

LED-ZEPPELIN

II



The sounds of Led Zeppelin are some of the most unique and innovative tunes of their time, their heavy, fast paced drum beats and their long, intricate guitar solos really brought them to the front of the world stage. As the world discovered the marvels of Led Zeppelin, they also discovered the savory lyrics and loud boom of heavy metal, shaking up the prior traditional songs and influencing bands to follow.



Originating in London, England, Led Zeppelin is a wide known and very popular band from the late 60's, to their breakup in late October 1980, and even today countless teens are discovering who Led Zeppelin were. Led Zeppelin consists of 4 members; **Jimmy Page** - lead and rhythm guitars, **Robert Plant** - lead and backing vocals, percussion, harmonica, **John Paul Jones** - bass guitar, keyboards, mandolin, backing vocals, and **John Bonham** - drums, percussion.

Led Zeppelin II was Led Zeppelin's 2nd album and commonly known as their heaviest album. *Led Zeppelin II* was a commercial success and the band's first ever number one in the UK and US. Released October 22nd in the US and October 31st in the UK 1969 and recorded in various studios in the UK and North America due to the band's frequent touring. Various musicians and critics alike have nominated *Led Zeppelin II* as the one of the best and most influential albums of all time.

Whole Lotta Love

“Whole Lotta Love” is the first track on *Led Zeppelin II* and is a very strong opening track. It showcases the band's extreme talent in making a simple yet complex song. It opens up with Page on guitar then Jones on bass followed shortly after by Plant. The song is fully complete only after Bonham comes in with the hard drums. This song is a good example of Led Zeppelin's use of their instruments by getting the most out of every note.

The song really hits you when a tornado of sound starts to surround you with a chaotic swirl of all sorts of drums, backwards and forwards guitar, and Plants vocals. Lyrically the song is very sexual, with lyrics like “I'm gonna give you every inch of my love” followed by “Way down inside” and even “I wanna be your backdoor man”.

Even though this song is amazing, they didn't come up with the whole song. Years after the songs release Plant openly admitted that the song borrowed heavily from “You Need Love” by Willie Dixon who later sued Led Zeppelin and won.

What Is And What Should Never Be

“What Is And What Should Never Be” is the second track on *Led Zeppelin II*. This song is the first song where Paul utilizes his soon-to-become traditional **Gibson Les Paul** guitar. The song effectively uses the panning from left to right stereo on the guitar and a slight wobble on Plants vocals in the beginning.

The song has a very nice contrast of switching between a mellow and rhythmic tone then picks up to more rock but still keeping it low down compared to the other songs on *Led Zeppelin II*. The guitar solo is one to remember because of how smooth and pleasant, almost hypnotic it is to hear. Near the end is where the panning stereo really hits its hardest, Pages guitar almost talking to each ear separately yet it doesn't feel unnatural at all.

It was one of the first songs recorded by Led Zeppelin that Plant got writing credit. The lyrics of this song reflected a romance Plant had with his wife's younger sister.

The Lemon Song

“The Lemon Song” is the third track on *Led Zeppelin II*. This song was originally sung by Howlin’ Wolf under the name of “Killing Floor”, you can hear bits and pieces of the song in “The Lemon Song” but it's been slowed down from the original.

The song starts off with a gong that was equipped with Bonham's drums and an intense guitar riff. The song itself sounds really full and packed with sound. It also has 2 guitar solos acting almost as bridges themselves between a faster first half and a much slower second half. The call and response between Plant and Pages guitar is a nice touch as well.

In my opinion this song is more one just to listen to, the pace of the song is all over the place but the song is relaxing to listen to. Again, this song has some suggestive lyrics to it, “squeeze my lemon” being one of the more noticeable recurring ones.

Heartbreaker

“Heartbreaker” is the fifth track on *Led Zeppelin II*. It’s most prominent sound is the heavy guitar that definitely places this song inside of the heavy metal space on the wide spectrum of genres Led Zeppelin has to offer.

This song has a very interesting take on a guitar “solo”, the only instrument playing is the guitar itself and shows how well in tune with his instrument Page is. After the solo the tempo picks up and it creates an energetic solo with background instruments. “Heartbreaker” utilizes pauses and empty noise really effectively.



[Living Loving Maid \(She's Just A Woman\)](#)

“Living Loving Maid (She's Just A Woman)” is the sixth track on *Led Zeppelin II* and is Page's least favourite song on the album. Originally called “Living Loving Wreck” in the original UK pressings, they changed the name for the US release and later releases

This fast pace, rocker of a song was an instant radio classic upon release. The song itself is based on a groupie who stalked the band in their early career. The song is catchy, easy to put on and enjoy, or to dance to, and because its sound is so intense it's a really good 'feel good' song.



Ramble On

“Ramble On” is the seventh track on *Led Zeppelin II*, its lyrics being influenced by J.R.R. Tolkien’s *Lord of the Rings* and possibly the first line “The leaves are falling all around” is a paraphrase of J.R.R. Tolkien’s poem “Namárië”

The song has a nice contrast of calm acoustic guitar and funky, fast paced bass and guitar. The sounds of “Ramble On” have a melodic feel and the interplay of Jones’ bass and Bonham’s drums create an instant classic.

