

PUNKS AGAINST Playlisting

*(a small guide to music discovery and the fight
against an increasingly algorithmic world)*

by miranda reinert

As someone who spends a lot of time listening to music/thinking about it/making content about it/knows a lot of people who are the same way, I don't really think about how much inherent discovery I do just by being online. I also haven't thought too much about the ways I've built my online experience to expose me to new music. This zine is about those avenues I use to find new music because I think in a world of streaming, it's even more imperative there are active and human curated discovery tactics. Mostly it's focused on how to use record labels to your advantage. That includes a discussion of my favorite smaller labels and the ways they facilitate the discovery not only of the music they release but other indie acts. And, of course, some personal recommendations from each label. I also talk about some other things I use to find new music and stay up on it including a blog, other zines I love, and Dan Ozzi's newsletter. Of course, check the people bands you already like are touring with and check who they've toured with in the past. Follow bands on twitter and see who they interact with. There's a thousand ways to find new music and to think anybody relies upon spotify is mindboggling to me.

I love DIY and small independent music. I love human curation. There is so much out there with passion and love behind it. Don't let algorithms dictate your taste.

*Thanks and I hope you enjoy this thing I've put together,
Miranda*

RECOMMENDATION SYSTEMS

using them for music discovery & some personal recommendations

To me, indie record labels are the obvious place to start for new music discovery. Creating a curated sphere of artists is what they do and certainly rooting through the "Artists" tab of any label's website will give you a solid place to start. On Apple Music and Spotify, the label is listed at the bottom of most albums. If it's not, it's easy to find. Most shop links on an artists' website will link to their label's webstore. You probably don't need to be told how to find which label an album was released on, but I'm making a guide!

This section is going to be focused on how record labels facilitate and can be used easily for new music discovery through the lens of some of my favorite record labels. I'm also going to throw in my own personal recommendations from each label and make a case for looking into artists' older releases to find out what smaller labels helped them earlier in their careers!

I, personally, use labels to find music more than any other tool. You grow to understand what you'll get from a label and trust them. Listening to curated playlists, discog diving, following them on Twitter. It's easy, it's part of what they do. Just have to find the labels you connect with.

FATHER DAUGHTER *records*

Father Daughter Records is the perfect example of a label I love to go to for new releases and if I want to be exposed to new music. The music is eclectic but consistently empowering and exciting no matter a genre. Everyone behind the label has a clear passion for music and supporting artists. Beyond their highly curated roster of current and past artists that span multiple genres, they also work with other labels and their artists to provide human curated playlists that are super cool. Their Apple Music profile has Featured Band playlists from the likes of Diet Cig, Esther Rose, Christelle Bofale, and Partner, among tons of other artists they've worked with. They've also got curated playlists for different situations (Every Different Astrological Season, Pride 2019, etc) as well as roundups of highlights from their releases in the format of "Class Of.." playlists and some collections of their favorite, not necessarily F/D released music. I love listening to music in playlist format but have no interest in the algorithmically created. Father Daughter's playlists feel carefully chosen and represent both what they release and what they are excited about outside of their own artists.

twitter: @father_daughter / instagram: @fatherdaughterrecs
fatherdaughterrecords.com
fatherdaughterrecords.bandcamp.com

Personal RECS:



Diet Cig



REMEMBER SPORTS



alex napping



VAGABON

ASIAN MAN RECORDS

twitter: @asianmanrecords
asianmanrecords.com
asianmanrecords.bandcamp.com

Asian Man Records IS diy. It's also punk, it's also cool, it's also always good. In looking through records I have, I've had more "wait that was released through Asian Man?" than probably any other record label I know of. I have a ton of respect for that label and Mike Park. It's what I thought punk was when I was a teenager; well intentioned, passionate, declining offers from massive major labels. Taking a look through their releases online, I see more and more releases from bands I never knew put stuff out through AMR because it was slightly before the time I paid a ton of attention to labels (anything before like 2012...) and I think that alone says a lot about the value in looking back in bands' (i.e. Joyce Manor) or certain artists' (i.e. Jeff Rosenstock) previous catalogues to find their former labels. More often than not, small labels do the leg work necessary for artists in a (loosely put) diy sphere to grow. I've found, as a listener, this is something to keep in mind when you want to find similar sorts of bands to an artist on a big label. You'll find those bands at their previous, smaller label. This is especially and specifically true of Epitaph Records. Try it!

Of All Things I Will
Soon Grow Tired
by Joyce
Manor

Get Better
by Lemuria

Album Minus
Band
by Bomb The
Music Industry

S/T
by Ozikuro
Station

Twitter: @specialistsub /
Instagram: @specialistsub
specialistsubjectrecords.co.uk
specialistsubject.bandcamp.com

SPECIALIST SUBJECT

Specialist Subject Records... what can I say. I've found more bands I love that I've never heard of through their discog. It's full of really awesome UK acts that I don't see a ton of US diy press talking about. It's the only label I've ever really stalked through a full release page because I trust them so much. But my own personal tastes aside, they run a record store and by following them you kind of get the best of both worlds! You get their (awesome and fun and cool and punk) releases plus the curation and featuring of non-label artists a la a specifically indie punk record store. Outside of just looking through what they've released, SSR does a lot of things to facilitate discovery. They frequently feature artists talking about favorite releases in the store. If you order anything from their webstore, they send a sort of newsletter with new releases, interviews with their artists, upcoming tours, etc. They also have done the UK release/distribution of some fave American artists (like Jeff Rosenstock, Slingshot Dakota, AJJ) so check them out if you haven't already!!

WITHDRAW
by
FRESH

Young
+
Cool
BY
WOAHNOWS

POST
by
great cynics

WEWILT
WE BLOOM
by ONSIND

Topshelf Records is probably the label I've been actively following the longest of any I'm pointing out here. They've released a lot of wonderful emo and emo adjacent stuff that I love so much. I love the unified aesthetic of art that comes from their artists. I could place a Topshelf music video within two seconds for a long time. I also love their compilation albums. I get behind on new artists or new releases pretty easy so I find the Topshelf samplers a genuinely accessible and fun way to consume some new music. Or uh, more likely, finally find out what an artist I've been hearing about on Twitter for nine months actually sounds like. In the past Topshelf has released a lot of splits which, if you're someone into emo now and didn't really get into a lot of the 2009-2014 stuff while it was the big hype but want to, are a fantastic, bite sized way of getting into bands that are in that realm. You know.. if you don't mind never seeing those bands live. rip ybi.

TOPSHELF RECORDS

personal
recs...

GN-Ratboys

VERSE - Really
from

GROWUP - you
DUDE - Blew
it

TOINFINITY - special
explosion

HAVE YOU - a great

SEEN MY - big pile
PREFRONTAL - of leaves
CORTEX

SPLITS:

- TWIABP /

dear leap

- INTO IT. OVER IT. /

everyone
everywhere

- you blew it /

FAKE PROBLEMS

Twitter / Instagram:

@topshelfrecords

topshelfrecords.com

topshelfrecords.bandcamp.com



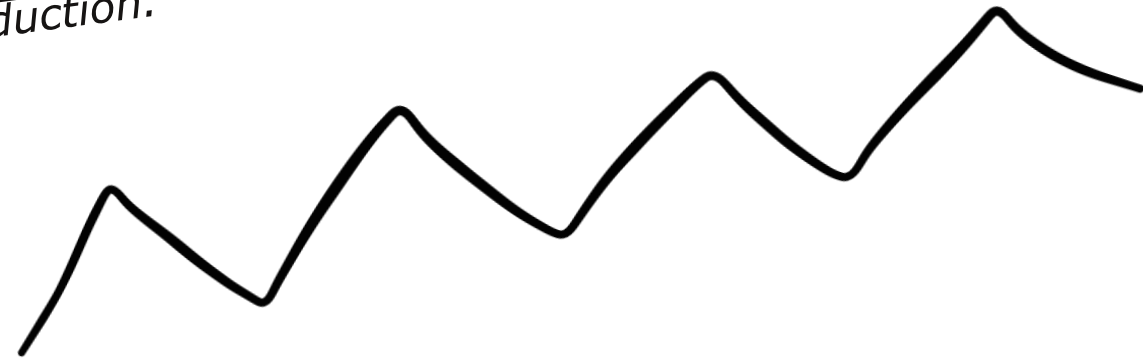
Some other labels I enjoy...

Triple Crown Records – Home of two of my favorite bands in the world, Foxing and Into it. Over it.

Double Double Whammy – Home of some of my favorite albums ever. Zentropy by Frankie Cosmos, OK by Gabby's World, and The Birds Outside Sang by Florist.

Near Mint – Best product design in the business. Home to some favorites like Are You Ever Coming Back? by Nonnsha and Heck No, Nancy by The Obsessives.

Polyvinyl Records – Midwest forever. Needs no introduction.



THE Alternative

If you're reading this, you probably already know about The Alternative, a site full of talented writers and photographers (including all of my twitter friends and irl best friend). They've got diy ethics all day long and do great work discussing new alt music, naturally. It's a music blog and one I respect a lot. You don't need me to say "look at indie music blogs for new music" as that is a given. However, I think The Alternative extended network is good and full of talent so I'm discussing it. I, personally, am not all that interested in interviews with bands. I am interested in curated playlists and I love that they do collective roundups frequently of the things they're excited about. Their spotify has all of them and if you're as playlist reliant as I am or enjoy Spotify for the playlists they make for you, I'd recommend going on their spotify and just shuffling! If you like sort of diy and alt stuff, you'll enjoy it. I'm talking specifically about one site but most small blogs do something like this! Much like small labels, smaller blogs are usually more genre focused and that's great for discovery of stuff you can usually trust to enjoy. I also especially like Emily Kitchin's radio show, Collecting Interest. It's ultra-curated and usually themed! Eli Enis, one of the editors on the site, has a podcast called Endless Scroll (done with Eric Bennett) that is more interview focused that is well done if that's your vibe! The Alternative is a hub for a lot of really cool alt music and younger, in touch people who write about it.

getalternative.com / [twitter: @getalternative](https://twitter.com/getalternative)

THE ALT'S
Spotify →



COLLECTING
INTEREST ↗



↖ endless
scroll

Dan
Ozzi's
**REPLY
ALT**



subscribe

Lately I've been super into subscribing to newsletters. At the recommendation of fab music writer Bineet (@helloworldineet on twitter), I subscribed to Dan Ozzi's newsletter maybe a month ago and it has been a highlight in the sea of music-based content I'm exposed to all the time. The kind of music writing I like most is either cultural context type stuff or discussion of music from a more personal point of view. The newsletter format allows for at least more personal context to Dan Ozzi's writing. I've read his articles for a very long time so it's been cool to read a more informal perspective from him. His newsletter about The Menzingers made me give their album several more tries. I still don't like it, but it got me to really, really be sure of that! And I call that true influence.

I see newsletters sort of making a come back and I enjoy the ones I get coming through my inbox. Lauren from Worriers has a cool sort of tour diary/longer form blog style newsletter called Get It Together that I really like. My beloved local alt weekly, The Chicago Reader, has a newsletter featuring different staff writers that I enjoy a whole lot and would recommend. It includes a small piece of writing as well as links to what the person is reading or events around Chicago (not as interesting if you're not local, I know) or a playlist (like Leor Galil's last week). It's always a cool read. I'm excited about the prospect of more newsletters so, even though I'm not sure it super fits in this zine, I wanted to talk about it!

If you know of any other newsletters pls contact me about it on twitter @pitymeforever thanks xo.

YER scene

Twitter: @yerscenezine
yerscenezine.com

As someone who makes zines, I am contractually obligated to talk about other zines. One of my personal favorites, as far as music goes, is Yer Scene. The art is always kickass. The writing is good. You can feel the passion behind all 20+ issues. Each issue is fairly bite sized and easy to digest. I like that, and a lot of music zines and indie physical publications, because I can feel pretty overwhelmed by the amount of content I see every day being Extremely Online. Zines, especially zines like Yer Scene, that have new issues fairly regularly allow me to slow down and really take in what they're saying. Content wise, they do a lot of album and show reviews. They talk about punk and politics. It's everything you'd expect a punk zine to be! Everything is available digitally and they print physicals for the new issues! But the coolest thing is that they will also email you the booklet layout pages to put your own physical version together at home! Learn to zine pals!

ZINES
forever

- SKITCHIN
- sweater.
Collective
- Thirsty & Miserable
- LADY FUZZ

***this is a wendy house press release about music
discovery***

wendy house press is a zine press based in chicago

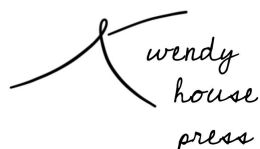
wendy house press is run by miranda reinert

***follow us on twitter to keep up on new and old
releases: @wendyhousepress + @pitymeforever***

buy our zines at wendyhousepress.bigcartel.com

read them at wendyhousepress.weebly.com

***corporations are not people, no matter what spotify's
emails try to convince you.***

The logo for Wendy House Press features a stylized, hand-drawn line that curves from the left and underlines the text. The text "wendy house press" is written in a lowercase, cursive script font, stacked vertically.

wendy
house
press

whp9