Blowing The Fuse - Classics That Rocked The Jukebox In 1956 (2005)

01 – The Cadillacs – Speedo 02 – Bo Diddley – Pretty Thing 03 – The Platters – The Great Pretender 04 – Ruth Brown & The Rhytmakers – I Want To More 05 – The Teenagers – Why Do Fools Fall In Love 06 – The Ernie Freeman Combo – Jivin' Around 07 – The Teen Queens – Eddie My Love 08 – Howlin' Wolf – Smokestack Lightnin 09 – Bobby Mitchell – Try Rock And Roll 10 – Ray Charles – Drown In My Own Tears 11 – The Moonglows – We Go Together 12 – Little Richard – Long Tall Sally play 13 – James Brown – Please, Please, Please 14 – Fats Domino – I'm In Love Again 15 – Big Joe Turner Feat Van Walls – Boogie Woogie Country Girl 16 – Clyde McPhatter – Treasure Of Love 17 – The Cleftones With Jimmy Wright – Little Girl 18 – Chuck Berry – Roll Over Beethoven 19 – Little Willi John – Fever play 20 – Chuck Willis – It's To Late 21 – Shirley & Lee – let The Good Times Roll 22 – Little Richard – Rip It Up 23 – The Five Satins – In The Still Of The Nite 24 – Bill Doggett – Honky Tonk (1) 25 – Bill Doggett – Honky Tonk (2) 26 – The Cadets – Stranded In The Jingle 27 – The Heartbeats – A Thousand Miles Away 28 – Jimmy Reed – You've Got me Dizzy 29 – Roy Montrell – That Mellow Saxophone 30 – Big Walter – Pack Fair And Square

Germany's Bear Family label has created an amazing series in their Blowing the Fuse project. Each volume features chart and jukebox sellers of all stripes of R&B, soul, and early rock & roll. From the looks of things, 1956 was a wild and woolly year with Bo Diddley ("Pretty Thing"), Chuck Berry ("Roll Over Beethoven"), and Little Richard ("Rip It Up" and "Long Tall Sally") all making this set. But it's not all rock & roll. Clyde McPhatter's "The Great Pretender" is here, as are Ray Charles' "I'll Drown in My Tears" and Howlin' Wolf's "Smokestack Lightnin'," just to name a few more. Also in the register are James Brown's early soul with "Please, Please, Please" and Big Joe Turner's proto-rock & roll/R&B hybrid "Boogie Woogie Country Girl," and there are two items that cannot be forgotten, the Cadillacs' amazing "Speedoo" and Little Willie John's classic of classics, "Fever." Add in fine sound (no "reprocessed for stereo" crap here), fine liner notes, and a handsome package. Along with the rest of the series, this is a must-own. Simply put, these are the best year-by-year compilations out there. ---Thom Jurek, allmusic.com

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