

NEW  
YEAR  
1998

MICK MAGIC  
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FRIMLEY  
SURREY  
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U.K.  
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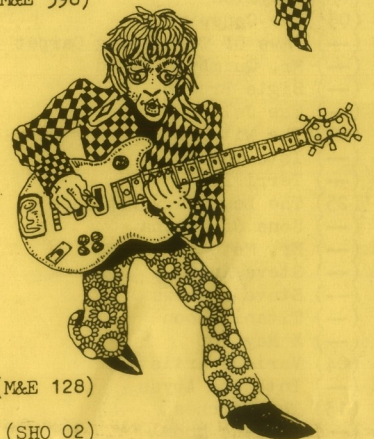


AND THE BEST \$ELLERS OF 1997 ARE;

No. (96)(95)(94)(93)(92)

01	(01)	(01)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Various Artists
02	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	MAGIC MOMENTS AT TWILIGHT TIME Wild Rain
03	(03)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Various Artists The Witches
04	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	The Conspiracy
05	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Titania Moon
06	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Various Artists Mugwump
07	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Strangebrew
08	(09)	(34)	(11)	(24)	(--)	The Witches
09	(04)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Titania Moon
10	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Various Artists Oberon
11	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	The Rabbit's Hat
12	(08)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Steve Andrews
13	(26)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Operattack
14	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Endymion
15	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Anima Mundi
16	(28)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Sanity Assassins
17	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Various Artists Dark Star
18	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Kelektrik
19	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Grass Harp
20	(--)	(40)	(17)	(--)	(--)	Sigis Bruder
21	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	L.G. Mair Jr
22	(12)	(27)	(33)	(--)	(--)	Communication Union
23	(06)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	T.M.R.
24	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Various Artists The Legendary Poptones
25	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Chateau De Fleurs
26	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	This Window
27	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Jaws Of The Flying Carpet
28	(37)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Equinox Revolution
29	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Siela
30	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Mr. Quimby's Beard
31	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Cheapo Card Company
32	(37)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Robin O'Brien & David Mitros
33	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Christ!
34	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	The Jelicons
35	(15)	(--)	(44)	(--)	(--)	Various Artists Cerise Eclipse
36	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Lord Litter & The Lazy Sleepers
37	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Lord Litter
38	(--)	(--)	(18)	(--)	(--)	X Ray Pop
39	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Nova Galaxie Robotnik
40	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Earth
41	(25)	(--)	(16)	(03)	(13)	Stormclouds
42	(17)	(15)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Doctor Brown
43	(--)	(06)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Into The Abyss
44	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Terri B.
45	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Space Invaders
46	(02)	(12)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Steve Andrews
47	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Blade
48	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Scrooge
49	(42)	(04)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Alphane Moon
50	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Cristian Vogel
**	(46)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Troll

- "DECADION" (M&E 400)
- "CREAVOLUTION" (MMATT CD 1)
- "Live At The Square" (M&E 377)
- "M&E Audiozine No.2 - September 1997" (M&E 418)
- "Welcome All To The Solstice Sabbath" (M&E 347)
- "Poison Crawl" (M&E 391)
- "Fazes" (M&E 370)
- "M&E Audiozine No.1 - May 1997" (M&E 399)
- "Life, The Underground And Everything" (MMATT 42)
- "M&E Audiozine No.3 - Distro Special" (M&E 419)
- "In Between Worlds" (M&E 416)
- "Debut" (M&E 369)
- "The Witches" (M&E 214)
- "Slipstream" (M&E 336)
- "M&E Showcase Volume 7 - November 1996" (SHO 12)
- "Oberon" (M&E 396)
- "Error 5" (M&E 408)
- "From Venus With Love" (M&E 359)
- "Early Works" (M&E 360)
- "Endymion" (M&E 415)
- "En Directo" (M&E 379)
- "Sanity Assassins" (M&E 356)
- "Subterranean Psychefest" (SHO 07)
- "Arrival Of The Masters Of Confusion" (M&E 398)
- "Meditative Industrielle" (M&E 376)
- "Meadow Glow" (M&E 393)
- "Leftovers" (M&E 278)
- "Dron" (M&E 395)
- "Where Land Meets Water" (M&E 249)
- "Ghosts" (M&E 337)
- "Better Things Are Electric" (SHO 03)
- "Story Of An Acoustic Dream" (M&E 397)
- "Chateau De Fleurs" (M&E 354)
- "Extraction 2" (M&E 387)
- "Live At The Whipping Post" (M&E 402)
- "Equinox Revolution" (M&E 365)
- "Meeting Own Star" (M&E 320)
- "Mr. Quimby's Beard" (M&E 410)
- "Ointment Makes Am-Ess" (M&E 375)
- "Tree Of Life" (M&E 362)
- "Landscape Gardening With Ian & Myra" (M&E 128)
- "Eye Of The Child" (M&E 417)
- "M&E Showcase Volume 2 - January 1995" (SHO 02)
- "The Amazing Bubble Machine" (M&E 131)
- "Ruff 'Nuff?" (M&E 374)
- "Death Of The Giant Killer Ant" (M&E 373)
- "June '89 Repetitions" (M&E 027)
- "The 'X' Tapes" (M&E 382)
- "Evil Princess" (M&E 371)
- "Psychotronic" (M&E 125)
- "Live At Hebdon Bridge" (M&E 292)
- "The Feathered Snake" (M&E 317)
- "Abstract" (M&E 409)
- "Space Invaders" (M&E 307)
- "Dive In Deep" (M&E 296)
- "The End Of Time" (M&E 392)
- "Die Hip-Hop Maschine Plus" (M&E 385)
- "The Echoing Grove" (M&E 287)
- "Inevitable Technology" (M&E 234)
- "Demo" (M&E 348)

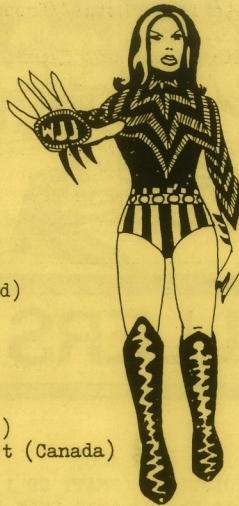


\*\* = two titles tied for 50th position. Compilations not included in numbered places, but are inserted where they would have finished if they had been. Previous years appear in brackets. Groovy illustrations by Robert Chambers, and much appreciated, ta!

# 2) TOP 30 BANDS.....1997

No. (96) (95) (94) (93) (92)

01	(01)	(01)	(03)	(01)	(01)	MAGIC MOMENTS AT TWILIGHT TIME (England)
02	(03)	(29)	(09)	(23)	(--)	The Witches (Poland/England)
03	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Wild Rain (England)
04	(05)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Titania Moon (England)
05	(04)	(02)	(--)	(--)	(--)	The Conspiracy (England)
06	(02)	(12)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Steve Andrews (Wales)
07	(12)	(11)	(11)	(04)	(13)	Stormclouds (England)
08	(--)	(--)	(--)	(19)	(17)	Christ! (England)
09	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Mugwump (England)
10	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Strangebrew (Scotland)
11	(25)	(--)	(07)	(21)	(--)	Dark Star (Germany)
12	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	L.G. Mair Jr (U.S.A.)
13	(06)	(--)	(04)	(09)	(02)	T.M.R. (England)
14	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Oberon (Norway)
15	(09)	(03)	(01)	(03)	(03)	Sons Of Selina (Wales)
16	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	The Rabbit's Hat (England)
17	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Grass Harp (Germany)
18	(28)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Operattack (England)
19	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Endymion (Germany)
20	(21)	(--)	(08)	(07)	(10)	Lord Litter (Germany)
21	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Anima Mundi (Spain)
22	(30)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Sanity Assassins (U.S.A.)
23	(24)	(13)	(--)	(25)	(--)	Jaws Of The Flying Carpet (Canada)
24	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Siela (Lithuania)
25	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Mr. Moto (Germany)
26	(--)	(--)	(--)	(16)	(--)	This Window (England)
27	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Kelektrik (France)
28	(23)	(15)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Doctor Brown (England)
29	(--)	(21)	(14)	(--)	(--)	Sigi Ecker/Sigis Bruder (Austria)
30	(18)	(05)	(17)	(24)	(--)	Into The Abyss (Greece/Germany)



# FEEDBACK '97

No. (96) (95) (94) (93) (92)

01	(02)	(01)	(01)	(01)	(01)	THE ORGAN (England)
02	(10)	(06)	(15)	(--)	(--)	Rock 'N' Reel (England)
03	(01)	(02)	(05)	(05)	(04)	Ptolemaic Terrascope (England)
04	(04)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	T.M.R. Productions (England)
05	(06)	(16)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Sequences (England)
06	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Crohinga Well (Belgium)
07	(12)	(04)	(06)	(06)	(03)	Hawkfan (England)
08	(--)	(14)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Cheapo Card Company (England)
09	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	The Hex Files (England)
10	(05)	(05)	(04)	(--)	(--)	Synth Music Direct (England)
11	(17)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Swordfish Distribution (England)
12	(07)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Hawkzine (Germany)
13	(13)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Hawkeye (England)
14	(23)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Cyrkel Spynn (England)
15	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Wolfram (Australia)
16	(16)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Aquamarine (England)
**	(19)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	That's Magick (England)
**	(03)	(08)	(02)	(04)	(--)	Try Acid (England)
19	(26)	(09)	(09)	(10)	(07)	Guilfin (England)
20	(15)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Steve Andrews (Wales)
21	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	Atropos (Spain)
**	(11)	(03)	(14)	(09)	(--)	Fight Amnesia (Germany)
**	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	(--)	My Way (Germany)
24	(08)	(07)	(03)	(--)	(--)	Electronical Dreams (England)
25	(22)	(--)	(18)	(--)	(--)	Obscure Delight Tapes (England)

\*\* = three sources tied for 16th and 21st positions.  
 Charts compiled based on productive feedback from publicity/plugs/word of mouth, the above being the results of that feedback throughout 1997.

# NEW CHART!!

Right, that's all the "Best of '97" charts out of the way, time to see what's going on smack bang up to date. The new chart is based on M&E sales from 1st September to 31st December 1997 inclusive, natch. But, before we go any further, worth adding a big thank you to everybody in our feedback charts, those good folks who spread the word about the M&E project, thus benefitting every single band involved. Ta, we love yas! Actually, we love everybody who spreads the word, wether they make the chart or not! We always have a couple of hundred bands who appreciate your efforts, trust me. So let's see how them bands have been doing of late, huh? It goes like this, last chart placing in brackets...

01	(01)	VARIOUS ARTISTS	- "DECADION" (M&E 400)...the 10th anniversary best of compilation, 30 bands, 3 hours.
02	(--)	Various Artists	- "M&E Audiozine No.2" (M&E 418)...highlights of the September '97 releases on M&E.
03	(02)	Magic Moments At Twilight Time	- "Creavolution" (MMATT CD 1)...Hawkwind without the boring bits" (The Original Sin)!
04	(--)	Various Artists	- "M&E Audiozine No.3" (M&E 419)...distro special sampler.
05	(--)	Mugwump	- "In Between Worlds" (M&E 416)...Jim Morrison is alive and well and in Birmingham.
06	(--)	The Rabbit's Hat	- "Error 5" (M&E 408)...quality progressive psychedelia with a sense of humour.
07	(--)	Endymion	- "Endymion" (M&E 415)...femme fronted kitsche gothic for the sexually depraved (e.g. me)
08	(03)	The Conspiracy	- "Poison Crawl" (M&E 391)...I bling news 'flom Prymouth! (Flancis Drake, eons ago)
09	(--)	Jaws Of The Flying Carpet	- "Live At The Whipping Post" (M&E 402)...so far off the wall, they're in Canada!
10	(--)	Mr. Quimby's Beard	- "Mr. Quimby's Beard" (M&E 410)...how can an overgrown chin sound this good?
11	(--)	Sigis Bruder	- "Leftovers" (M&E 278)...Oh, Vienna! The amazing Sigi Ecker, nice to see this back.
12	(--)	The Jelicons	- "Eye Of The Child" (M&E 417)...brilliant psychedelic tinged pop from Scotland.
13	(07)	The Witches	- "Welcome All To The Solstice Sabbath" (M&E 347)...evergreen, simply the best.
14	(--)	Into The Abyss	- "The Feathered Snake" (M&E 317)...probably the best progressive gothic rock band ever.
15	(--)	Terri B.	- "Abstract" (M&E 409)...Sade meets Faust, what more can I say. Decidedly different.
16	(25)	The Legendary Poptones	- "Story Of An Acoustic Dream" (M&E 397)...experimental Bulgarians with M. Nomized.
17	(--)	Sons Of Selina	- "Ambition" (M&E 054)...best selling M&E release ever, nuff said.
18	(--)	Mr. Moto & Friends	- "More" (M&E 411)...Matthias Lang indulges in the ancient art of making odd noises.
19	(--)	Steve Andrews	- "Dive In Deep" (M&E 296)...old hippies never die, they just fade away.
**	(--)	Steve Andrews	- "From Venus With Love" (M&E 359)...and their albums tend to travel in pairs.
21	(--)	Titania Moon	- "Slipstream" (M&E 336)...it's 1973, your astral lamp glows, the sequencers begin...
22	(--)	X Ray Pop	- "June '89 Repetitions" (M&E 027)...a major deal and everyone suddenly remembers them!
23	(04)	Various Artists	- "M&E Audiozine No.1" (M&E 399)...highlights of the May 1997 releases on M&E.
24	(--)	Into The Abyss	- "Martyrium" (M&E 202)...the Greeks from Germany return to favour, deservedly so too.
**	(13)	The Witches	- "The Witches" (M&E 214)...the Poles from England are never out of favour.
26	(--)	Alphane Moon	- "The Echoing Grove" (M&E 287)...pleasant electro experimental psychedelic soundscapes.
27	(14)	Various Artists	- "Subterranean Psyche" (SHO 07)...classic double tape set, getting on a bit now.
28	(--)	Communication Union	- "Where Land Meets Water" (M&E 249)...electro experimentalism at it's very best, USA.
**	(--)	Chateau De Fleurs	- "Chateau De Fleurs" (M&E 354)...a fresh approach to strange psyche, Norwegian's would!
30	(--)	Dark Star	- "When Twilight Falls On NGC 891" (M&E 401)...the latest from deep space, CD due soon!

\*\* = two titles tied for 19th, 24th and 28th positions, as per usual, just to stop us having a perfect chart for once. Hmmp. Now, it's worth noting that this will be the last chart of it's type. Ooh, MORE changes at M&E? Well yeah, ever quick to respond to the thoughts of our bands and supporters, change becomes inevitable, huh? The rather transitory nature of the charts has been commented on quite a few times, like how new releases seem to burst in, then vanish. Seeing the sales hands on, I know that's not the way it really is, so the chart needs to change to more reflect reality. I mean, look at the new chart above, 22 out of the 30 are new entries, it's starting to look like the bloody Top Of The Pops chart! Groan! And, inevitably, it's ruled by the various compilations we do, which doesn't really give the bands a look in, which is wrong, coz M&E is actually ABOUT bands, huh? So, the solutions; to alleviate the transitory nature of things, the sales period of the charts will be extended to one year, so the charts will be done as year ending April 30th, August 31st and December 31st. This will also up the value of chart placings as it will make it that much tougher to get in! It should also have the effect of stopping titles entering high only to vanish next time around, giving sales the chance to accumulate. Each individual chart will now have the same relevance as one of our Best Of Year charts has previously. It will also become a "bands only" chart, compilations will be removed to their own little chart, again giving an effect like the Best Of Year chart, where compilations aren't included in the numbered places. We're also adapting things to be able to include distro direct items in the chart too. Overall, we sell many more cassettes than CDs and records, so there will be a loading system to balance that out. Bit complicated, but; total tape sales / total DD sales = X, DD item sales x "X" = figure used for chart purposes. Example; if we sold 100 tapes and 10 CDs - 100 / 10 = 10. DD item sells 3 copies x 10 = 30 sales used for chart purposes. Get the idea? Very crude example. I know, just trust me, it's more complex really!

**OBERON**; Bard Titlestad is putting together a newsletter due out early this year, hoping to spread it via a mailing list to which people can subscribe. It will mostly contain Oberon and related articles, such as interviews, news, special offers etc. Will also highlight areas of music and arts from whence his melancholy world is derived. Sounds interesting. Details from Bard at Makeveien 71, 4048 Hafsrjord, Norway. E-mail on [titlesta@online.no](mailto:titlesta@online.no)

**EYE**; this lot do a newsletter called "Blatant Propaganda", real conspiracy stuff, pharmaceutical company drug rackets, the East Timor conspiracy, arms trade fiascos, plus music reviews and contacts too, what more could you want. Available for 2 x IRC or SAE (inland) from P.O. Box 1327, Woden, ACT 2606, Australia. Articles by Eye can also be found on the following two websites; [www.pnc.com.au/~cafmr](http://www.pnc.com.au/~cafmr) & [www.webweaver.com.au/imcc/](http://www.webweaver.com.au/imcc/)  
**STEVE ANDREWS**; the old hippy is on the Internet now! Site address is; <http://freespace.virgin.net/christopher.swambo/steve/mothership.html>

**MANA ERG**; are sadly no more. A note arrived from Bruno De Angelis saying simply; "...and if you want to know why I've given up music, watch BBC2 on 3rd January at 22:55." So we did. The programme was part of the Video Diaries series, around 50 minutes long, titled "The Secret Diary Of Joseph Erber (Aged 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ )". Joseph is Bruno's stepson, ya see, and an incredibly unique child. He suffers with a form of autism, so he's a bit of a handful, has to attend a specialist school etc. Poor unfortunate child? Er...not quite the whole story...he's also the youngest composer ever to have his work performed by the London Symphony Orchestra! As Bruno put it in the programme; "rain, rain, rain, what am I doing here? I should be in Rome. Instead, I'm looking after this child." Well, I think Bruno has shown incredible courage to shelve his own musical dreams in favour of his stepson, however remarkable that child may be. I'm sure I'm not alone in wishing him all the very best for the future, we won't forget ya, mate! Reprints are from The Radio Times, 3-9 January 1998.

### FACTUAL Video Diaries

10.55pm BBC2  
"The Secret Diary of Joseph Erber (Aged 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ )" - and an insight into the mind of a youngster who is mildly autistic. Joseph Erber is the youngest living composer to have his work performed by a full symphony orchestra and his family is very musical (dad composes, mum's a classical singer - the two are separated). The backbone of his camcorder production is his attempt to win a competition to have a work performed in front of the Queen at the Royal Albert Hall.

Joseph tells it as he sees it; he's a refreshingly open and mature near-teen who has some obvious inner-demons. There's anger in there, too. One of his most telling complaints is that some press reports have portrayed him as a nerd.

**10.55 New series Video Diaries**  
**The Secret Diary of Joseph Erber (Aged 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ )**  
The documentary series of personal video histories begins a four-part run with an insight into the life and thoughts of Joseph Erber, a child with a mild form of autism. Last year, he became the youngest composer ever to have his work performed by the London Symphony Orchestra. **See today's choices.**  
Producer Rachel Foster; Executive producer Bob Long Stereo .....350680

## REVIEW; X-RAY POP

"Baby Speedcock Freak's Army" (2 x CD set; 40:50 + 33:52)  
East West (France) Cat. 3984-20814-2 (Rating: \*\*)

M&E News (September), and here's the double CD retrospective we reported was on the way...already! Very nicely packaged in true XRP kitsche style, like a mini gatefold LP sleeve, all brightly coloured with a monstrosously ugly baby cartoon on the front. Oh, and a rather zany double spread of Didier and Zouka in the middle, looking fit for the visit of men in white coats anytime now.

The first of the two discs is a look at XRP at their best, playing their own particular brand of underground camembert (French and cheesy) pop musik! Those yummy French femme vocals that make the hairs on the back of your neck stand up...ooh...

naughty thoughts...ooh la la! It's not pop as in Kylie, underground pop is a totally different kettle of fish, you don't get all the little synth squiggles in Kylie pop, for example. Pam-Pam came here to visit once, she's much better looking than Kylie too! Big acoustic guitar, catchy little melodies, subtle synth FX. At their best, they are totally irresistible, and there's a fair chunk of their best on this set. Those cute spoken French girly links set my pulse racing, and ya has to be careful at my age! Quite a 60s feel to a lot of the melodies, like Burt Bacharach on psychedelic drugs, and what other underground band could get away with Eurovision style titles like "Ding Dong"??? Oh yes, place tongue firmly in cheek before playing! Lots of reverb on the voices, they could have done that "Underwater Love" song on the cinema adverts, really their style, the original darlings of underground kitsche. Doc Pilot gets to sing a bit too, but no album is perfect, huh? You'll know "DS" and "El Gato" from various M&E compilations, but this album will mostly be a revelation, not matter how many of their tapes you've got.

The second disc is "Cosmofuzz Ballroom", originally a vinyl LP a few years back. I thought it was supposed to be "Balroom", actually, after the French dance style? This is the trippier punkier side of XRP, Noisy reverbed drums, dirty fuzzed guitar, like a psychotronic piss-take of teenypop music. Plenty more of

that sexy acoustic guitar and cute vocals though, mucho dreamy, captured in all it's analogue magic. Punky kitsche pop with spacey synth FX...and that voice...ooh, talk dirty while I play...er...shut up, Magic, you dirty old perv. Ho hum. Classic stuff!

\*\*\*\*\*  
Been given no info on distribution here, but gather it's international. Any problems, let me know. I'll be dropping the label a line soon, see if we can arrange to get it on the distro direct service; East West, 69 Rue De Monceau, 75008 Paris, France. And a note from Pilot; networkers wishing to help promote the LP (radio etc), please contact the label direct as the band hasn't got many promo copies left, thanks.

### DUDE'S DREAMS: THE MUSIC OF MICHAEL MOORCOCK

BY BRIAN TAWN  
WITH LYRICS BY MICHAEL MOORCOCK  
ILLUSTRATED BY ANDREAS STÜWE

A 106pp, A5 sized book about Michael Moorcock's involvement with music, from his teens to the present day. As well as text there are 57 illustrated lyrics, photographs and 6 page discography.

DUDE'S DREAMS is £5.50 including postage within the UK, £6 to the rest of Europe and £7 elsewhere, from Brian Tawn, 27 Burdett Road, Wisbech, Cambs. PE13 2PR



### MUSICAL EQUIPMENT

Caught up recently with Clive "Nobiscuits" Richards of FRAGMENT, a little while back. Still involved with ERICK and other fine musical projects, he's also now a director of a company called Funky Junk Ltd, specialising in the sale of new and used musical equipment (multitracks, outboard, mics, amps, monitors etc etc). Look to be at pretty decent prices too, so worth checking out if you're in the market for a bit of gear. They also have Boffin Island, "the complete repair centre", and God knows we all need THEM at times! It says here "callers by appointment only", so best to make contact first, tell them you saw the bit in M&E News and that you'll expect coffee AND a biscuit when ya gets there (this will only mean something to Clive, the rest of them are quite innocent)! Tel: 0171 609 5479, fax: 0171 609 5483. Website; <http://www.funky-junk.co.uk> e-mail: [sales@funky-junk.co.uk](mailto:sales@funky-junk.co.uk)  
The warehouse etc is located in North London, deliveries can be arranged both UK and overseas, details on application. Will do part exchange. Accepts all major credit cards, cheques, brown envelopes and sexual favours.

And finally, the ever-present plug for the Hopefield Animal Sanctuary, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex. No full postal address given in the November 97 Hopefield Newsletter, so best call 01277 201110 to get all the gen on this one and what you can do to help, how to make donations etc. We're just coming up for the coldest spell of the UK Winter now, so this is the time of year they need money the most, frozen pipes and all that kinda stuff. The cost of keeping 200 animals stabled and fed (and helping them forget the horrible pasts they've all come from) is around £1,000 weekly, not including all the vet's fees! There's all sorts of merchandise you can buy, you can adopt or sponsor animals, join the friendly group, make donations, put adverts (free of charge, natch) in your zines/newsletters, donate raffle prizes, all sorts. Love animals? Give Paula & Ernie Clark a ring, and send them our love!

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# 4 M&E NEW RELEASES!!

And a nice new pile of goodies to start 1998 with...14 new cassette albums, 8 of those by bands new to M&E, then we've also got a huge pile of new stuff in the distro section. Do we spoil you or what? Let's start with the customary sampler to launch the New Year batch then.

M&E 434 (C90 \*\*½) VARIOUS ARTISTS - M&E Audiozine No.4 Features tracks from the new tapes by Titania Moon (England), Zerobranco (Italy), Terri B (England), Wine Dark Sea (England), Eye (Australia), Ras.Al.Ghul (Portugal), Acidfuck (England), Earth (Germany), The Now (England), This Elegant Chaos (England) and Doug Michael (U.S.A.). Also features a new track by M&E favourites Alien Planetscapes (U.S.A.), a totally incredible guitar version of

"The Brandenburg Concerto" by Kev Orkian (aka Kevyn Dymond, U.S.A.), a further guest appearance by Grasp (England), some amazing electric guitar folk from our friend Carlo R. De Shouten (U.S.A.) and a preview track of the mighty Silverskin (England), who'll be coming to M&E later in the year. As wonderful a variety of sounds as you've come to expect from our Audiozines, and all at the specially cheap Audiozine price. Hey, you want jam on it? You got it!

\*\*\*\*\*  
RELEASE OF THE SEASON \*\*\* NEW YEAR 1998 \*\*\* RELEASE OF THE SEASON  
\*\*\*\*\*

M&E 431 (C50 \*\*) THE NOW - "THE NOW" New to M&E they may be, but I've been hearing good things about this crew from Harrow in Middlesex for quite some time. What you get isn't exactly straight forward, so let's take it from the top. The album isn't an album as such, it's a collection of some of their best stuff from the last four years, by way of an introduction to M&E heads. It opens with a veritable wall of sound, very high paced piece of garagey psychrock, mildly distorted vocals, tuneful 60s psyche melody on a powerful grungy 90s groove. But it's not really terribly retro, The Now sound more...well...now! Sure, there's some touches of Status Quo's earlier psychedelic outings in here (Pictures Of Matchstick Men, Ice In The Sun), but there's a much dirtier sound, and we like dirty! Crunchy guitars too, mucho ohugadelic. They've taken Oasis' finer ideas (like their good use of melody) and added many more original ones of their own. Basically, The Now should be the famous band, Oasis should admit they're really just The Bootleg Beatles in disguise. Grungy driving psychepunk (should win a few fans from the Sons Of Selina end of the spectrum), ear bleed lead, fuzzy vox, decidedly groovy. My mum likes Oasis...she wouldn't like this though! Great to hear a modern psyche styled band with some real depth, good blend of influences, accessible enough to hear them doing major radio sessions, subterranean enough for the most hardcore of undergrounders. Get the feeling this is the territory Space Invaders aim at too. Bring back memories of so many of the best psycherock bands from the late 60s/early 70s, then they really pick things up right into today, going like Kula Shaker on acid in places. Take the fine melodic sense of E.L.O., then explode it into the great underground philosophy. Somehow, I suspect M&E have found their new psycherock champions here, watch your back, Neil!

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M&E 420 (C80 \*) CHRIST & SATAN - "Christ & Satan Fill Vol-Au-Vent Cases With Raspberry Jelly And David Bowie" Check your life assurance policy before you think about ordering this...make sure you're covered for eternal damnation. Okay? Right, read on... this is an excellent retrospective set from the mighty Christ! This is like before even we found them sacrificing a goat by the jam counter in Tesco's, way back in 1988. It was a chocolate goat, but it's the thought that counts. Before long, they had us convinced that Jon Gidley was the antichrist and that God loved to sit in the bath watching snooker with a bottle of Newcastle Brown. The rest, as they say, is history. This is a vintage set of delights, back to their college boy days, days of lots of wacky bugging about with delay effects, a grungy Jesus & Mary Chain cover, Lenin is my bus driver, the Bonzos on bad acid, Joy Division on helium, a bit Fausty in places (albeit with that ever British sense of humour, Pythonesque, but in much worse taste), "I Want To Vomit On You", ah, they don't write songs like that anymore. And as a bonus, you get a complete flipside of Philip's solo theatrical soundtracks, all electronic and atmospheric type stuff. Yes, a look back to the good old days before Christ & Satan split, citing theological differences, leaving Christ in the wilderness. Even the hissy quality of some of the very old stuff sounds much better than I remembered, it's actually all very listenable and enjoyable. A real delight for the criminally insane. All together now...Winnie the Pooh has a chainsaw...

M&E 421 (C90 0½) THE CONSPIRACY - "Analogue Retrospective: 1989-96" Seems to be a bit of a fashion for these retrospective sets at the moment, eh? And the Devonshire Dumplings want to get in on the act too, though how they could do a retro set WITHOUT including "She's So Fine" is quite beyond me. Okay, it does include a couple of vintage TC classix, like "Liars In Love" and "Bing Crosby", that almost makes up for it. Covers quite a wide scope of their 4-track recordings, prior to being picked up by Pink Lemon Records. Ya gets bouncy indie pop almost, some psyched out leadwork, some proggy Moody Blues influenced stuff, some nice string sounds, the whole range from very raw 4-track to near perfect studio quality, folk given the psycho grunge handling, swampfolk with bottleneck, The Kinks on valium, 1973 T.Rex...well, they never have been an easy band to categorise. This set is unlikely to win them any new fans, but should be of interest to their existing minions. New material CD due out soonishly on PLR.

M&E 422 (C55 \*½) TITANIA MOON - "Comet Star" And yet another album from the Hertfordshire EM retro duo, whilst we wait for the debut CD via CDS. Strange intro on this, sounds almost gothic! A bell peels, elektroid shuffles sound like footsteps in the Autumn leaves, dark slow synths, electronic timpani rolls, melodramatic doom. Indeed. Ten minutes or so of lilting symphonic EM follows...then one of them vintage Tangerine Dream fast sequences breaks through, Phaedra on amphetamines, retro electronica at it's finest as the title track fills the first side. The flipside is a bit different, first track being a tad new agey (groogh), lots of gentle drifting keys, background piano sounds et al, like a soundtrack from a sci-fi romance. The final piece is nicely weird, an odd sample (I think?), deep and hollow/breathy synth voice, improvisation on wild background, bit of a sequence, but unusual one at that. Another winner, methinks.

M&E 423 (C30 \*) TITANIA MOON - "Analogue Dreams" A little collection of otherwise unreleased material also, they spoil you, don't they? "Homicide USA" sounds like a theme from an American cop show (intentional, I gather), fuzzy bass sequence, polizei sirens, improvised synths, like an electronic Miami Vice, albeit a tad less coherent. "Midnight" is a fusion of vintage TD with the Blade Runner style of Vangelis, decaying phased notes hanging in the air, sort of spacey oriental...and a Red Indian seq! "The Stream" is very watery (no shit?), reminiscent of Edgar Froese's "Aqua", maybe unavoidably. A more musical sequence, tonal xlophone type sound, very relaxing piece, nice. Not recommended for people with prostate trouble though.

M&E 424 (C50 \*½) ZEROBRANCO - "95-97" Ooh, a bit good is this one. They're new to M&E, this crew from Albignasego in Italy, so this compilation of their last couple of demo EPs serves as an introduction to the wonderful world of Zerobranco. My first think was "oh, something very Austrian about this!" Now, it should be said that I regard that as a BIG compliment! Zb do rather have a sound all their own, so let's work through it here...kinda offbeat and funky opening, definately that sense of musical freedom that they excel at in Vienna, Revillos guitar runs, ranted female vocals, muchly kool with a capital K, then switches from off the beat funky to driving kitsche punk. Bits of stop/start/stop, clever, good bass lines, plenty of variety (within songs!), a fair bit of imagination is very evident here. Just when you think you know where the song is going, it'll fly off into some kind of chilled avant garde jazz run, the vocals will go gentle...then she gets cross again, Alessandra lets rip, stamps her feet and throws a tantrum..."Ernesto!" She screams, "Bastardo!" I think Ernesto's in big trouble, if I was was him I'd hide in a nice cosy cupboard. Boy, that latin temperament, and mummy says when I grow up I'm going to be a PROPER little madam! Great voice though, very stylish, gets some real passion and venom into it. The music is very quirky, plenty to listen to, bit of a hard edge too, much more than a basic backbeat provided by the drummer. Alessandra's vocal deliveries top it all, great stuff.

M&E 425 (C30 \*\*) WINE DARK SEA - "Wine Dark Sea" This crew from North London are a bit different from M&E, but boundaries are for wimps, right? They perform a kind of dancey (almost) material that draws much from the era of the elektroid new romantics. Been getting some very enthusiastic responses on the pre-launch publicity too. Take the modern dancey beats of bands like The Prodigy/Chemical Brothers, maybe not quite at such a rave bound pace though, add some filthy grunge electric guitars and dirty synths. then a voice that reminds me of someone who was famous once, think it's Nik Kershaw? There's some touches of the

Cocteau Twins in here, just add the dance element, shuffly Portishead beats and some dirty noise bursts. The singer would fit in well with a lot of mainstream new romantic bands, got some real quality in his voice, nice to see him doing something more adventurous with it! This does have some crossover potential, no doubt, wild enough for subterraneans, but probably enough in the vocals and rhythms for clubber types too. Wonder how them strange dischordant sounds, booming distorted bass and squawking sax would sound over a club PA? Pretty damned good, I suspect. Good blend of nice and nasty. Some fine drum samples, some excellent sounds effects, kinda trippy in places. Unusual combination of influences here, quite an original result.

M&E 426 (C45 \*½) TERRI B - "Open The Box..." (from the Stone Premonitions co-operative) One very talented young lady from County Durham returns with another offering to follow "Abstract". I think this is a much better example of her talents too, not quite so jarring as the last set, you get more chance to settle inside Terri's mind and soak up the scenery. The album opens with eerie vocal chorales, then glides into "Menage A Trois" that you'll probably know from The Rabbit's Hat's "Error 5" album (she sings with them too), kinda like Fleetwood Mac's "Dragonfly", free flowing psychedelia. On through ethereal multi layered guitars, reminiscent of the work of Phil Cordell (Springwater), ornate and trippy. An Indian rhythm links into "Think", jungly dancey rhythm ensues, delightfully dippy hippy stuff. There's such a lot of imagination here, spooky poems on spooky backing tracks, quirky funny things (what is this girl on? where can I buy some?!). "Girl Power" is like Jefferson Airplane meets The Spice Girls, Terri can be Hippy Spice, chunky latino rhythm, lots of girly harmony vox, semi talked lead, love the wacky Durham accent, she'll have a fishy when the boot comes in. Didgeeridoo, pitch-shifted vocals, an unhealthy obsession with rabbits, vintage kitsche psycho that Syd Barrett would have been proud of. Many reminders of Curved Air too, particularly the "Phantasmagoria" album, lots of harmonised and processed vocals. Somehow, you just want to sit Terri on your knee and read her bunny ghost stories.

M&E 427 (C55 \*\*) EYE - "..." From Woden, A.C.T, Australia, they came...David Vincent has seen them...now he just has to convince a disbelieving world that not all Australians carry wobble boards and sing "Tie Me Kangaroo Down, Sport". Why, I'm born again, I had no idea that anything THIS radical was going on down under. Even our friends down there tell us it's all doom metal and bugger all else. If Eye are "bugger all else", gimme more! This came really really close to getting "Release Of The Season", missed by 0.4%! Very hi-tech sound here, not a didgeridoo in sight, some beautiful synth sounds, muchly fast tekbeats, Gary Numan on helium vocals, propaganda-laden politico lyrics. Tis manic teknoid indeed, very weird and quirky, these guys have a sense of humour too, guess you need one when Rolf Harris is your countryman. Our sympathies, guys. Technology, I love it, some utterly amazing sound processing, has to be heard to be believed, trust me. Grungy guitar riff, just like metal, this is "The Vivisector", sounds like Robert Palmer on heavy tekdanz, incredible! These guys do drugs. Something very psychotronic about all this, ravey psyche, boomy roly-rolly drums, nothing thrown randomly into the mix here, tis all done with loving precision, care and all. They definately give a XXXX! Do it through headphones, I did, not quite recovered yet. Clever and mega inventive, so much in it, you miss too much out through speakers. The second side opens with a luvverly Eastern Bazaar ambience, excellent sequencers, out of this world sounds, manic drumming, powerful backbeat bass drum, rather strange vocals, stop/start bits (show offs), classy, really have a style all their own. Love them squidgy bass seqs, analogue sounds (bet it's not though) with much VCF travelling, oh, the beauty of 16-track digital recording systems (bastards)! "Kadoish kadoish kadoish, adonai tseybeyoth...", come on, why aren't you singing along? No, this band are NOT a teknoid dance band at all, that's just the first element you come across...and it misleads you...completely! The most original band I've heard from Australia in my life, brilliant!

M&E 428 (C40 \*\*) RAS.AL.GHUL - "Ras.Al.Ghul" At long last, a Portugeuse band on M&E! Those of you who've been with us for quite a while may remember the old SPH label from Oerias, Portugal, run by Fernando Cerqueira? Well, this is the same guy now, but back with a band, and a warm welcome home to him. Guess you could class this as "world music" of the ambient dance strain. Easy pace percussion, very natural earthy sound, tablas and all sorts, add synths and samples and ya gets decidedly groovy chill out room sounds. Mind you, it's pretty tribal too, so great for jumping round your living room if the desire takes you! There's some really superb percussion on this album, jungly beats, all chop chop busy busy work work bang bang like, not ambient all the way through, plenty to aggravate your toes as well as bring joy to your aural receptors. Effective Indian samples, quite an Asian feel throughout really. And, as natural as it all sounds, there's some cleverly employed technology in here too. Oh yes, this would go down a storm at festies, a muchly enjoyable album.

M&E 429 (C55 \*) ACIDFUCK - "Cranial Drift" And another former label man now playing with a band, this one being Kev Trundley, formerly of The Trundley Experience, from t'far north in Cleveland. So it's not Acidfuck like "duck", it's Acidfuck like "book". By 'eck, thee looks reet gorgeous t'night, pet. "Sex and drugs and acidfook", starts the voice, chanting away merrily, it's not funny, I have to address envelopes to these people! An elektroid swell builds and in comes the beat, kind of tekno-rock, pounding away like Holland/Skin/Tunnel, all manner of odd noises get thrown in, does yer 'ead in! Acidfuck? Wouldn't wanna trip to this, too scary! Probably not the best...er..."romantic" accompaniment either! The second track is real bang-grind-squidge stuff, such things as nightmares are made upon, possibly not the best material to get junior off to sleep. Backwards rhythms, forward beats, synths, samples and major brain damage. Spacey synths, elektrobeats, muffled drums, then clarity is NOT the Acidfuck scene. It's more like organised chaos, noise piles upon noise, creepy, atmospheric, time to renew your ear insurance policy. Clips from The American Institute Of Mental Health (they must be a seriously busy organisation!), maybe you could be helped by them if this is the sort of album you spend your money on? Final track coming up, cotton buds employed to stem the flow of blood from my ears, it's rave time...fast fast go-go boogie, yes! Jump around, do silly things with your arms, leave the curtains wide open, so what if the neighbours think you're a total wassock? Ear crunching sounds, nasty boys. Here, granny, have a listen to this...har har!

M&E 430 (C45 \*½) EARTH - "Supernaut" Aka Wolfgang Errdmann, hailing from Neu Isenburg, Germany. Driving guitar based rock of a distinctly spacey progressive psyche nature. And this time, a bit rockier than usual, which can't be a bad thing. The attention is drawn away from the leadwork here, leaving you more time to peruse the asteroid itself. Journey on through some gentle bits, proggy bits, flanged electric guitars and soft drumbeats, picking up to a more conventional rock-it beat, great for posing in front of the mirror with your Fender Stratanorak Airguitar Mk.IV. Plenty of Wolfie's trademark twin lead, nicely harmonised for that intriguingly pleasant dischordant effect. Ghostly keys and electronic maracas, echoed "has anyone got some spare undies" sounds in the background, garagey spacerock, nice synths, vintage electronic voices. Well, you know Earth!

M&E 432 (C45 \*) THIS ELEGANT CHAOS - "The Virtue Circle" Another new band to M&E, this lot hailing from the West Midlands, the land that gave us "Crossroads" (the motel soap opera, not the Cream song). The intro threw me off the scent completely, afro percussion a-la John Kongos??? But the scene soon sets itself, bright guitar sound, elements of that Britpop stuff, albeit a tad more grown up. Ever tried reviewing an album while you've got a cat determined to get on your lap and dribble on your notes? Ta, Tilly, you useless chunk of fluff. There's a bit of a 60s feel to this (yes, fuck the cat, I'm persevering), complete with vocal harmonies. Guess you'd call it "pop" loosely, though I honestly don't mean that as an insult, this is pretty good stuff. Small touch of The Doors maybe, The Who (60s incarnation), couple of tracks sound like The Beautiful South, but fortunately, they are very UNtypical of the album in general! The album picks up some steam as it goes, gets a bit dirtier (nice), bit more balls, Blue Oyster Cult meets Jim Morrison, touch of Jefferson Airplane tunewise, those kind of harmonies and song constructions. Get a bit heavier and psychier in some places, sound like Chumbawumba in others, quite an enigma are This Elegant Chaos..."60s guitar pop" just wouldn't say it all, then that's why we do those M&E Audiozine samplers!

M&E 433 (C60 \*½) DOUG MICHAEL & THE OUTER DARKNESS - "Collections 1993-97" Another new kid on the block, muzo/composer from Antioch, California, U.S.A., Doug Michael solo. This is a nice collection of Doug's instrumental work from the last few years, by way of an introduction to M&E supporters (he's already pretty well known Stateside). Doug works alon coz he finds band work too formulated and constraining, he wants to be able to do whatever he wants to do, as it were, and the spirit of adventure shows here, quite a variety. Doug plays guitar, keyboards and bass (all very well) and programmes everything else. So how to describe it? Hmmm, progressive electro-instrumental, jazzy elements, modern feel? Let's move on...funky drumbeat and piano riff, a thinking man's Jan Hammer, elements of Black American jazz fusion, Norman Connors, rock touches, very snappy leadwork, fair variance within tracks, imaginative, stylish movie soundtrack material. Orchestral synths, Spanish guitar, atmospheric, exotic, dark keyboards, off the wall avant garde touches, bluesy wailing lead, sombre sub-latin, melodrama. Extremely accomplished? Yo!

6

STAR RATINGS;

ORDERING

- 0 = an album of some merit, we don't release anything that don't make the grade!
\* = an album that sticks out from the crowd a bit, leaving Averageworld behind.
\*\* = oh, this is getting pretty damned good here, an album that borders on Specialworld.
\*\*\* = starting to get seriously exceptional now, fewalbums get this far, so glue it in your tapedeck!
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Table with columns for Country, Currency, and Rate. Includes Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Eire, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, U.S.A.

Oh dear, what can I say? Mucho apologies, I know the strength of the UK Pound is making it a bit pricey to order from overseas at the moment. The US Dollar is the only currency that's held it's ground since our last list in September 1997, sorry! It's not only you foreign types losing out, promise, we're losing overseas orders coz of it too, sob. But, on the plus side, it's nice and cheap for us Brits to pick up imports on the distro service at the moment. Every cloud, as they say! It gets better...

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RALF OLBRIICH - "Read Between The Lines" (CD LP - Ebu's Music, Germany) Anywhere - DM 25 or £8.81
THE RABBIT'S HAT - "Take Good Care" (CD LP - Stone Premonitions, UK) Anywhere - £11.00
RELIGIOUS OVERDOSE - "Flatus Flow Rate" (CD LP - Far Out Records, Switzerland) Switzerland - SFr. 16,70 or £7.27 / ROW - £8.70
SCHMERTZ DER WELTEN - "PostNDWopphardcoreschlager" (CD LP - Ebu's Music, Germany) Anywhere - DM 25 or £8.81
SCROOGE - "Happy What Else" (CD LP - Trost, Austria) Austria - Sch. 210 or £10.49 / UK & Europe - £10.49 / ROW - £11.49
SIGIS BRUDER - "Leftovers" (CD LP - Trost, Austria) Austria, UK & Europe - Sch. 210 or £10.49 / ROW - £11.49
SIN ALBERT - "Sin Albert" (V EP - Digital Recording, Croatia) Austria, UK & Europe - Sch. 73 or £3.65 / ROW - £4.75
SLEEPY PEOPLE - "Typhoid And Swans" (CD LP - Edgy Records, UK) UK - £11.00 / Europe - £12.00 / Elsewhere - £13.00
SONS OF SELINA - "Nour D'Oui" (CD LP - Delerium Records, UK) UK - £11.00 / Elsewhere - £13.00
SOUND INHALER - "Proletariat Technology 1-4" (CD EP - Activex Records, UK) UK - £4.35 / Europe - £4.79 / USA - £5.49 / ROW - £5.99
STORMCLOUDS - "Nightmares In The Sky" (CD LP - Rainfall Records, UK) Anywhere - £10.00
DIE TRAKTOR - "Thanksgiving" (CD EP - Ebu's Music, Germany) Germany or anywhere - DM 13 or £4.58
THE VENUS FLY TRAP - "Dark Amour" (CD LP - Soundbuster Productions, Germany) UK - £13.00 / Europe - £14 / Elsewhere - £15.00
DIE WELTTRAUMFORSCHER - "Sideria" (CD LP - Ebu's Music, Germany) Anywhere - DM 25 or £8.81
VARIOUS - "SMD Compilation Disc 1" (CD LP - Synth Music Direct, UK) Anywhere - £2.00 (confirm two pounds, not a misprint)
VARIOUS - "Down Under Ground Volume 2" (CD LP - TOAN Productions, Australia) Australia - \$15.00 or £6.13 / UK & ROW - £6.94
VARIOUS - "Is There Anybody Out There?" (CD LP - Synth Music Direct, UK) Anywhere - £2.50
VARIOUS - "Orchestra Meccaniche Italiane" (CD LP - Snowdonia, Italy) Italy, UK & Europe - £24000 or £8.52 / USA & Asia - £9.40 / ROW - £9.93
VARIOUS - "Outbreakers 1 - Guitar Compilation" (CD LP - Ebu's Music, Germany) Anywhere - DM 17 or £5.99
VARIOUS - "Outbreakers 2 - Elektro Compilation" (CD LP - Ebu's Music, Germany) Anywhere - DM 17 or £5.99
VARIOUS - "Zona Libera" (CD LP - Zona Libera Records, Italy) Italy, UK & Europe - £24000 or £8.52 / USA & Asia - £9.40 / ROW - £9.93

Okay, I'm a bit behind with getting some of these CDs and records reviewed, sorry! There will be a Distro Direct Supplement out by the time you get this, including detailed reviews of all the above, so just ask for a copy if you'd like one! Also worth noting that there are M&E Audiozine special C90 samplers featuring tracks from the above available for £2.99. Time out...