

= Nine Inch Nails =

Nine Inch Nails (abbreviated NIN ; stylized as NI?) is an American industrial rock band , founded in 1988 by Trent Reznor in Cleveland , Ohio . As its main producer , singer , songwriter , and instrumentalist , Reznor is the only official member of the group and remains solely responsible for its direction . Nine Inch Nails ' music straddles a wide range of genres . After recording a new album , Reznor usually assembles a live band to perform with him . The touring band features a revolving lineup that often rearranges songs to fit a live setting . On stage , Nine Inch Nails often employs visual elements to accompany performances , which frequently include light shows .

Underground music audiences warmly received Nine Inch Nails in its early years . Reznor produced several highly influential records in the 1990s that achieved widespread popularity : many Nine Inch Nails songs became radio hits ; and their entire catalog has reached record sales exceeding over 20 million albums worldwide , with 10 million sales certified in the United States alone . In 1997 , Reznor appeared in Time magazine 's list of the year 's most influential people , and Spin magazine described him as " the most vital artist in music . " In 2004 , Rolling Stone placed Nine Inch Nails at 94 on its list of the 100 greatest artists of all time . Despite this acclaim , the band has had several feuds with the corporate side of the recording industry . In 2007 , these corporate entanglements resulted in Reznor announcing that Nine Inch Nails would split from its label and release future material independently .

Since 1989 , Nine Inch Nails has released eight studio albums . After a hiatus from 2009 to 2013 , Nine Inch Nails released Hesitation Marks , through Columbia Records . Prior to this , Ghosts I ? IV and The Slip were both independently released in digital form , with physical releases coming later . The digital release of the latter was made available completely free of charge , and the former , while also available for sale , can be acquired legally through means such as file @-@ sharing due to its Creative Commons license . Nine Inch Nails has been nominated for thirteen Grammy Awards and won twice for the songs " Wish " and " Happiness in Slavery " , in 1992 and 1996 respectively . In 2014 , Nine Inch Nails was named as nominees for induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame , their first year of eligibility . In 2015 , they were nominated a second time .

= = History = =

= = = Formation (1988 ? 1989) = = =

In 1987 , Trent Reznor played keyboard in a Cleveland band called the Exotic Birds , then managed by John Malm , Jr . Reznor and Malm became friends , and when Reznor left the Exotic Birds to work on music of his own , Malm informally became his manager . At the time , Reznor was employed as an assistant engineer and janitor at Right Track Studios , in Cleveland ; he asked studio owner Bart Koster for permission to record some demos of his own material for free during unused studio time . Koster agreed and allowed Reznor to use it whenever it was empty , commenting that it cost him " just a little wear on [his] tape heads " . While completing the early recordings , Reznor was unable to find a band that could articulate the material as he desired . Instead , inspired by Prince , Reznor played all the instruments except drums himself . This role remains Reznor 's on most of the band 's studio recordings , though he has occasionally involved other musicians and assistants . Nine Inch Nails debut was at the Phantasy Theater in Lakewood , Ohio on October 21 , 1988 as part of the Pretty Hate Machine Tour Series . In 1988 , after playing its first shows supporting Skinny Puppy , Reznor 's ambition for Nine Inch Nails was to release one 12 @-@ inch single on a small European label . Several labels responded favorably to the demo material and Reznor signed with TVT Records . Nine selections from the Right Track demos recorded live in November 1988 , collectively known as Purest Feeling , were later released in revised form on the band 's first full @-@ length studio release , Pretty Hate Machine (1989) . The overall sound on Purest Feeling is lighter than that of Pretty Hate Machine ; several songs feature more live drumming and guitar work throughout , as well as a heavier use of samples from films .

Reznor coined the name " Nine Inch Nails " because it " abbreviated easily " , rather than for " any literal meaning " . Other rumored explanations have circulated , alleging that Reznor chose to reference Jesus ' crucifixion with nine @-@ inch spikes , or Freddy Krueger 's nine @-@ inch fingernails . The English letters NIN are also noted for their resemblance to the modern Hebrew characters of the Tetragrammaton . There is also an old English music hall song with the refrain , " I don 't not know no one who don 't want no nine inch nails . " The Nine Inch Nails ' logo , which consists of the letters [NI?] set inside a border , was designed by Reznor and Gary Talpas . The logo first appeared on the music video for Nine Inch Nails ' debut single , " Down in It " , and was inspired by Tibor Kalman 's typography on the Talking Heads album Remain in Light . Talpas , a native of Cleveland , would continue to design Nine Inch Nails packaging art until 1997 .

= = = Pretty Hate Machine (1989 ? 1991) = = =

Written , arranged , and performed by Reznor , Nine Inch Nails ' first album Pretty Hate Machine debuted in 1989 . It marked his first collaboration with Adrian Sherwood (who produced the lead single " Down in It " in London without meeting Reznor face @-@ to @-@ face) and Mark " Flood " Ellis . Reznor asked Sean Beavan to mix the demos of Pretty Hate Machine , which had received multiple offers for record deals . He mixed sound during Nine Inch Nails ' live concerts for several years , eventually becoming an unofficial member of the live band and singing live backup vocals from his place at the mixing console . Flood 's production would appear on each major Nine Inch Nails release until 1994 , and Sherwood has made remixes for the band as recently as 2000 . Reznor and his co @-@ producers expanded upon the Right Track Studio demos by adding singles " Head Like a Hole " and " Sin " . Rolling Stone 's Michael Azerrad described the album as " industrial @-@ strength noise over a pop framework " and " harrowing but catchy music " ; Reznor proclaimed this combination " a sincere statement " of " what was in [his] head at the time " . In fact the song " Down in It " spent over two months on Billboard 's club @-@ play dance chart . After spending 113 weeks on the Billboard 200 , Pretty Hate Machine became one of the first independently released records to attain platinum certification .

Three music videos were created in promotion of the album . MTV aired the videos for " Down in It " and " Head Like a Hole " , but an explicit video for " Sin " was only released in partial form for Closure . The original version of the " Down in It " video ended with the implication that Reznor 's character had fallen off a building and died in the street . This footage attracted the attention of the FBI . As Reznor explains in an interview with Convulsion Magazine :

There was a scene w [h] ere I was lying on the ground , appearing to be dead , in a Lodger @-@ esque pose and we had a camera with a big weather balloon filled with helium hooked up to it ... the first one we did , we started the film , I was laying on the ground and the ropes that were holding the balloon snapped , the camera just took off into the atmosphere ... the camera landed two hundred miles away in a farmer 's field somewhere . He finds it and takes it to the police , thinking that it 's a surveillance camera for marijuana , they develop the film and think that it 's some sort of snuff film of a murder , give it to the FBI and have pathologists looking at the body saying , ' yeah , he 's rotting , ' (I had corn starch on me , right) ' he 's been decomposing for 3 weeks . ' You could see the other members of the band walking away and they had these weird outfits on , and they thought it was some kind of gang slaying .

In 1989 , while doing promotion for the album , the band were asked what shows they would like to appear on . The band jokingly replied (possibly while intoxicated) that they would like to appear on Dance Party USA , since it was the most absurd option they could think of at the time . Much to their surprise , they were booked on the show , and made an appearance .

In 1990 , Nine Inch Nails began the Pretty Hate Machine Tour Series , in which they toured North America as an opening act for alternative rock artists such as Peter Murphy and The Jesus and Mary Chain . Reznor began smashing his equipment while on stage ; Rockbeat interviewer Mike Gitter attributed the live band 's early success in front of rock oriented audiences to this aggressive attitude . Nine Inch Nails then embarked on a world tour that continued through the first Lollapalooza festival in 1991 .

= = = Broken (1992 ? 1993) = = =

After a poor European reception opening for Guns N ' Roses , the band returned to America amid pressure from TVT to produce a follow @-@ up to Pretty Hate Machine . After finding out they were hindering control of his project , Reznor criticized the labeling of Nine Inch Nails as a synthpop band and demanded his label terminate his contract , but they ignored his plea . In response , Reznor secretly began recording under various pseudonyms to avoid record company interference . Involved in a feud with TVT , he signed a record deal with Interscope Records and created Nothing Records :

We made it very clear we were not doing another record for TVT . But they made it pretty clear they weren 't ready to sell . So I felt like , well , I 've finally got this thing going but it 's dead . Flood and I had to record Broken under a different band name , because if TVT found out we were recording , they could confiscate all our shit and release it . Jimmy Iovine got involved with Interscope , and we kind of got slave @-@ traded . It wasn 't my doing . I didn 't know anything about Interscope . And I was real pissed off at him at first because it was going from one bad situation to potentially another one . But Interscope went into it like they really wanted to know what I wanted . It was good , after I put my raving lunatic act on .

In 1992 , Nine Inch Nails relocated to 10050 Cielo Drive , Benedict Canyon , Los Angeles (renamed " Le Pig " by Reznor) , the site of the Tate murders , when Charles Manson 's " family " murdered Sharon Tate , wife of noted film director Roman Polanski , and four of her friends . It was used for the band to record Broken , an extended play (EP) that was the first release distributed by Nothing Records and reached the top 10 on the Billboard 200 . In the liner notes , Reznor credited the 1991 Nine Inch Nails touring band as an influence on the EP 's sound . He characterized Broken as a guitar @-@ based " blast of destruction " , and as " a lot harder ... than Pretty Hate Machine " . The inspiration for the harder sound came from the way the live band played during concerts such as Lollapalooza . Songs from Broken earned Nine Inch Nails two Grammy Awards : a performance of the EP 's first single " Happiness in Slavery " from Woodstock ' 94 , and the second single " Wish " . In reference to receiving the Grammy Award for Best Metal Performance for " Wish " , Reznor joked his epitaph should read : " REZNOR : Died . Said ' fist fuck ' , won a Grammy . " Against touring of the brand new material , Reznor began living and recording full @-@ time at Le Pig , working on a follow @-@ up free of restrictions from his record label .

Peter Christopherson of the bands Coil and Throbbing Gristle directed a performance video for " Wish " , but the EP 's most controversial video accompanied " Happiness in Slavery " . The video was almost universally banned for its graphic depiction of performance artist Bob Flanagan disrobed and lying on a machine that pleasures , tortures , then kills him . A third video for " Pinion " , partially incorporated into MTV 's Alternative Nation opening sequence , showed a toilet that apparently flushes into the mouth of a person in bondage . Reznor and Christopherson compiled the three clips along with footage for " Help Me I Am in Hell " and " Gave Up " into a longform music video titled Broken . It depicts the murder of a young man who is kidnapped and tortured while forced to watch the videos . This footage was never officially released , but instead appeared covertly among tape trading circles . A separate performance video for " Gave Up " featuring Richard Patrick and Marilyn Manson was filmed at Le Pig . A live recording of " Wish " was also filmed , and both videos appeared in Closure .

Broken was followed by its companion remix EP Fixed in late 1992 . The only track that was left off the final version of the release is Butch Vig 's remix of " Last " (the outro of the " Last " remix is heard in " Throw This Away " , which also includes Vig 's remix of " Suck ") . The unedited version appeared on the internet as an 8 @-@ bit mono 11 kHz file , " NIN _ LAST.AIFF " , available by FTP from cyberden.com in 1993 ; it has been removed from the website , but can still be found on p2p networks (Reznor subsequently made it available in higher quality (256kbit / s mp3) at remix.nin.com) . Vig later spoke about his remix while answering questions on a music production forum , saying " I started recording a lot of new parts , and took it in a much different direction . When it was finished , Trent thought the front part of the mix didn 't fit the EP , so he just used the

ending . I 'm glad it 's on his website . Duke and Steve worked with me on the remix , in the very early days of Garbage . "

= = = The Downward Spiral (1994 ? 1997) = = =

Early ideas for The Downward Spiral were conceived after the Lollapalooza 1991 festival concerts ended in September of that year . Reznor developed a concept about the album 's themes and later used it as lyrics . He searched for and moved to 10050 Cielo Drive , renting it for \$ 11 @, @ 000 per month from July 4 , 1992 , marking the beginning of the making of both Broken and The Downward Spiral . This was against his initial choice to record the album in New Orleans .

Nine Inch Nails ' second studio album , The Downward Spiral , entered the Billboard 200 at number two , and remains the highest @-@ selling Nine Inch Nails release in the United States for shipments of over four million copies , in addition to selling five million copies worldwide . Influenced by late @-@ 1970s works by Pink Floyd and David Bowie , The Downward Spiral features a wide range of textures and moods to illustrate the mental progress of a central character . Flood co @-@ produced several tracks on the album , which became his last collaboration with Nine Inch Nails . Alan Moulder mixed most of The Downward Spiral and subsequently took on more extensive production duties for future album releases . Reznor invited Beavan to work on The Downward Spiral . After contributing to remixes of Nine Inch Nails songs , such as " Closer " , Beavan mixed and co @-@ produced Marilyn Manson 's Antichrist Superstar in 1996 . It was recorded at Le Pig Studios , previously used for the recording process of Broken . " March of the Pigs " and " Closer " were released as singles . Two other songs from the album , " Hurt " and " Piggy " , were issued to radio without a commercial single release .

The music video for " Closer " was directed by Mark Romanek and received frequent rotation on MTV , though the network heavily censored the original version , which they perceived to be too graphic . The video shows events in a laboratory dealing with religion , sexuality , animal cruelty , politics , and terror ; controversial imagery included a nude bald woman with a crucifix mask , a monkey tied to a cross , a pig 's head spinning on some type of machine , a diagram of a vulva , Reznor wearing an S & M mask while swinging in shackles , and of him wearing a ball gag . A radio edit that partially mutes the song 's explicit lyrics also received extensive airtime .

Critical response to The Downward Spiral has generally been favorable , and retrospective reviews regard it as one of the most important albums of the 1990s . It has featured in several publications ' best album lists : in 2005 the album was ranked 25th in Spin 's list of the " 100 Greatest Albums , 1985 ? 2005 " , and in 2003 Rolling Stone ranked the album number 200 on their " The 500 Greatest Albums of All Time " list . Blender named it the 80th Greatest American Album . It was ranked No. 488 in the book The Top 500 Heavy Metal Albums of All Time by Martin Popoff . In 2001 Q named The Downward Spiral as one of the 50 Heaviest Albums of All Time ; in 2010 the album was ranked No. 102 on their 250 Best Albums of Q 's Lifetime (1986 ? 2011) list . After The Downward Spiral 's release , Reznor produced an accompanying remix album entitled Further Down the Spiral , the only non @-@ major Nine Inch Nails release to be certified gold in the United States and among the best @-@ selling remix albums of all time . It featured contributions from Coil with Danny Hyde , electronic musician Aphex Twin , producer Rick Rubin , and Jane 's Addiction guitarist Dave Navarro , among others .

After the 1994 release of The Downward Spiral , the live band embarked on the Self Destruct Tour in support of the album . The stage set @-@ up contained dirty curtains which would be pulled down and up for visuals shown during songs such as " Hurt " . The tour debuted the band 's grungy and messy image in which they would come out in ragged clothes slathered in corn starch . The concerts were violent and chaotic , with band members often injuring themselves , and they would frequently destroy their instruments at the end of concerts , attack each other , and stage @-@ dive into the crowd . The tour reached its widest mainstream audience with a mud @-@ drenched performance at Woodstock ' 94 that was broadcast on Pay @-@ Per @-@ View and seen in as many as 24 million homes . Nine Inch Nails received considerable mainstream success thereafter , performing with significantly higher production values and adding theatrical visual elements to the live show .

Supporting acts for the tour included The Jim Rose Circus and Marilyn Manson . Released in 1997 , the Closure video documented highlights from the tour , including full live videos of " Eraser " , " Hurt " and a one @-@ take " March of the Pigs " clip made for MTV . Around this time , Reznor 's studio perfectionism , struggles with addiction , and bouts of writer 's block prolonged the production of The Fragile .

Reznor produced the soundtrack to the Oliver Stone film Natural Born Killers using a portable Pro Tools in his hotel room . The compilation featured , " Burn " , a song written exclusively for the film . Throughout early 1996 Reznor collaborated with id Software to help create the music and sound effects to the first @-@ person shooter video game Quake . In homage to him , the entire Quake series features the Nine Inch Nails band logo on ammo crates that supply ammunition for the in @-@ game nail gun weapon . In 1997 , Reznor produced the soundtrack to the David Lynch film Lost Highway . The release spawned the single " The Perfect Drug " , the music video for which was also directed by Mark Romanek . A tenth anniversary deluxe reissue of The Downward Spiral was released on November 23 , 2004 .

= = = The Fragile (1999 ? 2002) = = =

Five years elapsed between The Downward Spiral and Nine Inch Nails ' next studio album , The Fragile , which arrived as a double album in September 1999 . The Fragile was conceived by making " songwriting and arranging and production and sound design ... the same thing . A song would start with a drum loop or a visual and eventually a song would emerge out of it and that was the song . " Canadian rock producer Bob Ezrin was consulted on the album 's track listing ; the liner notes state that he " provided final continuity and flow . "

On the heels of the band 's previous successes , media anticipation surrounded The Fragile more than a year before its release , when it was already described as " oft @-@ delayed " . The album debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 , selling 228 @,@ 000 copies in its first week and receiving generally positive reviews . Spin hailed The Fragile as the " album of the year , " whereas Pitchfork Media panned its " melodramatic " lyrics . Nine Inch Nails released three commercial singles from the album in different territories : " The Day the World Went Away " in North America ; " We 're in This Together " in the EU and Japan (on three separate discs) ; and " Into the Void " in Australia . Several songs from the album became regular features on alternative rock radio stations , however the album dropped to number 16 and slipped out of the Billboard Top 10 only a week after its release , resulting in the band setting a record for the biggest drop from number one , which has since been broken . Reznor funded the subsequent North American tour out of his own pocket .

Before the album 's release , the song " Starfuckers , Inc . " provoked media speculation about whom Reznor had intended its acerbic lyrics to satirize . Cinesexuality critic Patricia MacCormack interprets the song as a " scathing attack on the alternative music scene , " particularly Reznor 's former friend and protégé Marilyn Manson . The two artists put aside their differences when Manson appeared in the song 's music video , retitled " Starsuckers , Inc . " and performed on stage with Nine Inch Nails at Madison Square Garden in 2000 .

Reznor followed The Fragile with another remix album , Things Falling Apart , released in November 2000 to poor reviews , a few months after the 2000 Fragility tour which itself was recorded and released on CD , DVD , and VHS in 2002 as And All That Could Have Been . A deluxe edition of the live CD came with the companion disc Still , featuring stripped @-@ down versions of songs from the Nine Inch Nails catalog along with several new pieces of music .

In 2002 , Johnny Cash covered the Nine Inch Nails ' " Hurt " for his album , American IV : The Man Comes Around , to critical acclaim . After seeing the music video , which later won a Grammy , Reznor himself became a fan of the rendition :

I pop the video in , and wow ... Tears welling , silence , goose @-@ bumps ... Wow . [I felt like] I just lost my girlfriend , because that song isn 't mine anymore ... It really made me think about how powerful music is as a medium and art form . I wrote some words and music in my bedroom as a way of staying sane , about a bleak and desperate place I was in , totally isolated and alone . [Somehow] that winds up reinterpreted by a music legend from a radically different era / genre and

still retains sincerity and meaning ? different , but every bit as pure .

== With Teeth (2005 ? 2006) ==

A further six years elapsed before Nine Inch Nails ' fourth full @-@ length album , With Teeth , was released in 2005 , though it was leaked prior to its official release date . The album was written and recorded following Reznor 's battle with alcoholism and substance abuse . With Teeth debuted on top of the Billboard 200 , Nine Inch Nails ' second reign at number one with an album . The album 's package lacks typical liner notes ; instead it simply lists the names of songs and co @-@ producers , and the URL for an online PDF poster with lyrics and full credits . The entire album was made available in streaming audio on the band 's official MySpace page in advance of its release date .

Critical reception of the album was mostly positive : Rolling Stone 's Rob Sheffield described the album as " vintage Nine Inch Nails " . PopMatters condemned the album , claiming Reznor " ran out of ideas . "

A music video for the song " The Hand That Feeds " premiered on the Nine Inch Nails official website in March 2005 . Reznor released the source files for it in GarageBand format a month later , allowing fans to remix the song . He similarly released files for the album 's second single " Only " in a wider range of formats , including Pro Tools and ACID Pro . David Fincher directed a video for " Only " with primarily computer @-@ generated imagery . The planned music video for its third single , " Every Day Is Exactly the Same " , was directed by Francis Lawrence but reportedly scrapped in the post @-@ production stage . All three singles topped the Billboard Alternative Songs chart .

Nine Inch Nails launched a North American arena tour in Autumn 2005 , supported by Queens of the Stone Age , Autolux and Death from Above 1979 . Another opening act on the tour , hip @-@ hop artist Saul Williams , performed on stage with Nine Inch Nails at the Voodoo Music Experience festival during a headlining appearance in hurricane @-@ stricken New Orleans , Reznor 's former home . The Nine Inch Nails live band completed a tour of North American amphitheatres in the summer of 2006 , joined by Bauhaus , TV on the Radio , and Peaches . The Beside You in Time tour documentary was released in February 2007 via three formats : DVD , HD DVD and Blu @-@ ray Disc . The home video release debuted at number one on both the Billboard Top Music Videos and Billboard Comprehensive Music Videos charts in the United States .

== Year Zero (2007) ==

Nine Inch Nails ' fifth studio album , Year Zero , was released only two years after With Teeth , a marked change in the slow pace from the release of previous albums . With lyrics written from the perspective of multiple fictitious characters , Year Zero is a concept album criticizing the United States government 's policies and their impact on the world 15 years in the future . Critical response to the album was generally favorable , with an average rating of 76 % on Metacritic .

The story takes place in the United States in 2022 , which has been termed " Year 0 " , by the government , being the year America was reborn . It had suffered several major terrorist attacks , apparently by Islamic fundamentalists , including attacks on Los Angeles and Seattle , and in response , the government seized absolute control of the country . The government is a Christian fundamentalist theocracy , maintaining control of the populace through institutions like the Bureau of Morality and the First Evangelical Church of Plano . The government corporation Cedocore distributes the drug Parepin through the water supply , making Americans who drink water apathetic and carefree . There are several underground rebel groups , mainly operating online , most notably Art is Resistance and Solutions Backwards Initiative . In response to the increasing oppression of the government , several corporate , government , and subversive websites were transported back in time to the present by a group of scientists working clandestinely against the authorities . The websites @-@ from @-@ the @-@ future were sent to the year 2007 to warn American people of the impending dystopian future and to prevent it from ever forming in the first place .

An alternate reality game emerged parallel to the Year Zero concept , expanding upon its storyline . Clues hidden on tour merchandise initially led fans to discover a network of fictitious , in @-@ game

websites that describe an " Orwellian picture of the United States circa the year 2022 " . Before Year Zero 's release , unreleased songs from the album were found on USB drives hidden at Nine Inch Nails concert venues in Lisbon and Barcelona , as part of the alternate reality game . Fan participation in the alternate reality game caught the attention of media outlets such as USA Today and Billboard , who have cited fan @-@ site The NIN Hotline , forum Echoing the Sound , fan club The Spiral , and NinWiki as sources for new discoveries .

The album 's first single , " Survivalism " , and other tracks from Year Zero were released as multitrack audio files for fans to remix . A remix album titled Year Zero Remixed was later released , featuring remixes from Year Zero by other artists . The remix album was Nine Inch Nails ' final release on a major record label for over five years , as the act had completed its contractual obligation to Interscope Records and did not renew its contract . The remix album was accompanied by an interactive remix site with multitrack downloads and the ability to post remixes .

Reznor planned a film adaption of the album and noted Year Zero as " part of a bigger picture of a number of things I 'm working on . Essentially , I wrote the soundtrack to a movie that doesn 't exist . " The project moved into the television medium because of high costs for Year Zero as a film , then Reznor found American film producer Lawrence Bender and met with writers . On August 10 , 2007 , Reznor announced that they would be taking the concept to television networks in an attempt to secure a deal : " We 're about to pitch it to the network , so we 're a couple of weeks away from meeting all of the main people , and we 'll see what happens . " Since first announcing his plans for a television series , progress slowed , reportedly due to the 2007 ? 2008 Writer 's Guild strike , but it nevertheless continued . As of 2010 the resultant miniseries , also named Year Zero , was in development with HBO and BBC Worldwide Productions , with the screenplay and script written by Reznor and Carnivàle writer Daniel Knauf .

= = = Ghosts I ? IV and The Slip (2008) = = =

In February 2008 , Reznor posted a news update on the Nine Inch Nails website entitled " 2 weeks . " On March 2 , Ghosts I ? IV (the first release on The Null Corporation label) , a 36 @-@ track instrumental album , became available via the band 's official website . Ghosts I ? IV was made available in a number of different formats and forms , ranging from a free download of the first volume , to a \$ 300 Ultra @-@ Deluxe limited edition package . All 2 @,@ 500 copies of the \$ 300 package sold out in three days . The album is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution Non @-@ Commercial Share Alike licence . The album was created improvisationally over a 10 @-@ week period and contributors included Atticus Ross , Alan Moulder , Alessandro Cortini , Adrian Belew , and Brian Viglione .

Similar to the announcement that ultimately led to the release of Ghosts I ? IV , a post on the band 's website in April 2008 read " 2 weeks ! " On May 5 , Nine Inch Nails released The Slip via their website without any advertisement or promotion . The album was made available for download free of charge with a message from Reznor , " this one 's on me , " protected under the same Creative Commons licence as Ghosts , and has seen individual downloads surpassing 1 @.@ 4 million . The Slip has since been released on CD as a limited edition set of 250 @,@ 000 .

Since the release of Ghosts I ? IV and The Slip , a 25 @-@ date tour titled Lights in the Sky , was announced in several North American cities , and was later expanded to include several more North American dates as well as dates in South America . Cortini and Freese returned as members from the previous tour , while Robin Finck rejoined the band and Justin Meldal @-@ Johnsen was added on bass guitar . Freese and Cortini left the live band , but it became a quartet with the addition of Ilan Rubin on drums .

On January 7 , 2009 , Reznor uploaded unedited HD @-@ quality footage from three shows as a download of over 400 GB via BitTorrent . In an immediate response , a fan organization known as This One Is On Us quickly downloaded the data and had begun to assemble the footage alongside their own video recordings to create a professional 3 @-@ part digital film , followed by a physical release created " by fans for fans " . This tour documentary became collectively known as Another Version of the Truth and was released throughout late December 2009 to February 2010 via three

formats : DVD , Blu Ray Disc and BitTorrent . To date , the group and the project has received significant attention from media outlets such as USA Today , Rolling Stone , Techdirt and Pitchfork TV , and holds the support of both Reznor and the fan community with theatrical screenings being held all over the world . Nine Inch Nails art director and webmaster Rob Sheridan noted on the band's official website :

This is yet another example of a devoted fanbase and a policy of openness combining to fill in blanks left by old media barriers . The entire NIN camp is absolutely thrilled that treating our fans with respect and nurturing their creativity has led to such an overwhelming outpour of incredible content , and that we now have such a high quality souvenir from our most ambitious tour ever .

Nine Inch Nails Revenge , an iPhone / iPod touch exclusive rhythm game developed by Tapulous , was released on March 8 , 2009 (five months after the company announced the development of the game) . This installment in the Tap Tap video game franchise was themed after Nine Inch Nails , and included tracks from Ghosts I ? IV and The Slip . Portions of the album Ghosts I ? IV were also used in making of the soundtrack for the documentary Citizenfour .

== Wave Goodbye Tour and hiatus (2009 ? 2012) ==

In February 2009 , Reznor posted his thoughts about the future of Nine Inch Nails on his official website , stating that " I 've been thinking for some time now it 's time to make NIN disappear for a while . " Reznor since clarified that he " isn 't done creating music under the moniker , but that Nine Inch Nails is done touring for the foreseeable future . " The " Wave Goodbye " tour concluded on September 10 , 2009 , at the Wiltern Theater in Los Angeles . Reznor subsequently released two tracks under the Nine Inch Nails moniker : the theme song for the film Tetsuo : The Bullet Man , and a cover of U2 's " Zoo Station " , included in the Achtung Baby tribute album AHK toong BAY bi Covered .

In 2009 Reznor married Mariqueen Maandig , and formed a project with Maandig and Atticus Ross dubbed How to Destroy Angels . Their first release , a six track self titled EP , was made available for free download in June 2010 . Reznor 's next collaboration with Ross was co writing and producing the official score for David Fincher 's 2010 film , The Social Network . Reznor and Ross received two awards for the score , a 2010 Golden Globe Award for Best Original Score for a Motion Picture , and a 2010 Oscar for Best Original Score . Reznor and Ross again collaborated with Fincher for the official score the American adaptation of the novel The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo , released in December 2011 , and then again on Fincher 's 2014 film Gone Girl

In July 2012 Reznor teamed up with video game developer Treyarch to compose the theme music for Call of Duty : Black Ops II . Later that year Reznor again worked with Atticus Ross along with Alessandro Cortini on a remix of the song " Destroyer " by Telepathe . Reznor also appeared in a documentary called " Sound City " directed by Dave Grohl , in addition to co writing and performing the song " Mantra " with Grohl and Josh Homme . This led to further collaboration with Reznor and Homme on the 2013 album from Queens of the Stone Age titled ... Like Clockwork . Reznor contributed vocals and drum programming to the song " Kalopsia " and vocals on " Fairweather Friends " along with Elton John on piano and vocals . In October a project with Dr. Dre and Beats Electronics was announced that Reznor wrote was " probably not what you 're expecting [from me] " . The project was named " Daisy " ; a digital music service was announced in January 2013 . It was until January 2014 that the service was fully launched , with Reznor serving as chief creative officer .

== Return to touring , Hesitation Marks and future (2012 ? present) ==

In an interview with BBC Radio 1 , Reznor indicated that he would be writing for the majority of 2012 with Nine Inch Nails " in mind " . Reznor eventually confirmed that he was working on new Nine Inch Nails material and might be performing live again . In February 2013 , Reznor announced the return of Nine Inch Nails and revealed the Twenty Thirteen Tour . He also revealed that the new lineup of the band would include Eric Avery of Jane 's Addiction , Adrian Belew of King Crimson ,

and Josh Eustis of Telefon Tel Aviv , as well as returning members Alessandro Cortini and Ilan Rubin . However , both Avery and Belew would quit the touring band before performances commenced , with former member Robin Finck returning in their place .

By May 28 a new Nine Inch Nails album was complete . Released September 3 , *Hesitation Marks* incorporated rhythms reminiscent of earlier releases , but was more expansive and theatrical . In addition to the recently departed Adrian Belew , Reznor employed bassist Pino Palladino along with Todd Rundgren and Fleetwood Mac 's Lindsey Buckingham to achieve various art @-@ rock elements .

The album produced three singles , all released prior to that of the album itself . " Came Back Haunted " was released on June 6 , with an accompanying music video bearing an epileptic seizure warning . The second single , " Copy of A " , was released on August 12 free of charge to US and UK Amazon.com account holders . " Everything " was the third and final single , recorded during sessions for the Nine Inch Nails greatest hits album . The sessions gave way to more songs that ended up yielding the entire album .

In July the Twenty Thirteen Tour was underway , beginning with a slew of festival appearances that included the Fuji Rock Festival , and the Pukkelpop , Hockenheim , Germany 's Rock 'n'Heim and the Reading and Leeds festivals in August . The Tension 2013 North American leg of the tour ran from September to November and added Palladino , Lisa Fischer and Sharlotte Gibson to the lineup with Godspeed You ! Black Emperor and Explosions in the Sky as opening acts . This leg of the tour was documented and released in the spring as *Nine Inch Nails Tension 2013* .

In 2014 the band extended their tour worldwide as a four piece . The new lineup included previous collaborators , Ilan Rubin , Alessandro Cortini , and Robin Finck . The band was joined by Queens of the Stone Age for the Australia and New Zealand tour , during which a nightly coin toss determined who opened . The tour closed in Europe with supporting synthpop act Cold Cave .

After a month @-@ long break , Nine Inch Nails again hit the road on a joint tour with Soundgarden . The 23 @-@ day journey extended throughout the continental US , with experimental hip @-@ hop group Death Grips scheduled to open most of the shows . Two weeks into the tour , Death Grips announced their break up and cancelled all subsequent live shows . Oneohtrix Point Never , The Dillinger Escape Plan and Cold Cave each replaced Death Grips separately for the remainder of the tour .

In 2014 , their first year of eligibility , Nine Inch Nails were nominated for induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame with 14 other candidates . While they were not inducted that year , the band placed second in the 2015 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Nominees Fan Vote . In 2015 , Nine Inch Nails were once again nominated for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame .

In June 2015 , Nine Inch Nails released instrumental versions of *The Fragile* and *With Teeth* to stream exclusively on Apple Music , a service of which Reznor is chief creative director . In an interview promoting the service , Reznor mentioned he has started " messing around with some things " in regards to a new Nine Inch Nails album , stating " It 's not a record I 'm trying to finish in a month . It 's more just feeling around in the dark and seeing what sounds interesting " . At the end of the 2015 year , Reznor reported that " Nine Inch Nails will return in 2016 . "

= = Musical characteristics and lyrics = =

AllMusic 's Steve Huey states that " Nine Inch Nails were the most popular industrial group ever and were largely responsible for bringing the music to a mass audience . " Reznor has never referred to his own work as industrial music , but admits to borrowing techniques from such early industrial bands as Throbbing Gristle and Test Dept . Despite the disparity between those artists initially operating under the term " industrial " and Nine Inch Nails , it has become common in journalistic descriptions of Reznor 's body of work to describe it as such . Reznor acknowledged in *Spin* magazine that " *Down in It* " was influenced by early Skinny Puppy , particularly their song " Dig It " ; other songs from *Pretty Hate Machine* were described in the same interview as synthpop . Reviewing *The Fragile* , critic Steve Cooper noted that the album juxtaposes widely varied genres , such as solo piano in " *The Frail* " and drum and bass elements in " *Starfuckers , Inc .* "

Certain techniques and styles can be found throughout Nine Inch Nails ' catalog . Songs such as " Wish " , and " The Day the World Went Away " exhibit terraced dynamics . Reznor 's singing follows a similar pattern , frequently moving from whispers to screams . He also has used software to alter his voice in several songs , as evident in " Starfuckers , Inc . " and " Burn " . The band 's music also occasionally features complex time signatures , notably in " The Collector " , from With Teeth , and concert favorite " March of the Pigs " . Reznor regularly uses noise and distortion in his song arrangements , and incorporates dissonance with chromatic melody and / or harmony . These techniques are all used in the song " Hurt " , which features a highly dissonant tritone played on guitar during the verses , a B5 # 11 , emphasized when Reznor sings the eleventh note on the word " I " every time the B / E # dyad is played . " Closer " concludes with a chromatic piano motif : The melody is debuted during the second verse of " Piggy " on organ , then reappears in power chords at drop D tuning throughout the chorus of " Heresy " , while an inverted (ascending) version is used throughout " A Warm Place " , and then recurs in its original state for the final time on " The Downward Spiral " . On The Fragile , Reznor revisits this technique of repeating a motif multiple times throughout different songs , either on a different musical instrument , with a transposed harmony , or in an altered tempo . Many of the songs on Year Zero feature an extended instrumental ending , which encompasses the entire second half of the three @-@ minute long " The Great Destroyer " . Allmusic 's review described the album 's laptop @-@ mixed sound : " guitars squall against glitches , beeps , pops , and blotches of blurry sonic attacks . Percussion looms large , distorted , organic , looped , screwed , spindled and broken . "

Lyrical themes found in Nine Inch Nails songs are largely concerned with dark explorations of the self ranging from religion , greed , fame , lust , addiction , self @-@ deception , aging , regret , nihilism , and occasionally politics , with the latter topic often being scrutinized in Year Zero . Three of Nine Inch Nails ' recordings are concept albums : The Downward Spiral , follow @-@ up The Fragile , and the aforementioned Year Zero . With Teeth (under the working title Bleedthrough) was to be a concept album about an endless dream occurring in reality , but Reznor eventually took this idea out of the record .

= = = Influences = = =

Nine Inch Nails ' earliest influences include Ministry and Skinny Puppy , which helped shape what became 1989 's Pretty Hate Machine . The album 's liner notes also paid tribute to the hip @-@ hop group Public Enemy and Prince . Another large influence on the band 's sound is Gary Numan , which is evident as Reznor has been credited with saying , " after hearing ' Cars ' I knew I wanted to make music with synthesizers . " The 2005 single " Only " exemplifies the disco @-@ style beats and synthesizers drawn from Numan 's persuasion . Other artists of significance to Nine Inch Nails encompass late 70s and 80s acts such as Queen , Devo , Joy Division , Adam Ant , and Soft Cell .

Reznor had been fortunate enough to tour with some of his influences , including a brief tour opening for Skinny Puppy in 1989 . In 1995 Nine Inch Nails went on tour with David Bowie , who along with Pink Floyd had been a significant influence on The Downward Spiral .

= = Legacy = =

Nine Inch Nails has influenced many newer artists , which according to Reznor range from " generic imitations " dating from his initial success to younger bands echoing his style in a " truer , less imitative way " . Following the release of The Downward Spiral , mainstream artists began to take notice of Nine Inch Nails ' influence : David Bowie compared Reznor 's impact to that of The Velvet Underground . Bob Ezrin , producer for Pink Floyd , Kiss , Alice Cooper , and Peter Gabriel , described Reznor in 2007 as a " true visionary " and advised aspiring artists to take note of his no @-@ compromise attitude . Nine Inch Nails has been credited by music journalists for popularizing industrial music , despite ambivalence from Reznor .

The act has received four awards from 25 nominations , including two Grammy Awards for the songs " Wish " and " Happiness in Slavery " in 1993 and 1996 respectively . Nine Inch Nails have

received two Kerrang ! Awards ; one of them being the Kerrang ! Icon in 2006 , honoring the band 's overall contributions since 1988 and long @-@ standing influence on rock music . The band has also received nine nominations from the MTV Video Music Awards for several of its videos , including two nominations for the " Closer " music video and five nominations for " The Perfect Drug " music video , including Video of the Year .

In 1997 , Reznor appeared in Time magazine 's list of the year 's most influential people , and Spin described him as " the most vital artist in music " . The Recording Industry Association of America certified sales for 10 @.@ 5 million units of the band 's albums in the United States , which accounted for roughly half of the band 's reported sales worldwide at that time . In 2003 , Rolling Stone magazine placed The Downward Spiral at No. 200 in a 2003 list of The 500 Greatest Albums of All Time , and by the following year ranked Nine Inch Nails at No. 94 in their The 100 Greatest Artists of All Time list .

= = Live performances = =

Reznor is the sole official member of Nine Inch Nails . However , he has typically formed a backing group of musicians to perform the songs in a live setting . This live band , also known as Nine Inch Nails , rearranges the band 's studio catalog and creates a different sound than that of Reznor 's studio recordings . Band members have occasionally been invited to participate in the recording process , but creative control within the studio has always been exclusively with Reznor .

The Tapeworm project was created in 1995 as a Nine Inch Nails side @-@ project between Reznor and various live @-@ band members as a more " democratic " creative environment . The band initially included live band members Danny Lohner and Charlie Clouser , but eventually expanded to feature other frequent Nine Inch Nails contributors Josh Freese , Atticus Ross , and Alan Moulder . However , after 9 years of studio sessions , no material was ever officially released from the group , and it was confirmed to be no longer active in 2005 .

The lineup of the live band had a tendency to change drastically between major tours : aside from Reznor remaining on lead vocals , keyboards and guitar , no member of the live band had remained constant since its inception . Reznor cited the long gestation period between studio albums as part of the reason for these frequent personnel changes , as well as his desire for fresh interpretations of his music .

= = Corporate disputes = =

Reznor is an outspoken critic of the music industry , particularly the influence that music businesses have exerted upon his creative freedom . Nine Inch Nails has clashed with several music industry corporations , culminating in Reznor 's decision to proceed as an independent artist who does not employ the financial backing of the music industry to fund his creative output .

= = = TVT Records = = =

In the early 1990s , Nine Inch Nails was involved in a much @-@ publicized feud with TVT Records , the first record label to sign the band . Reznor objected to the label 's attempted interference with his intellectual property . Ultimately , they entered into a joint venture with Interscope Records in which Reznor forfeited a portion of his publishing rights to TVT Music in exchange for the freedom of having his own Nothing Records imprint . In 2005 , Reznor sued his former friend and manager John Malm , co @-@ founder of Nothing , for fraud , breach of contract and fiduciary duty , and other claims . Their relationship was formally severed in a New York courtroom , with damages awarded to Reznor in excess of three million US dollars .

At the behest of Prudential Securities bankruptcy proceedings , TVT put the rights to Reznor 's recordings for the label on auction in 2005 . This offer included the whole TVT catalog , including Pretty Hate Machine and a percentage of royalties from Reznor 's song publishing company , Leaving Hope Music / TVT Music . Rykodisc , which did not win the auction but was able to license

the rights from Prudential , reissued the out @-@ of @-@ print Pretty Hate Machine CD on November 22 , 2005 . Ryko also reissued the " Head Like a Hole " CD and a vinyl edition of Pretty Hate Machine in 2006 . The label considered releasing a deluxe edition , just as Interscope had done for The Downward Spiral . They were influenced by Reznor and liked the idea , but did not want to pay him for the album and the idea was scrapped .

= = = Universal Music Group = = =

In May 2007 , Reznor made a post on the official Nine Inch Nails website skeptical of Universal Music Group (parent company of Nine Inch Nails ' record label , Interscope Records) for their pricing and distribution plans for Year Zero . He labeled the company 's retail pricing of Year Zero in Australia as " ABSURD " , concluding that " as a reward for being a ' true fan ' you get ripped off . " Reznor went on to say that he hated Interscope , and in later years the " climate " of record labels may have an increasingly ambivalent impact on consumers who buy music . Reznor 's post , specifically his criticism of the recording industry at large , elicited considerable media attention . In September 2007 , Reznor continued his attack on UMG at a concert in Australia , urging fans there to " steal " his music online instead of purchasing it legally . Reznor went on to encourage the crowd to " steal and steal and steal some more and give it to all your friends and keep on stealin ' . "

Reznor announced on October 8 , 2007 , that Nine Inch Nails had fulfilled its contractual commitments to Interscope Records and was now free to proceed as a " totally free agent , free of any recording contract with any label " . Reznor also speculated that he would release the next Nine Inch Nails album online in a similar fashion to The Inevitable Rise and Liberation of NiggyTardust ! , which he produced . Reznor later released the first nine tracks of Ghosts I ? IV and the entirety of The Slip in 2008 for free download .

In another post on his website , Reznor again openly criticized Universal Music Group for preventing him from launching an official interactive fan remix website . Universal declined to host the site just days before its scheduled launch , citing the potential " accusation " , in Reznor 's words , " that they are sponsoring the same technical violation of copyright they are suing [other media companies] for " . Reznor wrote in response that he was " challenged at the last second to find a way of bringing this idea to life without getting splashed by the urine as these media companies piss all over each other 's feet " . Despite these obstacles , the remix website was launched in November 2007 .

= = = Other corporations = = =

Nine Inch Nails was scheduled to perform at the 2005 MTV Movie Awards , but withdrew from the show due to a disagreement with the network over the use of an unaltered image of George W. Bush as a backdrop to the band 's performance of " The Hand That Feeds " . Soon afterwards , Reznor wrote on his official website : " apparently , the image of our president is as offensive to MTV as it is to me . " MTV replied that it respected Reznor 's point of view , but was " uncomfortable " with the performance being " built around partisan political statements . " A performance by Foo Fighters replaced Nine Inch Nails ' time slot on the show . During the Lights in the Sky tour in 2008 , some performances of " The Hand that Feeds " had the image of Bush on a video screen behind the band . At some gigs leading up to the election , the face of Bush slowly morphed during the song into the face of John McCain .

In 2006 , after being alerted by a fan website , Reznor issued a cease and desist to Fox News Channel for using three songs from The Fragile on air without permission . The songs " La Mer " , " The Great Below " , and " The Mark Has Been Made " appeared in an episode of War Stories with Oliver North detailing the battle of Iwo Jima . A post appeared on Reznor 's blog , which read : " Thanks for the Fox News heads @-@ up . A cease and desist has been issued . FUCK Fox Fucking News . "

As part of the alternate reality game which accompanied the release of Year Zero , three tracks from the album were intentionally " leaked " prior to their official release at a number of Nine Inch

Nails concerts on USB flash drives . The high @-@ quality audio files quickly circulated the internet , and owners of websites hosting the files soon received cease and desist orders from the Recording Industry Association of America , despite the fact that the viral campaign , and the use of USB drives , was sanctioned by Nine Inch Nails ' record label . The source that broke the story was quoted as saying , " These fucking idiots are going after a campaign that the label signed off on . "

The music of Nine Inch Nails has reportedly been used by the U.S. military as music torture to break down the resolve of detainees . Reznor objected to the use of his music in this way with the following message on the front page of the Nine Inch Nails website : " It 's difficult for me to imagine anything more profoundly insulting , demeaning and enraging than discovering music you 've put your heart and soul into creating has been used for purposes of torture . If there are any legal options that can be realistically taken they will be aggressively pursued , with any potential monetary gains donated to human rights charities . Thank GOD this country has appeared to side with reason and we can put the Bush administration 's reign of power , greed , lawlessness and madness behind us . "

Aside from disagreements over the usage of Nine Inch Nails material , some corporations have dismissed content due to perceived obscenity . In 2009 , Apple rejected an update to Nine Inch Nails ' iPhone application , NIN : Access , because it found The Downward Spiral to contain " offensive or obscene content " , referring to the lyrical content . Reznor criticized their decision , citing the audio was also available through the iTunes application .

A similar incident involving digital content distribution occurred in 2013 when Nine Inch Nails re @-@ released the original 1993 film Broken on Vimeo . Within hours of launch , the video was removed due to a terms of service violation on material that " harass , incite hatred or depict excessive violence . "

= = Band members = =

Trent Reznor ? lead vocals , guitars , bass , keyboards , synthesizers , piano , programming (1988 ? present , the only official member)

Robin Finck ? guitar , synthesizers , backing vocals (1994 ? 2000 , 2008 ? 2009 , 2013 ? present)

Alessandro Cortini ? keyboards , synthesizers , guitar , backing vocals (2004 ? 2008 , 2013 ? present)

Ilan Rubin ? drums , percussion (2009 , 2013 ? present)

= = Discography = =

Pretty Hate Machine (1989)

Broken (EP , 1992)

The Downward Spiral (1994)

The Fragile (1999)

With Teeth (2005)

Year Zero (2007)

Ghosts I ? IV (2008)

The Slip (2008)

Hesitation Marks (2013)

= = Concert tours = =

Pretty Hate Machine Tour Series (1988 ? 1991)

Self Destruct Tour (1994 ? 1996)

Fragility Tour (1999 ? 2000)

Live : With Teeth Tour (2005 ? 2006)

Performance 2007 Tour (2007)

Lights in the Sky Tour (2008)

Wave Goodbye Tour (2009)
Twenty Thirteen Tour (2013 ? 2014)

= = Awards = =

Nine Inch Nails has been nominated for 13 Grammy Awards and has won awards on two occasions
? for " Wish " in 1992 and " Happiness in Slavery " in 1995 :

" Wish " ? Best Metal Performance , 1992 (recipient)

The Downward Spiral ? Best Alternative Music Performance , 1995 (nomination)

" Happiness in Slavery " (from Woodstock ' 94 compilation) ? Best Metal Performance , 1995 (recipient)

" Hurt " ? Best Rock Song , 1996 (nomination)

" The Perfect Drug " ? Best Hard Rock Performance , 1997 (nomination)

The Fragile ? Best Alternative Music Performance , 1999 (nomination)

" Starfuckers , Inc . " ? Best Metal Performance , 1999 (nomination)

" Into the Void " ? Best Male Rock Vocal Performance , 2000 (nomination)

" The Hand That Feeds " ? Best Hard Rock Performance , 2005 (nomination)

" Every Day Is Exactly the Same " ? Best Hard Rock Performance , 2006 (nomination)

" 34 Ghosts IV " ? Best Rock Instrumental Performance , 2009 (nomination)

Ghosts I ? IV ? Best Boxed Set or Limited Edition Package , 2009 (nomination)

Hesitation Marks ? Best Alternative Music Album , 2013 (nomination)