Rick Derringer – Jackhammer Blues (2000)



1. Shake Your Money Maker (3:30) 2. Wrapped Up In Love Again (5:24) 3. You've Got To Love Her With Feeling (5:32) 4. Street Corner Talking (5:35) 5. Somebody Loading A Dime (10:42) 6. Just A Little Bit (3:07) 7. All Your Love I Miss Loving (4:12) 8. Red Hot (2:11) 9. Crying Won't Help You Now (5:04) 10. Parchman Farm (2:42) 11. Texas (7:26) Musicians: Rick Derringer (vocals, guitar); Mark Robertson (Hammond B-3 organ); Segovia Bader (bass); Brad Kaiser (drums).

SMOKIN'! Jackhammer Blues is the best in Rick Derringer's evolving mastery of the genre of blues guitar. They just keep getting better and better. Derringer's voice may be naturally better suited to rock & pop than the blues, but he belts it with soul and lets his guitar do the rest of the talking. If you can handle mean, fluid, scuttling, slicing, vicious blues guitar from an absolute virtuoso, then this CD is a must-have. From boiling hot slippery licks to shimmering cascades of impossible arpeggios, a volcanic collection of blues covers from an unrivaled master of the six-string. It's hard to define what's more amazing: Derringer's innate sense of control--when to end a riff and let that last note linger and cry--or the fact that, for all the torrents of notes, he manages never, ever to overplay even one lick. Even the late great Stevie Ray Vaughan was guilty of occasionally running his marvelous riffs together in indistinguishable groups, instead of taking a breath and letting you savor that last incredible phrase. On Jackhammer Blues, Rick Derringer takes the blues guitar to the next level, a level of such surreal complexity that it simply must be heard to be believed. Hint: If you can listen to "Somebody Loan Me A Dime" with dry eyes, give up on trying to understand the blues. You ain't got 'em.

After the opening track Shake Your Money Maker, capably rendered though never a particular favorite song of mine anyway, the real fun begins. And it doesn't stop till the end, when my CD player's "REPEAT" function comes in handy. ---Hyjyljyj, amazon.com

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