

## DUB SPENCER & TRANCE HILL



The new heroes of the spaghetti western are from Switzerland, and they confidently ride their monster dub through the urban jungle of the 21st century. These four outstanding instrumentalists live and breathe their passion for dub and electronic dance music through their electrifying live performances. They have been working with the legendary Hamburg-based dub label **Echo Beach**—a residence for artists such as **Steward Copeland, Dub Syndicate, Jan Delay, Seeed, Tackhead, King Tubby**—since 2006, and so far the collaboration has produced numerous outputs, including the Clash tribute album 'The Clashification of Dub', the live album 'Live in Dub' and the hallucinatory 'Burroughs in Dub' album.

The quartet has been performing all over Europe during the past decade. Its festival résumé includes performances in *Summerjam, Cologne; Fusion, Berlin; Overjam, Slovenia; Reggae Summer Chiemsee, Übersee; Gurten Bern, Switzerland; Blue balls, Luzern; Téléràma Festival, Paris; Jazz Festival, Willisau; Reeds Festival Pfäffikon*. That, and about 400 club shows, shaped the group into one of Europe's top live dub acts.

### **Dub Spencer & Trance Hill**

dexterously plays instrumental psychedelic dub-reggae with rock and trance influences. What most dub acts can achieve in the studio only, is actually played live on stage by these guys. Their rich detailed sound, adventurousness, passionate playing on stage and in the studio, and ability to transform popular hits into humorous yet respectful dub gems, have impressed the press and captured the hearts of avid music lovers all over the globe. They brilliantly maintain the spirit of dub but are not afraid to twist and spice things up in order to create something fresh. This combination of expertly carried out classic dub gymnastics with eclectic flavours of rock, electronica and intoxicating psychedelia always creates something timeless.



(from left to right)  
Philipp Greter – keyboards, organ, melodica, dubs  
Marcel Stalder – bass, vocals  
Markus Meier – guitar, banjo, vocals  
Julian Dillier - drums

### **Fact Box**

- Over 25 000 albums sold
- 400 club shows and festivals in 11 countries
- 10 releases in 13 years
- Airplay on David Rodigans BBC Show (UK)
- Number 2 in the US college radio charts
- Live concert for the german radio station RBB

Another equally prominent protagonist in this project is the Munich-based sound and dub specialist **Umberto Echo**, who has been regularly joining the band on tour for years in order to contribute his magic via the mixing desk as a fifth instrumentalist. **Echo** does echo and **Echo** knows what it takes to keep the cowboys in their saddles in order to let them trot for hours and hours.

## DUB SPENCER & TRANCE HILL - BIOGRAPHY:



In 2003 bassist Marcel Stalder started **Dub Spencer & Trance Hill**. Together with Adrian Pflugshaupt (electronic/sax) and Christian Niederer (drums) the band released five EPs and distributed them on its own. In 2006 **Echo Beach** signed **Dub Spencer & Trance Hill**. Together with the Cologne-based guitarist Manougazou the band produced its first album, 'Nitro', which received critical acclaim. The German Reggae magazine Riddim has voted 'Nitro' Dub Album of the Month.

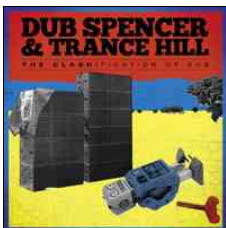
In September 2006, Pflugshaupt and Niederer left the group. Marcel Stalder formed a new band. The trio became a quartet with the joining of Julian Dillier (drums), Markus Meier (guitar, vocals) and Philipp Greter (keyboards, organ, melodica, dubs). Greter also brought his productions skills to the table. In 2007, the new cast recorded 'Return of the Supercops' and celebrated a massive spaghetti western-monsterdub. It was the band's most crystallized and daring effort at that point.



'Riding Strange Horses' (2010) is the third album by the space cowboys. It sees the four musicians herding together a pack of very strange steeds indeed, and then proceeding to ride them in time-honoured rodeo tradition. The strange horses come from famous stables (**Falco**, **The Clash**, **Genesis**, **Deep Purple**, **The Catch**, **M**, **Tullio De Piscopo**, **Grauzone** etc.) and have gained umpteen inclusions in top-ten hit charts over the past three decades. Of course, these hit songs have about as much in common with dub as the forlorn pink rocking horse has with the dry landscape of the desert (the album cover). Dry-as-dust humour dominates the choice of tracks: monumental pop classics, schmaltzy rock ballads and grimy hits—the stuff that our teenage dreams were made of. The tracklist is heavy on school party classics and cult hits, all lathered up and shaved in the best dub style.



'The Clashification of Dub' (2011) is **Dub Spencer & Trance Hill's** fourth album. It focuses fully on instrumental, psychedelic dub. As basic material the band took twelve songs by **The Clash**, and pushed them through its dub FX and Roland Echo Space mincer until they were barely recognisable. Here and there, a tune pops up, or you hear a familiar bassline or the melody of a chorus. These scant original elements acted as a source of inspiration for the new compositions, all of which bear the unmistakable signature of **Dub Spencer & Trance Hill**. The album received lots of airplay all around the world and made it to number 2 in the US college radio charts. In Berlin, the band played a live concert for the German public radio station RBB.

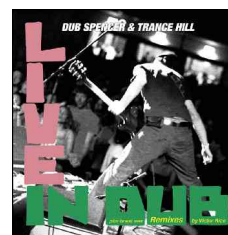


At that time, a relationship between the dub architects and mix master **Umberto Echo**, whose illustrious profile spans several pages, has started to grow. For **Echo's** debut album 'DubTrain', the jazz label **Enja** (**Chet Baker**, **Abdullah Ibrahim**, **Rabih Abu-Khalil**) set up a special sub-label, **19\_Enja**. Later on, **Echo Beach** released 'Dub the World' and 'The Name of the Dub', which feature **Echo's** distinctive, ultra-precise dub take on tunes by **Sly & Robbie**, **Seed**, **Damian Marley**, **Stereo MCs** and **Gentleman**.

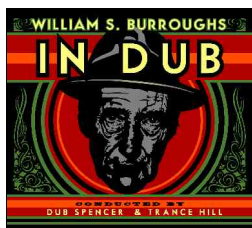
During their joint club and festival performances the combination of a live band with live mixer activity turned out to be the proverbial “match made in heaven”. On the desk, **Echo** transformed **Dub Spencer & Trance Hill**’s riddims and melodies into thrilling, transcendental sound collages.



The vibe was so good that they decided to hit the studio for a joint session. In 2012, their addictive full-length joint creation, 'Too Big To Fail', saw the light of day. In 2013 **Echo** also produced the live album 'Live in Dub & The Victor Rice Remixes'. The nine live tracks are supplemented by six remixes by the acclaimed New York-born dub technician **Victor Rice**.



In 2014, **Dub Spencer & Trance Hill** released 'Burroughs in Dub'. The album pays tribute to some of **William S. Burroughs**' work, and adds another iconic figure to the band's discography. With the official support and assistance of the William S. Burroughs Foundation in the United States, the band has succeeded to create a heavy space dub masterpiece with 15 chapters. Above the instrumental dub-reggae cut-ups—that gently drift into psychedelic territory—artfully diluted grooves, breaks, virtuoso hints and majestic slowness of the riddims, floats the voice of **William S. Burroughs**, beat poet, wanderer between worlds, junky supreme and counter-culture icon. The CD appears by popular demand on vinyl and has its own Japan-Edition.





The band's 8th album 'Physical Echoes' (2016) was completely produced by keyboarder Philipp Greter. A mind-bending, hypnotic album that shows the band's love for electronic trance music. The album is available only on vinyl (CD included).



On the new album 'Deep Dive Dub' (2016) the band dives deeper than Jaques Piccard's team during their record-breaking dive in Trieste in the sixties. The focus of this repetition is the fusion of reggae, even though, instead of the lightness that is usually inherent in reggae, the album focuses on heavy grooves, grooves that drift off into fat, dark, mature places. With a hypnotic power, the musicians – all of whom are trained jazz instrumentalists – dive into a world of Space-Rock-Dub-Electro. On a couple of the tracks the band invited the Lucerne-based experimental vocalist **Bruno Amstad** (who has previously worked with John Zorn and Phil Minton) to contribute.



On 'Christmas In Dub' (2018) the Swiss band have now added their idiosyncratic spin on Christmas, treating Santa to a dub makeover with neofolk collages in reindeer jumpers and minimal dub with space for recorders. Christmas simply couldn't sound any better or more flamboyant! The scent of fir branches, incense, Northern Lights and interesting biscuits comes together with a warm Hammond organ, funky guitars, rich drum grooves and a bass that is practically subsonic to create an intelligent, mischievous and leftfield masterpiece.



Neither a slave to the great Jamaican heroes of the seventies nor lost in the great wide world of electronic dub – **Dub Spencer & Trance Hill** tread their own path, reducing and abstracting as they dive deeper and deeper. Irony is the sword of the disenfranchised... and so **Dub Spencer & Trance Hill** will continue to roll on – like the film duo they borrowed their name from – over the sliders and knobs of the mixing desks of this world!



## DUB SPENCER & TRANCE HILL – DISCOGRAPHY:

2006	Nitro	(Echo Beach / EB 057 / CD)
2007	Return Of The Supercops	(Echo Beach / EB 063 / CD)
2010	Riding Strange Horses	(Echo Beach / EB 071 / CD)
2011	The Clashification Of Dub	(Echo Beach / EB 081 / CD / LP)
2012	Too Big To Fail (vs Umberto Echo)	(Echo Beach / EB 088 / CD)
2013	Live In Dub & The Victor Rice Remixes	(Echo Beach / EB 093 / CD)
2013	In Dub Remixes	(Echo Beach / EB 093 / LP)
2014	Burroughs In Dub	(Echo Beach / EB 100 / CD / LP)
2016	Physical Echoes	(Echo Beach / EB 112 / LP)
2016	Deep Dive Dub	(Echo Beach / EB 119 / CD / LP)
2017	Return Of The Supervinyl	(Echo Beach / EB 126 / LP)
2018	Christmas In Dub	(Echo Beach / EB 131 / CD / LP / DL)



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