

MAN OR ASTRO-MAN? - Time Bomb DVD ([Cherry Red](#)) Another great concert of a band I wish I had the pleasure of seeing live. Sadly, south Florida wasn't a big attraction to many bands - and I understand it, cuz it's so far out of the way. 400 miles to get there meant 400 miles back to anywhere else. That's why you have to love many of these Cherry Red live shows. You get the chance to experience the fun and sometimes fury of a live set by bands you may never have seen or will get to see. For any dummies out there, Man or Astroman? was a mix of synthpunk and surf-rock with running themes of sci-fi, B-movies and film noir. They started in the early 1990s and released their first LP (*Is It... Man or Astroman?*) in '93 and put out another seven before disbanding around 2002 (though reforming briefly in 2006 just for the 25th Anniversary of Touch & Go Records). Their almost-lyricless approach helped focus on the music, which became an almost psychedelic swirl of garage rock with speedy surf guitar and trippy keyboards, peppered with samples of strange and unknown movies from years long forgotten. Many liken them to Shadowy Men On A Shadowy Planet or The Monomen, and I would have to agree, yet they're faster and a little more experimental than either. This concert was shot at the Edinburgh, Scotland venue Castle Rock in 1994, so it was early enough to catch them in their prime, yet late enough to still have them playing a few of their crowd favorites and singles ("Time Bomb", "Cowboy Playing Bombora" and "Destination Venus"). So, yes, the theme song from *Mystery Science Theater* is here! (Now bring back that show!!). The seventeen song, fifty-five minute set was captured on multi-cameras at many angles from all over the place - in crowd and up on stage. The crowd is equally energetic, as is the lightshow, which helps thrust the set of space-punk tunes into a frenzy. I hear the band are requesting fans to submit live footage to compile another DVD, but until then get beamed up by this live slice of garage-damaged, surf-prog. (May 5, 2007)

<http://www.feastofhateandfear.com/reviews.html>