

Today, I'll be reviewing 'Dude Ranch' by Blink 182! I'm not the biggest fan of the group in the world, but an old school friend was. When I told him I knew where they got their name from and he didn't seem to know, according to me at least, it seemed to annoy him which was fair enough. If someone arrogantly told me my favourite band at the time, Van Halen, got their name from a Dutch ice cream van, and I knew he was wrong, I'd be annoyed, too. Even if it was plausible. After seeing some ZINC 182 in a DIY store, I was convinced that was where Blink 182 got their name from and when I told my chum, he was like 'no, Blink 182 got their name because there was another band called Blink, and the punk band didn't want to get sued.' Actually he did know, that was the reason, but come on my theory was a damn good one. MAYBE the band were subconsciously influenced by Zinc 182?? What is Zinc 182? It's 'high performance anti-rust primer'. I guess that's pretty cool and impressive. I'm reminded of rap artists who boast about themselves all the time. If I ever become a rap artist, I'm calling myself Zinc 182!

The band could have also called themselves 'Mink 182' if they really wanted to be different. That's a stoat-like creature that can remove rust from furniture, cars etc. Not so much a rap artist name, maybe a name for something a little more serious and intellectual. Maybe for a Dream Theater-like act. Same goes for 'Think 182.' 'Tinker 182' is the name of a band consisting of mischievous children, 'Kink 182' is something a little more X-rated, and 'Link 182' is a band obsessed with The Legend of Zelda. Not particularly punk, but at least it's not pervy. Wink 182 is not so good either. I guess you can wink in a way that's friendly, but much of the time it's not so good. e.g. 'Hello ;)'. It's hard to make the wink work I think, even in the most basic sentences possible. You know what I think is a good name for a punk band? Drop the blink and the number, how about 'Screw Authority'? It's straight to the point, just as punk fans like. Ok, if that's not good enough for you, how about 'Screw Authority 55'?? Nope, 'screw' has lots of meanings too, some pervy. This naming business is more complicated than I first thought. There's nothing wrong with screwing authority in that respect, but keep it to yourself.

Do I like Dude Ranch? It's alright, I give it a respectable 8.5/10, the same score I gave Dream Theater playing an Iron Maiden album live. Does that mean Blink 182 are as good as DT playing old heavy metal? Yep. I gave 'Strictly Diesel' by Spineshank 8/10, so does that mean Blink 182 are better than them? You'd think so, but I was being very unfair, Spineshank should have got at least a 9/10. Great news for them, right? Not that great, as I don't like the same band's 'Anger Denial Acceptance' album. Who knows, maybe that will grow on me, too. This reviewing business is complicated stuff obviously, but at the end of the day it doesn't REALLY matter. Imagine if I was a judge, trying to hand out fair sentences to people and I kept changing my mind, that would get some angry reactions. Maybe I'd get assaulted by the felon and would have to increase the punishment. Either that, or let the guy go. A surgeon version of myself would be pretty bad too with the amputations then the re-fixing of various limbs afterwards to where they should have been in the first place and all, so you know what? Let's keep reviewing. And bye!