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til Bm.

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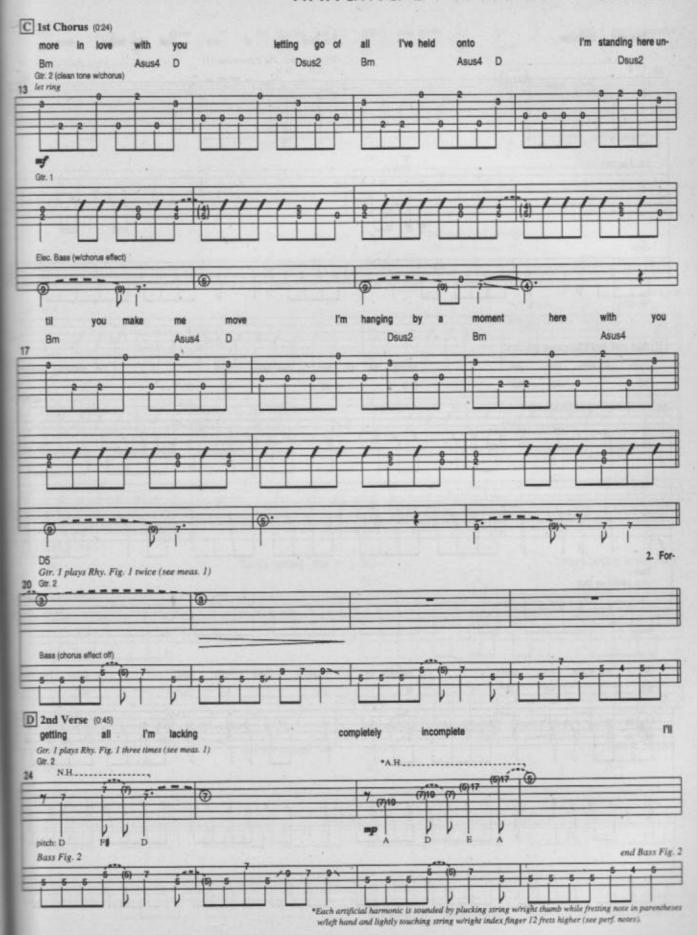
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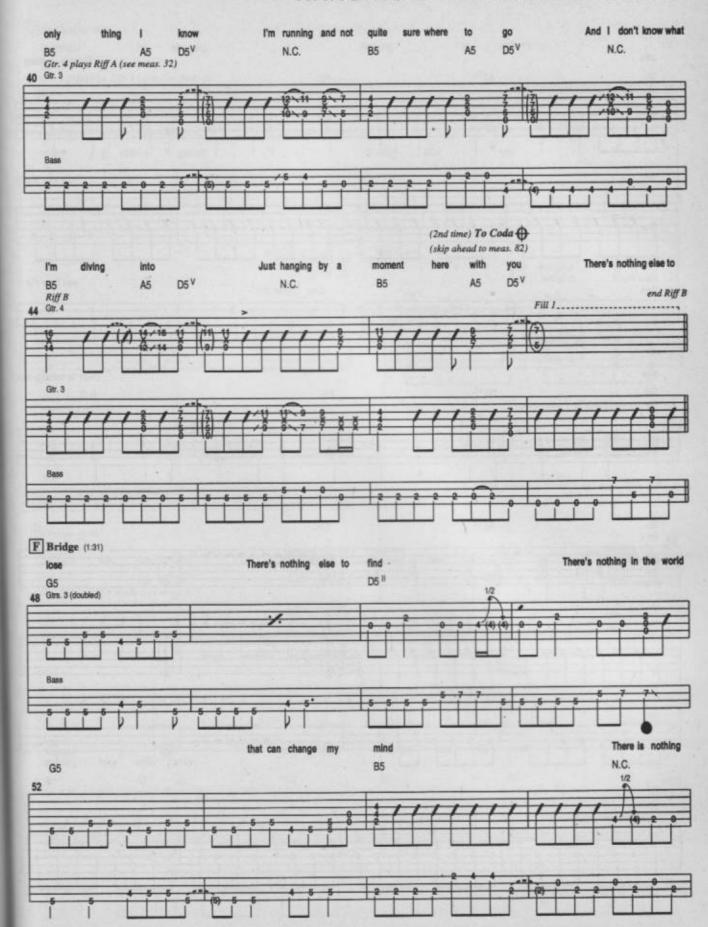
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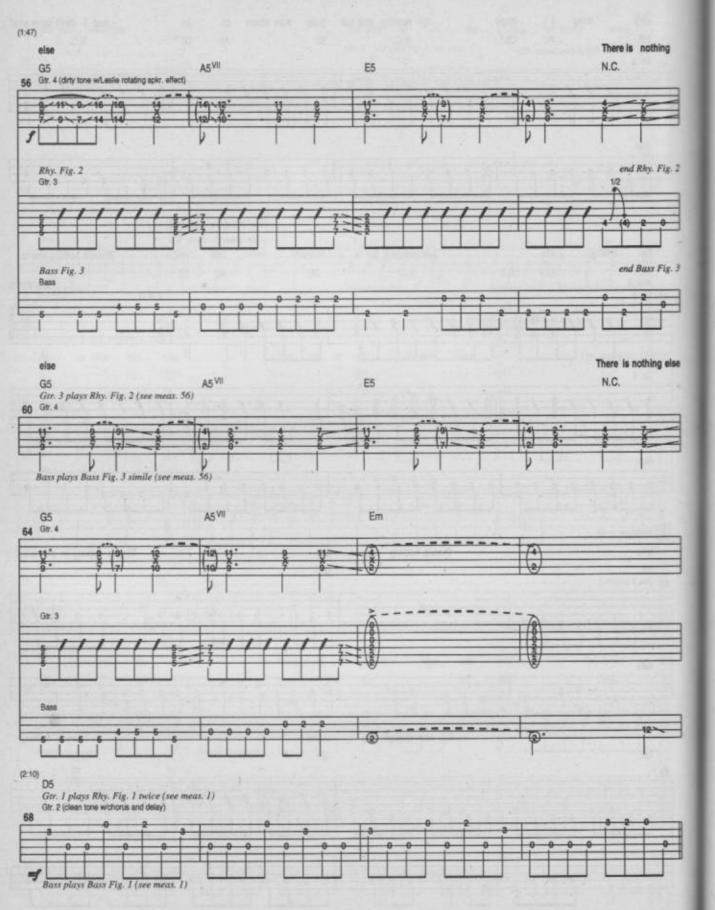
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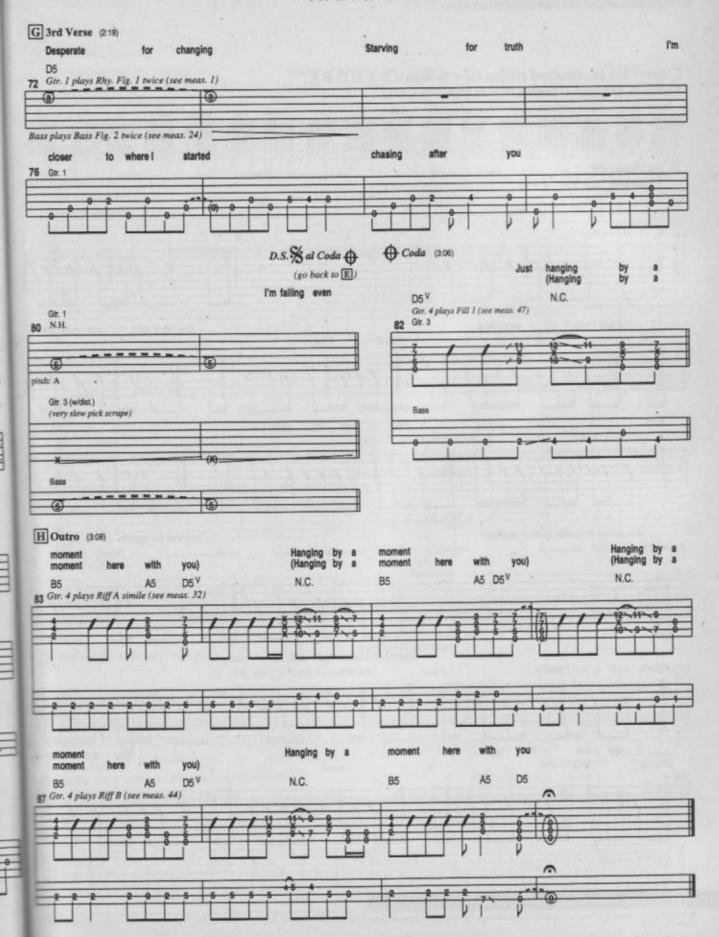
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PERFORMANCE & ANALYSIS

by Matt Scharfglas:

How to Play This Month's Songs

Drowning Pool "Bodies"

Drowning Pool guitarist C.J. Pierce makes good use of an unorthodox dropped-D power chord shape in "Bodies": a D5 played in the 12th position on the D, G and B strings with the open low D note on the bottom (see FIGURE 1). This creates a huge-sounding root-fifth-root-fifth-root voicing I like to refer to as the "Soundgarden" or "Tool" chord. This stack of notes, played with a bright, overdriven tone, creates a thick wall of sound that's guaranteed to stop a freight train.

Thanks to dropped-D tuning, this kind of five-note voicing is easy to play in any key. FIG-URE 1 is a progression containing some moveable "stacked" power chord shapes using the bottom five strings.

Lifehouse "Hanging by a Moment"

"Hanging by a Moment" begins with a single guitar (Guitar 1) playing the main rhythm figure on which the song is based. When Guitar 2 enters on the first chorus (see rehearsal letter C), it complements Guitar 1 while providing a countermelody to the vocal. Not nearly as complicated as it may seem, this is accomplished by playing melody notes on the B and high E strings, letting them ring out, then playing bass notes on the A and D strings and letting them ring out. This enables the guitarist to accompany himself while loosely doubling the vocal melody (without fingerpicking). FIGURE 2 is another example of this type of playing.

In measures 26–29 of the second verse, Guitar 2 adds a bit of shimmer to Guitar 1's rhythm part by playing artificial harmonics (A.H.). To do this: first hold down a chord shape with the left hand, which (in this song) is a Dsus2 at the fifth fret (FIGURE 3). To sound a harmonic for each fretted note, lightly touch the string with the right index finger exactly 12 frets higher (make sure you're touching it directly over the fret) and pluck the string with the right thumb. The trick lies in lifting the index finger off the string immediately after you pluck it with the thumb. Yes, it's tricky and subtle, but it's only a matter of training yourself to get the timing of it down.

Fuel "Bad Day"

By changing only the bass note of a chord, a player can dramatically alter the *harmonic implications* of the remaining notes. Fuel's "Bad Day" is an excellent example of this.

Guitarist Carl Bell begins the song by playing standard first-position A and Asus2 shapes
in measures 1–4. In measure 5, while holding
these chord grips, he fingers the second fret of
the low E string with his thumb, changing the
previous chords to F#m7 and F#m11, respectively. By changing the bass note, Bell is able
to create four different chords while using only
one basic grip. FIGURE 4 illustrates some chord
grips you can practice and experiment with to
help you get accustomed to this technique.

Puddle of Mudd "Control"

There are two generally accepted ways to fret a power chord: using the index, ring and pinkle fingers (as shown in FIGURE 5), or fretting the root note with the index finger while barring the fifth and octave root with the ring finger (see FIGURE 6).

If I may digress for a moment: bass has always been my main instrument. As a kid who had been playing for a few years, I decided I wanted to learn guitar. I never took lessons, and consequently I learned how to play certain things "wrong," among them power chords. Because fifths and octaves are usually played with the pinkie on the bass, I assumed it was the same for guitar (as depicted in FIGURE 7), and it wasn't until I was doing my first professional guitar transcriptions that I was gently informed by my editor that power chords are only fretted as illustrated in FIGURES 5 and 6. Eager to please, I adjusted my transcriptions to reflect the "proper" way, but I secretly kept playing power chords in a way that felt natural to me.

With "Control," I have been avenged. You'll notice that in the chord frames at the top of the first page, we have listed all the fingerings to show the root being played with the index finger (1), and the fifth and upper root being barred with the pinkie (4). This is because certain sections of the song, particularly the main rhythm figures (see meas. 1–4 and 17–20) and the bridge, contain rather quick chord moves; we found that fretting power chords in this fashion allowed for greater mobility and control. Pinkie players, unite!

Eve 6 "Here's to the Night"

Guitarist Jon Siebels lets this song speak for itself by creating a sparse part that allows the arrangement to breathe.

As the main theme is introduced in measure 5, we hear a basic I-vi-IV-V progression (A5F#m7-Dsus2-E5). Instead of playing big chunky chords, Siebels opts to let bassist MacCollins handle the harmonic movement where the guitar plays a subtle, single-note, paramuted ostinato (a repeated melodic figure that is played over a progression). We see a similar ostinato played by Guitar 2 over the two-measure I-V-vi-IV (A5-E5-F#m7-D6sus2) progression during the choruses.

The trick to creating a good ostinato is to find common tones among the chords you'm working with. This means simply finding notes that work with all the voicings, unless dissanance is what you're going for. In FIGURE 8. I've written out a I-IV-vi-IV progression in the key of A; the relevant chords are A, D and F#m7. Since these are all diatonic (based on the same parent A major scale), finding common tones was fairly easy. For starters, we already know that A is common to each chord it's the root of the A chord, the fifth of the chord and the minor third of the F#m7 chord I chose E for the next note because it's the fifth of the A chord and the minor seventh of the F#m7 chord. It also happens to be the second (or ninth) of the D chord; many pop songwriters add seconds to ordinary major or minor chords for "color," so while an E doesn't necessarily belong in a D major chord, it certainly dresses it up nicely.

The G# I picked for the third note doesn't necessarily belong in any of these chords to does, however, add color to each of them, as its the major seventh of the A chord, the raises fourth of the D chord (a voicing used by jazz musicians everywhere) and the second of the F#m7 chord.

So should you use unconventional color tones like this, or stick to the basics like the A note at the beginning of this ostinato? Let your ears be your guide.

Nirvana "All Apologies"

A time-honored way to enhance an otherwise simple rock song is to add "orchestral" strings to the arrangement—an approach Nirvana used to great effect on this classic grunge-rocker Throughout the intro, verses and outro of "A Apologies," a cello plays a *pedal tone*, which is a single continuous or repeated note. The part simply mirrors the low D notes guitars Kurt Cobain plays during these sections, effectively reinforcing the bottom end with a full velvety tone.

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