



## The Go! Team

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When The Go! Team blew up in Europe two years ago, they knew they had a problem on their hands. "It was tough to get our samples cleared," says guitarist and main creative force, Ian Parton. "We'll have to try and clear the new samples before the album comes out this time."

Having uncleared samples on their debut album, *Thunder, Lightning, Strike*, forced the album's American release to be pushed back a few months. Now, with fans all over the world, the band can't afford to be tardy with their new record. "The thing that got us in trouble is that it had already been out there," says Parton on the phone from Brighton, England. "We'll suss it out this time and find out whether it's likely it'll be cleared."

With only a few months to go until their new, as yet untitled, album is expected to hit stores, Parton should probably start clearing samples now. The only problem is that he hasn't found all the sounds he'll need, or even written all the songs that'll appear on the upcoming disc. He's not worried though, the tracks are coming along and the samples, well, he knows where to find them. "I'm kind of obsessive about samples," he says. "I actually seek this shit out from archives and documentaries."

While he won't disclose what samples he's thinking of using ("It's too early to reveal," he says), he can give

his fans some insight into what the new disc will sound like. "The record's going to kick a lot more at the bottom end, but it's still going to have that trashy distorted sheen over it."

Parton promises the same amped-up energy that was on their last disc, but he's doing away with some of the band's distinctive raps. "There will be more singy vocals," he says, adding that the first album had only two songs with recorded vocals. "It can be too easy to put a rap over something. I like the idea of vocals jumping in and out, and things being unexpected."

Adding more vocals means his bandmates need to step up to the plate. Drummer Chi Fukami Taylor, singer Ninja, and guitarist Kaori Tsuchida are all expected to lend their voices to the recording, but Parton promises that some special guests will contribute their pipes as well. "I've been thinking about approaching Chuck D," he says, then adds under his breath, "but I don't think he'll do it." Kevin Shields of My Bloody Valentine is another name that's been tossed around. "He volunteered his services a while back, but I haven't called him up on it yet."

Parton still has some time to figure out whom he wants on the record—The Go! Team haven't tracked any vocals yet. However, as of press time about half of the 14 songs he expects to be on the disc are written, including "Doing It Right," a bubble gum pop track that's "still trashy," and "Titanic Vandalism," a "car chase-y track with a Sonic Youth thing going on."

Something else Parton's figured out is that he wants the new record to be noisier than the last. He cites My Bloody Valentine, Sonic Youth, and the '60s northern soul sound as major influences. "I've always been into the noisy stuff, the loud, wailing guitars," says Parton.

He goes on to describe another new track, "Gripped Like A Vice," which combines '80s rap and distorted noise. "One minute you're in early-'80s hip-hop territory and then it switches into a Sonic Youth guitar fest thing, and then it goes back again. I like the idea of mixing things that haven't been done before."

Originality has always been one of The Go! Team's defining characteristics, and whatever shape the album takes, that idea won't go by the wayside. "Originality and uncharted territory is how I think," says Parton, "and I'm just trying to realize the best possible way to make new sounds."

By Bryan Borzykowski