

compact disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
PAB1.003

TAMPA RED

THE MAN WITH THE GOLD GUITAR

PRISTINE
AUDIO
XR

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|----|-------------------------------------|----|--|
| 1 | She's Love Crazy (300) 24/6/41 | 11 | Love With A Feeling (238) 16/6/38 |
| 2 | Delta Woman Blues (307) 11/10/37 | 12 | Travel On (224) 11/10/37 |
| 3 | Besemer Blues (240) 15/5/39 | 13 | Deceitful Friend Blues (302) 11/10/37 |
| 4 | It's A Low Down Shame (237) 24/6/41 | 14 | When The One You Love Is Gone (308) 4/5/37 |
| 5 | Hard Road Blues (237) 27/11/40 | 15 | It Hurts Me Too (232) 10/5/40 |
| 6 | So Far, So Good (240) 24/6/41 | 16 | Witchin' Hour Blues (313) 27/10/34 |
| 7 | You Missed A Good Man (334) 1/11/35 | 17 | Grievin' And Worryin' Blues (335) 14/6/34 |
| 8 | Anna Lon Blues (233) 10/5/40 | 18 | Let Me Play With Your Poodle (239) 6/2/42 |
| 9 | Got To Leave My Woman (319) 14/3/38 | 19 | She Wants To Sell My Monkey (320) 6/2/42 |
| 10 | Kingfish Blues (300) 22/3/34 | 20 | Why Should I Care? (320) 14/3/38 |

All songs written and performed by Tampa Red (vocals, guitar, electric guitar, piano, kazoo)

with Carl Martin (guitar, 17), Henry Scott (guitar, 16), Black Bob (guitar, 7, 10, 11?)

Willie B. James (guitar, 2, 12, 13, 14, 20), Blind John Davis (piano, 3, 8, 15), Ransom Knowling (bass, 1, 3, 4, 6)
Big Maceo Merrweather (piano, 1, 4, 6, 18, 19), Clifford 'Snaps' Jones (drums, 18, 19), and others

All recorded in Chicago except tracks 2, 9, 11, 12, 14, 20, Aurora, Illinois

Restoration and XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, January 2008

Cover artwork based on photographs of Tampa Red

Total duration: 60:13 ©2008 Pristine Audio.

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The Man With The Gold Guitar



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Tampa Red (January 8, 1904 - March 19, 1981), born Hudson Woodbridge but known from childhood as Hudson Whittaker, was an influential American musician.

He was born Hudson Woodbridge in Smithville, Georgia. As a child he moved to Tampa, Florida, where he was raised by his aunt and grandmother and adopted their surname, Whittaker.

In the 1920s he moved to Chicago, Illinois where he began his career as a musician, adopting the name "Tampa Red" from his childhood home and red hair. His big break was being hired to accompany Ma Rainey and he began recording in 1928 with "It's Tight Like That", in a bawdy and humorous style that became known as "hokum". Early recordings were mostly collaborations with Thomas A. Dorsey, known at the time as Georgia Tom. Tampa Red and Georgia Tom recorded almost 90 sides, sometimes as "The Hokum Boys" or, with Frankie Jaxon, as "Tampa Red's Hokum Jug Band".

In 1928, Tampa Red became the first black musician to play a National steel bodied Resonator Guitar, the loudest and showiest guitar available before amplification, acquiring one in the first year they were available. This allowed him to develop his trademark bottleneck style, playing single string runs, not block chords, which was a precursor to later blues and rock guitar soloing. The National guitar he used was a gold-plated tricone, which was found in Illinois in the 1990s and later sold to the "Experience Music Project" in Seattle. Tampa Red was known as "The Man With The Gold Guitar", and, into the 1930s, he was billed as The Guitar Wizard. (contributor's note: *having seen & played this actual guitar, I can say with some certainty that it indeed was not gold plated, but nickel silver plated. There are a few possibilities as to how this misnomer came about; one, that he was the first black blues musician to make a lucrative living playing and writing blues, AND or two, that in the dim gas-lit halls of the day it certainly may have looked to be made of gold* - Sean Swecency.)

His partnership with Dorsey ended in 1932, but he remained much in demand as a session musician, working with John Lee "Sonny Boy" Williamson, Memphis Minnie, and many others. In 1934 he signed for Victor Records. He formed the Chicago Five, a group of session musicians who created what became known as the Bluebird sound, a precursor of the small group style of later jump blues and rock and roll bands. He was a close friend and associate of Big Bill Broonzy and Big Maceo Merriweather. He enjoyed commercial success and reasonable prosperity, and his home became a centre for the blues community, informally providing rehearsal space, bookings, and lodgings for the flow of musicians who arrived in Chicago from the Mississippi Delta as the commercial potential of blues music grew and agricultural employment in the south diminished.

By the 1940s he was playing electric guitar. In 1942 "Let Me Play With Your Poodle" was a # 4 hit on Billboard Magazine's new "Harlem Hit Parade", forerunner of the R&B chart, and his 1949 recording "When Things Go Wrong with You (It Hurts Me Too)", another R&B hit, was covered by Elmore James. He became an alcoholic after his wife's death in 1953. He was "rediscovered" in the late 1950s, like many other surviving early recorded blues artists such as Son House and Skip James as part of the blues revival. His final, undistinguished, recordings were in 1960.

He died destitute in Chicago aged 77.

Notes from Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tampa_Red

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