



**[No Thyself](#), Wire-Sound CD**

by **[Denis Joe](#)** November 2011

**Stop! When you cease to amaze me. ("Stuck")**

Punk began in 1976 - its initial location was London but with the release of The Buzzcocks EP, *Spiral Scratch*

the focus moved to Manchester. A movement quickly sprung up that featured the likes of The Fall, The Drones, Warsaw (aka Joy Division), Ed Banger and the Nosebleeds, Slaughter and the Dogs and pop-poet, John Cooper Clarke.

The Manchester scene of the late 70s produced some of the greatest pop of that (or any) decade, and thankfully for me, many of these groups played in Birmingham or Wolverhampton.

For pure magical, unashamed pop music there was the Buzzcocks. Howard Devoto left the band in 1977 and Pete Shelley took over as singer/lyricist, producing such gems as *Orgasm Addict*, *What Do I Get?*

,  
*I Don't Mind*

and

*Ever Fallen In Love With Someone You Shouldn't Have Fallen In Love With?*

For chin-strokers and other pseuds there were

**The Fall**

and

**Joy Division**

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Devoto formed Magazine with art student John McGeoch. Eventually a band was formed consisting of Devoto – Vocals, McGeoch – Guitar, Barry Adamson – Bass and Martin Jackson – Drums. As long as early 1978 though, Punk was becoming a caricature of itself, and as youngsters we wanted to believe that there was still some life left in it. In February 1978 Virgin Records, who had signed up Magazine, released the group's first single.

Fridays were the days when new releases reached the shops and it was also the end of a week of night shifts at Automotive Products for me and the routine was to get home, have a bath, change into clean clothes have breakfast and then take myself over to Virgin Records store in Coventry. Usually I would buy an LP and a few singles. When I got home that particular Friday I put the 7inch vinyl disc onto the turntable, switched the speed to 45 rpm, guided the stylus arm to the start of the record and within ten seconds of McGeoch's guitar intro I knew that Punk was officially dead. Nobody was going to create anything as brilliant as *Shot By Both Sides*.

