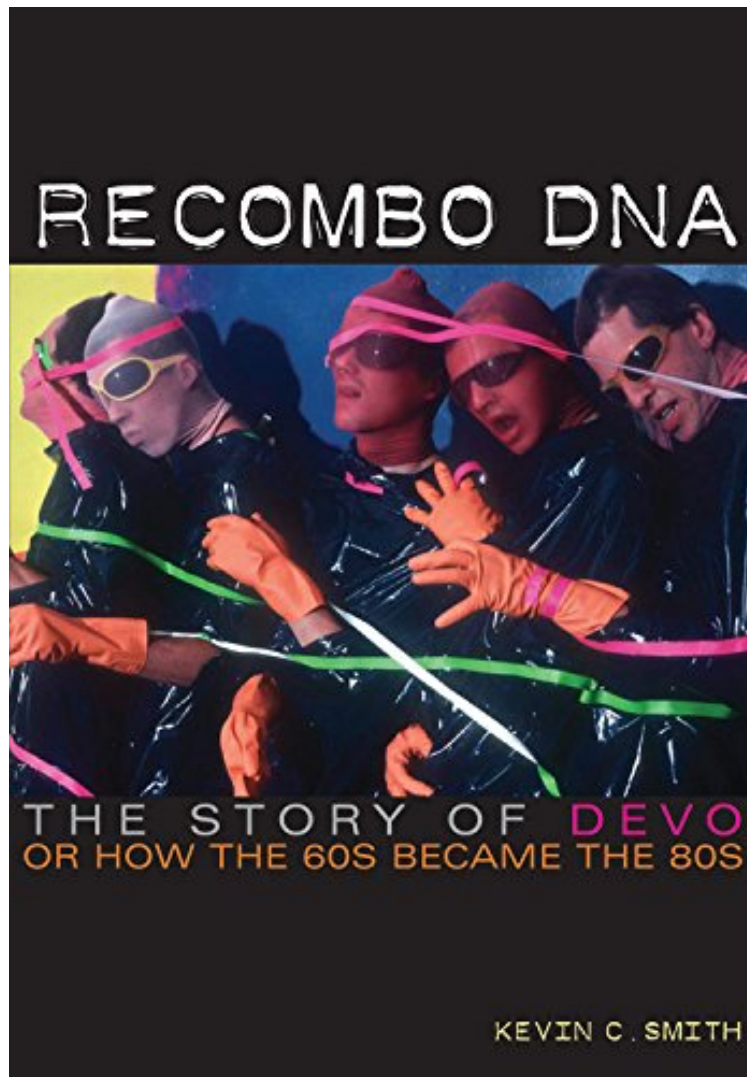


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## Recombo DNA: The story of Devo, or how the 60s became the 80s

*Kevin C. Smith*

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**Kevin C. Smith : Recombo DNA: The story of Devo, or how the 60s became the 80s** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Recombo DNA: The story of Devo, or how the 60s became the 80s:

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. To learn more about Devo By Milo I enjoyed a lot this book . At first I thought it was very similar to 'We Are Devo!' , especially because it covers the same time period, but then I thought " Hey, it's always so entertaining and lots of fun to read about this incredible band !" And in fact there's lots of new things to be learned about the 'evolution' of the band , just until the release of the great 'Duty Now For The Future' album. Yes, if 'Are We Not Men?' is commonly and widely regarded as Devo's masterpiece , new information is found

in this book about the 'cult' recording of 'Duty Now' . A detailed musical analysis is offered to the reader including the interesting time signatures of the songs 'Blockhead' and 'Strange Pursuit'. There are lots of interesting comparisons to other artists of the time (Gary Panter, The Residents, Kraftwerk) , and we also learn about the huge determination and discipline the band had to go through to achieve their vision and style. When Devo first appeared , nothing like that ever existed that so sharply incorporated advanced technology, avangarde video art , odd philosophy all into one commercial new wave rock band. I hope more books will be published in the near future about the following years , the 80s through 90s and their phenomenal comeback in 2010 with 'Something For Everybody'. All the strange questions you have ever asked yourselves about Devo here they find some kind of logical answer . For example : 'Why Devo at one point was perceived by some as a fascist band ? Or were they just reporters ?' here you will find the answer. Or also : 'What is the mysterious book 'My Struggle' by Mark Mothersbaugh all about ?' I wish there was more insight about two members of the band : Bob 2 and Alan Myers, whom they are so fundamental to the sound and style of Devo. Also a better photo could have been chosen for the cover of the book. Eventually someone should publish a book about all the numerous outrageous costumes and related gadgets that Devo created through their de-evolution , a fashion reference book for the faithful spuds ! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Nice Book 1 By John Raimondo Good reading for any fan. Lots of stuff I knew....lots of stuff I didn't I recommend it for any fan 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Out of Mashed Potatoes, came Devo...and Devo was good By AJ Good, insightful and accurate...my friend likes it. He says it took him back to a time when he said he had plastic hair, and posters of potatoes on his wall.

Devo may have become synonymous with the crass commercialism of 80s new wave, but many of their inspirations and guiding principles are firmly rooted in the idealism of the 60s. They took a willfully non-traditional approach to the surprisingly conservative world of rock music, seeking inspiration instead from Dada and Pop Art, comic books and homemade electronics, and in the process becoming a sort of musical Zelig, crossing paths with everything from late 60s psychedelia to punk, krautrock to new wave. Their idiosyncratic philosophy may not always have been consistent, but it served as a deep well of inspiration, and led to them working with such legendary characters as art-rock pioneer Brian Eno and Beatles/Bowie engineer Ken Scott. Published to coincide with the groups 40th anniversary in 2013, *Recombo DNA* is the first book to evaluate in the proper context the innovations and accomplishments of this truly groundbreaking band. Beginning in 1970, with the transformative effects of the Kent State University shootings which the band-members witness firsthand, and ending a decade later with Devo on the cusp of superstardom (with "Whip It"), it traces the sounds and ideas that the group absorbed and in turn brought to prominence as unlikely rock stars. For anyone who has ever wondered where the band who fell to earth came from, here it the answer.

"The hidden history of 20th century America. Places Devo in the correct historical and artistic perspective, doing for the midwest mutants what *Lipstick Traces* did for the Sex Pistols." -Richard Metzger, *Dangerous Minds.net*"Kevin C. Smith's rigorously researched book digs deep into the cultural and historical context behind Devo and its genesis, providing the most detailed account of this influential band yet. Beginning against the backdrop of late '60s Kent State, *Recombo DNA* deftly probes the links between urban industrial history, avant-garde art, dada, experimental film, punk, krautrock, instrument technology, and pop culture ephemera that spawned the Devo aesthetic. Smith's impressive book is as much a history of the 70s as it is a biography of Devo, an illuminating chronicle of that decade's dramatic transformations, and the emergence of the new wave movement." -Theo Cateforis, author of *Are We Not New Wave? Modern Pop at the Turn of the 80s* and *The Rock History Reader*"Kevin C Smith's excellent, diligent book represents the first fully committed acknowledgement that Devo's other-worldview was always too conceptually knotty to be compressed into a mere soundbite." - Record Collector"Another angle, borne out by Kevin Smith's cataloguing of Casale's and Mothersbaugh's offbeat obsessions in *Recombo DNA*, is that in actively seeking out wrong-ness, these young spuds were equally seeking to appal themselves, shock themselves out of the American Dream ... a probing analysis." - *The Wire*"This book is almost as out of this world as 'the band who fell to earth'. Almost. An in-depth look at a seminal band's evolution in one of music's most important decades ever." - *Vive Le Rock*"For Smith, the Devo story is mainly what led up to their recording career, rather than what came after. ... Since Devo are anything but your typical rock band, a book about them should not be your typical rock book. ... My advice is to simply read the book, it is excellent." - *Blinded by Sound*About the Author Kevin C. Smith has written for numerous websites and publications including *PopMatters*, *Perfect Sound Forever*, *Tape Op*, *Synthmuseum*, and the *Storyscape Journal*. This is his first book. He is also a musician, songwriter, and producer whose musical projects include *The Artificial Sea* and *The Bureau Of Nonstandards*. He holds a Master's degree in Research Psychology from San Francisco State University and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Pittsburgh.