

I Gotta Know (1956)

Wanda Jackson

LISTEN FOR

- Contrast of country and rock and roll instrumentation
- Contrast of vocal style between verse and chorus
- Contrast of country waltz and 12-bar blues forms and grooves

CREATION

Songwriters Thelma Blackmon

Label Capitol 3485

Musicians Wanda Jackson(voice), Joe Maphis (lead guitar), Buck Owens (rhythm guitar),
bass, drums, fiddle, steel guitar unknown

Producer Ken Nelson

Recording Capitol Studios (Hollywood); June 1956; mono

Charts Country 15

MUSIC

Genre Rockabilly, country

Form Contrasting verse-chorus

Key D

Meter 3/4, 4/4

LISTENING GUIDE

Time	Form	Lyric Cue	Listen For
0:00	Intro		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instrumental version of Chorus; country waltz featuring fiddle and steel guitar.
0:09		"Well!"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waltz stops.
0:10	Verse 1 (12)	"I thought that you"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tempo picks up; meter changes to 4/4; 12-bar blues form; fiddle and steel guitar out. Lead guitar plays rockabilly-style licks; strong backbeat with slapback echo on snare and rhythm guitar.
0:21		"I gotta know"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stop-time; voice invokes Presley with stylized hiccups.
0:27	Chorus (4)	"If our love's the real thing"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocal styling emphasizes the shift to country; waltz again features fiddle and steel guitar.
0:35		"Yeah!"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signals return to rock and roll.
0:36	Verse 2 (12)	"We rocked and rolled"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guitar licks become more prominent; otherwise similar to Verse 1.
0:52 1:00	Chorus (4)	"If our love's the real thing"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country texture. Snare fill signals return to rock and roll.
1:03	Instrumental break (12+12)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two verses of guitar solo. First half features rockabilly licks; second half (from 1:18) uses two-string technique.
1:33	Verse 3 (12)	"Well I thought that you"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rockabilly
1:49	Chorus (4)	"If our love's the real thing"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country
1:58	Verse 4 (12)	"When you're on that floor"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rockabilly
2:15	Chorus (4 + tag)	"If our love's the real thing"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country

LYRICS

Well I thought that you was a wantin'
romance
But all you ever do is dance dance dance
So I boppity bop the whole night long
To the knocked out music of a jukebox
song
One thing I gotta know I gotta know I gotta
know
If our love's the real thing where's my
weddin' ring

Yes we rocked and rolled till the broad
daylight
You're a little too pooped to kiss your baby
goodnight
I know you've had it when the rockin' is
through
So I let you go home what else could I do
One thing I gotta know I gotta know I gotta
know
If our love's the real thing where's my
weddin' ring

Well I thought that you was a wantin'
romance
But all you ever do is dance dance dance
So I boppity bop the whole night long
To the knocked out music of a jukebox
song
One thing I gotta know I gotta know I gotta
know
If our love's the real thing where's my
weddin' ring

When you're on that floor you're cool man
cool
But when it comes to lovin' you need to go
to school
You know I'm longin' for a weddin' day
But all you ever do is play boy play
One thing I gotta know I gotta know I gotta
know
If our love's the real thing where's my
weddin' ring

SOURCES

- Joseph Schloss, Larry Starr, and Christopher Waterman, *Rock: Music, Culture, and Business* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), 69–72.
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- https://play.google.com/music/preview/Tswpv3iil5mcy5ealrdsog4ekre?lyrics=1&utm_source=google&utm_medium=search&utm_campaign=lyrics&pcampaignid=kp-songlyrics&u=0#