

Papa's Got a Brand New Bag, Pt. 1 (1965)

James Brown

LISTEN FOR

- Complex rhythmic surface
- Percussive vocals
- Riff-based horn parts
- Choked guitar riff

CREATION

Songwriters James Brown

Label King 5999

Musicians James Brown (vocal), Ron Tooley (trumpet), Joe Dupars (Trompete), Levi Rasbury (trumpet), Wilmer Milton (trombone), Nat Jones (alto sax, organ), St. Clair Pinckney (tenor sax), Eldee Williams (tenor sax), Al "Brisco" Clark (tenor sax), Maceo Parker (tenor sax, baritone sax), Jimmy Nolen (guitar), "Bebop" Sam Thomas or Bernard Odum (bass), Melvin Parker (drums)

Producer James Brown

Recording Arthur Smith Studios (Charlotte, NC); February 1965; stereo

Charts R&B 1, Pop 8

MUSIC

Genre Soul

Form Simple verse with bridge

Key E major

Meter 4/4

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LISTENING GUIDE

Time	Form	Lyric Cue	Listen For
0:00	Verse 1 (12)	"Come here sisters"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After opening upbeat chord, vocal enters and verse locks in. • Based on 12-bar blues progression. • Precise interplay between the instruments, none of which can stand alone, but which interlock to create an intricate rhythmic background behind the lead vocal.
0:19		"Papa's got"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop-time, then double-time choked guitar, then horn punctuation.
0:25	Verse 2 (12)	"Come down mama"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As before. • Baritone sax riff propels groove as in Pickett's "In the Midnight Hour." • Electric guitar and snare locked on backbeat as in Pickett's song.
0:48	Bridge (8)	"He's doin' the jerk"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead vocals over vamp on single chord, with new backing horn riff.
1:03	Verse 3 (12)	"Come down sister"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As before.
1:23	Verse 4 (12)	"Oh papa"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As before, but text is a variation on the bridge section.
1:46	Coda (4+fade)	"C'mon, hey hey"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on single-chord vamp from bridge.

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LYRICS

Come here sister, Papa's in the swing
 He ain't too hip, about that new breed babe
 He ain't no drag
 Papa's got a brand new bag

Come here mama, and dig this crazy scene
 He's not too fancy, but his line is pretty
 clean
 He ain't no drag.
 Papa's got a brand new bag

He's doin' the Jerk,
 He's doin' the Fly
 Don't play him cheap 'cause you know he
 ain't shy
 He's doin' the Monkey, the Mashed
 Potatoes,
 Jump back Jack, See you later alligator.

Come here sister
 Papa's in the swing
 He ain't too hip now
 But I can dig that new breed babe;
 He ain't no drag
 He's got a brand new bag

Oh papa! He's doing the Jerk
 Papa, he's doin' the Jerk
 He's doin' the twist, just like this,
 He's doin' the Fly every day and every night
 The thing's, like the Boomerang.

Hey, come on
 Hey! Hey, come on
 Hey! Hey, he's put tight, out of sight,
 Come on. Hey! Hey!

SOURCES

- John Covach and Andrew Flory, *What's That Sound*, 4th ed. (New York: W. W. Norton, 2015), 241–43.
- Roberta Freund Schwartz, Course Notes for MUSC-309 at the University of Kansas.
- <http://www.songfacts.com/detail.php?lyrics=2259>.