



A CERTAIN FRANK NOTHING

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CD / LP / DIGITAL



In 2026, Bureau B reissues *Nothing*, the 2001 album by Ata Tak's Frank Fenstermacher and Kurt Dahlke (Pyrolator) aka A Certain Frank, newly remastered and available on vinyl for the first time. Marking its 25th anniversary, the record stands as a quietly distinctive chapter in Düsseldorf's post-Kraut electronic lineage – understated, atmospheric, and strikingly timeless.

A Certain Frank emerged in the mid-1990s from Düsseldorf's uniquely fertile musical environment. Kurt Dahlke (Pyrolator) and Frank Fenstermacher were already central figures in the city's post-war pop modernism: pioneers of the so-called Neue Deutsche Welle, members of Der Plan and Fehlfarben, and co-founders of the influential Ata Tak label. Since its founding in 1980, Ata Tak had championed an alternative German aesthetic that combined conceptual thinking with pop sensibility, releasing early work by artists such as DAF, Andreas Dorau, S.Y.P.H., Holger Hiller and later Oval. By the late 1990s, German electronic music had become largely synonymous with techno and club culture. Against this backdrop, A Certain Frank proposed a different trajectory – not oppositional, but deliberately understated. Rather than pursuing dancefloor functionality or revivalist gestures, Dahlke and Fenstermacher turned toward reduction, atmosphere, and subtle reconstruction. Drawing on easy listening and the once so-called "exotica," they treated these references as malleable material, reshaping them into something restrained yet contemporary. Following *No End of No* (1996) and *Nobody? No!* (1998), *Nothing* completed an informal trilogy shaped by denial and refinement. Conceived from the outset as a fully collaborative work, the album moved beyond sample-based construction toward a largely self-generated sound. Basslines, drum grooves, and synthesizer textures were played live, joined by the voices of Mai Lingani, Karin Knippfals, and Fenstermacher himself – integrated as tonal elements within a fluid sonic fabric rather than traditional lead vocals. Dutch bassist Pascal Plantinga and Austrian drummer Mike Daliot contributed significantly to the record's light-footed, groove-oriented energy. Originally released at the threshold of the new millennium, *Nothing* occupies a distinct space between jazz-inflected electronica, cinematic ambience, digital dub, and understated traces of drum & bass and lounge. Neither functional club music nor retro exercise, it embodies a quietly confident strain of Düsseldorf modernism – reflective, precise, and resistant to spectacle.

With this anniversary edition, Bureau B once again highlights a strand of German electronic music that exists between eras and categories. Carefully remastered and now pressed on vinyl for the first time, *Nothing* returns not as a relic, but as a work whose understated clarity continues to resonate – a testament to Bureau B's ongoing dedication to preserving and recontextualising Germany's experimental pop heritage.

– Hannes Stutz, 2026

TRACKLIST

- A1 Nothing
- A2 Peace Again
- A3 Donde Vas
- A4 Secret Love
- A5 We Belong To Someone
- B1 Without You
- B2 In The Sky
- B3 Man-Day
- B4 Blue & White

PROMOTION

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