

l i b e r 8

[DEMO REVIEW]

You know how, when you were at school and you had to do experiments in science class they always made you record your results using lots of different variables, like stirring the solution, heating it or spitting in it? Well I reckon that album reviews should be the same; 'This is how it sounds on my dad's stereo/ through my car's shitty cassette player/ whilst stoned and wearing no clothes.' Are you with me so far? Sadly, however, most reviewers (i.e. proper ones) will put the CD on intro-scan (do you remember when CD players used to have that function?) and then guess what the remaining 95% is gonna sound like. If it was just Weezer, I could understand. But anyway, the reason all this started is because I'm sitting listening to **Liber8's** demo, and it's all very nice and that, but the vocals sound as if they're coming from somewhere under my bed where all the nasty spiders gather before crawling out at nite to inflict their pain on me once again. Did I just write that? Sorry, it's 3am and I'm starting to hallucinate. I am thinking I ought to listen to this on some other tape deck, in case it's just my stereo that's making it sound weird. But then I think 'No, what if I had bought this to listen to on MY stereo in MY room? They should have anticipated that when recording it, right? So fuck trying out other tape decks. Without further word wastage, this is how Liber8 sound after various listens:

1. 1st time round, sitting in bed with the girlfriend. Good recording quality, except for those echoey vocals. Thought it would be heavier than this. Songs don't really stand out, except for maybe track three, *Open Air*.

2. After a few more listens, still sitting in bed. The spiders are becoming restless now. Actually, I'm starting to quite like it now. Think

Nothing Left To Lose-era Foo Fighters with Placebo-ish guitars. Kind of mellow. *Cold Blank Stares* has a nice Subsist-style intro. Subsist do good intros. Good long intros. Good long chord-based intros.

3. Just in from work, sitting in bed, (do you detect a pattern here?) feeling tired. There's some really good songs on he.... zzzzzzzzz

4. I am stoned, naked and sitting in bed. Only kidding, that's a bit of a scary thought. After much listens, I definitely like Liber8's demo. Though I also have this theory that if you hear something enough times in rapid succession, you will either love it or hate it. Some of the songs could do with being a bit more... angry? *Junkie* is begging for Kurt Cobain to scream all over it.

2 Nd w/ hr is a nIs txt summary. (if theyR liber8, im kI, no A, OK?) liber8 R gr8 :-) BTW, NE1 want sum pot? no? OK, GTG, C U l8r.

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If you are a member of Liber8 and would like to learn how your drum sound could benefit from being in Dobby, read on.

I dunno if you really care about this stuff guys, but here's what I happen to think about each song:

1. *Cold Blank Stares*. Nice Intro. Pete would be air-drumming to this. It builds up really well, and the vocals sound good, except for the reverb thing that's going on. Sound engineers, eh? They've always got to tinker with things. Smiley faces (out of five) :o) :o) :o)

2. *Colours*. I dunno why, but the riff at the start of this song annoys me, it sounds like something off Top Gear. After the scream it gets better though, and goes all heavy :o) :o) :o)

3. *Open Air*. This is the Placebo-ey one. Very cool and happy, like eating Mr Freeze in the park on a sunny day. The cola ones are always best, aren't they? Guitar playing on this song is ace :o) :o) :o) :o)

4. *Transcend Downpour*. Nice, like Starsailor, but with better hair :o) :o) :o) :ol (that's 3.5)

5. *Lacking Substance*. Like a flasher in Seaton Park, it's brief and to the point. Which is more than adequate :o) :o)

6. *Junkie*. Hmm, someone likes their chorus pedal. Nice tune though. This song's great, but it needs to really lose it in the heavy bits - think faster and shoutier, like something off In Utero :o) :o) :o) :o)

7. *Shattered Glass*. Wish my songs sounded this good live! Cool little riff. Hey, I just discovered why the vocals are so weird - I had Surround Sound on. Oops, silly me. Still a bit distant, but not as bathtub-ey (or is that bathtubby?) as they were :o) :o) :o) :ol

If you want to know more about Liber8 and their nice demo, or would like to send them naked pictures of your mum, go to www.aubl.co.uk/liber8.htm. If you would like your band's demo or female bass player to be reviewed in a rambling kind of way, you can find me @ The Palace dancing to Linkin Park, if that's any help.

Reviewed by Kai Sirius.