

Nova □ – Blink (1975)

Written by bluesever

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1 *Taylor Made Part1, Part2* 5:12 2 *Something Inside Keeps You Down Part1, Part2* 6:26
3 *Nova Part1, Part2* 7:04 4 *Used To Be Easy Part1, Part2* 5:07 5 *Toy Part1, Part2* 4:24 6
Stroll On Part1, Part2 10:08 Corrado Rustici — lead guitar, acoustic guitar, electric guitar, vocals Danilo Rustici — guitar Luciano Milanese — bass, vocals Franco Loprevite — drums Elio D'Anna — alto saxophone (2, 3, 5), soprano saxophone (1, 3, 4), tenor saxophone (5, 6), flute (2) + Maurice Pert — percussion

First album by an Osana-Cervello offshoot and a much more worthy affair than the horrible Uno experience, even if only the two Osana members will stay beyond this first album. And unlike what you'd expect, Nova developed a wild jazz-rock in this opus. Formed in London, under Pete Townsend (Who?) and recorded in his private studios (Eel Pie), Nova presented as a quintet (standard prog quartet plus Elio D'Ana on sax and flute) and gave us plenty of excellent mid-70's fusion in their debut, sung in English (quite well) with lyrics provided by an outside Sedgwick. With an average artwork evoking a slow motion blink (with a changing iris color in the third photo), the album is probably what comes best from Italy in this JR/F style, along with Perigeo and some Area.

Six tracks all divided into two parts all giving high-energy and enthralling jazz-rock, they can be associated with the future Brand X (many members will guest in the following three albums), but also with the second stable Nucleus era (the Sutton years) and even a bit of the first Colosseum (partly due to the vocals). Obviously well coached by the production team, the four sung tracks are in very good English (all things considered), but really, this is a minor aspect as all five musos are dishing out impressive 200 MPH fusion with impressive technical abilities. But I would not actually make you believe they reach Mahavishnu or RTF's technical and virtuosic level, but they match at least the first in feeling.

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Easily their better albums (at least in proghead terms) of their four, the odd thing is that with further albums as Brand X and other all-star guests will appear on them, they will become rockier with each new album. Excellent album, almost essential, but definitely earning its fourth star. ---Sean Trane, progarchives.com

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