

NEW RELEASES

D RATINGS AT A GLANCE

	Electro Lollipop Explosion	★★★
	Chameleon	★★★★
	Crucified Stitched Up and Then Some	★★★
	LP5	★★★★
	Counter Clockwise	★★★
	Time Capsule	★★★★
	Hello Nasty	★★★★
ACE	Sublimely Pointless	★★★★
D	Earthgirl	★★★
	The Black Light	★★★
UGGLAS	Ida Blue	★★★
OWS BAND	Before These Crowded Streets	★★★★
GO/	Cubalrica	★★★★
TRIA	White Magic for Lovers	★★★★
	I Love My Friends	★★★★
FAN	glorial	★★★
	All the Pain Money Can Buy	★★★
	Lazy Highway	★★★★
TY	Premonition	★★★★
HEROES	Memories of Love	★★★★
	Moment of Truth	★★★★
R	The Best of Renée Geyer 1973-1998	★★★★
IST BOYS	Freak *on'ica	★★★
E &	Soon Will Be Tomorrow	★★★★
VAGE		
S	Hot Rollers	★★★
	James: The Best Of	★★★★
KIDJO	Oremi	★★★★
ON	Into the Sun	★★★★
	Dig My Mood	★★★★
RCHANT	Ophelia	★★★★
RK	Push the Button	★★★★
IAPOLITANO	The Sound of a Woman	★★★
VCOMER	My True Name	★★★★
IFAH	Order in the Court	★★★
	Sehnsucht	★★★
	Life Won't Wait	★★★★
OM THE CRYPT	RFTC	★★★★
	Together Forever: Greatest Hits 1983-1998	★★★★
	Recorded in State LP	★★★★
DOVES	Pieces of a Dream	★★★★
	Feeling Strangely Fine	★★★
ER	Viva Satellite	★★
UM	Candy from a Stranger	★★
ALS	Guilty 'Til Proved Innocent	★★★
ONKEY	Mr Funny Face	★★
ART	When We Were the New Boys	★★★
ERIES	Where?	★★★
	Sound Museum	★★★
	The Surveillance	★★★★
ARTISTS	Chainspotting	★★★★
ARTISTS	Paint it, Blue	★★★
ARTISTS	Rock & Roll High School Volume III	★★★
ARTISTS	Evolutionary Vibes 3 - The Evolution Will Not Be Televised	★★★

the sound of three grown men asserting their identities and revelling in the creative spirit, and while it isn't their strongest album, it ensures they will be "rockin' rhythms over disco breaks" for some time to come. ★★★
Andrew David

Artificial

Electro Lollipop Explosion

MUK/SHOCK

Clan Analogue member steps aside and goes solo — into the techno cocktail lounge.

Artificial is Melbourne's Nicole Skelty, a member of the experimental electronic group B(i)Ftek and regular dabbler with the Australia-wide techno collective Clan Analogue. But her debut solo release as Artificial — the aptly named *Electro Lollipop Explosion* — is something entirely different. Informed as much by antique British comedy sketches as it is by the legend of acid house and the new "big beats", this record, in one word, romps. One minute it's screaming, energised new-disco ("Feelin' Pretty Foxy"), the next it's just a fragmentary, dubby groove ("What's Wrong With Theory?"), moving slowly in time. A comedic sense of humour weaves through the sound, whether from samples or the plain excessiveness of some of these beats but it's underground dance designed to make you grin, not grind. And the music, however light-hearted, is extremely assured. ★★★
Chris Johnston

FILE UNDER: Freestyle beats & pieces

Daft Punk Daft Punk

Badi Assad

Chameleon

POLYGRAM

Brazil meets ambient jazz and flamenco in an accessible but rootsy fusion.

Assad's first album for a major label covers more ground than some artists do in three. She has assimilated

the rhythmic cross-currents of her native Brazilian music as well as jazz, flamenco, and nuances of classical and pop too. Assad sings in English and Portuguese, is a mildly virtuoso guitarist, percussionist, and wrote most of the songs, an exception being a not entirely convincing Latin re-make of "While My Guitar Gently Weeps". Her English is too mannered and precise and this gives the songs a slightly stilted feel, but in her own language or in wordless chants, the voice matches the music: evocative and supple. ★★★
Lesley Sly

Atone

Crucified Stitched Up and Then Some

CLAN ANALOGUE/MDS

Sydney beats where the only way to go is down.

Elusive Sydney duo Atone (Ali Omar and Andrew Fitzgerald) take another crucial step in their quest for the haziest beats; where the debut *Atonement* focused on a punchy blend of hiphop and upright dub, *Crucified Stitched Up and Then Some* sways back, reeling from a mystery pressure into heavy, ponderous breakbeat experiments flavoured by jazz, trance and acid. The track "City New" glides away slowly, fuelled by

a shimmering wall of distant guitars and the groove of a heartbeat. On "El Dorado" it's the same idea of hypnosis by music, only this time there's raw wooden percussion and wired doublebass jazz in the mix. At their darkest ("Voodoo Doll", "On the Run") Atone stun the senses — but the groove-based tracks ("Let it Go") glisten with deviant energy. And their version of electronic ambience ("Dub Odyssey") is inert and oppressed. ★★★
Chris Johnston

Autechre

lp5

WARP/MDS

Romantically abstract techno from northern Britain — it's the new avant-garde.

Autechre — the name formulated from the words "audio technology research" — are among the forerunners in a chilling sidestep from techno. The Manchester duo's work is a cold metronome beat distended and pinched; when noise plays a role in their fiercely digital soundscapes it does so willingly, becoming musical; and when melodies come they stick sharp like darts, playing within shifting frequencies and shuddering, fractured beats. A track such as "777" — just one step on from the devil — evokes lost control, a derangement of the



Flower power: the B. Assad couple
Time Capsule