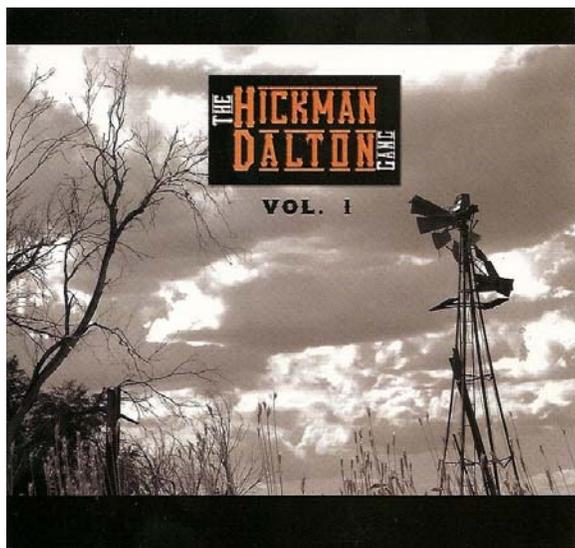


Hickman-Dalton Gang, Volume I. Independent release, 10/05/07.



This classic country-influenced side project, by **Cracker** lead guitarist and co-founder/co-songwriter Johnny Hickman, and **Railbenders** lead singer/songwriter Jim Dalton, is the **Hickman-Dalton Gang**'s debut EP. The record rings out with sounds of the Old West, midnight rides, strong drink and murder on both sides of the Mexican border.

The project is a true collaborative, though the elder statesman and producer Hickman defers gladly at times to Dalton's coal-fired baritone vocals. The EP leads with "My Name is Dalton," a smokily sung prison tale of real-life outlaw Emmet Dalton, as penned by Western writer W.C. Jameson. Jim Dalton, an actual descendent of the infamous gang, included this leading track perhaps as a piece of personal history; including also a ballad, "Justin O. Picker", written by his late uncle, Colorado folk hero Terry Dalton. The Hickman-Dalton co-write, "Mexican Jail,"

was inspired by Dalton's run-ins with Federales... and chronicles a romance gone very wrong for a gringo south of the border. Hickman's "Old Border Town" and "Long Tall Pine Tree," respectively, show his talent for balancing nostalgia with darkness. Perhaps one of Dalton's saddest and finest drinking ballads, "Whiskey Rain" rounds out the EP, with Dalton accompanied by Hickman's mournful harmonica.

Hickman's nomadic life has included time living in Bakersfield, CA, ensuring his songwriting roots would always tap classic Bakersfield country wherever he roamed. And though **Cracker** are best known as alt-rock godfathers, their place in alt-country has been firmly established through their own releases as well as their cover album, *Countrysides*. Hickman's 2005 blended-genre solo release, *Palmbenge*, earned stellar reviews in *Blender*, *No Depression*, and *Americana UK* as well as hat-tipping peer reviews from Bottle Rockets' Brian Henneman, Drive By Truckers' Patterson Hood, Adam Duritz and Roger Clyne.

Denver's country heroes, the Railbenders, have been praised by the Colorado press and embraced by Denver radio as "the one and only pick for smarter, edgier, harder original country without the slippery Nashville coating." Their third and most recent release, *Showdown*, (2005) garnered satellite radio and national radio airplay, launching the Railbenders ride into wider territories, including a slot at the 2007 Stagecoach festival in Coachella, CA.

In addition to touring with Cracker and the Railbenders, Hickman and Dalton are playing a few 2007 duo shows in Colorado, including opening slots for Billy Joe Shaver, and at Roger Clyne and the Peacemakers' semi-annual Circus Mexicus festival in October. Songs for Volume II (likely a full-length album) are already in the works.

Hickman-Dalton Gang, Volume I:

Info: myspace.com/hickmandaltongang

Retail (individual) sales: www.railbenders.com/, www.campstoverrecords.com/, www.cdbaby.com/

Press and bulk sales: jd@railbenders.com or store@campstoverrecords.com

Johnny Hickman /Cracker: www.johnnyhickman.com or www.crackersoul.com

Jim Dalton / Railbenders: www.railbenders.com

