

= Homework (Daft Punk album) =

Homework is the debut studio album by the French electronic music duo Daft Punk , released on 7 January 1997 by Virgin Records and Soma Quality Recordings . The album revived house music and departed from the Eurodance formula . The duo produced the tracks without plans to release an album . After working on projects that were intended to be separate singles over five months , they considered the material good enough for an album .

Homework 's success brought worldwide attention to French house music . Homework charted in 14 different countries , peaking at number 3 on the French Albums Chart , number 150 on the United States Billboard 200 and at number 8 on the UK Albums Chart . By February 2001 , the album had sold more than two million copies worldwide and received several gold and platinum certifications . Overall , Homework received positive critical response . The album features singles that had significant impact in French house and global dance music scenes , including the U.S. Billboard Hot Dance / Club Play number @-@ one singles " Da Funk " and " Around the World " , the latter of which reached number 61 on the Billboard Hot 100 .

= = Background and recording = =

In 1993 , Thomas Bangalter and Guy @-@ Manuel de Homem @-@ Christo presented a demo of their electronic music to DJ Stuart Macmillan at a rave at EuroDisney . The contents of the cassette were released on the single " The New Wave " on 11 April 1994 , by Soma Quality Recordings , a Scottish techno and house label co @-@ founded in 1991 by MacMillan 's band Slam . Daft Punk returned to the studio in May 1995 to record " Da Funk " , which was released later that year alongside " Rollin ' & Scratchin ' " under the Soma label .

The increasing popularity of Daft Punk 's singles led to a bidding war among record labels , resulting in the duo 's signing to Virgin Records in 1996 . Their departure was noted by Richard Brown of Soma , who affirmed that " we were obviously sad to lose them to Virgin but they had the chance to go big , which they wanted , and it 's not very often that a band has that chance after two singles . We 're happy for them . " Virgin re @-@ released " Da Funk " with the B @-@ side " Musique " in 1996 , a year before releasing Homework . Bangalter later stated that the B @-@ side " was never intended to be on the album , and in fact , ' Da Funk ' as a single has sold more units than Homework , so more people own it anyways [sic] than they would if it had been on the album . It is basically used to make the single a double @-@ feature . " The album was mixed and recorded in Daft Punk 's studio , Daft House in Paris . It was mastered by Nilesh Patel at the London studio The Exchange .

Bangalter stated that " to be free , we had to be in control . To be in control , we had to finance what we were doing ourselves . The main idea was to be free . " Daft Punk discussed their method with Spike Jonze , director of the " Da Funk " music video . He noted that " they were doing everything based on how they wanted to do it . As opposed to , ' oh we got signed to this record company , we gotta use their plan . ' They wanted to make sure they never had to do anything that would make them feel bummed on making music . " Although Virgin Records holds exclusive distribution rights over Daft Punk 's material , the duo still owns their master recordings through their Daft Trax label .

= = Composition = =

Daft Punk produced the tracks included in Homework without a plan to release an album . Bangalter stated , " It was supposed to be just a load of singles . But we did so many tracks over a period of five months that we realized that we had a good album . " The duo set the order of the tracks to cover the four sides of a two @-@ disc vinyl LP . De Homem @-@ Christo remarked , " There was no intended theme because all the tracks were recorded before we arranged the sequence of the album . The idea was to make the songs better by arranging them the way we did ; to make it more even as an album . " The name Homework , Bangalter explained , relates to " the fact that we made the record at home , very cheaply , very quickly , and spontaneously , trying to do

cool stuff . "

" Daftendirekt " is an excerpt of a live performance recorded in Ghent , Belgium ; it served as the introduction to Daft Punk 's live shows and was used to begin the album . The performance took place at the first I Love Techno , an event co @-@ produced by Fuse and On the Rox on 10 November 1995 . Janet Jackson sampled " Daftendirekt " on her song " So Much Betta " , which was included in her tenth studio album , Discipline , in 2008 . Homework 's following track , " WDPK 83 @. @ 7 FM " , is a tribute to FM radio in the US . The next song , " Revolution 909 " is a reflection on the French government 's stance on dance music .

" Revolution 909 " is followed by " Da Funk " , which carries elements of funk and acid music . According to Andrew Asch of the Boca Raton News , the song 's composition " relies on a bouncy funk guitar to communicate its message of dumb fun . " Bangalter expressed that " Da Funk " ' s theme involved the introduction of a simple , unusual element that becomes acceptable and moving over time . Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine complimented the song as " unrelenting " , and Bob Gajarsky of Westnet called it " a beautiful meeting of Chic (circa " Good Times " , sans vocals) and the 90s form of electronica . " The song appeared on the soundtrack for the 1997 film The Saint and was placed at number 18 on Pitchfork Media 's " Top 200 Tracks of the 1990s " list . " Ph?nix " combines elements of gospel music and house music . The duo considered " Fresh " to be breezy and light with a comical structure . Ian Mathers of Stylus Magazine criticized the song , stating that it " doesn 't feel like the beach just because of the lapping waves heard in the background . "

The single " Around the World " carries influences of Gershon Kingsley 's hit " Popcorn " . Its music video was directed by the Academy Award @-@ winning French filmmaker Michel Gondry , who compared the track 's bassline to that of " Good Times " by Chic . Chris Power of BBC Music named it " one of the decade 's catchiest singles " . He stated that it was " a perfect example of Daft Punk 's sound at its most accessible : a post @-@ disco boogie bassline , a minimalist sprinkling of synthetic keyboard melody and a single , naggingly insistent hook . " Ian Mathers of Stylus Magazine commented that " there is no way you 'd want to have a Homework without ' Around The World ' . " The track " Teachers " is a tribute to several of Daft Punk 's house music influences , including future collaborators Romanthony , DJ Sneak and Todd Edwards . The song " Oh Yeah " features DJ Deelat and DJ Crabbe . " Indo Silver Club " features a sample of " Hot Shot " by Karen Young . Prior to its inclusion on Homework , " Indo Silver Club " was released as a single on the Soma Quality Recordings label in two parts . The single lacked an artist credit in the packaging and was thought to have been created by the nonexistent producers Indo Silver Club . The final track , " Funk Ad " , is a reversed clip of " Da Funk " .

= = Singles = =

Homework features singles that had significant impact in the French house and global dance music scenes . The first single from the album , " Alive " , was included as a B @-@ side on the single " The New Wave " , which was released in April 1994 . The album 's second single was " Da Funk " ; it was initially released in 1995 by Soma and was re @-@ released by Virgin Records in 1996 . It became the duo 's first number @-@ one single on the Billboard Hot Dance / Club Play chart . The song reached number seven on British and French charts . The third single , " Around the World " , was a critical and commercial success , becoming the second number @-@ one single on the Billboard Hot Dance / Club Play chart , as well as reaching number 11 in Australia , number five in the United Kingdom and number 61 on the Billboard Hot 100 . In October 2011 , NME placed " Around the World " at number 21 on its list of " 150 Best Tracks of the Past 15 Years " . The album 's fourth single was " Burnin ' " ; it was released in September 1997 and peaked at number 30 in the UK . The final single from Homework was " Revolution 909 " . It was released in February 1998 and reached number 47 in the UK and number 12 on the Billboard Hot Dance / Club Play chart .

In 1999 , the duo released a video collection featuring music videos of tracks and singles from the album under the name of D.A.F.T. : A Story About Dogs , Androids , Firemen and Tomatoes . Although its title derives from the appearances of dogs (" Da Funk " and " Fresh ") , androids (" Around the World ") , firemen (" Burnin ' ") , and tomatoes (" Revolution 909 ") in the videos , a

cohesive plot does not connect its episodes .

= = Commercial performance = =

Daft Punk wanted the majority of pressings to be on vinyl , so only 50 @, @ 000 albums were initially printed in CD format . After its release , overwhelming sales of Homework caused distributors to accelerate production to satisfy demand . The album was distributed in 35 countries worldwide , peaking at number 150 on the Billboard 200 . Homework first charted on the Australian Albums Chart on 27 April 1997 ; it remained there for eight weeks and peaked at number 37 . In France , the album reached number three and stayed on the chart for 82 weeks . In 1999 , it reached Gold status in France for selling more than 100 @, @ 000 copies . On 11 July 2001 , the album was certified Gold by the Recording Industry Association of America , indicating sales of 500 @, @ 000 copies in the US . By October 1997 , the album had sold 220 @, @ 000 copies worldwide , although Billboard reported that , according to Virgin Records , two million copies had been sold by February 2001 . By September 2007 , 605 @, @ 000 copies had been sold in the United States .

= = Critical reception = =

Homework 's success brought worldwide attention to French progressive house music , and drew attention to French house music . According to The Village Voice , the album revived house music and departed from the Euro dance formula . In the book 1001 Albums You Must Hear Before You Die , critic Alex Rayner stated that Homework tied the established club styles to the " burgeoning eclecticism " of big beat . He contended that it served as a proof that " there was more to dance music than pills and keyboard presets . " Clash described Homework as an entry point of accessibility for a " burgeoning movement on the cusp of splitting the mainstream seam . " In 2009 , Brian Linder of IGN described Homework as the duo 's third @-@ best album . He catalogued as a " groundbreaking achievement " the way they used their unique skills to craft the house , techno , acid and punk music styles into the record . Hua Hsu of eMusic agreed , applauding Homework for how it captured a " feeling of discovery and exploration " as a result of " years of careful study of the finest house , techno , electro and hip @-@ hop records . " David Browne , writing in Entertainment Weekly , stated that the duo knew how to use " their playful , hip @-@ hopping ambient techno " to craft the album . He named Homework the " ideal disco for androids " . Sean Cooper of AllMusic called the album " an almost certain classic " and " essential " .

Chris Power of BBC Music compared Homework 's " less @-@ is @-@ more " approach to compression 's use as " a sonic tribute " to the FM radio stations that " fed Daft Punk 's youthful obsessions . " Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine wrote that " while a few tracks are more daft than deft , " more recent groundbreakers like The Avalanches could never exist without " Da Funk " . Ian Mathers of Stylus Magazine noted that " there 's a core of unimpeachably classic work on Homework , hidden among the merely good , and when you 've got such a classic debut hidden in the outlines of the epic slouch of their debut , it 's hard not to get frustrated . " Rolling Stone awarded the album three stars out of five , commenting that " the duo 's essential , career @-@ defining insight is that the problem with disco the first time around was not that it was stupid but that it was not stupid enough . " Rolling Stone ranked Homework at the top on their list of " The 30 Greatest EDM Albums of All Time " while affirming that Daft Punk 's debut " is pure synapse @-@ tweaking brilliance . " According to Scott Woods of The Village Voice , " Daft Punk [tore] the lid off the [creative] sewer " with the release of Homework . Ryan Schreiber of Pitchfork Media awarded it 7 @. @ 6 out of 10 . He stated that " Homework provides sixteen whole tracks of modern @-@ day boom box bass n ' drum and unlike your science project , it doesn 't require a lot of intricate calculations to figure out how it works . " In his view , " It sounds like an Atari 2600 on a killing spree . " By contrast , Robert Christgau of The Village Voice cited " Da Funk " as a " choice cut " , indicating " a good song on an album that isn 't worth your time or money " . Darren Gawle from Drop @-@ D Magazine also gave a negative review , stating that " Homework is the work of a couple of DJs who sound amateurish at best . "

= = Track listing = =

All music composed by Thomas Bangalter and Guy @-@ Manuel de Homem @-@ Christo .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =