

# Null

A solo from  
Nicolas  
Stephan

Improvisations and compositions on saxophones

Occasionally disturbed and augmented with taped or deliberately off-axis vinyl  
to create semi-random near-loops

Nicolas Stephan

tenor saxophone / straight alto saxophone / synthesizer / trumpet / clarinet / compositions and writings



Made with  
Benoît Gilg  
sound

Hélène Balcer  
cover design

Marie Pieprzownik  
vinyl engraving

Guest on "33  
Sébastien Brun  
Drums and electronics

Null will be released on vinyl (Maxi 45 rpm, length of an LP but at the speed of a 45) by the Petit Label (Caen) in May.  
It will also be available on digital platforms.  
Distribution : Modulor



Concerts :

25 may - La brique - Rouen  
26 may - Pour les oiseaux, Le Havre  
28 may - Théâtre de l'échangeur, Paris

Contacts

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# Null

NICOLAS STEPHAN

MAXI 45 TOURS

**Face A**  
rouge zéro

**Face B**  
arbres et rivières  
33

Solo.  
Improvisations et compositions aux saxophones.  
De temps à autre perturbées et augmentées de  
vinyles scotchés ou désaxés sciemment de manière  
à obtenir des presque-boucles semi-aléatoires.  
On peut ainsi entendre sur rouge zéro : Guess  
What «Mondo Giallo» et sur 33 : le 33 ème vinyle  
sans pochette de la malle de mamie Gilg et Dedette  
trouvée chez Benoît Gilg.

Zéro n'existe  
pas

Le silence n'est

qu'une théorie parmi tant d'autres

premiers pas

**Nicolas Stephan**  
saxophone ténor / rouge zéro et 33  
saxophone alto droit / arbres et rivières et 33  
synthétiseur semi analogique / rouge zéro et 33  
trompette, clarinette alto / 33  
compositions et écriture

Invité : **Sébastien Brun**  
batterie et électronique / 33

Réalisé avec **Benoît Gilg**  
son

**Hélène Balcer**  
visuel et graphisme pochette

**Marie Pieprzownik**  
gravure vinyle

*La pochette de ce disque publié à 300 exemplaires a été  
imprimée à l'atelier de sérigraphie associatif l'Encrage à Caen.  
Le Petit Label est aidé par le département du Calvados et par  
la ville de Caen.*



Nicolas Stephan has been exploring different musical geometries for more than two decades (as a leader):

### The trio

Woland Athletic Club - Carton Records  
Ars Circa -Musicae - Ora records

### The quartet

Unklar - Discobole Records  
Paar Linien - Discobole Records

### The quintet

- Free the paperclips

### The sextet

- Le Bruit du Sign - Yolk / Cobalt records

### Variable geometry formations

- Novel and music "violence in the details

### The big orchestra

- Supernatural Orchestra / 8 albums

« I needed to dive into the intimacy of a **solo** work, engraved as a matter of course on vinyl. This work starts from the saxophone, to look for timbres that are

really personal to me, and to confront them with a research project started in parallel around scratched vinyls.

I had fun taping, piercing and unstacking the vinyls I liked to get a raw material with which to improvise. Being solo, but still interacting with sounds, produced mechanically, with a random element.

Starting from this basis, I constructed several ways of "composing" with these elements for the album.

Rouge Zéro is an exploration of the most raw solo, disturbed after a while by the appearance of a vinyl of the group "Guess What" that I had taped and untaped so as to create a zapping of their music that would disturb my improvisation and make me react. In a second stage, I re-recorded a part on the tenor which then began to sound like a theme, and at the end I added a thin layer of semi-modular synthesizer so that the saxophone would expand and open up a different imagination at the end of the piece.

Arbres et Rivière is a piece written for the straight alto sax(which I play with a tenor mouthpiece). Very simple, it allows the exploration, through repetition and slowness, of the disturbances that the body brings to a multiphonic mantra (muscular fatigue, micro variations, errors). This piece is set in space by Benoît Gilg thanks to a recording via a multitude of sources.

33 is a "produced improvisation" rewritten, replayed, on the 33rd vinyl without a cover (I don't know which group it is) from the trunk of grandma Gilg and Dedette. I play several saxophones, clarinet, a little bit of trumpet, and modular synthesizer. In addition, I invited Sébastien Brun to play a drum line composed on the crackling of the scratched vinyl by me.

»

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SOLO