

#UNCOOLTWO50
TOP 50 SINGLES, 1977 - 1999
(October - December 2024)
RULES and GUIDELINES

What is #UncoolTwo50?

- A music challenge in which participants select their Top 50 singles originally released between 1 January 1977 and 31 December 1999, and post one per day online or send a list via email.
- It is named after [Garry Mulholland's book](#). See '**BACKGROUND**' over the page for more information.
- Posting is from **1 October to 19 November** (same as the previous Mulholland challenges).
- The Top 250 countdown is presented from **25 November to 24 December** (Christmas Eve). Again this is the same schedule: 20 days of 10 (250 - 51) followed by 10 days of 5 (50 - 1).

Who can join?

- **Anyone** on Bluesky or Twitter, or who can send me a list by email, and
- Can commit to the rules below *ideally without falling behind* (i.e. by more than two days).

What do I need to know to join?

- The following basic rules:

#UncoolTwo50 RULES

1. Choose your TOP 50 SINGLES originally released between 1 Jan 1977 and 31 Dec 1999.
2. Maximum of THREE singles per artist (based on credits, so yes you can have 3 Joy Division and 3 New Order; 3 Sugarcubes and 3 Björk solo, 3 NWA and 3 Dre lead/guest slots, etc)
3. All picks will receive 10 points. However, you must choose FOUR singles to receive one bonus point (11 points) and ONE single to receive two bonus points (12 points).
4. THE [NEIL KULKARNI](#) CLAUSE: A maximum of 70% (35) of your 50 singles can be exclusively credited to white men. If exceeded, all 'non-compliant' singles will be penalised.
5. Post one per day from 1 October to 19 November, in any order. On [Bluesky](#) preferably. PLEASE INCLUDE THE YEAR in all posts: it is especially important for less famous singles.
6. Or send a full list of 50 to nonoxcol2018@gmail.com by SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER (Day 40, and a hard deadline). Please note this is 10 DAYS BEFORE the last posts. This is necessary to ease my workload. You may send a list in advance *and* post daily if you wish.

What else should I know?

- A series of tiebreaks will be used when preparing the countdown. See the Uncool Glossary [here](#).
- Ranking your singles is OPTIONAL. But it is a tiebreak, and is encouraged if you have the time and inclination. If ranking in full, please present in countdown order (Day 1: No.50 ... Day 50: No.1).

What if I start late?

- **You are still welcome to join!** The first week is over so you now have TWO options:
 - 1) **From week 2**, send a catch-up list to the email address above, *then* post daily.
 - 2) **Anytime**, just send the full list to the email address above by **SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER**.
- **Please do not spam the hashtag** with a series of catch-up posts after the first week (i.e. now).
- **Please do not post out of sync** with everyone else (e.g. day 3 on day 8, etc) - it's disrespectful, confusing and annoying. Also selfish, in what should be a fun, communal event.

What qualifies as a single?

- **Please make use of Discogs and Wikipedia** (discographies *and* individual track pages) if unsure.
- The following (in red) will definitely be disqualified: (NB: I will not be able to confirm all DQs)
- **Singles that miss the cut-off (released in 1976, or as singles for the first time in 2000/later)**. Note: singles released in the USA in 1999 but in the UK in 2000 (e.g. 'Still D.R.E.') are eligible.
- **Singles by UK/US artists that were not released in at least one of those two markets.**
- **Singles by artists from other countries that were not released in their home market, or the UK/USA.**
- **Songs that were only issued as B-sides.** Songs that were originally B-sides but later released as A-sides (e.g. 'How Soon Is Now?' and 'Born Slippy .NUXX') are eligible.
- **Songs only issued as singles after the band split up for good or were not a going concern at the time (IMPORTANT: this covers both 'There Is A Light That Never Goes Out' and 'Debaser').**
- **Clarifications:** Choices can be made based on 12" or album versions. Double-A sides based on **original** releases. So, 'Mis-Shapes' & 'Sorted For Es And Wizz' is a double-A, but '1999' & 'Little Red Corvette' or 'The Model' ('Das Model') & 'Computer Love' are separate. Single-artist EPs eligible - choice can be based on all or any track(s). Limited edition singles eligible. **Promo only singles not.**
- **Otherwise, eligibility will only be checked if a single makes the Top 250.**
- You should trust your instincts and not spend time looking for loopholes. **But do ask if unsure.**

Anything else?

- Please also read the **GUIDELINES** below..

#UncoolTwo50 GUIDELINES

For ALL

1. **Please pick your favourites.** Try not to be overly swayed by the “canon” unless you genuinely love the single. And don’t use this as a hobby horse or theme: other music challenges exist for that.
2. **Do not publicly criticise other people’s choices.** I want this to be a welcoming environment for all, especially for new players. The gloves can come off during the countdown (if necessary).
3. **Stick to your guns.** You get three months of preparation time for a reason. You should prepare a list **before 1st October** and do your utmost to stick to it. You should not ‘wing it’ after 1st October.
4. **Remember the aim.** It’s an *average* of just over 2 singles per year. But do not focus on picking something from every year. It’s your top 50 singles of 1977 - 1999, **regardless of the year of release**. It is **not** your favourite two singles of each year and then a few more.

For ‘VETERANS’

(those who did #Uncool50 in autumn 2022)

1. **Please don’t drop 1977-1999 singles you picked for #Uncool50, purely for the sake of refreshing your list.** You’ve seen this advice before, but this time it comes *without* the **warning**. That’s because in #FearofMu21C I was genuinely fearful that some C21 singles would be overlooked. I don’t think that’s the case here. I do get it - I have swapped out three #Uncool50 songs that might have stayed if evaluated purely on merit. If you’re weary of *posting* the same songs again, a) two years is a long time; b) Bluesky hasn’t necessarily seen them before; and c) don’t forget the list option. Bottom line though: you’re all adults with more important stuff going on, so please just weigh everything up and make your choice knowing I trust you all to be fair.
2. **If your opinion has changed in two years, that’s fine.** So has mine! All of point 1 applies only to changing your list for the sake of change or just to avoid repeating yourself.

For NEW PLAYERS

1. **Welcome and thanks for joining.** I hope you enjoy the challenge.
2. **Please don’t be intimidated** by the rules, by ‘veterans’ (above), in-jokes or lore. Everyone is very friendly and will help you out as much as possible. Most of the in-jokes are because #Uncool50 (see below) coincided with a Joy Division/New Order ‘Anthology’ challenge on Twitter in 2022, and so these two bands ended up with five of the top 21 singles and eleven of the Top 250 😊
3. **Please read the [Uncool Glossary](#)** - mainly designed to help new players feel more at home. And please ask questions if you are still unsure after reading both this document and the glossary.

BACKGROUND

THE FOUR MUSIC CHALLENGES AND FINALE

What is the purpose of #UncoolTwo50?

- It is part of an overall project which began with [#Uncool50](#) in October 2022. Due to the very heavy 1977-82 and UK bias on Twitter, the idea was refined into four separate challenges, one per era:
- **#FEAROFMU21C** (2000-23), which ran from 1 October - 24 December 2023.
- **#LET5D0IT** (1954-1976), which ran from 1 April - 5 July 2024.
- **#UNCOOLTWO50** (1977-1999), running from 1 October - 24 December 2024.
- **#LETSDOIT25** (pre-1954), running from 1 January - 25 February 2025.

The same basic rules will apply in all four challenges.

And after that?

- A list of 1,000 songs (the Top 250 from each challenge) will be published on 1 March 2025.
- You then select your Top 50 **from that list**, and post your Top 50 between 1 April and 20 May 2025, or send a list by 20 May 2025 (the deadline is the same because no new songs will be on lists).
- The final countdown (based only on these selections) will begin in late May 2025. It will conclude on Thursday 26 June 2025, because that marks exactly 1,000 days since the start of #Uncool50.

The same basic rules will apply in this ‘finale’ challenge, but with extra bonus points available. The additional bonus system was revealed on **22nd November 2024**.