As recorded by Metallica on ELEKTRA Records

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KILL 'EM ALL
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KILL 'EM ALL:
The Drumming Debut Of Lars Ulrich

Kill 'Em All contains the first nine songs ever written by Metallica. Now widely recognized as a milestone in American heavy metal, this 1983 debut album was recorded by a group of 18- and 19-year-olds who weren't even convinced of their own musical competencies.

"We formed the band before we could really play," admits drummer Lars Ulrich, "but a lot of people really liked the honesty, directness, innocence and ignorance on that album." Indeed, that youthful energy and naivety may have had everything to do with the group's somewhat premature success. "There was just this energy there," explains Ulrich. "It was like, 'I'm not gonna sit around and take drum lessons and guitar lessons for the next five years so I can be in a band. I wanna be in a band now!'"

Metallica was, in fact, Ulrich's first band. Just a few years before the group's formation in 1981, he was enjoying success as a 16-year-old Top 10-ranked tennis player in his native Denmark. But after moving to Los Angeles and hooking up with James Hetfield, a guitarist who shared his fervor for the likes of Iron Maiden, Def Leppard and Motorhead, the nucleus of Metallica was formed. Soon thereafter, Megaforce Records signed the group. Their debut album, Kill 'Em All, came out in 1983 with the lineup of Ulrich, Hetfield, guitar virtuoso Kirk Hammett and the late Cliff Burton on bass. At this point, Ulrich had only been playing drums seriously for three years.

"We really jumped in the deep end," admits Ulrich. "We started writing these songs and when people heard them they freaked out. If we had not written them the way we did, maybe we would've had five years on the L.A. club circuit to get our chops together."

Ulrich is the first to admit his playing on Kill 'Em All was less than polished. "Obviously the drumming style on the album is very basic. It's representative of a kid who, very much from a fan point of view, started playing air drums to his favorite Judas Priest and Motorhead records and then one day substituted a real drum kit. I just started by pretending I was Ian Paice or Phil Taylor [Motorhead] or whoever. Then all of a sudden we started writing these songs and playing them with our very limited musical ability."

Certainly, elements of Ulrich's current drumming style are conspicuously absent on Kill 'Em All. For one, there's a lack of variety in the hi-hat, snare, kick patterns on the up-tempo songs. "On the fast tempos I felt very restricted," said Ulrich. "'Hit the Lights,' 'Motorbreath,' 'Whiplash,' 'Phantom Lord,' 'No Remorse,' 'Metal Militia'—all those songs were just straight 4's. At the time I just couldn't grasp doing a lot of variations on the high speed stuff those tempos called for." The same was true of the fills Ulrich gravitated toward—"basically eighth notes and straightforward stuff," as he put it—which are a far cry from the flamboyant, high-velocity patterns for which he is now well known.
More noticeably absent are the various double bass drum licks found in ample supply on all post-Kill 'Em All Metallica albums. Ulrich rumbles the bass drums on the power chords at the beginning and end of "Hit the Lights" and at the ends of "Phantom Lord" and "No Remorse," but the only double bass time pattern on the album is on "The Four Horsemen." The following excerpt from that song hints at the kind of precision-like patterns that Ulrich plays on subsequent records.

"The Four Horsemen" 1st, 2nd, 3rd Verses: bars 3-4

There is, however, one technique on Kill 'Em All that has continued to carry over into Ulrich's drum work: the single bass drum triplets. (They may sound like single bass drum doubles, but they're not!) "Motorbreath," the fastest song on the record, provides an excellent example:

"Motorbreath" 1st, 2nd, 3rd Verses: bars 1-2

Commenting on the use of single bass drum triplets, Ulrich said, "It's basically the same pattern in all the fast songs—one on the bass drum, snare, triplet on the bass drum, snare. I guess the idea of throwing in those triplets in the up-tempo stuff came from Phil Taylor. He was a big inspiration in my early days."
By the time Master of Puppets was recorded, Ulrich had begun to play these triplets with two bass drums (RLR) to ensure an intensity in volume. But despite his ability on double bass, Ulrich still makes frequent use of the single bass triplet. Here’s another excerpt in which the triplets are relentless, continuing for more than 24 bars:

“Jump in the Fire” Outro: 12 bars before end

Begin fade

Kill ‘Em All may not be Lars Ulrich’s tour de force as a drummer, but it clearly reflects the potential that would soon be realized. By listening to this album as well as Metallica’s subsequent releases, any drummer will likely be impressed and inspired by Ulrich’s ongoing musical metamorphosis.

—Howard Fields

Lars Ulrich’s Drum Setup

A - Snare Drum
B - Tom Tom 1 (12")
C - Tom Tom 2 (13")
D - Tom Tom 3 (14")
E - Tom Tom 4 (15")
F - Floor Tom (18")
G - Bass Drum 1 (24")
H - Bass Drum 2 (24")

Composite Music Key

- HH
- TT1
- SD
- TT4
- BD1
- HH

Ride
Crash
China
DRUM NOTATION EXPLANATION

HI-HAT

OPEN AND CLOSED HI-HAT:
Strike the open hi-hat on notes labeled with an o. Strike the closed hi-hat on unlabeled notes.

HI-HAT WITH FOOT:
Clap hi-hat cymbals together with foot pedal.

HI-HAT WITH SLUR:
The open hi-hat is struck and then closed with the foot on the beat indicated by the hi-hat w/foot notation below, creating a shoop sound.

CYMBALS

CHOKE:
Hit the crash cymbal and catch it immediately with the other hand, producing a short, choked crash sound.

BELL OF CYMBAL:
Hit the cymbal near the center, directly on the cup or bell portion.

CYMBAL ROLL:
Play a roll on the cymbal rapidly enough to produce a sustained, uninterrupted sshnn sound lasting for the number of beats indicated.

DRUMS

CROSS STICK:
Anchor the tip end of the stick on the snare drum skin at the eight o'clock position, two to three inches from the rim. Then raise and lower the butt end, striking the rim at the two o'clock position, producing a clicky woodblock-type sound.

FLAM:
Hit the drum with both sticks, one slightly after the other, producing a single, thick-sounding note.

RUFF:
Play the grace notes rapidly and as close to the principal note as possible. The grace notes are unaccented and should be played slightly before the beat. The principal note is accented and played directly on the beat.

CLOSED ROLL:
Play a roll on the snare drum creating a sustained, uninterrupted sshnn sound lasting for the duration of the rhythm indicated and with no break between the two tied notes.

HI-HAT BARK:
The open hi-hat is struck and is immediately, almost simultaneously closed so that the shoop sound is severely clipped.
HIT THE LIGHTS

Music Key

Ride Crash China

Moderate Rock $\frac{d}{d} = 144$
Free time
Intro
Fade in $f$

Free time $a$ tempo

These 3 beats played from 6" to 8" to 10" melodic toms

Faster $\frac{d}{d} = 160$

a tempo

(Vocal:) Woh.

Words and Music by James Hetfield and Lars Ulrich
1st, 2nd, 3rd Verses

1. No life till leather. We're gonna kick some ass to night.

2, 3. See additional lyrics

Got the metal madness. When our fans start scream in' it's right. Well all right, yeah. When we start to rock we never will stop again.

Hi-hat open throughout

Hit the lights. Hit the
1.
lights.
Hit the lights.

Interlude I

Interlude II

2.
lights.

3.
lights. Hit the lights.
Additional Lyrics

2. Know our fans are insane.
   We're gonna blow this place away
   With volume higher
   Than anything today. The only way.
   When we start to rock we never, etc.

3. With all out scream'in'
   We're gonna rip right through your brain.
   We got the lethal power.
   It's causin' you sweet pain. Oh, sweet pain.
   When we start to rock we never, etc.
THE FOUR HORSEMEN

Words and Music by
James Hetfield, Lars Ulrich,
and Dave Mustaine

Music Key

Ride Crash
HH
TT1
TT2
TT4
SD
TT5
PT
BD1
BD2

Fast Rock \( \text{d} = 204 \) (\( \text{d} \)-\( \text{d} \)-\( \text{d} \)-\( \text{d} \))

Intro

1st, 2nd, 3rd Verses

1. By the last breath the fourth winds blow...
   Better raise your ears...

2.3. See additional lyrics

*2nd and 3rd times play on bass drum on beat 1.

The sound of hooves... knock at your door...

The Four Horsemen

The Four Horsemen
Lock up your wife and children now. It's time to wield the blade. For now you've got some company. Horsemen are drawing nearer. On leather steeds they ride.

They've come to take your life.
On through the dead of night, with the Four Horsemen ride.

or choose your fate and die!

Oh, yeah, yeah!

2nd and 3rd times play "" on bass drum on beats 2 and 3.

3rd time to Coda

*2nd time play "" on bass drum on beats 2 and 3.

*2nd time play "" on bass drum on beats 2 and 3.

*3rd time play "" on bass drum on beats 2 and 3.
Bridge

Time has taken its toll on you... The lines that crack your face...

Famine, your body it has torn through... Withered in every place...
Pestilence, for what you had to endure. For what you have put others through.

Death, deliverance for you for sure.

Half time (\( \frac{d}{4} = 102 \))

Now there's nothing you can do.

Slower \( \frac{d}{4} = 90 \)

Guitar solo
Additional Lyrics

2. You've been dying since the day you've been born.
   You know it's all been planned.
   The quartet of deliverance rides.
   A sinner once, a sinner twice,
   No need for confession now.
   'Cause now you've got the fight of your life.

3. So gather round young warriors now
   And saddle up your steeds.
   Killing scores with demon swords.
   Now is the death of doers of wrong.
   Swing the judgment hammer down.
   Safely inside armor, blood, guts and sweat.
JUMP IN THE FIRE

Words and Music by
James Hetfield, Lars Ulrich,
and Dave Mustaine

Moderate Rock $= 176$

Play 8 times

Ist Verse

Down in the depths of my fiery home, the summons bell will chime.

Tempting you and all the earth to join our sinful kind. There's a
job to be done... and I'm the one... you people make me do it.

Now it's time for your fate... and I won't hesitate to pull you down into this pit.

So come on!

Chorus

Jump in the fire!

2nd time substitute Drum Pat. 1;
3rd time substitute Drum Pat. 2

So come on!

Jump in the fire!

*2nd time play ♪ on crash & hi-hat on beat 1.

*3rd time play ♪ on snare on beat 2.
2nd time to Coda I:
3rd time to Coda II

With

2nd Verse

hell in my eyes and with death in my veins the end is closing in.

Feeding on the minds of men and from their souls within.

My disciples all shout to search you out and they

always shall obey. Follow me now, my child, not the

meek or the mild but do just as I say. So come on!

D.S. al Coda I
Coda I

Jump by your will or be taken by force, I'll get you either way.

Trying to keep the hellfire lit, I'm stalking you as prey.
Living your life as me, I am you you see. There's part of me in everyone.

So, reach down, grab my hand, walk with me through the land, come home where you belong. So come on!

So come on!

Jump in the fire!

So come on!
Jump in the fire!

Come on, jump, baby, now!

*2nd and 3rd times play on crash on beat 1.

Begin fade

Fade out
1st, 2nd, 3rd Verses
1. No mercy for what we're doing.
2. No thought
to even
what we've done.
3. See additional lyrics

We don't need to feel the sorrow.
Pre-chorus
(Gtrs. out)

No remorse for the helpless one... War without end...

*3rd time play \( \frac{3}{4} \) on bass drum on beat 2.

Chorus

No remorse. No repent. We don't care what it meant.

Another day, another death. Another sorrow.

Another breath. No remorse. No repent.

*2nd time play \( \frac{3}{4} \) on bass drum on beats 1 and 2.
We don't care what it meant. Another day,

3rd time to Coda
2nd time substitute Drum Pat. 1;
3rd time substitute Drum Pat. 2

Another death.

Another sorrow, another breath.

Triplet feel \( \frac{1}{3} \)

Guitar solo II

Drum Pat. 1

Drum Pat. 2
Bridge

Bullets are flying. People are dying. Madness surrounding. All
war machines going. Blood starts to flowing. No mercy given to

hell's breaking loose. Soldiers are hounding. Bodies are mounting. It
anyone here. The furious fighting. Swords are like lightning. It

2nd time substitute Drum Pat. 3

Canons are shouting to take their abuse.
all becomes fright 'ning. You know death is near.

*2nd time play on crash on beat 1.

1.

With

Drum Pat. 3
Additional Lyrics

2. Blood feeds the war machine
   As it eats a way across the land.
   We don’t need to feel the sorrow.
   No remorse is the one command. (To Pre-chorus)

3. Only the strong survive.
   No will to save the weaker race.
   We’re ready to kill all comers.
   Like a loaded gun right at your face. (To Pre-chorus)
1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Verses

1. Late at night, all systems go, you've come to see the show. We do our best, you're the rest, you

2. 3. 4. See additional lyrics

4th time play \( \text{on crash & hi-hat on beats 1 and 2.} \)

*make it real you know. There's a feeling deep inside that drives you fuck-in' mad.

A

2nd time substitute Drum Pat. 1;
3rd & 4th times substitute Drum Pat. 2

Chorus

feeling of a hammer-head, you need it oh so bad.

A
2. Bang your head against the stage like you never did before.
   Make it ring, make it bleed, make it really sore.
   In a frenzied madness with your leather and your spikes,
   Heads are bobbing around, it’s hot as hell tonight. (*To Chorus*)

3. Here on stage the Marshall noise is piercing through your ears.
   It kicks your ass, kicks your face, exploding feeling nears.
   Now’s the time to let it rip, to let it fuckin’ loose.
   We’re gathered here to maim and kill ‘cause this is what we choose. (*To Chorus*)

4. Show is through, the metal’s gone, it’s time to hit the road.
   Another town, another gig, again we will explode.
   Hotel rooms and motorways, life out here is raw.
   But we’ll never stop, we’ll never quit ‘cause we’re Metallica. (*To Chorus*)
Let us have time, let the sun shine. Let us beware the deadly sign.

Pre-chorus

The day is coming. Armageddon's near.

Inferno coming. Can we survive the blitzkrieg?

Chorus

The blitzkrieg.
The blitz-krieg.

Save us from fate, save us from hate. Save ourselves before it's too late.

Come to our need, hear our plea. Save ourselves before the earth bleeds.

Pre-chorus

The day is dawning. The time is near.

Aliens coming. Can we survive the blitz.
METAL MILITIA

Words and Music by James Hetfield, Lars Ulrich, and Dave Mustaine

Fast Rock \( \text{\textit{d}} = 168 \)

Intro

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\[ \text{\textbf{Drum Pat. 1}} \]
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2nd time substitute Drum Pat. 1:

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\[ \text{\textbf{Drum Pat. 2}} \]
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3rd time substitute Drum Pat. 2
1st, 2nd, 3rd Verses


2. Victims of fury are cowardly now.


Suicide running as if it were free. Ripping and tearing.

*2nd time play on ride on beat 2.
Pre-chorus

Oh!

Through the mist and the madness.

*3rd time play ♪ on ride & crash on beat 1.
*3rd time play ♪ on ride on beat 2.

Chorus

We're trying to get the message to you.

3rd time to Coda II

Metal mi-

2nd time to Coda I

Metal mi-

li-tia!
Additional Lyrics

2. Chained and shadowed to be left behind,
   Nine and one thousand.
   Metal militia for your sacrifice,
   Iron-clad soldiers.
   Join or be conquered, the low of the land.
   What will befall you?
   The metalization of your inner soul,
   Twisting and turning. (To Pre-chorus)

3. We are one as we all are the same,
   Fighting for one cause.
   Leather and metal are our uniforms,
   Protecting what we are.
   Joining together to take on the world
   With our heavy metal.
   Spreading the message to everyone here.
   Come let yourself go. (To Pre-chorus)
PHANTOM LORD

Words and Music by
James Hetfield, Lars Ulrich
and Dave Mustaine

Moderate Rock $\frac{3}{4}$ = 108

Intro (Synth)

1st, 2nd, 3rd Verses

3rd time substitute Drum Pat. 1

1. Sound is ripping through your ears... The deaf-ning sound of met-al nears...

2. See additional lyrics

Drum Pat. 1
3rd time substitute Drum Pat. 1

body's waiting for his whips. The taste of leather on your lips.

*3rd time play? on bass drum on beat 4.

Chorus

Hear the cry of war. Louder than before. With his sword in hand to control the land. Crushing metal strikes on this fright'ning night.
3rd time substitute Drum Pat. 2

Fall on to your knees for the Phantom Lord.

2nd time play on ride on beat 4.

D.S. al Coda I

Coda I

Guitar solo

Slower \( \text{d} = 66 \)

Interlude

Drum Pat. 2
Faster $\, \text{d} = 96$

accel.

Play 3 times

D.S. al Coda II

3. The

Coda II
Additional Lyrics

2. Victims falling under chains,
   You hear them crying dying pains.
   Fists of terror breaking through,
   Now there's nothing you can do. (To Chorus)

3. The leathered armies have prevailed,
   The Phantom Lord has never failed.
   Smoke is lifting from the ground,
   The rising volume metal sound. (To Chorus)
MOTORBREATH

Music Key

HR
TT1
SD
TT4
BD1

Crash

Ride

Fast Rock \( \frac{3}{4} \)

1st, 2nd, 3rd Verses

1. Living and dying, laughing and crying. Once you have seen it you'll never be the same. Life in the fast lane is just how it seems.

2.3. See additional lyrics

Intro

mf

"8" melodic tom

\( \uparrow \) "10" melodic tom

(Gtr.)

Hi-hat open throughout

2nd time substitute Drum Pat. 2

2nd time snare plays on beat 3 (no crash)

*2nd time play \( \uparrow \) on hi-hat & crash on beat 4.

Words and Music by
James Hetfield
Hard and it's heavy, it's dirty and mean.

2nd and 3rd times substitute Drum Pat. 1

Chorus

Motorbreath... It's how I live my life.

I can't take it any other way. Motorbreath... The

3rd time to Coda

sign of living fast... It is going to take your breath away.

Guitar solo I

Drum Pat. 1
Additional Lyrics

2. Don't stop for nothin', it's full speed or nothin'.
I'm takin' down you know whatever's in my way.
Getting your kicks as you're shooting the line.
Sending the shivers up and down my spine. (To Chorus)

3. Those people who tell you not to take chances,
They are all missing on what life's about.
You only live once so take hold of the chance.
Don't end up like others, same song and dance. (To Chorus)
1. Scanning the scene... in the city to-night. We’re looking for you... to

2.3. See additional lyrics

start up a fight. There’s an evil feeling in our brains... but it’s

2nd time substitute Drum Pat. 1

nothing new. You know it drives us insane... Running. On our way.

[1.

Hiding. You will pay. Dying one thousand deaths.

2.

Chorus

Search-ing.

Drum Pat. 1
D.S. al Coda I

2. There is

Coda I

Search ing...

Seek and de stroy.

Faster $= 208$

Guitar solo

Play 4 times

*4th time play on bass drum on beat 1.
Additional Lyrics

2. There is no escape and that's for sure.
   This is the end we won't take anymore.
   Say goodbye to the world you live in.
   You've always been taking, but now you're giving. (To Pre-chorus)

3. Our brains are on fire with the feeling to kill.
   And it won't go away until our dreams are fulfilled,
   There is only one thing on our minds.
   Don't try running away 'cause you're the one we will find. (To Pre-chorus)
1st, 2nd Verses

1. My mother was a witch, she was burned alive.
   I lost my head.
   Thank-less little bitch,
   Revenge now I sought for the tears I cried.
   Break with my bread.

2nd time play ♩ ♩ ♩ on bass drum on beat 2.

2. Take her down now,
   Tak-in' no chances,
   Don't want to see her face.
   All you come with me.

Blistered and burnt,
I'll split you to the bone,
Can't hide my disgrace.
Help set you free.

Pre-chorus

Twenty-seven, ev'ryone was nice.

*2nd time play ♩ on bass drum on beat 3.
*2nd time play ♩ on bass drum on beat 2.
Got ta see 'em, make 'em pay their price.
See their bod-ies out on
the ice.
Take my time.

Chorus I

Am I e vil?
Yes, I am.

Am I e vil?
I am man. Yes, I am.

2. As I
I am man. Yes, I am.

Oh!

Faster \( d = 192 \) (\( \frac{3}{4} \) \( \frac{3}{4} \))
Bridge

1. On with the action now, I'll strip your pride.

2.3. See additional lyrics

*3rd time play "on china cymbal on beat 1.

I'll spread your blood around, I'll see you ride.

*3rd time play on crash on beat 2.

Your face is scarred, with steel, wounds deep and neat.

*3rd time play on crash on beat 2.

3rd time to Coda

Like a double dozen before ya, smells so sweet.

*3rd time play on crash on beat 2.

*2nd time play "on hi-hat and tom-tom 3 on beat 2.

Chorus II

Am I evil? Yes, I am.

Am I evil? I am man.
Am I evil? I am man.

Go!

Guitar solo
Coda

Chorus III

take me home.  

Am I evil?

Yes, I am.  

Am I evil?

I am man.  

Am I evil?
Additional Lyrics

2. I'll make my residence, I'll watch your fire.
   You can come with me, sweet desire.
   My face is long forgot, my face not my own.
   Sweet and timely whore, take me home. (To Chorus II)

3. My soul is longing for, await my heir,
   Sent to avenge my mother, sleep myself.
   My face is long forgot, my face not my own.
   Sweet and timely whore, take me home. (To Chorus III)
HIT THE LIGHTS
THE FOUR HORSEMEN
MOTORBREATH
JUMP IN THE FIRE
(ANESTHESIA) - PULLING TEETH
WHIPLASH
PHANTOM LORD
NO REMORSE
SEEK & DESTROY
METAL MILITIA
BLITZKRIEG
AM I EVIL?