

# The Daily Tar Heel

**Ween shines on**

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## **Ween - Shinola Vol. 1**

(2.5 stars)

Ween is a lot like caviar - it's an acquired taste.

"It's been done before" is not usually said about the eclectic duo that is Ween.

But this time, it's true. Dean and Gene Ween are rereleasing their Shinola Vol. 1, which first came out in 2005. It includes outtakes, alternate versions and B-Sides.

Previously unreleased tracks are also promised, but there are none to be seen.

In simple terms, Ween is weird. In more flattering terms, Ween is eclectic.

It's hard to make a definitive statement on Shinola. Every song on the album is different than the one before. Some are good, some are bad and some are questionable.

From the first song, "Tastes Good On Th' Bun," it's easy to assume Ween is a psychedelic, trippy band, but the next song, "Boys Club," sounds ridiculously poppy.

Ween does not discriminate genres. It loves them all.

On Shinola the poppy songs do come out sounding better than the psychedelic ones. When they want to show it, the Ween boys do have talented voices.

Sometimes it seems like Ween is challenging its fans to like everything it does. "Big Fat F--k" is a pointless song, and fans should feel cheated that it was included.

It's not a question of whether Ween is an interesting and enjoyable band - some songs just need to be skipped.

There are just enough good songs on Shinola to support Ween's semiartistic experiments. The reggae influenced, 311-esque, "Gabrielle" is a highlight as well as "Transitions."

Established Ween fans can handle this album, and they'll like it, but it's hard to swallow for newcomers.

Go try Chocolate and Cheese or Quebec. The previous albums are more accessible, and it will be easier to appreciate the genius of Ween.

Then come back to Shinola. It won't be a disappointment.