



EAST BAY RAY AND THE KILLER SMILES is led by EBR, who used to be the guitarist for the Dead Kennedys. This, his first solo release, is eponymous (mvdaudio.com). The rest of the band

is made up of DK fillers (i.e., the touring band) and a member of the Wynonna Riders. The style doesn't exactly pick off where the DKs left off, however. While leaning more toward pop punk than hardcore, they still manage to steer clear of the cliché sounds. Sometimes (but rarely) EBR's vocals feel a bit loungey (especially on the cover of Ernie Ford's "16 Tons"), but mostly it seems

more like he is having a good time. Every once in a while he even breaks out a bit of a harsher bent, such as the excellent "It's Broken." Also at the top for me is "The Last Time You Failed." Overall, it's really a good release, thanks in part to the solid studio work of the producer, Butthole Surfers' guitarist Paul Leary (known more for his producing of the overrated Sublime).

