

## Don Gately's Convalescent Haze (2010)

The fifth addition to my collection *Brief Interviews With Hideous Guitars*, **Don Gately's Convalescent Haze** juxtaposes clean and granulated versions of the same improvised guitar licks in a fantasy-like fashion. Don Gately, a reformed thug in DFW's *Infinite Jest*, takes some hot steel to the shoulder while protecting one of the other members of his halfway house from some Canadian gangsters out for blood. Because he has recently reached the milestone of being drug-free for a year, Gately is faced with the dilemma of whether or not to accept pain medication in the hospital. The meaty part of the shoulder is supposedly a very painful place to get shot (I would recommend avoiding it if at all possible), and Gately is in-and-out of consciousness in his hospital bed. Although not known for deep thought or a powerful intellect, Gately's twelve-step success helps him realize that he can tolerate any amount of pain for one second at a time.

During his recovery, Gately is visited by real people while conscious and wraiths and ghosts while passed out. After I finished the music for the piece, I felt that the dry, unprocessed guitar parts vs. the granulated versions created a sense of these different realities. The beeps and clicks and whirring sounds could possibly be the sounds of a hospital room, while the diffuse realms could be interpreted as dream-like passages - or maybe not.