

CUSTOMSFORGE'S

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Issue #17

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 40,000 charts made by the community, and have more than 300,000 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.

Rock is in the house!

More specifically, it's in your garage. Anyone can pick up an instrument and start jamming with their friends in their home! And that's exactly what these bands did. Some bands in this list may surprise you, but as we are going to explain later, garage rock goes all the way back to rock n' roll's routes.

Garage rock songs

The White Stripes – Fell In Love With A Girl
The Hives – Hate to Say I Told You So
The Stooges – Search and Destroy
The Strokes – Someday
MC5 – Kick Out The Jams
The Standells – Dirty Water
The Kingsmen – Louie Louie
The Libertines – Can't Stand Me Now
Question Mark & the Mysterians – 96 tears
The Kinks – You Really Got Me
The Rolling Stones – Gimme Shelter
Paul Revere and the Raiders – Kicks
Yeah Yeah Yeahs – Heads Will Roll
The Monks – Drugs In My Pocket
The Troogs – Wild Thing
Thee Oh Sees – Toe Cutter-Thumb Buster
The Trashmen – Surfin' Bird
Them – Gloria
The Kills – Future Starts Slow
Black Rebel Motorcycle Club – Little Thing Gone Wild
The Wailers – Burnin' & Lootin'
Strawberry Alarm Clock – Incense & Peppermints
The Velvet Underground – Venus In Furs



The Kinks, one of garage rock pioneers

Raw energy

Who hasn't ever thought of making a band with his friends and just jamming to some good old fashioned rock? Rock without polish, without the fancy glare. Pure and raw energy coming out of the speakers. That's exactly what garage rock is and we are going to find out where it comes from.

60 years ago

60 years ago The Beatles hit the world with a series of bangers that brought rock and roll to the world's stage and began The British Invasion. As youngsters from all around the world discovered their music, many of them – particularly in the US and Canada- decided to pick up some guitars and start making their own songs. In the blink of an eye, the rock scene became full with bands mastering the art of playing simple chords with three tons of fuzz on top. Accompanied by unsophisticated lyrics and delivery, this trend lasted between 1963 and 1968 and has had some revivals in the early to mid-1980s and the 2000s. It would seem as if people simply get tired of complex melodies and lyrics and fancy more simple and straight forward songs for a while.

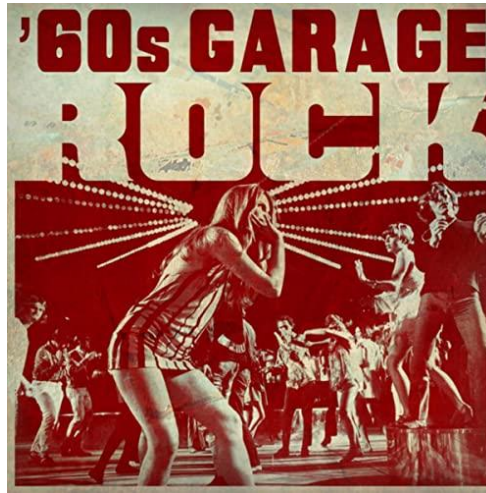
What is garage rock anyway?

It's fairly obvious now, but in the 60s nobody thought that this new wave of artists was

“Rock without polish, without the fancy glare”

actually creating a new music genre. It was considered to be rock and roll and that's it. It wasn't until the 1970s when music critics retroactively realised it had its own style and decided to call it *punk-rock*. Funny enough, it was the first time the term was ever used. It was the 1980s, a time by which

punk had appropriated its name when commentators and fans alike started using the term *garage rock*. The name came from the impression that many of these groups were formed by amateurs and teenagers who practiced in their parent's garages, a wrong impression since a lot of these groups were professional.



Album cover for a 60s garage rock compilation

Frat rock:

Frat rock earned its name in the early days of garage rock

because bands of this scene would play easy, catchy songs on fraternity campuses. It was the result of a love affair between surf rock, hot rod music, and many other influences. It is often associated with Pacific Northwest acts such as the Kingsmen, but it also thrived in many places around the US. It was this band's off-the-cut version of *Louie Louie* which gave the chance to all three chord songs to rise. It became a regional No. 1 in Seattle and then became a national No.1 in the US as well as overseas. **Fun fact:** The Kingsmen were investigated for two and a half years by the FBI because some people accused the band of using profanity in the song's lyrics. The only swear word in the whole song is at 0:55 where the drummer says “Fuck!”.

A recipe for a band:

If you want to make your own band and have some fun, then you first need to know the ingredients you need:

- 4 friends
 - One drummer
 - One singer
 - One guitarist
 - One bassist
- Amps with a ton of distortion
- Some fuzz pedals in order to give the tone extra-crunchiness
- Simple and straight forward lyrics
- A four chord structure
- A vulgar display of power
- A rough production in your self-titled LP
- Additionally, if you want a fuller sound, you can make the singer be a rhythm guitarist as well.

The first step is to get the band together and make sure all of you agree on what instrument each member will specialize in. When everyone agrees, try playing some simple melody while the drummer plays a 4/4 beat on the cheap drum kit from Yamaha his uncle bought him for Christmas. **While music theory is not needed, it will certainly make it easier for everyone** to figure out where the next tone is on the scale they don't know they are playing.

In order to get the perfect tone for your guitar, try setting up some distortion in the amp. If it doesn't sound like a telecaster because you can't afford one, it's okay. **Try adding a lot of fuzz so you get a crunchy sound that goes well with any rock band.** Be careful though, if you add too much distortion you might then decide the blast beasts are actually quite



The Hives live at Lollapalooza

fun to play. From there, you will start only using tremolo picking and 8 string guitars. Your vocalist will discover the joy of death growling and, suddenly, you will be a pornogrind band.

When you have found a groove, let the vocalist write lyrics that are aggressive and simple. Bonus points if they are hard to understand. Repeat this process 12 times and you will have an LP.

After you have successfully created a repertoire of songs, it's time to record them. For this, you could use the help of a professional studio where sound engineers mix the instruments and create a clear mix. **On the other hand, you can produce it yourself if you are in the Do It Yourself punk scene** and have a Digital Audio Workstation such as Reaper. **Regardless of your choice, remember that your energy has to be embodied in the record.**

It is time you give your band a name. It has to be something original, catchy and easy to remember. If it starts with the word "The" then it will surely stand out from the crowd. **It is recommended that your first album is self-titled so the public has an easier way of remembering your name.**

When it comes to concerts, you will probably start playing in small stages. This is good because it gives you the chance of building a relationship with the public directly. Make sure that you actively engage with the crowd so they feel the concert lasted longer than it really did. **After building a rapport with them, try selling them your CDs and band merchandising at the end of the show** and thank them for their support. You can even sign some of it, but don't be surprised when you go big and those items are sold at eBay for 500\$.

If you repeat these simple steps for 15 years you will create a legion of fans that will support your band through hardships, enjoy your music and share it with everyone for what it is: a great way to have some fun and enjoy the moment.

Bibliography:

Umaña, Eduardo (2016) *¿qué es el GARAGE ROCK?*
Aswell, Tom (2010). *Louisiana Rocks!: The True Genesis of Rock and Roll (1st ed.)*. Gretna, Louisiana: Pelican Publishing Company. ISBN



CustomForge's profile picture in all social media accounts.

Meet us in:

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Facebook: CustomsForge

Reddit: r/CustomsForge

Patreon: CustomsForge

Discord: <http://discord.gg/CF>

Donate: <http://customsforge.com/donate>

New merch:

<http://bit.ly/MerchCF>



Charter's tip of the month: *"learn how to do custom FHP, it can make a hard riff or solo much easier to sightread, and looks a lot cleaner"* – **qt314xxx**

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.

CFSongManager

Did you know, CustomsForgeSongManager is a tool to (amongst many, many other things) repair older CDLC files and add Dynamic Difficulty to CDLC that may still be missing it?

PATREONS

An extra special shoutout to all of those who support us with a couple of bucks every month. You may not realize it but your kindness helps us more than you can imagine.

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

WANT TO JOIN? APPLY TODAY: <http://bit.ly/applytoCF>