

The Goods

BY RANDY HARWARD



1

1) Graven Images
Guitar Gods Bobbleheads
(\$25)
www.facebook.com/GuitarGodsCollectibles

If you like the Aggronautix line of punk rock "throbbheads," then Guitar Gods plays right into your wheelhouse. This newly-launched series of musical bobbleheads has immortalized The Stooges' James Williamson, MC5's Wayne Kramer and one Mr. Johnny Winter in graven images, all of which play loud, crystal clear signature licks.

2) Dearly Beloved
Deering Eagle Tenor II Banjo (\$2,499)
www.deeringbanjo.com

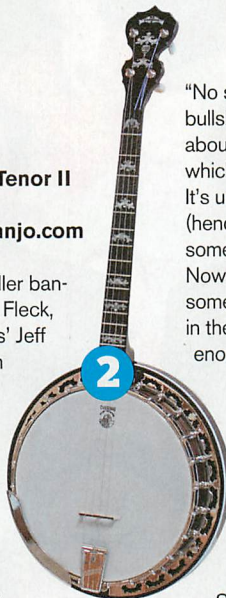
Deering makes killer banjos. Just ask Béla Fleck, Dropkick Murphys' Jeff DaRosa and even guitar hero Joe Satriani. Players from all genres love Deering instruments and in the short time we had our mitts on this spruce Eagle Tenor II, we fell in love, too. Although it's ideal for jazz and Irish music, this bright, resonant—and loud—banjo sounds great on anything.

Pick one up and give Prince's "Let's Go Crazy" a shot and see we're right.



3

3) Goin' Blind
Shine (\$25-30)
www.shine-whiskey.com



2

"No sugar, no color, no wood – no bullshit!" That's what Shine says about their aptly-named whiskey, which packs a punch at 88.8 proof. It's unaged and thrice-distilled (hence the XXX—you just learned somethin'!) in a copper pot still. Now that's not to say this is what someone's pappy used to make in the backwoods... but it's close enough for rock 'n' roll. Get some.

4) 33% More Metal
Skullcandy Hesh 2.0 (\$70)
www.skullcandy.com

Skullcandy's mid-priced Hesh headphones was one of their "formative" products. A decade later they've tricked them out. Hesh 2.0 boasts Skullcandy's new Supreme Sound signature which, for Hesh, means "attacking bass, natural vocals and precision highs." The sound is outta this world—even when we attach an adapter and plug these into a guitar amp. The new detachable cable is a godsend; if you're like us and wont to get tangled up in your office chair, now you won't ruin the entire set.



4

5) Desk Warehouse
Hitachi Touro Desk Pro (\$130-230)
www.touropro.com

If the future of data storage is in cloud computing, external hard drives really have to compete. Hitachi's sleek Touro Desk Pro comes with either a one-, two- or three-terabyte capacity with local and cloud backup software, a USB 3.0 interface and 7200rpm hard disk. The storage enables remote data access from any smartphone or computer (via a web browser, natch). It's like a warehouse on your desk.



5

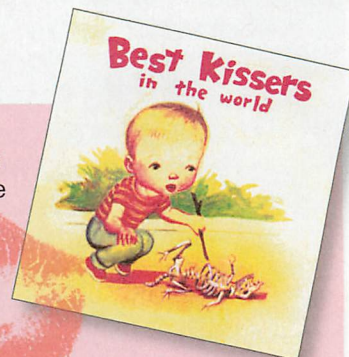
Resurrecting Roadkill

OF ALL THE SHITTY THINGS LABELS PULL ON BANDS, one of the most egregious is when they let an album languish on a shelf. After putting out two EPs for Sub Pop in the early 1990s, MCA picked up Best Kissers in the World and released the *Puddin'* EP and then the full-on power pop classic *Been There* in 1993. BKITW's caustic, rollicking songs made them critical darlings and earned them rabid, slobbering fans. Three years later, the band ponied up *Yellow Brick Roadkill* but MCA was sold to booze corp Seagram's in the clusterfuck that killed a million bands. "They used us as a swizzle stick," says singer-guitarist Gerald Collier.

WHAT HAPPENED?

Roadkill went to a warehouse. A mysterious figure sold advance promo copies of the album on eBay for big bucks. Fans gladly paid the premium just to have songs like "Dance of the Spanish Fire Weasel" and "Lonely Enough to Lie." Finally one such enthusiast, Christopher Knudson, is releasing it on his Hail the Sound label.

Hail the Sound revives lost Best Kissers in the World album.



WORTH BUYING TWICE?

Collier and Knudson added a 14th song ("Ginger Ale") plus 18 alternate versions, rarities and unreleased songs; it's available as a 500-copy limited edition, and Best Kissers are stoked. "It was our best album," Collier says. "Had it come out, I'm fairly certain that we could have all afforded to go back to college and make something of ourselves."

NOW WHAT?

"I might buy a new sport coat or something to celebrate." Wait—no reunion? No new album? "I'm afraid not. You are more likely to see a Fabergé egg." — RANDY HARWARD