



portastatic
the summer of the shark

MRG 225

Portastatic

The Summer of the Shark (reissue)



LP

11 November 2014

vinyl is non-returnable

Box Lot: LP 25
UPC: LP UPC is 673855022512
Format: LP is jacket + white vinyl + full album download coupon
File Under: Alternative
Export: World excluding North America



SC DISTRIBUTION

MERGE
RECORDS

P.O. Box 1235
Chapel Hill, NC 27514 USA
Phone: 919.688.9969 x125
www.mergerecords.com

International Sales Contact Kraegan Graves: Kraegan@SCDistribution.com

TRACK LISTING:

SIDE A

1. Oh Come Down
2. In the Lines
3. Windy Village
4. Through a Rainy Lens
5. Don't Disappear
6. Swimming Through Tires

SIDE B

7. Chesapeake
8. Noisy Night
9. Clay Cakes
10. Drill Me
11. Paratrooper
12. Hey Salty

Portastatic's *The Summer of the Shark* will be available for the first time on vinyl as part of a monthly series of reissues to mark the 25th anniversary of Merge Records.

Mac McCaughan, co-founder of Merge Records and frontman of the band Superchunk, began recording solo albums under the name Portastatic in the early '90s. Beginning with this album, Portastatic evolved from a lo-fi side project to become McCaughan's main focus throughout Superchunk's long hiatus in the early '00s.

McCaughan wrote the songs on *The Summer of the Shark* in 2001 while Superchunk was on tour in support of *Here's to Shutting Up*, which was released mere days after the September 11 attacks and would be the band's last studio album for nine years. The resulting batch of songs was the last Portastatic album recorded almost entirely at home; it was also the most emotionally resonant, and musically compact collection to date.

Upon the album's release, then Chicago Tribune reporter John Cook wrote of the album: "It is the most effective and moving musical answer yet to what has happened to us over the last two years. Faced with an enormous catastrophe, McCaughan elected to make a small record. There are no heroes rushing up stairwells and no dissections of good and evil—only scared, confused people and local heartbreaks."

Recorded at McCaughan's home studio in Chapel Hill, *The Summer of the Shark* included contributions from Janet Weiss (Wild Flag, Quasi, Sleater-Kinney), Tony Crow (Lambchop), Margaret White (Versus, Matt Pond PA), Matthew McCaughan (Bon Iver, Hiss Golden Messenger), Aaron Oliva, and John Plymale.

KEY NOTES & PAST PRESS:

- **First time pressed to vinyl**
- **LP includes coupon for full album download**
- **LP pressed to white vinyl**

- **7.8 PITCHFORK album review (2003)**

<https://twitter.com/MacMerge>