

= Grindcore =

Grindcore is an extreme genre of music that originated in the early to mid @-@ 1980s . It draws inspiration from some of the most abrasive @-@ sounding genres ? including hardcore punk , thrash metal , crust punk , industrial and noise rock . Grindcore is characterized by a noise @-@ filled sound that uses heavily distorted , down @-@ tuned guitars , grinding overdriven bass , high speed tempo , blast beats , and vocals which consist of growls and high @-@ pitched shrieks . Early groups like Napalm Death are credited with laying the groundwork for the style . It is most prevalent today in North America and Europe , with popular contributors such as Brutal Truth and Nasum . Lyrical themes range from a primary focus on social and political concerns , to gory subject matter and black humor .

A trait of grindcore is the " microsong " . Several bands have produced songs that are only seconds in length . British band Napalm Death holds the Guinness World Record for shortest song ever recorded with the one @-@ second " You Suffer " ( 1987 ) . Many bands , such as Agoraphobic Nosebleed , record simple phrases that may be rhythmically sprawled out across an instrumental lasting only a couple of bars in length .

A variety of " microgenres " have subsequently emerged , often labeling bands according to traits that deviate from regular grindcore , including goregrind , focused on themes of gore , and pornogrind , fixated on pornographic lyrical themes . Other offshoots include noisegrind ( especially raw and chaotic ) and cybergrind ( incorporating electronic elements such as sampling and programmed drums ) . Although an influential phenomenon on hardcore punk and other popular genres , grindcore itself remains an underground form of music .

= = Characteristics = =

Grindcore evolved as a blend of thrash metal and hardcore punk . The name derives from the fact that grind is a British term for thrash ; that term was appended to -core from hardcore . Grindcore relies on standard hardcore punk instrumentation : electric guitar , bass and drums . However , grindcore alters the usual practices of metal or rock music in regard to song structure and tone . The vocal style is " ranging from high @-@ pitched shrieks to low , throat @-@ shredding growls and barks . " In some cases , no clear lyrics exist . Vocals may be used as merely an added sound effect , a common practice with bands such as the experimental Naked City .

A characteristic of some grindcore songs is the " microsong , " lasting only a few seconds . In 2001 , the Guinness Book of World Records awarded Brutal Truth the record for " Shortest Music Video " for 1994 's " Collateral Damage " ( the song lasts four seconds ) . In 2007 , the video for the Napalm Death song " You Suffer " set a new " Shortest Music Video " record : 1 @. @ 3 seconds . Beyond the microsong , it is characteristic of grindcore to have short songs in general ; for example , Carcass ' debut album Reek of Putrefaction ( 1988 ) consists of 22 tracks with an average length of 1 minute and 48 seconds . It is also not uncommon for grindcore albums to be very short when compared to other genres , usually consisting of a large tracklist but having a total length of only 15 to 20 minutes .

Many grindcore groups experiment with down @-@ tuned guitars . While the vinyl A @-@ side of Napalm Death 's debut , 1987 's Scum , is set to standard tuning , on side B , the guitars are tuned down 2 ½ steps . Their second album From Enslavement to Obliteration and the Mentally Murdered EP were tuned to C ? . Harmony Corruption , their third full @-@ length album , was tuned up to a D. Bolt Thrower went further , dropping 3 ½ steps down ( A ) . Bass is tuned low as well , and is often distorted .

= = = Blast beat = = =

The blast beat is a drum beat characteristic of grindcore in all its forms , although its usage predates the genre itself , as it is native to jazz . In Adam MacGregor 's definition , " the blast @-@ beat generally comprises a repeated , sixteenth @-@ note figure played at a very fast tempo , and

divided uniformly among the kick drum , snare and ride , crash , or hi @-@ hat cymbal . " Blast beats have been described as " maniacal percussive explosions , less about rhythm per second than sheer sonic violence . " Napalm Death coined the term , though this style of drumming had previously been practiced by others . Daniel Ekeröth argues that the blast beat was first performed by the Swedish group Asocial on their 1982 demo . D.R.I. ( " No Sense " ) , S.O.D. ( " Milk " ) , Sarcófago ( " Satanás " ) , Sepultura ( " Antichrist " ) , and Repulsion also included the technique prior to Napalm Death 's emergence . According to some sources , it was LARM that first used the blast beat . LARM and Napalm Death became bands around the same time .

= = = Lyrical themes = = =

Grindcore lyrics are typically provocative . A number of grindcore musicians are committed to political and ethical causes , generally leaning towards the far left in connection to grindcore 's punk roots . For example , Napalm Death 's songs address a variety of anarchist concerns , in the tradition of anarcho @-@ punk . These themes include anti @-@ racism , feminism , anti @-@ militarism , and anti @-@ capitalism . Other grindcore groups , such as Cattle Decapitation and Carcass , have expressed disgust with human behavior , animal abuse , and are , in some cases , vegetarians or vegans . Carcass ' work in particular is often identified as the origin of the goregrind style , which is devoted to " bodily " themes . Groups that shift their bodily focus to sexual matters , such as Gut and the Meat Shits , are sometimes referred to as pornogrind . Seth Putnam 's lyrics are notorious for their black comedy , while The Locust tend toward satirical collage , indebted to William S. Burroughs ' cut @-@ up method .

= = History = =

= = = Precursors = = =

The early grindcore scene relied on an international network of tape trading and DIY production . The most widely acknowledged precursors of the grindcore sound are Siege , a hardcore punk group , and Repulsion , an early death metal outfit . Siege , from Weymouth , Massachusetts , were influenced by classic American hardcore ( Minor Threat , Black Flag , Void ) and by British groups like Discharge , Venom , and Motörhead . Siege 's goal was maximum velocity : " We would listen to the fastest punk and hardcore bands we could find and say , ' Okay , we 're gonna deliberately write something that is faster than them ' " , drummer Robert Williams recalled .

Repulsion is often credited with inventing the classic grind blast beat ( played at 190 bpm ) , as well as its distinctive bass tone . Shane Embury , in particular , advocates the band as the origin of Napalm Death 's later innovations . Kevin Sharp of Brutal Truth declares that " Horrified was and still is the defining core of what grind became ; a perfect mix of hardcore punk with metallic gore , speed and distortion . "

Other groups in the British grindcore scene , such as Heresy and Unseen Terror , have emphasized the influence of American hardcore punk , including Septic Death , as well as Swedish D @-@ beat . Sore Throat cites Discharge , Disorder , and a variety of European D @-@ beat and thrash metal groups , including Hellhammer , and American hardcore groups , such as Poison Idea and D.R.I . Japanese hardcore , particularly GISM , is also mentioned by a number of originators of the style . Other key groups cited by current and former members of Napalm Death as formative influences include Discharge , Amebix , Throbbing Gristle , and the aforementioned Dirty Rotten Imbeciles . Post @-@ punk , such as Killing Joke and Joy Division , was also cited as an influence on early Napalm Death .

= = = British grindcore = = =

Grindcore , as such , was developed during the mid @-@ 1980s in the United Kingdom by Napalm

Death , a group who emerged from the anarcho @-@ punk scene in Birmingham , England . While their first recordings were in the vein of Crass , they eventually became associated with crust punk . The group began to take on increasing elements of thrashcore , post @-@ punk , and power electronics . The group also went through many changes in personnel . A major shift in style took place after Mick Harris became the group 's drummer . Punk historian Ian Glasper indicates that " For several months gob @-@ smacked audiences weren 't sure whether Napalm Death were actually a serious band any longer , such was the undeniable novelty of their hyper @-@ speed new drummer . " Albert Mudrian 's research suggests that the name " grindcore " was coined by Harris . When asked about coming up with the term , Harris said :

Grindcore came from " grind " , which was the only word I could use to describe Swans after buying their first record in ' 84 . Then with this new hardcore movement that started to really blossom in ' 85 , I thought " grind " really fit because of the speed so I started to call it grindcore .

Other sources contradict Harris ' claim . In a Spin magazine article written about the genre , Steven Blush declares that " the man often credited " for dubbing the style grindcore was Shane Embury , Napalm Death 's bassist since 1987 . Embury offers his own account of how the grindcore " sound " came to be :

As far as how this whole sound got started , we were really into Celtic Frost , Siege ? which is a hardcore band from Boston ? a lot of hardcore and death @-@ metal bands , and some industrial @-@ noise bands like the early Swans . So , we just created a mesh of all those things . It 's just everything going at a hundred miles per hour , basically .

Earache Records founder Digby Pearson concurs with Embury , saying that Napalm Death " put hardcore and metal through an accelerator . " Pearson , however , said that grindcore " wasn 't just about the speed of [ the ] drums , blast beats , etc . " He claimed that " it actually was coined to describe the guitars - heavy , downtuned , bleak , harsh riffing guitars [ that ] ' grind ' , so that 's what the genre was described as , by the musicians who were its innovators [ and ] proponents . "

While abrasive , grindcore achieved a measure of mainstream visibility . New Musical Express featured Napalm Death on their cover in 1988 , declaring them " the fastest band in the world . " As James Hoare , deputy editor of Terrorizer , writes :

It can be argued that no strand of extreme metal ( with a touch of hardcore and post @-@ punk tossed in for flavouring ) , has had so big an impact outside the gated community of patch @-@ jackets and circle @-@ pits as grindcore has in the UK . [ ... ] the genre is a part of the British musical experience .

Napalm Death 's seismic impact inspired other British grindcore groups in the 1980s , among them Extreme Noise Terror , Carcass and Sore Throat . Extreme Noise Terror , from Ipswich , formed in 1984 . With the goal of becoming " the most extreme hardcore punk band of all time , " the group took Mick Harris from Napalm Death in 1987 . Ian Glasper describes the group as " pissed @-@ off hateful noise with its roots somewhere between early Discharge and Disorder , with [ vocalists ] Dean [ Jones ] and Phil [ Vane ] pushing their trademark vocal extremity to its absolute limit . " In 1991 , the group collaborated with the acid house group The KLF , appearing onstage with the group at the Brit Awards in 1992 . Carcass released Reek of Putrefaction in 1988 , which John Peel declared his favorite album of the year despite its very poor production . The band 's focus on gore and anatomical decay , lyrically and in sleeve artwork , inspired the goregrind subgenre . Sore Throat , said by Ian Glasper to have taken " perhaps the most uncompromisingly anti @-@ music stance " were inspired by crust punk as well as industrial music . Some listeners , such as Digby Pearson , considered them to be simply an in @-@ joke or parody of grindcore .

In the subsequent decade , two pioneers of the style became increasingly commercially viable . According to Nielsen Soundscan , Napalm Death sold 367 @,@ 654 units between May 1991 and November 2003 , while Carcass sold 220 @,@ 374 units in the same period . The inclusion of Napalm Death 's " Twist the Knife ( Slowly ) " on the Mortal Kombat soundtrack brought the band much greater visibility , as the compilation scored a Top 10 position in the Billboard 200 chart and went platinum in less than a year . The originators of the style have expressed some ambivalence regarding the subsequent popularity of grindcore . Pete Hurley , the guitarist of Extreme Noise Terror , declared that he had no interest in being remembered as a pioneer of this style : " '

grindcore ' was a legendarily stupid term coined by a hyperactive kid from the West Midlands , and it had nothing to do with us whatsoever . ENT were , are , and - I suspect - always will be a hardcore punk band ... not a grindcore band , a stenchcore band , a trampcore band , or any other sub @-@ sub @-@ sub @-@ core genre @-@ defining term you can come up with . " Lee Dorian of Napalm Death indicated that " Unfortunately , I think the same thing happened to grindcore , if you want to call it that , as happened to punk rock - all the great original bands were just plagiarised by a billion other bands who just copied their style identically , making it no longer original and no longer extreme . "

= = = North American grindcore = = =

Journalist Kevin Stewart @-@ Panko argues that the American grindcore of the 1990s borrowed from three sources : British grindcore , the American precursors , and death metal . As early Napalm Death albums were not widely distributed in the United States , American groups tended to take inspiration from later works , such as Harmony Corruption . American groups also often employ riffs taken from crossover thrash or thrash metal . Early American grind practitioners included Terrorizer and Assück . Anal Cunt , a particularly dissonant group who lacked a bass player , were also particularly influential . Their style was sometimes referred to as " noisecore " or " noisegrind " , described by Giulio of Cripple Bastards as " the most anti @-@ musical and nihilistic face of extreme music at that time . " Brutal Truth was a groundbreaking group in the American scene at the beginning of the 1990s .

However , Sharp indicates that they were more inspired by the thrash metal of Dark Angel than the British groups . Discordance Axis had a more technical style of playing than many of the predecessors , and had a much more ornate visual and production style . Scott Hull is prominent in the contemporary grindcore scene , through his participation in Pig Destroyer and Agoraphobic Nosebleed . ANb 's Frozen Corpse Stuffed with Dope has been described as " the Paul 's Boutique of grindcore " , by Village Voice critic Phil Freeman , for its " hyper @-@ referential , impossibly dense barrage of samples , blast beats , answering machine messages , and incomprehensibly bellogged rants . " Pig Destroyer is inspired by thrash metal , such as Dark Angel and Slayer , the sludge metal of The Melvins , and grindcore practiced by Brutal Truth , while Agoraphobic Nosebleed takes cues from thrashcore and powerviolence , like D.R.I. and Crossed Out . Pig Destroyer 's style is sometimes referred to as " deathgrind " , because of the prevalence of death metal influences , as are Cattle Decapitation .

The Locust , from San Diego , also take inspiration from powerviolence ( Crossed Out , Dropdead ) , first @-@ wave screamo ( Angel Hair ) , obscure experimental rock ( Art Bears , Renaldo and the Loaf ) , and death metal . The Locust were sometimes described as " hipster grind " because of their fan base and fashion choices . In Los Angeles , Hole also initially drew influence from grindcore in their early releases , particularly on their singles " Dicknail " and " Teenage Whore " , as well as on their debut album , Pretty on the Inside ( 1991 ) , all of which featured sexually provocative and violent lyrics , as well as the heavy distortion and fluctuating tempo that distinguished the genre . Frontwoman Courtney Love stated that she wanted to capture the distinguishing elements of grindcore while incorporating more pop @-@ based melodic structure , although the band distanced themselves from the style in their later releases .

Other later prominent grindcore groups of North America include Brujeria , Soilent Green , Cephalic Carnage , Impetigo , and Circle of Dead Children . Fuck the Facts , a Canadian group , practice classic grindcore , characterized by the " metronome @-@ precision drumming and riffing [ that ] abound , as well as vocal screams and growls " by AllMusic reviewer Greg Prato .

= = = Continental European grindcore = = =

European groups , such as Agathocles , from Belgium , Patareni , of Croatia , and Fear of God , from Switzerland , are important early practitioners of the style . Filthy Christians , who signed to Earache Records in 1989 , introduced the style in Sweden , D.D.T. & Fear of Dog were pioneering

grind & noise in Serbia since mid @-@ end of ' 80 , Extreme Smoke 57 in Slovenia at the early beginning of the ' 90 , while Cripple Bastards established Italian grindcore . Giulio of Cripple Bastards asserts that the name itself took some time to migrate from Britain , with the style being referred to as " death @-@ thrashcore " for a time in Europe . Nasum , who emerged from the Swedish death metal scene , became a popular group , addressing political topics from a personal perspective .

Anders Jakobson , their drummer , reported that " It was all these different types of people who enjoyed what we were doing . [ ... ] We made grindcore a bit easier to listen to at the expense of the diehard grindcore fans who thought that we were , well , not sellouts , but not really true to the original essence of grindcore . " Other Swedish groups , such as General Surgery and Regurgitate , practiced goregrind . Inhume , from the Netherlands , Rotten Sound , from Finland , and Leng Tch 'e , from Belgium , were subsequent European groups who practiced grindcore with death metal inflections . In 2000s , the Belgium @-@ based Aborted " had grown into the role of key contributors to the death @-@ grind genres " .

= = Influence on other genres = =

Japanese noise rock group Boredoms have borrowed elements of grind , and toured with Brutal Truth in 1993 . The Japanese grindcore group Gore Beyond Necropsy formed in 1989 , and later collaborated with noise music artist Merzbow . Naked City , led by avant @-@ garde jazz saxophonist John Zorn , performed an avant @-@ garde form of polystylistic , grindcore @-@ influenced punk jazz . Zorn later formed the Painkiller project with ambient dub producer Bill Laswell on bass guitar and Mick Harris on drums , which also collaborated with Justin Broadrick on some work . In addition , grindcore was one influence on the powerviolence movement within American hardcore punk , and has affected some strains of metalcore . Some musicians have also produced hybrids between grind and electronic music .

= = = Powerviolence = = =

Powerviolence is a raw and dissonant subgenre of hardcore punk . The style is closely related to thrashcore and similar to grindcore . While powerviolence took inspiration from Napalm Death and other early grind bands , powerviolence groups avoided elements of heavy metal . Its nascent form was pioneered in the late 1980s in the music of hardcore punk band Infest , who mixed youth crew hardcore elements with noisier , sludgier qualities of Lärm and Siege . The microgenre solidified into its most commonly recognized form in the early 1990s , with the sounds of bands such as Man Is the Bastard , Crossed Out , No Comment , Capitalist Casualties , and Manpig .

Powerviolence bands focus on speed , brevity , bizarre timing breakdowns , and constant tempo changes . Powerviolence songs are often very short ; it is not uncommon for some to last less than 30 seconds . Some groups , particularly Man Is the Bastard , took influence from sludge metal and noise music . Lyrically and conceptually , powerviolence groups were very raw and underproduced , both sonically and in their packaging . Some groups ( Man Is the Bastard and Dropdead ) took influence from anarcho @-@ punk and crust punk , emphasizing animal rights and anti @-@ militarism . The Locust and Agoraphobic Nosebleed later reincorporated elements of powerviolence into grindcore .

= = = Industrial and electronic music = = =

Among other influences , Napalm Death took impetus from the industrial music scene . Subsequently , Napalm Death 's former guitarist , Justin Broadrick , went on to a career in industrial metal with Godflesh . Mick Harris , in his post @-@ Napalm Death project , Scorn , briefly experimented with the style . Scorn also worked in the industrial hip hop and isolationist styles . Fear Factory have also cited debts to the genre . Digital hardcore is an initially German hybrid of hardcore punk and hardcore techno . Agoraphobic Nosebleed and the Locust have solicited remixes from

digital hardcore producers and noise musicians . James Plotkin , Dave Witte , and Speedranch participated in the Phantomsasher project , which melds grindcore and digital hardcore . Alec Empire collaborated with Justin Broadrick , on the first Curse of the Golden Vampire album , and with Gabe Serbian , of the Locust , live in Japan . Japanoise icon Merzbow also participated in the Empire / Serbian show .

The 21st century also saw the development of " electrogrind " ( or " cybergrind " ) , practiced by The Berzerker , Body Hammer , Gigantic Brain and Genghis Tron which borrows from electronic music . These groups built on the work of Agoraphobic Nosebleed , Enemy Soil and The Locust , as well as industrial metal . The Berzerker also appropriated the distorted Roland TR @-@ 909 kick drums of gabber producers . Many later electrogrind groups were caricatured for their hipster connections .

= = = Mathcore = = =

In the mid @-@ 1990s , mathcore groups such as The Dillinger Escape Plan , Some Girls , and Daughters began to take inspiration from developments in grindcore . These groups also include elements of post @-@ hardcore . In addition to mathcore some early screamo groups , like Circle Takes the Square and Orchid , have been associated with grindcore by some commentators .