

= Rust in Peace =

Rust in Peace is the fourth studio album by American thrash metal band Megadeth . It was released on September 24 , 1990 by Capitol Records and was produced by Mike Clink . Following the departure of Jeff Young and Chuck Behler in 1989 , Rust in Peace is the first album to feature guitarist Marty Friedman and drummer Nick Menza . Rust in Peace received universal acclaim by fans and critics , and was responsible for bringing Megadeth to the attention of a mainstream metal audience . It has been cited as one of the best thrash metal records of all time by publications such as Decibel and Kerrang ! and listed as one of the 1001 Albums You Must Hear Before You Die . The album was nominated for Best Metal Performance at the 33rd Grammy Awards .

Two singles were released from the album : " Hangar 18 " and " Holy Wars ... The Punishment Due " , which have become staples of the band 's live performances . Rust in Peace features complex musical structures and lyrical themes such as nuclear war and UFOs . The album 's cover art references " Hangar 18 " . A remixed and remastered version featuring four bonus tracks was released in 2004 . In 2010 , the band announced a North American tour to commemorate the album 's 20th anniversary . The performance at the Hollywood Palladium was filmed and released as Rust in Peace Live on CD , DVD and Blu @-@ ray later that year .

= = Background and production = =

In 1988 , Megadeth appeared at the Monsters of Rock festival at Donington Park in the UK , alongside Iron Maiden , Kiss , Helloween , Guns N ' Roses , and David Lee Roth . The band performed to an audience of more than 100 @,@ 000 people and was soon added to the " Monsters of Rock " European tour , but dropped out after the first show due to bassist David Ellefson 's drug problems . Further issues within the band caused frontman and guitarist Dave Mustaine to fire drummer Chuck Behler and guitarist Jeff Young , and canceled their scheduled 1988 Australian tour . Nick Menza , previously Behler 's drum tech , was hired as the band 's new drummer . The search for a new guitarist was a drawn out process ; Mustaine examined a number of guitarists for the job , including Dimebag Darrell of Pantera , who was initially offered the job before declining . According to Mustaine , one of the last guitarists he had heard about , Marty Friedman , had sent him a copy of Dragon 's Kiss , on which Friedman played . Upon listening to the record , Mustaine had Friedman come in to audition and hired him . This would become the band 's first stable line @-@ up .

The title " Rust in Peace " was inspired by a bumper sticker that Mustaine saw on the back of a vehicle while driving home from Lake Elsinore , California . The sticker read : ' May all your nuclear weapons rust in peace ' . Mustaine liked the concept and decided to use it as a title for Megadeth 's upcoming album . Rust in Peace was recorded in Rumbo Studios with producer Mike Clink , while the mixing was handled by Max Norman . Clink was brought in for his work in both Guns N ' Roses ' Appetite for Destruction and UFO 's Strangers in the Night . The producer 's work dealt mostly with the bass , drums and Friedman 's guitar . In a 2002 interview , Mustaine declared that they " really didn ' t make the record with [Clink] " as at the time he was focused on Guns N ' Roses ' Use Your Illusion I and II ? which were also being recorded at Rumbo ? and stated most of the work in the album was done by himself , Norman , and engineer Micajah Ryan .

The album artwork was created by artist Ed Repka , who previously had done the cover for Peace Sells ... but Who 's Buying ? in 1986 . It references " Hangar 18 " , and depicts band mascot Vic Rattlehead and world leaders of the era viewing an alien body . The depicted world leaders , right to left , are U.S. President George H.W. Bush , Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev , West German President (and later President of a reunified Germany) Richard von Weizsäcker , Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and British Prime Minister John Major (although the identity of the latter is disputed) . In addition to creating the album 's cover , Repka also supplied artwork for the album 's two singles .

= = Composition = =

Rust in Peace features songs with multiple sections , shifting time signatures and intricate guitar performance , and is sometimes described as having a progressive style . In this regard , the album has been compared with Metallica 's 1988 album , ... And Justice for All , also noted for its technical complexity . Additionally , the album features multiple lyrical themes : religion , politics and warfare , as well as Mustaine 's personal issues , such as his fight against drug and alcohol addiction , UFO conspiracy theories and even the Marvel Comics character Punisher .

The opening song , " Holy Wars ... The Punishment Due " finds its thematic inspiration derived from the Northern Ireland conflict , in which the largely Catholic nationalist community were in conflict with the mainly Protestant loyalist community over the sovereignty of the six counties of Northern Ireland . Mustaine has said that at a show in Antrim , Northern Ireland , he discovered bootlegged Megadeth T @-@ shirts were on sale . He was dissuaded from taking action to have them removed on the basis that they were part of fund raising activities for " The Cause " , explained as something to bring equality to Catholics and Protestants in the region . Liking how " The Cause " sounded as was explained to him , Mustaine dedicated a performance of " Anarchy in the U.K. " to it , causing the audience to riot . The band were forced to travel in a bulletproof bus after the show . This incident , along with Marvel 's Punisher , inspired Mustaine to write the song .

" Rust in Peace ... Polaris " , addresses the topic of nuclear warfare , with " Polaris " referring to the Cold War @-@ era Lockheed UGM @-@ 27 Polaris intercontinental ballistic missile . Mustaine has revealed that the song , originally titled " Child Saint " , was one of his earlier compositions , having been written before his tenure with Metallica (1982 ? 83) . Menza proposed the concept for " Hangar 18 " , a song about UFO conspiracies and Area 51 . Musically , the song features twin guitar solos after the verse .

= = Release and reception = =

Rust in Peace was released on September 24 , 1990 , and debuted at number 23 on the Billboard 200 , becoming Megadeth 's highest charting album up to that point . In 1994 , the album was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for shipping one million copies in the United States . Rust in Peace , along with the rest of Megadeth 's Capitol @-@ released studio albums , was remixed and remastered in 2004 . Four bonus tracks were added : a previously unreleased song entitled " My Creation " , and three demos of songs on the album featuring guitarist Chris Poland .

Upon release , the album received widespread critical acclaim . Greg Kot of the Chicago Tribune called it Megadeth 's most accomplished album , praising its " instrumental virtuosity , thoughtful lyricism and punkish rage " . AllMusic 's Steve Huey also named the album " easily Megadeth 's strongest musical effort " . While noting that the entire record is consistently impressive , Huey picked " Hangar 18 " as the " obvious highlight " . Jason Birchmeier , reviewing the album 's 2004 rerelease for AllMusic , observed that the record was a big step forward for the band . However , he criticized the album for being " too consistent " and noted that many of the songs were " sounding overly similar to one another " .

Robert Palmer of Rolling Stone wrote that the album is demonstration of how far the " nasty speed thrash " concept can go without being " formulaic and boring " . Reviewing the album for Entertainment Weekly , Jim Farber described the music as " sheer velocity , combined with dexterity " and Mustaine 's lyrics as " nihilistic whimsy " . Mike Stagno from Sputnikmusic agreed that the songwriting was " top notch " on the album , as well as the fast and technical musicianship . He also spoke highly of Friedman 's and Mustaine 's guitar performance , calling them " one of the most potent duos in the scene " .

Spin reviewer Tom Nordlie praised the album , deeming it a " mature , complex , surprisingly consonant and sparsely produced album " , and concluded that Rust in Peace " never sleeps " . Music journalist Kim Cooper also noted the album 's maturity and wrote that Rust in Peace " transcended the hard rock genre and raised the bar to a whole new level " . Another positive reaction came from Rock Hard , whose writer Holger Stratmann stated that the record was " pure Megadeth " , filled with " razor sharp guitars " and " snotty vocals " .

= = Legacy and influence = =

In retrospective analysis , Rust in Peace has been cited as having a large impact on its genre . Heavy metal magazine Decibel labeled the album as a " genre @-@ defining work " , while Kerrang ! wrote that the record " set a new standard for heavy metal in the 90s " . IGN named Rust in Peace the fourth most influential heavy metal album of all time , commenting that the album " displays Dave Mustaine 's finest writing ever " . Additionally , Martin Popoff ranked it eleventh among the best heavy metal albums of all time . In a reader poll organized by MusicRadar in 2010 , Rust in Peace was voted as the sixth best metal album ever . The MusicRadar staff explained that the record saw Megadeth moving " into the big league " , while staying true to their intricate sound and lyricism . In a list compiled by Chad Bowar of About.com , Rust in Peace was placed as the best heavy metal album of the 1990s and named a " thrash masterpiece " . The album was nominated for Best Metal Performance at the 33rd Grammy Awards .

The tracks " Holy Wars ... The Punishment Due " and " Hangar 18 " have become staples of Megadeth 's live set , and are fan favorites . In 2010 , the band announced a 22 @-@ show North American tour to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Rust in Peace . The band performed the entire album at every show . Dates in South and Central America were later added to the tour , due to positive response from fans . In 2010 , Shout ! Factory released a live recording filmed on the Hollywood Palladium stop of the tour , entitled Rust in Peace Live . It was released on September 7 , 2010 in Blu @-@ ray , CD and DVD formats , and debuted at number 161 on the Billboard 200 and number two on the Billboard DVD charts .

Rust in Peace in its entirety was released as purchasable downloadable content in the rhythm game Rock Band , a part of their " Rust in Peace Download Package " . It was released a little more than a year after the release of Peace Sells ... But Who 's Buying ? on the game 's download store . A cover version of " Holy Wars " by Steve Ouimette was featured in Rock Revolution . " Holy Wars " was also featured in Guitar Hero : Warriors of Rock , while " Hangar 18 " was featured in Guitar Hero II and as downloadable content for Guitar Hero 5 . Both songs have been described as amongst the most difficult songs in the series ' history .

A sequel to " Hangar 18 " titled " Return to Hangar " later featured on Megadeth 's ninth studio album , The World Needs a Hero . It concludes the fictional narrative begun in " Hangar 18 " , where the life forms said to be contained in " Hangar 18 " come back to life and kill those inside the building before escaping . Both songs have been played back @-@ to @-@ back live , which can be heard on Rude Awakening and That One Night : Live in Buenos Aires .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by Dave Mustaine , except where noted .

= = Personnel = =

Credits are adapted from the album 's liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Accolades = =