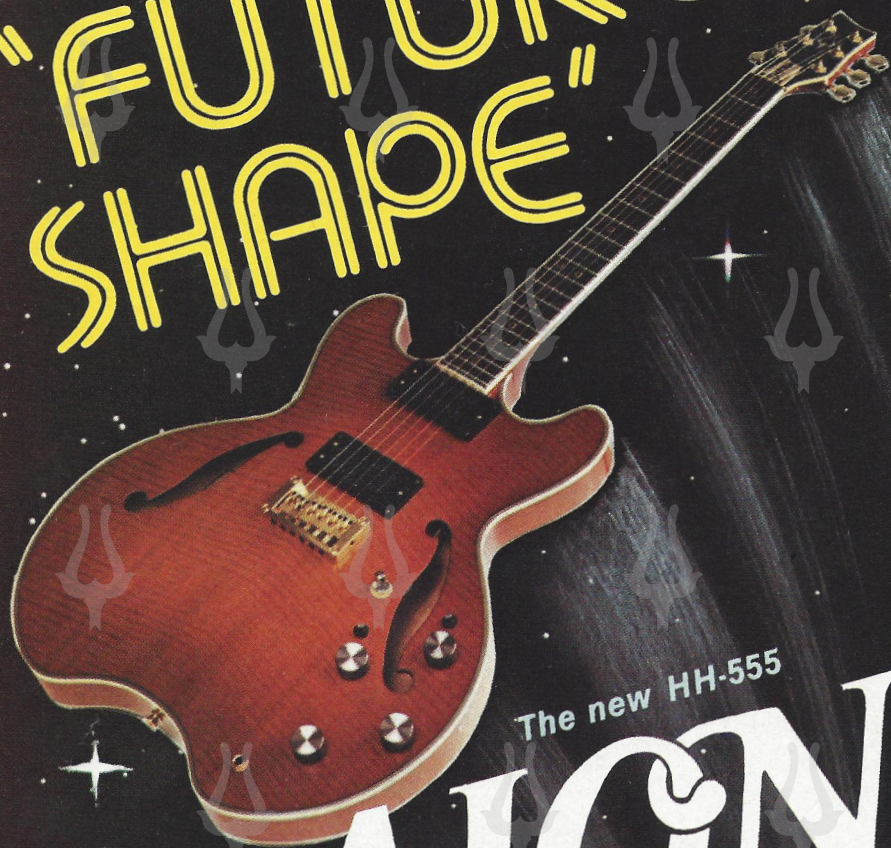


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JUDAS PRIEST

magical combination that has produced one of the best-sounding heavy metal albums ever. Featuring a gigantic drum sound and fat, distorted guitars, the Allom-Priest sound is rapidly becoming much sought after by other groups and nearly defines "state of the art" for the heavy metal recording genre.

Judas Priest has one of the most intense and elaborate stage shows in the business, relying on tons of smoke and flashpots, a massive PA and lighting system, and an amazing double-tiered stage that holds the drummer on a platform high above the main amplifier line. Lead singer Rob Halford, decked out in traditional S&M regalia, uses two high ramps, stage left and right, to work the crowd into a frenzy.

Today Glenn Tipton and K.K. Downing serve as role models for many aspiring heavy metal guitarists. It's refreshing and encouraging to note the vast technical improvements both guitarists have made—both in tone and playing ability—since their first album. Glenn's pentatonic, blues-based riffs blend exceptionally with K.K.'s more abstract, gut-wrenching tremolo bar solo work. Tipton's slow, melodic solo on "Beyond The Realms Of Death" from *Stained Class*, for example, builds up to a fast and frenzied lead break by Downing, showcasing a brilliant cross section of styles. Continuing in this tradition of compatibility are the guitarists' trade-off solos in "Screaming For Vengeance," which climax with an intense double-guitar harmony. Page 84 of this issue contains a song-by-song breakdown of the guitar solos on the last seven albums.

Over the last ten years Glenn Tipton and K.K. Downing have pushed and inspired each other to try new things. In doing so, they have had a similar positive influence on guitar players all over the globe who support and admire them.

* * * *

WITH SUCH A proliferation of heavy metal bands these days, it must be hard to maintain your individuality.

Downing: We pride ourselves on one thing: We don't sound like anybody else. A lot of bands copy. That's something we wouldn't want to do.

What was the best compliment about your playing you have ever received?

Tipton: We get a lot of compliments, particularly about our sound. We have struggled and put a lot of effort into our onstage sound. We find that the slightly different sounds we've got really do complement each other.

Downing: Of course, we've both had different people come up to us and ask us to join other pretty famous bands. That's pretty complimentary.

Do you inspire each other to become more proficient on your guitars?

Tipton: Definitely yes. There are a lot of times when we are dishing out a quarter of the lead break each, and Ken will come up