



MATT BACKER
GET BACKER
Eight Records ★★★★★

Can't help feeling that session guitarist Matt is trying to put some amusement back into the blues, not only in his lyrical content but also in the way that he delivers his music. It's extremely appealing and very different. Just when you think you've got this albumussed it goes off at a tangent and just makes you smile. Check out Learning Trunk with vocals by Peter Cox. It's a real blast and packed with appeal. Marcella Demont joins Matt on lead vocals for Rock And Roll headache and this adds yet another dimension. Loads of energy and grooves throughout, with everyone seemingly having a great time playing together and the truly great guitar playing almost takes a back seat at times. Nice slide

work on Starting Gun and we love the way this track builds as it progresses with some truly evil sounding guitar work - so not all light-hearted. The album winds up with a bluesy shuffle that also features Bill Blue on guitar and Adam Gussow on harmonica. At just over 35 minutes this is a short running album, but it is undeniably sweet so do check it out.

MARTIN BARRE
CRISP UP 7.44
Edifying Records ★★★★★

Having toured extensively last year and currently on tour in the UK right now, Martin has often been asked for a CD of the set. But rather than just recording a show he decided they should do it 'live' in the studio for better quality. The band set up as if playing a gig but with Dan Crisp in a booth so he could put his vocals on at the same time. Naturally well.

