

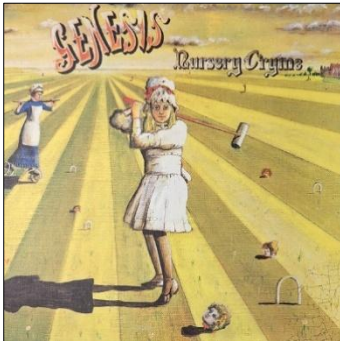
## New albums in 2025

This file lists and reviews the albums bought in 2025. New purchases will be added from time to time. Of course, reviews are very personal and my observations may be very unlike yours. If you check reviews on Discogs, you will see that one man's junk is the other man's treasure; the same album/pressing can be the best for one and the worst for another. So, read it if you like and don't take it all too serious. Instead, check for yourself and listen to the records reviewed, if any of them come close to your own interests! (PS - date of entering the house between brackets)

### Album #1 ☆☆☆☆★ (8)

#### Genesis: "Nursery Cryme"

(Jan. 3, 2025)



The first record I bought in 2025, eh... well, I should say: received (as I bought it online the last day of 2024), was "Nursery Cryme" by Genesis. Analogue Productions started a new series in 2023, devoted to the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Atlantic label (Atlantic was founded in 1947 by Ahmet Ertegun, Herb Abramson and his wife Miriam Abramson), and this album is part of that series. However, Atlantic wasn't involved with Genesis' first pressings until 1973 ("Selling England By The Pound"), so the choice for "Nursery Cryme" and "Foxtrot" (scheduled for March) is a bit odd. But I'm glad nevertheless, as I love the Peter Gabriel area of Genesis\* and Analogue Production probably made the best sounding and best looking versions of these titles.

\* Except for "The Lamb Lies Down On Broadway" - see album #4 - and "From Genesis To Revelation", the 1969 album where Genesis wasn't much more than just an average pop group.

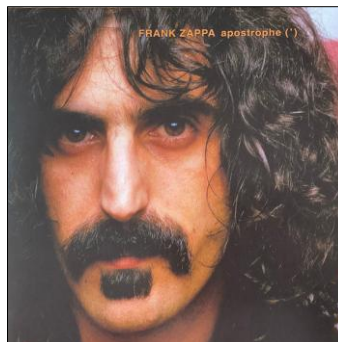
The LP reissues in the Atlantic 75 series all seem to be pressed in the 45rpm format, which means two records are needed for a single album, four for a double album. Some hate it, some love it, I do both as it disturbs the original

order of the album, but it has a good effect on the sound quality, since a longer groove is used and more information can thus be recorded. Yes, and it keeps you moving as you'll have to flip the records more often. These Analogue Production LP's do not come cheap, but they have a lot to offer. "Nursery Cryme" sounds really great to my ears; there's so much detail and transparency that now, finally, even the more bombastic parts are fun to listen to. I must admit that the bombast never was my favorite side of Genesis. I prefer the first record in this set (side 1 of the original album), with beautiful songs like "The Musical Box", "For Absent Friends" and "The Return Of The Giant Hogweed".

### Album #2 ☆☆☆☆☆ (9)

#### Frank Zappa: "Apostrophe"

(Jan. 9, 2025)



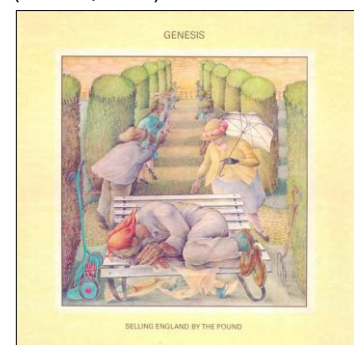
"Apostrophe" has always been one of my favourite Frank Zappa albums and last year it was reissued (again), as a single and as a double album in this 2LP set "featuring highlights from the 5 CD box set", so the hype sticker reads. I'm not into compost discs, but I guess I'm missing a lot of interesting stuff here. A 45rpm single was added to the double LP set as well.

In line with the first song, "Don't Eat The Yellow Snow", the ugly colored vinyl is white with yellow splatter. Give me black. The sound is fine, though my copy has a few distortions in the song mentioned above, which distracts a bit. But apart from that, no complaints. I love it and I think this album never sounded any better than this. The instrumental title track may be the single one track I'm less enthusiastic about. This track comes back on the second LP, in a 11:05 minutes version, almost twice as long... Otherwise, the second LP is an OK addition with mostly songs from the album itself, but it has enough twists and variations to make it well enjoyable. New titles are "Approximate - Bale" and "Goteborg GTR", both appear here for the first time.

### Album #3 ☆☆☆☆★ (8)

#### Genesis: "Selling England By The Pound"

(Jan. 14, 2025)

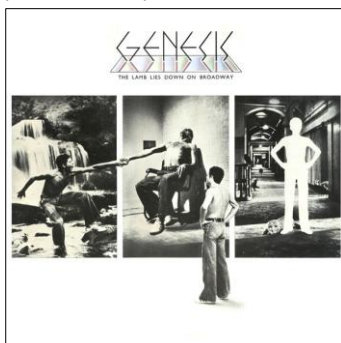


This is another beautiful Genesis album, mainly because of the first three songs ("Dancing With The Moonlit Knight", "I Know What I Like (In Your Wardrobe)" and "Firth Of Fifth"). These three songs feature all the creativity and sublime musicianship Genesis is known for. "More Fool Me", featuring Phil Collins on vocals,

could have been omitted, as it is a bit of nothing, and the remainder is still rather good, but to me, it misses the magic coherency which graces the first three songs (and most of the previous Genesis albums). This album marks the end of the most beautiful years of Genesis. "Selling England" could be seen as transitional, with the last convulsions of Gabriel appearing on "The Lamb Lies Down On Broadway", resulting in him leaving the band to pursue a successful solo career.

This is, again, an expensive Analogue Productions reissue in the Atlantic 75 series, pressed on two 45rpm discs. It sounds wonderful and "Firth Of Fifth" never made that much impression before... goose bumps!

**Album #4** ★★☆☆☆ (5)  
**Genesis: "The Lamb Lies Down On Broadway"**  
 (Jan. 15, 2025)



Though this album was also released in the Analogue Productions Atlantic 75 series, I received this 1970's US pressing as a gift from a friend, who appeared to have a dozen different pressings of this title, his favourite Genesis album. I had this album in my collection some years ago, as it was part of the 2008 box set I once owned. For some reason, I never paid full attention to the "The Lamb Lies Down On Broadway". It felt like a challenge, one that I wasn't ready for, and I put it aside until recently. Then I listened to the album on YouTube and a few days after that I could play the vinyl on my stereo, but it's still hard for me to appreciate this one, though it sure has its moments. It remains a 'difficult' album; dark, grim and more

bombastic than Genesis' earlier albums. It lacks too much of the subtleties which I came to appreciate so much, the ingenious twists and changes. It also seems to be less focused as if Gabriel and the band felt like making changes without knowing what to aim for instead. And last, the sound of Genesis has always been very much dominated by Tony Banks' keyboards, but on this album there's more room for the ugly noises of synths (as it seems: the ARP Pro Soloist and the Elka Rhapsody synthesizers). Maybe I need to listen to this album more often, but I'm afraid it won't change much. My US pressing is rather good sounding but there're too much distractions, because of the ticks and crackles - too bad! I tried for a better copy and bought one new from JPC, but there were too many flaws as well, so I had to send it back. A bit of a disappointment as I expected more from Rhino, responsible for this reissue (2024). I will not buy the Analogue Productions 45rpm reissue of "The Lamb Lies Down On Broadway", also released in cooperation with Rhino (!), maybe unless it'll be firmly discounted in the future, which is not to be expected. My hopes are now for the before mentioned reissue of "Foxtrot" and it would be a delight if Analogue Productions also decided to reissue "Trespass" (1970).

**Album #5** ★★☆☆☆ (6)  
**Duke Ellington: "Ellington Indigos"**  
 (Jan. 18, 2025)



My first jazz album of 2025, another gift, featuring the great Duke Ellington. This album is a 1989 reissue of Columbia CS

8053 (1958), with a few alterations (two extra tracks, one alternate take replacing the original take). It also features a completely different cover – see below to compare. This reissue has the CBS Jazz Masterpieces logo printed over bass player Jimmy Woode's head (I guess it's him) and I'm wondering why. It looks odd and doesn't seem very respectful. I have quite a few Duke Ellington albums and though I do not like it all, I have great respect for the Duke. "Ellington Indigos" features more big band jazz by the maestro, and it's all ballads. That is a good thing, as it omits much of the bombast, but it's a bit boring too. The digital remastering sounds pretty well, not superb but enjoyable. As said, the album was reissued in 1989, when digital was hot and even many audiophiles got fooled by it's supposed qualities. The best version of this album can probably be found on Impex (LP IMP6010, 2012), mastered from the original analog tapes by Kevin Gray, with no digital stopovers. However, the Impex CD version will probably sound comparably good, as digital improved greatly since 1989.



(the original cover of "Ellington Indigos")