

## SPEC RECORDS PRESENTS "No-Cowboys".

**NO COWBOYS** means Susan Gogan and John Studholme, both formerly part of the independently-minded Prag Vec, accompanied by various friends on thirteen equally independently-minded structures: songs that aren't quite songs, rock that almost isn't, playing that isn't always what is considered 'good' yet is invariably effective. A cheap sleeve and the inevitable Rough Trade credit.

In many ways this album is exactly what I expected from the sleeve but to its credit is also more enjoyable than I anticipated. Its drawback is that the whole genre has now its own equally developed trademarks: the surprise is diminished, the enthusiasm and occasionally inspired amateurism is no longer enough alone.

However, having said that, this is a good attempt to bridge a gap between deliberately sloppy anti-rock and the more accepted forms of entertainment. They're particularly effective on "Happy Valley", where the wasp synth works well: the song appears to be another put down of suburban life, if I'm hearing right — though it strikes me that's too easy a target. And "Mens casual wear 1962" An instrumental which again uses electronics to good effect is another high point.

Don't prejudge this album by its cover, at least be prepared to listen. No Cowboys with their use of electronics are in their own way not that different in their final aim to a band like Spandau Ballet. After all, deliberately dressing down is, to my way of thinking, the same as dressing up. The people involved would probably disagree but from my point of view both deserve a fair hearing. Forget preconceptions.

Stephen Rapid.