

= Ten (Pearl Jam album) =

Ten is the debut studio album by the American rock band Pearl Jam , released on August 27 , 1991 through Epic Records . Following the disbanding of bassist Jeff Ament and guitarist Stone Gossard 's previous group Mother Love Bone , the two recruited vocalist Eddie Vedder , guitarist Mike McCready , and drummer Dave Krusen to form Pearl Jam in 1990 . Most of the songs began as instrumental jams , to which Vedder added lyrics about topics such as depression , homelessness , and abuse .

Ten was not an immediate success , but by late 1992 it had reached number two on the Billboard 200 chart . The album produced three hit singles : " Alive " , " Even Flow " , and " Jeremy " . While Pearl Jam was accused of jumping on the grunge bandwagon at the time , Ten was instrumental in popularizing alternative rock in the mainstream . In February 2013 , the album crossed the 10 million mark in sales and has been certified 13x platinum by the RIAA . It remains Pearl Jam 's most commercially successful album .

= = Background = =

Guitarist Stone Gossard and bassist Jeff Ament had played together in the pioneering grunge band Green River . Following Green River 's dissolution in 1987 , Ament and Gossard played together in Mother Love Bone during the late 1980s . Mother Love Bone 's career was cut short when vocalist Andrew Wood died of a drug overdose in 1990 , shortly before the release of the group 's debut album , Apple . Devastated , it took months before Gossard and Ament agreed to play together again . Gossard spent his time afterwards writing material that was harder @-@ edged than what he had been doing previously . After a few months , Gossard started practicing with fellow Seattle guitarist Mike McCready , whose band Shadow had broken up ; McCready in turn encouraged Gossard to reconnect with Ament . The three then went into the studio for separate sessions with Soundgarden drummer Matt Cameron and former Shadow drummer Chris Friel to record some instrumental demos . Five of the songs recorded ? " Dollar Short " , " Agytian Crave " , " Footsteps " , " Richard 's E " , and " E Ballad " ? were compiled onto a tape called Stone Gossard Demos ' 91 that was circulated in the hopes of finding a singer and drummer for the trio .

San Diego musician Eddie Vedder acquired a copy of the demo in September 1990 , when it was given to him by former Red Hot Chili Peppers drummer Jack Irons . Vedder listened to the demo , went surfing , and wrote lyrics the next day for " Dollar Short " , " Agytian Crave " , and " Footsteps " . " Dollar Short " and " Agytian Crave " were later retitled " Alive " and " Once " , respectively . Gossard and Ament heard the demo with Vedder 's vocals and lyrics , and were impressed enough to fly Vedder out to Seattle for an audition . Meanwhile , Vedder had written lyrics for " E Ballad " , retitled " Black " . Vedder arrived on October 13 , 1990 and rehearsed with the band (now joined by drummer Dave Krusen) for a week , writing eleven songs in the process . Vedder was soon hired as the band 's singer , and the group signed to Epic Records shortly thereafter .

= = Recording = =

The band , then named Mookie Blaylock , entered London Bridge Studios in Seattle , Washington in March 1991 with producer Rick Parashar to record its debut album . After working with Parashar on " Temple Of The Dog , Stone and Jeff asked him to co @-@ produce and engineer Ten . Parashar also contributed piano , Fender Rhodes , percussion , co @-@ wrote vocal harmonies and co wrote the intro / outro of the album . A few tracks were previously recorded at London Bridge in January , but only " Alive " was carried over from that session . The album sessions were quick and lasted only a month , mainly due to the band having already written most of the material for the record . " Porch " , " Deep " , " Why Go " , and " Garden " were first recorded during the album sessions , everything else had been previously recorded during demo sessions at some point . McCready said that " Ten was mostly Stone and Jeff ; me and Eddie were along for the ride at that time . " Ament stated , " We knew we were still a long way from being a real band at that point . "

The recording sessions for Ten were completed in May 1991 . Krusen left the band once the sessions were completed , checking himself into rehabilitation . According to Krusen , he was suffering from personal problems at the time . Krusen said , " It was a great experience . I felt from the beginning of that band that it was something special , " and added , " They had to let me go . I couldn 't stop drinking , and it was causing problems . They gave me many chances , but I couldn 't get it together . " In June , the band joined Tim Palmer in England for mixing . Palmer decided to mix the album at Ridge Farm Studios in Dorking , a converted farm that according to Palmer was " about as far away from an L.A. or New York studio as you can get . " Palmer made a few additions to the already @-@ recorded songs , including having McCready finish up the guitar solo on " Alive " and tweaking the intro to " Black " . Palmer overdubbed a pepper shaker and a fire extinguisher as percussion on " Oceans " .

In subsequent years , band members have expressed dissatisfaction with the way the album 's mixing turned out . In 2001 , Ament said , " I 'd love to remix Ten . Ed , for sure , would agree with me ... It wouldn 't be like changing performances ; just pull some of the reverb off it . " In 2002 , Gossard said , " It was ' over @-@ rocked ' , we were novices in the studio and spent too long recording , doing different takes , and killing the vibe and overdubbing tons of guitar . There 's a lot of reverb on the record . " In 2006 , Vedder said , " I can listen to the early records [except] the first record ... it 's just the sound of the record . It was kind of mixed in a way that was ... it was kind of produced . "

= = Music and lyrics = =

Several of the songs on Ten started as instrumental compositions that Vedder added lyrics to after he joined the band . Regarding the lyrics , Vedder said , " All I really believe in is this fucking moment , like right now . And that , actually , is what the whole album talks about . " Vedder 's lyrics for Ten deal with subjects like depression , suicide , loneliness , and murder . The album also tackles social concerns such as homelessness (" Even Flow ") and the use of psychiatric hospitals (" Why Go ") . The song " Jeremy " and its accompanying video were inspired by a true story in which a high school student shot himself in front of his classmates .

Many listeners interpreted " Alive " as an inspirational anthem due to its decidedly uplifting instrumentals and chorus . Vedder has since revealed that the song tells the semi @-@ autobiographical tale of a son discovering that his father is actually his stepfather (his real father having died long ago) , while his mother 's grief turns her to sexually embrace her son , who strongly resembles the biological father . " Alive " and " Once " formed part of a song cycle in what Vedder later described as a " mini @-@ opera " entitled Momma @-@ Son (the third song , " Footsteps " , appeared as a B @-@ side on the " Jeremy " single) . Vedder explained that the lyrics told the story of a young man whose father dies (" Alive ") , causing him to go on a killing spree (" Once ") which leads to his capture and execution (" Footsteps ") . It was later revealed that Vedder 's lyrics were inspired by his long @-@ held hurt in discovering at age 17 that the man he thought was his father was not , and that his real father had already died .

While Ten deals with dark subject matter , it has generally been seen as a high @-@ water mark of the early 1990s alternative rock sound , with Vedder 's unusually deep and strong (and later much @-@ imitated) voice alternating between solidity and vibrato against the unrestrained , guitar @-@ heavy , hard rock sound that drew influence from Led Zeppelin and other rock bands of the 1970s . Ten 's musical style , influenced by classic rock , combined an " expansive harmonic vocabulary " with an anthemic sound . Stephen Thomas Erlewine of AllMusic stated that the songs on the album fused " the riff @-@ heavy stadium rock of the 1970s with the grit and anger of ' 80s post @-@ punk , without ever neglecting hooks and choruses . "

Ten features a two @-@ part track entitled " Master / Slave " that both opens and closes the album . The first part begins the album , before " Once " starts , and the second part closes the album , after " Release " . It begins about ten seconds after the album 's closer " Release " as a hidden track , but both count as one track on the CD . The song is entirely instrumental (except for random unintelligible words Vedder utters throughout) with a dominant fretless bass line makes up the core

of the song (which Ament referred to in a 1994 Bass Player magazine interview as " my tribute to (fretless bass instrumentalist) Mick Karn ") , along with some guitar and sounds that seem to come from the drums . Producer Rick Parashar stated in 2002 , " As I recall , I think Jeff had , like , a bass line ... I heard the bass line and then we kind of were collaborating on that in the control room , and then I just started programming on the keyboard all this stuff ; he was jamming with it and it just kind of came about like that . "

= = = Outtakes = = =

The album 's singles featured two B @-@ sides from the Ten recording sessions which weren 't included on the album , " Wash " and " Yellow Ledbetter " . The former was a B @-@ side on the " Alive " single while the latter was featured on the " Jeremy " single and eventually became a radio hit in 1994 . Both songs were included on the 2003 Lost Dogs collection of rarities , although the included version of " Wash " is an alternate take . The song " Alone " was also originally recorded for Ten ; a 1992 re @-@ recorded version of the song is on the " Go " single . Another version of " Alone " , with re @-@ recorded vocals , appears on Lost Dogs . According to McCready , " Alone " was cut from Ten because the band already had enough mid @-@ tempo songs for the album . The song " Dirty Frank , " which was released as a b @-@ side on the " Even Flow " single and often thought to be a Ten outtake , was recorded after Ten was released . Thus , " Dirty Frank " is not from the Ten recording sessions .

The song " Footsteps " began as an instrumental demo and was compiled onto the Stone Gossard Demos ' 91 tape . Vedder added vocals to this version after he received the demo tape . The music for " Footsteps " was also used for Temple of the Dog 's " Times of Trouble " . " Footsteps " was featured as a B @-@ side on the " Jeremy " single , however this version is taken from a 1992 appearance on the radio show Rockline . This version of " Footsteps " is also featured on Lost Dogs , however a harmonica intro has been overdubbed on to the recording .

Other songs rejected from the album but later included on Lost Dogs are " Hold On " and " Brother " , the latter of which was turned into an instrumental for Lost Dogs . " Brother " was cut because Gossard was no longer interested in playing the song , a decision which Ament objected to and almost caused him to quit the band . The version of " Brother " with vocals appears on the 2009 Ten reissue and became a radio hit that same year . Both " Breath " and " State of Love and Trust " were recorded with the intention of the two songs possibly appearing in the film Singles . The versions heard in the film and on its soundtrack were recorded a year later in 1992 . The versions from the Ten sessions appear on the 2009 Ten reissue . Other songs rejected from the album but included on the 2009 Ten reissue are " Just a Girl " , " 2 @,@ 000 Mile Blues " , and " Evil Little Goat " .

= = Release and promotion = =

= = = Packaging = = =

The album 's cover art features the members of the band at the time of recording in a group pose and standing in front of a wood cut @-@ out of the name " Pearl Jam " . The wood cut @-@ out was constructed by Ament . Ament said , " The original concept was about really being together as a group and entering into the world of music as a true band ... a sort of all @-@ for @-@ one deal . " Ament is credited for the album 's artwork and art direction , Lance Mercer receives credit for photography , and both Lisa Sparagano and Risa Zaitschek are credited for design . Ament stated , " There was a bit of headbutting going on with the Sony art department at that time . The version that everybody got to know as the Ten album cover was pink and it was originally intended to be more of a burgundy color and the picture of the band was supposed to be black and white . " Pearl Jam 's original name was taken from the professional basketball player Mookie Blaylock . It was changed after the band signed to Epic Records , as record executives were concerned about intellectual property and naming rights following Blaylock 's inking of an endorsement deal with Nike

. In commemoration of the band 's original name , the band titled its first album Ten after Blaylock 's jersey number .

= = = Tour = = =

Ament stated that " essentially Ten was just an excuse to tour , " adding , " We told the record company , ' We know we can be a great band , so let 's just get the opportunity to get out and play . ' " Pearl Jam faced a relentless touring schedule for Ten . Drummer Dave Abbruzzese joined the band for Pearl Jam 's live shows supporting the album . Halfway through its own planned North American tour , Pearl Jam cancelled the remaining dates in order to take a slot opening for the Red Hot Chili Peppers on the band 's Blood Sugar Sex Magik tour in the fall of 1991 in North America . The spot was arranged by Jack Irons , who had called his former band asking for them to get an opportunity to his friend Vedder . The Smashing Pumpkins and Nirvana were also supporting acts . Nirvana was initially brought in because the tour promoters decided that Pearl Jam should be replaced with a more successful act , but the departure of The Smashing Pumpkins still kept the group in the concert bill . Epic executive Michael Goldstone observed that " the band did such an amazing job opening the Chili Peppers tour that it opened doors at radio . "

In 1992 , the band embarked on its first ever European tour . On March 13 , 1992 , at the Munich , Germany show at Nachtwerk , Pearl Jam played Ten in its entirety in order mid @-@ way through its set . The band would only do this again in 2016 at Philadelphia 's Wells Fargo Center , as the arena management homaged the band 's tenth straight sellout concert in the city . Following the European leg , Pearl Jam did another tour of North America . Goldstone noted that the band 's audience expanded , saying that unlike before , " everyone came . " The band 's manager , Kelly Curtis , stated , " Once people came and saw them live , this lightbulb would go on . Doing their first tour , you kind of knew it was happening and there was no stopping it . To play in the Midwest and be selling out these 500 seat clubs . Eddie could say he wanted to talk to Brett , the sound guy , and they 'd carry him out there on their hands . You hadn 't really seen that reaction from a crowd before ... " When Pearl Jam came back for a second go @-@ around in Europe the band appeared at the Pinkpop Festival and the Roskilde Festival in June 1992 . The band cancelled its remaining European dates in the summer of 1992 after the Roskilde Festival due to a confrontation with security at that event as well as exhaustion from touring . Ament said , " We 'd been on the road over 10 months . I think there just came a point about half way through that tour it was just starting to get pretty intense . I mean just being away from home , being on the road all the time and being lonely or being depressed or whatever . " The band would go on to play the 1992 Lollapalooza tour with the Red Hot Chili Peppers , Soundgarden , Ministry and Ice Cube , among others .

= = = 2009 re @-@ release = = =

On March 24 , 2009 , Ten was reissued in four editions (Legacy , Deluxe , Vinyl , and Super Deluxe) . It was the first reissue in a planned re @-@ release of Pearl Jam 's entire catalogue that led up to the band 's 20th anniversary in 2011 . The extras on the four editions include a remastering and remix of the entire album by producer Brendan O 'Brien , re @-@ designed packaging , six bonus tracks (" Brother " , " Just a Girl " , " Breath and a Scream " , " State of Love and Trust " , " 2 @,@ 000 Mile Blues " , and " Evil Little Goat ") , a DVD of the band 's 1992 appearance on MTV Unplugged (including a bonus performance of " Oceans " , which along with " Rockin ' in the Free World " was originally excluded from the broadcast version) , vinyl versions of the album , an LP of the band 's September 20 , 1992 concert at Magnuson Park in Seattle (also known as Drop in the Park) , a replica of the original Momma @-@ Son demo cassette , and a replica of Vedder 's composition notebook containing personal notes and mementos .

Regarding his remix of the album , O 'Brien stated , " The band loved the original mix of Ten , but were also interested in what it would sound like if I were to deconstruct and remix it ... The original Ten sound is what millions of people bought , dug and loved , so I was initially hesitant to mess around with that . After years of persistent nudging from the band , I was able to wrap my head

around the idea of offering it as a companion piece to the original ? giving a fresh take on it , a more direct sound . "

The Ten reissue sold 60 @, @ 000 copies in its first week , the second biggest selling week for the album since Christmas 1993 . Since Billboard considers the Ten reissue a catalog item , Ten did not appear on the Billboard 200 , Top Modern Rock / Alternative , or Top Rock Albums , since those charts do not include catalog items . Had it been included on the Billboard 200 , the 60 @, @ 000 copies sold of the Ten reissue would have placed it at number five . The reissue also re @-@ entered the Australian Albums Chart at number 11 , giving it a new peak chart position in Australia and its highest chart placing since June 14 , 1992 .

Tying in with the re @-@ release of the album , in March 2009 , the entire album was made available as downloadable content for the Rock Band series of video games . In addition , three Ten @-@ era bonus tracks were made available for the Rock Band video game for those who purchase the Ten re @-@ release through Best Buy : " Brother " , " Alive " , and " State of Love and Trust " , the latter two as live versions taken from the band 's September 20 , 1992 concert .

= = Commercial performance = =

Ten initially sold slowly upon its release , but by the second half of 1992 it became a breakthrough success , attaining an RIAA gold certification . Almost a year after its release , the album finally broke into the top ten of the Billboard 200 album chart on May 30 , 1992 , reaching number eight . Ten would eventually peak at number two for four weeks . It was held off the top spot by the Billy Ray Cyrus album , Some Gave All . The album spent a total of 256 weeks on the Billboard charts , making it one of the top 15 charting albums ever . By February 1993 , American sales of Ten surpassed those of Nevermind , the breakthrough album by fellow grunge band Nirvana . Ten continued to sell well two years after its release ; in 1993 it was the eighth best @-@ selling album in the United States , outselling Pearl Jam 's second album , Vs . As of February 2013 , Ten has sold 10 million copies in the United States according to Nielsen SoundScan , and has been certified 13x platinum by the RIAA .

Ten produced three hit singles , " Alive " , " Even Flow " , and " Jeremy " , all of which had accompanying music videos (The " Oceans " video was released only outside of the U.S.) . The singles all placed on the Mainstream Rock and Modern Rock charts . The song " Black " reached number three on the Mainstream Rock chart , despite never being released as a single . The video for " Alive " was nominated for the MTV Video Music Award for Best Alternative Video in 1992 . " Jeremy " became one of Pearl Jam 's best @-@ known songs , and received nominations for Best Rock Song and Best Hard Rock Performance at the 1993 Grammy awards . The video for " Jeremy " , directed by Mark Pellington , was put into heavy rotation by MTV and became a huge hit , receiving five nominations at the 1993 MTV Video Music Awards , of which it won four , including Video of the Year and Best Group Video .

= = Critical reception = =

In a contemporary review for Rolling Stone , music critic David Fricke gave the album a favorable review , saying that Pearl Jam " hurtles into the mystic at warp speed . " He also added that Pearl Jam " wring a lot of drama out of a few declarative power chords swimming in echo . " Allan Jones of Melody Maker suggested in his review of Ten that it is Vedder that " provides Pearl Jam with such a uniquely compelling focus . " AllMusic staff writer Steve Huey called it a " flawlessly crafted hard rock masterpiece " and felt that Vedder 's " impressionistic lyrics " are more effective through his passionate vocal delivery rather than their " concrete meaning . " Q called it " raucous modern rock , spiked with infectious guitar motifs and powered with driving bass and drums , " and said it " may well be the face of the 90 's metal . " Stereo Review said that " the band sounds larger than life , producing a towering inferno of roaring guitars , monumental bass and drums , and from @-@ the @-@ gut vocals . " Don Kaye of Kerrang ! defined the album " introspective and charged with a quiet emotional force " . Greg Kot wrote in the Chicago Tribune , " Occasionally overwrought and

unrelentingly humorless , the music nonetheless exerts a hypnotic power at its best . "

In a less enthusiastic review for Entertainment Weekly , David Browne found Pearl Jam to be derivative of " fellow Northwestern rockers like Soundgarden , Alice in Chains , and the defunct Mother Love Bone " , and felt that it " goes to show that just about anything can be harnessed and packaged . " NME accused Pearl Jam of " trying to steal money from young alternative kids ' pockets . " Nirvana 's Kurt Cobain angrily attacked Pearl Jam , claiming the band were commercial sellouts , and argued Ten was not a true alternative album because it had so many prominent guitar leads . Robert Christgau , writing in The Village Voice , gave the album a " B- " and viewed it as another in a " slew of Seattle albums " that " modulate the same misguided ethos " , which he said was " hippie " rather than " punk " . Christgau described it as " San Francisco ballroom music " whose " distinguishing characteristics " could only be discerned by listeners if they " take the right drugs " . He later gave Ten a two @-@ star honorable mention , citing " Once " and " Even Flow " as highlights , and quipped , " in life , abuse justifies melodrama ; in music , riffs work better " . Charles R. Cross wrote in The Rolling Stone Album Guide (2004) that Ten sounded less original and more self @-@ important than Nirvana 's Nevermind , but it also showcases the band 's intricate guitar style and Vedder 's distinctive singing .

= = = Accolades = = =

In 2003 , the album was ranked number 209 on Rolling Stone 's list of the 500 greatest albums of all time . Readers of Q voted Ten as the 42nd greatest album ever ; however , three years later the album was listed lower at 59th . In 2003 , VH1 placed it at number 83 on their list of the 100 greatest albums of rock and roll . In 2006 , British Hit Singles & Albums and NME organised a poll of which , 40 @, @ 000 people worldwide voted for the 100 best albums ever and Ten was placed at number 66 on the list . It was also ranked number 15 in the October 2006 issue of Guitar World on the magazine 's list of the 100 greatest guitar albums of all time . In 2007 , the album was included at number 11 on the list of the " Definitive 200 " albums of all time developed by the National Association of Recording Merchandisers . The album was also included in the book 1001 Albums You Must Hear Before You Die .

= = Track listing = =

All lyrics written by Eddie Vedder ; except on bonus track " I 've Got a Feeling " , by John Lennon and Paul McCartney .

^ " Release " contains the hidden track " Master / Slave " at 5 : 20 .

European edition bonus tracks

^ * Recorded live on August 3 , 1991 at RKCNDY in Seattle , Washington .

Japanese bonus tracks

Reissue bonus tracks

iTunes reissue bonus tracks

Live tracks recorded on December 31 , 1992 at The Academy Theater in New York , New York .

= = = Reissue bonus material = = =

= = = = MTV Unplugged DVD = = = =

" Oceans "

" State of Love and Trust "

" Alive "

" Black "

" Jeremy "

" Even Flow "

" Porch "

== == Momma @-@ Son cassette == == ==

All lyrics written by Vedder , all music composed by Gossard .

== == Drop in the Park LP == == ==

Side one

All lyrics written by Vedder .

Side two

All lyrics written by Vedder .

Side three

All lyrics written by Vedder .

Side four

All songs written and composed by Vedder .

== Personnel ==