

**Ikara Colt**  
***Basic***  
***Instructions***  
***EP***

Epitaph  
Records



By Dan Marek  
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Following up their American debut *Chat & Business*, UK punk rockers Ikara Colt deliver an EP slightly left of field of their no holds barred approach and off the handle banter.

*C&B* showed audiences you really don't need more than a drummer without rest, a hot female guitarist with gritty licks beyond her age, a bass player straight out of the Pistol camp and a lead singer with no boundaries to his stage presence and scream-your-head-off vocals. With *Basic Instructions*, the band shows that even in the space of one year, their style has grown vast dimensions not so prevalent on their debut.

Instead of focusing on the raw attitude of the band, the studio precision and melodic overtones prevail on songs like "May B 1 Day #2," which blends more electronic elements like loops and moog-style ambience.

The dramatic elements of the song build like their normal fare, but with Massive Attack-style backgrounds and fuzz-boxed vocals they prove that the UK mainstream may actually have some kind of influence over them.

Not forgetting the punk-rock element, "Bring It To Me" shows their roots a little more with poppy rhythms, over-the-top distortion and chanting choruses. Blending the two styles on "Don't They Know," they find the perfect complement to their method.

Drummer Dominic Young plays the high hat like a madman while bassist Jon Ball keeps it tight, but guitarist Claire Ingram chimes in with a perfect overlay while backing singer Paul Resende on harmonies.

With "Panic," Ingram's guitar work prevails all over the track. Combative, grueling and ear-piercing, she rips up the song while Resende screams out "What the hell do you know anyway?" Pure chaos at some points, you'll be positive the song is about to break apart into white noise until remarkably, they come back together to grind it out till the very end.

Surely a unique listen for Ikara fans, *Basic Instructions* provides a small glimpse into what we have in store from the band.