

Pantera

Pantera: Founded in 1981 in Arlington, Texas, as a glam-rock cover band, Pantera became one of the nation's most popular heavy metal groups of the 1990s. The quartet, known for its "groove-metal" sound, released five major-label studio albums and was nominated for two Grammy Awards before disbanding in 2003.

The band's original lineup included drummer Vinnie Paul Abbott, guitarists Darrell Abbott and Terry Glaze, bassist Tommy Bradford, and vocalist Donnie Hart. Hart and Bradford left the band shortly after its formation, and Glaze took over on vocals. Bassist Rex Brown replaced Bradford and remained with Pantera thereafter. During its early years, the band produced three independent albums, *Metal Magic* (1983), *Projects in the Jungle* (1984), and *I am the Night* (1985), all of which were rooted in glam-rock but also evolved increasingly toward a heavy metal sound.



In 1986, Glaze left the group, and Pantera shifted decidedly away from glam-rock toward heavy metal, trying out a variety of vocalists until settling on New Orleans-native Philip Anselmo in 1987. With Anselmo as its new lead singer, the band released *Power Metal* in 1988, an album that introduced elements of thrash metal to their sound. Pantera signed with Atco Records the following year and began work on *Cowboys From Hell* (1990).

While recording *Cowboys from Hell*, Pantera developed its signature sound, often referred to as "power groove," which was a blending of power and groove metal. This sound, which catapulted the band to international acclaim, featured a rather abrasive vocal delivery by Anselmo, complex guitar riffs from "Dimebag" Darrell Abbott, and high-energy drumming by Vinnie Paul Abbott. The group continued to perfect the "power groove" sound on 1992's *Vulgar Display of Power*, an album that debuted at Number 44 on the American *Billboard* Charts and gave Pantera widespread radio airplay. The band's success continued when *Far Beyond Driven* (1994) debuted in the top spot on both the American and Australian *Billboard* Charts, giving Pantera its first Grammy nomination.

Despite such success, Anselmo distanced himself from the rest of the band after they returned home from their international tour in 1995. This continued during the production of *The Great Southern Trendkill* (1996), for which Anselmo laid down his vocal tracks in New Orleans, while the rest of the band recorded in Texas. The album met with limited success, and Pantera opted for a four-year hiatus. The group reunited in 2000 to record its final album, *Reinventing the Steel*, which debuted at Number 4 on the *Billboard* Top 200 and gave the band its second Grammy nomination. The group toured internationally until late 2001, but a feud between the Abbott brothers and Anselmo caused Pantera to disband in 2003.

Following Pantera's breakup, the members went on to form other groups. Anselmo split his time between two bands, Super Joint Ritual and Down (accompanied by Rex Brown), while

the Abbott brothers formed Damageplan in early 2004. Tragically, on December 8, 2004, “Dimebag” Darrell Abbott was killed on stage when a gunman shot him during a Damageplan concert in Ohio. Despite the band’s troubled history, Pantera made a lasting impact regionally, nationally, and internationally and is often considered a major influence on late 1990s alternative-metal bands, such as Korn and Fear Factory.