

# Metallica - Kill Em All

By Ryan Clark

## Introduction To The Band:

Rhythm Guitar, Vocals - James Hetfield

Born August 3rd, 1963, Downey, California



Bass - Cliff Burton

Born February 10th, 1962, Castro Valley California

Died September 27th, 1983, Dorarp, Sweden



Drums - Lars Ulrich

Born December 26th, 1963, Gentofte Municipality, Denmark



Lead guitar - Kirk Hammett

Born November 18th 1962, San Francisco, California



### Formation:

On the day of October 28th, 1981, lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist James Hetfield responded to a newspaper ad that drummer Lars Ulrich had put together.

Shortly after, they contacted Hetfield's friend Ron McGovney to act as their bassist and Dave Mustaine to play Lead guitar. Ron Quintana, a friend in the heavy metal scene in the bay area, would ultimately give them the name Metallica.

Their rise in popularity did not take long, for the members would always be hard at work, coming up with new ideas anywhere they might find themselves. As the success started, so did the search for a new bassist. Cliff Burton, who was at the time playing bass in a band known as 'Trauma' was eventually convinced to leave his band. In exchange, he would replace McGovney and act as Metallica's new bassist.

John Zazula, a metal merchant on the east coast, took a liking to Metallica and their sound, later helping them get a record deal with Megaforce and amidst all this new leeway, Lead guitarist Kirk Hammett emerged. Kirk was playing with a band known as 'Exodus' at the time, but later decided to separate in favor of replacing Dave Mustaine as Lead guitarist for Metallica. These four would go on to make the foundation and unique Metallica sound that we all know and love today.

## The Album: Kill Em All



On May 10th, 1983, the foundation of one of the greatest metal bands to grace this planet began production for their first masterpiece. At Music America in Rochester New York, for the next 17 days the band would experiment and work out the details and inner workings of this album, from Hetfield's Insane vocals to Hammets inhumanly complex guitar riffs, they would create something the world had never truly seen until the day of July 25th 1983, which would mark the release day for this magnificent work of art.

### Tracklist:

1. Hit The Lights \*
2. The Four Horseman \*
3. Motorbreath
4. Jump In The Fire \*
5. (Anesthesia)--Pulling Teeth \*
6. Whiplash
7. Phantom Lord
8. No Remorse \*
9. Seek & Destroy \*
10. Metal Militia

NOTE: Tracks Marked With a \* Have Featured Descriptions

## Star Track Outlines:

### 1. Hit The Lights

This title track is an exemplary opener for an album. Starting off with a mass of constant guitar and drums, similar to Phil Spector's 'Wall Of Sound' then quickly transitioning into a lightning fast riff from Hammet. Minimal but impressive vocals from Hetfield. Throughout this track accentuate the astounding instrumental prowess of his bandmates. Consistently chaotic and keeping your mind on its toes, a great opening track to get the excitement bubbling for the rest of this album.

### 2. The Four Horseman

Easily one of the most recognisable songs on this album because of the insane guitar skills of Kirk Hammett, 'The Four Horseman' is a staple track from this album.

Once again showing the band's adept musical abilities and out of the box ideas for patterns to play. The most commendable aspect of this track is the guitar solo around the middle of the track where Hammett again shows his musical fortitude and designed one of my favorite guitar riffs to date, if you listen closely you can hear similar notes to their song 'Seek & Destroy' seen later on this album.

### 3. Jump In The Fire

Not to say this album is laid back in the slightest, but this song features a slower, more defined guitar with more vocals from Hetfield than previous featured tracks. The best of this track's sound comes from Hammett's lead guitar, again presenting us with another magnificent solo later in the track.

### 4. (Anesthesia) Pulling Teeth

Being my second favorite track on this album, starting out with an immensely powerful bass solo from Burton which lasts most of the track, this is easily the most unique song on the album with drums only appearing at around 2:30 into the song.

### 5. No Remorse

Immediately opening with a fiery guitar solo, this track keeps a consistent speed throughout and has a nice rough tone to match.

6. Seek & Destroy

Most definitely my favorite track on this album, it opens with one of the most iconic riffs Metallica has produced. The pattern in which the vocals are arranged helps make sure the instrumentation is not overshadowed but instead is working in synchronicity to elevate both parts.

Conclusion:

This debut album set the stage for many modern sub genres of rock, as well as influencing many other cultural aspects. A true staple of early rock and roll, but also a staple of Metallica's amazing sound. Out of 5 stars i would happily give this album all 5 stars.