The story of...

" What a beautiful day ! "

NiN Ghosts I remixed

DiY-AD(d)

In cauda venenum

What a beautiful day ! - NiN Ghosts I remixed

Sunday, March 2, Year two thousand and eight : What a beautiful day !

Trent Reznor, the demiurge behind Nine Inch Nails has just boldly freed himself from traditional restraints to free dissemination.

Ghosts I-IV, last NIN album to date, has been released without the help of any record company and the first 9 tracks are available in free download on the band's website.

NIN releases the whole album and its graphics and covers under a Creative Commons by-nc-sa licence. This means any person who adquired the album, either by purchasing or downloading is by now free to share it, sample or remix it, under the following conditions : attribute the work in the manner specified by the author, and not use it for commercial purpose.

This initiative obviously runs counter to digital locking systems set up by the recording industry, and counter to its hollow fight against "piracy".

By choosing the free licences, Reznor prooves that the music may be shared freely, and that "free" music is not necessarily "cheap" music, which would be of lesser quality than "commercial" music. Doing this, Reznor prooves also that free dissemination is by no way uncompatible with some kind of trade, as the Ghosts I-IV album was actually sold, in lossless digital format as well as in limited edition cds.

Nine Inch Nails affords the luxury to conciliate profitability and sharing. Let's hope the idea makes many followers.

What a beautiful day ! - NiN Ghosts I remixed

Free license : what is it ?

We often use the term "free music" by analogy with [free sofware](#).

Everybody knows free softwares such as the web browser [Firefox](#) and the exploitation system [GNU/Linux](#), amongst the most famous .

There are free licenses for music quite similar to software's, such as the [free art licence](#), and others like the [Creative Commons](#), granting more or less freedoms to the end users. For music, the expression [open licence](#) will be preferred.

The interest of **all** these licenses is to allow sharing and copying without restrictions, for instance through P2P networks through clients as [BitTorrent](#) or [eMule](#).

If all existing music were disseminated under open licenses, there would be no net users prosecution.

Some licenses allow also versions and remixes. It's quite appreciable for a musician to be able to interpret and release freely musics he may not always have created.

The license NiN has chosen allows versions and remixes in a non-commercial frame, which is perfect, as we share our recordings at no cost.

The free licenses are definitely compatible with the traditional author's right (copyright : "droit d'auteur" in latin law system). Unfortunately, many rights societies, as french [Sacem](#), don't want to hear about free licenses, and stick to this position. What are they afraid of ?

This text has no other ambition than popularize the open licenses amongst the public. This remix is disseminated via P2P, we thought it could be profitable to emphasize our legal approach and the interest of open licenses, we hope will be used by all soon or later.

What a beautiful day ! - NiN Ghosts I remixed

Ghosts I-IV :

The _Ghosts I-IV_ album contains 36 instrumental tracks composed by Trent Reznor & Atticus Ross with collaborations of Alessandro Cortini, Adrian Belew and Brian Viglione, mixed and produced with Alan Moulder.

It comes with a booklet including photos by Phillip Graybill & Rob Sheridan who worked on graphics and general design also.

Trent Reznor says :

"I've been considering and wanting to make this kind of record for years, but by its very nature it wouldn't have made sense until this point. This collection of music is the result of working from a very visual perspective - dressing imagined locations and scenarios with sound and texture; a soundtrack for daydreams. I'm very pleased with the result and the ability to present it directly to you without interference."

"We began improvising and let the music decide the direction. Eyes were closed, hands played instruments and it began. Within a matter of days it became clear we were on to something, and a lot of material began appearing. What we thought could be a five song EP became much more. I invited some friends over to join in and we all enjoyed the process of collaborating on this."

"The end result is a wildly varied body of music that we're able to present to the world in ways the confines of a major record label would never have allowed - from a 100% DRM-free, high-quality download, to the most luxurious physical package we've ever created."

Trent Reznor, for the listener's pleasure, has strayed from his usual electro-industrial style to explore a more spare and muffled kind of instrumental music, notably with some superb piano parts which might worthily appear in Erik Satie's repertory.

What a beautiful day ! - NiN Ghosts I remixed

The following photos, excerpts from *Ghosts I-IV* booklet, are perfect illustrations of Trent Reznor's comments.
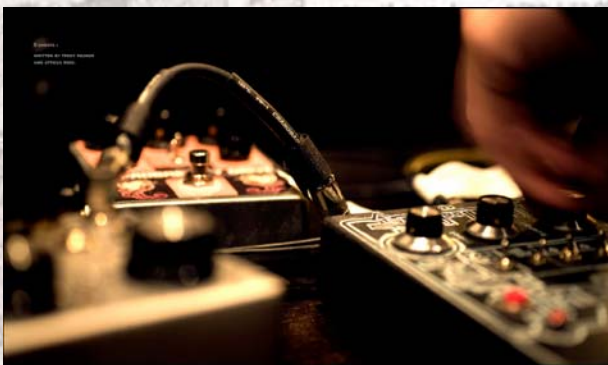
The sky, the sea, a road, a street light under pouring rain, a wide vast, birds, a swamp, a railroad...
We quite think these elements have influenced the musicians showed in a universe of machines with all their imperfections (melted cables, torn parts, flake paint...).
Elements, men, machines - very human actually -, journey and future.

Trent Reznor concludes: "Other volumes of Ghosts might well appear in the future".
We too hope this adventure will go on.

What a beautiful day ! - NiN Ghosts I remixed

About us ?

DIY-AD(d) : In 2006, Mankind Concept proposed to Maya de Luna and Siegfried Gautier a remote musical collaboration (between Toulouse, Lyon and Paris) One result was the ASAP album, released in 2007.
In the following, came up the idea of creating a virtual trio. En dessous de la mandragore, track recorded during the summer, was due to be the opening title of a future album .
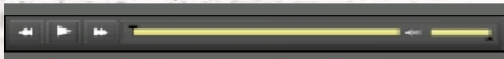But, because of artistic divergence, the trio has not been created .
Mankind concept and Siegfried Gautier then carried on their sound experimentations as a duo, under DIY-AD(d)moniker, a wink to the virtual trio Try^d (as well as crossed references to punk Do It Yourself motto, Action Directe libertarian principle - by no obligation terrorist - and individual energies addition).
DIY-AD(d) will soon release a 4 tracks mini-EP.

"Eventide" excerpt of DIY-AD(d)'s first EP.   Pirate it !

Siegfried Gautier a.k.a. Psychonada, Zor & DJ Sieg is also member of the band Crème brûlée.

Chris Thomas a.k.a. Mankind concept is member of the band Lunatic moon.

What a beautiful day ! - NiN Ghosts I remixed

Solcarlus :

Born somewhere out from the frenzied imagination
of one monomaniac of jazzyfying-electro-groove, his
music, melancholic, sends us out in the sideral
groove galaxy galaxie.
His first compositions date from the 2000's..
In 2005, the primarius album release puts a
conclusion to this five years creation cycle .
After an artistic drowsiness period, renewal is felt in summer 2007 :
Piano appears more and more as his major instrument.
A bunch of titles are in preparation, some others are released, like the "Oh
my bloody tale", composed for an anime movie, The Urban Tale.
"Thalassa bonus track" appears also in the documentary Vida loca.

Oh my bloody tale

Pirate it !

HP :

Mankind concept's muse, she draws, paints,
and sings in her (spare)time.
She also enjoys building short movies scenarii, such as
Cadavres exquis clip.
She dresses up, dances, plays, especially when north
wind comes.

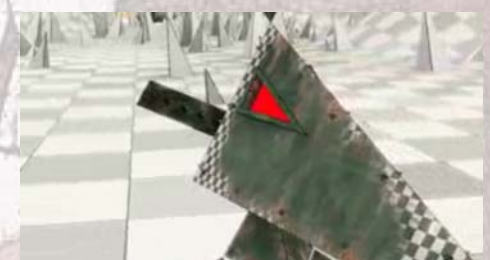What a beautiful day ! - NiN Ghosts I remixed

Webcomics.fr :

Founded in 2006 by Julien Falgas, Pierre Matterne & Julien Portalier, Webcomics.fr webcomics.fr is an online comics portal..Unlike a traditional publisher, webcomics.fr doesn't have a selective policy. Once registered as member of the site, the author freely publishes its work under a CC license.

Webcomics.fr participated in several comics events in 2008 : Les rencontres BD de Marly, Festiblog, IndéBD fest and On a marché sur la bulle, comics festival in Amiens. On these occasions as well as online, webcomics.fr organizes sketching sessions bringing together a number of artists on the same virtuel white board (paintchat – cf. page 13).
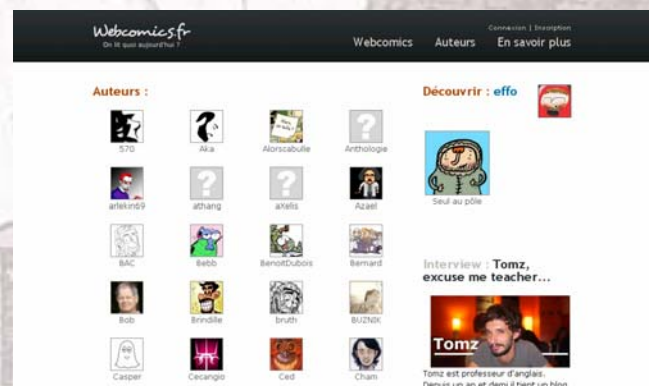
Sylvain Moisset :

Sylvain studies 3D animation in Bordeaux. He created in 2007 the booklet and cover of Mankind concept ASAP album.. DIY-AD(d) logo is one of his works also.


What a beautiful day ! - NiN Ghosts I remixed

The project : What a beautiful day – NiN Ghosts I remixed

The idea of the project has formed the very next day after the album release, at first listening.The tracks that caused such irrepressible urge, are Ghosts 1 & 9. As a matter of fact, Ghosts 9 opens the remix dance in a waltz, fetish Mankind concept's rhythm, followed by Ghosts 1. The intro, whith Ghosts 2, just came later.
"What a beuatiful day, what a beautiful sky" bloomed quite naturally, as it indeed was a beautiful day, the discovery day of this charming opus.

Ghosts 1
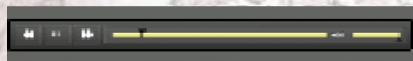
Pirate it !

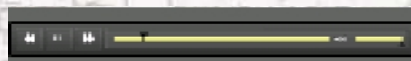Ghosts 9
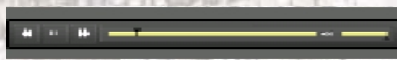
Pirate it !

Ghosts 2

Pirate it !

The musical project did last 4 months, crossing mails and sharing files between Paris and Toulouse.
The track sequence is quite faithful to the six hands composition's chronology, between Mankind concept, Siegfried Gautier and Solcarlus.
Ghosts 4 guitar utilization marks the tracks 3rd part, at 3'20". Ghosts 4 theme is also exploited in a different manner in forth part, starting at 4'7".
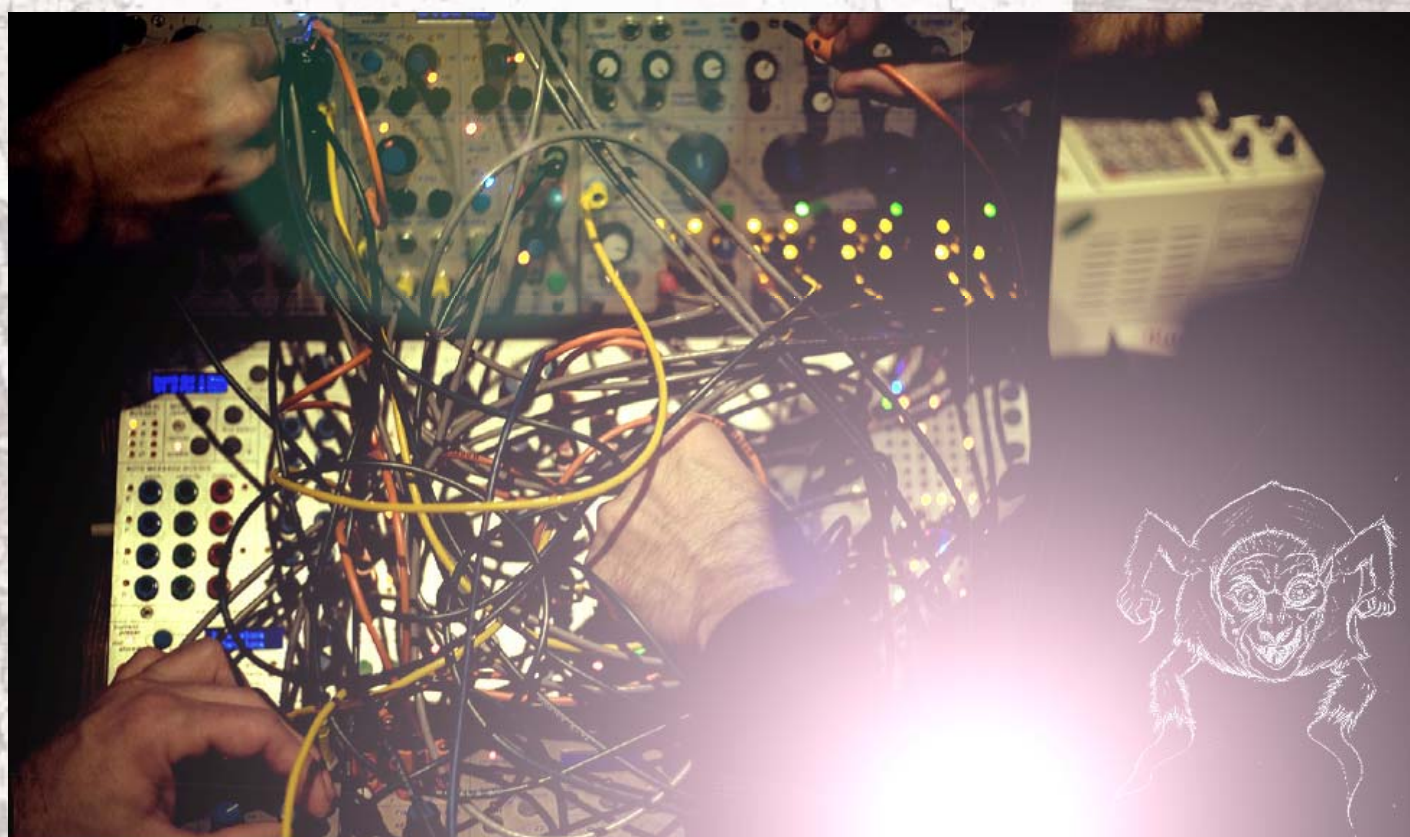
Ghosts 4

Pirate it !

Through this two parts, NIN's music and the booklet photographic universe begin marrying with HP's drawings. Then two animals show up, one monkey and a smaller one, a computer acarid, kind of a nice tiny virus who'd inhabit the computers of the story's protagonists. From this point on, the project no more had limits. Had it ever before ? NiN's samplings using did speed up whilst we were forging our proper sounds too.

We were part of *Ghosts*, *Ghosts* was part of us. Total symbiosis, parfect alchemy it has been. We played with all materials at our disposition, they began to exist, live, rebel..
The samples found in the nine *Ghosts* instrumentals have given sound material for elaborating a totally new work, crossing different styles (rock, newwave, dub, electro...). We added original melodies and arrangements.

But, let's come back to our story...

4th part end at 6'32" with a few notes of Ghosts 6 to move on to 5th part with Ghosts 8.
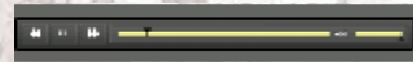
Ghosts 6

Pirate it !

Ghosts 8

Pirate it !

Ghosts 6 appears again on 6th part, beginning at 7'23". You hear also Ghosts 5, coming bak on following part, around 8'55".

Ghosts 5

Pirate it !

This 6th part goes on with rhythmic exploration. After ternary, then binary, here a good 5/4. Take five !
Ghosts 3 subtly spices the 6th piece.
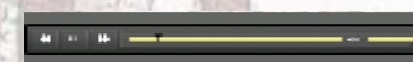
Ghosts 3

Pirate it !

The 7th and last part, at 11'55', is based on Ghosts 7 rhythm.

Ghosts 7

Pirate it !

This part ends just as the work began, looping the loop.

Mankind concept : Guitars, bass, sampling, keyboards, machines, voice
Siegfried Gautier : Guitars, harmonica, sampling, keyboards, machines, voice
Solcarlus : Sampling, guitar, keyboard, voice
HP : Voice
Text : Mankind concept & Siegfried Gautier
Mix, masteriing : Siegfried Gautier.

What a beautiful day ! - NiN Ghosts I remixed

Webcomics.fr 's Paintchat

A paintchat is an application enabling via internet multi users connections to draw and chat. Each draftsman uses a graphic board, multi layer drawing is possible.
Webcomics.fr organizes paintchats produced with open licensed musics, and released, as due, under same license.

Webcomics.fr had previously worked with us, creating two paint chats on Mankind concept's ASAP album.
The paint chat created on "à corps et à revers" track may be seen here.

What a beautiful day ! - NiN Ghosts I remixed

A paint chat session is filmed, this allowing later video editing together with the music that inspired the cartoonists. The draftsmen listen to the music several times during their working session.

The movie is then accelerated on editing to have the same duration as the music.

Webcomics.fr worked with a short version, as we hadn't finished the track. "What a beautiful day" counted the first 5 parts then, roughly 7'27'.

This preliminary version is available here.
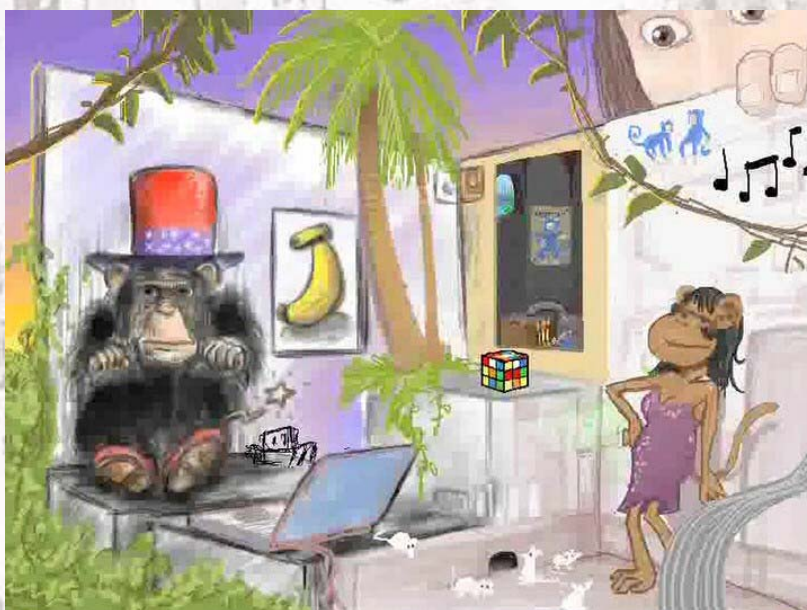
Afterwards, we realized the definitive version, rescaling the video on the whole track duration, which lasts more of 16 minutes.

Cartoonists :

Dr_Folaweb – Visit his web site here.
J_N – His area on Webcomics.fr is here.
Jessica H – Visit her blog.
Klaim – Visit his web site here.

Camera :

JiF – Find he on Webcomics here.

Mounting : Siegfried Gautier

What a beautiful day ! - NiN Ghosts I remixed

Text :

What a beautiful day
What a beautiful sky

Sun is shining
Wind is blowing
Moon's disappearing
In the lighty morning.

I threw nine rusty nails
In the dark river
It turned to blue
I look like
An empty bottle
Lost in the raging sea.

There is a little animal
Living in my computer
I take it in my hand
It looks like a monkey.

Beautiful monkey !

Hidden in my computer
It dances like a fully mad dervish turner.
I take it in my hand.

Beautiful monkey !

Playing with my memory
It only likes to play with black and blue cables.
I take it in my hand

Beautiful monkey !

I'm a monkey !

What a beautiful day ! - NiN Ghosts I remixed

I take you in my hand
You will turn into sand
You will fall in my arms
I'm under influence.

I try to understand
I'm laughing in the sand
Playing with your hands
Disappearing in the sea.

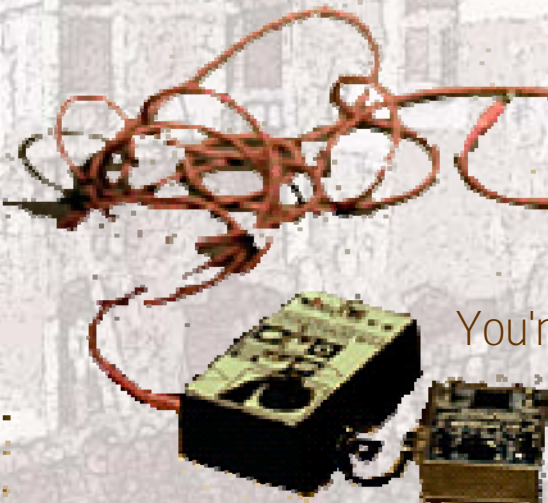I'm a monkey
Hidden in the sand.

Thank you for your gift
Then take my magic lift
Listen music of stars
Lost in the space.

I'm your monkey
I'm your honey
I'm looking for ecstasy.

Nine rusty nails
Will grow up
As beautiful ideas
In urban jungle

I see you my honey
Dancing in the wind
You move your body
It's just what you need.

You're laughing with all your teeth !

What a beautiful day ! - NiN Ghosts I remixed

What a beautiful day
What a beautiful sky
Moon's disappearing
In the lighty morning.
Sun is shining
Wind is blowing
Is there Ghost in the sky ?

I play with Ghost
I open my mind
Arround and arround
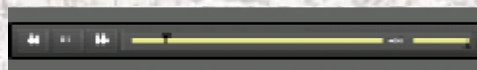Arround and arround
In the burning sand.

I play with nails
I open my arms
Arround and arround
Arround and arround
In the burning sand.

I play with it
Or does it play with me ?

Eno

What a beautiful day

What a beautiful day ! - NiN Ghosts I remixed