

Wrench – Nitro  
Released 2007-09-05 (9<sup>th</sup> Album)



1. feel more (4:06)
2. blast your dance music (4:08)
3. stick it out (2:32)
4. dynamite music (4:40)
5. lights give out all freedom (5:46)
6. firestorm (3:16)
7. recover (4:38)
8. 3027 (6:41)
9. alpen (3:29)
10. two way (3:16)

On the cover:

Well, I don't really know how to explain this one. The cover looks like one of those tests psychologists use, the "what does this look like" test. There's an official name for it, but it escapes me at the moment.

So, "what does this look like?" Well, it kind of looks like a face. A transformers' face. The two speakers as eyes, the inverted keyboards as its head and the blue and red in the middle as its nose/mouth. If you look closely enough you can actually see small red hands. The pigtails and the disco ball just add to the weirdness

The back cover:

A castle with a very large tower perched on a cliff. Psychedelic lights shoot from the tower, showing multicolored instruments in the sky. The track listing is in small white to the right of the castle.

The insert:

The lyrics are hand-written. In red. It's something I've never seen before, but the lyrics for the songs are minimalist at best. The middle pages of the insert (3 & 4), show

more psychedelic robotic weirdness, as well as staff credits, sponsor credits and thank you's.

### The music

At first I thought I was listening to the Polysics. Then when the lyrics came in I thought I was listening to the Beastie Boys. Fans of Wrench probably don't know what to expect with this album either. It's been 3 years since its last one. Part electronica, part rock, part mellow trippyness, and part screaming vocals. It's not something your parents would want you listening too. The album has an industrial feel to it as well. Actually, take out the lyrics and the album sounds like it could be a soundtrack to a Command & Conquer type video game. I can actually imagine army troops sitting in a tank having this music in the background blowing stuff up. Of course, as I write that, "dynamite music" is the track currently playing.

This album basically defines what Wrench is playing now. The first half is hard alt-rock. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half is more electronica, but the rock is still there. Wrench has been playing and playing live since 1992, so by now they know who their audience is and what their sound is. They've played both rave and rock events, and that crossover doesn't seem to have hurt them. As is the norm for most rock groups this music would probably be much better appreciated live.

Lyrically, well there's not much. Half the tracks are instrumental, the other half only feature brief but screaming vocals, as I've already mentioned. The album itself is rather short at around 45 minutes. Part of me expected more. Part of me wanted more. Wrench fans might be a bit disappointed that in the 3 years in between albums they've only come up with 45 minutes of new material. Perhaps, as I've mentioned earlier, the trick is to see them live.

This music isn't for everyone. That's the point. Wrench's music might have changed slightly during the 3 years since their last album, but people's tastes can change in 3 years. They've learned how to roll with it.

My advice is to give this album a listen. As I said, it's not for everyone, but you never know till you try.

<http://www.wrench.jp/>



By Sean Cruz