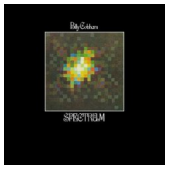
Billy Cobham – Spectrum (1973)



1. Quadrant 4 (4:20) 2. Searching For The Right Door / Spectrum (6:33) - a. Searching For The Right Door (1:24) - b. Spectrum (5:09) 3. Anxiety / Taurian Matador (4:44) - a. Anxiety (1:41) - b. Taurian Matador (3:03) 4. Stratus (9:50) 5. To The Women In My Life / Le Lis (4:11) - a. To The Women In My Life (0:51) - b. Le Lis (3:20) 6. Snoopy's Search / Red Baron (7:39) - a. Snoopy's Search (1:02) - b. Red Baron (6:37) - Billy Cobham - percussion, Moog synth drum (4,6b), producer + - Tommy Bolin - guitar - John Tropea - guitar (5b) - Jan Hammer - electric & acoustic piano, Moog synthesizer - Joe Farrell - flute (2b), soprano (2b) & alto (5b) saxophones - Jimmy Owens - flugelhorn (2b,5b), trumpet (5b) - Lee Sklar - Fender bass - Ron Carter - acoustic bass (2b,5b) - Ray Barretto - congas (2b,5b)

Cobham's first album as a leader, in 1973--a jazz-rock classic. As on his slightly earlier outings with Mahavishnu Orchestra, Cobham dazzles with rapid-fire pyrotechnics. But, listening carefully, he also does his job of rhythmic support--for this, he calls on his roots in drum-corps and Latin timbale drumming. His compositions here set fire to a stunningly tight band. The scowling, scurrying, skirmishing performance by the late rock-guitar ace, Tommy Bolin, is particularly memorable. He merges beautifully with Cobham's Mahavishnu bandmate, Jan Hammer (Moog/keyboards), who eggs Bolin on with warp-speed synthesized guitar sounds. The band was just as involved rhythmically as McLaughlin's, but had a gritty rapid-transit flavor where Mahavishnu was in spiritual quest. --Peter Monaghan, amazon.com

Drummer Billy Cobham was fresh from his success with the Mahavishnu Orchestra when he recorded his debut album, which is still his best. Most of the selections showcase Cobham in a quartet with keyboardist Jan Hammer, guitarist Tommy Bolin, and electric bassist Lee Sklar. Two other numbers include Joe Farrell on flute and soprano and trumpeter Jimmy Owens with

guitarist John Tropea, Hammer, bassist Ron Carter, and Ray Barretto on congas. The generally high-quality compositions (which include "Red Baron") make this fusion set a standout, a strong mixture of rock-ish rhythms and jazz improvising. ---Scott Yanow, Rovi

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