

= Guitar Hero Encore : Rocks the 80s =

Guitar Hero Encore : Rocks the 80s ( titled Guitar Hero : Rocks the 80s in Europe ) is a music rhythm game and the third installment in the popular Guitar Hero series . It was released in July 2007 in North America and Europe , and in August 2007 in Australia .

Players use a guitar @-@ shaped controller ( purchased separately ) to simulate playing rock music by hitting notes as they scroll towards the player . Rocks the 80s is an incremental title in the Guitar Hero series , rather than a full sequel . No changes in gameplay from Guitar Hero II have been introduced to this game . As implied by the game 's title , the game features a 1980s theme , consisting of songs from the decade and playable characters , fashions , and artwork that reflect the time period .

The game was not as well @-@ received as the prior two Guitar Hero games , due to the lack of new gameplay features and reduced soundtrack . Rocks the 80s is the third and final title in the Guitar Hero series to be developed by Harmonix before they moved on to create Rock Band . The next major installment of the series , Guitar Hero III : Legends of Rock , was developed by Activision 's Neversoft division .

= = History = =

After the successful release of Guitar Hero II , RedOctane announced they were looking into genre @-@ specific expansions to the series . Guitar Hero Encore : Rocks the 80s is the first of these genre @-@ specific titles ; Guitar Hero : Aerosmith , Guitar Hero : Metallica , Guitar Hero : Van Halen and Guitar Hero Smash Hits have since been released .

Guitar Hero Encore : Rocks the 80s was initially announced by EGM in January 2007 as Guitar Hero : 1980s Edition . Orange Lounge Radio claimed that the game would be released in June 2007 , based on an Activision announcement , though no other source has cited this announcement . Activision officially revealed the first details of the game May 11 , 2007 , in addition to changing the game 's title to Guitar Hero : Rocks the 80s . Only a few weeks later , the game name was revised again as Guitar Hero Encore : Rocks the 80s , as official artwork for the game was first released . Nevertheless , the word ' Encore ' has been dropped from the title of the European releases .

= = Gameplay and design = =

The mechanics of the game are nearly identical to that of its predecessor , Guitar Hero II ; an early preview of the game described it as " more like an expansion pack for Guitar Hero II than a new game in its own right " . Major differences to Guitar Hero II are mostly aesthetic . Six characters from previous Guitar Hero games ( Johnny Napalm , Judy Nails , Izzy Sparks , Pandora , Axel Steel , and Grim Ripper ) return with character designs influenced by styles of the 1980s . Venues from Guitar Hero II ( with the exception of RedOctane Club and Stonehenge , which do not appear , and the Vans Warped Tour , which has been rebranded as the Rock For Safety Tour ) have been redesigned with an 80s influence , and the interface mimics Guitar Hero II 's , only with color changes ( no " new " graphics were developed as far as the interface ) .

= = Soundtrack = =

All of the tracks , excluding " Because , It 's Midnite " , were released during the 1980s , as the game 's title suggests ; " Because , It 's Midnite " is performed by the fictional " 80s hair metal " band Limozeen from the Internet cartoon Homestar Runner ( Harmonix co @-@ founder / CEO Alex Rigopulos is a professed fan of Homestar Runner ) . Two songs were originally written in the 1970s , but were covered by bands in the 1980s . These songs are " Radar Love " by Golden Earring , but covered by White Lion and " Ballroom Blitz " by Sweet and covered by Krokus . The song list includes tracks such as " Round and Round " by Ratt , " Metal Health " by Quiet Riot , " Holy Diver " by Dio , " Heat of the Moment " by Asia and " Nothin ' But a Good Time " by Poison . Five of the

songs are master tracks : " Because It 's Midnite " , " I Ran ( So Far Away ) " by A Flock of Seagulls , Scandal 's " The Warrior " , Twisted Sister 's " I Wanna Rock " , and Judas Priest 's " Electric Eye " , while the rest are covers .

The final setlist was revealed by GameSpy on June 28 , 2007 as listed here . Unlike previous Guitar Hero games , there are no bonus tracks in Guitar Hero Encore : Rocks the 80s . Bow Wow Wow 's " I Want Candy " was originally announced for the game and appeared in many preview builds . However , RedOctane announced that it would no longer appear in the final version . No official comment in regards to the song 's removal has been given .

^ a Limozeen is a fictional 80s glam metal band featured in the Homestar Runner series of web cartoons ; while the song was created in 2003 , it parodies the style of these bands .

^ b Judas Priest 's " Electric Eye " includes " The Hellion " , the preceding track on the Screaming for Vengeance album that segues right into " Electric Eye " .

^ c Poison 's " Nothin ' But a Good Time " is labeled in game as " Ain 't Nothin ' But a Good Time " .

^ d Twisted Sister 's " I Wanna Rock " is featured as a re @-@ recorded master track of the song , not the original album version .

= = Reception = =

Guitar Hero Encore : Rocks the 80s was released to generally lukewarm reviews and has received overall less praise than the first two games in the series . Most critics agreed that the game 's \$ 49 @.@ 99 price point was too high , considering the reduced soundtrack . GameSpot criticized the amount of songs with regard to the game 's price . The reviewer commented that " thirty songs for \$ 50 is a lousy value any way you slice it " and the game " feels like a quick and dirty cash @-@ in . " The reviewer also commented that the soundtrack was " eclectic , " but " solid . " Other reviewers , including 1UP.com , IGN , and Electronic Gaming Monthly criticized the game for its musical selection . GameSetWatch compared the game to Lou Reed 's Metal Machine Music , saying that the game is " totally Harmonix 's contractual obligation game " due to the bare minimum of changes made from Guitar Hero II .

= = = Lawsuit = = =

On November 21 , 2007 , the rock group The Romantics filed a lawsuit against Activision , RedOctane , Harmonix , and Wavegroup Sound over the cover of the song " What I Like About You " used in Rocks the 80s . While the game developers did secure appropriate rights to cover the song in the game , The Romantics claim that the cover is " virtually indistinguishable from the authentic version " and thus would " [ confuse ] consumers into believing that the band actually recorded the music and endorsed the product " . The lawsuit requested the cessation of sales of the game and monetary damage . On December 20 , 2007 , Activision was awarded a preliminary injunction to prevent blockage of sales of the game . A summary judgment hearing was held on July 9 , 2008 , and the case was dismissed the next month , with a U.S. District Court judge stating that Activision had obtained the proper licensing for the works and that the band itself no longer held the copyright on the work .