

ROBIN GUY

We interviewed Vintage endorsees **Bernie Tormé** and **John McCoy** about their new trio, **GMT**. That was the 'M' and 'T'. Here's the 'G', drummer **Robin Guy**, a man who once put a stick through his eyelid...

Notable on his own for being probably the only drummer to have both (Iron Maiden vocalist) **Bruce Dickinson** AND the **Bay City Rollers** on his CV (you really need a wider variety of acts, Robin – sarcastic Ed) *Gear* magazine sat Robin Guy down long enough to grab this quick update! *Gear* has actually featured Robin before, many issues ago, playing for **Rachel Stamp** – he's an enthusiastic and creative user of **Rhythm Tech** percussion. Too enthusiastic even; careful with that stick, you'll have someone's eye out with that. Probably your own... oh, too late.



So – how many bands are you actually in this week, Robin?

"Right about now, I'm in/drumming for (breathes in); **GMT**, **Swans In Flight**, **Conspirators**, **Bay City Rollers**, **Doom Day**, **Dan Crisp**, **Martin Barre**, **Sack Trick**, **Eat This**, **DRP & The Witches**, **Billy Liar**... I should be a professional juggler!"

OK, but they can't all be out playing at exactly the same time, so what are all these bands up to?

"**GMT** is releasing a second album, 'Evil Twin' which we'll be touring to support. 'Swans In Flight' (see last issue re-release of this special CD – Ed) are playing shows (including two nights at Earls Court in November) promoting the album. **Conspirators** have just finished recording, produced by **Bernie Tormé** at his Barnroom Studios and have shows coming up, including **Clive Aid**, a benefit for MS sufferer **Clive Burr**, the ex-Iron Maiden drummer.

Bay City Rollers (Eric Faulkner division!) do clubs, theatres, festivals and arenas in Germany. Yes – I wear the tartan! (this man has no shame – McEd). **Doom Day** is a hardcore project involving a Turkish bass player, a Bulgarian singer, myself and **Gizz Butt**, the former **Prodigy** guitarist – we're also finishing off our second album. **Dan Crisp** is a singer/songwriter/guitarist from Devon and we've been doing festivals, clubs and showcases. **Martin Barre**, the **Jethro Tull** guitarist, **Dan Crisp**, bassist **Al Bray** and I are doing a UK tour in December, then hopefully to Europe. I've also been playing shows with **Sack Trick**, **DRP & The Witches** (featuring **David Ryder-Prangley** – we were in **Rachel Stamp's** band together), recording a second album for **Eat This** and an EP for Scottish acoustic punk sensation **Billy Liar**, produced by **Acey Slade**, ex-**Murderdolls**). Phew..."

Hmm, all this from a drummer who managed to put a stick through his eyelid onstage... ouch.

"Hah, oops, yeah, on tour in the USA, I put a stick through my eyelid whilst onstage. I needed stitches but it healed up OK – so I guess those nylon tip sticks are more sterile after all...!"

Give us your favourite piece of kit for doing wacky stuff on...

"For crazy sounds, you can't beat **Rhythm Tech** stuff – I absolutely swear by a thing called a 'Ribbon Crasher' – 3 strips of metal loosely held together which makes a glorious racket! You can use it as a lead (like hi-hat or ride) or as a backbeat to create the most dirty, industrial yet organically funky sounds! Creative usefulness at its best! **Rhythm Tech** also do a **Skratcher**, a **Moonblock** and a kit-mount tambourine – the **Skratcher** is actually a **cabasa** that you can attach to your kit and 'scratch' with your hand – all the while laying down a groove! The **Moonblock** mimics a 'cross stick rimshot' – which is super-handy as you don't have to flatten the stick across the snare to get the sound! It's also indestructible... to which I can testify!" (Somehow, if this man says something is indestructible, I believe it – sceptical Ed)



The Ribbon Crasher can also be played hand-held like shakers.
RTRC Ribbon Crasher 15" - £39.99

What's next, dare we ask..?

"A lie-in would be nice... I'm doing two drum clinics and a show with **Swans In Flight** at **Birmingham's Music Live**, then playing **Bass Day** with bass superstar **TM Stevens** (Steve Vai/**James Brown**/**Pretenders** etc) which should be wicked! Keep an eye out for my 'Tricks, Double Kicks & Showmanship Tips' drum clinics, as they're lotsa fun, totally groove-tastic, and packed full of advice such as 'How to survive 55 shows in 60 days' and 'How to play two shows, with two different bands, in two different countries... ON THE SAME DAY! I've also just finished building my studio so am now teaching one-on-one lessons – get in touch! Cheers, **GEAR** – see you on the road!"



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