

MC5

Back in the USA
(Rhino/Atlantic)

★8.66677★

Goes well with: The Stooges, any Mick Ronson stuff

MC5 BACK IN THE USA



When Smokey was still singin' the blues and Motown reigned Supreme, the birth cry of a slovenly newborn from Detroit's Lincoln Park, was letting teenyboppers everywhere know that a new kind of rock 'n' roll was slowly and painfully being born. This year sees the re-release of MC5's

Back in the U.S.A., the seminal 1969 album that came as a testament to living in turmoil.

The band had been personally scolded by then-F.B.I. Director J. Edgar Hoover for lyrics deemed "filthy" and would, within days, be falsely connected to the Ann Arbor riots. One only need hear the blues-tinged twang of "Teenage Lust" and "Call Me Animal" to see how greats like The Damned came to develop MC5's trademark pseudo-rockabilly.

Yeah, sure, any digital re-recording is an improvement in terms of clarity, but the crackle of vinyl is missed—sorely—when listening to an album of such raw and novel aggression.

—Jeff Nau