

the Vinyl Exchange

a newsletter for deejays and vinyl junkies

JANUARY 1995

FREE!

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*(Help is needed! If you're available,
please let me know!)*

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Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the first issue of *The Vinyl Exchange*. This monthly newsletter has been created especially for DJs. I hope that this serves as a forum for DJs in the Bay Area and from all over the US.

This issue represents hip-hop for the most part, because that is what I love most. I hope that readers who spin house, jungle (booyaka!), acid jazz, reggae, world beat, alternative, WHATEVER, will respond and contribute.

It's getting harder to stick to vinyl. The songs that ARE available on vinyl are for the most part only pressed in limited quantity. The classics are tough to find, but they're out there and I hope this newsletter will help people find the records they are seeking.

The future is looking a little brighter for vinyl—MTV recently reported that sales of music on vinyl increased this past year, for the first time in eight years. This is due in part to high-end audio enthusiasts (and DJs, of course) who know that a clean vinyl record contains better sound than any compact disc. (See "Did You Know?" on the back page.) It's also thanks to groups like Pearl Jam ("Spin the Black Circle") and Nirvana releasing their stuff on vinyl. Vinyl sales nearly doubled!

"Oh my god, it's the tool of my trade, so to speak, as important as a turntable. Once it's all CDs or something, like they said—I'll be all out of business." - Junior Vasquez.

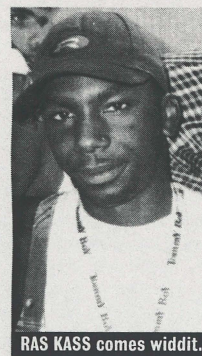
Don't let it happen!

Head Knods of the Month

Top Ten Hip-Hop

By Mr. Grinch & Jay, Houston, Texas

1. Supastar - Group Home (Pay-day)
2. Comewiddit - Ahmad, Ras Kass, Saafir (Priority)
3. Go Back to School - Extra Proflic (Jive)
4. Funk Mode - Tragedy feat. Mobb Deep (A&M Records)
5. Autobiographical - Black Sheep (Mercury)
6. My Soul - Pharcyde (Motown; from "State of Emergency" soundtrack)
7. Proceed Pt. 2 - Roots feat. Roy Ayers (MCA records; from "Red Hot + Cool" album)
8. Dig on That - Ground Floor feat. Lord Finesse (Bantool)
9. Land of the Lost - Cella Dwellas (RCA/Loud)
10. Later On - Casual (Jive)



RAS KASS comes widdit.

*"From Be-Bop to Hip-Hop,
More Than a Record Store!"*

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Creative Music

E M P O R I U M

RECORD reVIEW

Oh yeah. A smooth, righteous flow, hot yet very cool. Branford Marsalis has scored a definite hit with his new album *Buckshot LeFonque*, co-produced with DJ Premier of the rap group Gang Starr. Marsalis's band simply cooks, and the meal they've produced is varied and tasty.

People dissed Brother Branford for his gig on the NBC Tonight Show, saying that he'd turned pop. He's finally split the show to pursue his own interests. As *Buckshot* proves, those interests are much deeper than pop music, and broader than jazz. 'Twill suffice.

Not that Brother Branford doesn't incorporate jazz (and some pop music) into this album, he does, along with a number of other styles and musical influences. DJ Premier is a talented star in hip-hop who appears on several of the cuts, and who co-produced much of the album. But this isn't a just a hip-hop album, either. Brother Delfeayo Marsalis, in the album's liner notes, says: "Though some may refer to this recording as a 'jazz/hip-hop collaboration' for purposes of qualification, to limit so diverse a musical statement with such a conservative slogan would be a travesty." Say on, Brother Delfeayo, your words ring with truth.

There are cuts that are straight-up jazz. "The Blackwidow Blues" is a fine tune that features Brother Branford on tenor and soprano sax, Roy Hargrove blowing a fine trumpet, Matt Finders and Brother Delfeayo on trombones, David Barry on guitar, Robert Hurst on bass, Kenny Kirkland on drums, and Vicki Randle on percussion. This cut jams, straight up. Hip-hop does show its head here, the cut also features a sample of John Coltrane's "India." The only complaint I have is that this tune finishes too soon. I could have gone on listening to them play for hours. Luckily, this album has more than one cut.

It's interesting to see how this song changes when the solos are replaced by a vocalist on "Blackwidow." Lady Rage raps out darkly beautiful lyrics, changing the tune from an uptempo jazz number into a biting love song. The sweet sound of birds chirping introduces what had to be a daunting project: Maya Angelou's famous poem, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings." Marsalis's band, with the addition of Kevin Eubanks and Nils Lofgren on guitars and Mino Cinelu replacing Randle on percussion, do not bury nor distract from Dr. Angelou's words. Rather, the music enhances the poetry, which I didn't believe anyone could do—until I heard it, that is—like a gem placed in its perfect setting, made more beautiful, somehow. The cut ends with the return



including one in which a Denny's denied service to a group of African-American members of the US Secret Service because of their race. This cut leads off with a sample of Jay Leno talking about the incident in his monologue. (NBC should have paid Brother Branford for that promotion.) This cut flows nicely, with a kind of gritty, early-morning-on-the-road feel. You can almost smell the diesel and coffee fumes—which is not meant to be a commentary on Denny's coffee, by the way.

If anything, *Buckshot* has too much talent on it. "No Pain, No Gain" is a prime example. After listening to Albert Collins jamming with Brother Branford's band, I want an entire album of Collins and Brother Branford. This cut jams. Blues and rock 'n' roll fans will groove to this one, as will anyone who appreciates good guitar work. This cut features DJ Premier providing beats and scratches, and a sample from Bela Fleck's "Sex In A Pan." Like I said, a number of styles and influences are at work. The rap on this cut is provided by Uptown, representing Bed-Stuy in NY. Uptown has a hardcore sound, dropping lyrics with a smooth, quick flow.

Jazz purists will also complain about this album. Then again, jazz purists are disappointed with a lot of things. Some of them haven't been happy since the 60s. They should recall that geniuses like Miles Davis and John Coltrane were artists who were able to reach outside their genres, to go beyond the narrow constraints in which others always tried to put their music, in order to give the music new life. If Miles was alive today, he'd be involved in projects like this.

Brother Branford is following in the tradition of the greats by breaking new ground and going beyond the boundaries others would set for his music. Not that he is another Miles, or another Coltrane, Monk, or Mingus; not yet. Yet, Branford does show that he possesses the spirit of jazz: signification, adaptation, and improvisation. *Buckshot LeFonque* is not classic jazz, it is jazz with a dose of funk, modern jazz without the self-conscious, grating quality of most modern jazz. More than that, *Buckshot LeFonque* is excellent music.

— DOUG McVAY

MIX TAPE reVIEW: DJ Tim

"That's Dat Shit!"



I was still pumpin' Tim's Fall '94 tape when he hit me with the Winter '94/'95 issue, "That's Dat Shit!"

Tim gets his hands on the new cuts as soon as they're on promo, so look to his tapes to hear all the new shit.

Tim's sweet mix is seasoned with fat freestyles and promo drops for "DJ Tim-o" by artists such as BIG, Sadat X, Jeru, Lil Dap, Black Moon and Bay Area hip-hop djs and promoters like Mind Motion, Apollo, Kevvy Kev and Honey Presents.

Tim's tapes are available at a lot of local mom-and-pop hip-hop shops. (Some are listed below.) Call 510.548.3203 for the 411. If you're not in the Bay Area, you can get DJ Tim's mix tapes for only \$10, and that's postage paid! Send to DJ Tim, 409 Douglass Street #1, San Francisco, CA 94114. *Don't sleep!* — DJ STEF

Behind the Post Office, 1504 Haight Street, San Francisco 415.861.2507.

FunkRags, 1125 Ocean Avenue, San Francisco 415.239.9359.

Zebra Records, 475 Haight Street, San Francisco 415.626.9145.

NEWS: Styles Magazine

Biz Markie, Organized Konfusion, Blackalicious, the Rock Steady Crew, MC Eiht, Grandmaster Flash, Mad Lion, Beastie Boys, Pharcyde, Hieroglyphics, Mystik Journeymen, Funkmaster Flex, O.C. These are just some of the artists you'll be seeing in a new magazine comin' outta the west coast, *Styles*.

Styles is being created by a design team called *Serious Ink*, which joined up

with several editors to cover hip-hop and graffiti, and will cover this culture and all its forms of art across the globe. Emphasis is on clever lyrics and free-style ability. Just as important are deejay skills and fat production. They also plan to go in depth with graffiti art worldwide. *Styles* is based in Stockton, California but is open to any region where

the vibe is very strong.

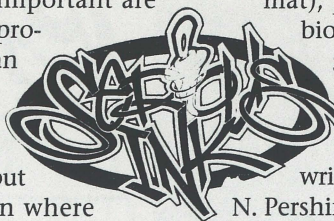
Styles is currently looking for contributing editors, graphic artists, graffiti art, music (vinyl, or any other format), promo items, press releases,

bios and important news. Props go out to Mario Villalpando

for putting the whole thing together! You can get with

Mario at 209.547.1056 or write to *Styles*, Suite 33-119, 4555

N. Pershing Ave., Stockton, CA 95207.



CLASSIFIED ADS

VINYL for sale or trade

BREAKS, rare funk, groove grease and old soul. If you hunt for crazy rare records, I'm your connection. Loads of black vinyl for sale or trade. Write to SOULUTIONS, 4823 1/2 Clarke St., Oakland, CA 94609.

VINYL wanted

LOOKING for these first LPs: Brand Nubian, Ultramagnetic MCs, Organized Konfusion, Lord Finesse, Ice Cube. Offering these first LPs for trade: Das EFX, KMD, Tribe Called Quest (+ Low End Theory), Biz Markie + various EPMD 12-ins. Call Frank (Jr.) at 415.349.3963.

LOOKING for "Liquid Liquid" ('82-'83) by artist of same name and "I Can't Stop." Call Marcus 415.303.9396.

WANT Nice & Smooth's first 12-inch, "Skill Trade." (Teddy Ted I know you got some!) Call Parlay Graphics 415.452.8030.

LOOKING for "Puttin' on the Hits" by Faze 2, "It's Yours" by T La Rock and an old cut by Grandmaster Wizard Wiz. Call Mike at 510.792.7739.

I am looking for De la Soul's promo album "Clear Lake Auditorium" on vinyl. Akanni K. Jones 713.933.4681 or Jay Mills 713.575.0521.

TAPES mix tapes for sale

FAT Hip Hop mix tapes. Original mixes and fat blends, not just recorded songs. Unbiased, all areas represented. All mixes recorded on high quality 90 minute tapes. For info send S.A.S.E. to On Track Productions, P.O. Box 574, Springfield, MO 65801-0574.

OLD SCHOOL ('79-'85) Hip-Hop and new Hip-Hop mix tapes as

seen in *Urb* Magazine, by DJ Stef. \$10 postage paid. Please send check (payable to Stephanie Gardner) to The Vinyl Exchange, Parlay Graphics, 236 West Portal Avenue #402, San Francisco, CA 94127.

GEAR equipment for sale

TASCAM 688 Midi 8-Track Studio. \$1,650. 707.747.1808.

NEEDLES Two 680s for sale. Leave message for Boo 415.452.8030.

GEAR equipment wanted

USED AMP needed, for home use only. Call DJ Stef at Parlay Graphics, 415.452.8030.

GIGS job opportunities

I AM LOOKIN' for DJ's in the NY/Westchester/LI/ Bronx market who are interested in mobile DJ work throughout the tri-state area. Experience ONLY please. IMMEDIATE WORK is available to those who qualify. Mail tape to: ACE, 15 N. Mill Street, Nyak, NY 10960.

DJs NEEDED in San Francisco for upscale nightclub mostly for Thurs. through Sat. nights. Format is mostly R&B, 70s/80s "flashbacks," acid jazz, plus commercial rap and reggae. Send demo tape with cover letter to The Vinyl Exchange, Parlay Graphics, 236 West Portal Avenue #402, San Francisco, CA 94127, Attn: "Club 1081" DJ.

HELP wanted

THE VINYL EXCHANGE needs contributors for reviews, interviews and charts, from a DJ's perspective. We are open to all types of music that djs are spinning. Other ideas for columns and articles are welcome. Photographers and artists are also needed. If interested, please call or write The Vinyl Exchange: Parlay Graphics, 236

West Portal Ave. #402, San Francisco, CA 94127, 415.452.8030; fax 415.665.5933. E-mail VinylExchg@aol.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

AFRICAN ART Looking to buy and trade African Art from the 60's and 70's. Call 510.601.0493

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Singles

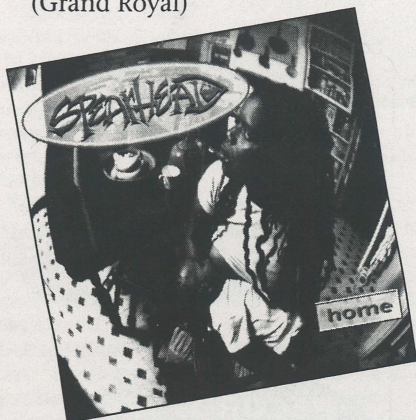
Mad Izm (Buckwild remixes)

- Channel Live

People in tha Middle - Spearhead

Sure Shot - Beastie Boys (Grand Royal)

Deep Shag - Luscious Jackson
(Grand Royal)



LPs

Straight No Chaser (subtitled "the most popular, most sampled songs from the vaults of Blue Note") - artists include Art Blakey, Donald Byrd, Herbie Hancock and Thelonious Monk (Blue Note Records)

Home - Spearhead

Look out for the new solo project from the one and only Rhythm X—KOOL KEITH of the Ultramagnetic MCs!

TUFF CITY

LPs

Speaking of Ultra, look out for Ultra Basement Tapes, an LP of all Ultramagnetic MCs demos and outtakes!

ELEKTRA ENTERTAINMENT

Singles

Hold On - Brand Nubian

EASTWEST RECORDS

Singles

Funk House/Cruzin' (feat. Yo Yo) - Champ MC

Mad Props - Da Youngstas

Pull Ya Hoe Card - Kam

As-Salaam-Alaikum - Shaka

Did You Know?

Digital, by its own definition, is finite—it samples at a finite rate above a finite threshold.

Analog holds an infinite amount of information!

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