

King Tubby & Friends
Dub Like Dirt 1975-1977
BAFCD 026

- 01 Tubby Get Smart (2:41)
- 02 Guidance Dub (3:24)
- 03 Chapter of Money (2:52)
- 04 Bag A Wire Dub (3:25)
- 05 Dub Ites Green & Gold (3:32)
- 06 Stealing Version (2:49)
- 07 Beat Them In Dub (3:03)
- 08 Thunder Rock (3:05)
- 09 How Long Dub (3:27)
- 10 Dub Investigation (3:08)
- 11 Sly Want Dub (2:45)
- 12 Everybody Needs Dub (2:55)
- 13 Horn For I (2:49)
- 14 Six Million Dollar Version (3:12)
- 15 Dub Is My Occupation 5:47)
- 16 Fatter Dub (4:10)

King Tubby
A personal memory

King Tubby was the sort of person who I would say was very natural and easy going; for someone who has created such an impact in Jamaican music - what we would call 'rub a dub' - nothing didn't really worry him.

I remember one evening in the studio voicing some tune for Carlton Patterson. I say to Tubby's, 'Tubbs, I would like to go to England' - it was every singer and deejay's dream. This was about the time I got my first hit record in Jamaica. Tubbs say to me that he has no intention to travel, and as a matter of fact, he didn't even have a visa, and he didn't want one. When you work in his studio and could not pay for the time, he would just laugh and say 'Old man, remember to pay mi next time, yuh hear suh ?' I could not remember hearing Tubby's having an argument with anybody. No wonder, he was love(d) by every one in his community, and not only in his community. Wherever he goes he was well known and respected.

For me this was the greatest 4-track studio I have ever put foot in, and that's why I would say that King Tubby's don't need no introduction. Love honour and respect to the King of rub a dub music, the one and only Osbourne Ruddock, known to the world as King Tubby - ride on ! You may be gone but we shall continue to dominate with the cool sound of 18 Dromilly Avenue, Kingston 11."

Joseph Cotton aka Jah Walton, Berlin, 4th Feb 1999

Tubby Get Smart

Mixed by King Tubby, this is the b-side to Leroy Smart's "Mr Smart" (1975 Total Sound Ja 45). There are two more versions; a Phillip Smart mix called "Exalted Dub" (on BAFCD 002) and a U Brown version, "Live as One" (on BAFCD 020).

Guidance Dub

Dub to Horace Andy's "Guiding Star", originally done by the Heptones at Studio One. This 1975 lick, mixed by the King, was also used for deejay Tappa Zukie's "Jah Is I Guiding Star" (on BAFCD 001)

Chapter of Money

Horace Andy's "Money Money" rhythm was also used for Jah Stitch's "Raggamuffin" (on BAFCD 010) and Barry Brown's "Politician". This dub was mixed by Tubby for the latter's vocal cut.

Bag A Wire Dub

Another Tubby dub of Johnny Clarke's version of the Mighty Diamonds' "Them Never Love Poor Marcus", this is a bit different to the Jamaican 45 b-side, with more spring reverb. Bunny Lee had recorded the rhythm with the Aggrovators at the instigation of Jah Stitch, who liked the original song, but felt that Bunny could make a better job of the rhythm. This cut is also slightly longer than previously released versions.

Dub Ites Green & Gold

Previously unissued cut of Johnny Clarke's version of the Burning Spear classic. Mixed by King Tubby or Prince Phillip Smart.

Stealing Version

Mixed by Prince Phillip Smart, this version appeared on the Bar Bell label in Jamaica. John Holt's "Stealing", originally cut by its creator for Treasure Isle, was another in the series of cover versions of classic rocksteady and reggae recorded by Johnny Clarke in the mid-seventies. Prince Jammy also used a new version of this cut (again by John Holt) when he first started producing on his own account in 1978. The rhythm proved its durability in 1998 a "Stealing" loop provided the basis for "Ulterior Motive" by Luciano amongst others.

Beat Them In Dub

When singer/harmonica player Roy Richards licked over Little Richard's "Freedom Blues" for Studio One in 1968, he couldn't have foreseen how many versions the rhythm would inspire. Channel One cut a hit instrumental called "MPLA" on the rhythm in early 1976, other cuts followed - Tappa Zukie scored a number 1 in the UK market with his version.

Bunny recorded his cut at Channel One as well - Cornell Campbell voiced "Jah Jah A Go Beat Them" at Tubby's with Prince Jammy at the controls. This track appeared as the b-side of Cornell's 1976 Jackpot 45.

Thunder Rock

A crisp 1977 update of the "My Conversation" rhythm was the basis for Cornell Campbell's "Have Mercy Oh Jah" (Weed Beat 45), with the dub included here again mixed by Prince Jammy. The original - one of Bunny Lee's first hits - had been recorded in 1968, with Slim Smith & the Uniques.

How Long Dub

Like "My Conversation", the original was a big hit for Bunny and Pat Kelly in 1970. Vocalist Kelly, also a studio engineer, worked at King Tubby's and mixed this dub there in 1976.

Dub Investigation

B-side of Cornell Campbell's big 1977 hit; mixed by Prince Jammy. Dennis Alcapone did a deejay cut of the rhythm in 1977.

Sly Want Dub

The drummer dominates this Jammy's mix, originally issued as the b-side to Johnny Clarke's "Wanti Wanti Can't Getti" 45 (Weed Beat, Ja 1977).

Everybody Needs Dub

Horn For I

Two pieces on the "Everybody Needs Love" rhythm. As on the versions of "How Long" and "My Conversation" mentioned above, the producer is revisiting an old hit - Bunny first produced Slim Smith on the Temptations song in 1968. Lloyd Parkes 'licked it back' for Bunny in 1976 and the instrumental cut was released the same year. Prince Jammy mixed both dubs included here.

Six Million Dollar Version

Another instrumental dubbed up by Prince Jammy, this time the b-side to Dennis Alcapone's "Six Million Dollar Man". The rhythm, a 1976 update of Alton Ellis's "Breaking Up", was used for a Leroy Smart song ("Shame & Pride"), as well as for a Johnny Clarke cover of the original song. Two further dubs of this rhythm can be found on BAFCD 013 "Dub Gone 2 Crazy".

Dub Is My Occupation

Prince Jammy also mixed this dub, released as the b-side of Vin Gordon's "Memories of Don De" (sic) on a Jaguar 12 inch discomix in 1977.

Fatter Dub

A dub by Prince Jammy to Jackie Mittoo's 1976 version of his "Ram Jam" instrumental, itself a version of the Heptones "Fatty Fatty". The great Mittoo recorded 4 albums and numerous singles for Lee at this time; this track was released as a 45 by Count Shelley in the UK, and by Mittoo himself in Canada.

Steve Barrow / February 1999

The Aggrovators (1975-1977), included:

Drums: Carlton "Santa" Davis, Lowell "Sly" Dunbar O.D. Bass: Robert "Robbie" Shakespeare O.D., Lloyd Parkes. Guitar: Earl "Chinna" Smith, Tony Chin, Winston "Bo-Pee" Bowen, Cornell Campbell. Keyboards: Ansell Collins, Johnny Clarke, Bernard "Touter" Harvey, Ossie "No-Go" Hibbert, Jackie Mittoo, Errol "Tarzan" Nelson, Winston Wright. Sax: "Deadly" Headley Bennett, Lennox Brown. Trumpet: Bobby Ellis. Trombone: Vincent Gordon. Percussion: Noel "Skully" Simms, Uziah "Sticky" Thompson, Barnabas.

All tracks produced by Bunny Lee

Mixed by King Tubby, Prince Phillip,
Pat Kelly, & Prince Jammy @ KING TUBBY'S STUDIO during 1975-1977
18 Dromilly Avenue, Waterhouse, Kingston 11, Jamaica

Digital restoration by Andy Walter @ Room 63, Abbey Road Studios, London
Mastered and edited by Kevin Metcalfe @ The Soundmasters, London

Compiled by Steve Barrow
Designed by David Smith @ Intro, London
Photography: Dave Hendley, Brian Jahn, and Tero Kaski

Thanks to Bunny Lee, Colin Moore, Stuart, Bob Brooks, Chris Lane

Livicated to the memory of Osbourne Ruddock 1941-1989
Let the King sound play