

= Leave Home =

Leave Home is the second studio album by American punk rock band the Ramones . It was released on January 10 , 1977 , through Sire Records , with the expanded CD being released through Rhino Entertainment on June 19 , 2001 . Songs on the album were written immediately after the band 's first album 's writing process , which demonstrated the band 's progression . The album had a higher production value than their debut Ramones and featured faster tempos . The front photo was taken by Moshe Brakha and the back cover , which would become the band 's logo , was designed by Arturo Vega . The album spawned three singles , but only one succeeded in charting . It was also promoted with several tour dates in the United States and Europe .

The songs in Leave Home concentrate on various themes , with the musical tones being diverse as well . Some tunes were more pop @-@ oriented , while others , like " Gimme Gimme Shock Treatment " and " Pinhead " were loaded with distorted guitars and had a more punk rock sound . The song " Carbona Not Glue " was taken off the album because it potentially violated the trademark of the stain @-@ removal product Carbona . The track was replaced with " Babysitter " in the United Kingdom and " Sheena Is a Punk Rocker " in the United States (prior to its inclusion on Rocket to Russia) ; both " Carbona " and " Babysitter " were included on the 2001 expanded edition .

Critical reception for the album was generally favorable , with several reviewers pointing out the fact that it highly resembled the band 's debut album . Critics also said the album was less groundbreaking than their debut , but had humorous and enjoyable pieces . The album peaked at 148 on the Billboard 200 despite its critical acclaim as well as the band members expecting more commercial success .

= = Background = =

The writing and structure are both somewhat more sophisticated than the songs on their previous record . Guitarist Johnny Ramone relates : " We recorded them in the order they were written ; we wanted to show a slight progression in song structure . " Most of the songs were written in the band member 's homes , rather than at a studio ; " Suzy Is a Headbanger " was written in drummer Tommy Ramone 's loft apartment .

" I wrote most of the stuff I contributed at my apartment in Forest Hills , before I left and moved back to a place in the city . I had no amp at home , just an electric guitar . I recorded it onto a cassette and played that back at rehearsal . We had better production , we were playing a little faster , and we had a lot of songs accumulated . We were in really good shape for that album . "

Recorded October 1976 in New York City at Sundragon Studios through Sire Records , Leave Home featured increased sound quality through more advanced output methods . Sire set their budget at about \$ 10 @, @ 000 hiring Tony Bongiovi to produce the album , and Tommy Ramone to co @-@ produce . More emphasis was placed on the album 's mixing and engineering than their debut album , which received merely \$ 6 @, @ 400 to record and produce . With a more fine @-@ tuned and exceptional sound , Leave Home also presented a production value superior to other punk rock bands at the time . Author Joe S. Harrington called the band 's production " brilliant , " and noted that it " put them ahead of the run @-@ of @-@ the @-@ mill garage band . "

The title Leave Home refers to the Ramones leaving New York City to go on tour around the world . The album cover was designed by Moshe Brakha , who had worked with the Rolling Stones to yield the Black and Blue (1976) cover art , and would later work with artists like Devo and Iron Maiden . The back cover of the album was a drawing of a bald eagle by graphic designer Arturo Vega . The image would soon become the band 's logo .

= = = Carbona controversy = = =

The original release included " Carbona Not Glue " as the fifth track . However , a month before the band released Leave Home , Ramones ' manager Danny Fields announced to the band that Carbona was a registered trademark and that their record label had to remove the song from the

album 's track listing . Legs McNeil recalled : " I was shocked . It was such a great song , so radio @-@ friendly ? like a song the Beatles or the Rolling Stones would have written if they were just starting out in 1976 , with great harmonies and catchy lyrics . " Although early purchasers of the Sire release got an album that included the song , " Carbona Not Glue " was later replaced by " Sheena Is a Punk Rocker " for the US release , and " Babysitter " for the UK release . In the early 90 's , after being unavailable for years , the song was bootlegged as a 45 RPM single with " I Can 't Be " as the B @-@ side . The single 's cover sported a faux Sub Pop Singles design , despite not actually being released by the label . The song was revived on the 2001 Extended Edition of the album , which also included " Babysitter " .

= = Promotion = =

There were three singles released from Leave Home : " I Remember You , " " Swallow My Pride , " and " Carbona Not Glue , " released respectively . " Swallow My Pride " was the only single from Leave Home that charted , peaking at thirty @-@ six on the United Kingdom singles chart . The album 's final single , " Carbona Not Glue " / " I Can 't Be , " was released in 1991 under Sub Pop Records . The single was given four out of five stars by Allmusic 's Matt Whalley , who said that the song " could have been one of the Ramones ' most popular tracks if it was not pulled from the album due to legal reasons . " Whalley called the B @-@ side " I Can 't Be " " simple , " describing it as " in the same vein as ' Carbona Not Glue , ' only shifting focus to relationships . "

After the album came out in February , the band began a four @-@ week tour of the United States starting with Los Angeles . On February 4 , the band played at the Nassau Coliseum with Blue Öyster Cult , and played with Suicide the next day at CBGB . A week after this , the band played with Blue Öyster Cult again in Poughkeepsie , to which Johnny relates : " Those arena shows were a little better for us , although we would have more bad experiences in those big places . I never really enjoyed playing them . " The band used their newly designed logo as a backdrop at concerts . They also had more advanced lighting techniques , but still only used white lights .

In April 1977 , the band left the United States to begin their tour of Europe . Ramones co @-@ headlined with Talking Heads , who were a new wave band formed in 1975 . During a Marseilles gig , the Ramones caused a power outage to a quarter of the city during a sound check . The gig was cancelled when police arrived and dispersed the fans . When their tour manager arranged for a stop at Stonehenge in Wiltshire , Johnny refused to leave the bus , saying he refused to see " a bunch of old rocks . " The band 's Europe tour came to an end on June 6 , 1977 .

= = Compositions = =

Leave Home has various lyrical themes throughout its track list . The opening song , " Glad to See You Go , " is rather uptempo and frenetic . The track was about Dee Dee 's then @-@ girlfriend Connie , who was well known in the punk rock scene , as had once dated New York Dolls bassist Arthur Kane and cut his finger off with a knife . Connie also harmed Dee Dee in several ways , such as slicing his buttocks with a beer bottle . At the time , every other member of the band despised Dee Dee 's girlfriend and he eventually broke up with her . Joey recalls : " Dee [Dee] and I came up with the song ' Glad to See You Go , ' about Connie 's leaving . " In the mid @-@ 1980s , Connie died from a drug overdose . " Gimme Gimme Shock Treatment " utilizes Joey 's singing abilities with its vocal @-@ demanding melody . Author Scott Schinder called the song a " sing @-@ along mental @-@ illness ode . " The next song , " I Remember You " was said by author Greil Marcus to be all about the moment where " Joey 's voice turns the single word " you " into pure poetry . " " Oh , Oh , I Love Her So " pays homage to the 1950s doo @-@ wop genre , and consists of a three @-@ chord barrage . The song was written solely by Joey , where in the song he humorously tells of how he met a girl at Burger King and they fell in love by a soda machine .

" Carbona Not Glue " was written as a follow @-@ up to " Now I Wanna Sniff Some Glue " from their debut album . The song was Legs McNeil 's favorite song from Leave Home , who relates : " [The song] was meant to clarify that while glue might not be good for you , the cleaning fluid

Carbona was definitely a better high . " The song contemplates around Beach Boys harmonies , and it uses a " bouncy " guitar riffs . " Suzy Is a Headbanger " was inspired by the 1947 film noir Nightmare Alley , with the lyrics detailing a female involved in the punk rock scene .

The lines " Gabba Gabba Hey " at the end of " Pinhead " were taken from the horror film Freaks , which the band saw in Cleveland , Ohio after their gig was cancelled . Joey 's brother Mickey Leigh said that it was specifically taken from the scene where " the midget groom does a dance on the banquet table and sings ' Gobble gobble , we accept you , one of us ' to his bride . " The song is an audience participation song , and during live performances , Leigh appears on stage holding a sign that bore the text " Gabba Gabba Hey . " " Pinhead , " the album 's longest piece , leads into " Now I Wanna Be a Good Boy , " which portrays a confused adolescent wanting to be good , yet also yearning to run away from home . The next song on the album , " Swallow My Pride , " was a piece written solely by lead singer Joey Ramone , who states that the concept deals with their record company Sire Records ; Tommy used the expression " you gotta swallow your pride " when signing to their record company . " What 's Your Game " is one of the band 's most melodic songs and was called " wistful " by Marcus . It was written by Joey about how he yearns for a girl to be herself instead of something she 's not .

The album 's only cover song , " California Sun " , was originally written by Henry Glover and Morris Levy , and performed by The Rivieras . While the lyrics and musical structure remain the same throughout the piece , Joey 's pronunciation upon words significantly lessened the similarity to the original song . The sound output tone also differs from the original , with more distortion as well as a faster tempo . Author Steve Waksman relates : " From the opening bars , ' California Sun ' becomes subject to the Ramones ' distinctive brand of musical minimalism paired with sonic excess . The chords go by in a blur of distortion ; the drums and bass kick at seemingly twice the speed of the Rivieras . " The twelfth track " Commando " has a theme which deals with war movies and contains multiple military references . Author Avram Mednick said the song was a successor to " Blitzkrieg Bop " , released on the band 's debut album . He also noted that it has a " bouncy melody and an infectious call @-@ and @-@ response chorus . " " You 're Gonna Kill that Girl , " which was written very early in the band 's career , was also rooted in doo @-@ wop genre . Mednick commented that it appealed highly to those tuning into the Ramones in the UK , and also said it has a " lovely misogynistic tune . " The final guitar chord on the track is played by drummer Tommy since Johnny rarely played acoustic . The album 's final track , " You Should Never Have Opened That Door , " was written by Dee Dee and Johnny , and circles themes of horror film 's and hints that people in these movies tend to be naive and unintelligent .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical = = =

Leave Home was released on January 10 , 1977 and was well received by critics . Although the album did not receive much initial reception , Ken Tucker of Rolling Stone magazine gave the album a favorable review in 1977 , saying that it is very similar to their debut yet more experienced sounding . He sums up the album with : " The Ramones are as direct and witty as before . They 've also lost just a pinch of their studied rawness : whether this is a sign of maturity or sellout is a matter for debate . The Ramones make rousing music and damn good jokes , but they 're in a bind : the hard rock of this group is so pure it may be perceived as a freak novelty by an awful lot of people . " In the 1979 book The Rolling Stone Album Guide , the album was given 4 @.@ 5 out of 5 stars .

Stephen Thomas Erlewine , a music critic for AllMusic , gave the album 4 @.@ 5 out of 5 stars as well , noting that the album was very similar to their debut . Though he did consider it to be slightly more pop music oriented , Erlewine writes that despite being " weaker " than its predeccessing album , Leave Home " deliver [s] at breakneck speed and conclude [s] in under a half @-@ hour . " April Long from NME praised the album , rewarding it a perfect score of 10 out of 10 . She especially favored " Sheena Is A Punk Rocker , " calling it " a punk @-@ surf @-@ pop crossover that has

never been rivalled . " It was given a favorable review by PopMatters editor Adrien Begrand , who called it his favorite Ramones album , saying : " In this album , the Ramones are witty , menacing , goofy , cynical , and head @-@ over @-@ heels in love , all at the same time . " During his extensive review , he called " I Remember You " a " perfect bubblegum pop song , " while saying that " Pinhead " urges " all the freaks of the world to unite as one " with the lines " D @-@ U @-@ M @-@ B / Everyone 's accusing me . " Music critic Robert Christgau gave the album an A , noting that the lyrics contained a good amount of humor .

= = = Charts = = =

The album did not chart as well in the United States as its predecessor , peaking at number 148 on the Billboard 200 . It was , however , the band 's first album to chart on the UK Albums Chart , debuting at number 45 . Many of the songs on Leave Home were not considered by Mickey Leigh to be " radio ? friendly " because " Carbona Not Glue " was about Intoxicative inhalant . Joey relates : " We thought we had a lotta songs that should 've been hits . If you grew up in the sixties , things would just get played and be hits right off the bat . So we thought since our music was doin ' something unique that everyone would pick up on that . What really happened was we were so alien that no one wanted to touch us . And so we wouldn 't get played " .

= = Track listing = =

Writing credits are credited to Mickey Leigh 's book I Slept with Joey Ramone : A Family Memoir .

Original release

United States reissue

United Kingdom reissue

2001 Expanded Edition CD

Tracks 16 @-@ 31 recorded live at The Roxy in Hollywood , CA (8 / 12 / 76) .

= = Personnel = =

The following personnel can be verified with AllMusic .

Joey Ramone ? Lead vocals

Johnny Ramone ? Lead guitar

Dee Dee Ramone ? Bass guitar , backing vocals

Tommy Ramone ? drums , producer

Tony Bongiovi ? producer

Ed Stasium ? engineer

Greg Calbi ? mastering

Moshe Brakha ? front cover photography

Arturo Vega ? back cover art

John Gillespie - art direction

Pat Chiono - design