

Rolling Stone

Blitzen Trapper

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American Goldwing *Sub Pop*

**Portland band turns out
pristine Americana**



"Guess I left the world behind," Eric Earley sings on the sixth Blitzen Trapper record. No doubt: The Portlandians play Nineties Americana rock like Wilco if they'd never upended the genre on *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*. It's a simplistic but intoxicating roots fantasy – full of Dylan mysticism, spidery acoustic Dead jamming, tasty 1970s rock moves and evocations of high-plains drifters with itchy trigger fingers drinking from jam jars. Earley has Jeff Tweedy's bed-headed wonderment, and every steel-guitar filament or harmonica blast is perfectly placed; modern references are so rare that when they roll out a funktinged tune called "Astronaut," it's almost unnerving – like someone whipping out an iPhone in a Western. **JON DOLAN**

Key Tracks: "Love the Way You Walk Away," "Street Fighting Sun"