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## Ween Shinola VOL. 1

MVD Audio/Chocodog

US re-release of our favourite mentalists odds n sods collection...

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**BrightonLive** 

Ween have always maintained a unique position within the music industry; whilst others are damned and abandoned for straying too far the initial sound that made them so dear to their fanbase, for example look at the distain the dreadlock brigade have for every Jamiroquai album since the tripped out and largely instrumental Emergency on Planet Earth, Ween have made unpredictability their selling point and with restless verve they plunder countless genres, mostly with a fond reverence, but sometime with an eyewatering weirdness that makes their popularity all the more astonishing.

It is with no preconceptions then that I approach Shinola Vol.1, apparently a collection of 'odds, ends, and leftovers', which given Ween's already haphazard output to date, must contain a great deal of variety. First two tracks are typically Ween, Tastes Good On Th' Bun and Boys Club are pretty much just the titles with familiar vocal filters and a persistence that will infuriate all but the hardcore fanbase. It is on the third track that the Ween conundrum gets all the stranger, I Fell in Love Today shows, as all their albums have, that they are immensely capable of writing songs more accessible, melodic and straightforward than many of their mainstream contemporaries. With tracks like this and later the superb Gabrielle, the stranger inclusions like Big Fat Fuck and Israel, (little more than Kenny G with a religious infomercial playing over it), can try your patience as one often wishes Ween would stop mucking about and write the album everyone knows they could. But to wish this would miss the point and the magic of Ween, for in an industry so keen to play it safe, their relentless creativity and reassuring popularity shows that there is still room for weird kids.

By Ross Breadmore

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