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Subject: Aja...

Posted by [Nei](#) on Sat, 29 Sep 2007 02:53:38 GMT

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...is the fuckin' best recording EVER! OK, well, let's back off a bit & say it could POSSIBLY be the best fucking recording EVER. At the very least, it's definitely a candidate, yes? I'm not talking about the whole album (although the whole album is great, really, as everyone knows), I'm talking about the seven-minute-and-fifty-five-second title cut that was nailed on the 2nd take with no edits on the basic tracks.

Man, I'm sitting here listening to it, and I think that if there was a way you could compare the best possible recordings of all time from ANY genre and digest them down to some kind of quantifiable "best sound/best playing/best execution/best mix/best mastering" kind of combination and vote on it, "Aja" just might win.

Freakin' GREAT sounds on every single instrument in there, as pertains to the genre being recorded, NOTHING comes across as abrasive, yet it's not so homogenized as to not grab your attention, either (we've all heard mixes like that, right?).

Although, I must say "My Old School" rocks almost as hot in that same voting contest. :D

(Yes, I'm currently in a Steely Dan mode - gotta get some breathing space from the numetal stuff i've been spending so much time on lately! lol)

Roger Nichols gets most of the credit for all the Steely Dan stuff, but as I understand it, Elliot Scheiner really did most of the basic tracks recording & also the mixdowns, so maybe he's really the unsung hero here. Not sure if this applies to Aja, as well, but nonetheless...

...GO LISTEN TO "AJA"!!!!

Neil

---

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Subject: Re: Aja...

Posted by [Chris Latham](#) on Sat, 29 Sep 2007 06:35:32 GMT

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I had a cassette of it years ago, then I just saw the CD in Walmart for \$6.99 recently and picked it up again. I've listened to it a bunch lately,

and yeah... it's on up in the top 5, or so, of my favorite sounding recordings.

CL

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Subject: Re: Aja...

Posted by [dc\[3\]](#) on Sat, 29 Sep 2007 06:42:41 GMT

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Used to use it to eval systems I built.

Stopped doing that. Damn thing makes almost anything sound good....

Genius stuff.

DC

---

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Subject: Re: Aja...

Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Sat, 29 Sep 2007 09:19:47 GMT

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Steely Dan went stupid at a young age. Aja showed what live studio musicians could do when they played together and had extended jams. The synergy was amazing. It is still one of the best albums ever.

Since then they totally forgot what a simple formula it is. Now I'm luck if I can get a boring 8 bar solo from Becker on a song they created from a drum machine.

---

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Subject: Re: Aja...

Posted by [Bill L](#) on Sat, 29 Sep 2007 15:26:11 GMT

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Making a record like Aja is a lot of concentration and work. Maybe they just got lazy.

I used to have that cassette and for about a year it was the only thing I had in my car. It is awesome. My old school totally rocks too. Still one of my all time favs is Haitian Divorce. It's so tasty AND funny.

John wrote:

> Steely Dan went stupid at a young age. Aja showed what live studio musicians  
> could do when they played together and had extended jams. The synergy was  
> amazing. It is still one of the best albums ever.

---

>  
> Since then they totally forgot what a simple formula it is. Now I'm luck  
> if I can get a boring 8 bar solo from Becker on a song they created from  
> a drum machine.

---

Subject: Re: Aja...

Posted by [Ted Gerber](#) on Sat, 29 Sep 2007 16:21:48 GMT

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---

What he said -

Still load up the vinyl version on my VPI playing through my Beard/Counterpoint and Maggies. Remember the first day I heard it. The sound, the playing, the

rise in intensity...

tingles

Ted

"Neil" <OIUOI@OIU.com> wrote:

>  
>..is the fuckin' best recording EVER! OK, well, let's back off  
>a bit & say it could POSSIBLY be the best fucking recording  
>EVER. At the very least, it's definitely a candidate, yes? I'm  
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>much time on lately! lol)  
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>Roger Nichols gets most of the credit for all the Steely Dan  
>stuff, but as I understand it, Elliot Scheiner really did most  
>of the basic tracks recording & also the mixdowns, so maybe  
>he's really the unsung hero here. Not sure if this applies to  
>Aja, as well, but nonetheless...  
>  
>...GO LISTEN TO "AJA"!!!!  
>  
>Neil

---

Subject: Re: Aja...

Posted by [audioguy\\_editout](#) on Sat, 29 Sep 2007 18:18:27 GMT

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---

This was the first CD I bought, after wearing out SEVERAL  
copies of Vinyl.

Love it.

David.

Neil wrote:

> ..is the fuckin' best recording EVER! OK, well, let's back off  
> a bit & say it could POSSIBLY be the best fucking recording  
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> he's really the unsung hero here. Not sure if this applies to  
> Aja, as well, but nonetheless...  
>  
> ...GO LISTEN TO "AJA"!!!!  
>  
> Neil

---

Subject: Re: Aja...

Posted by [Rod Lincoln](#) on Sat, 29 Sep 2007 18:34:32 GMT

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---

Thanks, I needed that...I'm going to pull it out listen to it right now.

Rod

"Neil" <OIUOI@OIU.com> wrote:

>  
>..is the fuckin' best recording EVER! OK, well, let's back off  
>a bit & say it could POSSIBLY be the best fucking recording  
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>Aja, as well, but nonetheless...  
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>...GO LISTEN TO "AJA"!!!!  
>  
>Neil

---

Subject: Re: Aja...

Posted by [laMont \[1\]](#) on Sat, 29 Sep 2007 20:03:42 GMT

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---

Ahh Aja..I remember it well. I was fiftenn and a older friend of mine thought I should hear something that would challenge a that time musicianship..Being somewhat of a hot-shot player, Ithought bring it on.IOL!

I played that album(Still own today) everyday ffrom the moment I got it(15 years old).

What amazed me was that I could not figure ou the chords. At that time, I had prided myself, on being able to comp any chord I heard. Threw me for a complete loop. My ego was quickly put into check. But, it made me strive to become a more rounded musician. It to me 5 years to finally play the intro to Decond Blues (20years old). Once you figure out deacon blues, the rest of the album ell into place. Next up Peg, Black Cow and so on.

Being schooled in Jazz at the time, Aja spoke to a lot us who were being mentored by the bebop cats, that You can put a new spin on Jazz. Revoice the chords, and play some very inspired, yet very imporvised solos to boot.

I'm an official Aja junkie and very porud of it because it rased the my game..

"Neil" <OIUOI@OIU.com> wrote:

>  
>..is the fuckin' best recording EVER! OK, well, let's back off  
>a bit & say it could POSSIBLY be the best fucking recording  
>EVER. At the very least, it's definitely a candidate, yes? I'm  
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>Aja, as well, but nonetheless...  
>  
>...GO LISTEN TO "AJA"!!!!  
>  
>Neil

---

---

Subject: Re: Aja...  
Posted by [steve the artguy](#) on Sun, 30 Sep 2007 00:28:41 GMT  
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---

"Neil" <OIUOI@OIU.com> wrote:  
>At the very least, it's definitely a candidate, yes?

yes

---

---

Subject: Re: Aja...  
Posted by [Tom Bruhl](#) on Sun, 30 Sep 2007 01:01:15 GMT  
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---

This is a multi-part message in MIME format.

-----=\_NextPart\_000\_00E0\_01C802DB.DFDE99A0  
Content-Type: text/plain;  
charset="iso-8859-1"  
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

I double that yes.

"steve the artguy" <artguy@somethingorother.net> wrote in message =  
news:46feedb9\$1@linux...

"Neil" <OIUOI@OIU.com> wrote:  
>At the very least, it's definitely a candidate, yes?

yes

I choose Polesoft Lockspam to fight spam, and you?  
<http://www.polesoft.com/refer.html>

-----=\_NextPart\_000\_00E0\_01C802DB.DFDE99A0  
Content-Type: text/html;  
charset="iso-8859-1"  
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

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charset=3Diso-8859-1">
<META content=3D"MSHTML 6.00.2800.1400" name=3DGENERATOR>
<STYLE></STYLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY bgColor=3D#ffffff>
<DIV><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2>I double that yes.</FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=3DArial size=3D2></FONT>&nbsp;</DIV>
<DIV>&nbsp;</DIV>
<BLOCKQUOTE=20
style=3D"PADDING-RIGHT: 0px; PADDING-LEFT: 5px; MARGIN-LEFT: 5px; =
BORDER-LEFT: #000000 2px solid; MARGIN-RIGHT: 0px">
  <DIV>"steve the artguy" &lt;<A=20
  =
href=3D"mailto:artguy@somethingorother.net">artguy@somethingorother.net</=
A>&gt;=20
  wrote in message <A=20
  =
href=3D"news:46feedb9$1@linux">news:46feedb9$1@linux</A>...</DIV><BR>"Nei=
l"=20
  &lt;<A href=3D"mailto:OIUOI@OIU.com">OIUOI@OIU.com</A>&gt; =
```





>>that same voting contest. :D  
>>  
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>>  
>>...GO LISTEN TO "AJA"!!!!  
>>  
>>Neil  
>

---

---

Subject: Re: Aja Trivia 4 U  
Posted by [D-unit](#) on Mon, 01 Oct 2007 21:10:47 GMT  
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---

Q: Who created the cover art for the album?

A: The late Phil Hartman (working as a graphic artist at the time)

db

---

---

Subject: Re: Aja Trivia 4 U  
Posted by [steve the artguy](#) on Mon, 01 Oct 2007 22:58:33 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

"D-unit" <cof42\_AT\_embarqmail.com> wrote:

>Q: Who created the cover art for the album?

>

>A: The late Phil Hartman (working as a graphic artist at the time)

>

>db

>

as Johnny Carson would say, "I did not know that!"

My trivia addition:

Q. what is the the signature repeated piano chord that Aja fades out on?

A. B in the bass, A,B,C#,D, and E in the right hand.

I read it somewhere. Long, long ago.

-steve

---

---

Subject: Re: Aja...

Posted by [D-unit](#) on Tue, 02 Oct 2007 14:18:15 GMT

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---

"John" <no@no.com> wrote in message news:46fe18b3\$1@linux...

>

> Steely Dan went stupid at a young age. Aja showed what live studio musicians

> could do when they played together and had extended jams.

It has to do with the quality of the songs to begin with. They aren't writing "aja's" anymore but I like very much what's coming from D & W these days.

db

---

---

Subject: Re: Aja...

Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Tue, 02 Oct 2007 14:55:25 GMT

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---

If you like drum machines that is.

---

---

Subject: Re: Aja...

Posted by [D-unit](#) on Tue, 02 Oct 2007 16:02:31 GMT

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---

"John" <no@no.com> wrote in message news:47025bdd@linux...

>

> If you like drum machines that is.

Dood, they were using drum machines that R. Nichols invented back on Gaucho. Namely "Wendell"

Most of the recent works features the work of a young Keith Carlock. <---quite good. My problem with the current drum sound it that it is SO DEAD, hardly any cymbols etc..

db

---

---

Subject: Re: Aja...

Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Tue, 02 Oct 2007 16:30:40 GMT

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---

Dead and drum machine like....I refer the jury back to Aja...back when drummers knew how to play.

---

---

Subject: Re: Aja...

Posted by [DJ](#) on Tue, 02 Oct 2007 17:02:47 GMT

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---

"steve the artguy" <artguy@somethingrother.net> wrote in message news:46feedb9\$1@linux...

>

> "Neil" <OIUOI@OIU.com> wrote:

>>At the very least, it's definitely a candidate, yes?

>

> yes

I have always wanted to be at the Guernsey fair at closing time so I could also detect the El Supremo at the top of the stairs. what a strange and somehow perversely alluring image.

---

---

Subject: Re: Aja...

Posted by [Neil](#) on Tue, 02 Oct 2007 17:04:06 GMT

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---

"D-unit" <cof42\_AT\_embarqmail.com> wrote:

>

>"John" <no@no.com> wrote in message news:47025bdd@linux...

>>

>> If you like drum machines that is.

>

>Dood, they were using drum machines that R. Nichols invented  
>back on Gaucho. Namely "Wendell"

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>Most of the recent works features the work of a young  
>Keith Carlock. <---quite good. My problem with the current drum  
>sound it that it is SO DEAD, hardly any cymbals etc..

Man, you wanna hear some cymbal-less drumming, check out King

---

Crimson's "Discipline". Single cymbal hits on the 1-count every 8 or 16 measures or so in most songs, with a few rare exceptions in some scattered sections.

Neil

---

---

Subject: Re: Aja...

Posted by [D-unit](#) on Tue, 02 Oct 2007 18:01:31 GMT

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---

"John" <no@no.com> wrote in message news:47027230\$1@linux...

>

> Dead and drum machine like....I refer the jury back to Aja...back when drummers

> knew how to play.

Two words:

Steve Gadd.

db

---

---

Subject: Re: Aja...

Posted by [John \[1\]](#) on Tue, 02 Oct 2007 18:03:35 GMT

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---

I much prefer The WHO with crazy drummer using the cymbals as hi hats.

---

---

Subject: Re: Aja...

Posted by [Paul Braun](#) on Wed, 03 Oct 2007 00:29:48 GMT

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---

On 3 Oct 2007 03:04:06 +1000, "Neil" <IOUIOU@OIU.com> wrote:

>

>"D-unit" <cof42\_AT\_embarqmail.com> wrote:

>>

>>"John" <no@no.com> wrote in message news:47025bdd@linux...

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>>> If you like drum machines that is.

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>Neil

Or Peter Gabriel's 4th album (otherwise known as "Security"). Amazing  
stuff - pretty much no cymbals anywhere.

I'll also throw my 2 cents into the Steely Dan thread - I never  
understood the appeal. I just plain don't like anything they've done.  
Of course, I also just don't get the Dead, either. Sounds like 8 guys  
on stage, all stoned out of their minds, all playing a different song  
to their own internal click track.

Oh, wait. That's exactly what was happening on stage....

;-P

pab

---

---

Subject: Re: Aja...

Posted by [audioguy\\_editout\\_](#) on Wed, 03 Oct 2007 00:36:14 GMT

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---

Consider yourself shunned... ;-)

David.

Paul Braun wrote:

> I'll also throw my 2 cents into the Steely Dan thread - I never  
> understood the appeal. I just plain don't like anything they've done.  
> Of course, I also just don't get the Dead, either. Sounds like 8 guys  
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>  
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>  
> ;-P  
>  
> pab

---

---

Subject: Re: Aja...

Posted by [DJ](#) on Wed, 03 Oct 2007 04:35:07 GMT

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---

"Paul Braun" <cygnus\_nospam@ctgonline.org> wrote in message  
news:7fo5g3tkid0sds3ieeee440hs6db41otd9h@4ax.com...

> On 3 Oct 2007 03:04:06 +1000, "Neil" <IOUIOU@OIU.com> wrote:

>

>>

>>"D-unit" <cof42\_AT\_embarqmail.com> wrote:

>>>

>>>"John" <no@no.com> wrote in message news:47025bdd@linux...

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>>>> If you like drum machines that is.

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> Of course, I also just don't get the Dead, either. Sounds like 8 guys  
> on stage, all stoned out of their minds, all playing a different song  
> to their own internal click track.

>

> Oh, wait. That's exactly what was happening on stage....

>

> ;-P

>

> pab

gasp!!!!.sputter!!!.....you don't get the DEAD???.....here...take this  
little purple pill and don't drive for the next 10 hours .....

---

---

Subject: Re: Aja...

Posted by [neil\[1\]](#) on Wed, 03 Oct 2007 14:29:03 GMT

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---

Paul Braun <cygnus\_nospam@ctgonline.org> wrote:

>On 3 Oct 2007 03:04:06 +1000, "Neil" <IOUIOU@OIU.com> wrote:

>

>>

>>"D-unit" <cof42\_AT\_embarqmail.com> wrote:

>>>

>>>"John" <no@no.com> wrote in message news:47025bdd@linux...

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>>>>every 8 or 16 measures or so in most songs, with a few rare

>>>>exceptions in some scattered sections.

>>>>

>>>>Neil

>>>>

>>>>Or Peter Gabriel's 4th album (otherwise known as "Security"). Amazing

>>>>stuff - pretty much no cymbals anywhere.

That's right! I forgot all about that - Gabriel hates cymbals  
even more than Fripp does!

Neil

---