



## Pinback

Autumn Of The Seraphs

(Touch And Go)

Reviewed by [Jason Heller](#)

**September 11th, 2007**

"From Nothing To Nowhere" by Pinback

```
var player = new AudioPlayer("player_66252", "http://mobile.avclub.com/content/audio/play/66252" ); player.play();
```

Like a washed-up seashell, each new Pinback album sounds exquisitely empty on a first listen. That hollowness resonates, though, and on Pinback's fourth full-length, *Autumn Of The Seraphs*, the band has crafted yet another delicate indie-pop bauble. Finely spun as it is, there's a hint of sinew: "Barnes" and "Devil You Know" are strung along by brittle hooks and chiseled beats, while "Blue Harvest" receives The Police's "Message In A Bottle" loud and clear. Pinback co-leaders Rob Crow and Zach Smith seem to be pushing toward a colder, cleaner sound this time around: Their choirboy harmonies interlock mechanically, even as the usual oceanic imagery surfaces over acoustic swirls and bits of digital sequencing. Closing the disc is "Off By 50," which seems for a moment like it might drag Pinback headlong into Crow's love of heavy metal—he does, after all, have a side-project called Goblin Cock—but the song quickly ditches the dinosaur guitars and cranks up the fluttery piano. And that's about as meaty as *Seraph* gets; thankfully, its fragile textures and wispy melancholy work up a substantial roar all their own.