

Mash-Ups

Manic Volcanic (ft. Adam Maresca)

Answer: **PLANE SYMMETRY**

The music file contains two “sides” of 10 songs each, all overlaid with 808 hits not originally in the song. By familiarity or searching for the lyrics, identify them and count the added hits.

Song, Side A	Played	Artist, Side A	SFX
"I Am a Tree"	1	Guided By Voices	4
"Longview"	2	Green Day	3
"Shock the Monkey"	3	Peter Gabriel	5
"Somebody Told Me"	4	The Killers	2
"I Gotta Feeling"	5	The Black Eyed Peas	9
"Head"	6	Prince	8
"Blue Light"	7	Mitski	1
"Teenage Kicks"	8	The Undertones	10
"Amarillo By Morning"	9	George Strait	7
"Piano Man"	10	Billy Joel	6

Song, Side B	Played	Artist, Side B	SFX
"Pump It Up"	1	Elvis Costello	5
"Bad Cover Version"	2	Pulp	7
"Slam"	3	Onyx	4
"I Want to Tell You"	4	The Beatles	4
"Raining Blood"	5	Slayer	2
"Get Yourself High"	6	The Chemical Brothers	8
"Danger! High Voltage"	7	Electric Six	6
"I Can't Help Myself"	8	The Four Tops	6
"Milk and Cereal"	9	G. Love & Special Sauce	5
"Yellow"	10	Coldplay	1

The album art is a collage made from 10 famous album covers, each with a song that could be considered the “result” of “combining” a song title from Side A with Side B, paired as follows.

Song, Side A	SFX		Song, Side B	SFX	=	Mashed-Up Song (Cover)	Album Art Used	Cover Art Element	Mashed-Up Artist	Index SFX B into Title
"Blue Light"	1	+	"Yellow"	1	=	"Green Light"	<i>Melodrama</i>	Oil painting girl	Lorde	G
"Somebody Told Me"	2	+	"I Want to Tell You"	4	=	"Second Hand News"	<i>Rumours</i>	B-&-W pair with a stool	Fleetwood Mac	O
"Longview"	3	+	"Get Yourself High"	8	=	"I Can See for Miles"	<i>The Who Sell Out</i>	Guy with big can of beans	The Who	F
"I Am a Tree"	4	+	"Raining Blood"	2	=	"Blood on the Leaves"	<i>Yeezus</i>	Red sticker on right side	Kanye West	L
"Shock the Monkey"	5	+	"Danger! High Voltage"	6	=	"Monkey Gone to Heaven"	<i>Doolittle</i>	Halo monkey inside circle	Pixies	Y
"Piano Man"	6	+	"Bad Cover Version"	7	=	"Lounge Act"	<i>Nevermind</i>	Dollar bill on fishing line	Nirvana	A
"Amarillo By Morning"	7	+	"Milk and Cereal"	5	=	"Breakfast in America"	<i>Breakfast in America</i>	Waitress with orange juice	Supertramp	K
"Head"	8	+	"Slam"	4	=	"Brain Damage"	<i>The Dark Side of the Moon</i>	Prism & light	Pink Floyd	I
"I Gotta Feeling"	9	+	"I Can't Help Myself"	6	=	"Uncontrollable Urge"	<i>Q: Are We Not Men? A: We Are Devo!</i>	Face on golf ball and yellow backing	Devo	T
"Teenage Kicks"	10	+	"Pump It Up"	5	=	"Pumped Up Kicks"	<i>Torches</i>	Crowd of monsters	Foster the People	E

Ordering by the SFX counts on Side A and indexing with Side B, you get the message "GO FLY A KITE" from Kite Man... which is then your cue to do as indicated, and send proof to the email. Once the team has demonstrated that they've flown to Kite Man's standards, he will commend them on their aeronautics, and stress how important it is that designs for kites possess good **PLANE SYMMETRY**; this, in turn, is the final answer to the puzzle.

Author's Notes

Manic: I'm an amateur DJ in addition to an amateur puzzler, so I wanted to write a puzzle that both let me show off and was the sort of thing that you wouldn't see elsewhere. I originally wanted to actually mix the two halves of the mash-up together myself, but presenting the separated halves to the solver made for a better puzzle. I banged out a zeroth draft in about a day and a half, which after some testing was almost completely rewritten to 1) more tightly combine the song titles 2) into more recognizable album covers 3) and also use music that people might actually recognize instead of Holy Ghost!, Feed Me, and ZZT.

Making the final draft of the mix took a lot of effort, mostly because I wanted the mix to actually sound good in addition to being a workable puzzle. You can sort of tell which of the songs I like based on how long they play in the puzzle. Songs like Head and Get Yourself High I put some effort into editing well, while I mixed out of "I Gotta Feeling" faster than you can say "electronic dance music."

Adam: I compiled a list of options after I saw (and loved) Manic's first draft, which my main feedback was mostly related to the obscurity. Sure, I personally can recognize part of a !!! album cover on sight, but how many others would? At least with a song, you can search for lyrics. And you can't argue with the results... except the Black Eyed Peas.

Again, we extend our apologies.