

The White Stripes - De Stijl (2000)

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1. *You're Pretty Good Looking [For A Girl]* 1:51 2. *Hello Operator* 2:38 3. *Little Bird* 3:08
4. *Apple Blossom* 2:15 5. *I'm Bound To Pack It Up* 3:11 6. *Death Letter* 4:32 7. *Sister, Do You Know My Name?* 2:53 8. *Truth Doesn't Make A Noise* 3:16 9. *A Boy's Best Friend* 4:24
10. *Let's Build A Home* 2:00 11. *Jumble, Jumble* 1:55 12. *Why Can't You Be Nicer To Me?* 3:24 13. *Your Southern Can Is Mine* 2:29
Jack White – guitar, piano, lead vocals, double bass
Meg White – drums, tambourine, backing vocals, shaker & floortom + John Szymanski – harmonica Paul Henry Ossy – violin

Despite their reputation as garage rock revivalists, the White Stripes display an impressive range of styles on their second album, *De Stijl*, which is Dutch for "the style." Perhaps the album's diversity -- which incorporates elements of bubblegum, cabaret, blues, and classic rock -- shouldn't come as a surprise from a band that dedicates its album to bluesman Blind Willie McTell and Dutch artist Gerrit Rietveld. Nevertheless, it's refreshing to hear the band go from the Tommy James-style pop of "You're Pretty Good Looking" to the garagey stomp of "Hello Operator" in a one-two punch. It's even more impressive that the theatrical, piano-driven ballad "Apple Blossom" and a cover of Son House's "Death Letter" go so well together on the same album. Jack White's understated production work and versatile guitar playing and vocals also stand out on the languid, fuzzy "Sister, Do You Know My Name?" as well as insistent rockers like "Little Bird" and "Why Can't You Be Nicer to Me?" As distinctive as it is diverse, *De Stijl* blends the Stripes' arty leanings with enough rock muscle to back up the band's ambitions. ---Heather Phares, allmusic.com

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