

# Album Reviews

Nine Inch Nails  
"The Fragile"  
**Nothing Records**

I don't know what the heck to do with this. It's two new CDs ('Left' and 'Right'), well over an hour and a half of new material, in 23 songs. One review I read on it said it was "Dark Side of the Moon" for the 90's. I don't agree, but on one side, the guy had a point. This stuff is so dense and different. You have to listen to it in a whole different way. They are songs, but they're based more on moods and sounds than on melodies. It's totally screwed up, but it's immensely interesting, and quite engaging when you get into it. It's loud and noisy, it's quiet and 'fragile'. It's not overly dark, but it's quite demanding. Don't try to think about anything else when you listen to it. If you don't like 'noise' and aren't open to something different, you'll detest this release. I still feel a bit torn and confused about it, but I'd have to give it an (A), just for its size and guts. Also, congrats to Reznor on figuring out how to sound like Dave Grohl and WWF's Chris Jericho at the same time on the first track.

-McQuaid

**The Folk Implosion**  
**One Part Lullaby**  
**Interscope**

Like the best of Lou Barlow's other band, *Sebadoh*, The Folk Implosion (B+) creeps up on you after prolonged exposure. It is rhythmic without

really being catchy, and sonically rich although sparsely arranged. In sits in direct comparison with the band whose name The Folk Implosion mocks with its own, The John Spencer Blues Explosion. Like Spencer, Barlow

believes in burrying lyrics under atmosphere. It works.

-Bruyneel



**Sloan**  
**Between the Bridges**  
**Universal/Murderecords**

Too much of a good thing can be bad, and that is exactly what has happened to these N.S wonder boys.

Three releases in eighteen months is too much. "Between the Bridges" (C) is disappointing. Recorded in a rush as to release it before the big 00', it leaves an awkward aftertaste. This collection of left-overs from "Navy Blues"



**Lookout! Records**  
**Forward Til Death**  
**Lookout! Records**

Lookout! Records is celebrating its tenth anniversary. Is there any better way to celebrate than

with a CD (B+) featuring your top artists, such as the Smugglers and the Donnass, performing rare and previously unreleased material? A great album of rockin' punk, here's to another great ten years for Lookout!

-O'Connor

**Blink 182**  
**Enima of the State**

Three minute power chord pop music was not invented by *Green Day* but they certainly are the snottiest bantam weight champs of the form. However Blink 182 (B-) makes a decent case to be the new frat boy head banger band with this album. It is a quick listen (40 minutes) with

several songs that resonate. The video wherein they run through scenes naked, including through a Gap ad, and that fact that they put a porn star on the back cover wearing a rubber glove are the geometric equivalent to *Green Day's* dentist chair video, eye-candy for the demarginalized youth. A decent vision, decently realized.

**Bruyneel**

**Blinker the Star**  
**"August Everywhere"**  
**Dreamworks**

I wasn't sold on this the first time I heard it. As time progressed, bits of the songs would pop into my head from nowhere. Done by anyone else, these songs may come off as nothing better than mediocre, but the treatment they give

them is pretty nice (B). Their brand of rock is rather 'grand', in a sense. The melodies are different. Strings, sounds, the vocals... the music is a bit 'deeper'. It's not so straightforward, and that is what makes a bit better than just average. I don't know how often I'll play the album, but I do like it, and I dig the cover art. It fits the music.

-McQuaid