

8-Ball feat M.O.V.E. – Speed Master
Released 2007-08-22 (2nd Single)



Track Listing

1. Speed Master (4:33)
2. All For You –Single Version- (4:12)
3. Speed Master –Symphonic Edit by Keiichi (5:01)
4. Speed Master –Hard Rock edit by Chris (4:18)
5. Speed Master –Instrumental (4:33)
6. All For You –Single Version Instrumental (4:11)

DVD

1. Speed Master
2. Speed Master Movie Trailer

On the cover:

A Slimy green monster with an engine on its back crushing the head of a pink fembot type monster. “8-Ball feat M.O.V.E.” is on the top right, “Speed Master” is on the bottom right in red.

The back cover:

A close-up of the monster’s engine. “8-Ball feat M.O.V.E.” is on the top left, with the track listing below.

The insert:

The front and back cover is a picture of “8-Ball feat M.O.V.E.”. From Left to Right, 8-Ball’s Leon and Keiichi, Motsu and Yuri from M.O.V.E., Ray from 8-Ball, t-kimura from M.O.V.E. and Chris from 8-Ball. They’re standing in front of a drum set. Ray and Chris are standing in front of a keyboard with t-kimura behind the keyboard. A Massive set of speakers is behind the drum set.



The inside is a grey backing with the track listing on the top left. To the right of that are the lyrics of “Speed Master”, which bleeds over to the right panel, and “All for you” which is entirely on the right panel. Band credits are along the bottom left panel, copyright information on the bottom right.

The Music:

Well, before that, let’s introduce you to 8-Ball. Ray is on vocals, Keiichi is on guitar, Chris is on bass and Leon is on drums. This song was used as the theme for the “Speed Master” movie, which as you can guess from the title, is about street racing, in the Initial D/Fast and Furious mode.

“Speed Master” starts out as your prototypical rock tune, with Ray starting out on vocals. Unfortunately Ray’s vocals are a bit weak, and Yuri really does end up carrying the song. What I was afraid of with this collaboration is that M.O.V.E. would “take over” the song. Vocally, perhaps, but musically, this is all 8-Ball. Lyrically, the song is a mixture of English and Japanese, but you’re really not listening to the song for the lyrics. As one of my friends always says: “listening to Japanese songs makes me wanna drive real fast”. This song would be one of them.

“All For You” is a slower rock ballad. In English no less. Oddly enough, Ray sounds more comfortable singing slower and in English. The strings part near the end of the song, and actually all throughout is a soothing touch, if there is such a thing in a rock song. The song does seem to drag on a bit after the lyrics are over, but that’s been done before by pretty much everyone else.

Both songs really try to showcase Keiichi's guitar skill, and for good reason. He's good. Damn good.

The first remix, "Speed Master-symphonic edit by Keiichi" tries to do the same. Showcase the best parts of the collaboration, which again would Yuri's vocals and Keiichi's guitar. Add in the strings from "All For You" and a little more of M.O.V.E.'s electronica, and what results is this remix, which in actuality goes all over the place.

The 2nd remix "Speed Master - Hip-rock edit by Chris", slows down the song and features more Mitsu, but other than that isn't too different from the original.

The instrumental tracks are added on for you to sing along to.

I'm going to assume this collaboration came about through both band's participation in the Japanese D1 drift circuit. 8-Ball provides the opening and closing song to the D1 grand prix video magazine "Video Option". For them to have scored a collaboration with M.O.V.E. is a major coup for only their 2nd official single.

The fact that "Speed Master" is being used in a movie and 8-Ball is being associated with M.O.V.E., those two things can only bode well for the band's future.



The DVD:

The "Speed Master" video is set underground... the band looks like they're playing in a giant concrete basement. The view goes in and of focus a lot, and throughout the video there's these "blips" of light which I assume is meant to be there for effect. The burning barrels around the stage is an interesting touch. The video is pretty

standard for a rock song, but combining all the in and out focus, the constant cuts and occasional odd angle and one gets slightly dizzy watching it all.

The “Speed Master” movie trailer basically reinforces the fact that it’s another street racing movie in the Initial D/Fast and Furious mold.

<http://www.8-ball.jp/>



By Sean Cruz