

Liner notes from “**Can’t Stop It – Australian Post-Punk 1978 – 82**”
Chapter Records, 2001

Track 7

Primitive Calculators

“Pumping Ugly Muscle” (1979, previously unreleased version)

Frank Lovece, Denise Rosenberg, David Light, Stuart Grant

The Primitive Calculator’s self-titled LP, recorded live in 1979 and not released until some years later, is a totally essential document for any music fan. The band’s maelstrom of electric and electronic distortion is harsh and desperate, but with a wry sense of humour – they are fondly remembered by many of the other artists whose work appears on this compilation. The group released one lone studio (or at least lounge-room) effort, the “Do That Dance/I Can’t Stop It” single in 1980, from which this compilation takes its title, although the album captures their raw vision more clearly. Richard Lowenstein’s 1987 movie *Dogs In Space* (starring Michael Hutchence) tried to recreate the Little Band scene of late 70’s Melbourne, of which The Primitive Calculators were the epicentre. This was done, in part, by advertising for people to come to the Seaview ‘dressed the way you were dressed in 1979’. Of course no-one was foolish enough to do such a thing, but instead dressed cool. The band reformed to appear in the movie and recorded “Pumping Ugly Muscle” for the soundtrack, which also came out as a 12” EP in 1987 (with a new version of “Do the Icepick”). This is a previously unreleased 1979 live version.

Band Members correction: The single was recorded at Daffy’s studio in North Fitzroy, late 1979.