“Four Maryland lifers--road dogs who’ve been grinding since the early *Fugazi* administration, cranking out seething admixtures of jam-band chops, careening blues-punk riffs and singer *Neil Fallon’s* nerdy, piss-taking wiseass lyrics--release their hardest rocking set to date.”

--ROLLING STONE, (#10 on Rolling Stone’s “Top 20 Metal Albums”, Dec. 2013)

“Every now and again an album [*Earth Rocker*] comes along that’s an absolute classic—not just a handful of good tunes and a handful of filler, but a classic from start to finish. Not since *Pure Rock Fury* and *Blast Tyrant* has *Clutch* been so straightforward in their approach. By their own admission, the band found fresh inspiration from touring with *Thin Lizzy* and *Motorhead* and it showed in the music and in the colossal riffs of guitarist Tim Sult.”

--METAL HAMMER, (#1 on Metal Hammer’s “Album of the Year,” Jan. 2014)

“Ten studio albums in, *Clutch* deliver here pretty much everything you’ve come to expect from them: bluesy rock, blustery but impressively precise riffage, beards, and story songs about robots.”

--Allison Stewart, REVOLVER (Mar. 2013)

“Drawing heavy inspiration from recent tours with Mötorhead and Thin Lizzy, drummer Jean-Paul Gaster and crew are at their fiery best here. Vocalist Neil Fallon oozes the passion and silver-tongued charm of a fire-and-brimstone preacher on the title track, Sult unleashes scores of timeless *Clutch* riffs (with a highlight being the irresistible fervor of ‘Unto the Breach’), and bassist Dan Maines lays down a gritty yet silky tone on tracks like ‘Crucial Velocity’ and ‘Mr. Freedom.’ Through it all, *Gaster* is the modern zenith of groove and feel, which he serves up in a number of different ways. Shuffles are the order of the day on ‘Book, Saddle and Go’ and ‘Cyborg Bette’; ‘Gone Cold’ features delicate brushes; ‘The Wolfman Kindly Requests...’ benefits from some fantastic hi-hat and ride work; and the cowbell interplay of ‘D.C. Sound Attack’ is a capstone to one of the best songs of an already loaded catalogue. In fact, *every song here has its own rhythmic or melodic hallmark*, making *Earth Rocker* is a surefire future classic.”
“Clutch has become a beaming example of perseverance and self-sufficiency for an independent act. Often labeled as stoner rock or a metal-something band, this longstanding four-piece is and has always been, in reality, a classic rock band. Earth Rocker—as if the name doesn’t say enough—should convince everyone that Clutch has been mislabeled for years. There’s still ample experimentation and some solid lengthier jams here, but Earth Rocker remains focused on staying tight. Reining in some of the more experimental and meandering ways of the past, tracks like ‘Unto The Breach’ deliver with force: It’s fast, aggressive, melodic and catchy.”

--Mike Thomas, RELIX (Apr. 2013)

“Earth Rocker is Clutch’s hard turn into primal boogie heaviness. The acoustic flourishes, blues songs, and psychedelic forays that shaped Clutch’s past few records are shelved and in their place are hard and barbed riff-driven tunes. Drummer Jean-Paul Gaster keeps things going at a crisp clip while managing subtle shadings. The drummer’s tight control and bassist Dan Maines’s aggressive low-end let guitarist Tim Sult go nuts—you will air guitar. Singer Neil Fallon is a holy rock ‘n’ roller celebrating his music’s cathartic release and its history.”

--Scott McLennan, BOSTON GLOBE (Mar. 2013)

“Clutch has created one of its best, and most straightforward, albums to date. ...Working again with producer Machine, the act stripped away the excess and honed in on the riff-heavy, muscular bar-band rock. ...The white-knuckled rocking only slows down once. ‘Gone Cold,’ a subdued existential meditation, signals the end of Side A and works as a palate cleanser from the amplification and distortion. The respite also builds anticipation for the album’s best track, ‘Book, Saddle and Go.’ The band was inspired by recent tour mates, and ’70s hard-rock legends, Thin Lizzy, and here it shows most. The call-and-response hook and gritty riffing are proof Clutch doesn’t need to pander to fans or a major label (Weathermaker Music is owned by the band). ‘I will suffer no evil / my guitar will guide me through,’ Fallon sings on the title track. As usual, he sounds like a man who doesn’t need convincing.”

--Wesley Case, BALTIMORE SUN, (Mar 15, 2013)

“Clutch, the hard-touring Maryland band with an endless supply of guitar riffs, is back on the righteous path of heavy rock... Earth Rocker is Clutch’s hardest-hitting album in a while, and it’s full of Fallon’s occasionally inscrutable, fantastical sci-fi themes. There are references to Guttenberg, the Large Hadron Collider and the medieval weapon the halberd—and that's just in one song (‘Unto the Breach’). ‘The Face’ imagines a post-apocalyptic pop culture landscape where rock is dead and electric guitars have been cast into the sea. On ‘Cyborg Bette,’ our rock-star narrator falls for a robot, his ‘latest model’. A welcome return to form.”

--Christopher Weber, SEATTLE TIMES (Mar 18, 2013)

“'Earth Rocker' itself is the first round; it will leave you battered and bruised from the relentless rhythm, vibe and energy. ...The record is so UP, so groove ridden that words are not adequate to describe it. ‘Crucial Velocity’ follows the title track—the title is apt. ‘Mr Freedom’ is just as good with some trademark Fallon lyrics. For me, ‘DC Sound Attack’ really stands out— the groove is incredible, the pacing sublime, the whole band absolutely on fire. There is also a cowbell. ‘Unto The Breach’ keeps the energy up and the record is, unbelievably, nearly half over. ‘Gone Cold’ takes the listener into more mellow territory-real
album structuring is at work here. It's not just a collection of songs, but an ebb and flow that takes you on an enjoyable road trip. ‘The Face’ kicks off the next phase of the record nicely and is followed by two stormers: ‘Book, Saddle and Go’ and ‘Cyborg Bette.’ All relevant Clutch-isms are operating at full whack here; big hooks, big riffs, sermonising vocals... it's all there, just how you want it to be. ‘Oh Isabella’ and ‘The Wolf Man Kindly Requests...’ close the album out very strongly. There is no filler here. There are no weak moments. There is nothing wasted. There is not a lyric, not a riff, not even a cymbal crash that is out of place. If you ever had an interest in Clutch, rock, metal or just great music- buy this album. Clutch are better musicians than most, but they are a much better band than just about everybody (there is a crucial difference). What an album it is.”


“Unique and dynamic, this is what Clutch do--and do best.”

--EXCLAIM, (Mar. 19 2013)

“Clutch are getting better with age....the honesty of a true working man's band doing what they do best: capturing the magical spirit of rock in its most natural form.”

--CLASSIC ROCK (Album review, Jun. 2013)

“With their tenth studio album Earth Rocker, the long-running outfit have assembled what is perhaps their most concise and revved up collection of songs to date. A rollicking assortment of good ol' fashioned rock n' roll grit torqued for maximum performance. Brimming with vigor, these groove-laden tracks are an undeniable force. A near constant stream of forward momentum and rugged grace that instantly melts off the excess pounds accrued during the bands recent years of blues and jam based ventures. Simply put, this is Clutch with the pedal pinned to the floor. Boasting some of their most direct and incendiary material to date, Earth Rocker as a whole is razor sharp. Whether it be in the smug demeanor of Neil Fallon's vocal delivery and his riled up hobo prophet lyrics; the searing whirlwind of surprisingly solo-heavy guitar work; the shrewd slinky/abrasive duality of the bass; or the impressively bombastic drumming--every instrument is purposeful and fits together with seasoned craftsmanship. ...The rowdy spark of their youth has been reignited, leaving Earth Rocker magma hot.”

--THE PRP.COM (Feb. 20, 2013)

“Clutch’s aim here was to try something different, and in stripping Earth Rocker of its fat, the band has revealed even more imaginative and powerful artistic muscle.”

--POP MATTERS, (May 14, 2013)

“...blues-rock bruisers...”

--Q Magazine, (Mar. 19, 2013)

“Clutch made a reputation for themselves based on solid songwriting, lyrical weirdness, and quality--all of which are present on Earth Rocker, which is still unmistakably a Clutch album.”

--ALL MUSIC GUIDE (Mar. 19, 2013)

“Let's be real about this: Clutch is one of the only hard rock bands in the world worth caring about. It's not often that I get to say this without any irony or sarcasm these days but,
dude… this album rocks. The music plays like a wicked cocktail of blues, funk, rock, and metal with a taste only Clutch can provide. Leading the pack is singer Neil Fallon, who's unmistakable toad-rasp vocals are as essential to Clutch's sound as his out-of-this-world lyrics, like in ‘The Wolfman Kindly Requests...’ Yes I can dig it! And more importantly, I dig those riffs on ‘DC Sound Attack,’ ‘The Face”, and ‘Book Saddle & Go.’ Earth Rocker is packed with an endless supply of catchy grooves and if you can't get down to them, well you must be either dead or a certified member of the anti-fun brigade. Flashes of 1970's Thin Lizzy fuzz and groove give Earth Rocker an almost space-rock feel, which is to say nothing of its intergalactic cover art. But other tracks have a very straight to the gut feel like the title-track's fist-pumping chorus of ‘I'm an Earth...ROCKER!’ that Lemmy would surely approve of (I'm surprised he hasn't written a song called ‘Earth Rocker’ yet himself). One curious but awesome highlight is the mid-album dirge, ‘Gone Cold,’ which could easily fit into a classic Western flick; in the lead up to the shootout scene, just as the two men walk through town, pistols loaded. On the journey through the world of modern hard-rock, Clutch is like the mad village storyteller. You might not get what he's trying to tell you right away, but after awhile you discover, he's the one you should have listened to all along.”

-- J. Andrew Zalucky, METAL INJECTION, (8/10 album review, Mar. 15, 2013)