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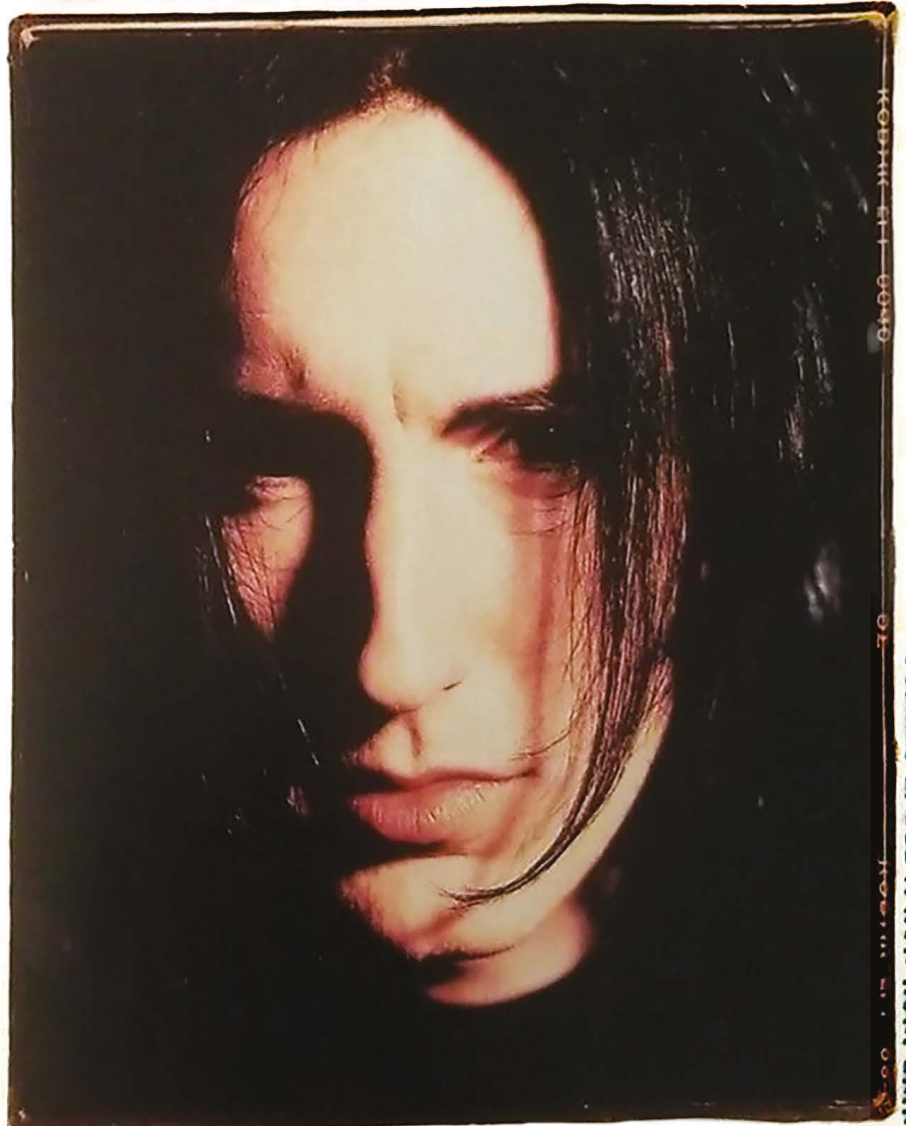
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# GUITAR CLINIC



by Nick Bowcott

## DEMON SHREDDER, DANZIG'S JOHN CHRIST

With its combination of pagan-demonic lyrics and crunchy riffs, Danzig sounds like the ghost of The Doors possessing the body of AC/DC. Fronted by moody, musclebound Glenn Danzig (formerly with the legendary punk band The Misfits), Danzig is casting a powerful spell on loudness freaks with its hit EP, *Thrall-Demonsweatlive*. This scorching live set captures Danzig's dark powers at peak intensity.

The force behind Danzig's crunch is guitarist John Christ. A Baltimore native, John began playing acoustic at age 12, but switched to electric after hearing Ted Nugent's "Cat Scratch Fever." Other sources of inspiration for the black-clad six-stringer included Frank Marino (of Mahogany Rush), the much-missed Jimi Hendrix and Angus Young of AC/DC.

John's scope, however, extends beyond guitarists. To gain fresh ideas, he cops lines from other instruments. If you haven't tried this, you should really give it a whirl. Emulating an instrument like a saxophone (which other notable guitarists like Jimmy Page and Allan Holdsworth have tried) is a challenge that will open new doors in your playing, because it forces you to approach the guitar in a totally different way. This practice might be somewhat frustrating at first, but stick with it. In the long run, it'll pay off greatly.

John's main weapons, however, are, tried-and-true metal techniques. Below are two excerpts from one of Danzig's heaviest moments: the classic "Her Black Wings" which first appeared on the *Danzig II—Lucifuge* album.

*Example 1* illustrates the driving, palm-muted, single-note riff that opens this F# minor-based song. Notice how the repeated phrase climbs chromatically (one fret at a time) from E through F to F# and so provides the line with its sense of ominous tension.

In *Example 2*, John develops this riff further by adding two heavy-metal staples. These are the inverted power



Danzig's John Christ began playing acoustic at age 12, but switched to electric after hearing Ted Nugent.

### "Her Black Wings" Christ's riffs from hell

Example 1—

N.C.

P.M.

TAB

2 2 0 1 2 2 0 1 2 2 0 1 2 2 0 1

Example 2—

N.C. B5/F# A5/E N.C.

P.M.

TAB

2 2 0 1 2 2 0 1 2 0 0 2 2 0 1 2 2 0 1 2 5 2 3

chords (B5/F# and A5/E) at the end of Bar 1 and the evil tritone interval (three tones: F# to C in this instance) at the end of Bar 2. Inverted power chords and the tritone are topics we've discussed more than once in past "Guitar Clinics." So if you've forgotten about 'em, start

thumbing through your back issues.

Enjoy these two chest-pounding riffs. See you next month.

Nick Bowcott, former guitarist for Grim Reaper, is currently with the group *Diabolus in Musica*.



Only a Gibson is Good Enough.