



## Konono No1

★★★★★

### Assume Crash Position

CRAMMED DISCS

**More *White Light/White Heat* rumbles from the jungle.**

After the singular sonic shock of their 2004 album *Congotronics*, it would have been forgivable to label the Kinshasan noise merchants a one-trick wonder. Yet the sequel reveals depth and variety without abandoning the pursuit of the ultimate thumb-piano blitzkrieg. Just as the opener, Wumbanzanga, seems to have settled into a pattern, an extra layer of twang appears in the background; on Guiyome the surprise is the sudden arrival of extra percussion far off on the right-hand side of the mix. Fula Fula is unrelenting distortion, Konono Wa Wa Wa is twisted soukous; and the closing track is an emotional old-man's lament, Nakobala Lisusu Te, performed solo and straight by leader Mingiedi. Played next to *Congotronics*, this sounds in parts like the work of a whole different band, yet the buzz and fizz still thrill. Three tricks now, and counting.

*David Hutcheon*

MOJO  
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