

CDs

Tommy Castro rocks

On "Trimmin' Fat" (Alligator), **Tommy Castro** offers a somewhat lighthearted lament about the current lean times. One thing's for certain: There's no fat to trim in Castro's brand of rock-

ing R&B. The Bay Area singer-guitarist continues to refine a style that's full-bodied, muscular and brimming with soul. With "Hard Believer," Castro ranges from the intense, Stax-like balladry of the title song to the slippery swamp-funk of "Monkey's Paradise" and the hellbent road-house rocking of "Make It Back to Memphis," with its blasting horns and pounding piano.

It's a tour de force that extends to the album's covers, which include songs by Dylan, Allen Toussaint and the Righteous Brothers, and a take on "Ninety-Nine and One-Half" that gives Wilson Pickett and John Fogerty a run for their money.



EDDIE LEE EBONY

Hard times are fodder for Tommy Castro on his new album, "Trimmin' Fat."

— Nick Cristiano, *Philadelphia Inquirer*