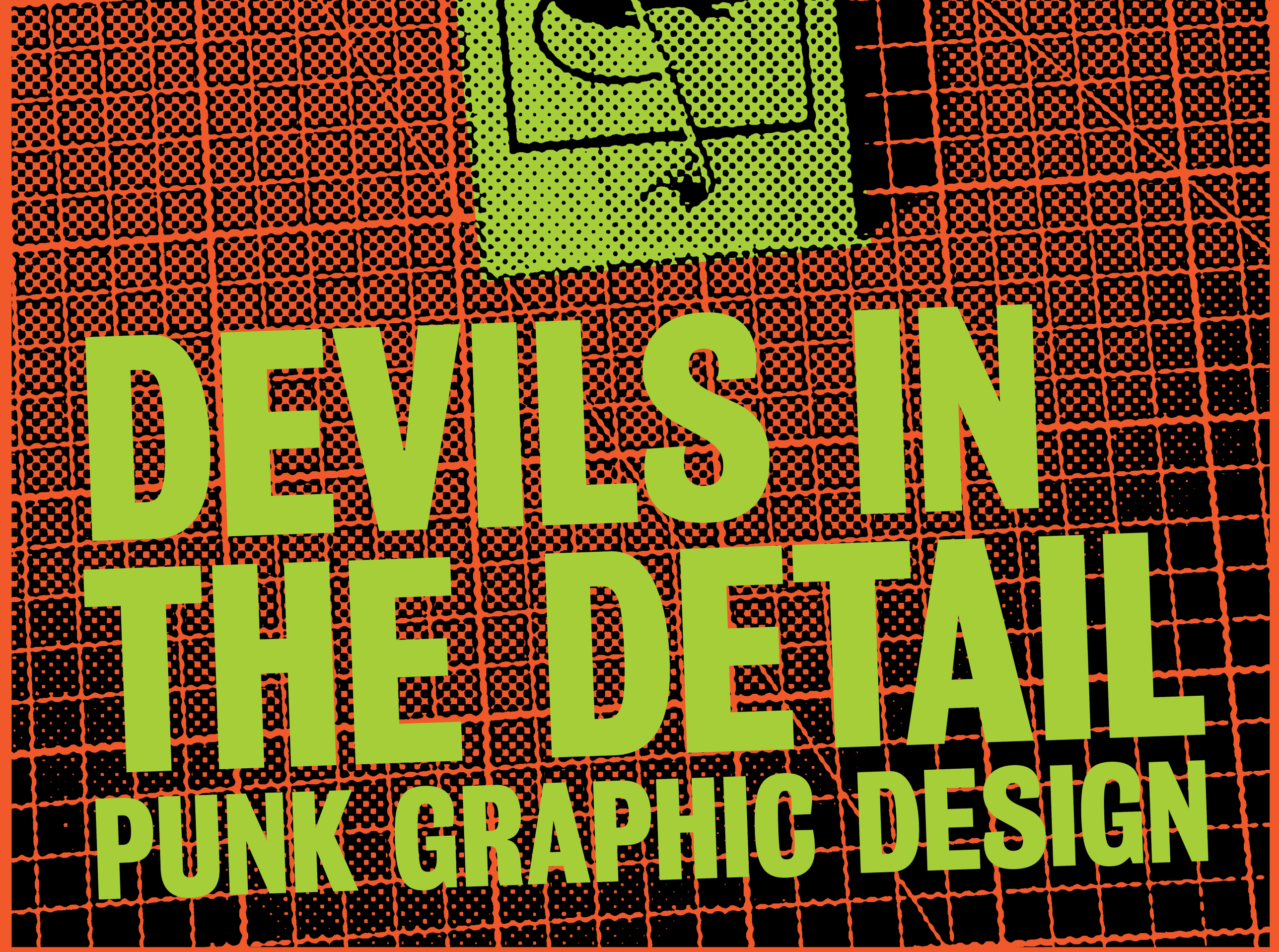


DEVIL IN THE DETAIL

PUNK GRAPHIC DESIGN

Visual Noise: Punk Graphic Design and Visual Disruption

Russ Bestley

In contrast to some reflective accounts, the originators of punk's visual style were often far from amateur enthusiasts: a complex mix of inspired beginners, up-and-coming illustrators and designers and seasoned professionals within the music industry helped to establish a palette of punk-inspired and punk-reflective approaches that would become inseparable from the subculture.

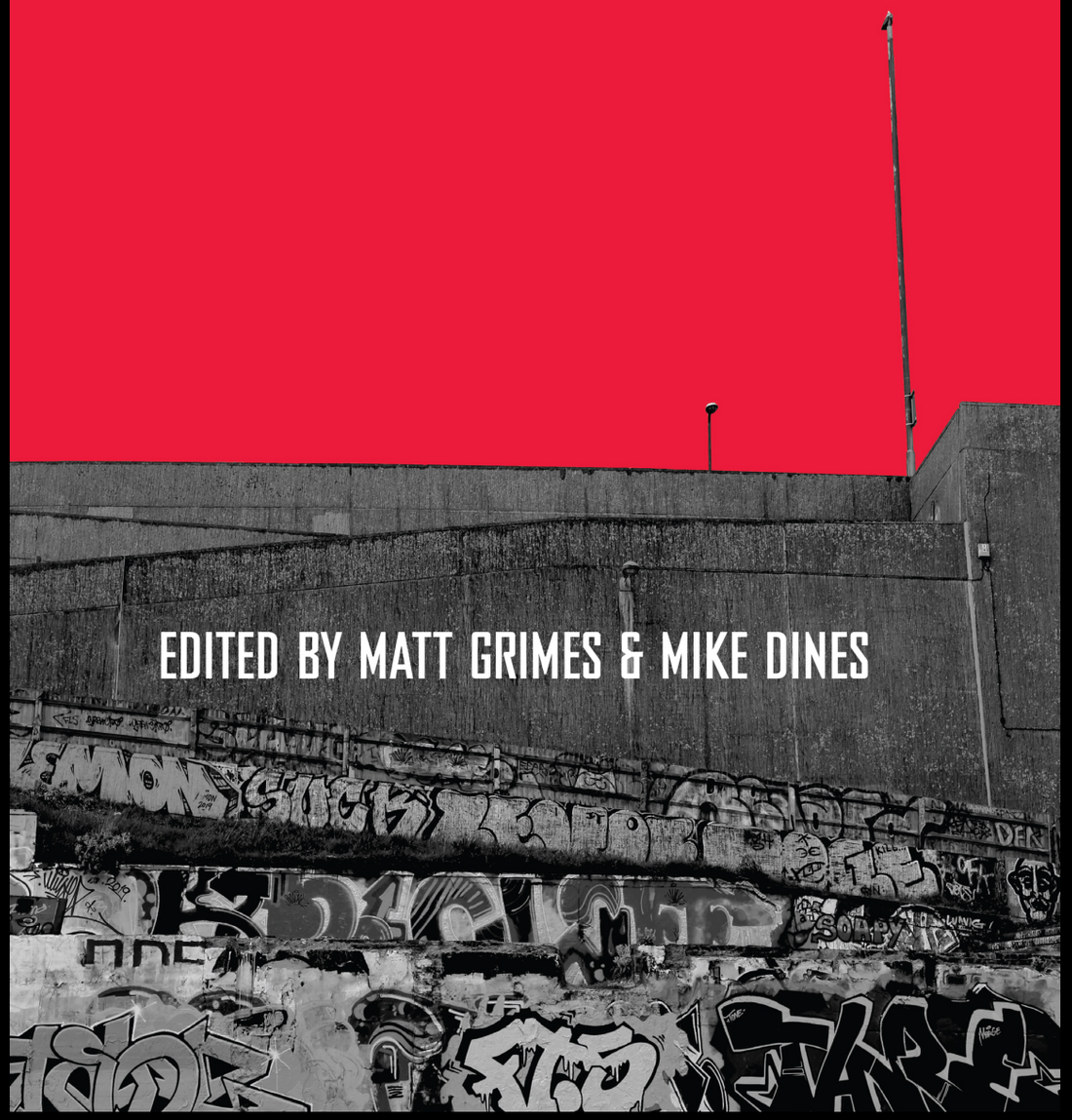
A desire to step away from ‘standard’ aesthetic conventions of harmony and composition, to embrace a sense of discordance, awkwardness and disruption, united a diversity of punk graphic design objects and artefacts. This paper explores a wide range of visual examples in order to highlight some commonalities in their approach to graphic design and typography and to underline their disruptive, ‘noisy’ intent.

Punk Rock: Radical Politics, Radical Aesthetics or Just the Same Old Game?

Pete Dale

PUNK NOW!!

CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES ON PUNK



EDITED BY MATT GRIMES & MIKE DINES



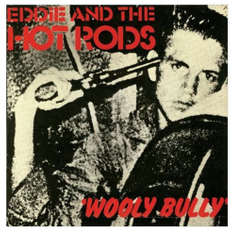


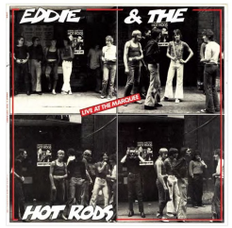


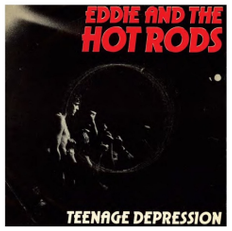
















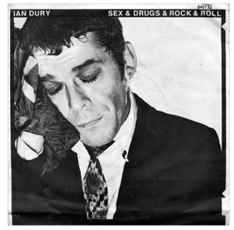




























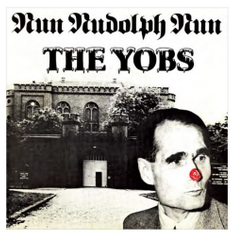






















Heart of the City: Proto Punk and Novelty Punk









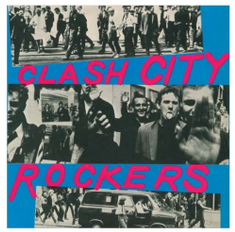
































































No More Heroes: The First Wave of UK Punk























































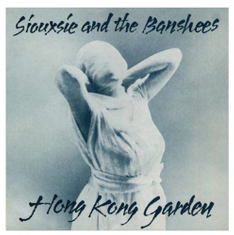


















Sounds of the Suburbs: From the First Wave to the New Wave















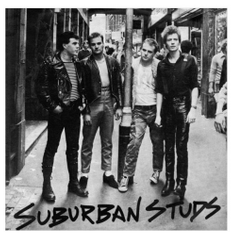


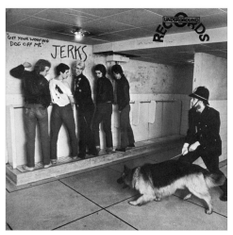




















































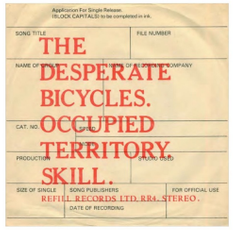




All the Young Punks: The Second Wave diaspora























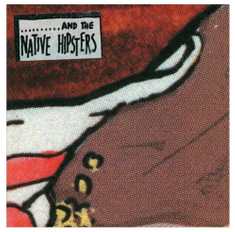














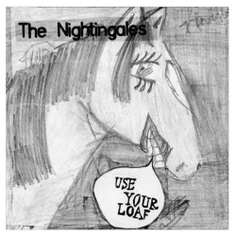


































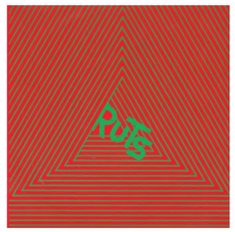


Xerox music is here at last: DIY and the Post Punk Avant-Garde



























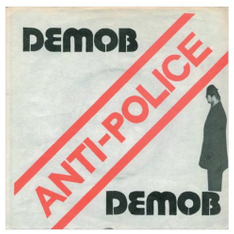


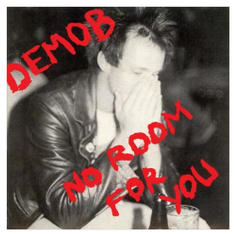


























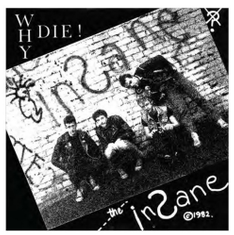


















Brand New Age: From the Second Wave to New Punk









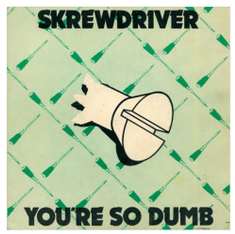






































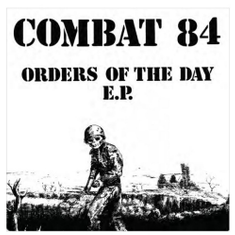


























Where have all the bootboys gone?: Street Punk and Oi!



























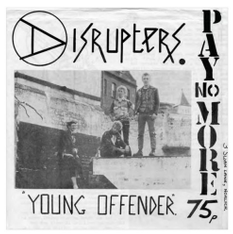




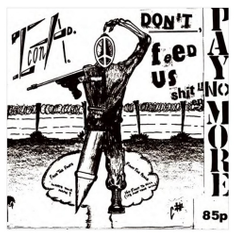










































New Puritans: Anarcho Punk, Real Punk and Hardcore

1976

- **22nd February 1976** Rough Trade Records opens at 202 Kensington Park Road, London
- **16th March 1976** Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson resigns, to be succeeded by James Callaghan. By April, the Government had lost its formal majority, with the loss of a by-election and the defection of three back-bench MPs
- **4th June 1976** The Sex Pistols play live at the Lesser Free Trade Hall Manchester, a gig organised by Pete Shelley and Howard Devoto of the Buzzcocks
- **29th August 1976** The Sex Pistols, The Clash and The Buzzcocks play a showcase gig at the Screen On The Green cinema, Islington, London
- **30th August 1976** Rioting breaks out at the Notting Hill Carnival, London
- **8th October 1976** Sex Pistols sign contract with EMI records
- **22nd October 1976** The Damned release the first official UK Punk single, *New Rose*, on Stiff records
- **20-21st September 1976** 100 Club Punk Festival Oxford Street, London
- **1st December 1976** Sex Pistols live TV Bill Grundy interview
- **21st December 1976** Grand opening of The Roxy club in Neal Street, Covent Garden, London

January February March April May June July August September October November December

1977

- **February 1977** Sid Vicious joins the Sex Pistols
- **10th March 1977** Sex Pistols sign contract with A&M records
- **16th March 1977** Sex Pistols fired by A&M records
- **23rd March 1977** Prime Minister James Callaghan and Liberal leader David Steel establish new Lib/Lab Pact Government
- **13th May 1977** Sex Pistols sign contract with Virgin records
- **7th June 1977** The Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations
- **16th August 1977** Elvis Presley dies at the age of 42
- **16th September 1977** Rock star Marc Bolan killed in car crash
- **20th December 1977** Stiff Records terminate their contract with The Damned, leaving the group in disarray

January February March April May June July August September October November December

1978

- **14th January 1978** John Lydon quits Sex Pistols during US tour
- **March 1978** The Roxy club in Covent Garden finally closes its doors, after struggling on since April 1977 when original manager Andy Czezowski left it in financial difficulties
- **30th April 1978** 1st National Rock Against Racism Carnival, Victoria Park, London
- **15th July 1978** Northern Rock Against Racism Carnival, Moss Side, Manchester
- **24th September 1978** 2nd National Rock Against Racism Carnival, Brockwell Park, London
- **12th October 1978** Sid Vicious arrested for the murder of his girlfriend, Nancy Spungen in New York

January February March April May June July August September October November December

London

Faraway Towns

1979

- **January 1979**
  Water workers, ambulance drivers, sewerage staff and dustmen all involved in industrial action, heralding the 'Winter of Discontent'
- **2nd February 1979**
  Death of Sid Vicious, Sex Pistols' bass player
- **28th March 1979**
  Vote of no confidence in the Labour Government is passed by 311 to 310 votes in parliament, forcing a general election
- **23rd April 1979**
  Anti-Nazi demonstrator Blair Peach killed by police during National Front march in Southall, London
- **April – May 1979**
  20 date national RAR *Dance and Defend* tour
- **4th May 1979**
  Margaret Thatcher elected Prime Minister
- **27th December 1979**
  Soviet troops invade Afghanistan in response to a military coup and the overthrow of the pro-Soviet Communist government, leading to a prolonged war with Afghan mujahidin guerrillas supported by the USA, China and Saudi Arabia

1980

- **April 1980**
  Riots erupt in St. Paul's, Bristol
- **May 1980**
  Protect and Survive leaflet issued in UK
- **18th May 1980**
  Death of Ian Curtis, lead singer of Joy Division
- **21st June 1980**
  3 members of The Stranglers arrested for inciting crowd to riot at gig in Nice, France
- **14th July 1980**
  Death of Malcolm Owen, lead singer of The Ruts
- **15th October 1980**
  James Callaghan resigns Labour party leadership, to be replaced by Michael Foot
- **27th October 1980**
  Oi The Album, the debut compilation album of the Oi sub-genre, released by EMI records in conjunction with Sounds magazine
- **4th November 1980**
  Ronald Reagan elected US President
- **10th December 1980**
  John Lennon shot dead in New York

1981

- **January 1981**
  The NME issues *C81*, a cassette compilation of post punk music, Crass Records release *Bullshit Dectector*, a compilation of demos by unsigned Anarcho Punk groups
- **10th – 12th April 1981**
  Riots erupt in Brixton, South London
- **11th May 1981**
  Bob Marley, reggae musician, dies
- **3rd July 1981**
  Gig in Southall by Oi bands the 4 Skins, The Business and Last Resort results in a riot
- **3rd – 12th July 1981**
  Further rioting occurs in Toxteth and Bradford
- **29th July 1981**
  Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer marry at St Paul's Cathedral
- **3rd August 1981**
  4 Skins single banned by major retailers
- **September 1981**
  Women for Life on Earth set up a peace camp at RAF Greenham Common Airbase to protest the deployment of Cruise nuclear missles at the site

January February March April May June July August September October November December

London

Faraway Towns

1982

- 2nd April 1982
  Argentina invades the Falkland Islands
- 20th June 1982
  Argentinian surrender, end of Falklands War
- November 1982
  Crass *How Does It Feel* single discussed in Parliament during Prime Minister's Question Time

1983

- 9th June 1983
  Margaret Thatcher re-elected Prime Minister
- 25th October 1983
  USA invades Grenada
- 14th November 1983
  Celebrated record sleeve designer Barney Bubbles commits suicide

1984

- 5th March 1984
  Miners at Cortonwood colliery in Yorkshire strike over pit closure, followed a week later by a national miners' strike
- 29th May 1984
  Miners and police clash at Orgreave, near Sheffield
- 12th October 1984
  IRA bomb attack on the British Government, at the Conservative party conference in Brighton

January February March April May June July August September October November December

London

Faraway Towns

asymmetrical
layout
range left
ragged right

|

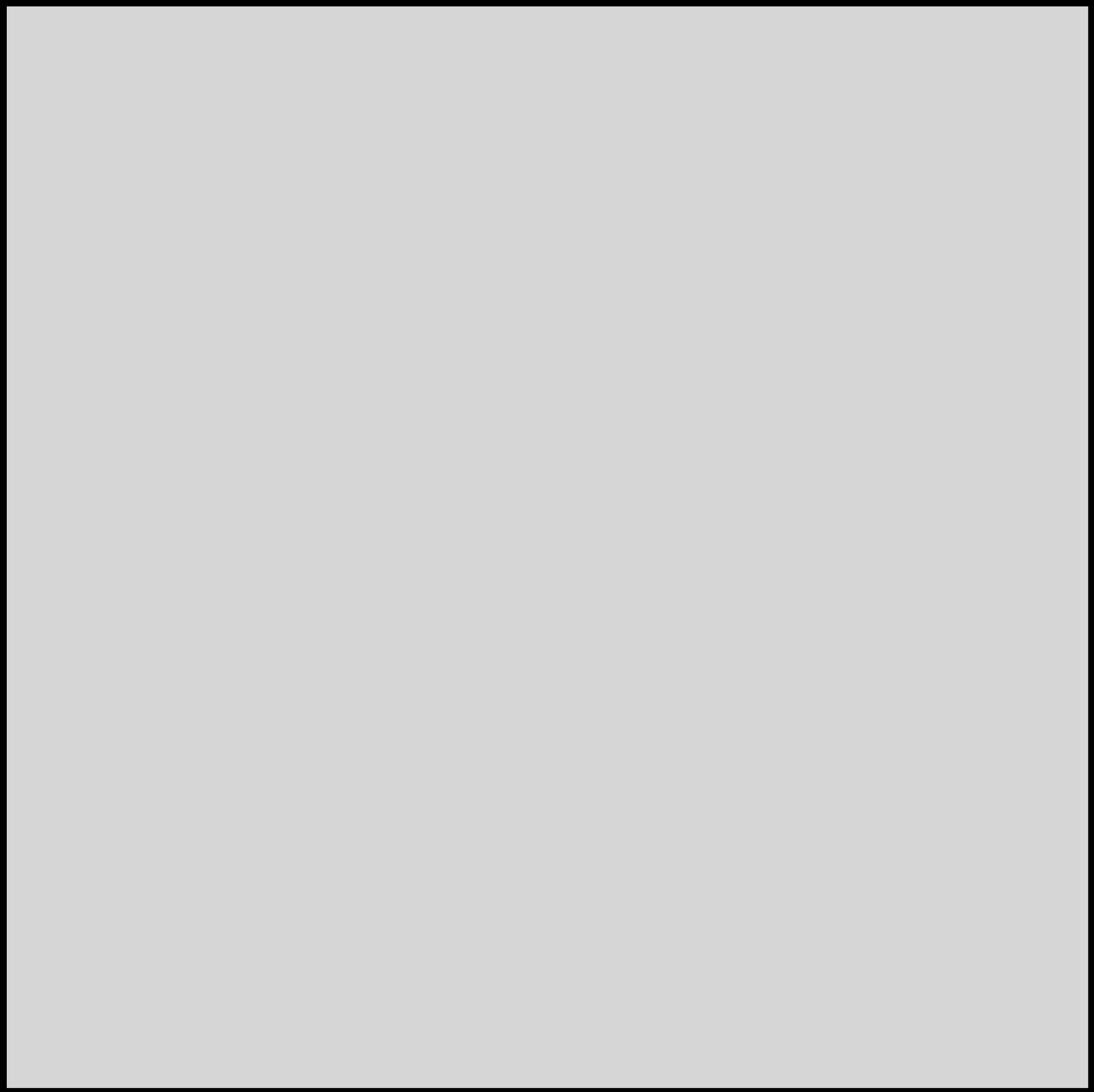
centred

layout

centred text

reflectional symmetry

|



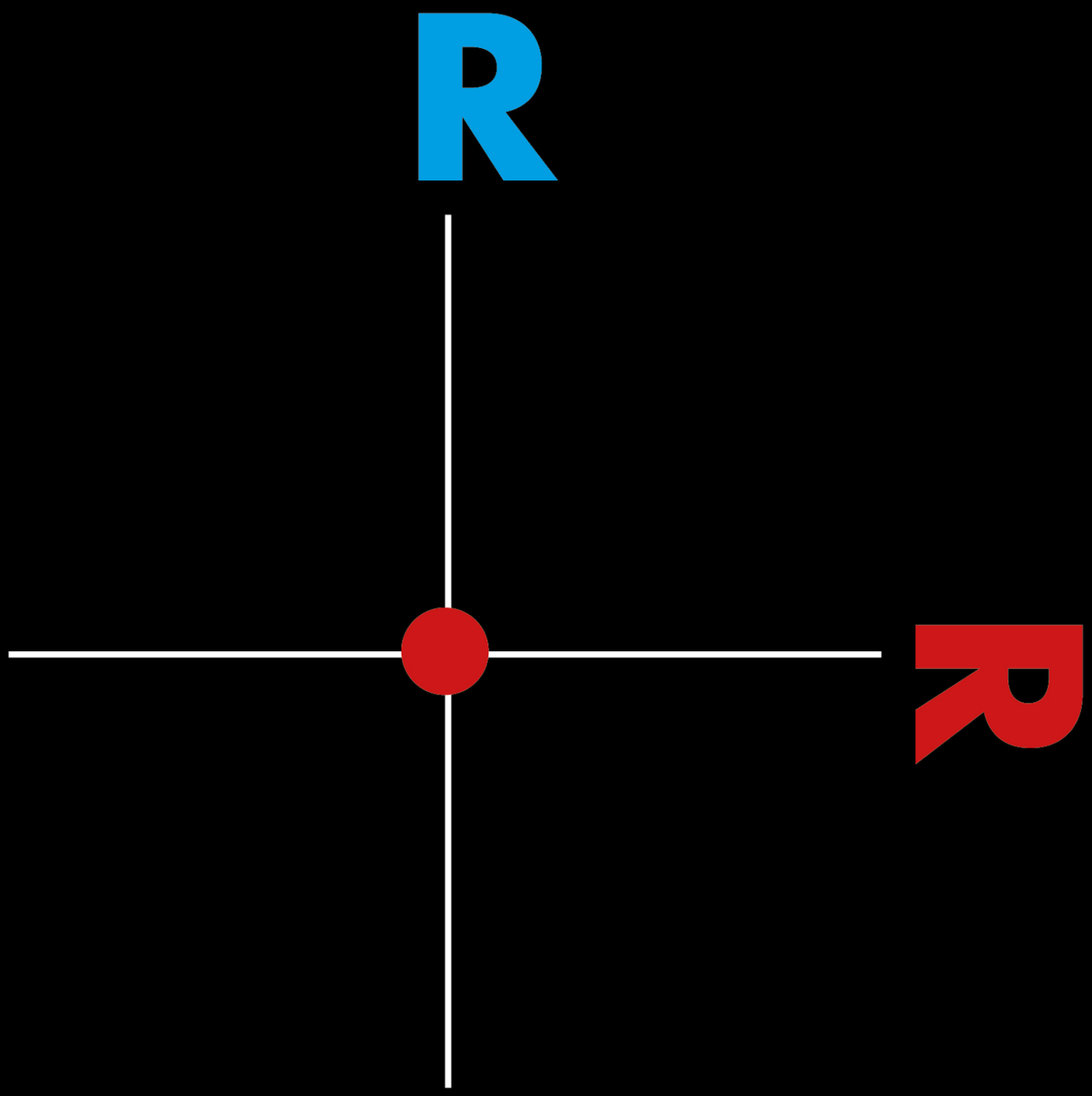
stability

instability

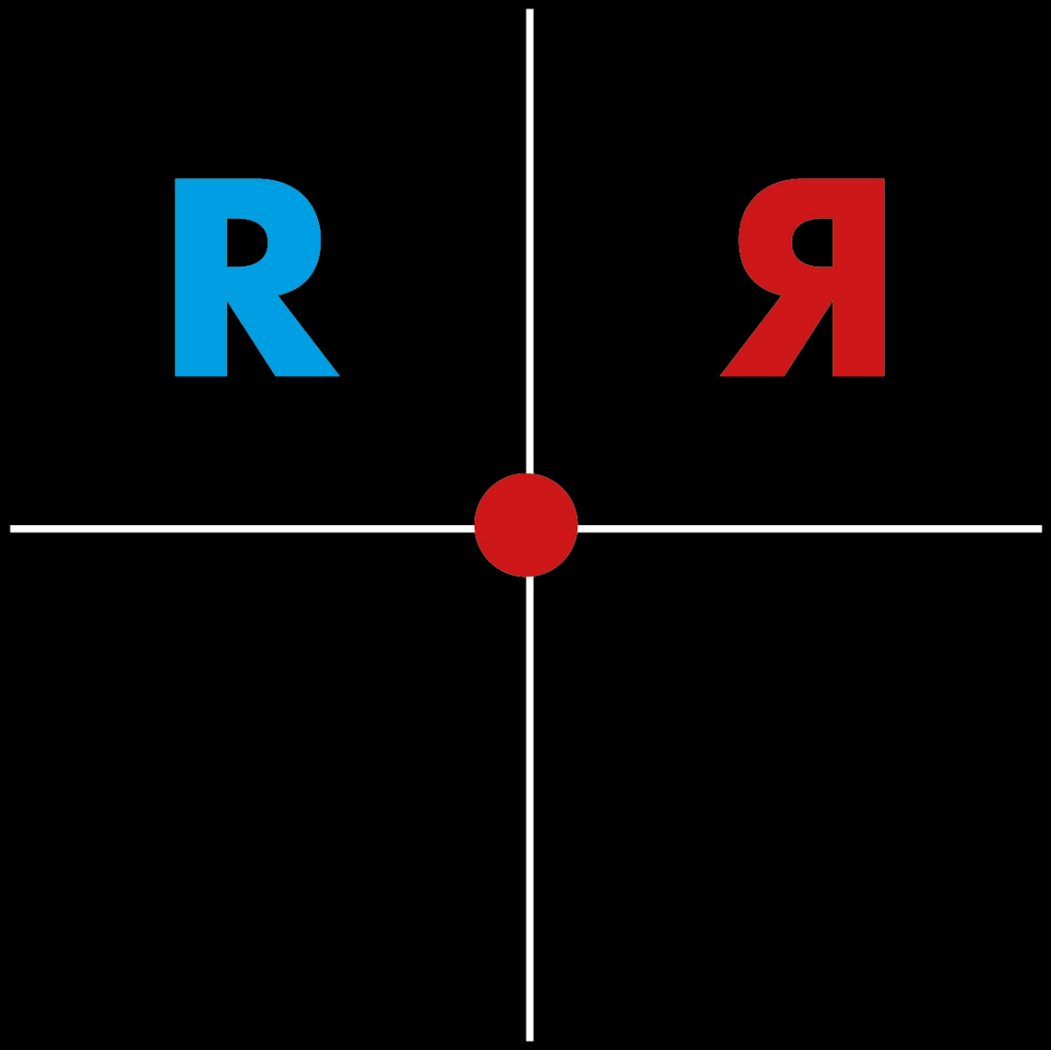
static

dynamic

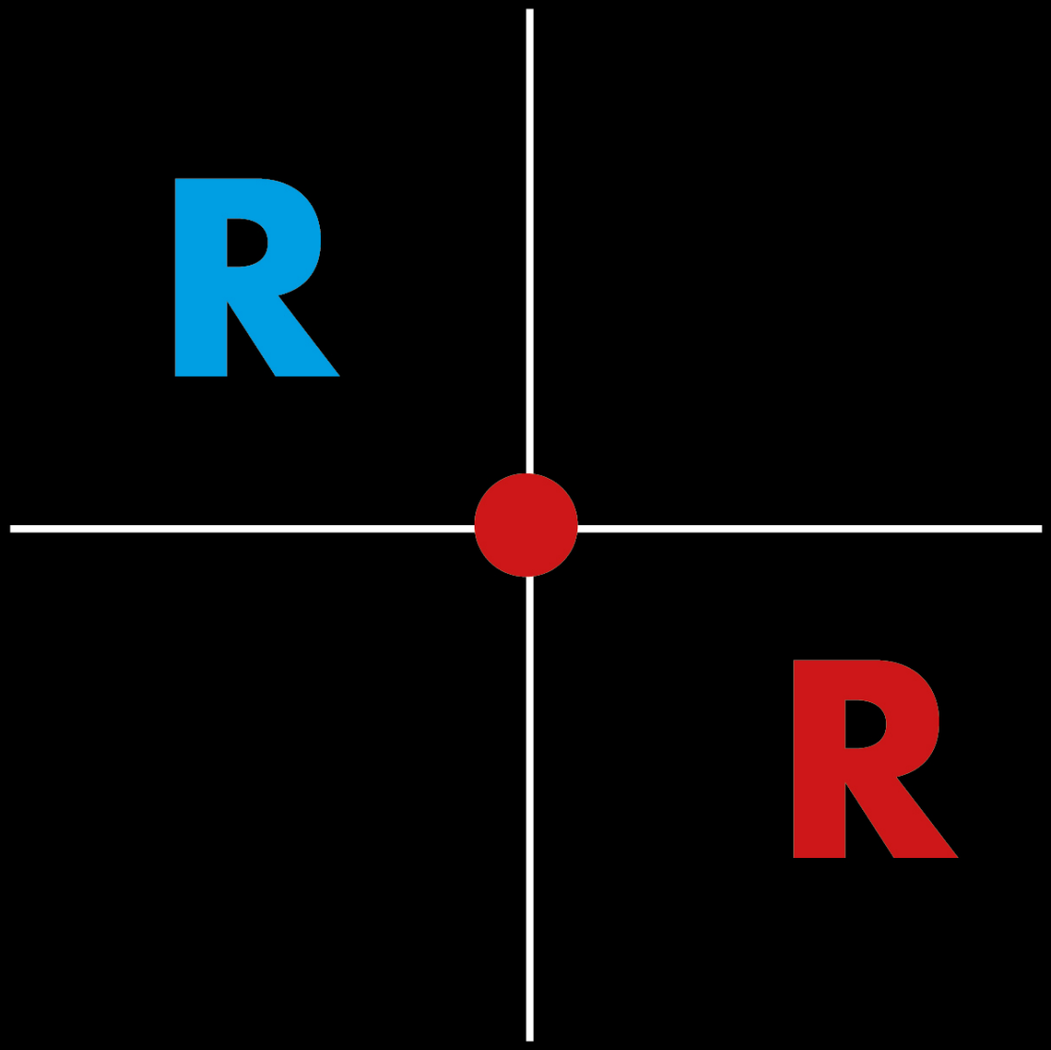
Symmetry



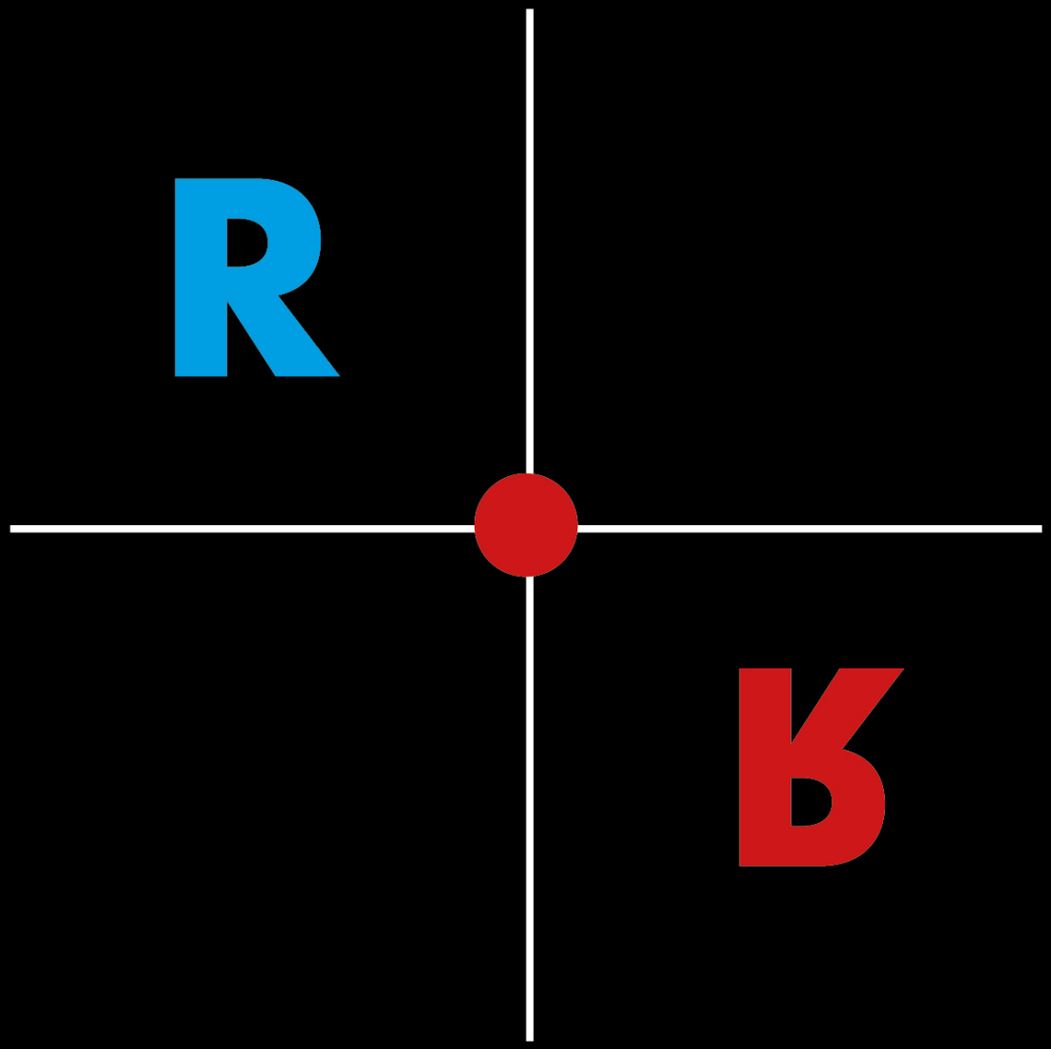
Rotational symmetry



Reflectional symmetry

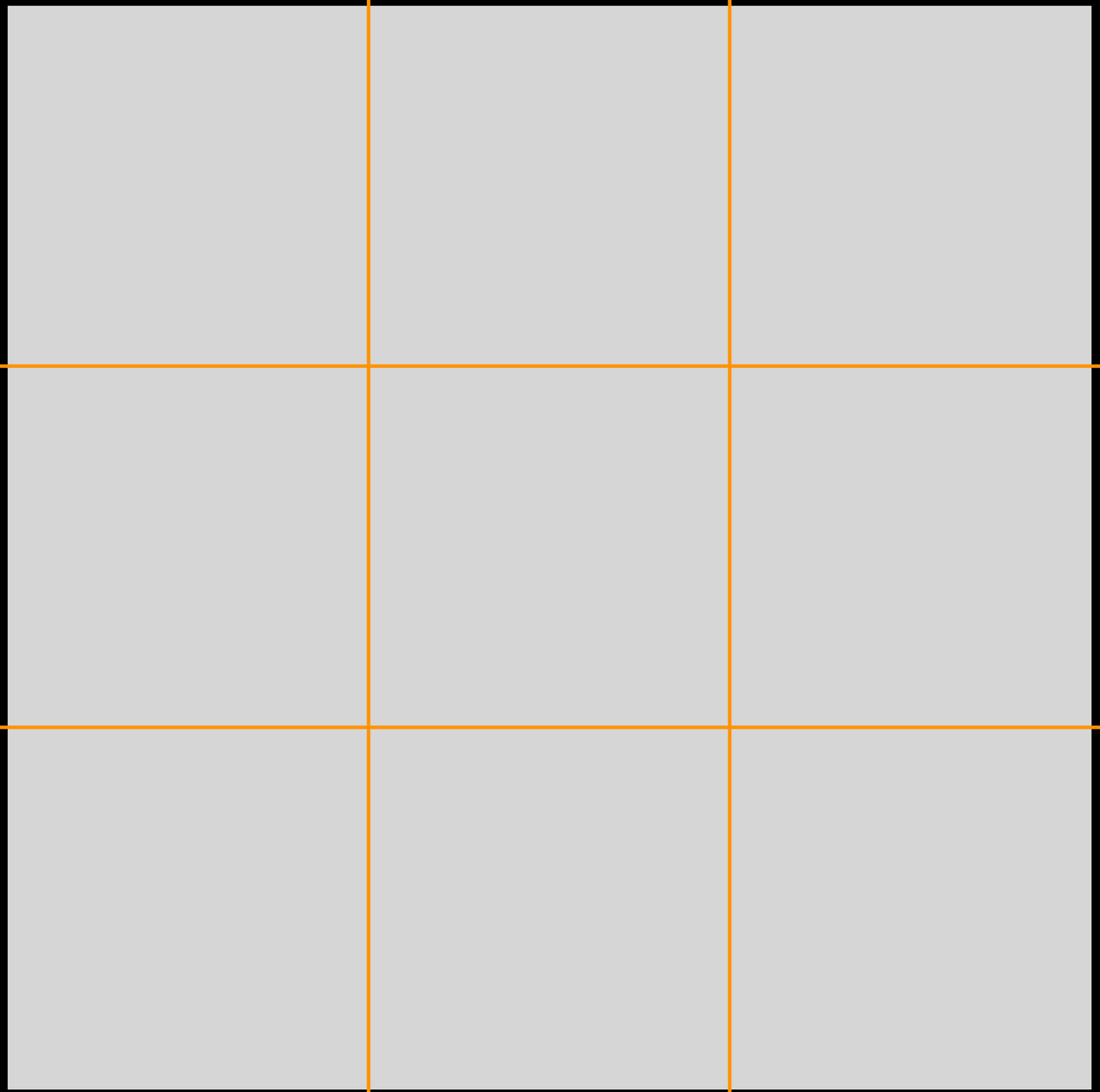


Translational symmetry



Glide-reflectional symmetry

Rule of Thirds



TOP OF THE POPS

WELCOME HOME

I'M THE LEADER OF THE GANG (I AM)

ALRIGHT ALRIGHT ALRIGHT

SKWEEZE ME PLEEZE ME

LIFE ON MARS

GOING HOME

GAYE

SATURDAY NIGHTS ALRIGHT FOR FIGHTING

YESTERDAY ONCE MORE

TOUCH ME IN THE MORNING

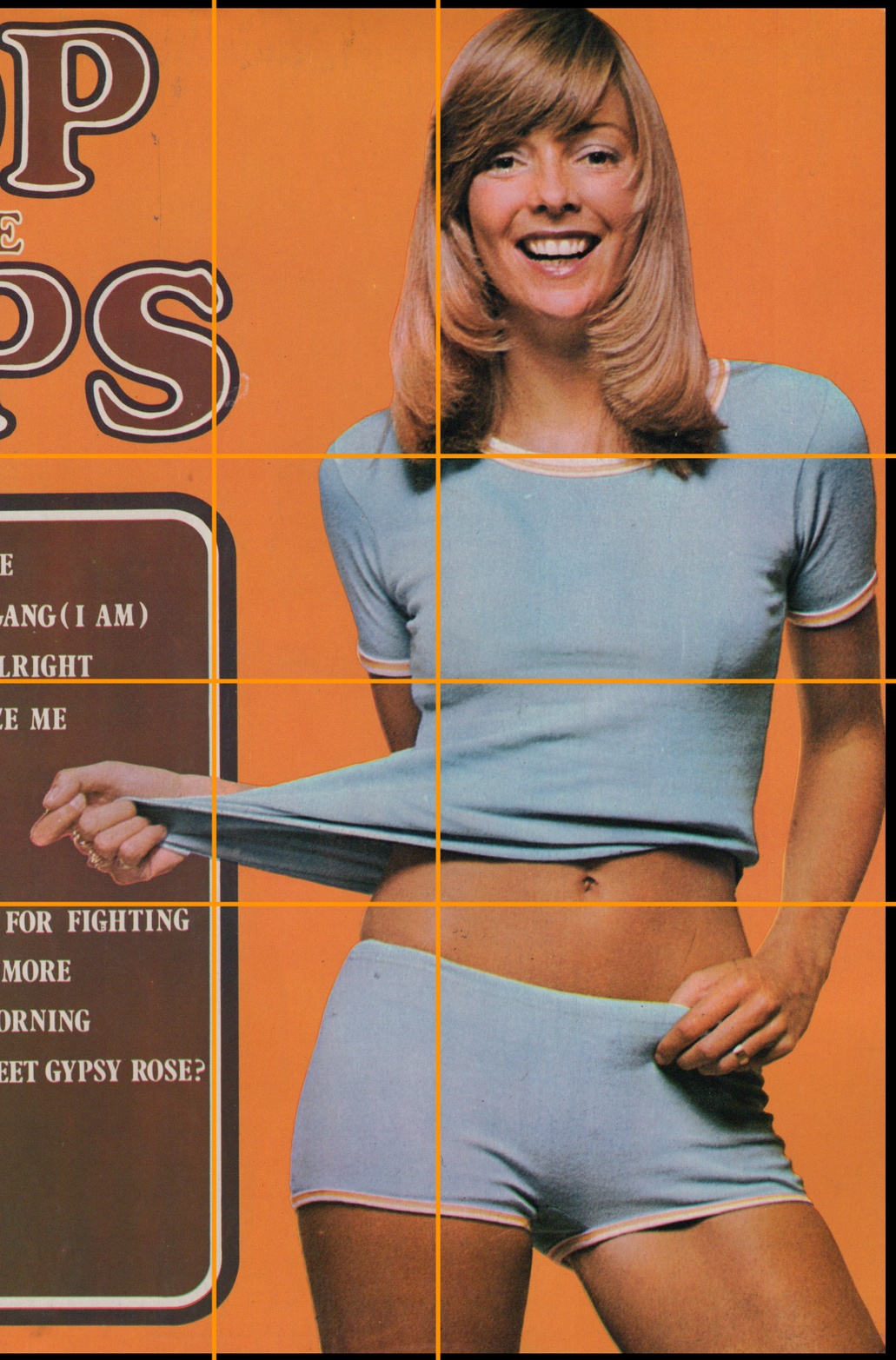
SAY, HAS ANYBODY SEEN MY SWEET GYPSY ROSE?

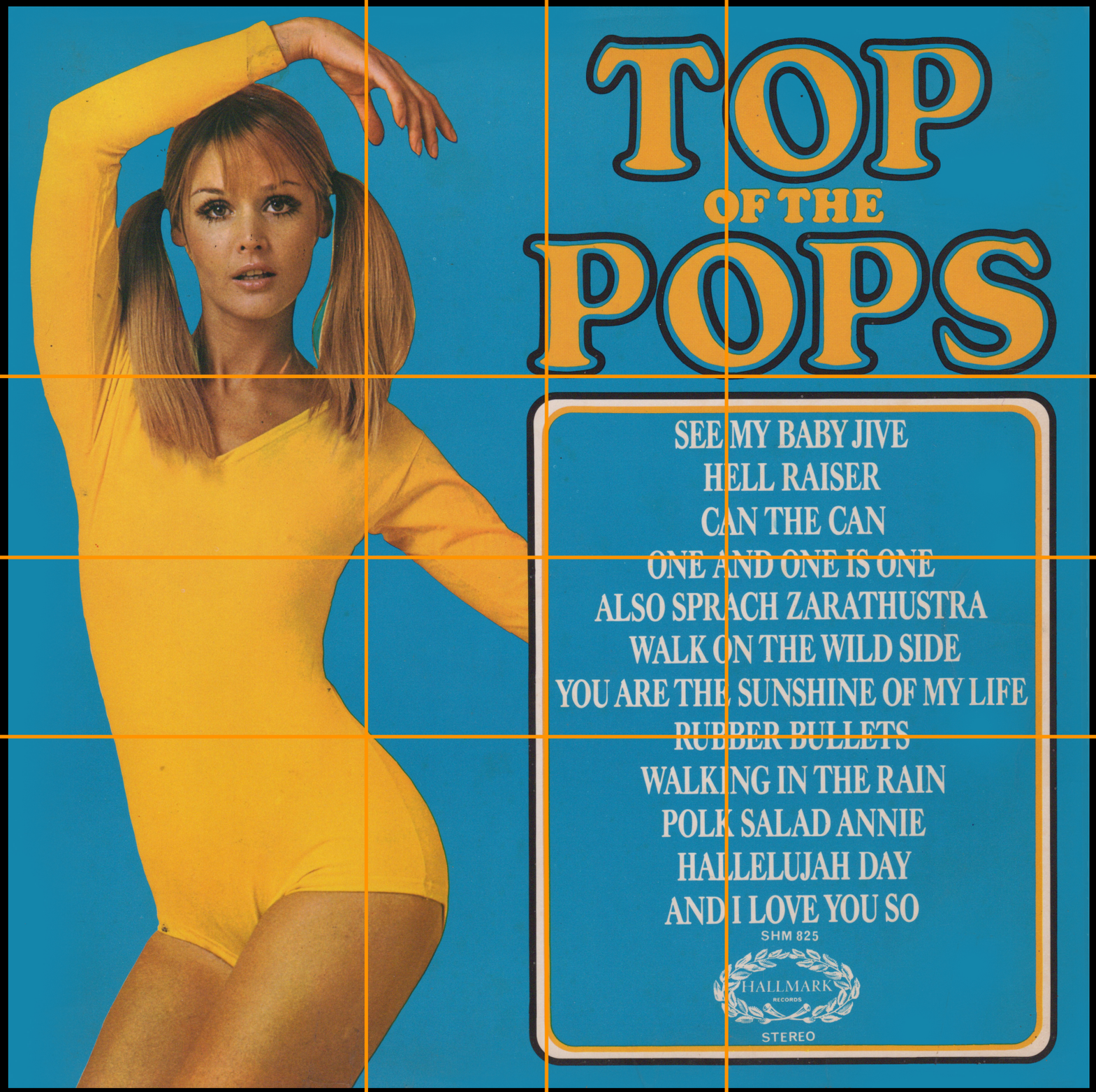
FOOL

SHM 830

HALLMARK SERIES

STEREO





TOP OF THE POPS

SEE MY BABY JIVE
HELL RAISER
CAN THE CAN
ONE AND ONE IS ONE
ALSO SPRACH ZARATHUSTRA
WALK ON THE WILD SIDE
YOU ARE THE SUNSHINE OF MY LIFE
RUBBER BULLETS
WALKING IN THE RAIN
POLK SALAD ANNIE
HALLELUJAH DAY
AND I LOVE YOU SO

SHM 825

HALLMARK RECORDS

STEREO

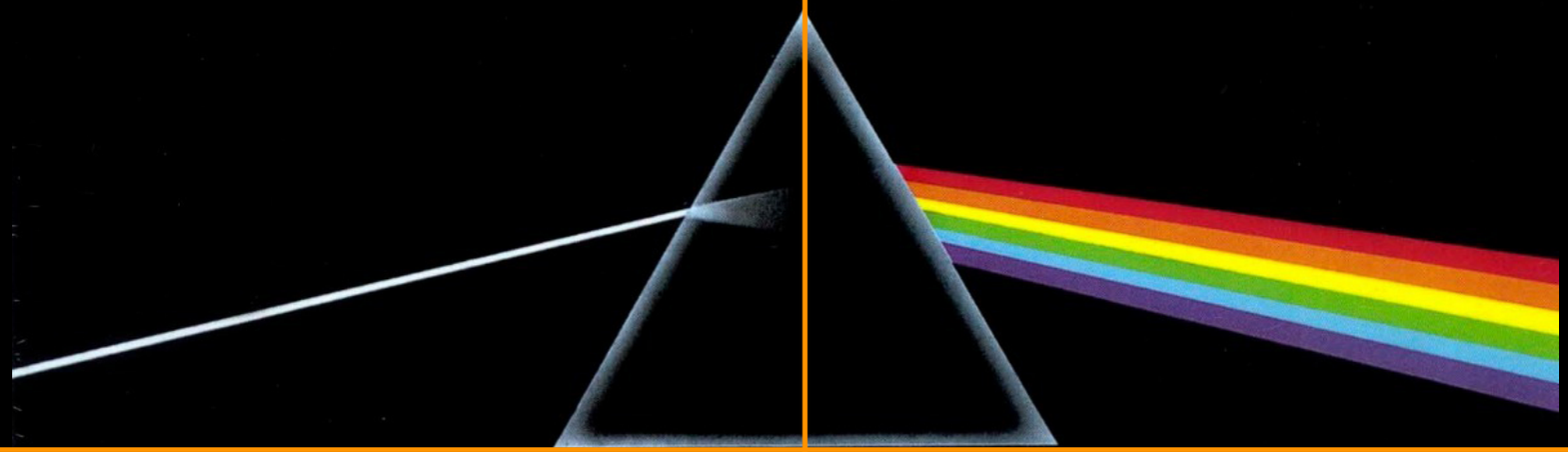

FLEETWOOD MAC
RUMOURS

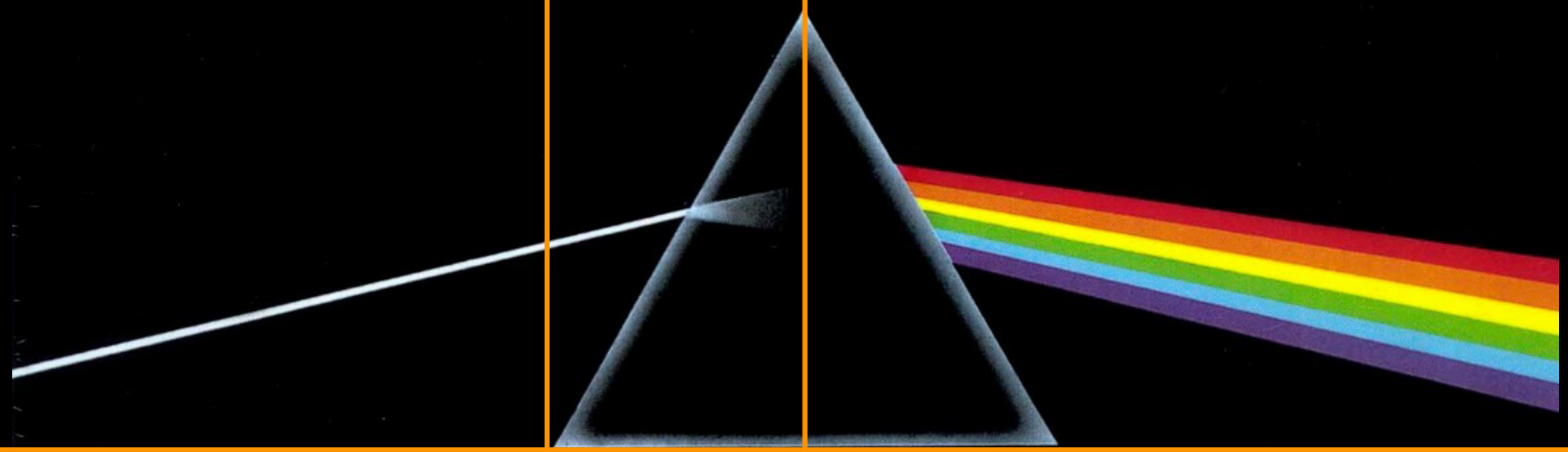


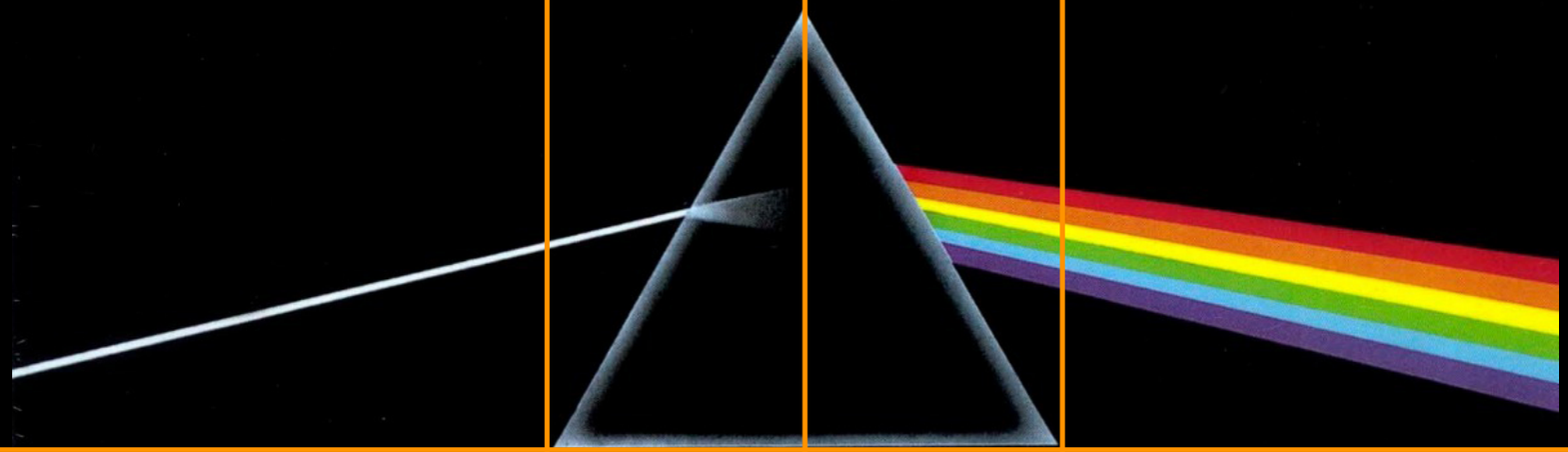


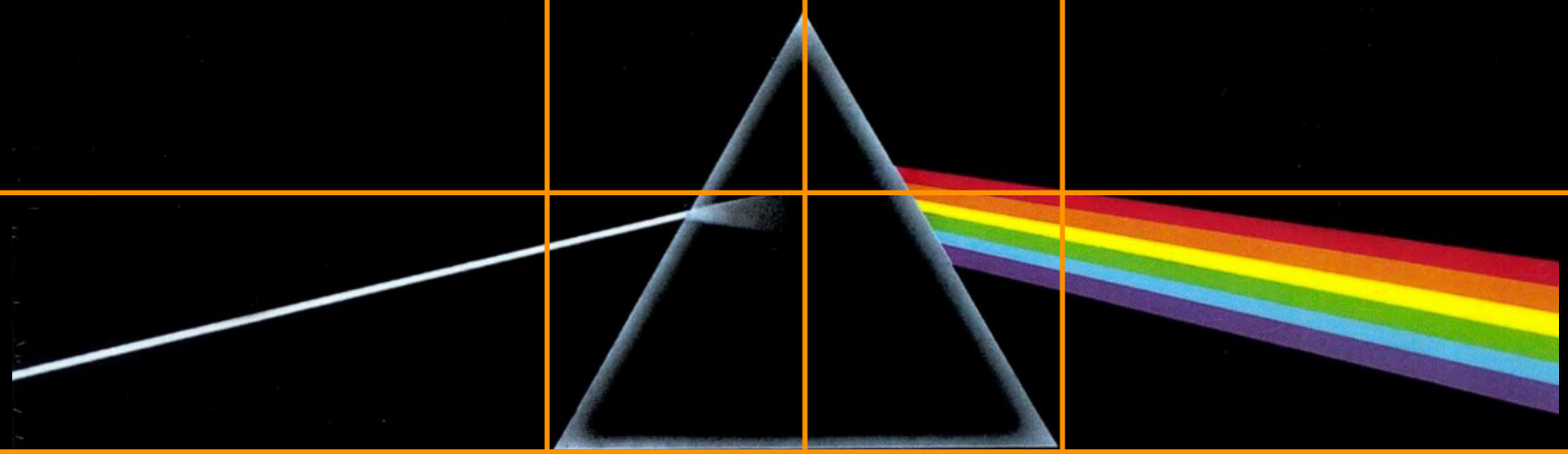


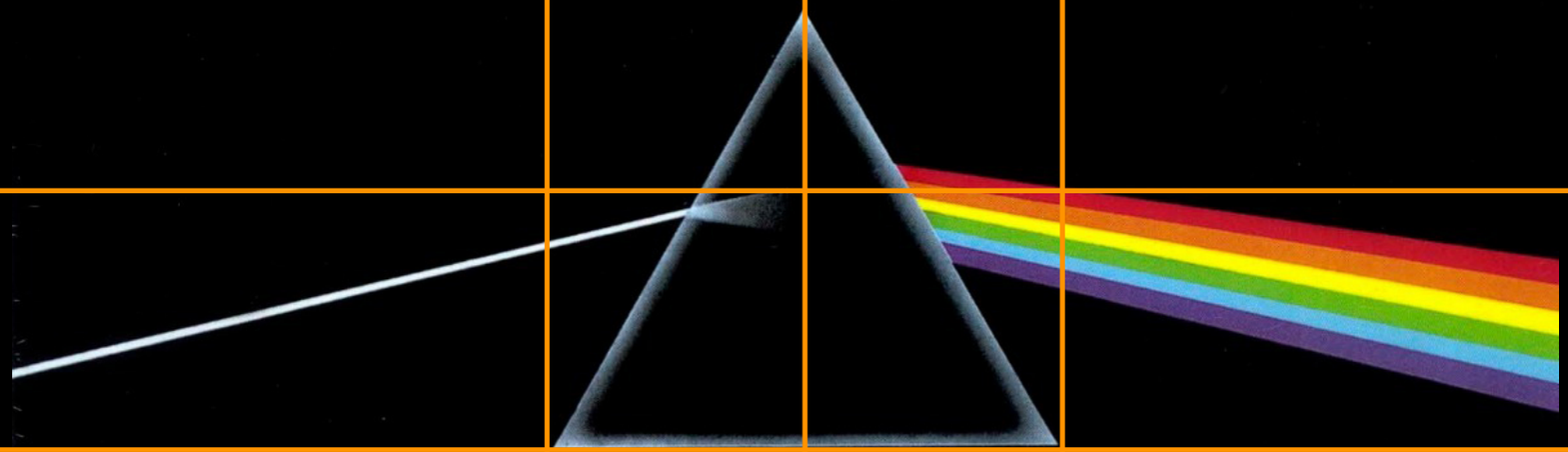












George ‘God’ Snow
Paul Henry
Jill Mumford
Bill Smith
Malcolm Garrett

George ‘God’ Snow


RICK WAKEMAN
NO EARTHLY CONNECTION


CASH-NICK
LABRITAIN-PARLO
WATSON-JON
DAYS-GUY
EMERGENCY
AS8502
999
NINE
NINE
NINE
UP36399
B/W
MY
STREET
STINKS
SNAPPED BY GARRY CHRIS


666
NINE
NINE
NINE

Paul Henry

BING CROSBY LIVE



The Stranglers



IV


THE
STRANGLERS:
NO MORE
HEROES

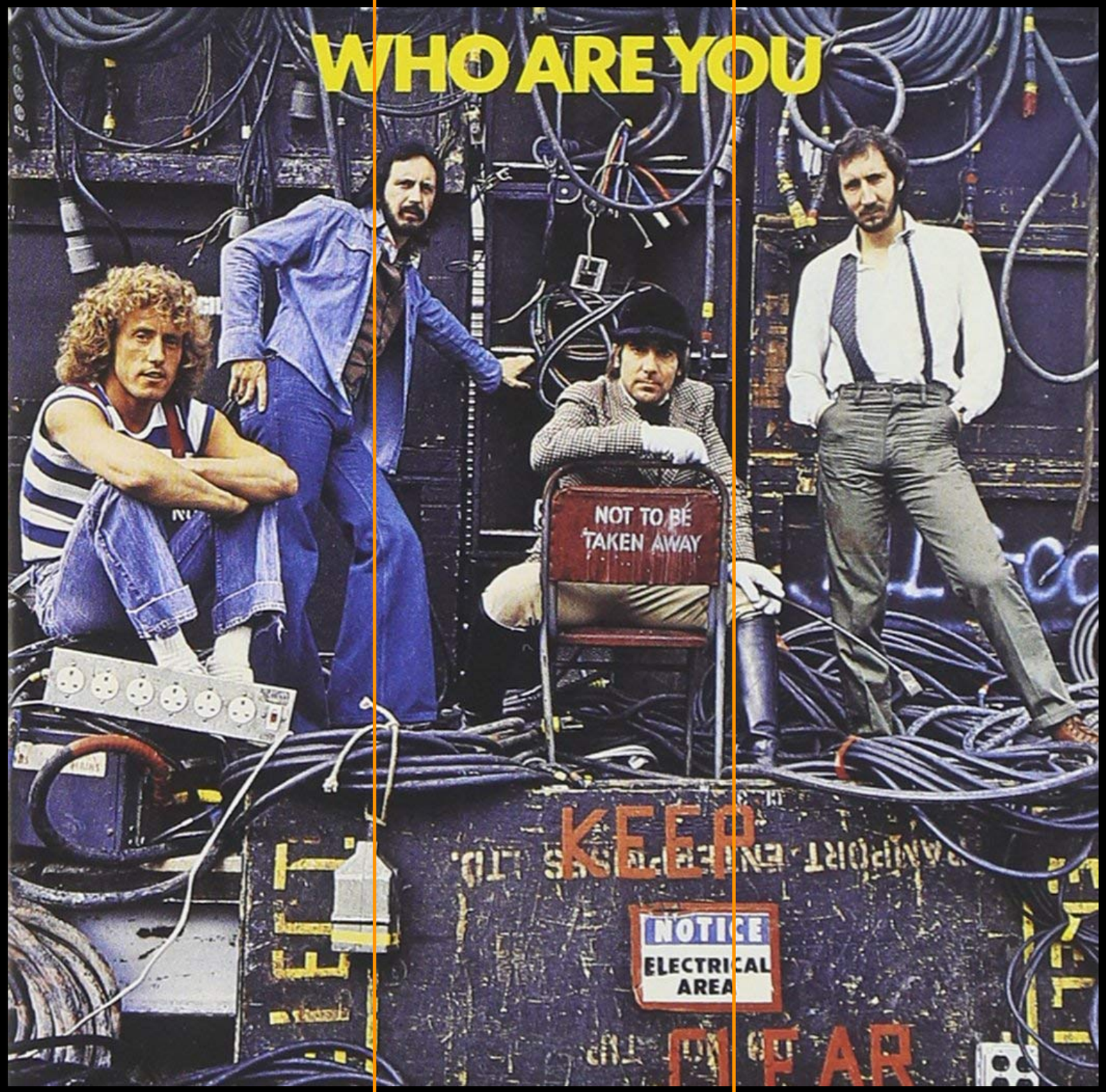
Jill Mumford

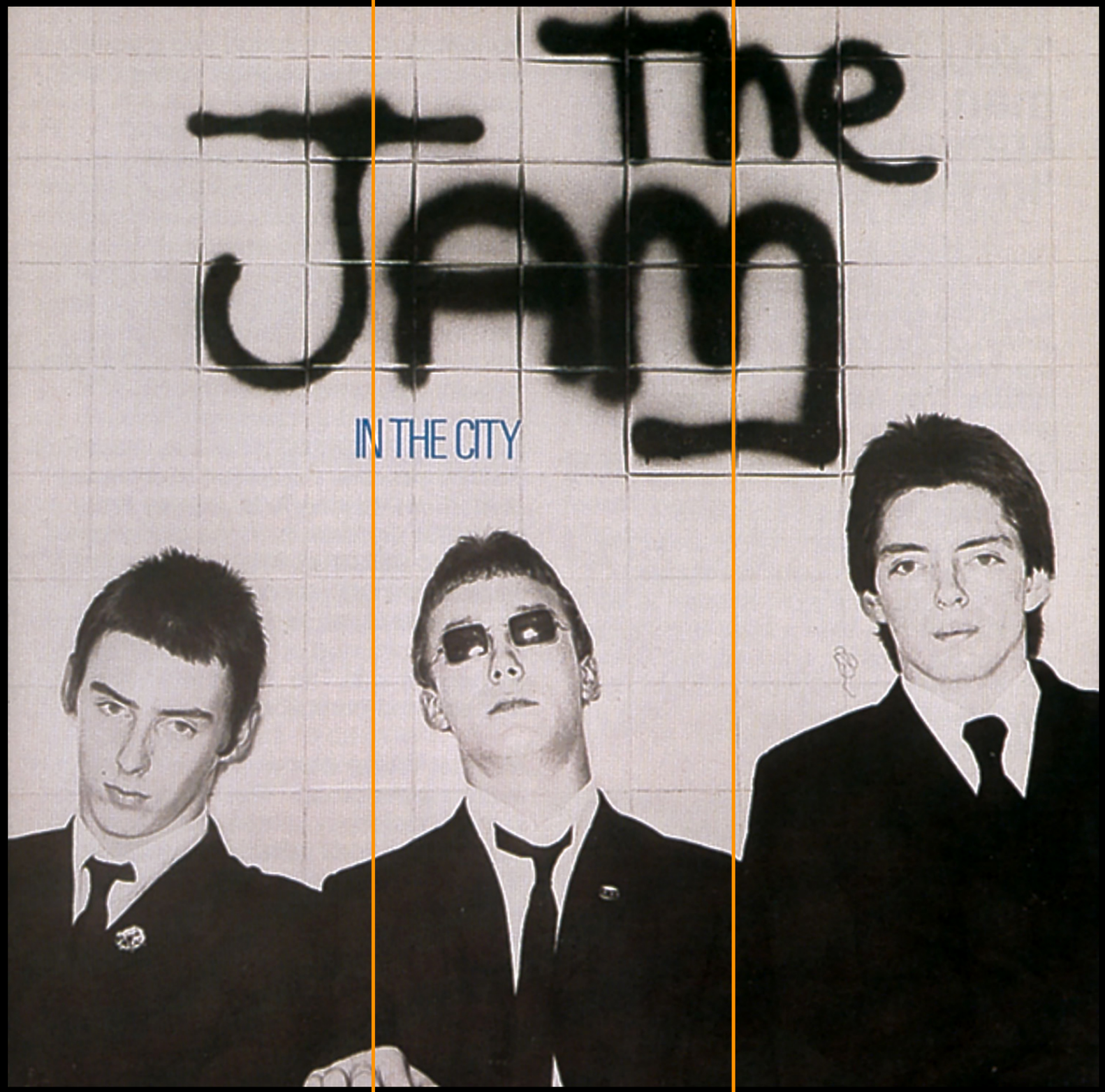

SHAKIN' STEVENS
Polydor


VTC
Drums and Wires


SIOUXSIE AND THE BANSHEES
THE SCREAM

Bill Smith


WHO ARE YOU
NOT TO BE
TAKEN AWAY
KEEP
NOTICE
ELECTRICAL
AREA
CLEAR


The Jam
IN THE CITY

THE JAM / THIS IS THE MODERN WORLD



THE JAM

ALL MOD CONS

polydor


THE CURE
HOOVER

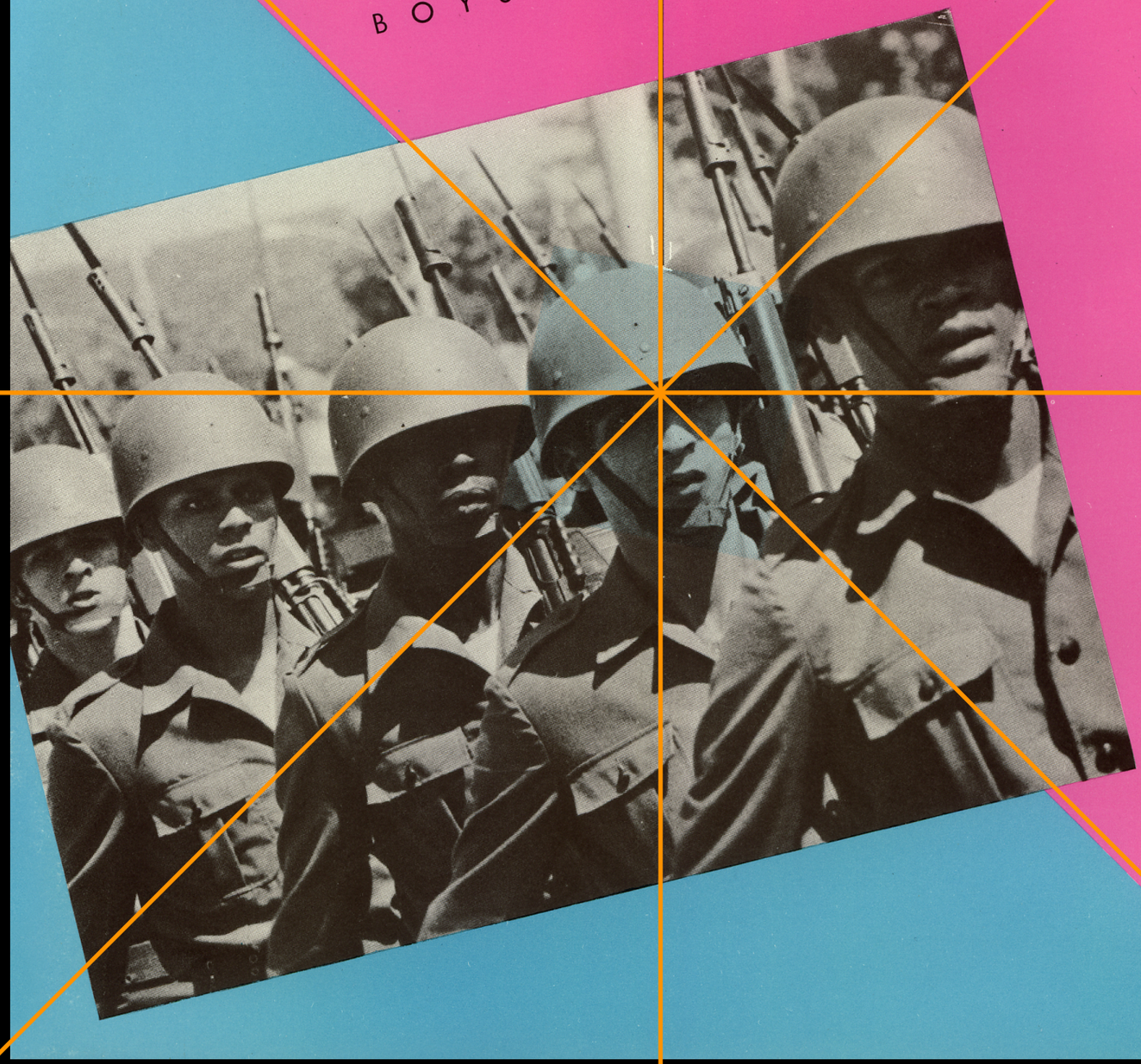
THE CURE



KILLING AN ARAB

THE CURE

BOYS DON'T CRY



Malcolm Garrett

DICT

AD

ASM

RG

O

COLLAGE - LINDER



UNITED ARTISTS RECORDS ®

BUZZCOCKS

BUZZCOCKS

WHAT

UP 36348

DO I GET ?

UNITED ARTISTS RECORDS

I DONT MIND

AUTONOMY

BUZZCOCKS

BUZZCOCKS




BUZZCOCKS
a different kind of tension
a different kind of tension

MAGAZINE

TOUCH AND GO

GOLDFINGER

Symmetry

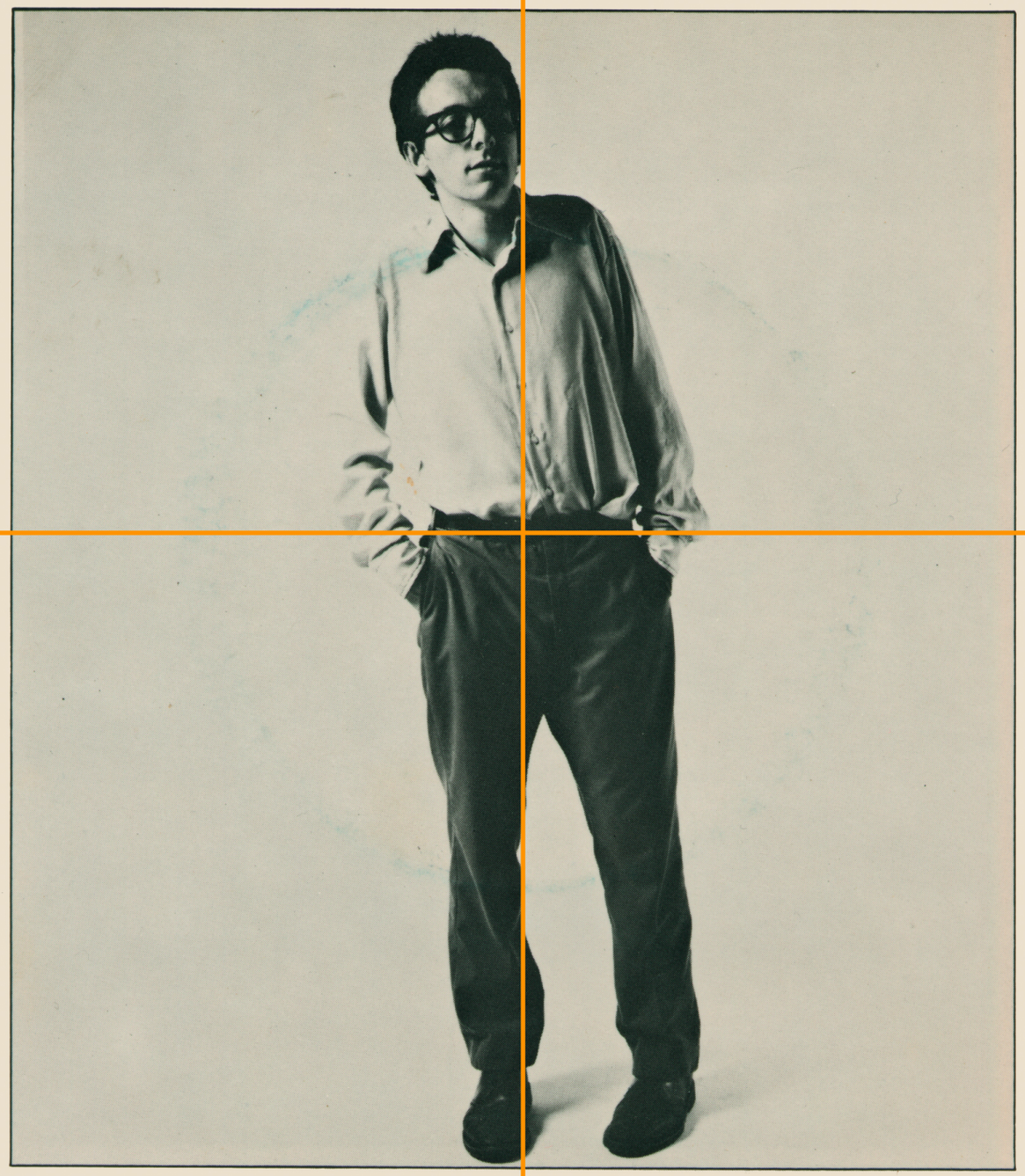


THE ADVERTS



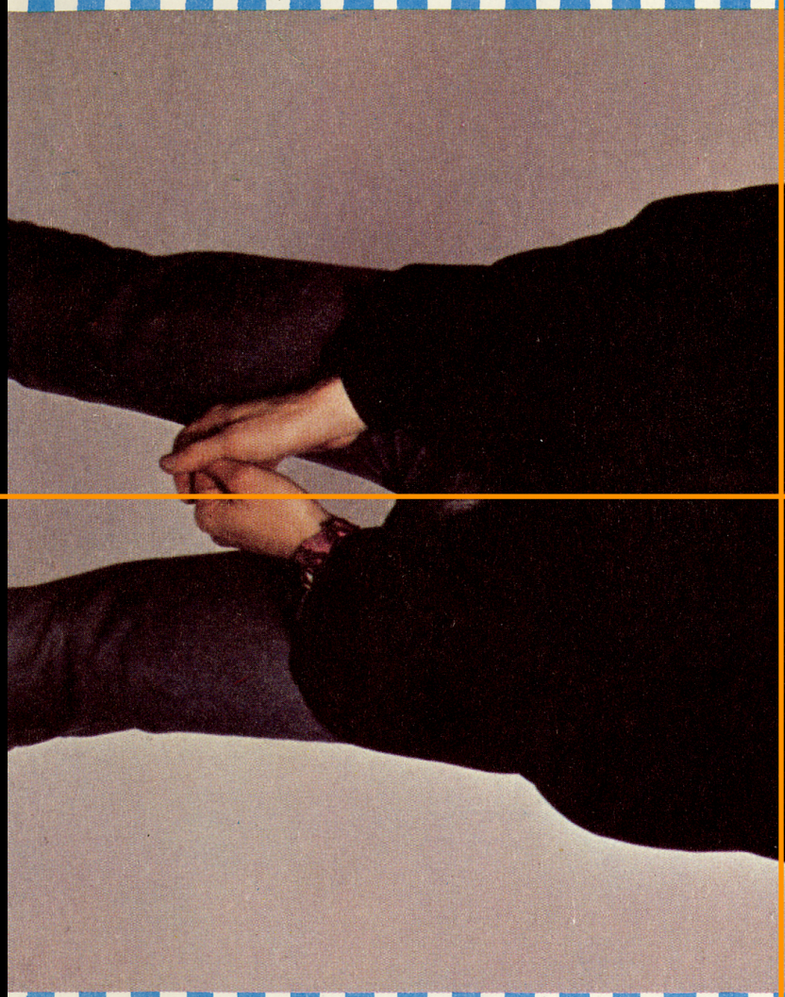

OPEN SKIDS WIDE OPEN SKIDS WIDE OPEN SKIDS WIDE OPEN SKIDS WIDE OPEN SKIDS WIDE OP

ELVIS COSTELLO



ELVIS COSTELLO

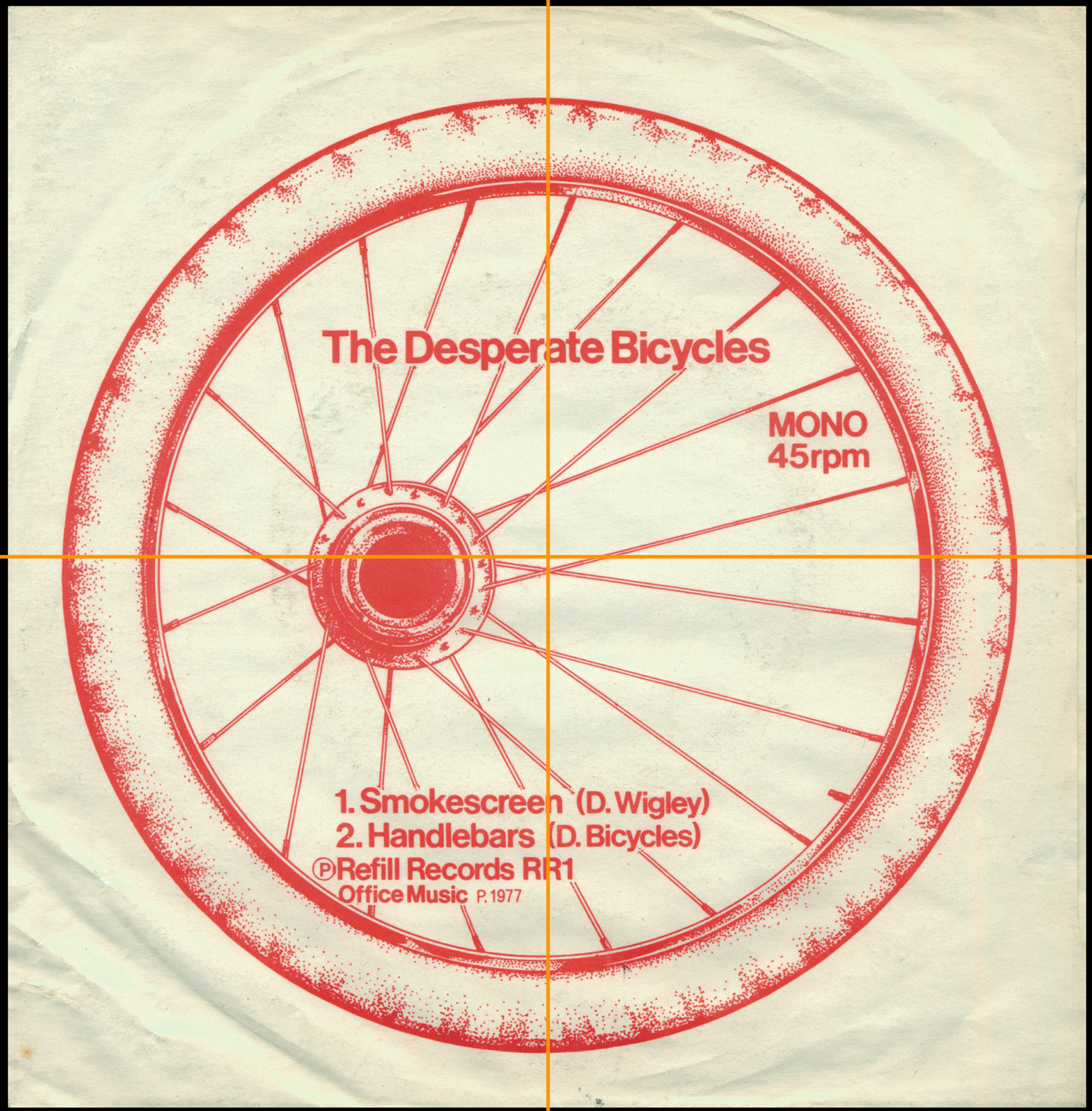
BUY 20





DETECTIVES

WATCHING THE


The Desperate Bicycles
MONO
45rpm
1. Smokescreen (D. Wigley)
2. Handlebars (D. Bicycles)
℗Refill Records RR1
Office Music P. 1977

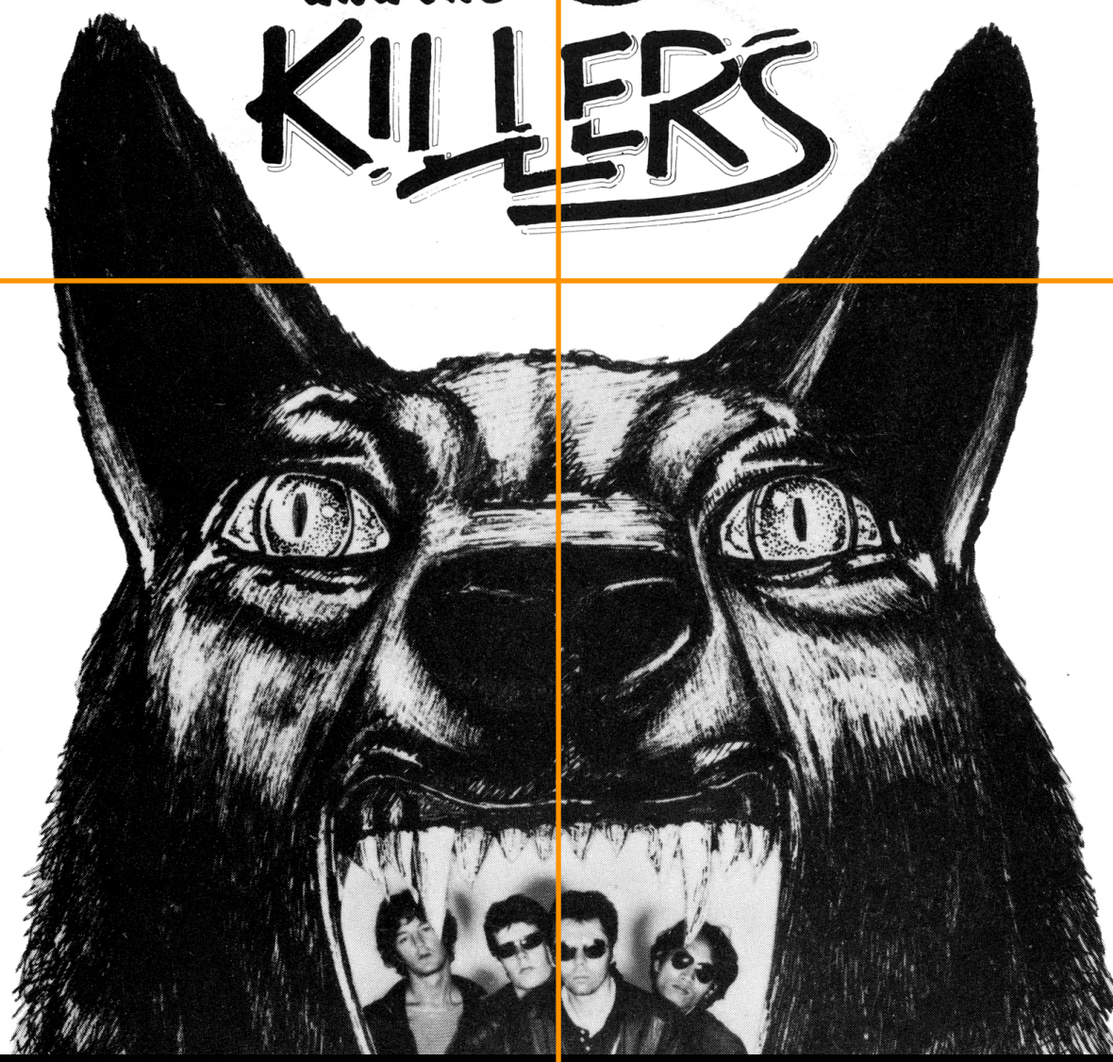

The Corporate Bicycle

'I Just Don't Care'

Joe Coo!

and the

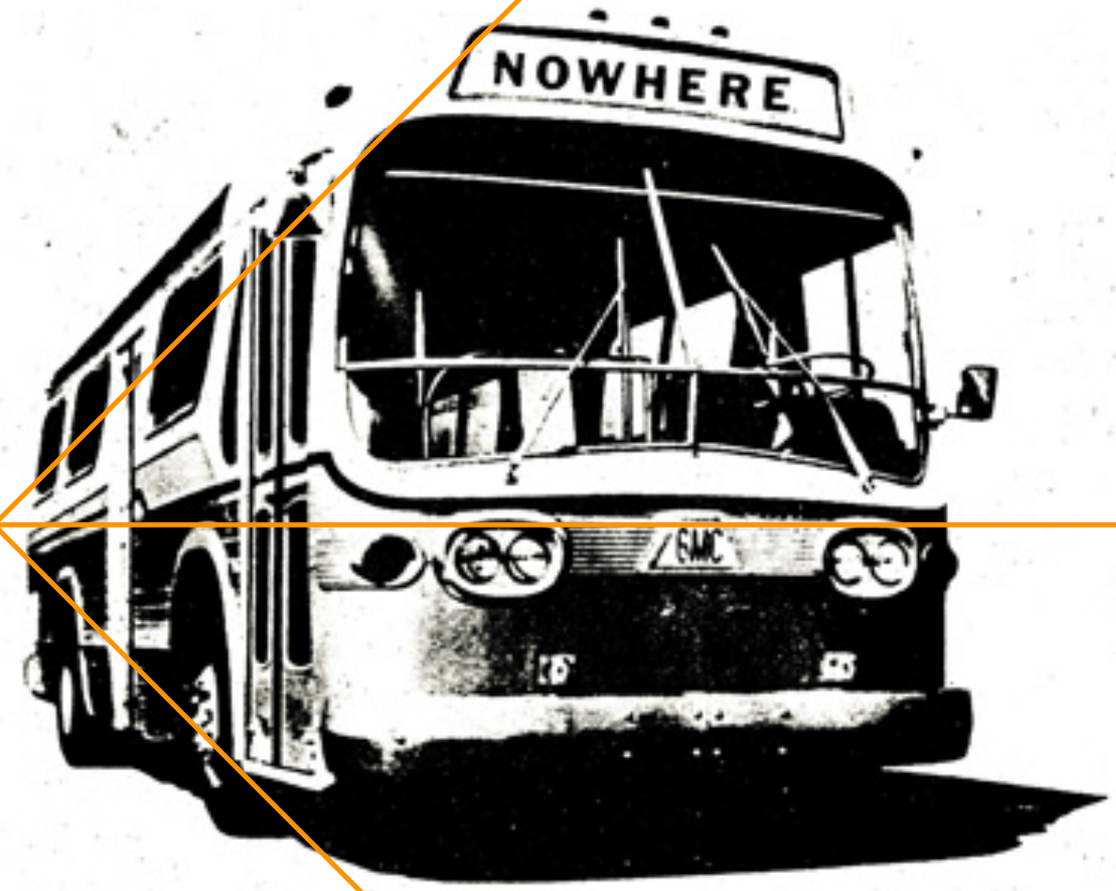
KILLERS



WIRE

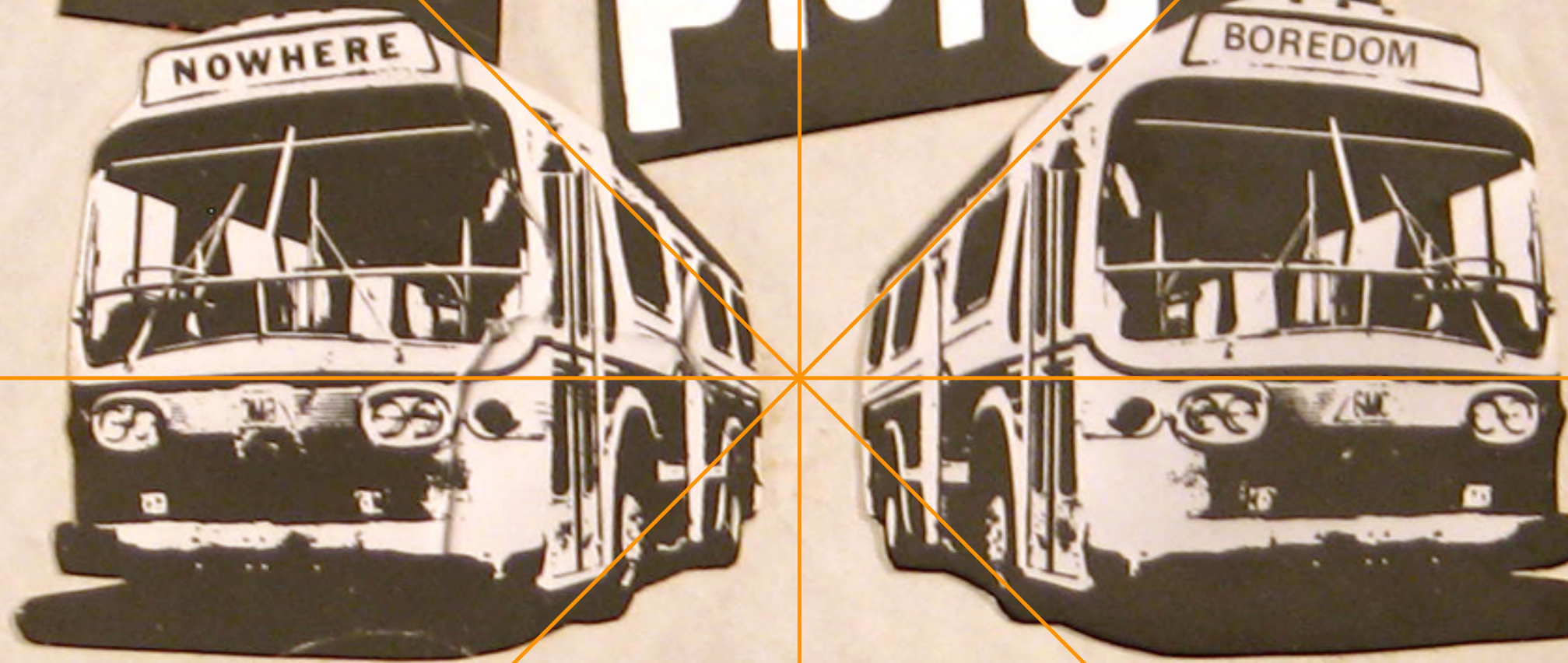



NOWHERE


NOWHERE

S/S
LINE
P. 31

Sex Pistols

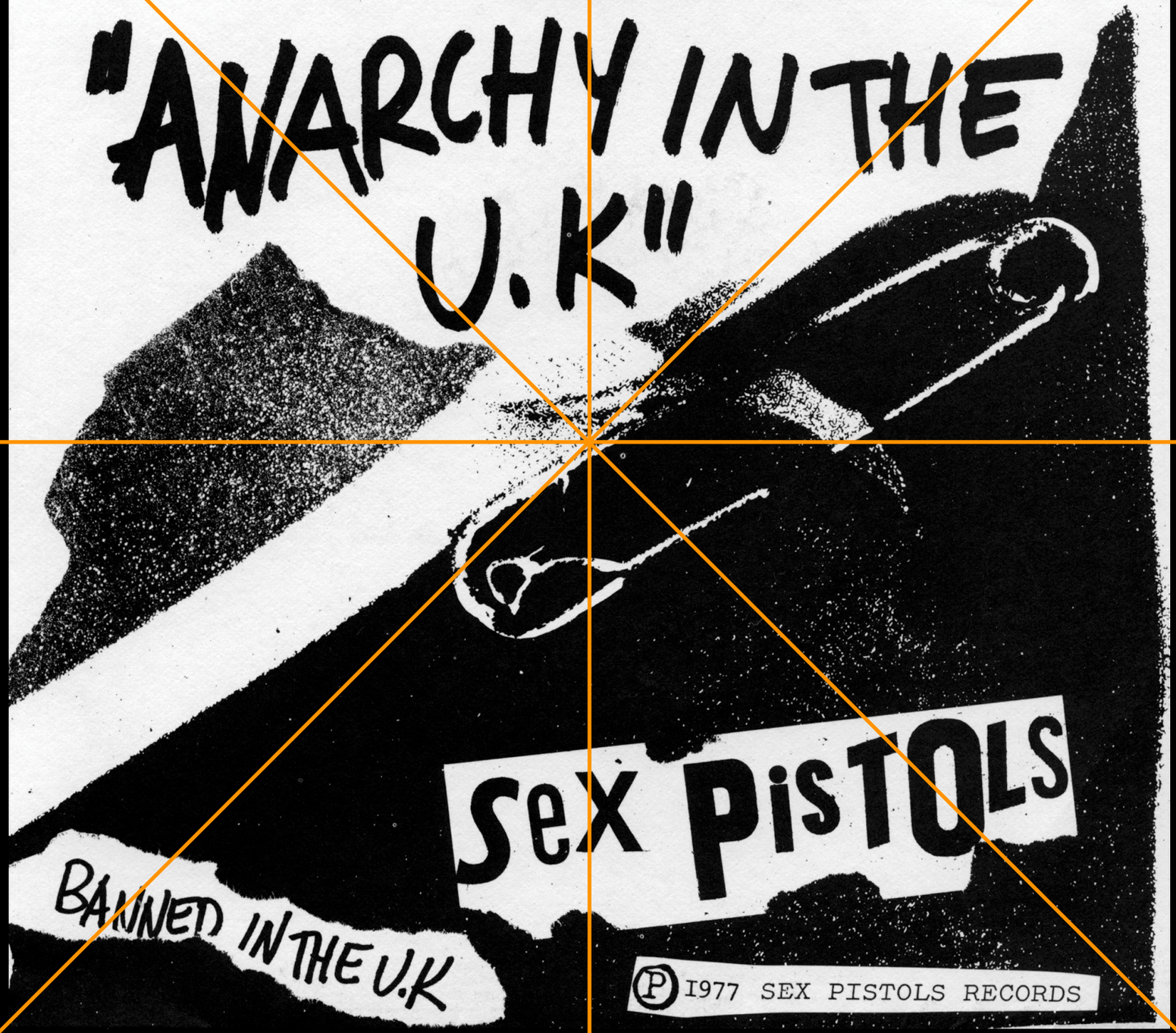


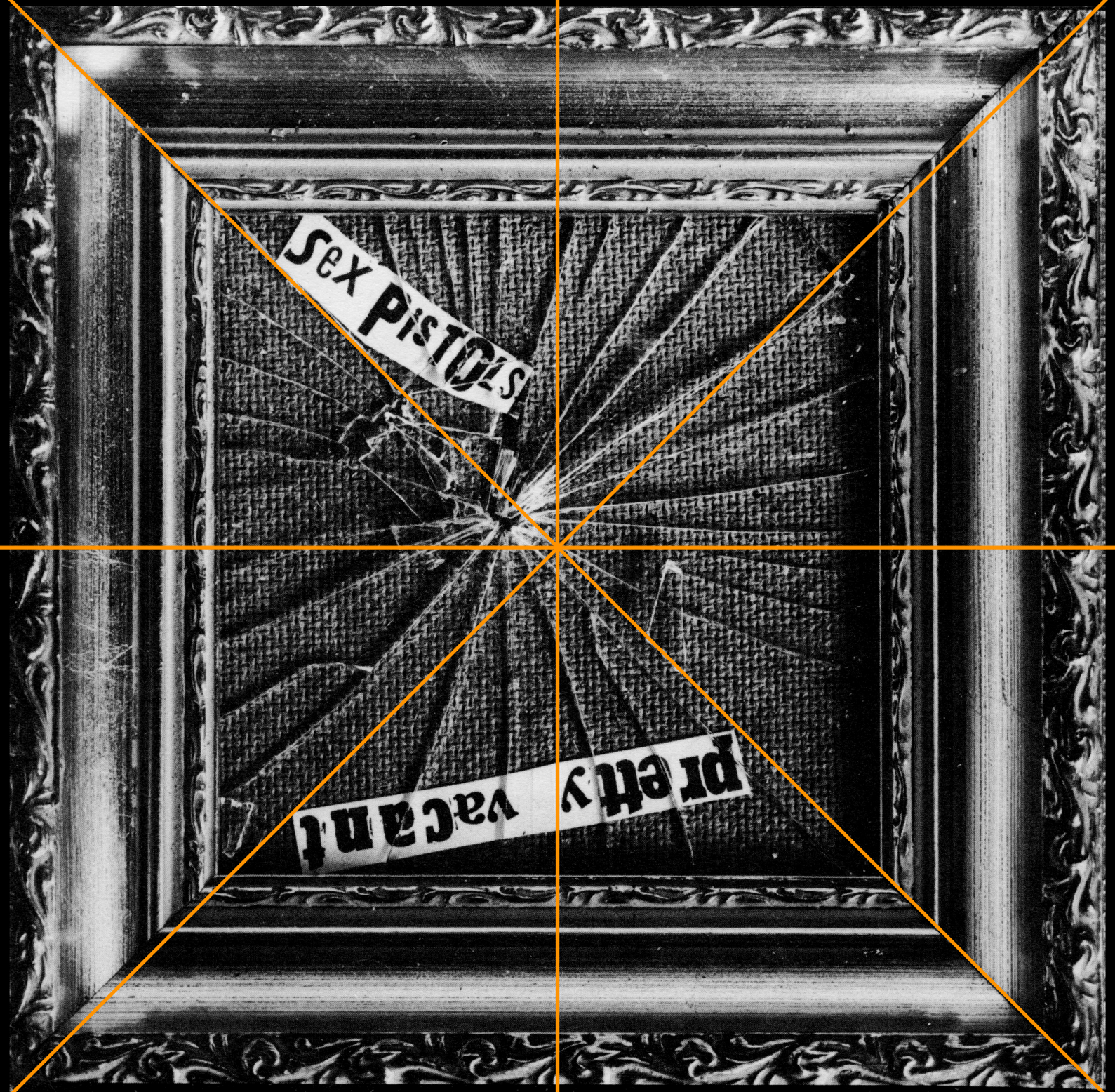
pretty vacant

30

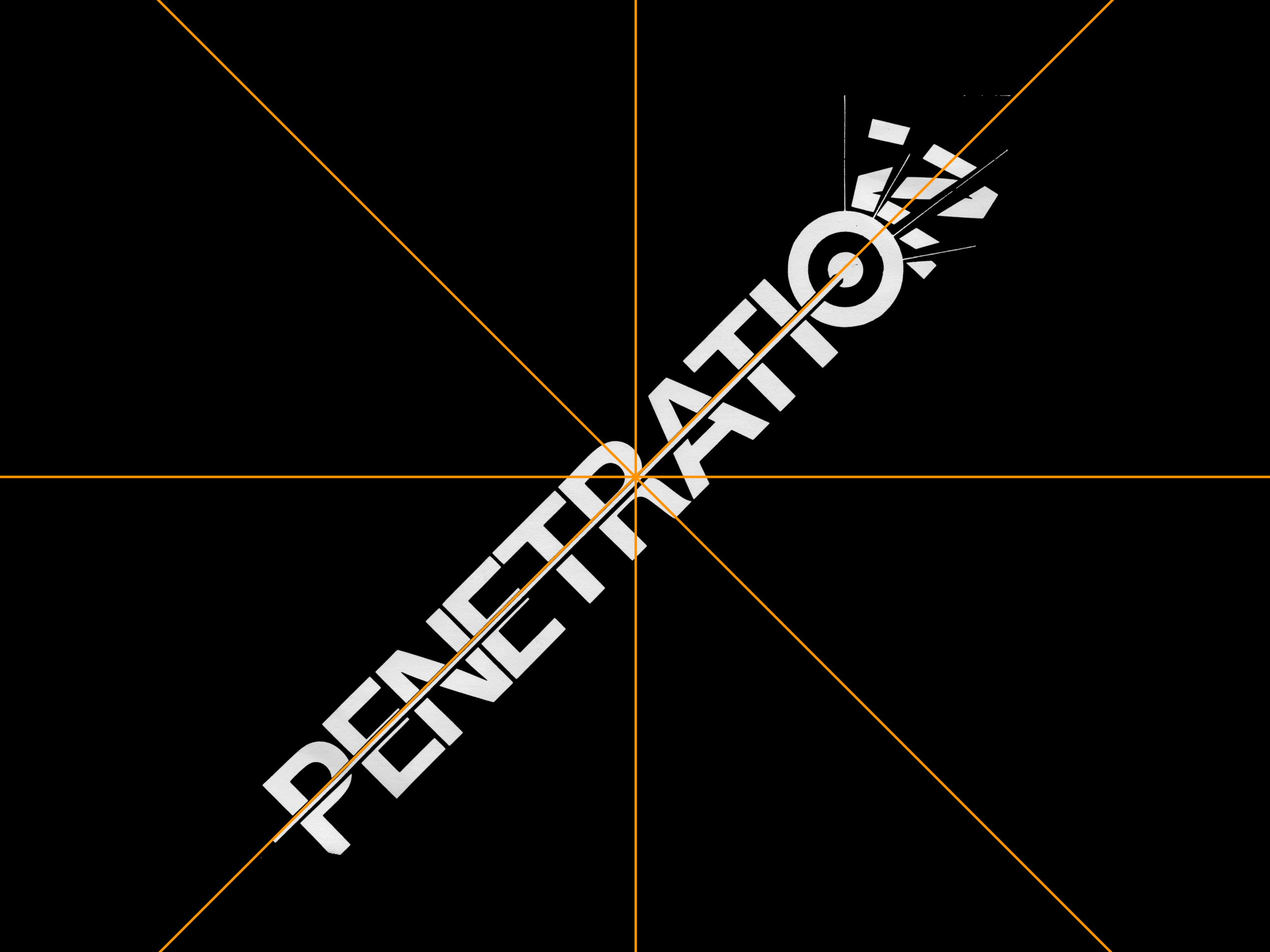
640 112

"ANARCHY IN THE U.K"




Sex Pistols
pretty vacant


CLASH

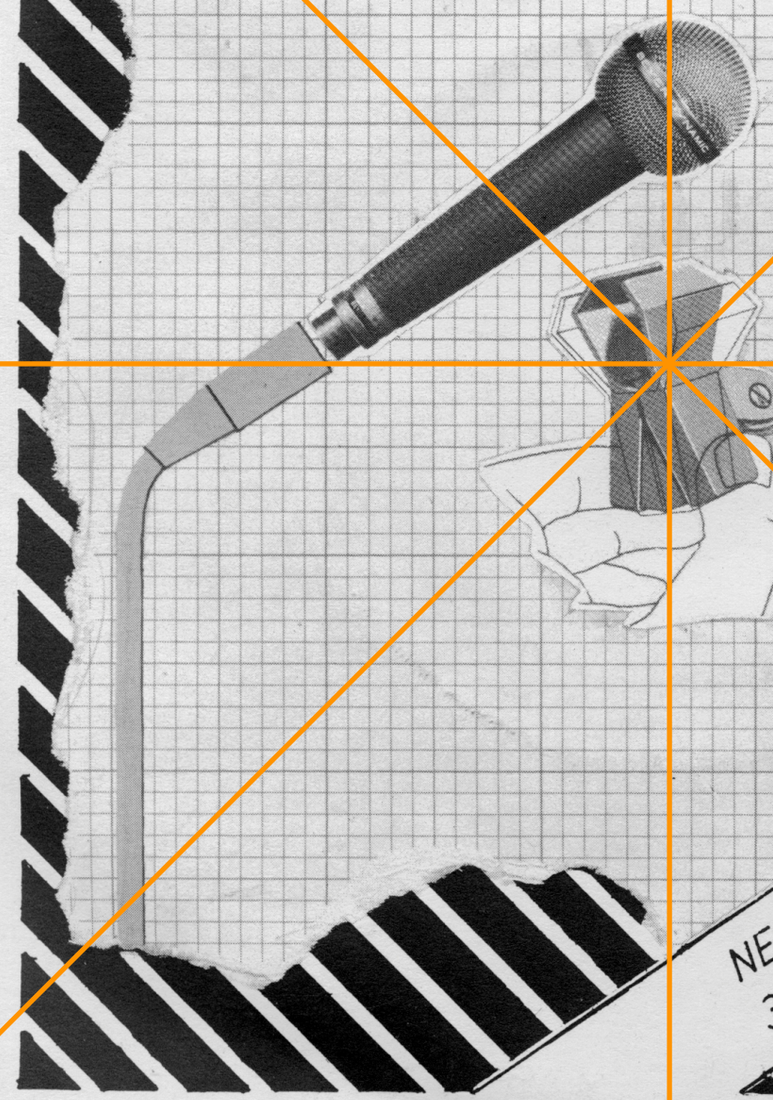

PENETRATION

I can't stand my baby / I wanna be your man




The Snivelling
Shits
TERMINAL
STUPID

THE MEKONS



NEVER BEEN IN A RIOT
32 WEEKS / HEART and SOUL

nervous system KILLING JOKE turn to red




KILLING JOKE
WARDANCE
PSSYCHE

Sex Pistols

FLOGGING A DEAD HORSE



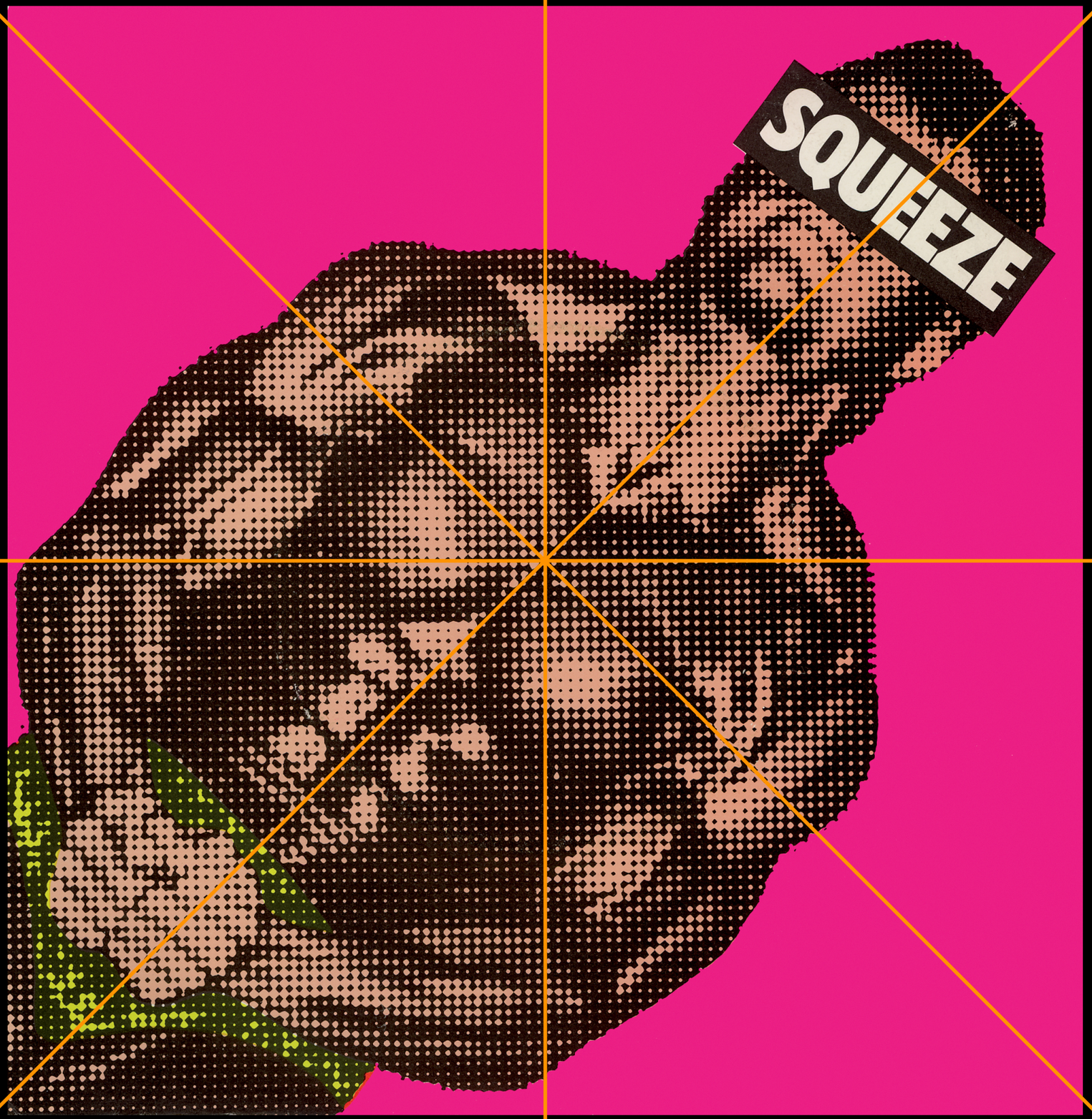
SIDE 1

Anarchy In The U.K.
I Wanna Be Me
God Save The Queen
Did You No Wrong
Pretty Vacant
No Fun
Holidays In The Sun

SIDE 2

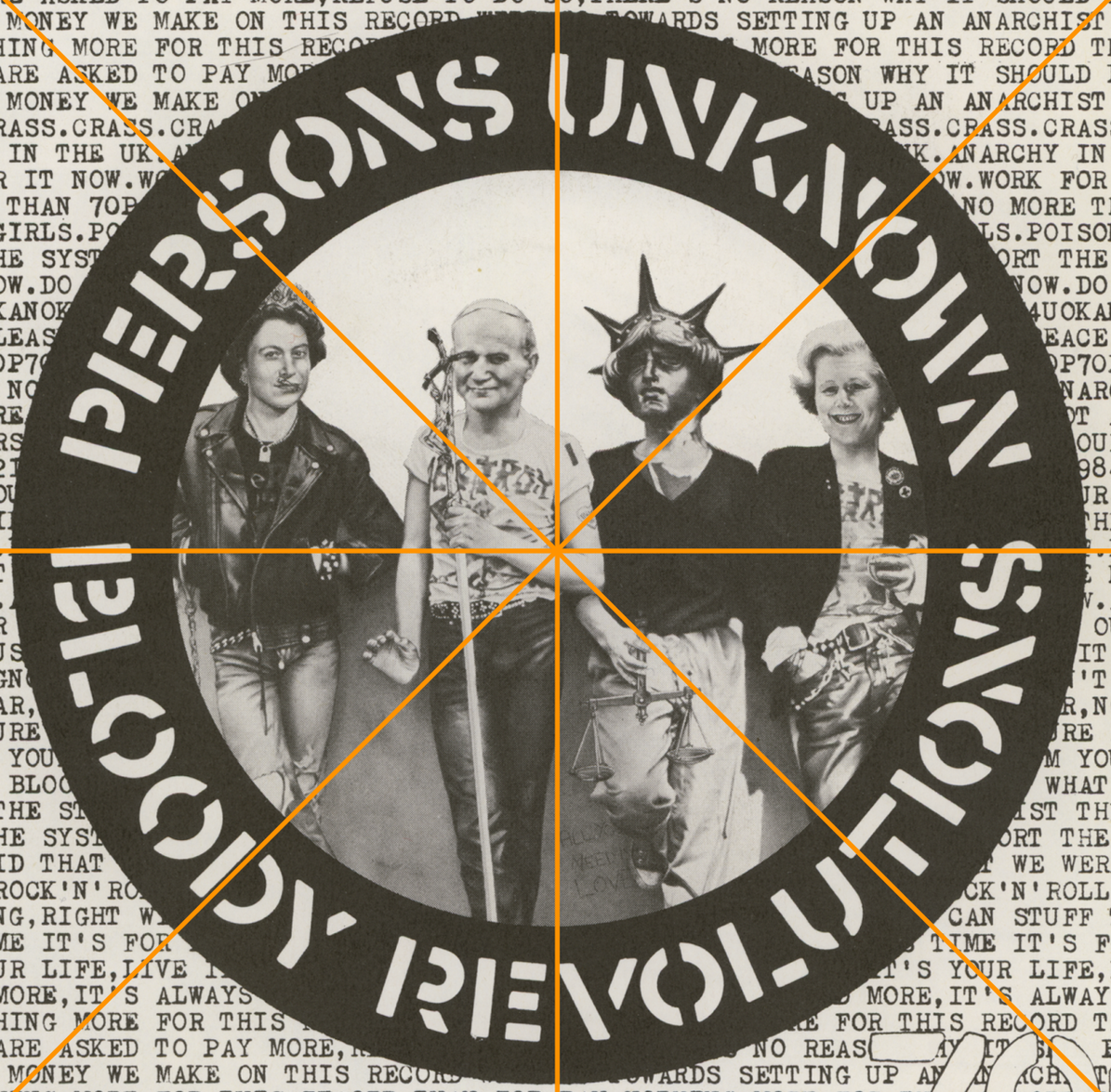
The Biggest Blow
My Way
Something Else
Silly Thing
C'mon Everybody
Stepping Stone
The Great Rock' N' Roll Swindle


6,000 CRAZY
SPIZZOIL


SQUEEZE


BANG BANG

PAY NOTHING MORE FOR THIS RECORD THAN 70P.PAY NOTHING MORE FOR THIS RECORD THAN 70P
IF YOU'RE ASKED TO PAY MORE,REFUSE TO DO SO,THERE'S NO REASON WHY IT SHOULD BE MORE
ALL THE MONEY WE MAKE ON THIS RECORD WILL GO TOWARDS SETTING UP AN ANARCHIST CENTRE
PAY NOTHING MORE FOR THIS RECORD THAN 70P.PAY NOTHING MORE FOR THIS RECORD THAN 70P
IF YOU'RE ASKED TO PAY MORE,REFUSE TO DO SO,THERE'S NO REASON WHY IT SHOULD BE MORE
ALL THE MONEY WE MAKE ON THIS RECORD TOWARDS SETTING UP AN ANARCHIST CENTRE
PAY NOTHING MORE FOR THIS RECO MORE FOR THIS RECORD THAN 70P
IF YOU ARE ASKED TO PAY MO ASON WHY IT SHOULD BE MORE
ALL THE MONEY WE MAKE O UP AN ANARCHIST CENTRE
CRASS.CRASS.CRASS.CRA ASS.CRASS.CRASS.CRASS
ANARCHY IN THE UK.A K.ANARCHY IN THE UK
WORK FOR IT NOW.WO W.WORK FOR IT NOW
NO MORE THAN 70P NO MORE THAN 70P
POISON GIRLS.PO LS.POISON GIRLS
ABORT THE SYST ORT THE SYSTEM
DO IT NOW.DO NOW.DO IT NOW
ANOK4UOKANOK 4UOKANOK4UOK
PEACE PLEAS EACE PLEASE
70P70P70P7 0P70P70P70P
ANARCHY NO NARCHY NOW
NOT A DRE T A DREAM
OURS.OURS OURS.OURS
42I98442I 98442I984
YOURS.YOU URS.YOURS
THEIR LI HEIR LIE
FREEDOM LIBERTY
LOVE NOT E NOT WAR
ACT NOW. .ACT NOW
IT'S OUR OUR LIFE
USE IT.US IT.USE IT
DON'T IGN 'T IGNORE
FIGHT WAR, R,NOT WARS
OUR FUTURE RE IS OURS
RECLAIM YOU M YOUR LIFE
FLESH & BLOO WHAT WE ARE
RESIST THE ST IST THE STATE
ABORT THE SYST ORT THE SYSTEM
THEY SAID THAT T WE WERE TRASH
IGNORE ROCK'N'RO CK'N'ROLL HEROES
LEFT WING,RIGHT W CAN STUFF THE LOT
THIS TIME IT'S FOR TIME IT'S FOR REAL
IT'S YOUR LIFE,LIVE I T'S YOUR LIFE,LIVE IT
DEMAND MORE,IT'S ALWAYS MORE,IT'S ALWAYS THERE
PAY NOTHING MORE FOR THIS RE FOR THIS RECORD THAN 70P
IF YOU ARE ASKED TO PAY MORE,R NO REAS BE MORE
ALL THE MONEY WE MAKE ON THIS RECORD WARDS SETTING UP AN ANARCHIST CENTRE
PAY NOTHING MORE FOR THIS RECORD THAN 70P.PAY NOTHING MORE FOR THIS RECORD THAN 70P
IF YOU'RE ASKED TO PAY MORE,REFUSE TO DO SO,THERE'S NO REASON WHY IT SHOULD BE MORE
70P.70P.70P.70P.70P.70P.70P.70P.70P.70P.70P.70P.70P.70P.70P.70P.70P.70P.70P.70P.70P
PAY NOTHING MORE FOR THIS RECORD THAN 70P.PAY NOTHING MORE FOR THIS RECORD THAN 70P
ALL THE MONEY WE MAKE ON THIS RECORD WILL GO TOWARDS SETTING UP AN ANARCHIST CENTRE



70P


NAGASAKI NIGHTMARE
THE BIG ATTACK
PAY NO MORE THAN 70p

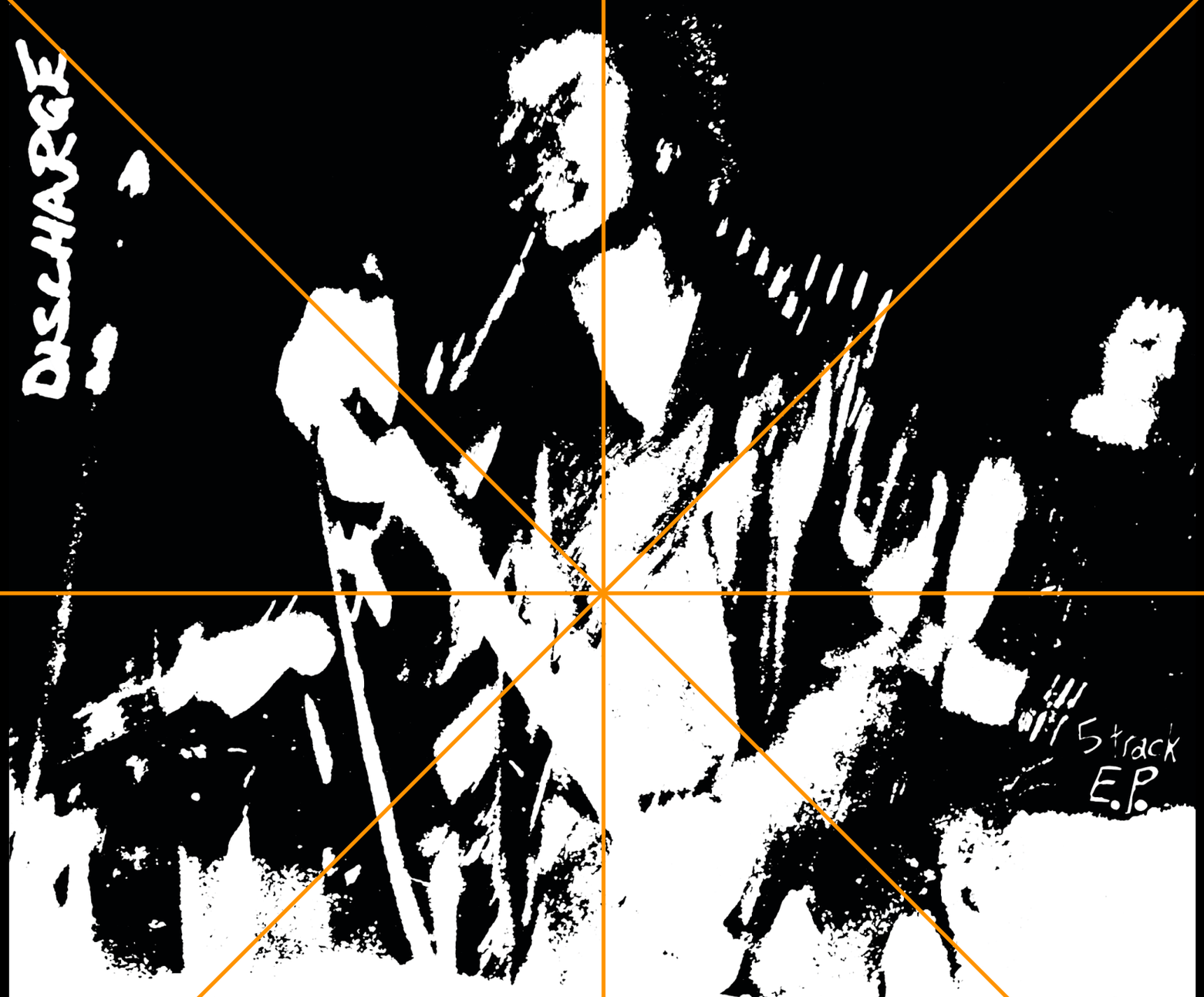
Blitzkrieg



LEST WE FORGET. E.P.

NO FUTURE

DISCHARGE

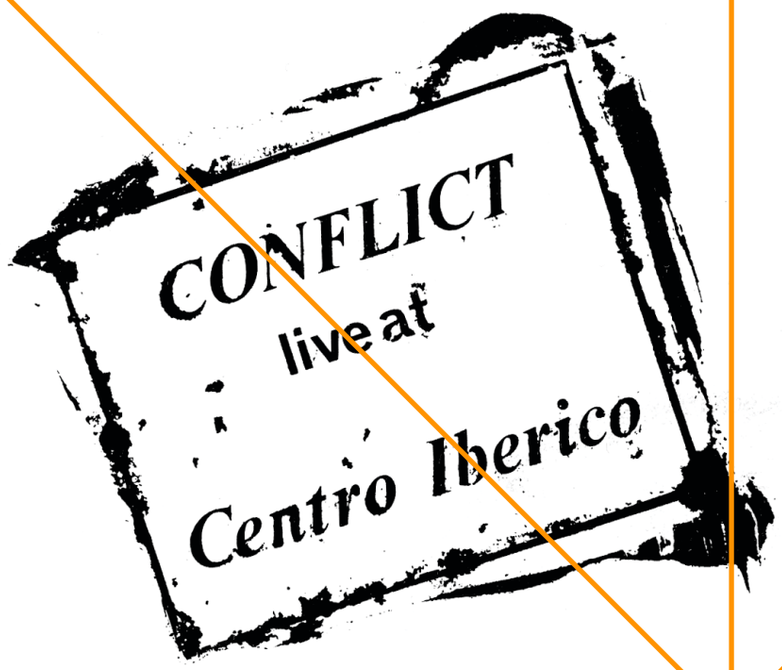


5 track
E.P.

FIGHT BACK

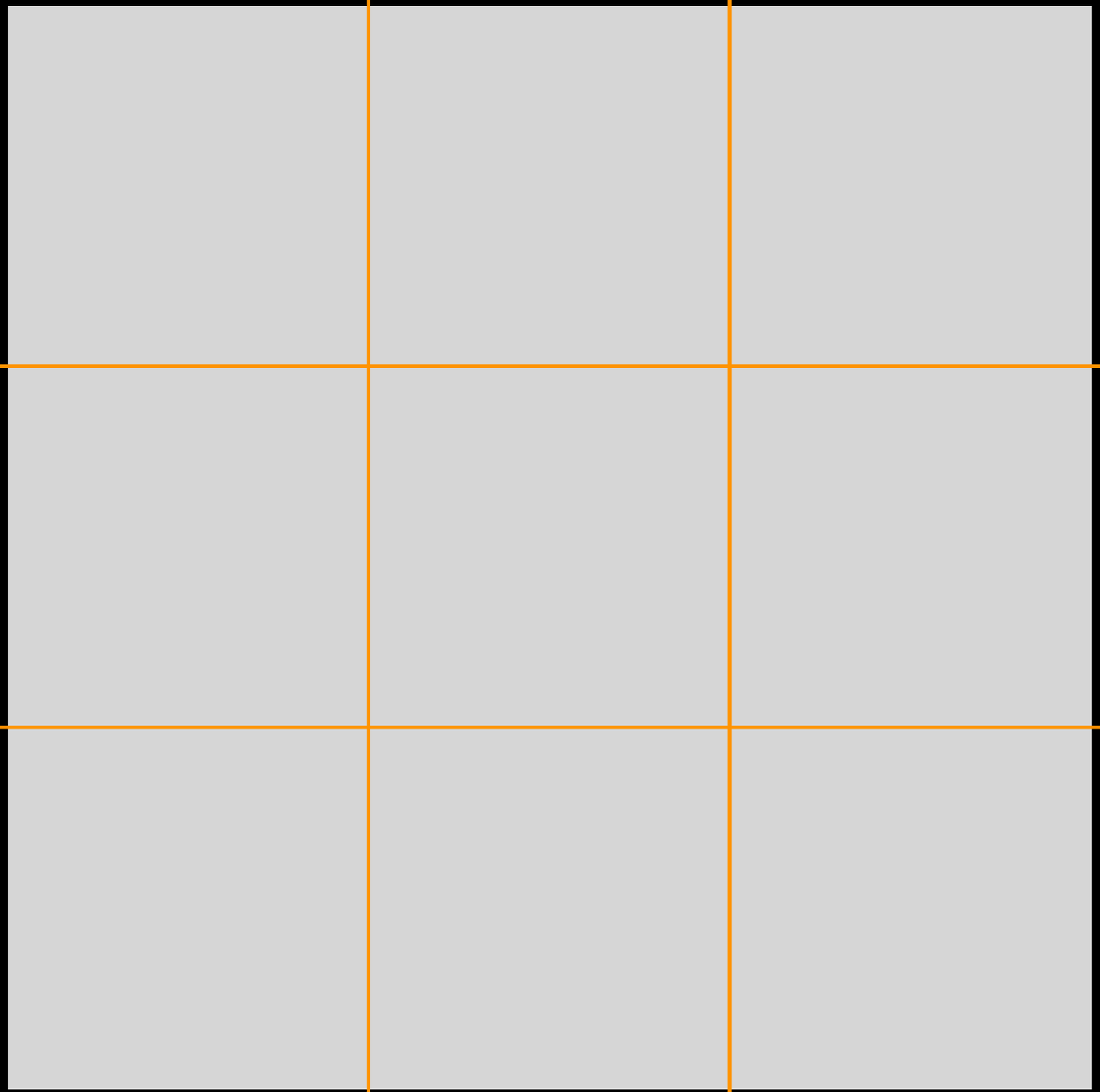

DISCHARGE
DECONTROL


THE
LICKS

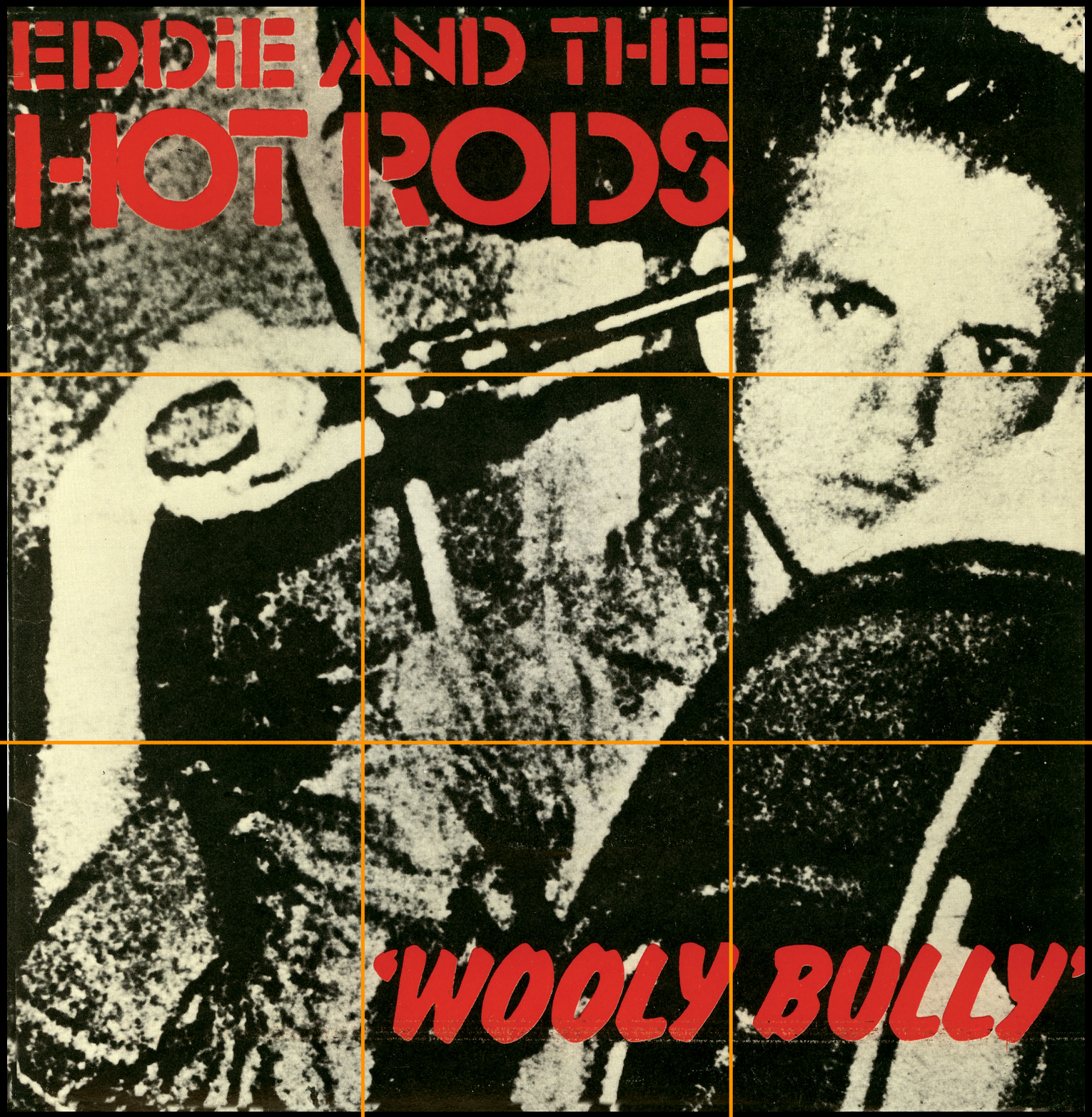

CONFLICT
live at
Centro Iberico


BURNING
BRITAIN

Rule of Thirds



EDDIE AND THE HOT RODS



'WOOLY BULLY'


GOD Save THE QUEEN
Sex Pistols

NEVER MIND THE BOLLOCKS

HERE'S THE

Sex Pistols


THE CLASH


the
1
6
artattacks


GENERATION

GENERATION X

READY

STEADY

GO

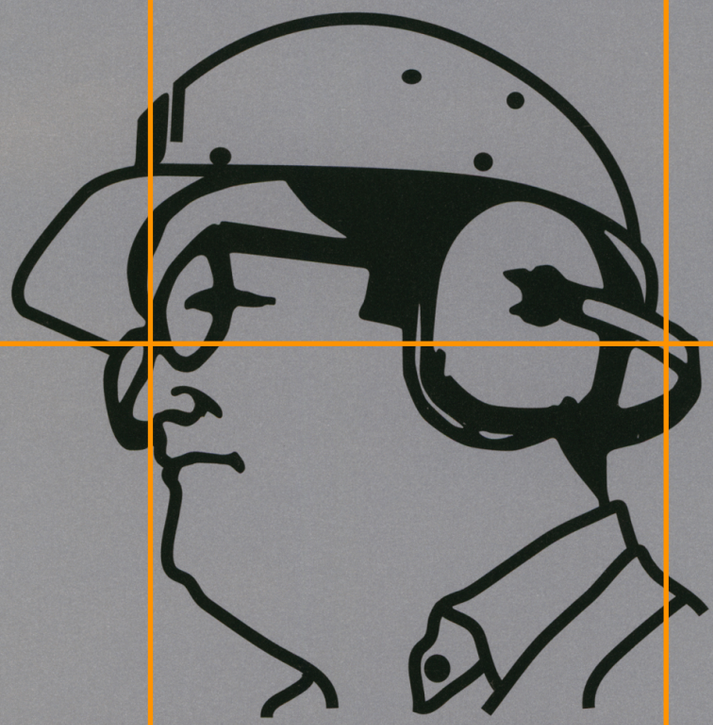
ACTION TIME VISION


KING OF THE BOP
NIPPLE
GEAR
CTORS

YOUNG SAVAGE



Ultravox.!



FAC–2

A FACTORY SAMPLE

"DAMAGED GOODS," "LOVE LIKE ANTHRAX" and "ARMALITE RIFLE"

GANG OF FOUR

the sleeve for a Gang of Four recording of

FAST PRODUCT

GANG OF FOUR

entertainment!

`The Indian smiles, he thinks that the cowboy is his friend.





The cowboy smiles, he is glad the Indian is fooled.



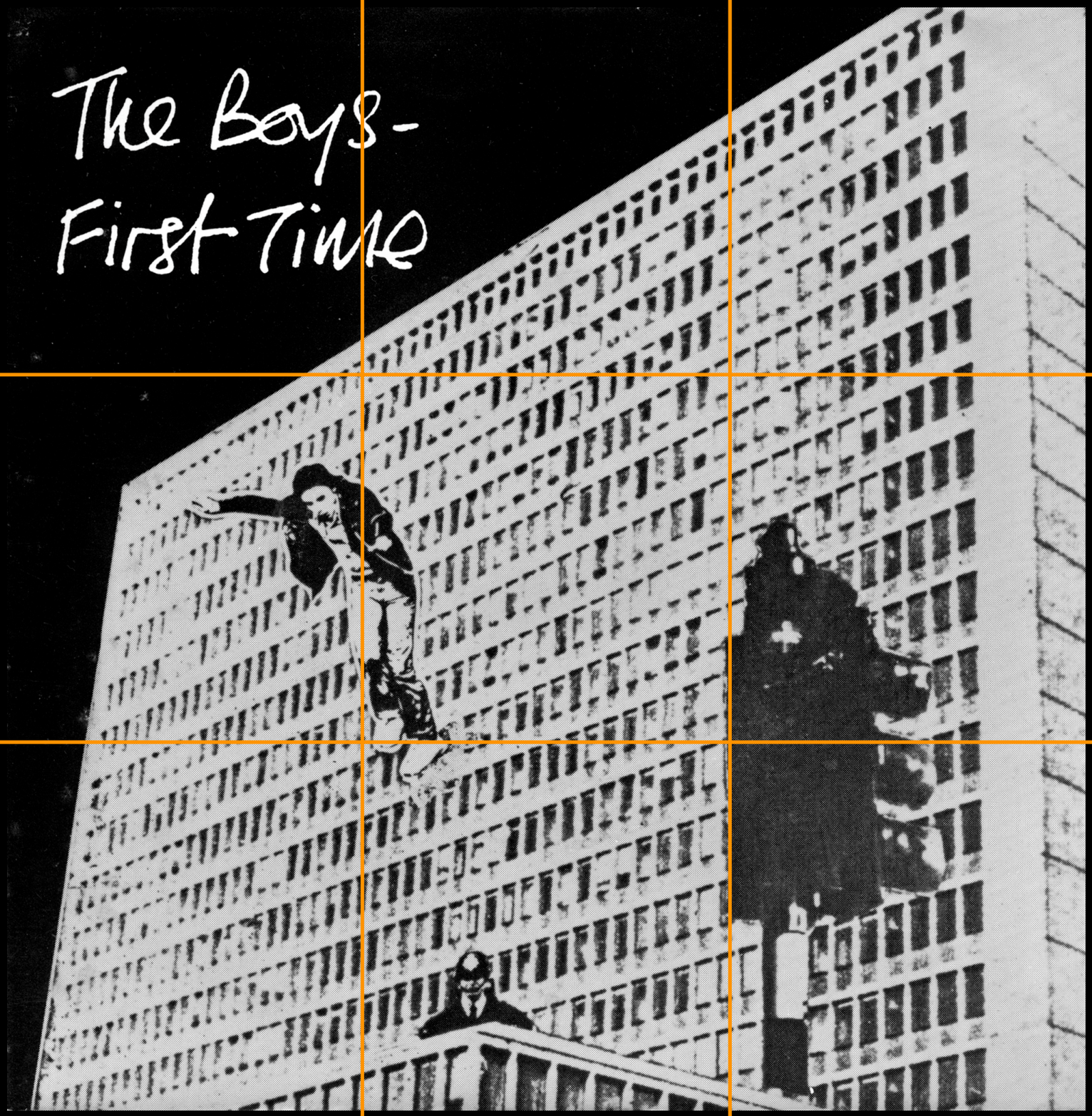
Now he can exploit him.'



BLUNT INSTRUMENT

NO EXCUSE/INTERROGATION

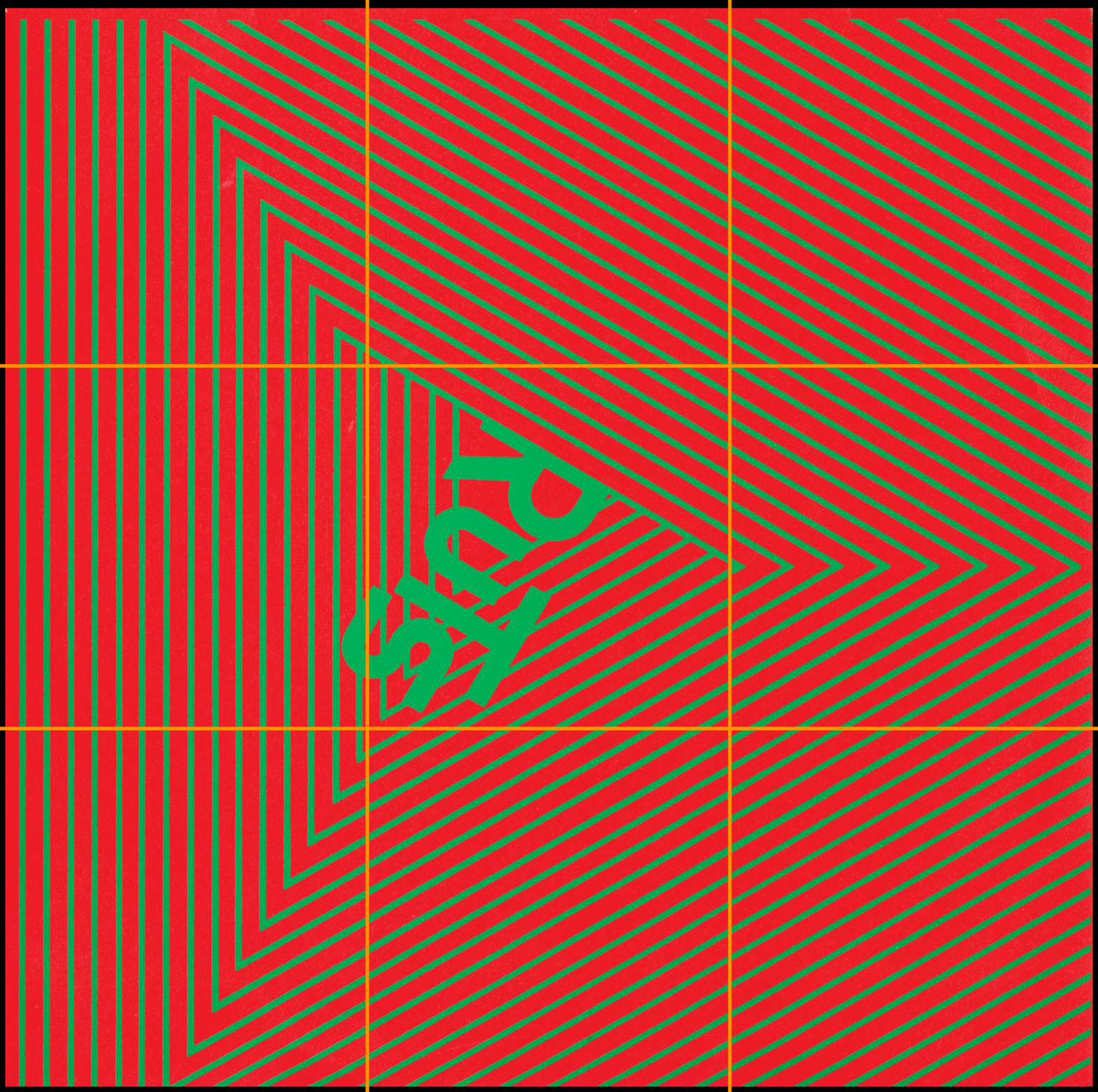
The Boys -
First Time




CRASS
CRASS.THE FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND.

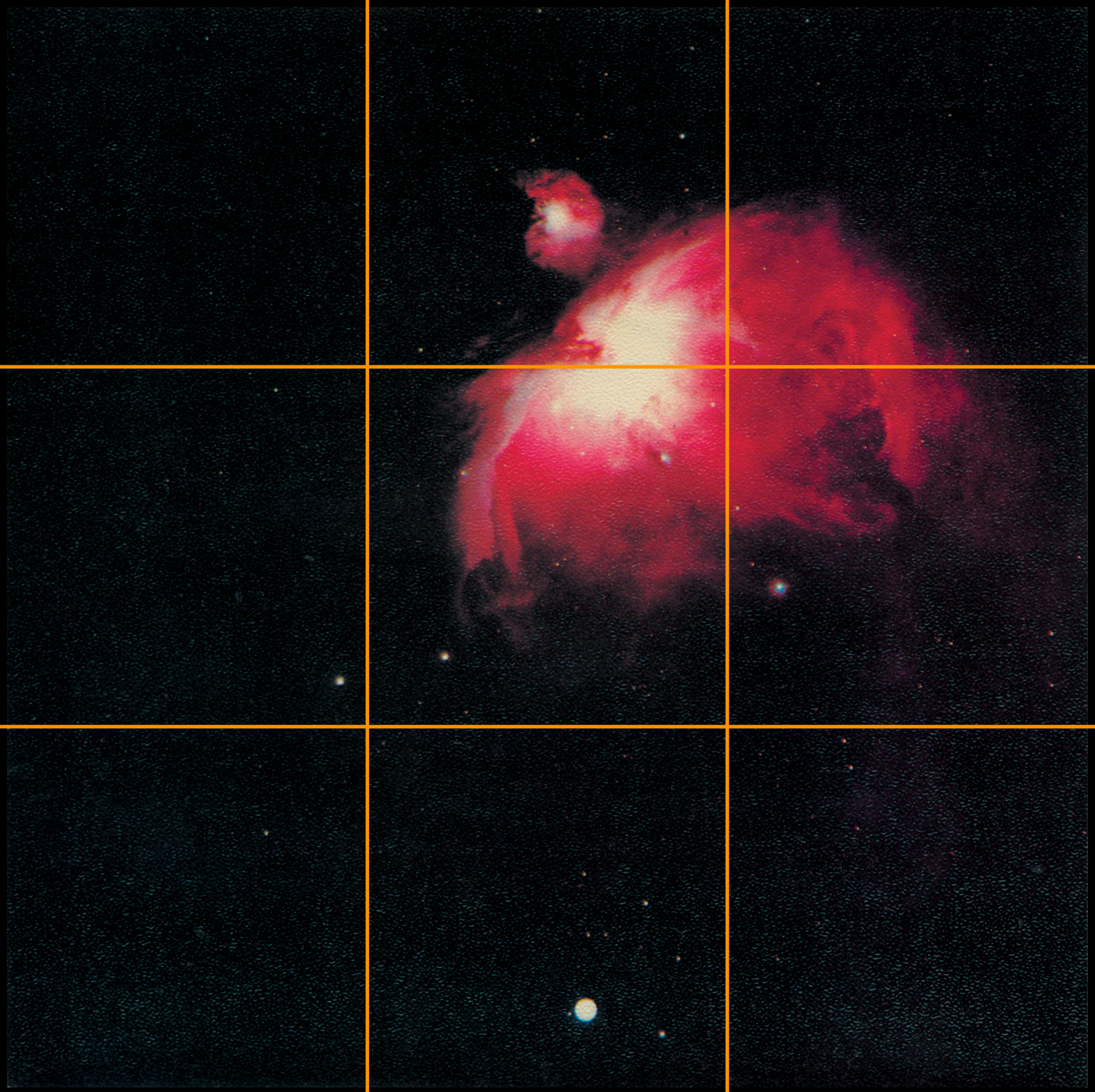

GIRLS
MERCHED
DAN 15
Y TRWYNAU
COCH


ANGELIC
I'M AN UPSTART
UPSTARTS
UPSTAR't




RAPIST IN THE PARK
ANOREXIA
I'M A SQUARE
PETS

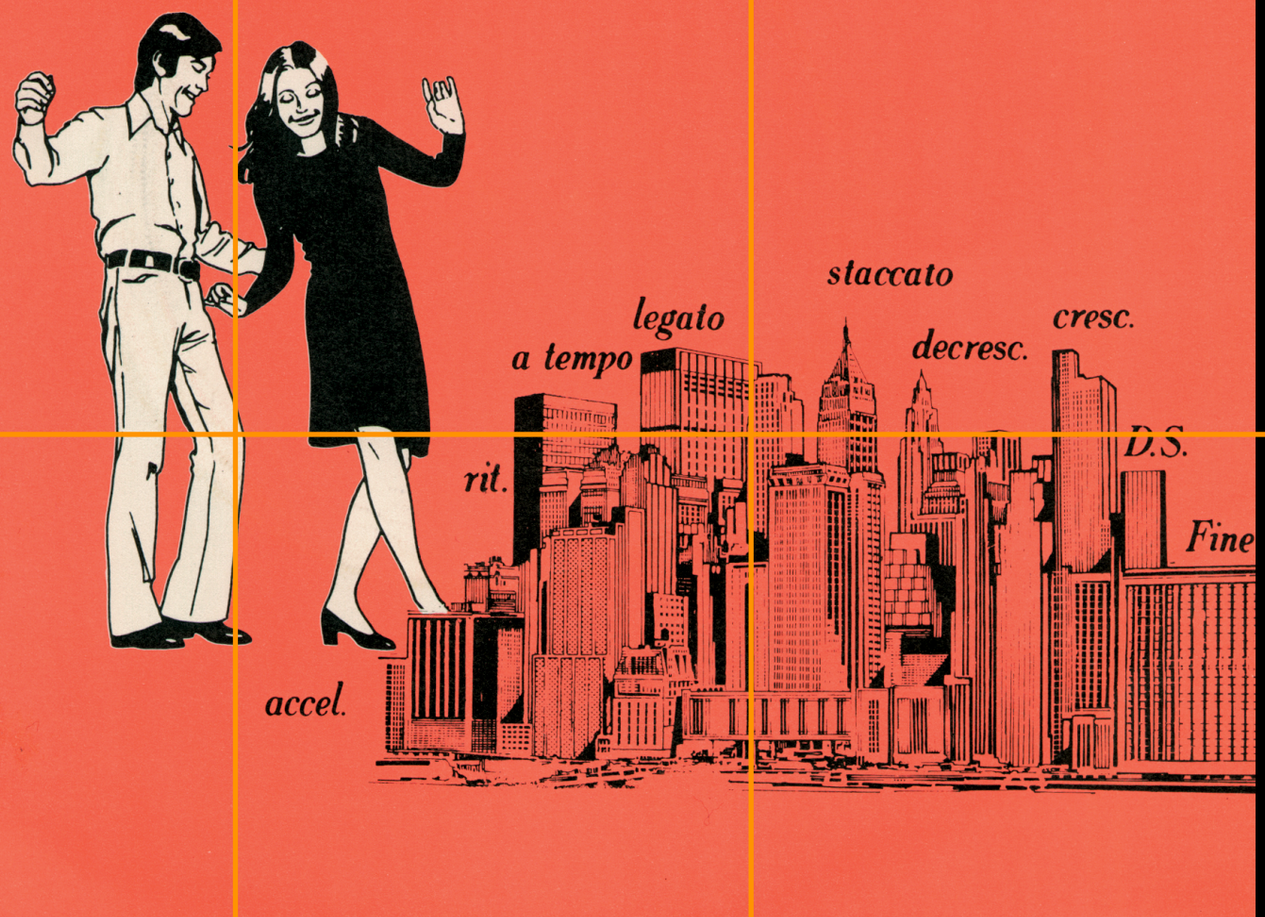
DANGEROUS GIRLS



ELECTRONICALLY YOURS....

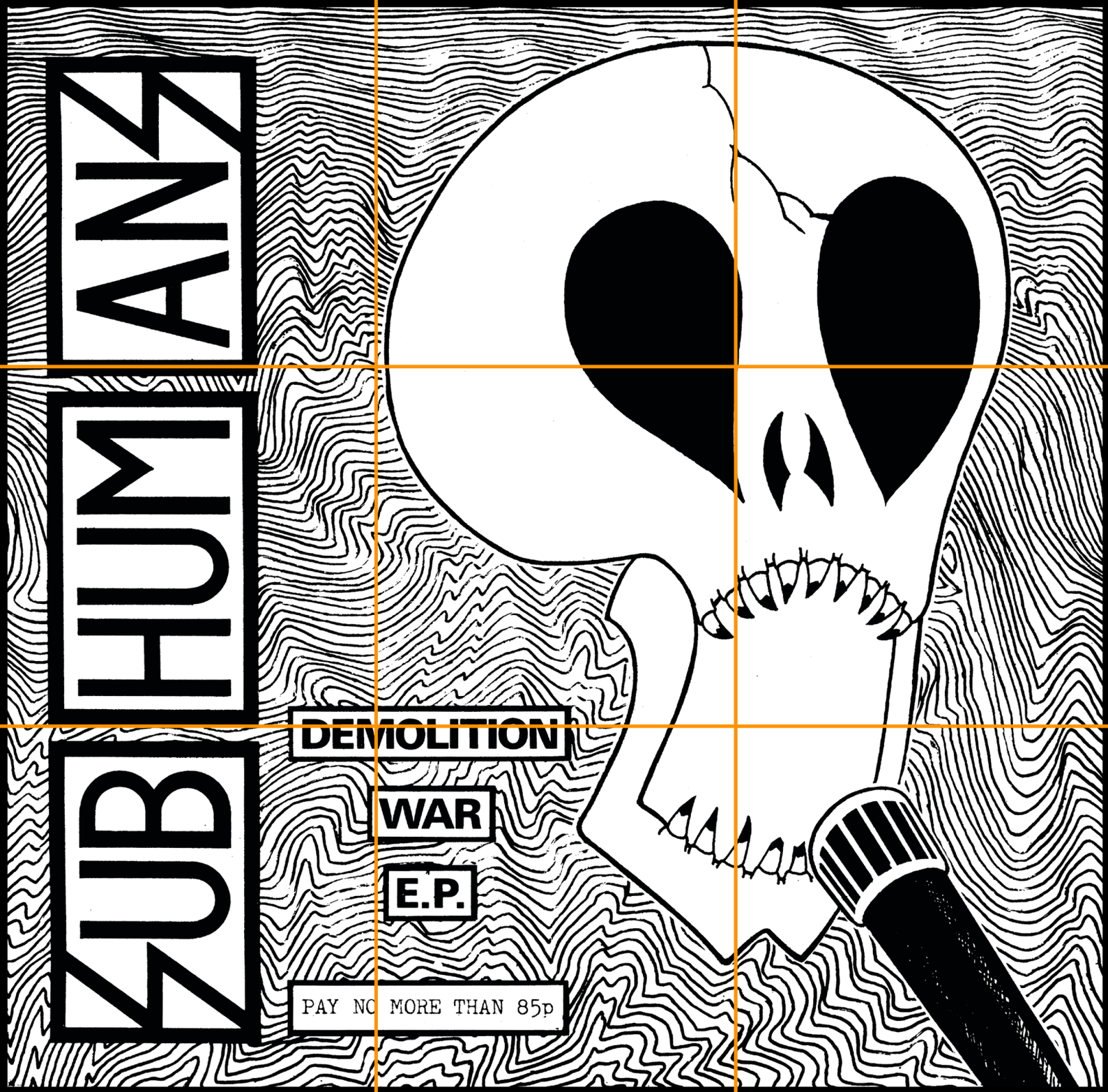
THE HUMAN LEAGUE

being boiled – circus of death



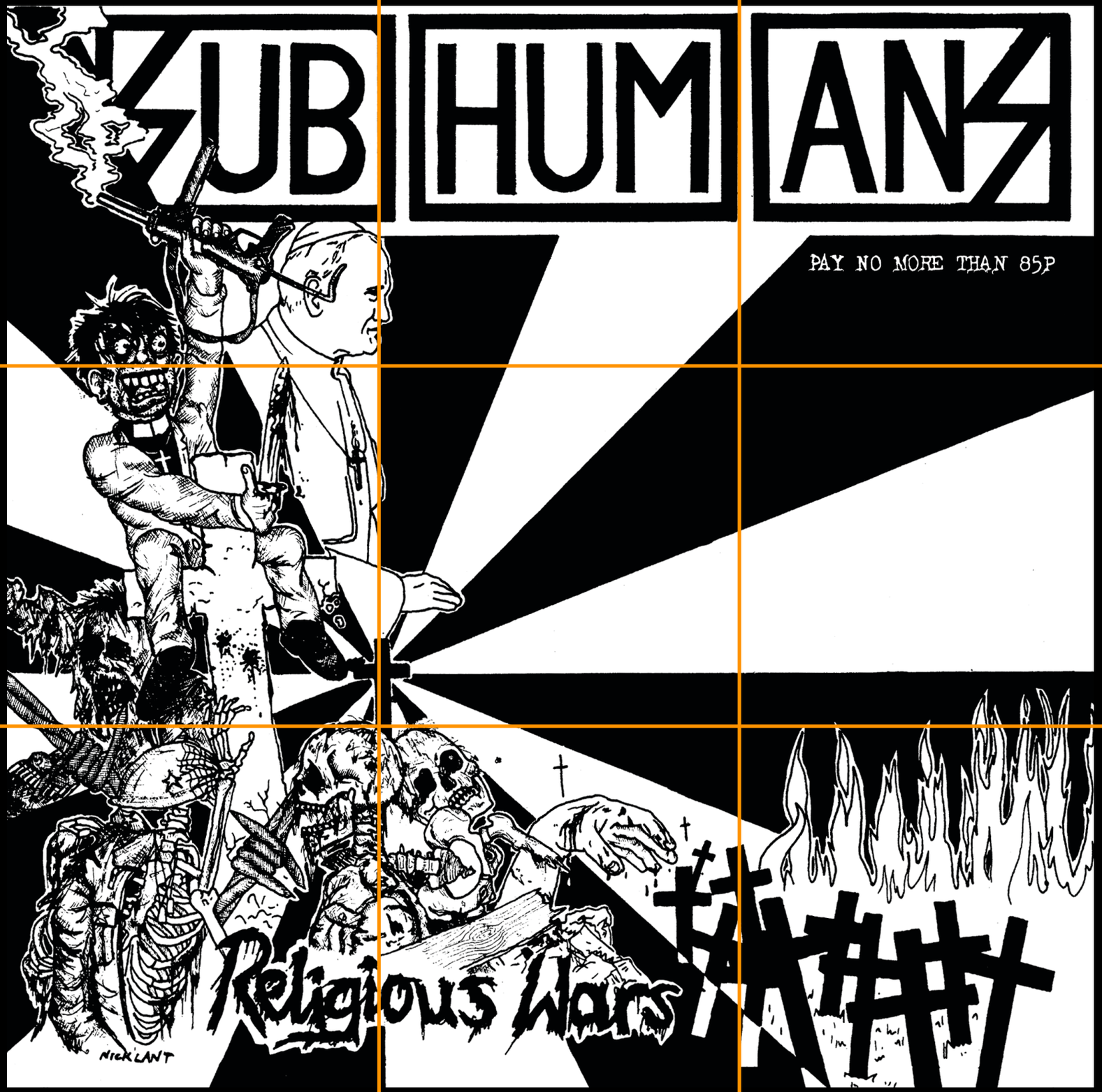
HOLIDAY IN DEAD KENNEDYS CAMBODIA

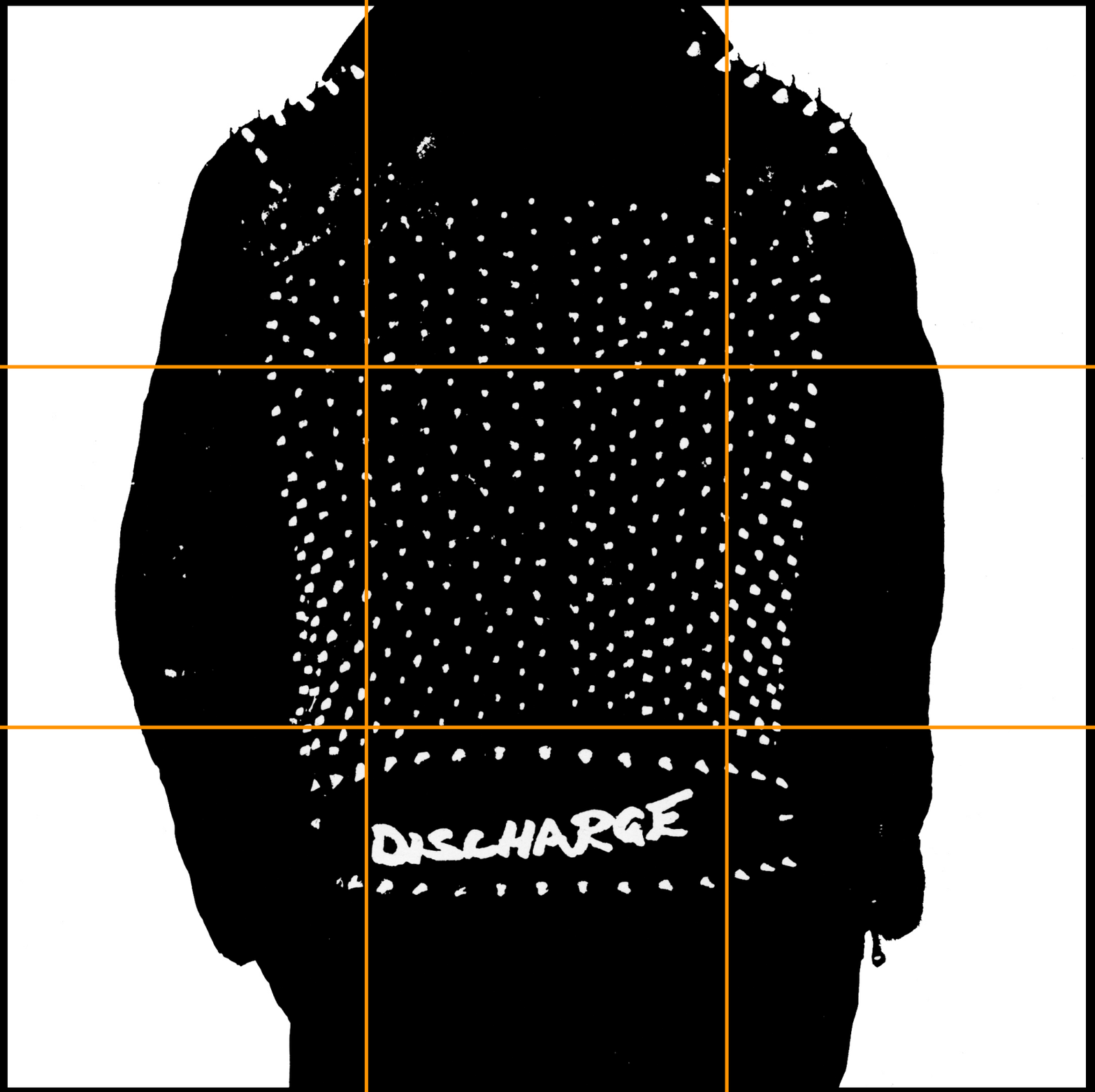



HUMANS
ZUB
DEMOLITION
WAR
E.P.
PAY NO MORE THAN 85p

SUBHUMANS

PAY NO MORE THAN 85P




DISCHARGE

(clay 1)

side 1. Realities of war. They declare it.

side 2. But after the gig. Society's victim.

DISCHARGE

Cal voice
Rainy bass
Bones lead
Tezz drums



DISCHARGE

Recorded at Redball studios in 3 hours

thanks to no fucker.

All lyrics and music by Discharge
sleeve design: martin H. (rear pic M. stone)

engineered and mixed by Steve Carr
produced and mixed by Mike Stone

for information: Clay Records
26 Hope St. Hanley Stoke on Trent

AMEBIX

E.P

WHO'S THE ENEMY



YOURS FOR 85p

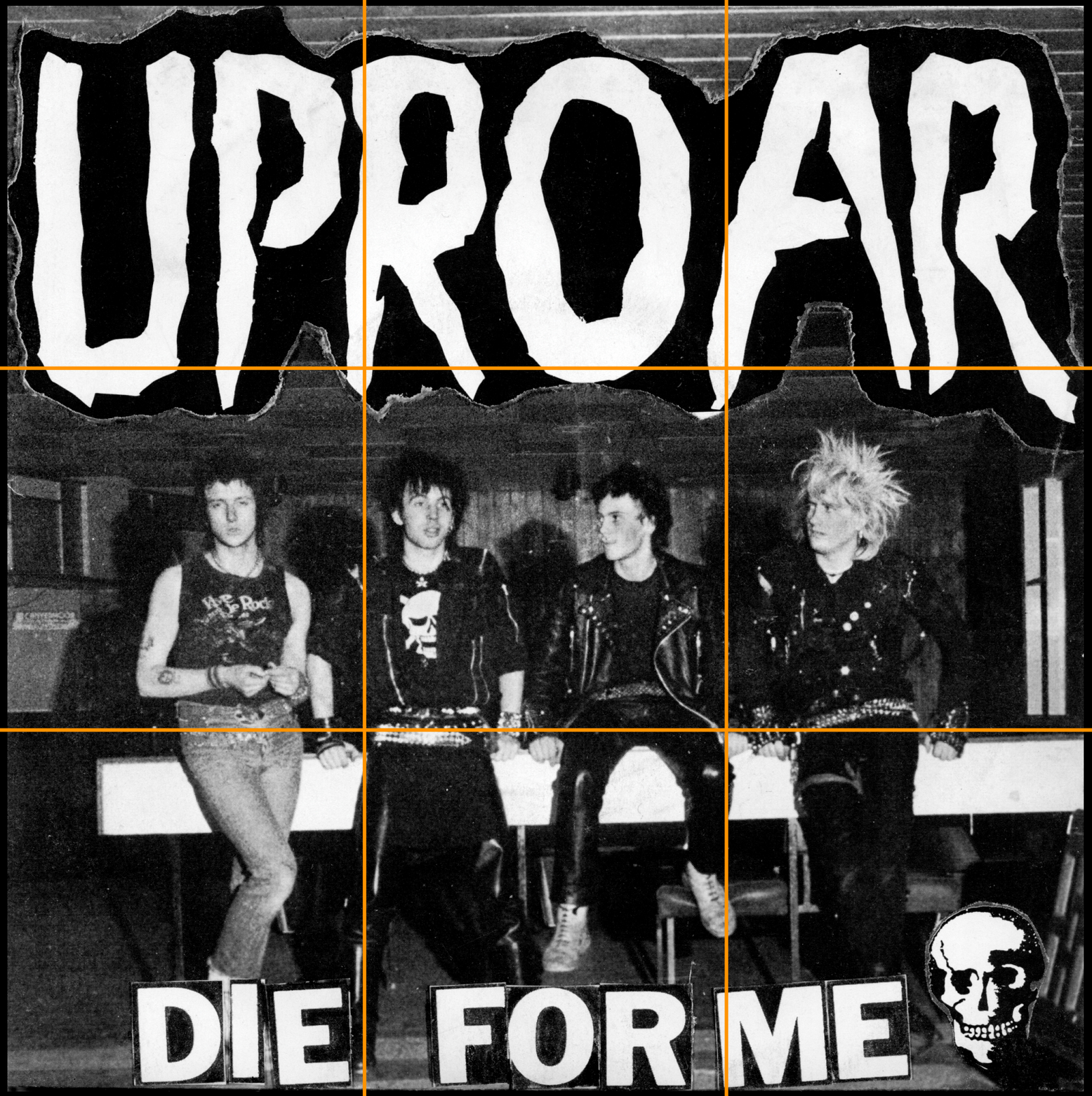
THE PARTISANS

POLICE STORY
B/W KILLING MACHINE

NO FUTURE



UPROAR



Let the Vultures fly..... ep.

ICON A.D

SAY NO

Pay No More 99p

ICONARMISTICE DAY

DEAD MANS SHADOW

NEIGHBOURS!

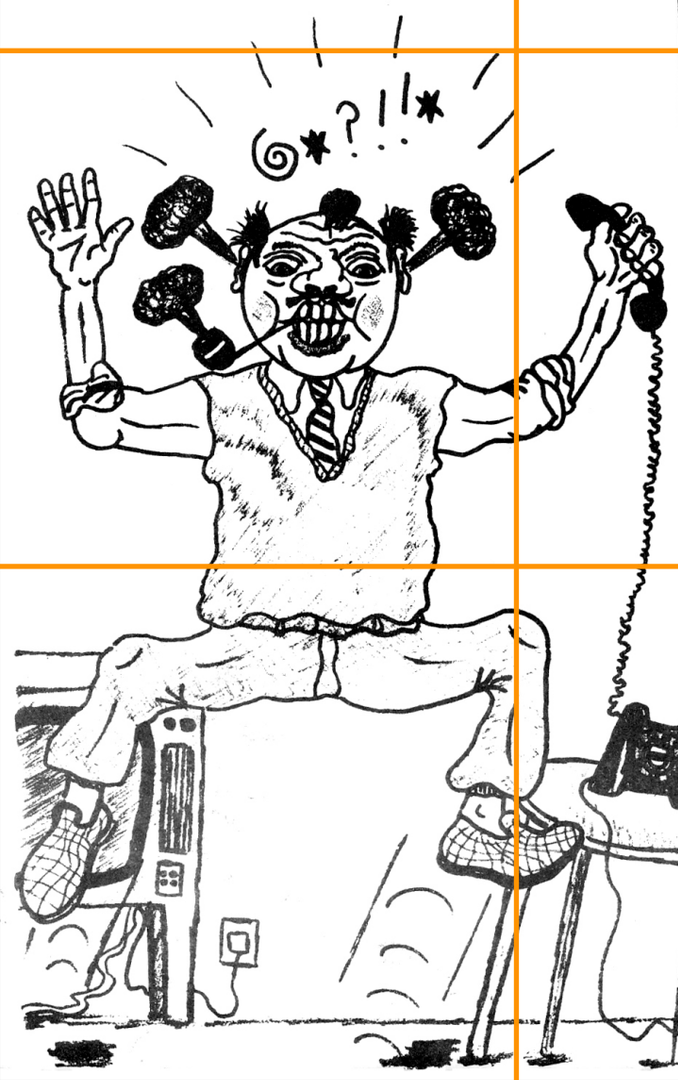
PLUS!

POXY POLITICS

WAR PLOYS

MORONS WITH POWER

?





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