

= Buddha ( album ) =

Buddha is the third demo by the American rock band Blink @-@ 182 . Recorded and released in January 1994 under the name Blink , it was the band 's first recording to be sold and distributed . Blink @-@ 182 was formed in Poway , California , a suburb outside of San Diego , in August 1992 . Guitarist Tom DeLonge and Mark Hoppus were introduced to one another by Hoppus ' sister . The duo recruited drummer Scott Raynor and began to practice together in his bedroom , spending hours together writing music , attending punk shows and movies and playing practical jokes . The band had recorded two previous demos in Raynor 's bedroom ? Flyswatter and Demo No.2 ? using a four track recorder . Most of the tracks from the demo were re @-@ recorded for their debut album Cheshire Cat .

Pat Secor , Hoppus ' boss at music store The Wherehouse , was attempting to start his own record label , named Filter Records . Secor pulled money from his savings and helped finance and produce the demo recording . Buddha was recorded live at local Santee studio Doubletime , compiling a collection that represented nearly all of the songs the band had written up to that point . Hoppus and friends Cam Jones and Kerry Key created the cassette artwork , and the original cassette packaging was compiled by the band and Hoppus ' family . Locally distributed to several San Diego record stores and available for purchase at early concerts , Buddha helped the trio cement an audience and was a deciding factor in their signing to local label Cargo in 1993 .

The recording became the subject of a legal dispute between the band and Secor in later years . The band accused Secor of selling the tape without paying royalties , and attempted to put a stop to his distribution with help of lawyer Joe Escalante of The Vandals , who also owned independent record label Kung Fu Records . Kung Fu digitally remixed and remastered the demo and commercially re @-@ released it in October 1998 , deleting two original tracks for other recordings from the original session . Kung Fu has since reportedly sold 300 @,@ 000 copies of Buddha . It is currently the only commercially available demo by Blink @-@ 182 .

= = Background = =

Blink @-@ 182 was formed in Poway , California , a suburb outside of San Diego , in August 1992 . After Mark Hoppus graduated from high school in Ridgecrest , he relocated to San Diego to work at a record store and attend college . Tom DeLonge was kicked out of Poway High for attending a basketball game drunk and was forced to attend another local school for one semester . At Rancho Bernardo High School , he befriended Kerry Key , also interested in punk music . Key 's girlfriend , Anne Hoppus , introduced her brother Mark to DeLonge on August 2 , 1992 . The two clicked instantly and played for hours in DeLonge 's garage , exchanging lyrics and co @-@ writing songs ? one of which became " Carousel " . DeLonge recruited friend Scott Raynor for drums , whom he met at a Rancho Bernado Battle of the Bands competition . Raynor was by far the youngest member of the trio at 14 , and his event account differs significantly : he claims he and DeLonge formed the group after meeting at the Battle of the Bands and worked through a variety of bassists before meeting Hoppus .

The trio began to practice together in Raynor 's bedroom , spending hours together writing music , attending punk shows and movies , and playing practical jokes . Hoppus and DeLonge would alternate singing vocal parts . The trio first operated under a variety of names , including Duck Tape and Figure 8 , until DeLonge rechristened the band " Blink " . Hoppus ' girlfriend was angered by her boyfriend 's constant attention for the band and demanded him to make a choice between the band and her , which resulted in Hoppus leaving the band shortly after formation . Shortly thereafter , DeLonge and Raynor borrowed a four track recorder from friend and collaborator Cam Jones and were preparing to record a demo tape , with Jones on bass . Hoppus promptly broke up with his girlfriend and returned to the band . Flyswatter ? a combination of original songs and punk covers ? was recorded in Raynor 's bedroom in May 1993 . Southern California had a large punk population in the early 1990s , aided by an avid surfing , skating and snowboarding scene . In contrast to East Coast punk music , the West Coast wave of groups , Blink included , typically introduced more

melodic aspects to their music . " New York is gloomy , dark and cold . It makes different music . The Californian middle @-@ class suburbs have nothing to be that bummed about , " said DeLonge . San Diego at this time was " hardly a hotbed of [ musical ] activity " , but the band 's popularity grew as did California punk rock concurrently in the mainstream .

The band 's first performance was at a local high school during lunch , and soon the trio graduated to San Diego 's Spirit Club and influential local shop Alley Kat Records . DeLonge called clubs constantly in San Diego asking for a spot to play , as well as calling up local high schools convincing them that Blink was a " motivational band with a strong anti @-@ drug message " in hopes to play at an assembly or lunch . The band soon became part of a circuit that also included the likes of Ten Foot Pole and Unwritten Law , and they found their way onto the bill as the opening band for local acts at SOMA , a local all @-@ ages venue which they longed to headline . The band 's equipment was piled into a blue station wagon for touring purposes and they first began to play shows outside San Diego .

= = Recording and production = =

Buddha was financed by Pat Secor , Hoppus ' boss at Wherehouse Music in San Diego . Secor was wanting to start his own record label and offered to help pay for costs . " He was like , hey , I 'll front you the money , and we 'll split the profits until you pay me back , " recalled Hoppus in 2001 . The two had met when Secor transferred from a north San Diego location . The two became friends quickly , despite Secor 's seniority of post . " At that point they 'd played around enough to get their chops up so I took all the money I had in savings and we went into the studio for two days , " said Secor .

The recording sessions at Doubletime Studios in Santee , California took place in January 1994 , and were scheduled around work and school commitments . Hoppus was sick at the time of recording . Despite this , the band carried on and the demo was complete within two days . " Buddha was cut live then we added the vocals . Two days and they were done ? including the mix . It 's quite standard for a young punk band to do that , " said engineer Jeff Forrest . Despite this , the liner notes for the cassette claim it was recorded in twelve hours , while the later remaster of Buddha contend it was recorded " over three rainy nights . " The trio were " super stoked " about a sound effects tape they found at the studio , and took time out to add in applause and laughter tracks because they deemed it humorous .

Hoppus and DeLonge took the songwriting for their first legitimate release very seriously . The two strove for perfection writing songs that they felt would be relatable . Blink also recorded joke tracks , as they felt that , in addition to the serious songs , " it was almost as important to make people laugh . " DeLonge recalled that the band spent more time at the end of production on Buddha trying to perfect the joke songs rather than their serious tracks . The band 's main influence on Buddha , according to DeLonge , was the Descendents . " I was trying to emulate that band . Really punchy guitars , fast , simple and formulaic nursery rhyme love songs , " he said in 2012 .

= = Packaging and release = =

The photographs in the original cassette release of Buddha were photographs taken by friend of the band Cam Jones . Kerry Key , drummer for the Iconoclasts and friend of the band , also is credited with artwork in the original cassette . To produce the artwork , Hoppus and Jones spent an afternoon together taking " artsy " photographs in and around Raynor 's backyard . The cover art is a picture of a Buddha statue , which was a present from Hoppus ' stepfather that the bassist grabbed on the way to Raynor 's for the photos . After developing the photos , they took them to a copy shop to run off color copies . Afterwards , they cut , pasted and rearranged them until they found something suitable . The lyric sheets were handwritten and photocopied . Hoppus and his family in Ridgecrest would spend hours folding and combining pieces of artwork to compile the Buddha cassette . When this was complete , Hoppus would load the cassettes into his car and deliver them to local record stores around town .

" I totally remember driving around to all the record stores to drop off tapes to sell . I 'd go to Lou 's Records , and Off the Record , and Music Trader . It was so cool because the tapes were actually selling , that 's why I had to keep going back every week . Music Trader would have sold one copy , Off the Record sold two , or whatever . But that meant people were actually walking into a music store and buying something we had written and recorded . It was awesome . "

The demo tape , which was originally untitled , came to be known by the name Buddha , and was released by Filter Records in 1994 . Cassette copies of Buddha were also sold at early Blink concerts , alongside homemade T @-@ shirts .

= = Reception = =

Stephen Thomas Erlewine of AllMusic called Buddha a " promising debut , " considering it " a solid skatepunk record that illustrates the group 's flair for speedy , catchy hooks and irreverent humor . " Rolling Stone viewed it , alongside proper debut album Cheshire Cat ( 1995 ) as " slapped together lilting melodies and racing beats in an attempt to connect emo and skate punk , a sort of pop hardcore . " " This fast and furious beauty may have been recorded in two days , but it soon had the labels knocking at DeLonge and co 's door , " said Total Guitar in 2012 .

= = Controversy = =

The rights to Buddha and its associated recordings were the subject of a legal dispute between the band and Secor in later years . According to Secor , he and the band had a gentleman 's agreement : he would pay for the costs of recording and manufacturing the tape , and in exchange would receive half of all the profits from it . Raynor contends that the oral agreement was that Secor would invest \$ 1 @, @ 000 and when that money was recouped , the band would have complete ownership of the work product . Secor helped the band sign to Cargo Music in 1994 , as he had connections at the label ; he felt that by helping the briskly growing band sign a deal he could build his own label , Filter , in the wake of Blink 's success . According to Secor , he attempted to contact the band to discuss the rights to the tape , but would only receive comments such as " Oh , let me call my manager and I 'll call you right back . " Secor asserted he should have the rights to the master tapes , as he financed the entire production . Cargo Music began calling and making threats , and Secor had no money to fight back with , as they had no written contract . In 1996 , the band signed a joint @-@ venture deal with major label MCA Records , who also began making calls to Secor . " Try going up against that , " Secor remarked in 2001 .

The band began to grow suspicious that Secor was keeping the money from selling the tape , and contacted their lawyer ? Joe Escalante of The Vandals , who also owned independent record label Kung Fu Records . The group informed as Escalante that they believed " someone 's bootlegging it , " and requested his legal help to stop Secor . In exchange for legal fees , Blink @-@ 182 would allow Escalante 's label , Kung Fu , to re @-@ release Buddha on compact disc . The band had told Secor to not sell any more copies of the tape , but they held suspicions that he had anyway . Anonymously , Escalante ordered a tape from Secor , and Secor sold it to him . The band asserted that they were not receiving royalties for these sales . " I paid off all of the royalties for the remaining stash of tapes that I had of Buddha , " said Secor in 2001 . " It was about 25 . The tapes sold for five bucks , and I gave them half of what their profit would be . I wanted to have a few to give to people and to have on hand . " Secor felt it was his right to sell his stock of the tape , as the band " had been paid royalties for that already . "

Kung Fu re @-@ released Buddha on CD and cassette in November 1998 , and has since re @-@ released the recording on vinyl and retains digital distribution . The remaster cleans and sharpens the sound of tracks , and contains a slightly different track listing . " They 'd already sold 60 @, @ 000 copies of Cheshire Cat , and I thought , ' Man , if I can sell just 10 % of that that would be great for the label , ' and of course it sold a lot more because they went on to be superstars , " said Escalante . In 2001 , the label had reportedly sold 300 @, @ 000 copies of Buddha . " At this point it 's not even the money , " Secor said at the time . " It 's the fact that there is no mention of my work

anywhere ; no credit has been given to me . "

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by Mark Hoppus , Tom DeLonge , and Scott Raynor , except where noted .

= = Personnel = =