

Tutti Frutti (1955)

Little Richard

LISTEN FOR

- Simple verse-chorus beginning on chorus
- 12-bar blues
- High-spirited vocal
- Sexually charged lyrics
- Conflict between even eighth-notes (piano) and New Orleans shuffle groove (rhythm section)

CREATION

Songwriters Richard Penniman (music)
Dorothy LaBostrie (lyrics)

Label, Record Specialty 561

Musicians Little Richard (voice, piano); Justin Adams (guitar); Lee Allen (tenor saxophone); Alvin "Red" Tyler (baritone saxophone); Frank Fields (bass); Earl Palmer (drums)

Producer Robert "Bumps" Blackwell

Engineer Cosimo Matassa

Recording J&M Studio (New Orleans); September 1955; mono

Charts Pop 17, R&B 2

MUSIC

Genre Rhythm and blues; rock and roll

Form Simple verse-chorus
12-bar blues chorus

Key F Major

Meter 4/4

LISTENING GUIDE

| Time | Form | Lyric Cue | Listen For |
|----------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| 0:00 | Intro (2) | "Wop bop a loo mop" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Richard sets a high-energy, manic tone. |
| 0:03 | Chorus (12) | "Tutti frutti" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12-bar blues progression. • New Orleans shuffle is especially noticeable in the snare drum flourishes that accompany the saxophone riffs. |
| 0:16 | | "Wop bop a loo mop" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop-time. |
| 0:18 0:29 | Verse 1 (12) | "Got a gal named Sue" "She rocks to the east" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight bars of blues progression. • Stop-time; omits the third phrase (V-IV-I-V harmonic climax and turnaround of the choruses). |
| 0:34 | Chorus (12) | "Tutti frutti" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12-bar blues progression. |
| 0:49 | Verse 2 (12) | "Got a gal named Daisy" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like Verse 1. |
| 1:05 1:13 | Chorus (12) | "Tutti frutti" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12-bar blues progression. • Piano eighth-notes cut across the shuffle groove. |
| 1:20 1:24 | Break (12) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saxophone solo over 12-bar blues progression. • Piano eighth-notes. |
| 1:35 | Chorus (12) | "Tutti frutti" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12-bar blues progression. |
| 1:51 | Verse 2 repeat (12) | "Got a gal named Daisy" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like Verse 1. |
| 2:07 2:15 2:20 | Chorus (12) | "Tutti frutti" "A wop bop a loo mop a lop bam boom!" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12-bar blues progression. • Piano eighth-notes. • Emphatic a cappella ending. |

LYRICS

Bop bopa-a-lu a whop bam boo

Tutti frutti, au- rutti

Tutti frutti, au-rutti

Tutti frutti, au-rutti

Tutti frutti, au-rutti

Tutti frutti, au-rutti

A whop bop-a-lu a whop bam boom

Got a gal named Sue, she knows just what
to do

Got a gal named Sue, she knows just what
to do

She rock to the east, she rocks to the west
But she's the gal that I know best

Tutti frutti, au-rutti

Tutti frutti, au-rutti

Tutti frutti, au-rutti

Tutti frutti, au-rutti

Tutti frutti, au-rutti

A whop bop-a-lu a whop bam boom

Got a gal named Daisy, she almost drives me
crazy

Got a gal named Daisy, she almost drives me
crazy

She knows how to love me, yes indeed
Boy, I don't know what you're doin' to me

Tutti frutti, au-rutti

Tutti frutti, au-rutti

Tutti frutti, au-rutti

Tutti frutti, au-rutti

Tutti frutti, au-rutti

A whop bop-a-lu a whop ba, boom

Tutti frutti, oh Rudy

Tutti frutti, oh Rudy

Tutti frutti, oh Rudy

Tutti frutti, oh Rudy

Tutti frutti, oh Rudy

A whop bop-a-lu a whop bam boo

Got a girl named Daisy, she almost drives
me crazy

Got a girl named Daisy, she almost drives
me crazy

She knows how to love me, yes indeed
Boy, I don't know what you're doin' to me

Tutti frutti, oh Rudy

Tutti frutti, oh Rudy

Tutti frutti, oh Rudy

Tutti frutti, oh Rudy

Tutti frutti, oh Rudy

A whop bop-a-lu a whop bam boo

SOURCES

- Albin Zak III, Course Pak for A MUS-398 at the University of Albany.
- <http://www.metrolyrics.com/tutti-frutti-lyrics-little-richard.html>