

# OFF THE RECORD

10 Authentic Drum Transcriptions by the  
Legendary Tower of Power Drummer

Compiled by

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# EAST BAY GREASE

Released November 1970 | Recorded at Mercury Recording Studios (San Francisco, California)

*East Bay Grease* was Tower of Power's first recording, and was released on Bill Graham's Fillmore Records. In late 1969, the band won a contest at the Fillmore West in San Francisco at the Tuesday jam/audition night called "Sounds of the City." The prize was a record deal. The producer, David Rubinson, told the band they had six months for the guitarist and drummer to improve or they would have to be replaced.

This put the band in a very difficult situation: they had all begun playing together as teenagers and were very close, and the drummer was the leader's brother. They had formed a band even before they knew how to play. Tower of Power founder, Emilio Castillo, and Rocco have been playing together since they were 15 years old . . . a very deep relationship.

One night as I was playing at the On Broadway in Oakland, California, two of Tower of Power's horn players, Mic Gillette and Skip Mesquite, came by the club to sit in. On a break, they mentioned that they might have to make a drummer change, and asked if I'd be interested in checking the band out. I went to see them at Keystone Korner in San Francisco, and once I heard them I knew before they did that I'd be in it.

Eventually I met Emilio Castillo, the leader, who also had come into the On Broadway to sit in. He liked what he heard and invited me to come to a rehearsal and play with the band. Once we got together, it was pretty evident to everyone that I would fit . . . a great day for me. My first official day was July 23, 1970. We began playing shows, and things began to happen very quickly. In September, we began recording at Mercury Studios on Mission Street in San Francisco. In November, *East Bay Grease* was released.

Everything changed for us at that moment. We were working like mad everywhere, and had our regular gig at the On Broadway in Oakland. We also did our first national tour, but it wasn't very successful. Eventually, I met Doug Clifford, the drummer with Creedence Clearwater Revival, one of the biggest pop groups in music at that time. I had started giving him drum lessons at his house, and one day he asked me if Tower of Power would be interested in going on tour with them. This was a tremendous break for us—we did many shows with them and began to get exposure nationally. On the tour, no one cared about us, and we would often play with the lights on as people were filing in to see Creedence.

# KNOCK YOURSELF OUT

EAST BAY GREASE VERSION

Words and Music by  
EMILIO CASTILLO and  
STEPHEN KUPKA

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