

CUSTOMSFORGE'S

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Issue #5

ABOUT US

CustomsForge is a website created in 2014 by the Rocksmith community to make their own songs, communicate more easily and enjoy the game all together

Currently we are approaching more than 35,000 charts made by the community, and have more than 250,000 members.

We welcome thousands more each month



Rocksmith 2014 Remastered logo

WELCOME

Welcome to CustomsForge's monthly newsletter, where you can find the latest news about CF and Rocksmith 2014 Remastered.

Pi day

Did you know that because of the way that Americans write dates, the 14th of march (3/14) is the pi day? Larry Shaw decided that we should celebrate such curious number in this date and his idea has gained popularity through the years. So much, in fact, that the United States House of Representatives decided to make it an official holiday. Here in CF we want to celebrate it by giving you a list of great math rock bands that blow our minds every time we listen to them.

Math rock songs

Chon – Splash
 TTNG – Gibbons
 Toe – Tsuki Kake
 Slint – Good Morning, Captain
 Minus The Bear – Cold Company
 Foals – What Remains
 American Football – But The Regrets Are Killing Me
 Shellac – Prayer to God
 Faraquet – Cut Self Not
 Tricot – Tobe
 The Fall of Troy – F.C.P.R.E.M.I.X.
 Three Trapped Tigers – Kraken
 The Mars Volta – Eriatarka
 65daysofstatic – Supermoon
 Tiny Moving Parts – Birdhouse
 ACIDMAN – Shinsekai

Math Rock Albums

Don Caballero – What Burns Never Returns
 Tera Melos – Untitled Album
 And So I Watch You From Afar – Heirs
 Polvo – Cor-Crane Secret
 Craw – Self-Titled
 Ghosts and Vodka – Precious Blood



“[My War] might have been the first math rock album ever, even if it wasn’t the mathiest”

A brief introduction to *math rock*

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear “math rock”? Polyrhythms? Pretentiousness? Obtuseness? Well, fear no more because we are going to get you started on this magical genre of music. But first:

What is math rock?

If we wanted to over simplify it, we could say it’s like emo jazz. It’s emo because it has electric guitars, drums and sometimes a DIY lo-fi feel. It’s jazz because it is much less structured and improvisational than your regular band.

Most songs have the time signature $\frac{4}{4}$, most of pop is written with this in mind. Meanwhile, math rock is generally known to have time signatures such as $\frac{9}{8}$ and not only that, some instruments may even have different ones.

This alone should make it hard to play this kind of songs but they generally don’t tend to follow regular structures either. Instead of following the typical “chorus, verse, chorus, verse...” structure, they may not even have repeating parts at all and will most likely be instrumental tracks.

These factors combined with many others, lead to a messy sound which at the same time sounds extremely

well organized. Of course this didn’t happen overnight, so now we have to ask ourselves:

How did it come to be?

This is probably impossible to answer due to refutations to every argument made, subjective arguments, author bias...but we are still going to try giving a cohesive explanation.

In the 1970s, a band known as The Screamers emerged from the punk rock scene with two keyboards, a drummer and their frontman, Tomata Duplenty. They weren’t math rock, but their unconventional approach to an already weird genre influenced future math rock bands, as they were the first band to scream their lyrics.

In 1984 Black Flag released their album *My War*, which had songs like *Three Nights* and *Scream* that focused mainly on Bill Stevenson’s polyrhythm percussion. This might have been the first ever math rock album, even if it wasn’t the “mathiest”.

In the 1980s, more bands started to rise such as *Cardiacs*, *Bitch Magnet*, *Big Black*...They all helped to establish this genre, even if they were still considered to be post-hardcore and “math rock” was used as a derogative term. But it was in the 1990s when it solidified as a genre of its own with bands like *Don Caballero*, *Polvo*, *Shellac* and many more which proved that math rock was a unique and respectable approach to music.

What should I listen to?

I’m glad that you asked because this is a crucial step for getting into math rock. Try listening to some of these bands which are complex yet accessible and tell us what you think about them in the comments.

Don Caballero – What Burns Never Returns
This Town Needs Guns – Animals
Foals – Antidotes
Splint - Spiderland



CustomForge's profile picture in all social media accounts.

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“We are looking for moderators and a server admin”

Website Updates

If you see a dead link, make sure to report it! Please remember that the website depends on donations so donate once in a while, any amount helps!

Moderators & Server Admin

We are looking for some moderators and a server admin, if you are suited for these positions then follow the link at the bottom of the page.

Staff updates

We don't have any right now but we have been busy, so stay tuned for what comes next!

SURVEY

What would you like to have in our newsletter? Give us some questions [here](#).

Thank you for reading CustomsForge's monthly newsletter. Keep on rockin'!



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