

# Rolling Stone

## Reviews



### Wheelhorse Victrola for Sale

Part of alternative country's big failure was its central identity crisis. Sure, country and rock could successfully marry, but the results were often too twangy for rock purists and too rawk for fans of fiddling. Wheelhorse have found a rare comfortable mix, in no small part due to the fact that the Kentucky five-piece knows it's a drum-tight rock & roll band at heart. That doesn't mean that guitarist Joseph Litteral isn't want to splash a bit of lap steel or mandolin on a cut. Or that the band didn't invite bluegrass whizkids Ronnie McCoury and Jason Carter to add some country color. Or that the harmonies on "Leaving Train" aren't tapping into some hillbilly lineage. So embellishments like a steel guitar might add a haunting bit of reverb to "Baptist Town," the bottom end still shuffles with Seventies swagger, a muddy foot always in the blues, where it all starts.

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