

## CODE BMUS – “Strike Now” 12”

Evoking the closed down dead future of Thatcher’s Britain, CODE BMUS were one of the many bands that formed in the wake of the POP GROUP, perhaps the UK post-punk equivalent to that hoary critical cliché about bands forming after the VELVET UNDERGROUND? Further evidence of the dub / punk / industrial cultural triangle of the late ’70s / early ’80s; a radical time both in terms of musical experimentation and collusion, as well as in terms of lyrical fervor and out on the streets activism. This was recorded in 1981 at Cold Storage, the former meat locker that THIS HEAT operated out of, and I would put the sounds somewhere between the POP GROUP, THIS HEAT and *Metal Box*. Urgent guitar scratchings over both spaced out post-punk dub rhythms and Burundi drums, creating a crowded paranoid recording with intoned/passionate vocals that remind me of both MARK STEWART and GW SOK... This is a really incredible reissue, with beautifully screened covers like the OG, and replication of the liner notes which instruct bands on how to record/release their own music in incredible technical detail as well as giving a lyric sheet. There’s a cool fanzine-like modern addition too, with recollections on the time period from the band. Honestly, shit like this makes me wonder why bands now aren’t as fired up and exciting in the face of our current endless political repression. Why do so many punks form generic sound-a-like bands that mimic the passion and politics of a previous generation when life is just as terrifying now? Make something new... This record comes with an instruction sheet, dammit! (LG)

(Ever/Never)