

THE OFFICIAL UK CHARTS

CHART FOCUS



With Easter gift-buying contributing to another bonanza week at retail, **Take That's** Greatest Hits is again the star performer, selling more than 170,000 copies in the week to take its two week tally past 450,000.

Another good performance comes from **Alison Moyet's** Singles album. A chart topper last May, it re-enters the chart at number 17 thanks to the addition of a free album of live material.

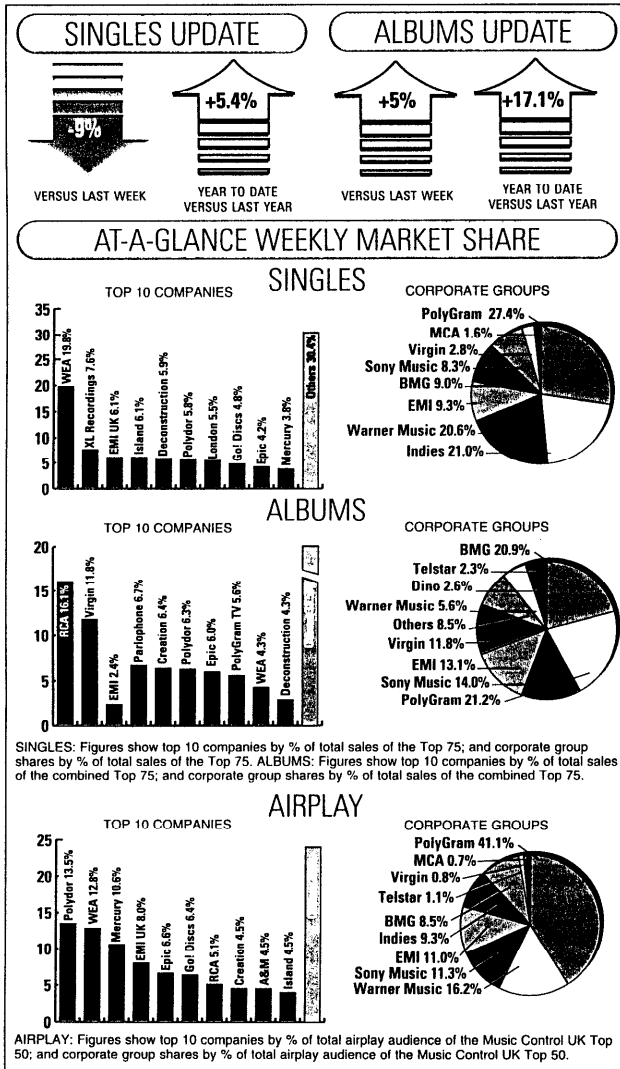
Another of Britain's most popular female performers, **Elkie Brooks**, registers her 13th charted album with *Amazing*, a newly recorded update of some of her best known songs, on which she is accompanied by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Elkie's album debuts at number 49, coincidentally settling next to **Robert Palmer's** resurgent (171-50) *Very Best Of*. The two veterans were joint lead singers of legendary early Seventies combo *Vinegar Joe*.

More surprisingly, even though they've had only two minor hit singles, neither of which progressed beyond number 18, German-based multinational hardcore techno act **Scotter** debuts at number 24 with their album *Our Happy Hardcore*. As is customary for this kind of music, Scotland accounts for most of the sales, though the act's popularity in Europe has made them familiar to viewers of MTV throughout the UK.

Back on the singles chart, **The Prodigy** are still on top with *Firestarter's* sales approaching 300,000 in three weeks. Two Marks are making their marks too, with **Mark Snow** - briefly atop the chart in mid-week, but finally falling 11% behind **The Prodigy** - still at number two and **Mark Morrison** proving *Return Of The Mack* is a solid smash, with a 6-6-4-3 chart career to date, fuelled by sales of 225,000.

The alternative hit version of the X Files, by **DJ Dado**, slips 8-9. Unlike **Mark Snow's** wholly instrumental version of the theme, the **DJ Dado** version includes a few spoken lyrics. Thus the Top 10 has still not contained rival wholly instrumental versions of the same song since 1956, when **Eddie Calvert** and **Perez Prado** fought it out with rival versions of *Cherry Pink & Apple Blossom White*.

There were considerably fewer new releases last week, with just seven new entries to the Top 40, compared to 18 in each of the two previous weeks. This, and the buying patterns of youngsters freed from school for the holidays, results in several records reversing declines to climb the chart anew. These include **Cast's** *Walkaway* (16-12), **PJ & Duncan's** *Stepping Stone* (24-20), **Luniz's** *I Got 5 On It* (26-21) and



Gabrielle's *Give Me A Little More Time* consolidated its lead at the top of the airplay

chart, where it has a 28% bigger audience than the new number two, **Mark Morrison's** *Return Of The Mack*. But the fastest breaking single since **The Beatles' Free As A Bird** is **George Michael's** *FastLove*, which clocked up 602 plays and an audience of over 45m after its premier last Monday - enough for it to debut at number five.

George's single, by comment consent a superior record to *Jesus To A Child*, drew widespread and immediate support, with Radio One giving it 21 spins and Capital Radio - traditionally George's biggest supporters - playing it a startling 64 times, 17 more than any other record. It was because of their support, and to help last year's *Help A London Child* campaign that George allowed Capital to exclusively air *Jesus To A Child* last Easter. Atlantic 252 didn't play *FastLove* at all last week, choosing as their hottest new add 3T's former chart-topper *Anything*.

Second only to **Oasis** in terms of Radio One support last year, **Pulp** ascend to the top of the station's playlist, garnering 30 plays of their latest, *Something Changed*, which is also catching on more widely, resulting in a leap from 14 to four nationally, even as it drops precipitously on the CIN chart. Another Radio One favourite, scoring 86% of its audience from the national broadcaster, is **2Pac's** *California Love*, which One spun 27 times last week, more than even specialist dance stations like *Kiss and Choice*.

Despite spending a third week at the top of the sales chart, **The Prodigy's** *Firestarter* still can't convince radio of its worth. Radio One is again the prime supporter here, giving the song - its number one a fortnight ago - 29 important spins to account for 82% of its audience. Number two on the Radio One chart and number 21 nationally, *Firestarter* is only number 89 on the ILR chart.

At Virgin 1215, **Garbage** still command the largest audience, their 32 plays contributing to a slightly larger listenership than **Pulp's** *Something Changed*, which was also played 32 times.

After a slight recovery last week, **The Beatles' Real Love** slumps from 34 to 79. Records moving in the right direction but currently in the twilight zone between 51 and 100 on the airplay chart include **Black Box's** *I Got The Vibration* (101-55), **Meat Loaf's** *Runnin' For The Red Light* (*I Gotta Life*) new at 82 and **LAD's** *Ridin'* low new at 83.

Alan Jones

Boyzone's *Coming Home Now* (29-25).

Though one of the Top 40 newcomers with their update of **Fleetwood Mac's** *Don't Stop*, **Status Quo's** slump continues. Unless *Don't Stop* makes a dramatic improvement on its number 35 debut it will be the Quo's ninth single in a row to peak in the bottom half of the Top 40.

Another cover making the Top 40 this week is **Suggs'** update of **Simon & Garfunkel's** *Cecilia*, which debuts at number 33. **Simon & Garfunkel's** *Bridge Over Troubled Water* is one of Britain's 20 biggest selling albums of all time, and *Cecilia* is the fifth song from it to provide a hit for others. In 1970 **Julie Felix**

reached number 19 with *El Condor Pasa* (*If I Could*), while **Marsha Hunt** peaked at number 41 with *Keep The Customer Satisfied*. **Bridge Over Troubled Water** was twice a hit in strident dance versions, reaching number 28 for **Linda Clifford** in 1979, and number 21 for **Hannah Jones** in 1991. And *Everything But The Girl's* cover of *The Only Living Boy In New York* climbed to number 42 in 1992. **Simon & Garfunkel** themselves pulled only one hit from the album, the title track topping the chart for three weeks in 1970.

Alan Jones

● Due to a production error last week the Top 10 Dance singles were reproduced in the Top 10 Dance Album chart.



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