

The UFO line-up that recorded 'No Heavy Petting' in 1976. I-R: Danny Peyronel (keyboards), Phil Mogg (vocals), Andy Parker (drums), Pete Way (bass), Michael Schenker (guitar)

THE MAKING OF

UFO'S

NO HEAVY PETTING

Everyone believed **UFO's** fifth studio recording, 'No Heavy Petting', was going to be their breakthrough release. Things didn't work out that way, but the album has since gone on to be acknowledged as a genuine masterpiece. *Howard Johnson* asks drummer **Andy Parker**, keyboardist **Danny Peyronel**, and producer **Leo Lyons** how they made it happen...

EVER SINCE THEY'D RECRUITED 18-year-old German wunderkind guitarist Michael Schenker from Scorpions in June of 1973, British rock band UFO had been on a permanent upward trajectory. The group's two subsequent albums for Chrysalis Records - 1974's 'Phenomenon' and 'Force It' that appeared the following year - revealed a four-piece with a harder, more defined sound and a greater sense of focus than had been witnessed on their first two releases, 1970's 'UFO 1' and 1971's 'UFO 2: Flying'. With songs such as 'Doctor Doctor', 'Rock Bottom', 'Let It Roll', and 'Shoot Shoot' highlighting both Schenker's incendiary playing and singer Phil Mogg's warm, almost intimate vocal style, fans who knew their rock were turning on to the band's addictive mix of punch and poise in ever greater numbers.

'Force It' - produced like its predecessor by Ten Years After bassist Leo Lyons - had performed more than respectably in the major market of the United States. The album reached number 71 on the *Billboard* album charts at a time when such a placing yielded significant record sales. The band had added former Heavy Metal

Kids keyboardist Danny Peyronel to the line-up of Mogg, Schenker, drummer Andy Parker, and bassist Pete Way, and the view of those in the know was that the group formed in London in 1968 was now set fair to become the next big thing in rock. Hopes were high that UFO's third album for Chrysalis, and the band's fifth studio recording in total, would be the one to open the floodgates...

LEO LYONS: "I'd already been doing production work for Chrysalis when UFO first came across my radar sometime in 1973. The word was that they'd sold a few albums in Germany, so Chrysalis started showing some interest. The label wanted me to record a couple of songs with the band so they could hear what they were up to, and I think UFO wanted to test me out at the same time. I was living in Oxfordshire back then, so Chrysalis said, 'We'll give you a day in a studio in Chipping Norton.' It turned out to be half a day in the end because the band turned up late. I got to find out that was fairly typical of them!

"I seem to remember recording two tracks. One was called 'Give Her The Gun' and the other title I