

Bo Carter - Twist it Babe 1931-1940 (1973)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Twist It, Baby* (1931) 02. *Some Day* (1938) 03. *Doubled Up In A Knot* (1935) 04. *Shake 'Em On Down* (1938) [play](#) 05. *Let Me Roll Your Lemon* (1935) 06. *My Baby* (1940) 07. *Rolling Blues* (1935) 08. *Policy Blues* (1940) 09. *Honey* (1940) 10. *The Law Gonna Step On You* (1931) 11. *I Get' The Blues* (1935) 12. *Howling Tom Cat Blues* (1934) 13. *Pussy Cat Blues* (1936) [play](#) 14. *Bo Carter Special* (1934) Guitar, Vocals
– Bo Carter

This Yazoo release compiles fourteen sides by Bo Carter recorded between 1931 and 1940. Carter was an extremely prolific recording artist, and "Twist it Babe" is a solid introduction to his body of solo work. His originality and virtuosity on the guitar, often overlooked due to his propensity for double entendre, put him technically on par with other "uncopyable" bluesmen such as Blind Lemon Jefferson, and Robert Pete Williams.

If you have a problem with "dirty blues", then this album, and Bo Carter all together, are really not for you, however, he is a master of country blues guitar and this album is a great place to start. The production and sound are as clean and clear as you will find in the 1930's.

The listener of this album will witness his utter disregard for standard blues phrasing and cliched licks. You will discover through repeated listening that his seemingly simple and catchy songs are actually quite complex arrangements, featuring skills and techniques that remain absolutely unique within the blues vernacular. The combination of melodic, harmonic genius and command of counterpoint, and polyrhythmic bass lines are facilitated by the use of all five fingers of his picking hand, and five different tunings on the guitar. ---Jeff Melvin

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Armenter Chatmon, alias Bo Carter, left a sizable thumbprint on 1930s blues. His output as a member of the Mississippi Sheiks is unremarkable, but his solo work retains an amazing freshness. It should be noted that this CD does not represent his most sexual material. "Banana in Your Fruit Basket", another Yazoo Records opus, offers 14 of his most explicit songs. While I don't find any of this music objectionable, the reviewers who preceded me are right about this disc. If you have qualms about racy lyrics, neither "Twist it, Babe" nor "Banana in Your Fruit Basket" will elicit any smiles. For blues hounds, both CDs are emerald-pure lowdown fun. Recommended. ---Loren Burris

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