

o u t t h i s w e e k

albums of the week

sleepy sun : embrace (cd & limited 2lp with download code) whether droning madly, spiralling into cascades of infinitely echoing vocals or kicking back with their blissed-out take on classic americana rock, sleepy sun are a band that have really caught our attention. formed in santa cruz & now based in san francisco, this intense sextet have released their breathtaking debut, forged from their intense, free-flowing jams. though they're in the one-time home of psychedelia, it's not san francisco per se that influences their sound – they draw musical inspiration from black sabbath, creedence clearwater revival, can & creation records. like black mountain really kicking back, with harmonica, drowned out vocals & a brilliantly spacey sound. highly recommended for fans of brightblack morning light, oneida or crystal antlers. *"spirited bursts of dark stoner groove" - rolling stone, "hold-your-breath, lurching stoner rock" - portland mercury.* [atp recordings](#)

rock / indie / modern classical

graham coxon: the spinning top (cd & 2lp) the influential & inspiring guitarist releases his 7th studio album which showcases a primarily acoustic set of songs. veering from the straight up nick drake-styled opener 'look into the light', to the pretty 8 minute opus 'in the morning', the jangly finger-picked sunshine of 'perfect love', the menacing thrashes of 'dead bees', the folky blues shuffle of 'sorrow's army', the sing-a-long most-blur-like 'humble man' or the desolate contentment of 'far from everything', this is a brilliantly understated but fulfilling record. there's no rockin' heavy guitar work for coxon to hide behind, so if you can't find the charm in his frequently out of tune vocals, you might struggle to get through this. however, for those of us "tuned" to his tunelessness, this record's an absolute delight. *"coxon finally manages to push beyond his former limitations, ironically by delving back into the tangled underbrush of british folk music"* 4/5 – [independent](#). [transgressive](#)

maximo park : quicken the heart (standard cd / limited cd+dvd / lp) the geordie post-punkers return with their 3rd album, produced by nick cave/grinderman/yeah yeah yeahs producer nick launay. 'quicken the heart' is slightly darker & more groove-based than their previous efforts but overall continues the band's style of lyrically-intelligent indie-rock. at times fast-paced & dark ('wraithlike') yet also reflective & spacious ('i haven't seen her in ages', 'tanned'), it's packed with songs that get lodged in your brain. the limited edition cd + dvd (strictly limited to 2000 copies), includes 'monument', a spectacular 68 minute tour film taken from their sold-out headline show at newcastle metro radio arena, featuring the live performance & backstage footage. *"paul smith offers a tireless & earnest passion in his delivery that's nothing short of infectious, & producer nick launay has finessed the band's knack for great hooks"* – [guardian](#). [warp](#)

cheval sombre : cheval sombre homespun-psychedelic-delicate-druggy-slowcore folk from an outfit that started life as a one-man band back in 2000. this is the 1st official long player from cheval sombre & it sees the addition of song-writer/producer sonic boom of spacemen 3 / e.a.r / spectrum & they are also accompanied by top guest players, luna/galaxie 500's britta phillips (bass, mikrokorg) & dean wareham (guitar). as you can imagine from the background of the contributors, the whole affair has a very tripped out, shoe-gazing, slow folk feel which calls to mind spiritualized in jason pierce's more down beat moments. this is a beautiful melding of drone, psychedelia & american folk with production that adds to the spaced out nature of music, creating a light & breezy atmosphere that is almost impossible to resist. [double feature](#)

dear reader : replace why with funny hailing from the not-so-musically-renowned south africa, this 3-piece band came to being when lead singer cherilyn macneil caught darryl torr's attention at a small acoustic gig. now, with another addition to the band in the form of drummer michael wright, they are proud owners of a 2nd album, produced by brent knopf of menomena fame. there are definite comparisons to be made with the likes of feist, joan as policewoman & laura marling as, like these artists, dear reader shine for their sincerity & heartfelt lyrics offering on one hand sweet melancholy escapist flights of fancy & beautiful melodies, & on the other hand a gritty sense of the complex realities of day to day existence that are reflected in the enviable intricacies & depth of their lyrics & knopf's arrangements. *"simple, heartfelt, folk-flecked song writing" - clash, "moving melodic simplicity" - music week.* [city slang](#)

andrew bird : fitz & the dizzy spells ep quickly following his superb 'noble beast' album, the ferociously talented andrew bird returns with an ep made up of 5 tracks, a mixture of new songs & re-workings of demos from the last album. as ever, the songs here are accessible but reassuringly odd too, with bird's beguiling voice & trademark strings plucked & bowed to perfection. a worthy addition to the bird cannon. *"truly beguiling" - mojo, "brave, bold, funny & impossibly lovely" - q.* [bella union](#)

kasms : spayed amongst a frenzy of press coverage, this is the debut album release from the hotly-tipped london band that features rory ex-of test icicles & rat:att:agg. it would seem that they are making a deliberate attempt to leave behind the flouro-punk associated with their past & instead frontwoman rachel mary callaghan is set on capturing the spirit of goth (a la siouxsie & the banshees) or the experimental no wave output of lydia lunch. they describe themselves as "shriekbeat" & the record flits between being spookily chanting & thudding punk-outs. for fans of neils children, the violets or selfish c**t. *"dynamic, writhing piece of pop, fronted by a new pop banshee"* – [steve lamacq](#). [trouble](#)

arborea : house of sticks this album collects shanti & buck curran's personal favourites from their debut 'wayfaring summer', alongside several new songs recorded in such atmospheric places as "a depression era hunting cabin nestles in the olden hills of western maine" & "the parlour of a 160-year-old cottage". 'house of sticks' continues their exploration of experimental folk & progressive folk rock tradition that began in the 60s & 70s with artists such as the pentangle, john fahey & sandy denny. shanti's voice is hypnotically beautiful, like marissa nadler or a less wispy vashti bunyan & with her unique rhythmic & melodic banjo style & the introduction of her harmonium, along with buck's haunting slide guitar, the duo provide an atmosphere of primitive 'paris, texas' americana meets 'modal visions of the far east'. a captivating & timeless collection of incredibly spare & beautiful songs. [borne recordings / acuarela](#)

mark templeton : inland mark templeton continues his humble electro-acoustic balancing act, using stringed instruments, drums, field recordings & his own voice. fractured vocals, echoes of guitar lines & the distant rattle of drum kits combine to make this set of beautifully restrained songs that sit just the right side of minimal – i.e. not boring or uneventful, just reduced to the key elements required to push the record along at a pleasing pace. employing sensitive processing that plays with stillness & rhythm, this record delivers warm melodies & distorted meanderings that evoke a similar spaced out ambience to that of grouper or fennesz. like modern experimental campfire music, 'inland' retains a subtle folkiness while acknowledging that this campout is only a 5-minute ride from the comforts & technology of the big city & its big machines. [anticipate records](#)

nadja : when i see the sun it always shines on tv canada's aidan baker & leah buckareff create intense, hypnotic, driving ambient doom, combining elements of metal, shoegaze, ambient, post-rock, experimental & neo-classical. now, the prolific duo deliver an album of covers from some of their favourite bands, translating them convincingly into their metal meets ambient language. "*consider this album an exploration of the roots of nadja: everyone compares us to my bloody valentine; codeine & swans were both bands exploring the heaviness of metal without actually being metal; the cure have that lovely, bittersweet gloominess; elliot smith's 'needle in the hay' is simultaneously so simple & so devastating; no one believed us when we said we covered a song from the kids in the hall movie, so we had to get that one to tape; how could we resist the opportunity to cover a-ha's heaviest (but oh so catchy) tune? & slayer is just slayer*". [the end](#)

v/a : teenage (the creation of youth 1911-1946) this new trikont release has been compiled by jon savage – the ingenious & knowledgeable chronicler of musical history. it tells the story of youth culture through songs from 1911 to 1946. the very first chart-breakers - hot jazz, blues, swing & show tunes - illustrate the possibilities open to young people between mass market & independence. he tracked down the precursors of modern youth culture & adolescent enactments in 19th & early 20th century america, great britain, france & germany. this cd follows jon savage's book 'teenage: the creation of youth 1875 – 1945' & many of these songs are mentioned within the text. it stands alone as a listening experience, but also acts as an aural accompaniment to the book. [trikont](#)

youves : cardio-vascular having released (under their previous alias, 'mirror! mirror!') a split 7" with rolo tomassi, a limited edition tape & a solo debut single, the nuneaton quintet are vocal proponents of the independent spirit; like black flag being produced by james murphy but without the steroids & militant dogma. their sound is a wide ranging spastic hybrid of post-punk, indie & hardcore spirit, alive with the fearless folly of youth. lean, aggressive & kinetic, they're an efficient machine, well flexed, high on beer & protein, with a razor sharp sonic focus & steel eyed vision. these frenetic dance-punks have created a visually & conceptually exciting 7-tracker that makes us hungry for more. for fans of foals or dananananaykroyd. [holy roar](#)

stars of the lid : carte de viste soft 2008 (very, very limited) this tour cd was originally released during stars of the lid's 2007 tour & features rare & unreleased tracks spanning the entirety of their career. just 1000 were originally made & only 100 copies were left over for the shops, so get in super quick if you didn't pick one up at a show already! it somehow manages to be both a cohesive album & a perfect encapsulation of their career, with 9 gorgeous tracks ranging from "dirty" ambient (early 90's) to modern classical (late 00's). an essential addition to their catalogue – so much more than a throw away tour cd. [stars of the lid](#)

icy demons : miami ice (uk release) originally released on obey your brain in 2008, this upbeat & wide-ranging 3rd full-length from the chicago/ philadelphia ensemble was a bit of a fave on the stereo when we had it on import. co-founders chris powell of man man (a.k.a. pow pow) & griffin rodriguez (a.k.a. blue hawaii), use an odd assortment of vintage keyboards & ethnic percussion to evoke a past that actually might prove to be the future. as on previous releases, the band's messed up pop music draws on a wide range of musical vocabulary as rodriguez sings of dreams & endurance, alien paranoia, time travel & the western frontier. it's full of addictive bass lines & rhythms that make you want to click your fingers, clap your hands & dance. "*one hell of a unique concoction, like a prog-fusion orchestron gone completely nuts*" – [pitchfork](#), "*one of the most gratifying, intelligent, dogballs-zany acts in modern music*" 4/5- [tiny mix tapes](#). [the leaf label](#)

leona naess : thirteens former flame of one ryan adams (who indeed guests on the album) & touring partner of ray lamontagne, leona naess serves up her 4th album. this is a record of mixed emotions - a 'mixed tape' of sorts. the songs of mourning, realization, muted joy & true giddiness were taken from more than 13 albums worth of songs naess composed during a time after her father's unexpected death in 2004. the variety of moods & lo-fi production perfectly compliment naess' soft, misty voice on tracks such as 'leave your boyfriends behind' & 'learning as we go'. one for fans of fiona apple, catherine feeny & rachel yamagata. "*her most personal record to date*" – [dazed & confused](#), "*plaintive & confiding*" – [the sunday times](#). [polydor](#)

our brother the native : sacred psalms

our brother the native are part of a burgeoning, young michigan underground scene. now in their 4th year as a band, they remain at college, collaborating across states sending material & ideas back & forth across the internet & eagerly learning new instruments. still a collaboration between school friends chaz knapp (20) & josh bertram (19), the 2 musicians have set aside the darker focus of their last album in favour of a return to the jangly folk of their debut. inspired by a love of african, caribbean, middle eastern, balkan & japanese gamelan music, this gentle, fuzzy, lo-fi racket (in the best possible sense of 'racket'), calls to mind hood, rings & charalambides. "strange, magical & hypnotically beautiful" – nme, "a deeply edifying dream-like collage" – losing today. [fat cat](#)

marmaduke duke : duke pandemonium

the self-created surreal musical world of enigmatic scottish duo the atmosphere & the dragon, 2 frontmen better known as simon neil of biffy clyro & jp reid of sucioperro. this is part 2 of a mythological musical album trilogy, performed & produced in 24 hours & mixed by rich costey (muse, mars volta, bloc party). the debut 'the magnificent duke', charted the duke's slow descent into psychosis as represented by 3 differing musical suites - larynx-shredding rock, head-mashing ambient & heart-melting acoustic. in 'duke pandemonium', we see a change : the duke is back & is ready for a party fuelled with decadence, deviance & dancing. "the duke is on his way up...he's george best down the pub, he's sid vicious before the heroin did its job, he's the heart of a bloody good record" – the list. [14th floor](#)

silvester anfang : sylvester anfang ii

following last year's split 7 inch with label-mates burial hex, the band's expanded line-up now includes stef anus (kiss the anus of a black cat), bram (ignatz), clay ruby (burial hex) & father slow (slow tapes pontiff). in the time since the release of 'kosmies slachtafval', silvester anfang have grown into sylvester anfang ii, a more psychedelic beast, a more tangible creature in some ways, but one that still defies & confounds standard classification. taking their cue from krautrock communes of yore, the flemish troubadours present this giant new opus for general consumption. dust off your robes, sharpen the sacrificial blade, order in some trappist beers...& tune into doom-laden instrumental free-folk. [aurora borealis](#)

the soundscapes : freestyle family

debut album from the brazilian-born brooklyn residing brothers rodrigo & raphael carvalho. musically this is indie-rock with a slight tendency to shoegaze & with more than a cursory nod to early period creation bands such as swervedriver & my bloody valentine. full of weaving melodic & angular guitars over hard-hitting drums & hook-laden vocals, the brothers have impressively boiled down their influences into vibrant engaging diy rock that moves the head & the heart. [bns sessions](#)

boothill foot tappers : ain't that far from boothill

fire up the tardis. back we go in time to 1983, when the streets of london are the preserve of dapper new romantics, posing at blitz & spending ozone-frightening amounts on hair lacquer. camden's boothill foot tappers were the antithesis of this 'style over content' ethos. instead, they played hundreds of gigs, often in support of left wing causes but were always tremendous fun rather than preachy. the music was described as 'cow punk' & alongside the pogues, men they couldn't hang & a handful of others, they rejuvenated the live scene. songs drew on traditional roots elements (banjo, fiddle, squeezebox) but injected the diy/anti-authoritarian mindset of punk, leading to riotous live gigs & this, their sole album, which has been packaged with attendant singles & bonus tracks. [cherry red](#)

mick farren : mona - the carnivorous circus

joining the recent re-release of the trilogy of deviants albums is this classic solo album recorded in 1970 by deviants founder & leading counter culture figure mick farren. the album featured the 2 part opus 'carnivorous circus', a montage of music & speech, which includes interviews with a hells angel & steve took speaking about the time he spent in borstal. a work of dark genius, the album also includes farren's unique cover versions of two rock & roll classics, bo diddley's 'mona' & eddie cochrans 'summertime blues'. "not an album for the faint of heart; it should not be played if you can't run away & certainly shouldn't be filed alongside all those other little ditties you have tucked away on the garageland shelf" – all music guide. [esoteric](#)

ozric tentacles : yum yum tree

one of the most influential bands to emerge from the uk's festival scene, the ozrics layer ambient & ethereal landscapes with freeform dub trips, rave grooves & psychedelic progressive rock. for over 25 years, the ozrics have flourished through a number of line-up changes, spawned several side projects (including eat static & nodens ictus), created their own record label (dovetail & stretchy), put out close to 25 albums, scored a hit record & sold over a million albums world-wide. however, the basic motivation behind the band's existence has never wavered - their signature blend of hippy aesthetics & raver electronics with spiraling guitars, textured waves of keyboard & midi samplers & supergroovy bass & drum rhythms continue to this day. [snapper](#)

ben's brother : battling giants

you may not remember ben's brother from last time around (2007's low-key debut 'beta-male fairytales') but his famous mates haven't forgotten about him, with a co-writing credit from natalie imbruglia & guest vocals from jason mraz & joss stone. but while this might sound like a recipe for disaster, sometimes a little fluff is a good thing. *battling giants* is certainly lightweight, but it's polished pop which works rather well, & is infinitely preferable to the pseudo-serious mewlings of, say, the script. at times it feels like this record wants to be something more serious, as on the title track & 'what if i?', but on the whole its sunny disposition is strangely disarming. elsewhere, tracks like 'therapy' & 'she is love' take no risks yet help bolster the idea that *battling giants* is something of a surprisingly enjoyable guilty pleasure. [island](#)

drookit dogs : call the guards brighton's favourite folk/punk band (matt oldfield - vox & guitar, tom edwards - drums, matt white - bass & vox, john hornig - banjo) deliver their highly anticipated 2nd album. "a deliciously unique post-punk sound, all pounding drums & skank-inducing riffs & a good old-fashioned stomp" - the argus, "raw throaty vocals mix well with an aura of jazzy punk; perhaps a cross between the clash, the cure & the pogues" - brighton festival previews. [self released](#)

sleep : holy mountain (special expanded redux edition with bonus material) perhaps the ultimate stoner rock band, the northern california trio's career wafted in & out of focus from within their self-mandated cloud of marijuana smoke. in their short time together, the group issued some of the heaviest, most uncompromising doom metal albums ever recorded, leaving a legend far exceeding the actual volume of their output. since ending sleep, guitarist & vocalist matt pike has found success with high on fire, while al cisneros & chris hakius formed om. their classic album is now re-released with the bonus track 'snowblind', a black sabbath cover version & the 'dragonaut' video. the package also includes rare photos. an essential album for fans of kyuss, om, sunn o))) or ocean. "legends in stoner rock circles, sleep virtually defined the genre...a perfect balance of grooving doom, sabs-style riffage & lumbering dynamics" - kerrang. [earache](#)

bloc party : intimacy - remixed (limited edition) a remix version of the band's highly successful 3rd studio album. 'intimacy', has been remixed by a selection of guest artists, including armand van helden & frontman kele okereke's musical heroes mogwai. the 'phones rip' remix of 'talons' is also the last time producer paul epworth will use the "phones" moniker, the first time being a remix of bloc party's 'banquet'. other mixes come courtesy of herve, we have band, filthy dukes, no age, banjo or freakout, gold panda & more. [polydor](#)

v/a : sun rockabilly meltdown (3cd box set) 107 rockabilly highlights from the hallowed vaults of sun records, acknowledged by fans as being home to the finest rockabilly sides ever recorded. anyone who has thrilled to the sounds of elvis presley's sun sessions is guaranteed to enjoy these recordings. as well as featuring elvis presley & such household names as jerry lee lewis, carl perkins, charlie rich & roy orbison, the set also includes significant contributions from the label's lesser lights, many of who were unfairly overlooked at the time. a comprehensive & authoritative introduction to the label's wealth of rockabilly talent. [charly](#)

dance/electronica

v/a : soul jazz records present - dub echoes (dvd / 2cd / 3lp) accompanying the dvd of the same name also out this week, soul jazz have compiled an impeccable selection of crucial dub cuts old & new to represent the developments of dub over the last 40 years. the set runs from well known standards like roots manuva's 'witness (one hope) walworth road rockers dub' to classic dubs from jamaican originators such as king tubby, lee perry, prince jammy & bunny lee, through to contemporary digi-dub from disrupt & rebel mc/congo natty & dub inspired tracks from the likes of harmonic 313 & cotti. musical worlds collide as we are taken on a lightning journey through dub where francois kervorkian meets jamaican dj legend u-roy & german techno giants rhythm & sound meet cornell campbell. a celebration of all things dub & related, featuring rare classic & new tracks from the pioneers & futurists of this electronic musical form. totally faultless! [soul jazz](#)

junior boys : begone dull care (cd / lp) the 3rd full length from canada's electronic pop duo. taking the name from the 1943 norman mclaren experimental film 'begone dull care', junior boys craft an album full of ideas & intrigue. drawing on a diverse array of influences from early disco pioneers tom moulton & patrick adams to electronic visionaries steve reich & bill nelson, this record is carefully sculpted with lush synthetic layers & intricate vocal melodies. it's more song led than the highly acclaimed classic 'last exit' & will come as a welcome surprise to anyone who found 'so this is goodbye' disappointing. their latest foray into tinted white-boy electro soul still features the vocals of jeremy greenspan & the sculpted beats of matt didemus but this tightly puckered selection of deep-disco fried synthlines & pedigree electro rhythms is far more satisfying than their previous outing. layered, complex but warm beats for dancefloors & bedrooms alike. [domino](#)

laurent garnier : tales of a kleptomaniac (cd / 3lp) the gallic legend effortlessly blends techno, deep house, drum n bass & jazzy funk & transcends styles & genres in a way that only a very small handful of djs & producers have the ability to do. his latest opus 'tales of a kleptomaniac' pushes his already vast musical boundaries further than ever before, showcasing a devilish diversity that has made him one of dance music's greatest assets. from the album's opening track, laurent takes no prisoners with block party chants, handclaps, thundering 808s, lilting horns, screaming guitars, cut up vocals, tribal percussion, film noir soundtrack vibes, huge drums, crushing bass & laidback twisted jazz flavours. the cd has an opendisc application that offers an extra full 55 minutes of original unreleased music composed by laurent. the 3lp features dj friendly long versions of the tracks & a download code to get the album free digitally. [pias](#)

tiga : ciao! musical aesthete, superstar dj, fashion icon & underground idol tiga returns with an electroclash extravaganza. 'ciao' is the 2nd studio album by the canadian which sees him collaborate with his fellow dance peers soulwax, james murphy, jake spears, jori hulkonnen, jesper dahlback & gonzales. with this diversity of sounds, the album encompasses house, minimal, techno to electro & 80s influenced pop with consummate ease & flamboyance. from the single 'shoes', to the club bangers 'what you need' & 'mind dimension 2', the ridiculously named 'sex o'clock' (only prince could get away with such a thing) & the 10 minute modern disco spectacular 'love don't dance here anymore', this is a fun-filled, 80s fuelled dancedathon. [different](#)

v/a : big in the game – dubstep (2cd) don't be fooled by the garish cover, this is not your average megamix commercial dubstep fodder compilation. 'big in the game' has been carefully compiled to showcase the best tracks from the leading producers in the scene at the moment. this 24-tracker kicks off proceedings with the true pioneer of dubstep, skream, with an early production on his own label disguised as dubz 'sandsnake', as well as including the now impossibly rare plate 'bahl fwd', originally released on tectonic recordings. there are also other massive tracks such as the jump up party bass monster 'big headed slags' from caspa, 'natural selection' from the man of the moment marty'n, 'qawwali', the flawless deep number from pinch, the disgustingly brilliant ragga dubstep bomb 'the legacy' from cotti & cluekid & ramadanman's bass bruiser anthem 'carla'. a perfect introduction to dubstep as well as tasty delight for existing fans! [harmless](#)

v/a : fabric46 - claude vonstroke taking the characteristic bump of dirtybird/mothership, including the fresh sounds of italoboyz & voodeux & merging it with the likes of troy pierce's stripped-back precision & the melancholic grace of stimming, 'fabric 46' is the eccentric, animated, wide-ranging sound of claude vonstroke embodied. always maintaining a sense of humour & projecting his playful personality into each transition & groove, it vividly captures the feel of his often imitated - but never replicated - bubbly bass-driven style. tricked out & chopped up to perfection, the 22+ tracks make for an out & out fun collection. vonstroke's set swells & pulses with womps, stomps, climbing basslines & slippery beats - sounds collected from across the electronica map, all housed on one immaculate disc. [fabric](#)

dj vadim : u can't lurn imaginashun long-term ex-ninja tuner & producer extraordinaire dj vadim returns with a new album full of old-school flavoured hip hop, with a hefty dollop of funk, soul & reggae on the side. anyone that knows anything about vadim knows to expect the unexpected & this record has surprises & dopeness in abundance. like all vadim projects, the songs here are fresh, funky & fun. there are reggae rubs, neo-soul & conscious-rap jams that recall q tip or jill scott; experimental gems akin to the work of flying lotus or j dilla. mostly though it's the sound of music being embraced & loved, & of a re-inspired life being lived. *"instead of pretending to be a pioneer of some ridiculous new sub-genre, vadim succeeds simply by putting his stamp on the music he loves"* - xlr8r. [bbe](#)

v/a : live at robert johnson vol. 2 - mixed by prins thomas the versatile disco viking has been said to leave people standing there with their mouths gaping during his dj sets. the 2nd episode of 'live at robert johnson' clearly proves why this would be. this breathtaking 27 track volume 2 from prins thomas is probably the only compilation where you'll find ricardo villalobos rubbing shoulders with steel an' skin ('afro punk reggae dub'), where a playhouse classic from romanflugel performs an acid test in the 'gallery oslo' by kare & the cavemen, where synth-rock by trans am glows like a fixed star, where bjorn torske makes it clear who was the first to polish the norwegian disco ball or where sebastien tellier argues about beard lengths with dj harvey & lindstrom. everything is done live, in one go, so it's almost like you're there. [live at robert johnson](#)

ed rush & optical present... : travel the galaxy meaty production, creepy samples & futuristic soundscapes...these immaculately produced, nasty tracks come from the drum & bass goliaths ed rush & optical. with 'travel the galaxy' they make a welcome return to the devastating feel of their early classic 'wormhole', with a 2009 revision of the sound that uses future beats & razor sharp bass. ed rush & optical founded virus recordings at the end of 1997 to provide a home for their unique sound. both artists are internationally known for their work as producers & djs, with numerous classic releases in the genre under their belts. this is another fine audio assault from the label that has become synonymous with high quality production & originality. one for fans of pendulum, the prodigy, the qemists or noisia. [virus recordings](#)

v/a : fuse presents anthony rother (2cd) belgium's illustrious techno mecca, fuse, employs the german techno & electro specialist, anthony rother, to provide us with a new live mix to add some german techno spice to the already successful series. with this mix, he splices the minimal edged dubs of wolfgang voigt's studio 1, the unmistakable sound of mad mike / ur, the deep dreamlike grooves of ricardo tobar, florian senfter's (aka zombie nation) john starlight alter ego & pig & dan's chugging minimalism whilst taking it all back to the highly polished electro stylings of frank kusserow's remix of la rez's 'wo kommen wir her'. includes an unmixed bonus 2nd cd. [music man](#)

scanner : rockets into the edges of edges robin rimbaud (aka scanner) manoeuvres across fresh terrain that embraces both the traditional - guitar, vocals & string arrangements & the more eclectic - radar transmissions, environmental recordings & found voices. opener 'sans soleil' features michael gira (swans, angels of light) on guitar with rimbaud singing for the first time - his voice hovering through a barren landscape of fragile loops & harmonies. crisp distressed melodies with crushingly fat beats unite in 'pietas ilulia'. 'anna livia plurabelle' paints an achingly melancholic picture & the ghostly presence of william burroughs & philosopher bertrand russell weave their way through some of the pieces, opening into the dark heart of 'yellow plains under white hot blue sky', an epic, almost menacing work. 'rockets' is in equal parts sumptuous & achingly beautiful, sentimental & exploratory - by far his most mature & sombre album. [bine music](#)

man like me : man like me debut album from the troublesome trio that soak up elements of grime, pop, ska, hip hop & electro & churn it into a sizzling summer pop album. catchy, positive & most importantly fun, man like me are brash, loud & straight to the point. for fans of sportsday megaphone, the streets, kid british or audiobullies. *"a hip-hop-indebted swagger-rocker, replete with raspy lyrics sure to stick in your melon"* - the clash. [our time records](#)

marco bailey & tom hades : e=mb2

marco bailey, one of belgium's biggest techno exports, has released a multitude of killer techno cuts. his mixing style & productions are known the world over & he has become one of the biggest headliner names in techno. 'e=mb2' sees marco team up once again with long term studio partner tom hades. at times cinematic, touching on rock influences, electro, minimal & of course, peak time techno, marco & tom flex their collective studio muscle into new twisted forms. from the opening guitar flecked 'adult entertainment' to the hypnotic tunnelled techno of 'blast', the thumping electro bass of 'rhythm is my life', the rolling piano of 'childhood', downtempo subtlety of 'café latte' & the closing 'final arrivals', the duo show a more mature artistic side to their studio work. [m b electronics](#)

digital : spacefunk

what is there that hasn't already been said about digital, one of the drum & bass producers that has maintained a level of quality & integrity throughout his career, be it on photek records, metalheadz, creative source, timeless, 31 records, chronic, innerground or his own phantom audio or function labels? 'deadline', 'waterhouse dub', 'phantom force' & 'spacefunk' are a few of the all time classics featured here, plus plenty more besides. true to his own vision & never bent out of shape by the changing tides of underground fashion, what you get is a rock solid vision rooted in dub, with a high level of technical craftsmanship & always the vibes, right across a string of essential recordings. this collection covers the years 1995-2008 & takes in the artist's personal selection of key works rounding off with the title track. [function](#)

hip hop

recordkingz : heavyweight

uk producer & former member of the creators crew juliano 'recordkingz' creator returns with a new album full of heavy hip hop nodders with a host of quality guests including mobb deep, evidence (dilated peoples), joell ortiz, the beatnuts & guilty simpson amongst others. a crate digger of international repute, juliano plunders his collection to serve some proper fresh underground hip hop that harks back to the golden age of rap music. recommended for fans of dilated peoples, people under the stairs, a tribe called quest & jurassic 5. "it's just this type of honest, hearty underground hip hop that makes 'heavyweight' a true championship contender" – album of the month, [hhc](#). [all city music](#)

soul/funk

v/a : soul jazz records presents miami sound - rare funk & soul from miami 1967-

1974

(cd / lp - reissue) miami funk, soul & disco was dominated by tk records, founded by henry stone in the late 60s. the music on this compilation shows the roots of this miami sound. all the artists & musicians featured continued to work together throughout the heyday of tk records when it produced hit after hit. the artists here include helene smith, miami's first lady of soul, frank williams & the rocketeers (featuring a very young little beaver on vocals), george mcrae's rare-groove classic 'i get lifted' (written by casey finch), timmy thomas' truly experimental track 'funky me', gwen mcrae's classic '90% of me' as well as a host of practically unknown miami artists who never managed to make it outside the city borders! comes with loads of unique original photos & sleeve-notes. "soul jazz have unearthed a funky treasure trove in florida's vaults" – [mojo](#). [soul jazz](#)

el michels affair : enter the 37th chamber

the long awaited album where the soul/funk sound of now meets the classic hip hop sounds of the mid 90s. nyc's truth & soul posse cover the classic wu tang joints. wu-tang's raekwon heard el michels affair's debut 'sounding out the city' & he was so blown away by their "cinematic soul sound" that he contacted the band & arranged a now legendary concert with the group. the success of this (& subsequent) shows led to them inking a deal to record this entire album of wu-tang clan interpolations. led by saxophonist / organist leon michels & producer / engineer jeff silverman, el michels affair began as a loose collaboration of session musicians (including members of top-selling acts sharon jones & the dap kings, the budos band & antibalas) that looked to blend some of the vibrant quality of soundtrack records with the recording aesthetic of early reggae & the rawness of 60's rock. [fat beats](#)

country

gretchen peters : circus girl (best of gretchen peters)

a fantastic 15 track collection from one of the greatest singer / songwriters to emerge from nashville in recent times. it features many familiar songs from her 4 critically acclaimed albums, including 'on a bus to st cloud', 'when you are old' & 'tomorrow morning'. it also includes gretchen's versions of songs that were made famous by others including 'independence day' (a hit for martina mcbride) & 'the secret of life' (a hit for faith hill). [scarlet letter](#)

world

khaled : liberté

khaled, the "king of rai", became a celebrity across europe & the middle east in the early 1990s, with songs that matched the rousing dance music of algeria with western influences that included a swirling layer of synthesizers. produced by martin meissonnier, best known for his work with fela kuti & king sunny ade, this set sees khaled perform a stripped-down acoustic affair with barely an electric instrument in sight (except for some brilliant electric guitar & bass). oriental instruments like the oud, ghaita, dense strings & percussion are matched perfectly with guitar & sometimes piano, to bring an exciting sound that sounds both old & new at the same time. "liberté matches khaled's rasping, soulful & attacking voice against a variety of mostly acoustic settings...the result is an intense, emotional, but often subtle album" 4/5 – [guardian](#). [wrasse](#)

justin adams & juldeh camara : tell no lies 2 years ago, the acclaimed british guitarist & producer justin adams (who's worked alongside finariwen, jah wobbe, nafacha atlas & robert plant), teamed up with juldeh camara, a gambian griot & virtuoso on the one-stringed ritti fiddle, to record the astonishing 'soul science', an album that deservedly won awards for its fusion of rock energy & traditional african influences. now they return with this superb follow up, where the deep roots of african music nourish the raw electric groove of rock & roll, where gnawa spirit rhythms come up against chicago distortion, where snaky n'awlins rhythm has a west london howl & a sahel wail. "this follow-up is even better...the interplay between the 2 sounds almost effortless as they switch from slinky bo diddley-style riffs to rolling blues with an african edge, & quieter trance-like songs. magnificent" 5/5 - guardian. [real world](#)

vinyl

joe gibbs : dub serial first ever reissue of one of the holy grails of dub. pressed only in jamaica in very limited numbers & sold even then at a premium price, 'dub serial' has not been available in any form since it's original 1972 release with copies now changing hands for in excess of £700! this much sought after release contains a crucial mix of primal drum & bass re-workings of then current hits such as dennis brown's 'money in my pocket' plus sound system staples like 'satta a massa gana' & 'he prayed'. [greensleeves](#)

golden silvers : true romance [xl recordings](#)

the horrors : primary colours [xl recordings](#)

john foxx & robin guthrie : mirrorball [hydrogen dukebox](#)

eat skull : wild & inside [siltbreeze](#)

the hospitals : hairdryer peace [meds](#)

d v d

v/a : soul jazz records present - dub echoes soul jazz records journey into dub & beyond. this film marks both the 40th anniversary of the invention of dub & the 20th anniversary of the death of king tubby, the genius legend of this far-reaching musical revolution. 'dub echoes' is an amazing documentary about dub & its influence on the development of contemporary electronic music worldwide. 3 years in the making & featuring an incredible array of artists : both jamaican legends (u roy, king jammy, lee perry, sly & robbie, bunny lee, to name a few), alongside a similarly awe-inspiring array of artists who have taken dub into new directions in electronic dance music in the 21st century (kode9, roots manuva, howie b, adrian sherwood) & many more. directed by bruno natal, this film has already received many awards throughout the world - a killer film that can be watched again & again. [soul jazz](#)

singles

single of the week

the horrors : who can say 7". [xl](#)

sons of noel & adrian : rivers' ep limited 7". [oib records](#)

flying lotus : glendale galleria / joker : untitled [rsn](#) limited split 12". [tectonic](#)

effi briest / telepathe : split v.limited 7". [skinny wolves](#)

the thermals / thao & the get down stay down : split ep very limited 7". [kill rock stars](#)

the pictish trail : winter home disco (hot chip remix) very limited 7", only available in selected shops. [fence](#)

banjo or freakout : upside down ep 12". [half machine](#)

2ndiinone / peverelist / crissy criss : waterfallz remixes v.limited 12". [heavy artillery](#)

broken records : until the earth begins to part 7". [4ad](#)

magic arm : widths & heights 7". [switchflicker](#)

au revoir simone : shadows 7". [moshi moshi](#)

mike bones : today the world is worthy of my loathing 7". [vice](#)

god help the girl : come monday night 7". [rough trade](#)

monkey sons : water off a monkey's back 12". [naked ape](#)

yellow moon band : polaris limited 12". [static caravan](#)

passion pit : the reeling cd. [columbia](#)

depeche mode : wrong 12". [mufe](#)