

PICKS

HIT LIST/*Joan Jett*

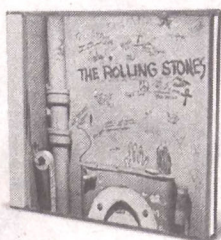
The music icon on her favorite rock songs from the past four decades

JOAN JETT HAS been a rock icon since her teenage days in the girl group the Runaways. Best known for the 1981 anthem "I Love Rock n' Roll," along with songs such as "I Hate Myself for Loving You" and her searing renditions of classics like "Crimson and Clover," she has inspired several generations of young rockers. She returned to the scene this summer with "Sinner," her first studio album in a decade, recorded with her longtime band, the Blackhearts, and was on tour this fall. Below, five of her favorite rock songs.

—Jamin Warren

The Rolling Stones, 'Sympathy for the Devil'
on 'Beggars Banquet' (1968)

Ms. Jett loves Mick Jagger's vocals and the "Chuck Berry riffs" of this song. Ms. Jett says she didn't discover the Rolling Stones until she was in her mid-20s. "That's when I really started taking them apart," she says.



T. Rex, 'Bang a Gong (Get It On)'
on 'Electric Warrior' (1971)

This British group, led by Marc Bolan, is often credited with pioneering the glam-rock trend in the early 1970s.

This song was the group's most popular single in the U.S., and one of the first Ms. Jett learned to play on guitar. "I loved the rhythm and there was something about [Mr. Bolan's] scream."



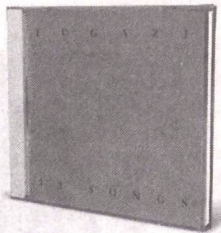
David Bowie, 'Rebel Rebel'
on 'Diamond Dogs' (1974)

"This is one of the best riffs in rock 'n' roll," Ms. Jett says of this song, which came out during the period between Mr. Bowie's "Ziggy Stardust"-era albums of the early 1970s and his 1975 R&B-tinged album "Young Americans." Ms. Jett covered "Rebel Rebel" on her 1994 album "Flashback."



Fugazi, 'Waiting Room'
on '13 Songs' (1990)

This song, first released on a 1988 EP by the Washington, D.C., punk band, is one of Ms. Jett's favorites. She also admires lead singer Ian MacKaye's business model of signing only local bands to his Dischord label: "I respect that they can do it outside of the established music business."



Green Day, 'American Idiot'
on 'American Idiot' (2004)

Ms. Jett says she likes the overtly political message of this song by the Grammy-winning punk trio. "The music is so hooky," she says, "but the fact that the lyrics are thought-provoking is icing on the cake."

