



**KRAFTWERK**  
**Tour de France**  
 Astralwerks

79%

Kling-klang-pling-plong. The patented Kraftwerk sound meets the legendary bicycle race! Lamentably, as electronic music and professional cycling are as foreign to mainstream American sensibilities as the Pakistani custom of gobbling live monkey brains while blitzed out on quality hash, *TdF* may be seen as the most eccentric "concept" album of all time. Point of order: This is the LP people have been "waiting" for since its first single was released...in 1983. Yes amigo, "Tour de France" dropped in an epoch where The Boss DR-55 drum machine was looked upon with suffocating awe—a modern day Shroud of Turin. After more than a decade of relative silence Kraftwerk has chosen not to evolve. They remain simple and cerebral; music is their math and they like it that way. "Chrono," is a fine example of German minimalism—a clipping binary charger, sleek, and quick out of the gate. In the main, *TdF* offers a sweetly sinister, confessional tone lashed over super-linear rhythm grids. Only Kraftwerk does Kraftwerk like Kraftwerk, they've maintained their structural integrity and fans of the soulfully robotic will celebrate like drunken cannibals.

MARK VON PFEIFFER



**MY MORNING JACKET**  
**It Still Moves**  
 ATO/RCA

88%

My Morning Jacket is not afraid to keep it real on the honky-tonk-Louisville tip. The country roots shine brilliantly throughout the entire album making it one of the better ones I've heard all year. I kinda feel that *It Still Moves* should have been released pre-summer as its buoyant atmosphere and lengthy good-o'-boy-jam qualities evoke hanging out down by the river with a sixer of Budweiser tall boys. (And I don't even live by a river.) Frontman Jim James' echoed-out vocals are as haunting and full as Thom Yorke's, but where Yorke's are hauntingly melancholy, James' are hauntingly bright. *It Still Moves* is not necessarily a lyrically "happy" album; in fact, James' songs often lean toward blues and soul. But there is something so honest about My Morning Jacket—something fresh and something Skynard. But in a good way.

CEEJ



**MEDICINE**  
**The Mechanical Forces of Love**  
 Astralwerks Records

76%

Medicine have been around for over a decade under the care of founder Bran Laner, but what you hear today has little to do with his original vision. In the beginning, they were shoe-gazing droners following in the feedback-drenched footsteps of My Bloody Valentine and Slowdive. Since then however, Laner has become best friends with his sampler and kung fu icon Bruce Lee's daughter, vocalist Shannon Lee. The result of their fiery collaboration is *The Mechanical Forces of Love*, a nymphomaniacal slice of *Blade Runner* futurism that practically drips with a potent combination of sensuality and morbidity. One minute Lee is sibilantly threatening "You'll taste my poison/If you should try to fuck me" on "Wet On Wet" then hedonistically imploring "Come on give me just a tickle/Let me come and ride your love sicle" on "Astral Gravy." So, whether your fetish involves pleasure or pain, Medicine are sure to indulge you aurally.

NEVIN MARTELL

**GUIDED BY VOICES**  
**EARTHQUAKE GLUE**

Numbered Limited Edition Digipak With Sticker, available while supplies last. 25 copies will contain a Golden Certificate redeemable for one copy of the upcoming definitive Guided By Voices Box Set.

**Hardcore UFOs**  
 (5 CDs PLUS DVD & BOOK, out this Fall!)

96V.COM

CD/LP OLE-574  
 matadorrecords.com