

**NEW COMPILATION FROM SOUTHERN ROCK GREAT 38 SPECIAL FEATURES
THE VERY BEST OF THE A&M YEARS**

Two decades before Kid Rock added hip-hop to the mix, 38 Special ventured beyond guitar jams to bring hard rock and pop to Southern Rock. Though preceded and overshadowed by the Allman Brothers and Lynyrd Skynyrd--all three hailed from the cradle of Dixie Rock, Jacksonville, Florida--38 Special proved as durable, creative and rockin' as its more famous cousins.

38 Special: The Very Best Of The A&M Years (1977-1988)

(A&M/UME), released April 15, 2003, features 18 digitally remastered original recordings, including all of the band's biggest and best-loved tracks--eight of them Top 40 pop hits, a total of 11 Top 40 Album Rockers.

38 Special was formed by singer Donnie Van Zant (younger brother of Skynyrd's Ronnie, older brother of current Skynyrd frontman Johnny) and guitarist-singer Don Barnes. Its Southern boogie debuted on a 1977 self-titled album, followed by 1978's Special Delivery (with "Take Me Back"). But 38 Special shot the lights out when it added pop to its country-fried blues rock on 1979's Rockin' Into The Night, with "Stone Cold Believer" and the just-missed-the-Top 40 title track, the first of several hits penned with Chicagoan Jim Peterik (Ides Of March, Survivor).

Platinum status arrived with 1981's Wild-Eyed Southern Boys. With muscle and melody, "Hold On Loosely" reached #27 pop/#3 Album Rock. Both the title track and "Fantasy Girl" went Top 40 Album Rock. In 1982, Special Forces was also platinum, spawning the Top 10 pop "Caught Up In You" (#1 Album Rock) and Top 10 Album Rockers "Chain Lightnin'" and "You Keep Runnin' Away" (the latter also pop Top 40) as well as "Rough Housin'."

1984's Tour De Force was platinum three, and the proudly unglamorous 38 Special gained unlikely video stardom with the epic clip for "If I'd Been The One." That track and the catchy "Back Where You Belong" were Top 20 pop. The album also included fan favorite "Twentieth Century Fox."

That same year, "Teacher, Teacher"--penned by pop-rocker Bryan Adams and his frequent collaborator Jim Vallance--was heard on the Teachers soundtrack and went #25 pop/#4 Album Rock. With Vallance, the hits continued with the gold Strength In Numbers (1986) and its Top 20 pop/Top 10 Album Rock "Like No Other Night" and Top 10 Album Rock "Somebody Like You." Another Adams/Vallance composition, "Back To Paradise," went Top 10 Album Rock from the 1987 comedy Revenge Of The Nerds II: Nerds In Paradise (and the band's own Flashback retrospective). With Barnes' exit, he was replaced by singer Max Carl and guitarist Danny Chauncey and Rock & Roll Strategy (1988) embraced the band's final pop Top 10, "Second Chance" (#2 Album Rock).

Today, with Barnes back in the fold, 38 Special still plays some 150 gigs a year, and still rocks the house.

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