

Guitarist

Music

THE 50 BEST
GUITAR ALBUMS
OF 2010

Here's our round-up of the best guitar albums and DVDs of 2010. Catch up on those essential downloads and find any you missed right here



Lee Ritenour

Six String Theory

Ritenour's labour of love took him years to organise, and the result is an all-out, all-star smorgasbord of fine guitar playing. Fascinating collaborations, solo performances and styles blend to a whole that's more than the sum of its parts.

We said: "20 of the world's finest guitarists, six genres, and 15 tracks of finger-tangling music from the soulful to the flashy and all points in between."

Download now: Give Me One Reason, My One And Only Love, Why I Sing The Blues, Fives

"This has been in my head for a long time - I've always been fascinated by how expressive the guitar is in so many different styles" **Lee Ritenour**

Jimi Hendrix

Valleys Of Neptune



This official Hendrix release compiles seven unreleased tracks and

five reworkings, mostly taken from the period between Electric Ladyland's release in 1968 and Jimi's Woodstock appearance in 1969. We get different versions of classics such as Stone Free, Fire and Red House, which while not polished, offer valuable insight into the Hendrix legend.

We said: "Unfinished it may be, but for a litany of great licks and an endless stream of ideas, there's enough here for any guitarist to learn something."

Download now: Sunshine Of Your Love, Valleys Of Neptune, Bleeding Heart

Jeff Beck

Emotion And Commotion



This long-awaited return sees Jeff unleash his arsenal of incredible skills over a

wide-ranging set that features collaborations with Imelda May and Joss Stone and superlative melodic instrumentals. Backed at times by a 64-piece orchestra, his unique phrasing remains the star turn, surpassing even that of Gilmour. High praise indeed.

We said: "Another wildly versatile musical journey led by a man whose unique technique inspires and depresses us in equal doses. Wish we could do that..."

Download now: Somewhere Over The Rainbow, Lilac Wine, Never Alone

Slash

Slash



The last true old-school guitar hero blazes a trail over this star-studded collaborations

album. Bringing in some truly unlikely partners from the worlds of pop, rock and metal, this really is one of those albums that has a song for everyone on it. But at the end of the day, it's still Slash, which means chameleonic, snaking, riff-heavy thrills await.

We said: "Only a handful of elite guitarists have had the skill to let soulful playing and technical showmanship coexist. Time and again here, Slash's lead playing turns even the most overused of clichés inside out."

Download now: Ghost, By The Sword, Gotten, Watch This

Alter Bridge

AB III



Topping 2007's Blackbird is no mean feat, but Kennedy, Tremonti and co have

managed to pull it off here. Their third album is broodier and heavier with the concept of the loss of faith running through it. Juggernaut riffs and dynamic songwriting make for a jaw-dropping mix of dark and light, and the best heavy rock record of the year.

We said: "Tremonti's solos are frequently furious, but they lift the songs beyond technique and into the stratosphere"

Download now: Ghosts Of Days Gone By, Slip To The Void, Wonderful Life