

FILTER

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Electric Soft Parade

By Benjy Eisen

Dylan plugs in. Hendrix drops *Electric Ladyland*. Amps are going up to 11 these days. Isn't rock music supposed to be both loud *and* electric? But Electric Soft Parade is every bit as paradoxical as the name implies. The band clearly lives a dual existence: ESP is brothers Tom and Alex White, who are also full-time members of British buzz band Brakes. Both White bands are off to a running start, but Tom insists that ESP is their first priority (preempting any Ben Gibbard complex). Tom also says ESP is a pop band, not an indie act, thank you very much. Semantics aside, the new *The Human Body* EP, their first official release in the U.S. (following two previous U.K. full-lengths), is full of enough

jangly keys and gentle melodies to stress that "bringing the noise" doesn't always mean it's got to be ear-splitting.

