never tires to make me smile when listening. [atlantic](#)

j a m e s d

eine kleine nacht musik : s/t

i criminally overlooked this little gem in my picks last month, so now i wish to make amends. although kraut-obsessed in influence & title ('a little night music' if my basic german serves me correctly), this is actually the work of the english electro/glitch/house producer henry 'riton' smithson. using a dazzling array of vintage synths, glockenspiels & sitars, underpinned with a healthy dollop of that old classic motorik beat, smithson has come up with an authentic & artful homage to the old cruisers of the autobahn (kraftwerk, cluster, harmonia etc) but still steers well clear of pastiche. the promise of a little night music proves to be true as well, with the first half of the album keeping things sprightly for the dancefloor, whilst the second half reclines into wistful, spacier territories. [modular](#)

the alps : iii

(released 29th september) more wobbly synths a go-go in this sprawling prog rock meltdown from psychedelic supergroup 'the alps'. featuring members of tussle & tarentel, this album has the sound of a long lost & forgotten acid-spiked masterpièce, full of reverbed guitars, echoed voices, & heavy, repetitive bass lines. although most definitely 'out there', it's still very accessible & at times recalls the work of the likes of jean claude vannier/serge gainsbourg & ennio morricone. a brilliant return trip to a wonderful world of capes, keyboards, tanks & armadillos. [type](#)

