

HARP®

PINBACK

AUTUMN OF THE SERAPHS

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It's the hooks, stupid



Masters at crafting catchy yet complex indie pop, San Diego's Pinback follows 2004's

Summer in Abaddon with another arresting installment in its (presumed) Four Seasons in the Old Testament series. *Autumn of the Seraphs* pushes the pace, relying less on processed beats and more on live drumming to heighten the dynamic tension. The jackrabbit tempo of disc-opener "From Nothing to Nowhere" makes it the band's most aggressive song yet—though much of *Seraphs* doesn't lag far behind—and "Off By 50" might feature more textures than any previous Pinback song, which is saying something. The shifting time signatures and dense layers of staccato guitar lines, visceral bass runs and propulsive beats operate like engine cogs; they ratchet up the momentum until the songs erupt in climactic choruses of intricate counterpoint that'll have you bellowing along like a happy idiot. It may be melancholic fare, but Pinback never forgets pop's first rule: It's the hooks, stupid. JOHN SCHACHT

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