

Krautrock Bible

Paul Rigby takes in the ultimate reference book for fans of Germany's Krautrock records.

Cosmic Price Guide: To Original Krautrock Records
 Author: Ulrich Klatte
 Price: £25/ 38

Krautrock records represent a particular outpouring of music from Germany, during the late sixties and through the seventies. The genre was unique in only emanating from and being associated with a single country. Unlike most music genres which indicated a tipping point for a smouldering social evolutionary period (i.e. rock'n'roll, hippy/psychedelia, punk, etc), Krautrock was apart. It was a reaction to an event that emerged from their own doorstep. The ending of World War II spawned a host of trailing emotional reactions in Germany including guilt, confusion, shame, defiance, feigned ignorance and a whole lot more. Many wanted to forget as soon as possible.

The next generation growing up after the war, those who hit their teens around the late sixties and seventies, tried to make sense of it all, especially of their parents and the country they were living in. Krautrock was also different because it was not a single genre of music (it included rock of many different types, folk, avant-garde improv, electronica, singer-songwriter and so on), although it was distinctly European, as opposed to American influenced but it did feature an attitude that reflected the social angst.

This price guide looks at many of

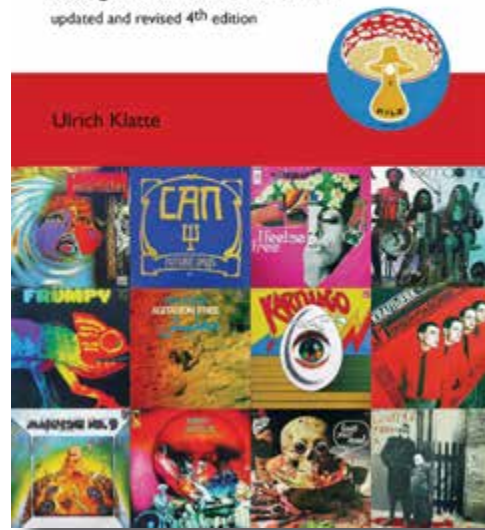
the albums that were released from the period. Spanning 448 pages and offering 3,000 hi-res colour images. The hardback book spans 21.5cm high and 15cm wide. It's an ideal size for the working fan. That is, someone who needs a ready reference on site, as it were: at a record fair, in a shop, in front of a collection and so on. An additional, simple yet important tool to aid that is the ribbon bookmark – a life saver in a rushed situation.

This tome is the updated and revised '4th edition' and it's divided into several sections. The useful introduction (available in English and German) discusses condition and price value, including how a rare LP's price value can leap with the addition of fragile original accessories such as a poster or sleeve-mounted sticker, as well a mini-biographies of some of the principle Krautrock artists.

What follows is a dense, close-typed A-Z listing of selected LPs including the band, LP title, label, catalogue and price. Many of the latter are pricey but, even so, remain surprisingly conservative in value which, to my mind is a good thing. Hopefully it will act as a brake to the often crazy prices that certain greedy dealers (of whatever stripe) love to quote. I would even take this book along to a prospective sale as a weapon in your defence against such excessive practices.

COSMIC PRICE GUIDE

to original KRAUTROCK records
 updated and revised 4th edition



The following section is a breathtaking selection of LP sleeves. Almost 200 pages of the things, twelve to a page and all clearly printed. It's a staggering achievement to feature such a wealth of reference imagery.

Following this section is another detailing paper record labels, poster inserts, photographs and more.

Then you are treated to a list of actual record labels with the bands and records associated with them.

This book doesn't include absolutely every record of the type. It doesn't pretend to – but it does feature the important and the significant and much that is rare and obscure.

For such a compact and, for its size, surprisingly weighty book 'The Cosmic Price Guide' is a brilliant addition to the Krautrock price guide armoury for collectors and buyers of the same. More than that, for the basic fan of the genre, it's a great book just to browse through while, in educational terms, it also adds awareness of unknown LPs by favourite groups and previously unknown artists.

Contact: www.cpg-books.com
 or call 01323 736598 for local dealer information.