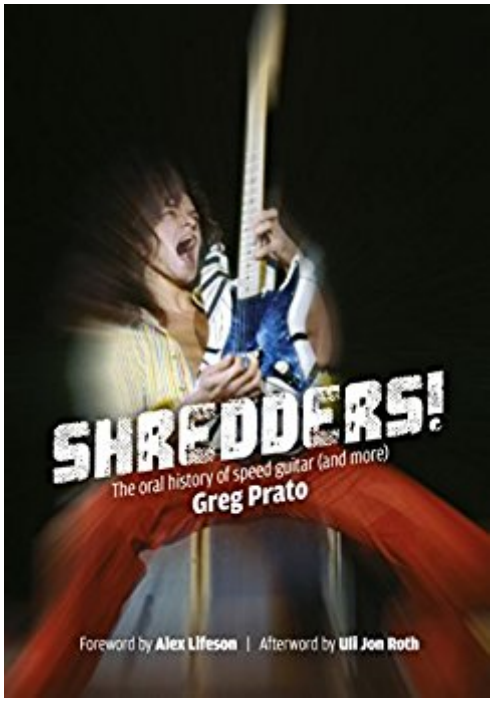
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Shredders!: The Oral History Of Speed Guitar (And More)



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Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Å“How fast can you play?Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬Å“What guitar do you have?Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬Å“Who is better, Van Halen or Steve Vai?Ã¢â ¬Â•For metal fans in the 80s, these were common and important questions. Tune in to MTV, pick up a magazine, or walk into an instrument store, and more often than not youÃ¢â ¬â„¢d be exposed to what is now known as shreddingÃ¢â ¬â •the fast, virtuoso soloing popularized by musicians like Vai and Van Halen, Joe Satriani and Yngwie Malmsteen, Randy Rhoads and Dimebag Darrell.Inspired by these pioneering guitarists, thousands of young musicians would spend hours at home in their bedrooms, perfecting both their playing and their poses.Though shredding fell out of favor during the grunge/alternative rock era, it has become increasingly popular again in recent years, spurred by the rise in popularity of bands like Children Of Bodom, DragonForce, and Trivium. Drawing on more than seventy exclusive interviews with key shredders past and present, author and guitarist Greg Prato has assembled the definitive guide to the fastest players of them all.Ã¢â ¬ËœWhat I would do is, I would get up, I would play guitar, I would take a food breakÃ¢â ¬â •which was breakfastÃ¢â ¬â •and then I would play guitar again, play until the afternoon, take a short break, run some errands, maybe grab a snack, come back, and play some more.Ã¢â ¬â„¢ KIRK HAMMETTÃ¢â ¬Ëœl just said, IÃ¢â ¬â„¢m not going to be that longhaired guitar player plugging into a set of Marshalls anymore. IÃ¢â ¬â„¢m just leaving that behind. IÃ¢â ¬â„¢m going to do something di erent and artistic.Ã¢â ¬â„¢JOE SATRIANIÃ¢â ¬ËœAfter I had heard Edward and Yngwie, I realized that you could create tone where the notes are really clear.Ã¢â ¬â„¢STEVE VAIÃ¢â ¬ËœWell, one personÃ¢â ¬â„¢s shred is another personÃ¢â ¬â„¢s slow hand...Ã¢â ¬â„¢GEORGE LYNCH

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Customer Reviews

This is absolutely one of those instances where I wish the ratings system would allow for half stars, as I would definitely mark this as a 4.5 star read. I have a few minor complaints that won't allow me to rate it a straight 5, but there it is.First off, I am sucker for great presentation in a book, and I was surprised by how cool this book looks and feels. It has French flaps and very heavy paper, making it a much higher quality book than I expected when I ordered it. Kudos to Jawbone Press for taking the time and effort to make this a lovely edition.Second off, I an a HUGE music fan. My tastes span the gamut from classic rock to hardcore punk. I swing with jazz, I adore Americana, I can metal it up with anybody. I even have a fair amount of hip-hop in my massive music collection. As a big music fan I am always on the lookout for good bios and histories of music and musicians. This book fit the bill to slake my thirst for more knowledge of a decade that seems to have lost a bit of luster in hindsight. The 80's were certainly a decade of excess and overindulgence, and you can get a feel for that by reading this book.So if you were a music and MTV fan in the 1980's then you are probably familiar with the term "shred". The term was ubiquitous and was typically used to denote a guitarist with amazingly fast chops. It was often used as a compliment, though over time it became somewhat derogatory, often used to categorize players who had great technical skills but no "groove" or "soul" in their repertoire. The transition from 70's-era guitar heroes like Jimmy Page and Tony Iommi was sharp indeed, and can be traced to the first Van Halen album, released in 1978. Eddie Van Halen revolutionized rock guitar in a way that no other player had since Jimi Hendrix. This book starts there, with Eddie as the Godfather of Shred, his reinterpretation of what a guitar could do in the context of rock spawning a multitude of imitators.From Eddie, we move to Randy Rhoads, the Ozzy Osbourne sideman who introduced classical elements to heavy metal guitar in an age where most players were still trading off of standard blues progressions. Then you get Steve Vai and Yngwie Malmsteen, two guys who practically defined the term "shred" with their faster than

light fingering and scaling. You get a TON of great information here from the players who were integral to the metal scene in the 80’s. You get a chapter on bass shredders, you get a GREAT section on Shrapnel Records, the premier label for aspiring shredders run by Mike Varney, who comes across as some kind of "shredder savant", pulling guys in to make records of off the strength of a lightning fast demo tape.You see the apex of the shredder scene in the mid-to late 80’s, and the inevitable decline in shredder’s fortunes as the grunge scene and the new focus on lyrical content and song craftsmanship pretty much killed off the virtuoso guitar player for the better part of 15 years of rock history. But of course, music is a cyclical thing, and we are now in an era where guitar is back into an extended role in rock music. There is a ton of great information and history to be had here, along with a couple of small photo sections.So as for my minor gripes.....WAY too many typos in the text. Needed a better proofreader and less reliance on spellcheck. And of course as a music nerd I can’t resist the urge to wonder at all the players who were left OUT of the text. I appreciated the focus on some of the lesser known purveyors of the craft, but the omission of so many high-profile shredders weakens the text somewhat. Mick Mars gets only a passing reference? Really? No Vita Bratta? No Chuck Schuldiner? Criminal!!Still, though, this is a fantastic book if you have any interest in the subject matter. I came of age in the 70’s and 80’s, the two golden eras for guitar histrionics. I will tell you that this book expanded my knowledge and made head to YouTube to research some of the players and bands found within these pages. Never too late to learn new things about a decade that I thought I had down pat as far as hard rock and metal went. That alone makes this a worthy addition to my library.

The first time I read a book "written" by Greg Prato, I thought that the guy is either clever or lazy. He basically gets a cast of musicians and other music-industry-related people together, and then asks them questions or presents topics. Greg then puts their replies together in a book. But when I think about it, I often don’t care about the author’s opinions and just want to read what my favorite musicians have to say, especially if the author is not very knowledgeable and/or does not seem to care for the artist/band they are writing about. As a guitarist who started playing in 1983 this book is right up my alley! I loved reading what some of my favorite guitarists had to say about shredding, Shrapnel Records, guitar magazines & tablature, and many more topics. The book is almost 400 hundred pages so it is a bargain and a good read. There are also some cool pictures. The only thing I did not like about the book is that there are a few guitarists that I’m not interested in, but that is to be expected. Anyways, it is worth getting, 4 1/2 stars!!!!

Having been a fan of this writers previous oral skills I found this presentation to be drop to your knees worthy. The writer clearly has a skill in getting each shredder to show there full package. None of the interviewees seem shy in opening up and letting it all hang out which definitely shows how comfortable they are with Prato's no nonsense ability to let them be as open with him as they want to be. All in Prato has again shown every other schlock just how rock hard his taste for the perfect oral history can go. Buy this but beware, Prato will soon have you shredding down to pure rock status.

This book is outstanding!!! Brought me back to the days when metal ruled. Could not put this book down and especially loved the section where the artists themselves talk about their gear. Great book for players and fans alike. Now I must check out other books from this author. I see he has many!

Good pictures, would like more! Cool chapter on Dime

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