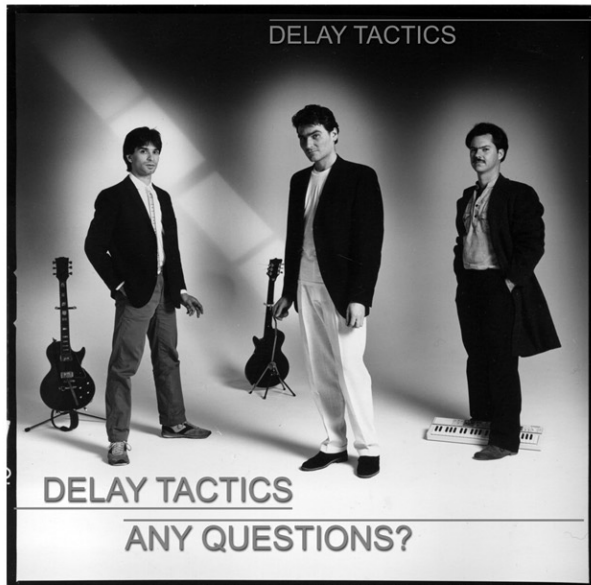


REISSUES



Delay Tactics – “Any Questions?”

(mp3.com 33619, 1984/2000, CD)

Any Questions? is the second of two albums released by Delay Tactics, a proto-electronica trio that pretty much captured the quirky electronic pop spirit of the early eighties. Walter Whitney (synths & programming) and guitarist Carl Weingarten are joined on this second release by David Udell (guitars, percussion, keyboards), with some guest bass on a few tracks and voice on another. The material here hovers at various points between tuneful major-key instrumental electro-pop with drum machines, and more ambient exploratory material more befitting the Weingarten/Whitney collaborative work of a few years later (*Dreaming In Colors*, *Primitive Earth*). The prominent use of slide guitars and looping set the poppier material apart from earlier all-or-mostly synth-based proponents in this field (Eno, Kraftwerk, and others come to mind), but also a wider variety of keyboard sounds tends to keep it interesting. While the chatter of the drum machines firmly date-stamps much of this, tracks like the ambient closer “Woman in a Room (of Colors)” with its dense orchestron backdrop could have been recorded yesterday. In all, an enjoyable look back to the early, formative days of modern electronica. – Peter Thelen