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## Listen Up: Dierks Bentley fans the flames in 'Feel That Fire'



By Robert Deutsch, USA TODAY

Dierks Bentley's fifth studio album, *Feel That Fire*, once again pushes the limits of traditional country music.

Mike McCready supplying riffs for an outlaw country-rocker and ends with a barroom number backed by some of Nashville's finest bluegrass pickers. A reliable radio presence, Bentley's been on the cusp of major stardom for a couple of years, and *Feel That Fire* finds him trying to keep his string of hits going while also pushing the format's boundaries. Bentley's usually least successful when he sticks to formulas, but his collaborations with left-of-center talents such as Patty Griffin and Rodney Crowell keep his creative fires stoked. — Brian Mansfield

>**Download:** *Beautiful World* (a duet with Griffin), *Pray* (written with Crowell), *Feel That Fire*

>**Skip:** *Here She Comes*

Dierks Bentley is out with a hot new CD, while The Fray sophomore's album fails to reach body temperature.

**Dierks Bentley**  
*Feel That Fire*  
 ★★★ (out of four)  
 HOTTER THAN NOT

Dierks Bentley's a rarity in contemporary country: a mainstream hitmaker who earns respect from the genre's traditional elements and from rock musicians alike. Bentley's fifth studio album begins with Pearl Jam guitarist

# Entertainment WEEKLY

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## Reviews **Music**

QUICK TAKES

**Dierks Bentley**  
*Feel That Fire*  
 COUNTRY  
 (CAPITOL)



Dierks Bentley made his name as the drifter type, but lovin' and leavin' can't last. Here he's found the midpoint between mirth and mope, as characteristic country barn-burners like the screw-it-'n'-drink sing-along of "Sideways" mingle with themes of faith and fidelity to generate his most complete album yet. Credit Bentley's broad, crackly baritone, a voice that can do sentimental—as on richly arranged mash note "You Hold Me Together"—without losing an ounce of its outlaw energy. When this guy sings it, maturity doesn't sound so bad. **A-** —WP

→ **DOWNLOAD THIS:** "You Hold Me Together"