

Kraftwerk – Autobahn (1974)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Autobahn* (22:43) 02. *Kometenmelodie 1* (06:25) 03. *Kometenmelodie 2* (05:51) 04. *Mitternacht* (03:45) 05. *Morgenspaziergang* (04:04) Vocals, Electronics – Florian Schneider, Ralf Hütter Violin, Guitar – Klaus Roeder Percussion – Wolfgang Flür

Although Kraftwerk's first three albums were groundbreaking in their own right, *Autobahn* is where the group's hypnotic electronic pulse genuinely came into its own. The main difference between *Autobahn* and its predecessors is how it develops an insistent, propulsive pulse that makes the repeated rhythms and riffs of the shimmering electronic keyboards and trance-like guitars all the more hypnotizing. The 22-minute title track, in a severely edited form, became an international hit single and remains the peak of the band's achievements -- it encapsulates the band and why they are important within one track -- but the rest of the album provides soundscapes equally as intriguing. Within *Autobahn*, the roots of electro-funk, ambient, and synth pop are all evident -- it's a pioneering album, even if its electronic trances might not capture the attention of all listeners. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, AllMusic Review

There is an overriding feeling of bliss that transcends over the atmospheric driving anthem of the 22 minute title track on Kraftwerk's fourth album. There is no other choice but to get saturated in the rhythm and mood of the music, something which could be the equivalent to going for a long floating drive while escaping through the effects of ecstasy, while comfortably aware and accepting of the dangers... The lines float in and out and all around your head, the transient lyric which at first sounds dated then functions to hypnotise the listener with a beautiful ease....The B side draws another facet of the band, shorter pieces bringing a darker tone, which bridge both sides together even if it is still a little low key when compared with the lengthy trip of "Autobahn". "Kometenmelodie 1" is certainly an experimental mechanical piece but by the end

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of Autobahn a more organic tone winds down the journey with a haunting solo flute to end the drive. ---Philo, progarchives.com

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