

# out this week.....

## albums of the week

**telepathe : dance mother** following in the footsteps of fellow new york exotic indie peddlers animal collective & gang gang dance, comes the debut from telepathe - 2 po-faced girls from brooklyn who dress like klaxons' witchy sisters. this record sees the pair move away from the jam band aesthetic of their previous groups & further develop the layered, synthetic sound they began exploring on their social registry ep, 'farewell forest'. working with legendary producer dave sitek (tv on the radio), with access to his vintage synthesizer collection, combined with deep electronic sub-bass lines influenced by hours of listening to dub-step, gave the duo's homemade music making a new sonic purity & gave them the confidence & the stylistic singularity to transcend genres. the stuttering hip hop beats of 'chrome's on it', the funereal pop of 'can't stand it' & the dark, driving electro pop of 'so fine' all link together by their staggering vocal melodies & intensely personal lyrics. a stunning achievement presenting dark but forward-thinking hybrid pop music for the next generation. "look beyond a desire for instant thrills & you'll be smitten by their wilful perversity" - observer. [wichita](#)

**the sight below : glider** (limited edition) an astonishingly warm, hazy late-night techno soundtrack that owes as much to artists like gas or the field as it does to ambient producers biosphere or fennesz. by pinning barely-there electronic beats to his wisps of guitar melody, this anonymous seattle-based producer turns ambient music into a hybrid strain of breathtakingly intimate, small- scale dance music. his use of omnipresent hiss & cavernous reverb gives the proceedings a disorientated, melancholic, winter feel that is so apt for the time of year. undoubtedly, with 'glider' the sight below (whoever he may be) has created a work of vertiginous sonic depth & exquisite melancholy : techno music for a dark winter's night. unreservedly recommended listening. "this producer keeps things tight & ever-developing, never straying into formlessness" - allmusic, "one of the year's first great albums" - boomkat. [ghostly international](#)

**women : s/t** (cd/lp) these canadian chaps (yes chaps, they are all blokes) have conjured up a little gem of a record. obviously not short on ideas they perfect a mix of post-punk, late 60's new york la velvet underground with a liberal dose of san fran psych & californian melodies. the guitars stay trebly, working away like staccato beavers as washes of fuzz skitter in & out of the picture. noisy & claustrophobic songs smash through junkyard trash brawls while others lift & soar across the landscape of 50's-informed pop. it was all recorded by chad vangaalen in his basement on some very lo-fi tape machines but the result is an ever changing album of songs that sit happily in an off kilter pool of non-perfection. for fans of no age & abe vigoda. "as happy in honeyed hooks as they are in off-road fantasia" - mojo. [jagjaguwar](#)

## rock / indie / contemporary

**v/a : rough trade counter culture 2008** (upfront copies) so another year passes us by & by all accounts, despite the economic gloom that hangs over us right now, 2008 was a great year for music, as this retrospective collection from the ever reliable rough trade shops undoubtedly attests. as an ongoing series, the counter culture cd is a blend of big hitters from the shop floor, staff favourites, exciting new artists, exclusive edits & a few rough diamonds. as ever, no stone is left unturned with everything from folk & indie-pop to dubstep & electro-techno all getting a look in. disc 1 keeps things on a horizontal vibe with artists such as peter dinklage, bon iver, department of eagles, fleet foxes & atlas sound all doing the business, whilst disc 2 goes for the jugular with rowdy cuts from boris, times new viking, health, flying lotus, shit & shine & yo majesty. a great musical document for the year that was or a good starting point for discovering new, innovative artists. [v2coop](#)

**franz ferdinand : tonight...franz ferdinand** (ltd box set, ltd 2cd, standard cd & 2lp, with a free poster) these 4 scottish chaps were put on this earth to get people on the dance floor & to shake their arse like it was going out of style. so, come on everyone!....grab a partner & do the franz ferdinand stomp, with a nudge & wink, alex kapranos stylee. you might even take them home for a night of post-club debauchery. ooh matron! having left their post-punk revival roots behind, the band chose to work with producer dan carey (css & hot chip) & have gone all out to incorporate more disparate influences such as jamaican dub & elements of electronic. the box set features the album across 6 7's, a 40 minute film about the making of the album with live performances & 'blood', a dub version of the album (which is also featured on the 2cd edition). "glitterball disco, rock opera histrionics, bell-bottomed balladry & prog rock riffage. we're talking r&b, the sweet, the osmonds, chicago, 10cc, t rex, donna summer the works. & it works" - plan b, 8/10 - nme, 4/5 - mojo. [domino](#)

**the phantom band : checkmate savage** this is the brilliant debut of glaswegian sextet the phantom band. pooling resources from a number of places the band draw influence from the motorik chug of kraut, the percussive beats of the beta band, the sermonic delivery of nick cave, the joyous choral builds of arcade fire & all with a thick scottish accent slapped on top like a sporran proudly adorning a kilt. sonically there are all manners of effects & loops going on that highlight the detail & vision this band obviously hold so dear. "guaranteed arm-wavers, all" - plan b, "a record as auspicious & accomplished as it is unforeseen" 4/5 - mojo, "it feels comforting, reassuring in a way - a reminder that the best new music need not be new music, without identifiable precedent. it can be everything you already love" - clash. [chemikal underground](#)

**j tillman : vacilando territory blues** (digipack version) fleet foxes' sticksman joshua tillman steps up from behind the kit to deliver his 5<sup>th</sup> solo album. the borderline-alienating starkness & well-lived-in narratives of his early records endeared him to fans of (& drew comparisons with) the likes of nick drake, will oldham & jason molina. here each song is imbued with the same strikingly disconsolate singing & poignant prose, accented by gorgeous, spare arrangements. sacrificing an overly-stylized album for one with character, the breadth of tillman's abilities as a songwriter emerge in an array of musical personalities with minimal instrumental decoration & his striking, spiritual vocals floating atop these beguiling acoustic lullabies. a slow burning beauty that's well worth perusing. *"an album for long lonely winter nights"* – *mojo*, *"at times conjuring the beautiful, stark bleakness of nick drake"* 4/5 - *q. bella union*

**bruce springsteen : working on a dream** (cd, cd/dvd & 2lp) the boss is back! a man whose career has seen him develop into the archetype of american music - with a voice so rough it sounds like the leather on a cowboy's chaps! as with the last album, 'magic', he has brought the e street band along for the ride & thus, it's an album that will fill the stadiums with aplomb. clarence clemons & his sax solos, steve van zandt's guitar, backing vocals & bandana, patti is there too, along with the driving piano, slide guitar & more of the strings that were hinted on in 'magic'. this is the 4<sup>th</sup> album with brendan o'brien behind the desk & has all the hallmarks of classic springsteen & the overwhelming feeling that bruce is still loving it - & by golly, so are we! *"his lush take on the music that informed his youth feels like a reinvention"* - *telegraph*, *"the uptempo songs have a bracing, first-take feel, capturing the e street band's elusive live essence"* 5/5 - *rolling stone*. *colombia*

**darren hayman & the secondary modern : pram town** the ex-hefner man is back with his 4<sup>th</sup> solo album & all his trademark observational lyrics are in tow. 'pram town' itself refers to a term coined in the early 50s regarding the sudden influx of young families in 'new towns' such as harlow. from the plodding opening trumpet you get the feeling that hayman will lovingly expose the rigmarole & greyness of a britain that perennially under achieves. this is a tale of the bittersweet, mix tapes & pulling a sickie all played out over a soundtrack of folk pop acoustic guitars, violins, ukuleles & hayman's very english, nasal delivery. *"like a blend of dylan & casiotone for the painfully alone; as strange as that sounds, it utterly charms"* - *plan b*. *track & field*

**the whisper town 2000 : swim** morgan nagler (main songwriter & singer) has one of those voices full of rural country tinged tone, that dips & dives so elegantly that the mind thinks of slow motion salmon moving down river & sweeping you away with it. the band are actually from los angeles but signed to gillian welch's label & are made up of vanesa corbala (vocals/percussion), avant-blues guitar of tod wisenbaker (guitar/drums) & the robust bass playing from his brother casey wisenbaker (bass/drums). known for their dreamy harmonies, countless hooks & a sound that is both completely modern & nostalgic, the songs on the record range from quirky indie-pop to hypnotic harmonies & california-country. the ballad 'atlantis' features a 4 woman choir of nagler, corbala, welch & jenny lewis. *"disquieting, spiny record that ultimately stands on its own. 2009 may well be a big year"* 4/5 - *uncut*. *acony*

**architects : hollow crown (special edition)** (ltd digipack with bonus track) championed by critics, fans & peers alike as one of the finest uk metal/hardcore crossover acts of their generation, the brighton quintet return with their 3<sup>rd</sup> album that looks set to lift you up with an iron hand & slam you to the floor like a steroid enhanced wrestler who has just found out you've slept with his wife! dark yet uplifting, dense yet accessible, crushing yet comforting, 'hollow crown' is an impressive, bold & artistically immense achievement that will have you reaching for the strepsils in sympathy for the visceral delivery of vocalist sam carter. *"garrotte-taut, with every part bearing some barely-contained lethality...a beacon amongst the dross"* - *trashhits.com*. *century media*

**john frusciante : the empyrean** after his well documented struggles with heroin & exile from the music after the chili peppers initial success reduced him to a wreck - the story & journey of frusciante in the last 10 years casts him as a spiritual, enigmatic singer songwriter & producer whose dedication to music rescued him from the brink. this is a concept album that tells the story of 1 person with 2 characters. it includes a cover of tim buckley's 'song to the siren' & revels in statuesque guitar playing & choirs & impressively, it features johnny marr & flea. the whole affair has a deft structural touch to makes it an almost prog-like listening experience that 'should be played as loud as possible', according to frusciante. *"the empyrean' is characterised by endless shifts of tone & volume, through peaks & troughs of emotion that balance melody with layers of dissonance"* - *the observer*. *century media*

**the shaky hands : lunglight** portland, oregon's favourite 5 sons, the shaky hands, add darker textures to their homespun charms on their 2<sup>nd</sup> full-length release. they inhabit a similar space as white denim with their rolling, off beat drumming & the loose charm of a bunch of garage rock & rollers, with more than a hint of hyperactivity. there are also similarities to the two gallants, as shades of punked up country enter the mix & the raw vocals of frontman of nick delffs conjure up memories of early, pre-polished kings of leon. *"a ramshackle charm that surpasses many of the more feted newcomers"* – *observer music monthly*. *memphis industries*

**adam payne : organ** adam payne is one of those chaps who plays it his own way. seen by many as a one man band, imbuing each guitar & beat with a sense of urgency that pulls the songs along at break neck speed. 'organ' is an anthem of southern california patriotism with all the thrills of a peyote-munching soul-wander in silver lake. this album is power-pop perfection, the paisley underground finally done right. *"timeless songwriting & overdriven guitars, sounding like the more trad-oriented moments of your favourite dinosaur jr albums"* - *boomkat*. *holy mountain*

**thom yorke : the eraser mxs** (import) this japanese release collects all the 12' remixes of the tracks originally found on yorke's debut solo album 'the eraser'. the radiohead frontman asked several of his favourite artists & producers to remix these tracks (burial, four tet, the field, cristian vogel, the bug, modeselektor, various, surgeon) & the results are as bold & visionary as the originals. [xl](#)

**mv & ee with the golden road : drone trailer** (cd/lp) matt 'mv' valentine & erika 'ee' elder return with some more psych-folk-drone ponderings, that owe more than a little to neil young's crazy horse. any country folk leanings take a turn for the squiffy as atmospheric noise peppers the songs supplied by the golden road that features doc dunn (pedal steel, guitar, harmony), mike smith (bass, fender rhodes, harmony) & james anderson (drums, engineer). here they explore their unique mix of lunar raga & astral string band music, covertly jamming such as on opening blast 'anyway'. highly recommended for fans of sunburned hand of the man & six organs of admittance. [dicristina stair builders](#)

**alaska in winter : holiday** this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> release from brandon bethancourt. since his move to berlin, he appears to have picked up the bpm a little. if creative output can directly be linked to our surrounding area then this might explain why his first album, recorded in alaska, was a little less electronic & didn't feature any vocoders. 'holiday' is an electro feast for the ears! full of arpeggiated synths, drum machines, the aforementioned auto tune (now referred to as "doing a kanye", previously known as "doing a cher") & old chum zac condon of beirut. we're not gonna lie - it is a bit on the cheesy side but somehow it works. maybe it's the child of the 80's coming to light but give it a go & might just have you doing the robot. [regular beat](#)

**eagles of death metal : heart on (special edition)** this special edition release of the 3<sup>rd</sup> album from jesse 'boots electric' hughes & josh 'babyduck' homme (queens of the stone age), aka eagles of death metal (or 'pigeon's of shit metal' as one axl rose once affectionately dubbed them), features bonus extra tracks. it's the usual serving of devil-garage-blues-scuzz rock that doesn't disappoint - the hits are hot & the music is magic. "*as danceable as ever, but they've tiptoed away from straight musical pastiche, crudding up their blues boogie with low-fi fuzziness & oddball percussion*" 4/5 - [rolling stone](#), "*qotsa may be rock at the edge of the abyss, but 'heart on' vaults right over, taking flight on an updraft of woozy audacity & shuddering riffs*" 4/5 - [spin](#). [worlds fair](#)

**v/a : b-music: drive in, turn on, freak out** (cd/lp) all hail finders keepers! a merry troop of crate diggers have once again joined forces to create a compilation of psyched out global treats. label owners andy votel & dom thomas compare their rare & obsolete treasures with the likes of david holmes, cherrystones, chris geddes, chris 'the judge' arthur, lady j & keith d'arcy, culminating in 20 mind blowing 60's & 70's vintage vinyl discoveries from as far & wide as turkey, greece, iceland, korea, poland, japan, pakistan & iran. "*the good folks at b-music never fail to entertain & enthral, unearthing material that would otherwise surely be relegated to the clean-room conditions of collectors' vaults. marvellous*" - [boomkat](#). [finders keepers](#)

**the bird & the bee : ray guns are not just the future** los angeles residents inara george (daughter of little feat's lowell george) & super producer greg kurstin, join forces for their 2<sup>nd</sup> full length album & even though 60's pop influences like the bee gees & burt bacharach still run through their sound, the presence of brazilian psych from the tropicalia era permeates the songs. mix in a healthy dose of bossa nova, a few synths & a love note to dave lee roth & what you get is a feist-like, smile inflicting, slice of girl-boy, whimsical pop that hides a darker element. "*like trained chefs injecting foie gras into mcnuggets, both musicians seem to savour veiling darker, more avant-garde music in trite cocktails engineered for mass consumption*" - [timeout chicago](#). [blue note](#)

**circlesquare : songs about dancing drugs** having set up home at trevor jackson's output recordings between the years of 1999 & 2006, jeremy shaw, the man behind circlesquare decamps to k7 & produces an album characterised by the seemingly mutually exclusive properties of wistfulness & hedonism. this release finds a point of crossover between electronic pop music & minor key, guitar driven songwriting, with tracks sounding like opiated rave-ups, early bleep techno chopped & screwed or shoegaze in an electric exoskeleton. an impressively ambiguous body of work, this is an album that's still trying to work out whether it wants to head for the dancefloor or be left alone, in a state of soul-searching reflection. for fans of magnetic fields, fujiya & miyagi & the darker side of synth pop. "*beautiful even in its bleakness*" 4/5 - [uncut](#). [k7](#)

**v/a : money will ruin everything 2** (2cd & book) originally planned as an update & slightly revised edition of the long deleted 2cd/book of the same name released in 2003 to celebrate 5 years of rune grammofon, this has now turned into a completely new & quite gorgeous book. completely redesigned with new art from kim hiorthøy, photos, video stills, used & unused sleeve art & a complete discography, as well as essays on the musical & visual profiles of the label. the musical content is also very special, with 2 cds of exclusives from the likes of supersilent, susanna & the magical orchestra, arve henriksen, nils økland, deathprod, shining, humcrush, ultralyd, food / nils petter molvær, maja ratkje, box, svalastog & all your other rune grammofon favourites. a serious treat! "*a very, very, beautiful item indeed*" - [boomkat](#). [rune grammofon](#)

**khan of finland : s/t** this band are anything but a run of the mill trio. its players are : singer can 'khan' oral (channelling the spirit of michael hutchence), human beat-box mark boombastik & classically trained pianist boris bergman. this is one of many projects can oral has dipped his fingers into & is perhaps best known as dance producer 4e. this album seems to demonstrate a lighter side to the man & shows a deft touch in picking the right people to work with to create original 80's tinged electro-pop. [im single](#)

**action beat : the noise band from blechley** if improvisation's your game, then action beat might just be the name. this ramshackle touring machine of a band have a natural aversion to order & quote influences such as sonic youth, the ex & glenn branca - the culmination of this being a mish mash of noise & no-wave punk involving at least 3 guitarists, saxophones & as many as 4 drummers for their live shows. *"if you like driving melodies, frantic guitars & gargantuan crescendos crashing into your eardrums with the ferocity of spazzed out teens in a moshpit, you're going to have a fucking awesome time"* 8/10 - [rocksound](#). [truth cult](#)

**black tambourine : complete recordings** fans of the vivian girls, crystal stiltz, wavves et al, take note...these 10 tracks from the highly influential lo-fi washington band who disbanded in 1991 (only 2 years after getting together), are brilliant slices of explicit shoegaze pop influenced by the jesus & mary chain (of course), but also folks like phil specter, smokey robinson, love, the ramones, the shop assistants, the pastels, 14 iced bears, orange juice.....& the list goes on. formed in 1989 as a side project by members of whorl & velocity girl, the group soon recruited their mate pam berry (later of the shapiros) as vocalist & released a handful of singles. recommended. *"if there's any justice, black tambourine will see their name inserted into revisionist histories of american independent rock"* - [pitchfork](#). [slumberland](#)

**nadja/atavist/satori : infernal procession...& then everything dies** (limited) split release from the canadian shoegaze / droners nadja (aidan baker & leah buckareff), manchester doomers atavist & the electronics/dark ambient act satori. each act offers up 1 long track which results in 36 minutes of music. nadja's shoegazy ambient influences deliriously collide with huge drone riffs amidst a kaleidoscopic swirl of loops, distortion & whispered, reverbed vocals. leah buckareff's bass work provides a solid bedrock on which aidan baker constructs a fantastic opium-haze palace of dreams, which manages to seem both imposingly heavy & devastatingly fragile at the same time. atavist open with a slow, gentle instrumental intro, before hurling themselves into slamming doomy riffs & the ferocious growled vocals of matt bartley. satori are the wild card, offering nothing in the way of guitar-based rock, but plenty of dark ambience, distorted vocals & ever thickening layers of noise. an ambient doom extravaganza! [cold spring](#)

**prurient : the black post society** in the world of extreme noise, dominick fernow (aka prurient) is revered as being its dark master. from the shadowy corners, he forces music that could easily be simple, throwaway distorted jams but he somehow turns them into so much more. his mixture of early 80s industrial music, pure new york noise & misanthropic black metal has made him a singular character in the scene, avoiding comparison with genre champions wolf eyes or even merzbow simply due to the fact that when you play a prurient record it can only be the work of one man. according to the record company sales notes, 'the black post society' embraces & accepts the depression of not having anything left to hunt. probably doesn't help much eh? basically, this is black industrial / power noise - nihilistic drones & beats filtered through walls of noise. it's a great modern intro to power electronics from this highly respected us act. [cold spring](#)

**jean on jean : s/t** molly schnick, ex-out hud cellist, dusted herself down after the band split up, got herself some home recording gear & went about finding her own sound. 3 years later & with the name jean on jean, she has let her thoughts & feelings congregate into a personal album full of strings, acoustic guitars & layered vocals, like colin blunstone's 'one year' or judee sill's 'heart food.' like those records, the lyrics are personal & are focused on the highs & lows that go along with any major change. [kanine](#)

**cotton jones : paranoid cocoon** michael nau & whitney mcgraw dwell under the mountains of cumberland, maryland. nau's previous output came in the form of indie rock outfit, page france, but this is a whole different kettle of fish. they create a wooziness that mixes tremolo guitar, whirling organ & reverb drenched vocals as if to mirror the freedom they enjoy in their natural habitat. nau & mcgraw's voices draw each other out of a contemplative melancholy & into a state of amazed gratification as the music shimmers with simple, understated perfection. for fans of devendra banhart, vetiver & james jackson toth. [touch & go](#)

**hunches : exit dreams** as this looks set to be the last album for the hunches, those in the know lament the loss. those just discovering the portland quartet's cacophonous garage rock prepare yourselves....it's a veritable melee of vicious guitar savagery & lo-fi freak-out fugginess. however, one is left wondering how the band crammed such pop into the noise cavalcades. few bands of the past decade can claim to be a true garage band...the hunches take that genre & blast it into real scuzzville invoking the same demons as the psychedelic stooges, electric eels, rocket from the tombs, velvets, cro-magnon etc. & conjure up a truly amazing wreck. *"[the hunches] blast extremely hard, post-core, thrash-noise chunklets into the cramps' platonic framework, add vocal weirdness, strange raunch-ballad action & really knuckle the whole mess into a bloody pulp & the result are one helluva beautiful wreck"* 4/5 - [mojo](#). [in the red](#)

**robert pollard : the crawling distance** there are those artists who after a respectable amount of time, slow their careers down to a near stand still. then there are those who just keep battering away, not content to be judges on their former achievements. robert pollard (guided by voices) falls firmly into the later category. this is a topsy turvy album that mirrors pollard in that it doesn't stick to one theme. from the stately krautrock chug of the album opener, to the schizo-frenetic closing track, with its structural u-turns piled on top of tempo shifts, the crawling distance is unlike any pollard release yet. highlights include the gorgeous 'it's easy', a rare pollard ballad (albeit a ballad with creepy, oddball imagery) & 'the butler stands for all of us', a subtle, melancholy song that ranks among pollard's best ever. [guided by voices, inc.](#)

**colossal yes : charlemagne's big thaw** the 2<sup>nd</sup> album from the side project of comets on fire drummer uttrillo kushner. conceived with the help of legendary diy producer chris knox (kiwi legend behind the tall dwarves), the album uses the piano as the main instrument, combining simple melodies & basic structures whilst reawakening the pop aesthetic done piano man style. along the way he pays respect to songwriters like robyn hitchcock, dan bejar of destroyer & alex chilton, while also incorporating the honesty of graham nash's songs for beginners. kelly stoltz produced, kevin ink engineered & comets cohort ben chasney (six organs) mixed. [ba da bing!](#)

**v/a : adventures in sound** across post-war europe, composers like the young german, karlheinze stockhausen, the romanian-born architect, iannis xenakis & the frenchmen, pierre schaeffer & pierre henry began to seek out new ways of organising sound & looked to science for inspiration. these composers constructed their music according to widely differing philosophies, systems, formulae & beliefs, driven by a hunger for new sounds & soundscapes that pointed the way towards a world in which there was no place for the horrors of war. listening to the music represented here, there can be no doubt that their pioneering work proved an inspiration for future generations of musicians & producers. a great compilation that explores thoroughly the origins of electronics, found sound & musique concrete. [el](#)

**sad lovers & giants : epic garden music** sad lovers & giants originally formed in 1981 & produced alternative pop music, a psychedelic post-punk sound. the guitars chimed above atmospheric keyboards held together by a rock solid rhythm section underpinning very accessible song writing & the strong haunting voice of singer garce. after their initial split in 1984 interest in the band grew at home & abroad prompting them into reforming in the late 80s & producing several more great albums but 'epic garden music' is the best starting point. this cd includes the early singles as well as the indie chart hit mini album itself, making it a perfect document of the band at this time as well as acting as a stunning introduction. think chameleons, early cure & latterly, bands like interpol. [cherry red](#)

**snake corps : spice very best of 1984-1993** tristan garel-funk formed snake corps in 1984 out of the ashes of the (then) broken up sad lovers & giants. he recruited singer marc lewis & started a successful musical partnership that lasted the best part of a decade. the music was as direct as it was beautiful, dark as it was accessible. the band had a harder edge than tristan's previous project but retained his distinctive guitar sound at their heart. although never breaking through in england, at the time they attracted much attention abroad & sold well not just in europe but also all over the world. they have continued to sell records & attract new fans long after their early demise. this is a long overdue revamp of their 1996 best of. [anagram](#)

**donovan : a gift from a flower to a garden** the 5th album from donovan marked the first double album of his career (released as separate albums in the states), & one of the 1<sup>st</sup> box sets in rock music. released in 1968, the recording sessions resulted in 2 albums aimed at different generations, with a remarkable array of themes. 'wear your love like heaven' was essentially a pop rock album aimed at the present listeners whilst 'for little ones' was a gentle folk/blues inspired acoustic album aimed at the 'dawning generation', denouncing the use of stimulants & drugs in favour of a nice spot of meditation. there is no doubt that this album stands the test of time & will strike a wistful chord for fans of both the era & donovan. [emi](#)

**buddy holly & the crickets / ritchie valens / the big bopper : winter dance party** this is a special issue cd commemorating the 50th anniversary of 'the day the music died'. it was late january, 1959, when the tragic 'winter dance party began'; a gruelling 24 day tour of the mid-west by a rock 'n' roll revue which included buddy holly & his group, j p 'big bopper' richardson & ritchie valens. poorly funded & inefficiently organized, the tour began as a disaster & steadily got worse, with a motley succession of clapped-out coaches being the only transportation provided to the artists by the booking agency. 11 days into the tour & facing another tortuous 400 mile road trip to the next venue on a freezing bus, holly decided to charter a plane after their unscheduled appearance at clear lake, iowa. he & the 2 other headliners took off for fargo, north dakota, in the teeth of a blizzard during the early hours of 3rd february 1959... it was a date that would come to be known as one of the darkest in the whole history of rock 'n' roll. [el toro](#)

**hawkwind : astounding sounds, amazing music** atomhenge, the home of hawkwind's catalogue from 1976 to 1997, begin their series of definitive reissued editions of these classic albums with the release of 'astounding sounds, amazing music'. the album, originally released in 1976, marked the return to the band of robert calvert who would be a major influence on the creative direction of the band lyrically & as vocalist. including such classic tracks as 'steppenwolf' & 'reefer madness', this reissue has been re-mastered from the original master tapes (a first for any cd issue of this album) & features previously unreleased mixes of 'back on the streets' & 'the dream of isis' along with the 1976 single 'kerb crawler' & 'honky dorky' as bonus tracks. "a nice complement to the early, groundbreaking hawkwind oeuvre" – [allmusic](#). [atomhenge](#)

**hawklords : 25 years on** (2cd) hawkwind released this album under the name of hawklords for legal reasons as there was a dispute over ownership of the name 'hawkwind'. the album, originally released in 1978, was dave brock & robert calvert's vision of a mechanised society that perfectly embraced the influence of the musical new wave, to deliver one of the most effective albums released during calvert's tenure with hawkwind. this expanded edition features a bonus cd with live recordings by the sonic assassins from 1977 & previously unreleased recordings from the album sessions. including such classic tracks as 'psi power', 'flying doctor' & '25 years', this reissue has been remastered from the original master tapes. "one of the last truly great hawkwind-related albums" – [allmusic](#). [atomhenge](#)

**joe jackson : live at the bbc** joe jackson was one of the pioneers of the leading british-based artists that challenged the punk scene & brought a new wave sound to the united states in the late 1970s. this compilation of recordings is taken from the bbc's archives & provide a valuable caught a snapshot of the artist at the start of his career & charts his phenomenal rise to success. [spectrum](#)

**frank turner : love ire & song/the first three years** (2cd) frank turner's 'love ire & song' is now available with 'the first three years', a collection of past releases, b-sides, live tracks, outtakes, & unreleased tracks. [xtra mile](#)

## dance/electronica

**hudson mohawke : polyfolk dance ep** (cd & 12') ace ep of stuttering instrumental hip hop from glasgow's fresh-faced former dmc/itf turntable champ hudson mohawke. he's responsible for spearheading a movement of next generation beat music that has exploded from glasgow recently (also see rustie, wireblock, luckyme, numbers). whilst definitely taking cues from one prefuse 73, hudson adds a pop sensibility to the mix with his use of sped-up vocals making this, in places, a joyously bouncy affair. similar in style to fellow label-mate flying lotus (with whom, incidentally, he has been touring), this is super fresh, off-kilter blip-hop at its wonkiest best. a very limited release & pre-cursor to his album that will follow in the summer this year. fans of clark & flying lotus should check this. "he does for hiphop what aphex twin did for techno" - *mixmag*, "the genre-defying artist at the front of a new wave of experimental hip hop" - *dazed & confused*. [warp](#)

**lukid : foma** after completing a thoroughly uninspiring music technology course in leeds, a despondent luke blair returned to north london with some big decisions to make. instead, he avoided them & immersed himself in a world of daytime tv, late-night beat-making & 24-hour existential dread. inspired by obsessions with artists such as can, madlib, theo parrish & autechre, thus lukid was born, spending many a lonely night hunched over his midi keyboard, layering up wonky beats & squeezing out woozy chords. in 2007, he released his astonishing debut 'onandon', built with equal parts cologne minimalist machine-click techno & the low swing of detroit's latter-day mix of cross-pollinated hip-hop, soul & house. now, with his 2<sup>nd</sup> offering, he introduces a darker insight into his crumbling environs, a haunting tale of deep south conversations with a studio one foundation. you won't already need to be in love with the languorous beat constructions of madlib, dabrye, flying lotus, samiyam & their like to find yourself gently but emphatically knocked flat back by 'foma' but if you are a lover of any of the aforementioned, this is an absolutely essential listen - deep, heavy, righteous wares, not to be missed! highly recommended! [werk discs](#)

**telefon tel aviv : immolate yourself** the chicago-based electronic duo of charles cooper & joshua eustis conjure up tensely programmed beats, proding puncture holes in the warm synth washes they layer together. the melody is carried to the fore on this, their 3<sup>rd</sup> full length album amidst filmic, narrative inducing tunes. the vocals act as an accompaniment to the rest of the compositions, swathing in & out indecipherably, adding more texture to an already rich sonic palette. for fans of cut copy, apparat & junior boys. "if you're seeking an album to keep out the winter chill, you could do worse than to wrap yourself up in telefon tel aviv's sumptuous head music" 4/5 - *guardian*. [bpitch control](#)

**claro intelecto : warehouse sessions** this cd compilation marks the end of mark stewart's 'warehouse sessions', with all the tracks in the series re-mastered at berlin's dubplate studio. the 1st 12' in the series was released back in early 2006, designed, honed & tweaked for the floor with a shift in focus towards more stripped-down & minimally constructed 4/4 variations, with the headier end of the warehouse in mind. it's all fairly restrained until the half-way mark when things suddenly go deep under the influence - a live session of warbling dub stabs fed through a widescreen echo-chamber, making for a low-end psychosis that's just devastating. utterly essential minimal dub-infused techno at its best, essential purchase! [modern love](#)

**mr oizo : lambs anger** quentin dupieux - better known as mr oizo - is a committed crazy, not so much in terms of his mental health, but in terms of his leftfield electronica. ever since his debut album 'analog worms attack', the electro iconoclast has insisted on forging his own unique style based on saturated sounds, multi-layered collages & rudimentary rhythm boxes. mr oizo's sonic experimentation has verged on the autistic at times & thus successfully kept the mainstream public at arm's length - perhaps that is, until now. this album sounds like his most accessible to date, at least by his standards. highly melodic in places, dupieux serves up bleepy techno & electronica that is weird & wonderful in equal measure, making use of a full palette of buzzing beats, distorted synths & the odd bit of white noise. dance music is a better place with mavericks such as this around. "dupieux is capable of immaculate laptop pop" - *uncut*. [ed banger](#)

**lithops : ye viols!** lithops is the solo disguise of jan st. werner, known for his work in mouse on mars, microstoria & his most recent collaboration with mark e smith & andi toma as von sudened. this is a selection of installation soundtracks assembled from several recent exhibitions & can be seen as background noise for a visual utopia : a recombined industrial iconography of spatial adventures, futuristic collages & phantasmagorical scenes. in layman's terms this is an abstract, garishly glitchy, melodic, discordant slice of electronics that covers a considerable breadth of ground as an exercise in exploratory, avant-garde composition & makes for quite a show reel for st. werner's talents in terms of composition & production. ever a playful & inventive soul in dance music, this is definitely a rewarding listen for the more adventurous ear. [thrill jockey](#)

**studio1 (wolfgang voigt) : s/t** following last year's 'nah und fern', which collected & effectively canonized the 4 albums he made as gas, kompakt commemorate another significant chapter in the, until recently, undersung career of wolfgang voigt. whereas gas espoused a very dense, romantic kind of ambient 4x4, the tracks voigt made as studio 1 were pure snap-to-grid minimal techno & together with moritz von oswald's work as maurizio, are often credited with inventing modern-day minimal. there's a brightness & clarity to these reductionist productions which means that even 13 years on, they still sound very much of the future ; needless to say, they laid the groundwork for kompakt itself, which voigt co-founded in 1998. the studio 1 moniker alludes to the studio one & for good reason : while voigt's tracks stay well clear of the echo chamber, they do have a remarkable spaciousness which owes a conceptual & practical debt to kingston dub innovation. [studio1](#)

**v/a : hospital mix 7 – mixed by danny byrd** the drum & bass mix series that just keeps giving! it's lucky number 7 & danny byrd comes from bath with love to deliver the goods. rolling through both the big tunes of 2008 & serving up a glimpse of things to come with a few exclusives, this 25 track mix has enough energy to get your circulation flowing through the coldest winter months. all styles are on offer here, with one thing in common - quality. danny byrd's mixing is fast & furious but with a consideration for harmonics & timing that's on point. as the credit crunch bites & post-christmas wallets are running on empty, this is a top dollar mix with a bargain basement price. [hospital records](#)

**b12 : b12 records archive vol. 3** hugely influential early techno/electronica pioneers b12 continue their archive plundering to bring us volume 3 of their re-mastered back catalogue, this time collecting up the original 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> releases on b12 records. these 2 eps continued the new era in uk techno at the time & forged a solid & unforgettable path that ran throughout techno music in the early 90s (& has since become the digital signature of the artificial intelligence age). a must for fans of the early warp sound & the roots of techno as we know it today. [b12 records](#)

**v/a : chloe - live at robert johnson** with their 10th anniversary in 2009, the robert johnson club in frankfurt has seen some of the most creative djs & producers in house & techno furnish the cosy 450-capacity venue. long-time resident chloé ignites live at robert johnson – a unique 4 part series of live recordings direct from one of the most mysterious, yet highly esteemed clubs in the world. parisian dj chloe is one of today's most gifted electronic musicians & leading club dj's. a key member of france's kill the dj collective/label, she has remixed the likes of junior boys, scratch massive, avril & others. her mix ranges from the bizarre beauty of dj koze, sis's summer crasher 'orgsa', the floor raising ruckus of samim & michal to larry heard's house classic 'spinal tap'. *"robert johnson is a place where the anarchy of molecules gets fertilized by the sound & thus become a wave of collectivistic, mutual & physical exchange"* - ricardo villalobos. [live at robert johnson](#)

**shinichi osawa : the one** (2cd) shinichi osawa, japan's biggest selling dance artist, releases his acclaimed album in europe. also a globally respected dj, with a remix cv that could rival the best of 'em (including the likes of digitalism, felix da housecat, boys noize, mighty dub katz, alex gopher, popular computer & the whip), osawa churns out a tuff & dirty style of electro house that is prime dancefloor fodder for the rave kids. this being a 2 disc affair, you get the album on disc 1 & the remixes on disc 2. skills! [southern fried](#)

## h i p h o p

**diplo : decent work for decent pay** when wes pentz released his debut album, 'florida', back in 2004, he was a relatively obscure dj & producer from philadelphia. however, through his tireless efforts as a dj unearthing new dance trends from around the world (in particular brazil), he's become a go-to name for production & remix work for some of the most exciting acts around. 'decent work for decent pay' provides an overview of what diplo has been up to for the last 4 years & reading the tracklist, you realize the extent of his influence. spank rock, m.i.a., css, bonde do role, hot chip, black lips, kano & peter bjorn & john all get the diplo treatment here, as well as some exclusive diplo tracks never before released. a hyper-charged party starter make no mistake! [big dada](#)

**dalek : gutter tactics** 5<sup>th</sup> album from one of the heaviest & viciously original hip hop outfits around right now, dalek are proof that genre-blending doesn't necessarily entail genre-blanding. investing hip-hop with an experimental edge & an ear for sonic extremity, weaned as much on sabbath, mbv & faust as the brutalist bricolage of the bomb squad, mobb deep & wu tang, 'gutter tactics' is a liberating crawl through sewers - sonic & metaphorical. the outfit's trademark bipolar personality (mellow vs aggressive, ethereal vs earthy), is reconciled into a single sonic entity, with oktopus & mc dalek's inimitable flows getting deeper & more truthful/painful than ever, exposing the night side of the psyche with an articulate rage. *"ceaselessly confrontational & intelligently so, serving up a singularly dark vision of modern hip hop. highly recommended"* – boomkat. [ipecac records](#)

**dj harry love presents ramson badbonez : the official mixtape volume 1** new mixtape from uk hip hop stalwart harry love featuring the considerable vocal talents of up & coming mc ramson badbonez. ramson grew up under the wing of the mighty taskforce family honing his battle skills & supporting them on numerous shows up & down the country. these years of training have led him to become a fearsome mc, his relentless flow & complex rhyme styles covering topics of everyday life, gaining him a solid reputation as one to watch. meanwhile, harry love, who's been on the scene for many years, confirms his reputation as a hip hop producer at the top of his game. [boombox](#)

**v/a : soul jazz presents fly girls** (2cd / 2 lp) soul jazz really excel at this sort of thing : 'fly girls!' strives to give an alternative history of hip hop by charting the cultural ascendance & evolution of the female mc. spanning over 4 decades, this double cd features a stellar line-up of female artists who have all defined hip-hop over the years, including roxanne shante, tanya winley, queen latifah, sweet tee & more. the album covers all areas of female rap & includes female hip-hop, old-school, electro & miami bass from the 80s, 90s & beyond as well as proto-rap from sequence (featuring a young angie stone) & nikki giovanni (from 1969). alongside classic artists & cuts, there's plenty of rarities, obscurities & unknown but great female emcees. another essential soul jazz comp! [soul jazz](#)

**dj gone : kung fu presents sin city** having been fully involved with the uk hip hop scene for many years now, kung fu have cajoled their main man dj gone into compiling & mixing this album featuring exclusives from uk heavyweights including taskforce, million dan, mystro, poisonous poets, tb, charlie sloth, m9, ti2bs, sincere, jargon, ric branson, malik (md7), big deal, mr drastick, big ben, faith sfx, wretch 32, teef & ramson badbones. [kung fu](#)

## soul/funk

**lafayette afro rock band : darkest light (best of lafayette afro rock band)** a conglomerate of us musicians based in france between 1971 & 1979, the lafayette afro rock band was originally formed as the bobby boyd congress in 1970 before escaping the crowded us funk scene to relocate to france a year later. their limited output has endured as underground favourites for vinyl collectors & as a significant source for samples, turning up on records by everyone from jay-z to aimee mann. this compilation tells the story of the band from their early days as 'ice' including the key tracks from their 2 landmark albums 'malik' & 'soul makossa / voodounon' & also features tracks recorded under one-off pseudonyms for the japanese market, crispy & co. & captain dax. as ever, strut have lovingly packaged this with a 12-page booklet with sleeve notes & rare photos. [strut](#)

## jazz

**charles mingus : a night at cafe bohemia / pithecanthropus erectus** (2cd) taken together, the cafe bohemia & pithecanthropus erectus recordings capture an important juncture in the career of charles mingus, this being the moment when he established a formidable musical identity as both composer/arranger & bandleader. formerly a strip joint, cafe bohemia was located in new york's greenwich village & such was its ambience, that a number of classic jazz albums were recorded live from its comparatively small stage. a few weeks after the café bohemia performance & taped in just one day, the 4 tracks chosen to make up 'pithecanthropus erectus' now amount to an undisputed jazz classic & kick-started a recording career that, over the years, saw mingus creating many milestone releases for atlantic, candid, columbia & impulse. [giant steps](#)

**the blue note 7 : mosaic - a celebration of blue note records** the legendary blue note label turns 70 this year &, in the 1<sup>st</sup> of several celebrations, this album sees 7 current blue note stars revisit the hard bop songbook. trumpeter nicholas payton glides through herbie hancock's 'dolphin dance', pianist bill charlap pulls out all the stops on monk's 'criss cross', steve wilson & ravi coltrane play tight harmonies on horace silver's 'the outlaw' & everyone gets a shout on mccooy tyner's lovely 'search for peace'. a great way to kick off the label's birthday shenanigans & celebrate the best jazz label around. [blue note](#)

**david s. ware : shakti** ware's 1<sup>st</sup> new studio recording in almost 6 years & his first with a new working group since his highly esteemed quartet disbanded. with a recording like 'shakti', it's sometimes not possible to take the entire recording in, no matter how much distance is taken. ware's sound, like that of coltrane, can be daunting at times. like coltrane he has explored the outer reaches, done ballad sessions & here, sets his sights on india. the spiritual side of this record cannot be denied. the title track may be his 'a love supreme', transporting through distinct sections that raise the spiritual & the sanctified. *"those who enjoy the music of david s. ware will easily relate to this excellent recording of his new music concept, backed by equally extraordinary players who perfectly understand his vision & purpose"* – [allmusic](#). [aum fidelity](#)

**humcrush : rest at worlds end** humcrush are percussionist thomas strønen & keyboard player ståle storløkken, perhaps best known for their work with food & supersilent respectively. this is a varied live work that melds improvisation & electronica into something that sounds both contemporary & intriguingly original. capturing the polyrhythmic skills of strønen in all their many-tentacled glory, along with storløkken's freakish, day-glo synth lines, the real surprises come during quieter, more sensitive moments. on prior albums we scarcely got to hear the stately experimentation & zen-jazz found on the likes of 'rest at world's end', nor have we previously encountered the echoic waifishness of 'airport'. consequently, despite this being a live album, these tracks actually make for a more varied & dynamic album sequence than you might have heard on the previous 2 studio efforts. *"a wonderful stimulus to the imagination"* – [bbc](#). [rune grammofon](#)

**full blast : black hole** this is free jazz improv at it's most unrelenting. michael wertmueller's drumming is fierce & uncompromising. not a beat is left to suffer in silence as the bass of marino pliakas looks set to rupture at any moment. the real star here though is peter broetzmann : with his variety of wind instruments he contorts every note possible to an inch of it's life. not for the faint hearted! *"to say 'they don't simply shake the eardrums, they pierce them right through'"* – [tom sekowski, gazeta](#). [touch & go](#)

**miles davis : kind of blue – legacy edition** (2cd & dvd) to celebrate 50 years since the original release, this 2cd & dvd set features the original album, alternate takes & a 17 minute live performance from holland of 'so what'. the dvd includes a documentary, tv performance, radio interviews & photo gallery. an essential upgrade! *"kind of blue isn't merely an artistic highlight for miles davis, it's an album that towers above its peers, a record generally considered as the definitive jazz album, a universally acknowledged standard of excellence"* – *allmusic*. [sony music](#)

## blues

**v/a : when girls do it** the cd debut of red lightnin's much-loved & long deleted ground-breaking double lp of 1971. 28 rip-roaring blues cuts from across the 60s, with out-&-out rarities & classics from the likes of buddy guy, ike turner, jimmy mccracklin, magic sam, junior wells & a whole heap of herbert's you'll have wished you'd have heard of before now. there's over 75 minutes of cracking groove-ridden stuff here, lovingly packaged & featuring all of the weird & wonderful strangeness of the original gatefold artwork too. [broadside](#)

**v/a : murder theft & devilish deeds** quality compilation of 23 criminal classics about murder, theft & devilish deeds that inspired the likes of led zeppelin, dylan, nick cave, bruce springsteen, johnny cash, the white stripes, nick drake & others, featuring tracks from woody Guthrie, leadbelly, blind willie mctell, dinah washington, big joe williams, robert johnson, john lee hooker, furry lewis & many more. [righteous](#)

## country

**baskery : fall among thieves** greta, stella & sunniva bondesson are 3 young sisters from stockholm who used to play in a rockabilly group with their dad, but have now gone off on their own, playing what they call 'banjopunk & blues-grass' on banjo, guitar & upright bass, while managing to operate a foot-driven basic drum kit & adding 3-part harmonies. their album was recorded live, with no overdubs & they are at their best when at their most furious, as with the attacking, blues-edged banjo work on 'one horse down', the country rocker 'haunt you', or the stomping & bluesy 'out-of-towner'. elsewhere on the album are more mainstream pop-country pieces with some solid vocal harmonies. all in all then, the "scando dixie chicks" tag isn't entirely inappropriate. *"there's soul & real poise about these girls"* 4/5 - *uncut*. [glitterhouse](#)

## folk

**cara dillon : hill of thieves** following a few years break from music, irish folk singer cara dillon returns creatively refreshed with this, her 4<sup>th</sup> album & 1<sup>st</sup> release on her own charcoal imprint. although recorded at home with her multi-instrumentalist producer partner sam lakeman, this is no lo-fi outing. instead it brims with easy charm & bright playing (fiddle, pipes, whistles) that surprisingly sparkles given that most of the material here is traditional. the lark-voiced dillon finds something fresh in well-worn items like 'spencer the rover' & 'she moves through the fair', rescues lesser-sung delights like the planxty special 'p stands for paddy', & finishes with an unaccompanied 'fil fil' in gaelic. *"pretty much faultless"* – *uncut*. [charcoal](#)

**nancy wallace : old stories** delightful brit folk album from the memory band singer & owl service contributor nancy wallace, who previously recorded an ep of 70s disco anthems, all arranged in a pared-down acoustic style in keeping with her folk background. rather than sounding irritatingly kitsch or like an unnecessary novelty, the 'young hearts ep' actually came across as strangely poignant - largely due to the honesty of wallace's voice & now these same elements light up this excellent debut solo album. 'old stories' combines original compositions with new arrangements of traditional songs & stylistically, there's a decent cross-section here : wallace is equally comfortable with modern string-laden balladry as she is with squeezebox-driven, vehemently old-school numbers. there's something very genuine about wallace & 'old stories' is a fittingly well-crafted album. [midwich records](#)

**the martin green machine : first sighting** accordion problem child martin green (lau) is your host on this truly inspirational big band musical trip for the mind & feet. the green machine chugged into life as a commission piece for last year's celtic connections' new voices series. since then this band of show-stopping fun monkeys have become a formidable gigging entity. wild noise carvings, voices of unspoilt beauty & a brass band shrunken & mutated during their trip through time & space, sit atop a backline of broken beat & ferocious groove. it all bears the stamp of green's idiosyncratic & very creative musical personality & succeeds in pulling together a plethora of stylistic references (folk, rock, dance, ethnic, sampling, you name it), in an original & exciting way that is all his own. *"tirelessly effervescent & creative with outstanding solo features"* – *the herald*. [navigator](#)

**incredible string band : tricks of the senses - rare & unreleased recordings 1966**

- **72** (2cd) one of the most engaging groups to emerge from the esoteric 1960s was the incredible string band, whose unique sound was comprised of haunting celtic folk melodies augmented by a variety of middle eastern & asian instruments. this 16-track compilation of rarities & unreleased music spans 6 years of the group's 8 year life, leaning relatively heavily on their questing & experimental side, with enough tomfoolery for light relief. buried for nearly 40 years in the depths of the witchseason & island records vaults, these tracks form a fascinating alternative history of this much loved band. *"this collection of ones that got away is far from barrel-scraping stuff : a rarities collection to be savoured"* 4/5 - *uncut*. [hux recordings](#)

**emily barker & the clay halo : despite the snow** hailing from the musical & geographical outpost that is bridgetown in western australia, emily barker has followed the popular path of moving to the uk. that her all-girl backing band, the red clay halo, is named after the gorgeous gillian welch song of the same name, gives some clue to her mode of operation. indeed, 'despite the snow' has plenty of acoustic americana to it, but with a sizeable side-order of english folk influences to go. opener 'nostalgia' sees barker muse on her memories of melbourne over strings & accordion, immediately bringing her strong, clear vocals to the fore. 'storm in a teacup' has echoes of the great recent kat flint album & 'sideline' would nestle neatly on a nina nastasia record. a raw & exposed, honest & up-close album that journeys through folk-infused, country-tinged songs with ease. [everyone sang](#)

**v/a : folk awards 2009** (3cd) the 5<sup>th</sup> in an annual series of compilations released to coincide with the bbc radio 2 folk awards. spread across 2cds, all of the nominees are featured, with 24 different artists representing the very best of this vibrant musical scene. the bonus 3<sup>rd</sup> disc includes live performances from the 6 finalists for the 2009 young folk award. scanning the tracklist, you realize how thriving the folk scene is here in ol' blighty, with artists including bellowhead, julie fowles, eliza carthy, seth lakeman, lau & karine polwart all making appearances. young & old sit side by side to marry music & history, paradoxically creating something that taps the zeitgeist & offers a future built on substance rather than fickle fame. [pmd](#)

## world

**v/a : the birth of bossa** brazil in 1958 was in the midst of an unprecedented period of change. as the country seemed to be cresting into the future on a wave of confidence, self-determination, optimism & modernity, nothing seemed to capture that feeling quite like bossa nova. it gave brazil its own authentic voice, built almost entirely from its own multiple traditions. this compilation comprises all of the key seminal recordings including joao gilberto's classic 'chega de saudade' as well as highlighting elizete cardoso's long out of print album 'cancao do amor demais', plus impossibly scarce performances by some famous protagonists including luiz bonfá, os cariocas, sylvia telles, laurindo almeida, agostinho dos santos & more. the birth of bossa covers important early territory that has not been well-documented so far on cd & will nicely compliment any bossa nova collection. [el](#)

## reggae

**peter tosh : legalize it** after years of being overshadowed by bob marley, peter tosh left the wailers to pursue a solo career. released in 1976, 'legalize it' is a bold statement that peter tosh had arrived & was a creative force in his own right. although he explores some issues of spirituality, this is tosh's most lightweight album in the sense that it is his least political. this is not meant as a criticism, in fact, tosh's playfulness & joy only add to the album's charm. he does make political statements (the title track celebrates & promotes the use of marijuana), but they are done with a sense of humour & a melodic infectiousness that belie his sincere concern for the issues. the album's highlight is 'why must i cry', a song that conveys a sense of personal failure when fighting an uphill battle. *"'legalize it' cemented tosh's position as a giant in reggae & the album is one of the best albums of the genre"* – [allmusic](#). [virgin](#)

**peter tosh : equal rights** 'equal rights' was to be the album that propelled tosh to the top of the reggae world, the rival to one time fellow wailer bob marley. he was always the most militant of the original wailers & this album reflects that outlook. whether it's preaching about the unity of the african diaspora on 'african', protesting conditions in south africa on 'apartheid', or giving a more general call to arms on his definitive version of 'get up, stand up', this is a political album, with tosh's voice angry & forceful whilst the music is intricate & distinctive. this version includes a couple of live songs recorded in 1982. a must have reggae classic. *"remains among the handful of best & most influential, reggae albums ever recorded"* – [allmusic](#). [virgin](#)

**improvisators dub meets iration steppas : inna steppa dub** following an explosive meeting after sharing the stage at le printemps de bourges festival in 2007, leeds' dub purveyors the mighty iration steppas, combine with the french based improvisators dub crew at mark iration's high rise studio to produce an album stuffed with bombastic basslines & reckless sound manipulation as one would expect. stylistically, improvisators dub are an unapologetic throwback to the kingston & montego bay sound of the 70s (from king tubby to u roy), whilst iration steppas have a vast experience of playing alongside other sound systems going head-to-head with original mentors jah shaka & jah tubby's. [hammerbass](#)

## vinyl

**susanna : flower of evil** (double lp) the 2<sup>nd</sup> solo album from susanna wallumrød, without her magical orchestra. this release features 12 sublime cover versions of mostly well known songs & 2 susanna originals, all beautifully sung with her exceptional voice & beautifully accompanied by her trusted band members helge sten (deathprod, supersilent) & pål hausken (in the country), with bonnie 'prince' billy guesting on 2 songs. whether it's thin lizzy or sandy denny, black sabbath or nico, lou reed or abba, all are given the very personal susanna treatment. recorded in a studio full of vintage, analog equipment, this is an old school recording of musicians playing & singing together with a bare minimum of compression being applied at the mixing & mastering stage, thus maintaining the natural dynamics of the performance. [rune grammofon](#)

## d v d s

**willard grant conspiracy : bear witness** this dvd contains the complete gig of the rockpalast crossroads show in bonn, plus outtakes & an interview with robert fisher. add some footage from the orange blossom special #9, a 12-page booklet & an audio cd featuring the recordings of the radio bremen sessions from 2006 & there's plenty to keep any willard grant conspiracy fan more than happy. [glitterhouse](#)

**the clash : live in paris 1980** only previously released in japan, this rare live concert features superb footage of the band's 1980 performance on the french tv program 'chorus', featuring the famous line-up of joe strummer (lead vocals, rhythm guitar), mick jones (lead guitar, vocals), paul simonon (bass, backing vocals, occasional lead vocals) & nicky 'topper' headon (drums, percussion), this is a rarely-seen performance that finds the band in career-peak form. [umbrella](#)

## m a g s & b o o k s

**rob gretton : 1 top class manager – the notebooks of joy division's manager**

**1978-1980** (limited edition) this book was published recently by lesley gilbert - rob gretton's widow. it's a collection of rob's working notebooks kept during his time as joy division's manager, condensing 20 notebooks into 1 volume & also contains posters, letters, invoices, diaries & studio notes, dating from august 1978 to late 1980. it's a beautifully compiled, 220-page softback with a foreword by jon savage. *"an essential purchase, not just for fans of the band, but for anyone with big dreams involving music" – independent, "beautifully laid out...really lifts the lid on what gretton did to become so revered...a labour of love"*  
- record collector.

**the wire : issue 300 - february 2009** featuring jeff mills, no-neck blues band, william s. burroughs, martyn, christina carter & more.

**dazed & confused : issue 70 – february 2009** featuring bat for lashes, epmd & the boredoms & lots of unwearable clothes.

## s i n g l e s

### single of the week

**mi ami : echononecho** 12". touch & go

**heartsrevolution : ultraviolence** limited 12". kitsune

**lily allen : the fear** cd & 7". regal

**bloc party : one month off** 7". polydor

**the tunics : cost of living** indie exclusive 7". genepool

**it hugs back / wolfie : stomach worm / ray rumours** limited split 7". too pure

**beck : youthless / half & half** limited 7". xl

**ida maria : oh my god** 7". waterfall

**little dragon : fortune / blinking pigs** limited 7". peacefrog

**mike bones : what i have left** 7". vice

**dan le sac vs scroobius pip ft pos plug won (de la soul) : thou shalt always kill**

12" & 7". sunday best

**fight like apes : tie me up with jackets** limited 7". model citizen

## p r e - o r d e r s

we are very happy to take pre-orders for any titles that you would like to have reserved when they are released. we can usually do this for you from a few weeks prior to release onwards.

this can be especially useful for limited edition albums or 7's which tend to disappear quickly or cd singles which we don't always stock in great quantity. it also means that you will be able to have any freebies that come with the album / single (posters, stickers, badges etc) reserved for you too.

## o r d e r i n g   s e r v i c e

although we do try to cover as many new releases as possible, it will never be possible for us to take everything that is released, so if there is anything that we do not stock, we are more than happy to order it in for you. also, we don't carry a huge range of albums on vinyl but again, anything available on vinyl can easily be ordered in for you at no extra cost.

## g i f t   v o u c h e r s

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