

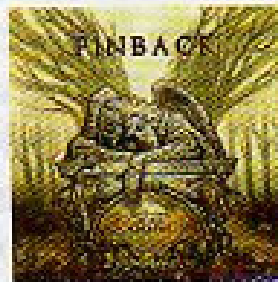
Pinback



Autumn Of The Seraphs

TOUCH AND GO

San Diego smart-popsters' superb fourth LP.



Named after the character in *Dark Star*, Pinback are a US indie scene equivalent to

Steely Dan: a shifting cast of virtuosos directed by cerebral tunesmiths Rob Crow and Armistead Burwell Smith IV (also known as Zach). Debuting in 1998, the core duo have evolved a sound that applies math-rock's abstract tropes – tricky guitar lines, dynamic tempo shifts – to concise, bittersweet pop songs. Despite its prog-opulent artwork, *Autumn Of The Seraphs* is some of their punchiest work, packed with euphoric melodies, wry lyricism and subtly enhanced

grooves. Check the piano cascades oiling Devil You Know's desiccated funk, or the way Good To Sea's sunny, drum machine-assisted bounce dissolves into a harmonious sigh of "Oh no, I hit rock bottom". Anyone who's fallen for Modest Mouse recently should love this.

Manish Agarwa