



# THE OFFICIAL UK CHARTS

# CHART FOCUS

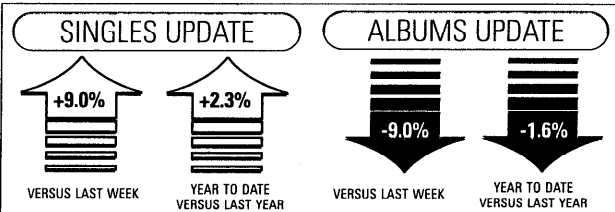


**Hanson's** historic reign atop both the singles and albums charts comes to an abrupt end this week, with two new debuts pushing the youngsters out of pole position. Hanson's MmmBop declines from one to three on the singles chart, though it sold a further 70,000 copies last week to bring its total to nearly 540,000 after just four weeks on sale.

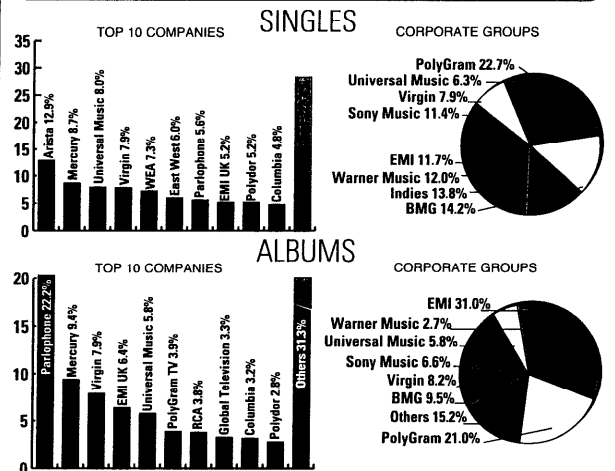
The other four records in the top five are all new entries, for the first time ever. One of them, **Verve's** Bitter Sweet Symphony, held a slender midweek advantage but was eventually overwhelmed by another, **Puff Daddy and Faith Evans's** I'll Be Missing You. A tribute to the late Notorious B.I.G., I'll Be Missing You sold 109,000 copies last week, more than this year's average number one but the smallest tally for five weeks following the huge sales returned by both **Eternal** and **Hanson**. I'll Be Missing You is based on The Police's Every Breath You Take, which was the band's fourth and last number one and was, coincidentally, in the middle of a four-week stint at the summit exactly 14 years ago this week.

Hanson's Middle Of Nowhere album dips to number three, displaced by **Jon Bon Jovi's** Destination Anywhere and **Radiohead's** OK Computer. The group Bon Jovi topped the chart with each of their last four albums, but this is Jon's second album outside the group and the second time he's had to settle for number two, having been unlucky with his Blaze of Glory/Young Guns II Soundtrack. Destination Anywhere sold 34,000 copies last week - more than Hanson or **Wu-Tang Clan** sold in topping the charts in the previous two weeks - but was unfortunate to clash with the release of Radiohead's third album, which achieved a massive sale of 136,500. It's easily Radiohead's most successful album, topping the number 25 peak of Pablo Honey and the number six peak of The Bends. Both these albums benefit too, climbing 48-39 and 64-51 respectively.

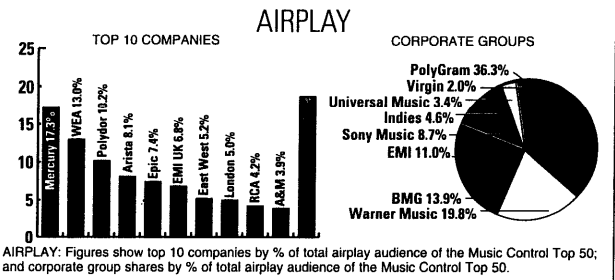
Back on the singles chart, **Blur** and **Depeche Mode** both released the third single of the year from long awaited number one albums after registering their best back to back hit singles to date - and met with mixed fortunes. Blur followed up the number one hit Beetlebum and the number two Song II with On Your Own, which didn't fare quite so well but debuted at number five, giving them three top five hits off an album for the first time and the honour of being the only act to snag a trio of top five hits in the first half of 1997. But, after consecutive top five hits with Barrel Of A Gun and It's No Good, Depeche Mode stumble in at number 23 this week with Home.



## AT-A-GLANCE WEEKLY MARKET SHARE



**SINGLES:** Figures show top 10 companies by % of total sales of the Top 75; and corporate group shares by % of total sales of the Top 75. **ALBUMS:** Figures show top 10 companies by % of total sales of the combined Top 75; and corporate group shares by % of total sales of the combined Top 75.



**AIRPLAY:** Figures show top 10 companies by % of total airplay audience of the Music Control Top 50; and corporate group shares by % of total airplay audience of the Music Control Top 50.

Unless it improves, the release will become their lowest charting single (excluding the Little 15 import) since 1986's A Question Of Lust.

It was a mixed week for the **Bee Gees**, whose I Could Not Love You More single plummets like a stone, falling 14-42, while Fugee **Wyclef Jean's** We Trying To Stay Alive, a hip hop restyling of their Stayin' Alive hit complete with samples of their vocals, debuts at 13.

Stayin' Alive was already the Gibb brothers' most popular song, and has now charted for five different acts in different forms. After their own original reached four in 1978, a reggae

remake by Richard Ace peaked at number 66. Another reggae take on the song by Tippa Irie reached 49 in 1995 to be completely eclipsed later that year by N Trance's rap/dance update which peaked at two.

Finally, the reformed **Echo & The Bunnymen** must have been a little dismayed that the Ballyhoo best of album issued by their old label Korova could only make it to number 59 last week but cheered by the arrival at number eight this week of Nothing Lasts Forever. Their first new single in nine years, it instantly equals their previous chart peak, attained by 1983's The Cutter.

**Alan Jones**



Radio play of **Hanson's** MmmBop single declined last week for the first time in its eight-week chart life, but it lost fewer listeners than **Eternal's** I Wanna Be The Only One with the result that, as it did in the singles chart four weeks ago, the Hanson disc has dethroned the Eternal one. Both records still logged more than 2,000 plays last week and, with a significant gap between them and the chasing pack, they'll probably extend their three-week lock on the top two places.

Meanwhile, the record that replaces Hanson at the top of the sales chart - **Puff Daddy and Faith Evans's** I'll Be Missing You - has a lot of catching up to do if it is to do likewise on the airplay chart. It has moved 108-41-15-12 thus far. Though its latest move is its smallest in numerical terms, it conceals the record's biggest leap in airplay yet, moving from 391 to 655 plays in a week with the largest single contribution coming from Capital Radio. The London station aired the track 50 times last week, five times fewer than **Rosie Gaines' Closer Than Close**, which registered an unusually high (for Capital) 55 plays, fuelling its own 6-5 climb on the airplay chart.

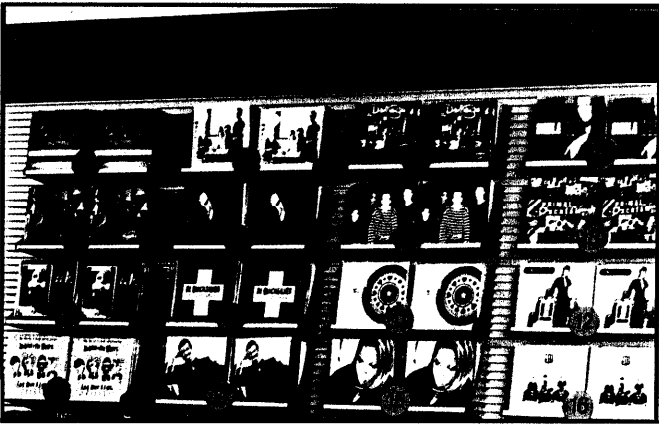
After it was premiered on Radio One on Friday, **Oasis's** new single D'You Know What I Mean managed to accumulate more than 90 plays from radio by midnight on Saturday. The record thus gains a toehold on the airplay chart at number 50 and it's safe to say it will experience dramatic growth before next week's chart.

Also proving a popular addition to playlists is History, from **Michael Jackson's** Blood On The Dancefloor: History In The Mix album. An initial return of 367 plays - 17 of them from Capital and a dozen from Radio One - give it a number 41 debut this week.

Likely to be fighting for pole position in the sales chart next week, **Sash's** Ecuador has been around for at least seven weeks. The fact it was aired so long before being made commercially available may well have hurt its airplay opportunities and, though Radio One remains a staunch supporter with a further 14 plays logged last week, the track claims only 39th place on the airplay chart.

After three weeks in the Top 10 of the sales chart, **Mr President's** Coco Jamboo single continues to find airplay a tougher nut to crack. The European smash owes much of its popularity here to saturation exposure on cable channel The Box and seemed to be getting into its radio stride last week, when it jumped 45-23. It's already losing audience however and eases back 23-26 this week.

**Alan Jones**



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