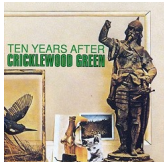


Ten Years After - Cricklewood Green (1970)

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Ten Years After - Cricklewood Green (1970)



01. *Sugar The Road* – 4:04
02. *Working On The Road* – 4:14
03. *50,000 Miles Beneath My Brain* – 7:35
04. *Year 3,000 Blues* – 2:23
05. *Me And My Baby* – 4:10
06. *Love Like A Man* – 7:36
07. *Circles* – 3:55
08. *As The Sun Still Burns Away* – 4:43

Personnel:

- Alvin Lee - guitar, vocals
- Leo Lyons - bass
- Ric Lee - drums
- Chick Churchill – organ

Cricklewood Green provides the best example of Ten Years After's recorded sound. On this album, the band and engineer Andy Johns mix studio tricks and sound effects, blues-based song structures, a driving rhythm section, and Alvin Lee's signature lightning-fast guitar licks into a unified album that flows nicely from start to finish. Cricklewood Green opens with a pair of bluesy rockers, with "Working on the Road" propelled by a guitar and organ riff that holds the listener's attention through the use of tape manipulation as the song develops. "50,000 Miles Beneath My Brain" and "Love Like a Man" are classics of TYA's jam genre, with lyrically meaningless verses setting up extended guitar workouts that build in intensity, rhythmically and sonically. The latter was an FM-radio staple in the early '70s. "Year 3000 Blues" is a country romp sprinkled with Lee's silly sci-fi lyrics, while "Me and My Baby" concisely showcases the band's jazz licks better than any other TYA studio track, and features a tasty piano solo by Chick Churchill. It has a feel similar to the extended pieces on side one of the live album *Undead*. "Circles" is a hippie-ish acoustic guitar piece, while "As the Sun Still Burns Away"

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closes the album by building on another classic guitar-organ riff and more sci-fi sound effects.

---Jim Newsom, Rovi

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