

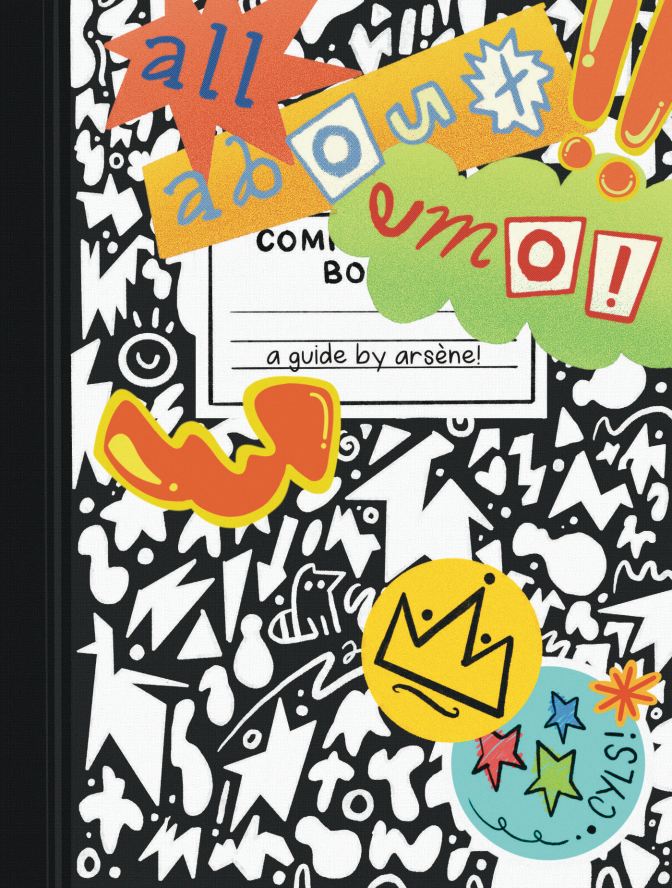
all

about

emo!

COM
BO

a guide by arsène!





what is
emo?

Emo is a very difficult genre to pin down! For many, the word "emo" conjures images of teenagers with colored hair and ripped up clothes. Sonically, you may picture pop-punky bands from the early noughties - My Chemical Romance, maybe?

While bands like MCR were instrumental in popularizing the genre, there's a whole world of emo to explore, both before and beyond what you may know.

Emo has a rich history - a storied web of sound, from hardcore punk, to twinkly guitars, to screamed wails and more. So let's learn about it together!

PROTO!

Emo:

#Av Early Years!

"Emo" is a very broad label, but all its forms share a common ancestor: punk music! The earliest forms of emo blossomed out of the 1980's DC hardcore punk scene.

The lyrics and vocal delivery of these bands were raw and emotional, leading to the genre being labeled "emocore" (or: emotional hardcore).

FOR WANT OF:

8 RITES OF SPRING, 1985



I, I believed memory might
Mirror no reflections on me
I, I believed that in forgetting
I might set myself free

But I woke up this morning with a
piece of past caught in my
throat...

Some of the formative early emo bands were Rites of Spring, Embrace and Moss Icon. These bands had a gritty, harsh sound more alike 70's and 80's hardcore punk than the pop-punk and mathy stylings of emo today.

Even back then, the label of "emo" was a dirty one! A lot of the bands credited with the genre's formation rejected the label entirely. But the term stuck around, even though it means something a little different now.



midwest MADNESS!

New developments in the mid 90's sparked the birth of a new subgenre: Midwest emo!

With this, there was a notable shift towards unconventional melodies characteristic of math rock - unique time signatures, arpeggiated guitars, and more.

Alongside this, there was movement away from the "hardcore punk" sound and towards an "indie" style. Vocals were often amateur, in contrast to the clean tones of the instrumentals.

Despite the name, Midwest emo can be made by anyone, anywhere. The label isn't a restriction, but rather an indication of the genre's geographical origins.



never meant:
american football, 1999



let's just forget
everything said
and everything
we did
best friends and
better halves,
goodbyes

and the autumn night when we
realised
we were falling out of love.

Some of the most prominent bands of this era include American Football, Cap'n Jazz and Mineral.



The big BOOM!

When most people hear the word "emo", they think of My Chemical Romance, Fall Out Boy, or Panic! At The Disco. These bands may not have mathy guitars or a rough, hardcore punk edge... but they still came from punk! Though, their punk influences are expressed via a "pop-punk" sound similar to that of bands like Green Day or Blink-182.

MAMA • MCR



Oh well, now, Mama,
we're all gonna die...

The aesthetics of these bands contributed to the "emo fashion" and subculture. Imagine: thick eyeliner, black hair, tight and torn-up clothes...

These early 2000's bands made emo mainstream, and earned it a new reputation. It's impossible to hear the word "emo" and not have them come to mind. The inclusion of these acts within the "emo" label is controversial among many listeners, but their impact cannot be understated.

the revival

Emo, like punk, is not "dead", and has never been. Even so, in the late 2000's, there was an all-new renaissance of Midwest emo. And that means: a whole load of new bands to listen to!

Some of the most well-known bands of the "revival" include Snowing, Empire Empire (I Was A Lonely Estate), The Brave Little Abacus and Algernon Cadwallader. These bands aim to capture a similar feel to the emo bands of the 90's, rather than the popular acts of the early 2000's or the hardcore sound of the first emo musicians.

Emo music is still being made, loved, and appreciated today, of course. Newer bands such as Origami Angel, Glass Beach, and Your Arms are My Cocoon are fantastic and entertaining listens!

Keep What You
Have Built Up Here
...EIIWALE

And I wish I
could tear
your heart
out!

Break meter
and release,
and still the
voice it keeps

And I wish that your
lungs would give out!
And finally give air to breathe...



empire empire / i was a lonely estate
origami angel / glass beach
your arms are my cocoon



Emo is always evolving into bigger and better things. With these changes come interesting, innovative subgenres and fusion genres!

mixes & MATCHES

SCREAMO!

You've probably heard the word "screamo" used to describe metal, but that's not how the term originated! "Screamo" is emo music with screamed vocals - hence why it sounds like a mix between "scream" and "emo". You might hear it called "skramz", to differentiate it from other screamed music.

Also, screamo can have the same clean instrumentation of midwest emo! The band Your Arms Are My Cocoon are well known for their unique screamed singing over bedroom pop guitars.

emo rap!!

In the 2010's, the emergence of Soundcloud brought with it a unique blend of genres: emo and rap!

Musicians like Juice Wrld and XXXTentacion brought this new style into the mainstream!

As modern music embraces electronic sounds, so too does emo! Songs such as "DigitalLung.EXE" by Hey, ILY mix emo with bitpop!

LGBT+M

Queerness always has and always will be a part of emo music.

This page is dedicated to sharing some really amazing emo songs by the loveliest of queer artists.

ASSISTED HARAKIRI
HOME IS WHERE

malleable geography,
catheters
overgrown,
moths confuse porch
lights for the moon



animals!

STOMACH BOOK



the black sheep
attacked
by the simple
feeling that
a name rearranged
makes it feel a
certain way



SO I SHOTGUNNED A BEER & WENT TO BED • snowing



You swore that
you would live
your life without
regret.
Well, what do you
wait for?

Melissa, I Fucked up!

cold weather • glass beach

wanna say I think it's so
gay that we really both
feel the same way
that I feel, like we're
more than just friends
it took too long to
realize...



Агатка (AGATHA! YOU'RE BEING MELODRAMATIC)

weatherday ☺

she will feel your scent again
when you're no longer around
and every single weather day
she will go outside to smoke



REC LIST

SOME GOOD TUNES!

LITTLE LEAGUE · CAP'N JAZZ

DOCTOR WHOMST · ORIGAMI ANGEL

I'M BACK SLEEPING... · MOSS ICON

SNOWY! · YOUR ARMS ARE MY COCOON

DISCO HIJACK · 125 RUE MONTMARTRE

WOOLWORM* · INDIAN SUMMER

CROWN SHYNESS · HIKES

* also known as "angry son"

8

the end.♡

AND NOW, ~~A WORD:~~

↳ MANY WORDS!

As you've likely realized now, emo is a wide spectrum that holds so much beautiful, fascinating art under its belt.

There's hesitation from many fans of "traditional" emo to embrace artists like Fall Out Boy or Lil Peep. But language is shaped by the people who use it, and it's undeniable that people use "emo" to mean things beyond the "traditional" sound. Emo is a massive umbrella. Why try to close it all up?

Also, this guide isn't comprehensive at all. There's way more emo in the world than what it's possible to mention. So continue to listen to it (or start listening to it)! Keep it close to your heart. And have fun!

THANKS FOR READING!♡