

SB takes the 433 New Brighton-Liverpool bus every day for four years through one of the Mersey Tunnels. With no bridges between these two built up areas, a tunnel is the most direct way across the river, which is precisely the way the Admiralty wanted it.

In the studio in the early 1990's, Frank Zappa covers John Cage's landmark length of silence 4'33". Someone that SB knows claims not to like Zappa's version and William Fetterman goes as far as to doubt its "authenticity". That's when it all starts to get complicated, which is exactly what Cage wanted.

Radio signals are limited under the river and the constant roar of the 433 makes easy listening difficult. iPods are turned up high and Metro sentences are read and re-read. The Tunnel is just a means of getting from A to B, which is what most users need.

Some mobile phone networks powerfully break through, enabling their customers to carry on regardless. For SB, this lessens the experience of the Tunnel. It may not be *Journey To The Centre Of The Earth* nor *20,000 Leagues Under The Sea*, but it's certainly not travelling on *terra firma* either.

The late 1980's Siberian expedition drills deep into the earth's crust and carefully lowers a heat-resistant microphone, hoping to detect subtle plate movements. The subsequent recording is the much-distributed and debated audio file 'sounds of hell'.

SB times the journey through the Kingsway Tunnel each day, averaging it out at 2'33", and dreams up a collection of new tracks of that exact length to be listened to while travelling through the Tunnel at 40mph. He produces 433 CDs that are given away free of charge at the Tunnel toll booths in early 2008.

The *Repo Man*-esque *Tazzle* kickstarts the journey, followed by electronic soundscapes, underwater recordings, enclosed spaces, Morse code, silence and a choir of tunnel workers, before Wylie & Young see us out the other end, out into a different Merseyside. Which is what SB wanted.

Project information, biographies & bibliographies, alternative versions and bonus tracks, picture credits, further reading, future projects and contact details:  
[www.alandunn67.co.uk](http://www.alandunn67.co.uk)

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This CD is covered by an MCPS Limited Manufacture  
Licence and has been supported by The Arts Council of England.  
The front cover of the CD shows the Birkenhead Dock Branch Tunnel exit,  
closed in the 1960's. The back cover shows the coast north of Liverpool.

**Recommended listening:**

**Roger McKinley - Train Blue Echo (demo on project website)**  
**The Stranglers - London Lady (2'33" version)**