



I remember when *Considered Dead* came out in 1991. The vocals, somewhere between Chuck Schuldiner and Martin van Drunen, were positively sick. The music, although inspired by Death, was not derivative of it. *Considered Dead* incorporated more time changes than the Death albums that preceded it, and the uglier form of death metal Gorguts was churning out on its debut disc was even more of a drastic backdrop for some of the eerie melodies that leader Luc Lemay laid down in his solos. The confidence, skill, and style of these leads belied the fact that he'd only been playing guitar for 4 years or so at the time the disc was recorded. It's been some years since I last heard this album, but I'm glad to have it again. It takes some effort to decipher the riffs through Scott Burns' slightly murky guitar production (it only sounds adequately clear on one of 3 good stereos I've spun it on), but track after track is chock full of a surprisingly accomplished marriage of memorable writing and technical prowess. *Considered Dead* was a great start! The two bonus tracks on this reissue are pre-production tracks for the album.

Hearing some of the more technical (and then-new) Morrisound projects while recording *Considered Dead* there, Lemay returned home with fresh inspiration for new songs. The resulting *Erosion of Sanity* album - helped out by a quantum leap in mix quality - delivered in spades, and saw the band going to further extremes in terms of time changes and dynamics. Additionally, the songs



themselves were even more memorable. Everything good about the debut came into full bloom on *Erosion*. Few death metal bands in 1993 were churning out music so simultaneously brutal, technical, progressive, and memorable. A freaking classic slab of death metal. Every song a killer. The two bonus tracks on this reissue are pre-production tracks for the album.

Given the demand for these vintage Roadrunner titles, Metal Mind could easily have cheated out and slapped together a second-rate, bare bones campaign for a quick buck and gotten away with it. Instead, no effort was spared to give the fans the definitive presentation: liner notes and bios (by Luc Lemay and Deron "CKY" Miller here, respectively), full-color expanded booklets, bonus material, and individually numbered digipak cases (full color inside and out) with a handsome flood coat of dull varnish. I no longer have my original copies to which I could compare the sonics of the remastering, but these sound fine. For the limited production run (2000 of each title) and fair price, Metal Mind earns top marks for going to such lengths to deliver.

