

= Mate . Feed . Kill . Repeat . =

Mate . Feed . Kill . Repeat. is the first release by American metal band Slipknot . Released originally on October 31 , 1996 , it was limited to production of 1 @, @ 000 copies . The band originally self @-@ distributed some of these copies , but went on to release the remaining units through -ismist Recordings in 1997 . Due to its limited release , the album has become much sought by fans since Slipknot 's rise in fame .

Despite considering it their first album upon release , the band now considers Mate . Feed . Kill . Repeat. to be a demo and have evolved and released the majority of the songs on future releases , albeit usually in radically altered forms . It was recorded in Des Moines , Iowa , over a period of four months . The music of the album contains many influences including funk , jazz , and disco which weren 't as apparent in later material . Many of the lyrics and the album 's title are derived from the role playing game Werewolf : The Apocalypse . The songs contain an " emphasis on non @-@ traditional songwriting " and melodic themes more than subsequent releases .

= = Recording and production = =

In late 1995 Slipknot and producer Sean McMahon entered SR Audio , a studio in the band 's home town of Des Moines , Iowa to work on what they intended to be their debut album . Retrospectively McMahon said that the band was " driven " because they spent the majority of their time in the studio for the four months it took to produce the album . Slipknot self @-@ financed the production , which came to an estimated \$ 40 @, @ 000 . The band expressed how much of a learning process this time was with it being the first time they had recorded their music , specifically the additional percussion elements were challenging to capture . The band were aiming for a tribal sound but encountered problems including minuscule timing errors and during this period they refined their percussive sound , they experimented with erecting walls to isolate the drums and re @-@ arranging parts . In February 1996 during the mixing process , guitarist Donnie Steele decided to leave the band for religious reasons , as a result Craig Jones joined the band to fill the spot . However the band realized that they were incorporating too many samples on their recordings and could not produce these sounds live . In order to solve this problem Jones moved to full @-@ time sampler and Mick Thomson joined as a guitarist . Mate . Feed . Kill . Repeat. was released on October 31 , 1996 with a release party at The Safari , a local club where the band played a lot of their earliest gigs .

= = Musical and lyrical themes = =

The musical style of Slipknot is constantly contested due to the genres their music covers , however Mate . Feed . Kill . Repeat. is the band 's most experimental release and is significantly different from the heavier style the band became known for . One of the band 's initial aims was to mix many genres of music to achieve their own style ; an early incarnation of the band was called " Meld " based upon this . However , there are still similarities in the sound of which Slipknot became known for . Tracks such as " Slipknot " , " Some Feel " and " Only One " feature a dominantly heavy metal influence , specifically in that of the guitars . Tracks such as " Tattered & Torn " , " Killers Are Quiet " and " Gently " also include the slow , cerebral angst build up style that the band also retained in some of their more recent work . The album implements elements of jazz and funk , although " Confessions " is the only track on the album dominantly led by these styles . The funk metal song " Do Nothing / Bitch Slap " is the album 's most complex song , combining both of these dominant styles as well as implementing areas of disco . The album also incorporates elements of death metal . The album title and the majority of the lyrics are references to the role @-@ playing game Werewolf : The Apocalypse . Vocalist Anders Colsefni and percussionist Shawn Crahan shared a mutual interest in the game which was a large influence on the band , Colsefni said : " The attraction was being able to play a different person " , declaring that this was the essence of Slipknot .

= = Legacy = =

The original pressing of the album was limited to 1 @, @ 000 copies and since the band 's rise to fame in 1999 it has been a sought after rarity for Slipknot fans . Upon its initial release the band distributed the album independently , handing them out to fans , radio stations , and record labels . On June 13 , 1997 , -ismist Recordings took over the distribution of the remaining copies of the album . These original pressings have since grown in value considerably . Due to the large amount of interest in the album and the low numbers of originals there have been many bootlegged versions of the album sold including CD , MP3 and even vinyl . Reportedly , as of 2003 , no member of the band owns a copy of Mate . Feed . Kill . Repeat .

There is often deliberation whether Mate . Feed . Kill . Repeat. is a demo or actually the band 's debut album . The band currently strictly consider it to be a demo due to the drastic change in sound and major changes in the line @-@ up before the band 's self @-@ titled debut . The band would also rework the majority of the songs on later albums , and the title of their album Vol . 3 : ( The Subliminal Verses ) shows that the band has disregarded Mate . Feed . Kill . Repeat .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by Slipknot .

= = Personnel = =

= = Collector 's information = =

Website detailing differences between fake and genuine copies of the album , owner 's list , and known sale prices for the genuine CD

= = = Literature = = =

Arnopp , Jason ( 2001 ) . Slipknot : Inside the Sickness , Behind the Masks . Ebury . ISBN 0 @-@ 09 @-@ 187933 @-@ 7 .

McIver , Joel ( 2003 ) . Slipknot : Unmasked ( again ) . Omnibus . ISBN 0 @-@ 7119 @-@ 9764 @-@ 0 .