

# ASYLUM STREET SPANKERS

# Mercurial

# YELLOW DOG RECORDS

## YDR 1404

Austin's all-acoustic ensemble covers a lot of ground on this typically eclectic outing. Blues, folk, jazz, rockabilly, klezmer, new wave, and even punk go through the **Asylum Street Spankers'** retro wringer, and all emerge in the band's typically swinging, if slightly gimmicky, fashion. The Beastie Boys' "Paul Revere" is transformed into an authentic rockabilly breakdown, somewhat like a combination of Manhattan Transfer and Sun-era Elvis. Black Flag's "TV Party" goes the hoedown route and now sounds like something the cast from Hee Haw recorded, complete with snappy TV jokes and theme songs from Bonanza, The Flintstones, and Jeopardy. Not as giggly but far better is a radically reworked version of the blues chestnut "Got My Mojo Workin'" sung as a slinky, finger-popping torch song by group co-founding member Christina Marrs. The swinging Dixieland side of the group is well represented by Sophie Tucker's "Some of These Days," a straight version enhanced by banjo, fiddle, and clarinet. A no-frills cover of the B-52's' "Dance This Mess Around" might be fun for those who don't know the original, but the Spankers' version doesn't noticeably improve or even alter the original and, worse, interrupts the flow of the album. The suggestive "Tight Like That," made popular by Tampa Red, gets the lyrics to Jim Carroll's "People Who Died" grafted onto the chorus, successfully combining two especially disparate genres in a very funny and unexpected -- at least once -- juxtaposition. Bessie Smith's salacious "Sugar in My Bowl," Ivory Joe Hunter's "Since I Met You Baby," and the pop standard "Shine on Harvest Moon" are all relatively unaltered, although the Spankers' winking humor is unmistakable. **Mercurial** is frisky, good-natured fun and a fine way to break into the band's lively retro sound and entertaining, self-deprecating but reverent Americana approach.

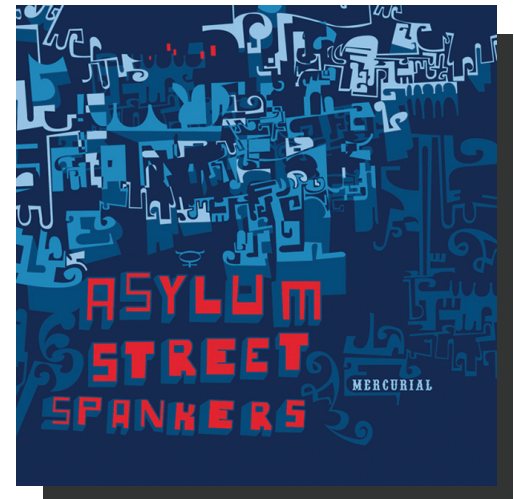
- *All Music Guide*

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**"At their most audacious when they mix genres big-time, this nouveau jug band from Austin T-X outdoes itself."**

—Robert Christgau, *The Village Voice*



### Track Listing

1. Digga Digga Doo
2. Paul Revere
3. D.R.I.N.K.
4. Since I Met You Baby
5. Shine On Harvest Moon
6. Got My Mojo Workin'
7. Some of These Days
8. Dance This Mess Around
9. TV Party
10. Hick Hop
11. Tight Like That
12. Sugar in My Bowl
13. Going Up to the Country, Paint My Mailbox Blue
14. It's a Sin to Tell a Lie

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# BIG DADDY

Artist	Asylum Street Spankers
Title	Mercurial
Selection #	YD21404
UPC	823800140420
Prebook	
Street Date	
Retail	\$15.95
Genre	Folk
Run Time	1:01:46
Box Lot	30, standard jewel case
Label	Yellow Dog Records
Format	CD