

AUDIOFILE VINYL ★★★★★

Freddie Hubbard
Backlash

180g vinyl

HOT PICK

Speakers Corner



RELEASED IN 1967
Backlash was the first of Freddie Hubbard's records for Atlantic and in this note-perfect reissue carries a beautiful two-tone green label from that era. It finds the supremely talented trumpet player in the company of James Spalding on flute and alto sax, a musician with whom Hubbard syncs superbly whether they are in unison or sparking off of one another. Backing includes piano, bass and drums as well as percussion from Ray Barretto (Kenny Burrell, Herbie Mann etc.) and everyone is on top

of their game. The power that Otis Ray Appleton gets out of the kick drum is surprising for this vintage, but this is a high-energy recording with plenty of variety between its six tracks. The title jam is a banger that really chugs with blazing brass and backing that's so hot you can almost smell the sweat dripping off the players. This vibe continues for *The Return Of The Prodigal Son*, but things quickly chill for *Little Sunflower* with some lovely flute playing. On *The Que-Tee* picks up the pace again while *Up Jumped Spring* has all the lightness of that season. *Echoes Of Blue* is almost out there, mixing melody with borderline avant garde, it keeps you intrigued for nigh on 10 minutes. Supreme stuff. **JK**