



Rough And Ready

180g

Jeff Beck Group

Epic/Speakers Corner

Rough and Ready was the first album recorded by the second Jeff Beck Group that was mustered after Beck was absent for two and a half years after a serious car accident. The line up featured Bobby Tench on vocals, Max Middleton on keyboards, Clive Chaman on bass, and Cozy Powell on drums, but most of the songwriting – as well as all of the production – is credited to Beck. In fact, with six out of seven tracks to his name this album has a higher proportion of Beck compositions than any other. The style was a distinct change from the Rod Stewart/Ronnie Wood era group, with a strong soul and funk influence and quite restrained guitar work when compared with his later work.

It's not the cleanest of productions and the sound is heavily compressed in the CBS style of the time, but there are some great pieces thanks to Tench's vocal style and Beck's precocious talent. *Rolling Stone* magazine called it a "surprisingly fine piece of work" at the time, and while it doesn't match the best of Beck's 1970s output it has a lot of ideas and was clearly influential on a variety of mainly American acts later in the decade. Rough and ready it may be, but dull it ain't. **JK**

RECORDING



MUSIC