

Top 10 ROCK ALBUMS of 2022

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In these days of lo-fi, EDMs and Spotify, it's so easy to ignore rock n' roll. That's where, however, you will find all the energy, freedom of expression and all things guitars and drums and earth-shattering vocals. We are listing here ten albums that contributed to deck up the rock n' roll music landscape in 2022. Which one is your favourite? We did go far and wide to get this compilation based on the sheer creative process that goes into making an album with such technical as well as aesthetic expertise (listed in an alphabetical order of the band names):

1 **Album** Hellfire
Band Black Midi
Label Rough Trade
Genre Experimental rock, progressive rock, jazz fusion, post-punk



Hellfire received a score of 79 out of 100 based on 20 critics' reviews at review aggregator Metacritic, indicating 'generally favourable' reception. Steve Erickson of *Slant Magazine*

described the album as a 'concept album ripe for repeat listens' designed to be heard in its entirety, which 'engages with rock's history while simultaneously taking it in imaginative new directions'.



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2 **Album** Welcome 2 Club XIII
Band Drive-By Truckers
Label ATO
Genre Southern rock



In *Pitchfork*, Grayson Haver Currin writes: 'Following a suite of timely sociopolitical screeds that delivered necessary messages to its Southern brethren, this

century's most consistently great rock band digs deep into its own archival baggage. The result is a galvanising reminder that it didn't earn that honorific without catastrophe or controversy.'

3 **Album** Most Normal
Band Gilla Band
Label ATO
Genre Pop/rock



According to *Slant Magazine*, *Most Normal* is 'a work of defiant, purposeful weirdness, and even when glimmers of pop prettiness do occasionally shine through, like during

the opening moments of *Almost Soon*, they're eventually buried under bursts of dissonance, melted psychedelia, and vocals that oscillate between the in-your-face and eerie detachment.'

4 **Album** The Elephant of Mars
Band Joe Satriani
Label Earmusic
Genre Classic rock



In one of the editorial reviews on Amazon, *The Elephants of Mars* moves, it swings, [and] it rocks! Satriani and his touring band, who all recorded remotely in separate areas

of the world during lockdown, deliver an album-length journey that never dulls. [This album...] crackles with an exciting new energy, briskly traveling through stylistic roads that feel freshly updated, viewed through new eyes.



5 **Album** *Strictly a One-Eyed Jack*
Band John Mellencamp
Label Republic
Genre Rock

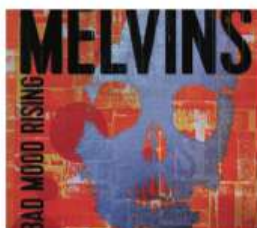
John Mellencamp, according to AllMusic, embodies the stubborn independence of an artist who unquestioningly follows his heart and his muse, and *Strictly a One-Eyed Jack* is the work of a man accepting the passage of time rather than fighting against it. As a songwriter and a performer, it's a gambit that works in his favour.



6 **Album** *Portals*
Band Kirk Hammett
Label Blackened
Genre Pop/rock

This debut solo EP from Metallica's Kirk Hammett is produced by himself.

In a review on *Metal Hammer*, this four-track album synthesises his biggest influences: metal, horror movies, classical music and the works of composer Ennio Morricone, whose *Ecstasy Of Gold* famously opens up Metallica's live show. The result is four compositions that each play out as a distinct musical novella.



7 **Album** *Bad Mood Rising*
Band Melvins
Label Amphetamine Reptile
Genre Rock, sludge metal, grunge

With *Bad Mood Rising*, Gavin Brown writes in *Distorted Sound*, Melvins prove that they're still releasing vital music, and it's cool to see them back on Amphetamine Reptile with such a vibrant, noisy and catchy record some 25 years after they last put an album out on the label. It would seem that they will continue to put music out on their terms for as long as they want, and long may that continue.



8 **Album** *Will of the People*
Band Muse
Label Warner, Helium-3
Genre Alternative rock

According to the *Classic Rock Magazine*: "This is an album on which Muse master the wider range of future rock and pop sonics they've been toying with for the past decade and refine and define their current sound as neatly as *Black Holes & Revelations* did for their 2000s period. The UK-based *The Telegraph* mentions: 'Muse are a blockbuster band, and this is another box-office-demolishing spectacular—it would feel like self-denial not to surrender. Honestly, the end of the world has rarely sounded like so much fun.'



9 **Album** *World Record*
Band Neil Young & Crazy Horse
Label Reprise
Genre Pop/rock

Michael Gallucci of *Ultimate Classic Rock* says *World Record* 'doesn't go too deep' and 'can be messy and often unfocused', 'Young and Crazy Horse's allegiance to the material and themselves leads them to do what they've always done best: plugging in, following the leader and having a blast for 45 or so minutes'.



10 **Album** *A Light for Attracting Attention*
Band The Smile
Label XL
Genre Art rock, progressive rock, electronica, Afrobeats

The Smile comprises the Radiohead members Thom Yorke and Jonny Greenwood with the Sons of Kemet drummer Tom Skinner. On Metacritic, *A Light for Attracting Attention* has a score of 86 out of 100 based on 23 reviews from critics, indicating 'universal acclaim'. *Pitchfork* awarded it their 'best new music' accolade. ■