

Johnson at his Mango Tree Studio on Oahu's North Shore in May



MY FAVORITE THINGS

Jack Johnson

by AUSTIN SCAGGS

"WHERE I LIVE, THE MARKET, THE RECORDING STUDIO, AND THE KIDS' school are all a bike ride away, so we have a pretty major bike setup," says Johnson, 35, who, on the heels of his sixth studio album, *To the Sea*, is in the midst of a 55-city world tour. On the road he'll keep that two-wheeled mind-set. "We always bring the fold-up bikes with us, and we have these little snap-on kid seats you can put on there, so we can cruise around with the family," he says. Here, Johnson talks about building stuff, creative collaborations, and take-no-prisoners ping-pong.

MOVIES

I've got a good little collection of westerns and samurai films. My favorite is *A Fistful of Dollars*, which is actually a remake of the samurai film *Yojimbo* — same story, at least — starring my favorite actor, Toshiro Mifune.

RECENT GIFT

▶ Ben Stiller came out to Hawaii to direct the

video for our song "Taylor," and we schooled him pretty hard on my ping-pong table, which was weather-beaten and had little bubbles all over it. A week later I got a giant box from UPS: Ben sent us a new Kettler ping-pong table and demanded a rematch, saying my old table "didn't fairly represent my skills."

ACCOLADES

▼ I have a couple of Na Hoku Hanohano Awards, which are like



INSPIRATIONS

To make his new album, *To the Sea*, Johnson relied on a few friends and a couple of standbys.

GUITAR: One night before the Pipe Masters, Kelly Slater was so nervous that we stayed up all night in my dad's shed and built this guitar [left] out of stuff that was lying around. I used it on *To the Sea*. **PORTABLE STUDIO:** I take this TASCAM DP-004 battery-powered four-track [above] everywhere. It's got two built-in mics and a guitar port, so if I have an idea, I can lay it down right there. I wrote a lot of the new album on a camping trip my family took in a VW bus through Big Sur and Yosemite. Four rechargeable batteries, a solar recharger, and you're in there. **UKE:** I got one of the last ukuleles made by Sam Kamaka Jr. [next page]. The Kamaka is the Gibson guitar of ukes — the best. It's made out of a cigar box and has a grainy tone. I jam on it every day. **CD:** Eddie Vedder gave me a CD of songs he wrote and recorded, playing ukulele — songs that have never been on Pearl Jam records. He made the sleeve for it out of an airplane evacuation plan.



Hawaii's Grammys. People joke about how mellow I am, but in Hawaii, people think I'm rocking out.

SURFBOARD

▼ The board I ride the most is my Pyzel twin fin. It goes fast, and it's perfect for waves head high or a few feet overhead. The design is a little retro — it borrows from the '70s.

AUTOGRAPH

▼ We just had our annual Kokua Foundation fundraiser [which supports environmental education], and Ziggy Marley played and brought his family. We played "Three Little Birds," and Ziggy gave me this photo of Bob and signed it. The Marley signature's on it — so cool.

