

= Can I Have It Like That =

" Can I Have It Like That " is a song performed by rapper Pharrell Williams featuring Gwen Stefani . It was written and produced by Williams for his 2006 debut album *In My Mind* , and the song is the opening track . The song 's hook comes from a one @-@ line contribution from Stefani , used as part of a call and response in the chorus . The song received generally negative reviews from music critics . It was later put as one of the songs in *NBA 2K15* .

" Can I Have It Like That " was released as the album 's lead single in October 2005 (see 2005 in music) . It was commercially unsuccessful in the United States , but fared somewhat better worldwide . A rock remix of the song featured Travis Barker playing the drums and Pharrell playing the guitar .

= = Background and composition = =

P. Diddy was originally designated to use the track that Williams created . Several other artists were also interested in using it , but Williams changed his mind and decided to use the song himself . In mid @-@ 2005 , he worked with Stefani in Miami , Florida on her second solo album *The Sweet Escape* (2006) . While she was in the booth recording " Breakin ' Up " , he told her that he had a song he thought would be his first single . Stefani asked to hear it , and he said that he wanted to record her for the track after the two finished working on " Breakin ' Up " . Stefani , however , insisted that they work on " Can I Have It Like That " then , and Williams recorded her performing the song 's hook . She contributed one line , which she performed twice , to the song .

Williams ' rap is in a throaty baritone , described as a " honey @-@ coated version " of the styles of Snoop Dogg and Dr. Dre . He raps about his current lifestyle as well as his life and achievements . The rap is set over a rhythm section consisting of an irregular beat and a grinding bass . The track reflects Williams ' minimalist style , and it is inflected with jazz music , including a trumpet part during the bridge .

= = Critical reception = =

" Can I Have It Like That " received generally negative reviews from music critics . Josh Tyrangiel of *Entertainment Weekly* called it an " odd opener " to *In My Mind* and remarked that Williams " never commits to putting his hips into it " , leaving the track without any climax . The *Observer* 's Luke Bainbridge , however , referred to the song as " a grinding instant smash " . For *IGN* , Spence Abbott described Williams ' rapping as " a little sticky , but ? ruggedly appealing in a manner of speaking " , and commented that " it 's the shuffling and infectious beat ? that will have you swerving and slinking like a cobra with epilepsy . " In his review for *Slant Magazine* , Preston Jones characterized the song as " curiously inert " , adding that it sounded better as a sample on *Girl Talk* 's 2006 mashup album *Night Ripper* .

Stefani 's presence as a featured artist on the song received negative reviews from music critics . *About.com* 's Ivan Rott commented that the song 's funk @-@ influenced sound " definitely knocks " , but was disappointed in Stefani 's contribution , finding its repetition tedious . Evan McGarvey of *Stylus Magazine* also found it repetitive , and described " Can I Have It Like That " as " a brief distillation of everything calamitous about [Williams '] and Chad Hugo 's production style " . The *Guardian* stated that Stefani 's part was the only catchy hook on *In My Mind* , but added that it " seems to be built around a one @-@ line cast @-@ off found on the *Love . Angel . Music . Baby.* factory floor . " Finding " Can I Have It Like That " a " slow burner " that offered a " promising hint at what else is to come " on *In My Mind* , Claire Simpson stated in her *musicOMH* review that Stefani 's contribution was " purely cosmetic and clearly a transparent means of getting her name on the single to not only boost her own credentials but to help draw Pharrell to the attention of her increasingly mainstream following . "

= = Chart performance = =

" Can I Have It Like That " was commercially unsuccessful in the United States . It debuted at number 97 on the Billboard Hot 100 and peaked at number 49 three weeks later . It exited the chart after eight weeks . It was somewhat more successful in urban contemporary and rhythmic contemporary markets , reaching number 20 on the Hot Rap Tracks , number 31 on the Rhythmic Top 40 , and number 32 on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs . It had some crossover success in mainstream music and reached number 51 on the Billboard Pop 100 .

The single was more successful in Europe , where it reached number 11 on the Billboard European Hot 100 Singles chart . In the United Kingdom , " Can I Have It Like That " debuted and peaked at number three on the UK Singles Chart , behind Arctic Monkeys ' " I Bet You Look Good on the Dancefloor " and Westlife 's cover of You Raise Me Up . It left the chart after 11 weeks . The single remained Williams ' highest @-@ charting release in Britain until 2013 when he topped the charts three times with Robin Thicke 's " Blurred Lines " , Daft Punk 's " Get Lucky " , and as the solo artist in " Happy " . The song was less successful throughout the rest of Europe and reached the top 20 in Finland , Ireland , and Norway ; the top 40 in Belgium , Germany , the Netherlands , and Switzerland ; and the top 80 in Austria and France .

" Can I Have It Like That " was somewhat successful elsewhere . It debuted at number 21 on the ARIA Singles Chart and after gradually descending the chart , reached a second peak at number 31 seven weeks later . It remained on the chart for a total of 12 weeks . After debuting at number 20 , the song peaked at number 18 on the New Zealand Singles Chart .

= = Music video = =

The song 's music video was directed by Paul Hunter . It depicts Williams being watched by a secret organization . Aware that he is being watched , he talks to a woman , revealed to be Stefani , on the phone . He makes appearances at an exclusive boat party and at another party in his penthouse . There are intercut sequences of people including Williams and Stefani dancing in front of a large equalizer , Williams standing in front of explosions , and people skateboarding . And the video also shows Pharrell 's Enzo Ferrari .

The music video was filmed in late September 2005 . The cinematography is designed so that the music video becomes the secret organization 's surveillance of Williams . It uses shifting camera angles to create tension . The scenes in front of the equalizer were filmed in front of a greenscreen , and the explosion sequences were shot live on the streets of Los Angeles , California . In the penthouse scene , he is accompanied by two naked women with leopard @-@ pattern body paint and a baby cougar . Hunter came up with the idea of showing body @-@ painted women , and Williams suggested sitting with the cougar because he " wanted to exude power . "

The video had little success on video chart programs . To date , it is Williams ' only video as a main artist to debut on MTV 's Total Request Live . It was on the program 's countdown for three days , reaching number nine . The video was unable to make MuchMusic 's Countdown .

= = Track listings = =

= = Charts = =