

EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT the low-fi revolution is wrong. Sehadah, Guided by Voices and Royal Trux are all riding the late freight. In the mid-70s, Detroit's **DESTROY ALL MONSTERS** were already polluting the underground with their crude studio science and high-energy art sabotage. Operating in a remote quadrant of the pre-punk universe — bordered by the early Velvet Underground, the Stooges' *Fun House*, the fire horns of old ESP Disk jazz records and the German bands Can and Faust — the Messengers worked in determined isolation, gagging little and issuing no records. In 1977, ex-Stooges guitarist Ron Asheton joined, and the group went into biker-metal overdrive. But *Destroy All Monsters 1974-1976* (Patched Yod/ Ecstatic Peace, three-CD set) is the original primal stew, 260 minutes of dense, dark archival magic — richly annotated, lavishly packaged, recorded wholly without compromise.

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