

# CLOSE TO THE NOISE FLOOR

## Formative UK Electronica 1975-1984

Excursions in Proto-Synth Pop, DIY Techno  
and Ambient Exploration



**April 29<sup>th</sup> 2016 on Cherry Red Records (CRCDBOX24)**

*\*\* Detailed and concise history of the origins of electronica in the UK \*\**

*\*\* 4CDs, 61 tracks, 9,000 words of artists' sleeve notes and essay by Dave Henderson (MOJO) \*\**

*\*\* From household names (Human League, OMD, Blancmange) to underground oddities and outsiders \*\**

*\*\* Part primitive rave, part synthesiser porn, part history lesson! \*\**

Two years in the making, *Close To The Noise Floor* is the first comprehensive excavation of the grass roots origins of electronica in the UK.

Enthralled by the mysterious electronics of Pink Floyd, Hawkwind and German Kosmische artists such as Tangerine Dream and Cluster, and inspired by the DIY ethos of punk, a quiet electronic revolution took place across the UK in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The rise of the microchip quickly enabled countless knob-twiddling one man bands and fully fledged pop groups, and in grubby bedsits, unremarkable living rooms and art school common rooms, electronica was born.

The underground, fuelled by cassette exchanges, co-operative compilations and a vast mail order network, quickly began to stretch the boundaries of sonic experimentation - sometimes noisily, sometimes tunefully and sometimes wilfully inaccessibly, but always in the spirit of progress. In the shadow of punk's cunning regurgitation, this music pursued something truly modern. Where the guitar struggled to leave behind its 12-bar roots, this sound had no roots, and no rulebook. This was a lawless new landscape, where anything could and did happen.

Featuring tracks from key figures of the underground alongside early releases by future hit parade regulars, *Close To The Noise Floor* explores every corner of this under acknowledged chapter in our musical history. For proto synth-pop look no further than 100% Manmade Fibre and Spoon Fazer, whilst British Standard Unit and Five Times Of Dust lay out swampy four to the floor templates and Alien Brains and Storm Bugs push their synthesisers to the outer limits. Elsewhere, the smoking music of Zorch and the electronic sound collages of A Tent sit comfortably alongside early offerings from more familiar names – Blancmange, The Human League, OMD, John Foxx and Throbbing Gristle among them - in over four hours of futurist, modern music.

And who better to tell this story than the artists themselves.... *Close To The Noise Floor* features over nine thousand words of artist written sleeve notes, archive photographs and extracts from Dave Henderson's legendary 1983 *Wild Planet* overview of the entire scene.

As modern electronica rediscovers its lo-fi roots, let's explore these pioneering artists and immerse ourselves in this must-hear music of a kind we're unlikely to hear again.

For more information please contact **Matt Ingham** at **Cherry Red Records**  
**Cherry Red Records**, Power Road Studios, 114 Power Road, London, W4 5PY  
[matti@cherryred.co.uk](mailto:matti@cherryred.co.uk)

020 8996 3120 / 0779 0871 339

### DISC ONE

1. **Five Times Of Dust** *Computer Bank*
2. **The Klingons** *R.A.M.*
3. **Chris & Cosey** *Re-Education Through Labour*
4. **Malcolm Brown** *Sedation Strokes*
5. **Storm Bugs** *Little Bob Minor*
6. **Thomas Leer** *Tight As A Drum*
7. **Blancmange** *Holiday Camp*
8. **Inner City Static** *Fractured Smile*
9. **We Be Echo** *Sexuality*
10. **Bourbonese Qualk** *God With Us*
11. **Nagamatzu** *Faith*
12. **O Yuki Conjugate** *Disco Song*
13. **British Electric Foundation** *Optimum Chant*
14. **Kevin Harrison** *All Night Long*
15. **Voice Of Authority** *Stopping And Starting*

### DISC TWO

1. **Colin Potter** *I Am Your Shadow*
2. **British Standard Unit** *D'Ya Think I'm Sexy?*
3. **Five Times Of Dust** *The Single Off The Album*
4. **Spöön Fazer** *Back To The Beginning*
5. **Gerry And The Holograms** *Gerry & The Holograms*
6. **The Passage** *Drugface*
7. **John Foxx** *A New Kind Of Man (Alt Version)*
8. **100% Manmade Fibre** *Green For Go*
9. **Those Little Aliens** *Sentimental*
10. **Final Program** *Protect And Survive*
11. **The Human League** *Being Boiled*
12. **Instant Automatons** *New Muzak*
13. **Cultural Amnesia** *Materialistic Man*
14. **Worldbackwards** *(Leaving Me) Now*
15. **Alan Burnham** *Music To Save The World By*
16. **Orchestral Manoeuvres In The Dark** *Almost*
17. **Eyeless In Gaza** *Kodak Ghosts Run Amok*
18. **Schleimer K** *Broken Vein*
19. **Native Europe** *The Distance From Köln*

### DISC THREE

1. **Zorch** *Adrenalin (Return of the Elohim Pt 1)*
2. **Sea Of Wires** *Robot Dance*
3. **Ron Berry** *Sea Of Tranquility*
4. **MFH** *Mistral*
5. **Adrian Smith** *Joe Goes To New York*
6. **Mark Shreeve** *Embryo (Extract)*
7. **EG Oblique Graph** *Triptych*
8. **Carl Matthews** *Encounter*
9. **Paul Nagle** *Ynys Scaith*
10. **O Yuki Conjugate** *Sedation*
11. **Konstruktivist** *Western Vein*
12. **Attrition** *Dead Of Night (Excerpt)*

### DISC FOUR

1. **Throbbing Gristle** *What A Day*
2. **A Tent** *No Way Of Knowing*
3. **Portion Control** *Go For The Throat*
4. **DC3** *Eco Beat*
5. **Renaldo And The Loaf** *Dying Inside*
6. **Blah Blah Blah** *In The Army*
7. **Legendary Pink Dots** *God Speed*
8. **Muslimgauze** *Muslin Gauze Muslim Prayer*
9. **Suisse** *Live At Longborne*
10. **Alien Brains** *Menial Disorders, Extract B2*
11. **Storm Bugs** *Himeal (And She Blew)*
12. **Third Door From The Left** *In The Room*
13. **Al Robertson** *Dignity Of Labour*
14. **bcGilbert, gLewis, russell Mills** *Mzui (Extract)*

Several artists, Dave Henderson and the project compiler, Richard Anderson, are all available for interview or comment, and a large collection of related photographs and sleevenote extracts are also available on request.

You can also follow the project at [www.facebook.com/closetothenoisefloor](http://www.facebook.com/closetothenoisefloor)