

It was easy, it was cheap, so what?:

Reconsidering the DIY principle of punk
and indie music.

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Abstract:

Today, the words 'indie' and 'independence' are commonly taken only to be connotative of a musical style, yet in the punk/post-punk period they were used to denote a specific economic separateness from the major labels. This development of the indie sector in this earlier period, challenging a tendency to reify certain proponents of punk (Buzzcocks' Spiral Scratch EP, Desperate Bicycles) by noting some significant antecedents and continuations of 'Yourself' impetus. Contrasting the Rough Trade label against anarcho-punks Crass, the article also highlights the period in which indie is sometimes said to have become more about music and less about politics. The significance of other recent technological developments are also considered. In conclusion, the article interrogates the political 'anyone can do it' principle associated with punk/indie's DIY ethic.

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