(I Can’t Get No) Satisfaction (1965)
The Rolling Stones

LISTEN FOR
- Deals with dissatisfaction with daily life (and forbidden pleasure?)
- Opening guitar riff
- Constant snare beat
- Alternation of snarling (intro, verses) and darker (choruses) textures

CREATION

Songwriters  Mick Jagger, Keith Richards
Label, Record  Decca F12220 (UK), London 45-LON 9766 (U.S.)
Musicians  Mick Jagger (lead, backing vocal), Keith Richards (electric guitars, backing vocal), Brian Jones (acoustic guitar), Charlie Watts (drums), Bill Wyman (bass guitar), Jack Nitzsche (piano, tambourine)
Producer  Andrew Loog Oldham
Engineer  David Hassinger
Recording  RCA Studios (Hollywood); May 1965; mono
Charts  Pop 1

MUSIC

Form  Contrasting verse-chorus
Key  E major
Meter  4/4

LISTENING GUIDE

<table>
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>0:00</td>
<td>Intro (8)</td>
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<td>• Guitar riff, with prominent blues note and fuzztone.</td>
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<td>• Instruments enter one at a time: electric guitar, bass, drums, acoustic guitar, tambourine.</td>
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<td>• Snare drum punctuates each beat throughout.</td>
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## Listening Guide

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| 0:15 | Chorus (16) | “I can’t get no”       | • Smoother sound of vocals and guitar (without fuzztone) contrast with rough-edged intro.  
• Telescoping phrase lengths build tension (8 + 4 + 4 bars).  
• Timbre of vocals gradually take on buzzing timbre as the melodic line rises on “’Cause I try.” |
| 0:42 | Verse 1 (18) | “When I’m driving”     | • Snarling texture of intro returns.  
• 10 bars explaining frustrating situation, followed by two 4-bar refrains (“I can’t get no” and “No, no, no”). |
| 1:16 | Chorus (16) | “I can’t get no”       | • Back to the darker textures.  
• The choruses project less energy than the verses, which is the opposite of their usual role. |
| 1:42 | Verse 2 (18) | “When I’m watching”    | • As before. |
| 2:15 | Chorus (16) | “I can’t get no”       | • As before, but Jagger changes “satisfaction” to “girl reaction.” |
| 2:43 | Verse 3 (18) | “When I’m riding”      | • As before. |
| 3:16 | Coda (16)  |                       | • Influence of R&B, as Jagger improvises over the main riff, building intensity as the song fades out. |

### LYRICS

I can’t get no satisfaction  
I can’t get no satisfaction  
’Cause I try and I try and I try and I try  
I can’t get no, I can’t get no

When I’m drivin’ in my car  
And that man comes on to tell me  
How white my shirts can be  
But he can’t be a man ‘cause he doesn’t smoke  
The same cigarettes as me  
I can’t get no, oh no no no  
Hey hey hey, that’s what I say

And he’s tellin’ me more and more  
About some useless information  
Supposed to fire my imagination  
I can’t get no, oh no no no  
Hey hey hey, that’s what I say  
And I can’t get no girl reaction  
’Cause I try and I try and I try and I try  
I can’t get no, I can’t get no

When I’m ri—

When I’m watchin’ my TV  
When I’m watchin’ my TV  
And I’m tryin’ to make some girl  
Who tells me baby better come back later next week  
’Cause you see I’m on losing streak

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I can’t get no, oh no no no
Hey hey hey, that’s what I say
I can’t get no, I can’t get no

I can’t get no satisfaction
No satisfaction, no satisfaction, no satisfaction

SOURCES


