

PESTILENCE - SPHERES

By the time *Spheres* was released in 1993, Pestilence was far removed from the thrash death metal sound that had characterized their first release *Malleus Maleficarum* only six years before. Line up changes and a turn towards intricate technique took the place of aggression and brutality and in this, Pestilence's last full-length before their break up, the band plays a pretty non aggressive linear kind of progressive metal. The jazz influences of guitarist Patrick Mameli are clear. He riffs angular hook-less notes and solos with a progressive clean mind and sings with a raw blistering approach over mild melodic lines. The bass of Jeroen Paul Thesseling is even more clear, showed along modulating plenty of fluent playing. It is clearly noted in the album sleeve that there were no keyboards used on the making of *Spheres*, but the presence of synthesizers is almighty. As a bonus the Metal Mind reissue includes three remixed songs and two live versions recorded in 1993. Also, the cover artwork features unused Dan Seagrave artwork. Not as spectacular as the original artwork for sure.

- Hansel Merchor