Foo Fighters - Foo Fighters (1995)

01 - This Is A Call 02 - I'll Stick Around 03 - Big Me 04 - Alone + Easy Target 05 - Good Grief 06 - Floaty 07 - Weenie Beenie 08 - Oh, George 09 - For All the Cows 10 - X-Static 11 - Wattershed 12 – Exhausted Musicians: Greg Dulli - Guitar William Goldsmith - Drums Dave Grohl - Guitar, Vocals Nate Mendel -Bass Pat Smear - Guitar

Essentially a collection of solo home recordings by Dave Grohl, Foo Fighters' eponymous debut is a modest triumph. Driven by big pop melodies and distorted guitars, Foo Fighters do strongly recall Nirvana, only with a decidedly lighter approach. If Kurt Cobain's writing occasionally recalled John Lennon, Dave Grohl's songs are reminiscent of Paul McCartney -- they're driven by large, instantly memorable melodies, whether it's the joyous outburst of "This Is a Call" or the gentle pop of "Big Me." That doesn't mean Grohl shies away from noise; toward the end of the record, he piles on several thrashers that make more sense as pure aggressive sound than as songs. Since he recorded the album by himself, they aren't as powerful as most band's primal sonic workouts, but the results are damn impressive for a solo musician. Nevertheless, they aren't as strong as his fully formed pop songs, and that's where the true heart of the album lies. Foo Fighters has a handful of punk-pop gems that show, given the right musicians and songwriters, the genre had not entirely become a cliché by the middle of the '90s. --- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, Rovi

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