

THE CORTINAS

MK.1



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★★★

Bristol Archive ARC 155 V LP

Engines turn-over once more for Bristol punks.

Though they certainly couldn't claim to have been a part of the upper echelons of the original surge of punk (their most significant moments being a support slot for The Stranglers at the Roxy in early '77 at the behest of Hugh Cornwell and a memorable single in *Fascist Dictator*), The Cortinas certainly did everything required of them.

Remembered for being the first punk band out of Bristol,

they fired out a couple of 45s on the Step Forward label, both of which appear on this limited to 500 vinyl-only release, hammered their way through a Peel session, got their mugs firmly on the cover of *Sniffin' Glue* and shot their bolt with a disappointing LP. All of which was pretty much the form for most bands below punk's premier division.

That said, this collection of 10 demos and all of their 7" sides crackles with three-chord energy so that, despite not really marking them out as a band with an individual identity, it demonstrates that, for a band "of their kind", The Cortinas managed to hit all the targets and then some. Fourteen short and sharp volleys – not the greatest punk outfit but definitely archetypal. *Ian Abrahams*