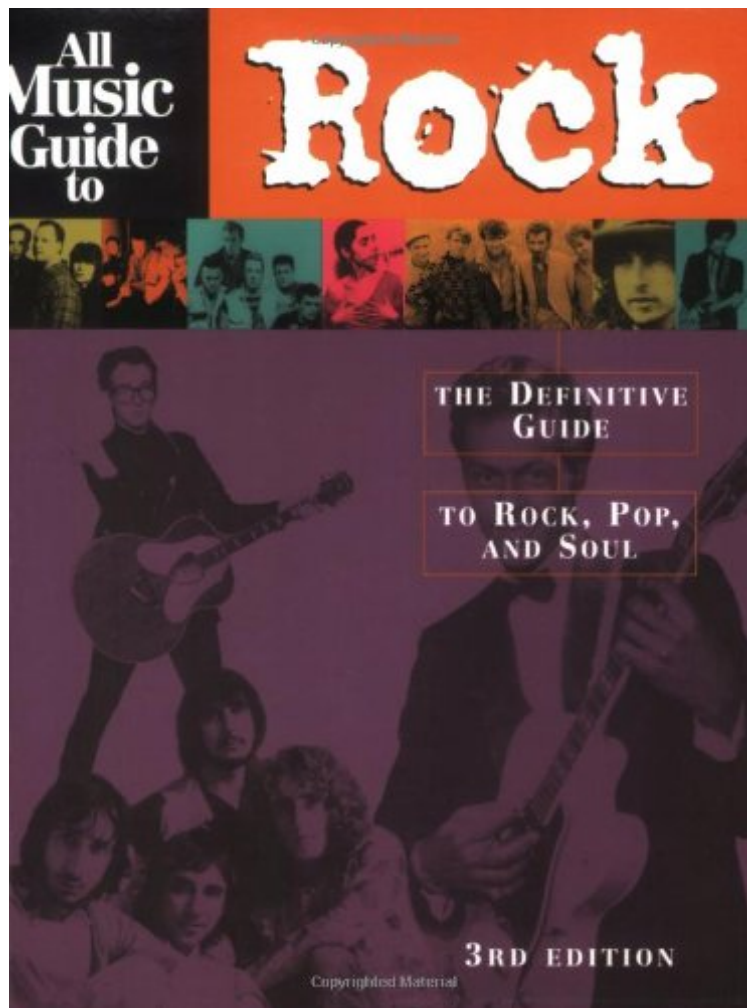


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All Music Guide to Rock: The Definitive Guide to Rock, Pop, and Soul (3rd Edition)

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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised All Music Guide to Rock: The Definitive Guide to Rock, Pop, and Soul (3rd Edition):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Old school format but mighty usefulBy dead stonesAny All Music Guide Book is a good investment. The All Music Guide Book of Rock is exceptional in the number of groups covered and the depth of the reviews. As an example, for Progressive Rock fans , groups such as Matching Mole and Gong are listed as well as heavyweights such as Camel and Caravan. However, it does not cover other spin-off progressive

bands such as National Health, Gilgamesh or Hatfield and the North. Therefore, you must use the All Music Guide website to research these bands. Hence, the hard copy of All Music Guide to Rock is great for what it covers but there are the inevitable gaps and limits of static research provided in a reference book. Nonetheless, it covers all the heavy hitters in great detail such as Bob Dylan, the Beatles or the Rolling Stones. The Grateful Dead are given the deserved royal treatment also. However, the Dead are the best example of an evolving discography. Four of the Dick's Picks are listed. Yet this growing catalogue is at least up to Dick's Picks #32. Essentially, this is a great purchase if you relish a hard copy reference book, which I prefer. However, if it is simply music information you crave then forgo the book and stick to the on-line reviews. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Long live rock and roll. By Robert Wilkinson Comprehensive breakdown of rock music. 20 of 21 people found the following review helpful. Finally updated: the best rock reference book, bar none. By Paul Allaire 5 years after the 2nd Edition, we finally receive the 3rd Edition of the All Music Guide to Rock: 1,399 (no, not 1,400!) pages of vital information on the best in rock music from yesterday and today. What sets this reference book apart from its competitors is the detailed album-by-album review (and rating) of the artists. A good example is how the editors treat Bob Dylan's career and its 40+ (and counting) albums. The book cover albums issued before or no later than October 2001, so you will find reviews on albums such as Dylan's "Love Theft" and Collective Soul's "7even Year Itch", but you won't find, say, Radiohead's "I Might Be Wrong--Live Recordings" or Natalie Merchant's "Motherland". Of course, as the editors note, this book is culled from the vastly more expansive on line version of All Music Guide, which obviously is also updated more frequently. The book has some curious omissions (what, no listing for Creed?) and out-of-proportion reviews (3+ pages on The Fall, about the same as for the Beatles!). In the end, those are minor quibbles. While the on line version is more complete and up to date, I also want to have something I can physically leaf through (same reason why there are still actual newspapers, I guess). Let's just hope that it won't take another 5 years before the 4th Edition sees the day of light! Meanwhile, we will do with this. BUY IT!

Easy to use and fun to explore, this 1,400-page tome is the most complete guide ever published on the artists and recordings that really rock. Compiled by dozens of music critics, it reviews and rates more than 14,000 great albums by over 2,200 artists and groups in more than 400 styles - both mainstream and alternative - including bootlegs, import-only releases, important out-of-print recordings, and lesser-known cult artists. A brief profile details each performer's career, while insightful reviews of top recordings help define the musicians' artistic development and impact on rock. Expanded biographies spotlight major figures, along with complete album discographies. Also features educational essays and "music maps" that chart the evolution of rock's diverse subgenres at a glance.

From Library Journal As accurate and obsessively detailed as www.allmusic.com is, its print cousins can seem somewhat redundant. This well-established entry, now in its third edition, offers biographical and listener's advisory information on artists and recordings that All Music Guide (AMG) editors Bogdanov, Chris Woodstra, and Stephen Thomas Erlewine have deemed rock an all-encompassing term that includes pop, soul, RB, rap, and easy listening. Since the last edition (1997), about 3000 album reviews and 400 artist profiles have been added. That makes for a total of 2200 alphabetically arranged artist entries and 14,000 reviews (rated on a scale of one to five stars), most of which are signed. While the contributors cover a remarkable range of new artists from Aaliyah to Weezer, they often give short shrift to those who recorded prior to the 1980s; sometimes, whole bodies of work are ignored in favor of "best of" compilations. Refreshingly, most reviews are free of rock elitism, so useful guidance is given for styles often reviled by critics (e.g., heavy metal). The closing section offers a series of introductory essays on various rock styles, some obvious ("British Invasion") and others obscure ("Jangle Pop"). Also included are dozens of "music maps," flow charts that illustrate the development of each style. The AMG provides more detail and analysis of an artist's career than the MusicHound, Rough Guide, and Rolling Stone books, so having circulating copies on hand may be most appropriate. Recommended, but keep the web site bookmarked. Lloyd Jansen, Stockton-San Joaquin Cty. P.L., CA Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. About the Author Vladimir Bogdanov is president of All Media Guide (AMG); Chris Woodstra is AMG editor-in-chief; Stephen Thomas Erlewine is an AMG senior editor.