Mano Negra - King Of Bongo (1991)

1. "Bring The Fire" (Manu Chao, Mano Negra) – 3:27 2. "King of Bongo" (Manu Chao, Mano Negra) – 3:38 3. "Don't Want You No More" (Manu Chao, Mano Negra) – 3:07 4. "Le Bruit Du Frigo" (Manu Chao, Mano Negra) – 3:10 5. "Letter To The Censors" (Manu Chao, Mano Negra) – 2:30 6. "El Jako" (Manu Chao, Mano Negra) – 2:48 play *7. "It's My Heart" (Mano Negra) – 1:42 8. "Mad Man's Dead" (Manu Chao, Mano Negra) – 2:43 9. "Out Of Time Man" (Manu Chao, Mano Negra) – 3:25 10. "Mme Oscar" (Manu Chao, Mano Negra) – 2:37 11. "Welcome In Occident" (Manu Chao, Mano Negra) – 4:20*
play
12. "Furious Fiesta" (Manu Chao, Mano Negra) – 1:26 13. "The Fool" (Lee Hazelwood, arranged by Mano Negra) – 2:49 14. "Paris La Nuit" (Manu Chao) – 3:20
Band line-up Oscar Tramor (Manu Chao) – Lead Vocals & Guitar Tonio Del Borño (Antoine Chao) – Trumpet & Vocals Santiago "El Águila" Casariego – Drums & Vocals Garbancito (Philippe Teboul) – Percussion & Vocals Roger Cageot (Daniel Jamet) – Lead Guitar & Vocals Jo (Olivier Dahan) – Bass & Vocals Helmut Krumar (Thomas Darnal) – Keyboards & Vocals

King of Bongo showcases Mano Negra as a straightforward rock band, downplaying its trademark eclecticism and turning up the guitars. The manic rhythmic drive is throttled back, and the broad range of styles the group explored on Puta's Fever only pop up sporadically to spice the rock context. The almost all-English lyrics embrace the outlaw rocker stance, and the material is largely geared toward emphasizing Mano Negra's connection with the punk side of the rock spectrum. The ranting rave-up "Letter to the Censors" isn't that far from Motörhead, and the acoustic guitar and organ on "Out of Time Man" has a feel close to Iggy Pop's "The Passenger." "Don't Want You No More" even lopes along at a country & western-flavored clip. Mano Negra can rock hard and convincingly -- notably on the steady, rolling title track or when blending dub reggae and rap elements into "Bring the Fire" -- and the music still offers much more variety than the rock norm here. While King of Bongo isn't a bad album (and its English-language rock orientation might be easier for many people to connect with), it is the least distinctive of Mano Negra's career. --- Don Snowden, allmusic.com

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