

## Rocket 88 (1951)

### Jackie Brenston and His Delta Cats

#### LISTEN FOR

- 12-bar blues
- Boogie-woogie pattern in electric guitar
- Raw saxophone solos

#### CREATION

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<i>Songwriters</i>	Jackie Brenston (lyrics, music)
<i>Label, Record</i>	Chess 1458
<i>Musicians</i>	Drums, electrical guitar, 2 saxophones, solo vocals
<i>Producer</i>	Sam Phillips
<i>Recording</i>	(Memphis); 1951; mono
<i>Charts</i>	R&B 1

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#### MUSIC

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<i>Genre</i>	Rhythm and blues; rock and roll
<i>Form</i>	Simple verse (12-bar blues)
<i>Key</i>	E-flat major
<i>Meter</i>	4/4

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#### LISTENING GUIDE

Time	Form	Lyric Cue	Listen For
0:00	Instr. verse (12)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction features piano</li><li>• Boogie-woogie pattern in distorted electric guitar.</li></ul>
0:19	Verse 1 (12)	"You women have heard"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>
0:38	Instr. verse (12)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Saxophone features</li></ul>
0:57	Verse 2 (8)	"V-8 motor"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12-bar blues pattern unexpectedly interrupted after just 8 bars</li></ul>

## "Rocket 88" (Jackie Brenston and His Delta Cats, 1951)

1:10	Instr. verse (12)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raucous sax solo</li> </ul>
1:28	Instr. verse (12)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sax solo continues</li> </ul>
1:47	Instr. verse (12)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sax solo continues</li> </ul>
2:05	Verse 3	"Step in my rocket"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
2:23	Instr. verse (12)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sax and guitar features</li> </ul>

## LYRICS

You women have heard of jalopies  
 You've heard the noise they make  
 Let me introduce my new Rocket 88  
 Yeah, it's straight, just won't wait  
 Everybody likes my Rocket 88  
 Babe we'll ride in style movin' all along

A V8 motor baby, it's modern design  
 Black convertible top and the gals don't mind  
 Sportin' with me riding all around town with joy  
 A V8 motor baby, it's modern design  
 Black convertible top and the girls don't mind  
 Sportin' with me riding all around town with joy

Step in my Rocket and don't be late  
 Baby we're pulling out about half past eight  
 Goin' around the corner gonna get a fill  
 Everybody in my car's gonna take a little nip  
 Move on out, movin' and cruisin' along



## SOURCES

- John Covach and Andrew Flory, *What's That Sound?* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2012), 10.
- <http://www.songlyrics.com/jackie-brenston/rocket-88-lyrics>