

= No Can Do =

" No Can Do " is a song by English girl group Sugababes from their sixth studio album , Catfights and Spotlights ( 2008 ) . It was written by Jason Pebworth and George Astasio of The Invisible Men , Jon Shave and VV Brown , and produced by The Invisible Men in collaboration with Si Hulbert . The song was released in the United Kingdom and Ireland on 19 December 2008 as the album 's second and final single . " No Can Do " is a pop song with influences of R & B and soul . It contains a sample of Sweet Charles Sherrell 's " Yes It 's You " , and contains influences of Motown music and songs performed by The Jackson 5 .

The song received mixed reviews from critics , who were ambivalent towards its Motown influence . " No Can Do " peaked at number 23 on the UK Singles Chart and is one of the group 's lowest @-@ charting singles in the UK . The single also charted on the Danish and Slovakian airplay charts . The music video for " No Can Do " was directed by Marco Puig , and was inspired by a piece of pop created by Allen Jones in the 1960s . It features the group using twenty half @-@ naked men as objects such as cars , motorcycles and bridges . The Sugababes performed the song in November 2008 to promote the release of the New Xbox Experience , and at Ponty 's Big Weekend in July 2009 .

= = Background and release = =

Following the release of their fifth studio album , Change ( 2007 ) , and the completion of its supporting tour , the Sugababes announced that they would take a year @-@ long break to record their sixth studio album . Despite the announcement , the trio soon began work on the album , titled Catfights and Spotlights , which they eventually recorded within a matter of weeks and in between various festivals . " No Can Do " was co @-@ written and co @-@ produced by The Invisible Men team members Jason Pebworth and George Astasio . The two musicians co @-@ wrote the song in collaboration with Jon Shave and VV Brown , and co @-@ produced it with Si Hulbert . The song was programmed collectively by Hulbert , Shave , Pebworth and Melvin Kuiters , mixed by Jeremy Wheatley and engineered by Dave Palmer . " No Can Do " was recorded at Metropolis Studios in London , England .

" No Can Do " was released as the second and final single from Catfights and Spotlights . When Digital Spy questioned group member Keisha Buchanan about her reaction to its release , she responded : " I 'm really excited about it . I 'm looking forward to people hearing another side to the album . This single has got a kind of Jackson 5 feel to it which I love . The whole album has got a really old @-@ school , laid @-@ back Motown sound , so hopefully ' No Can Do ' will get more people interested in the album . " " No Can Do " was released as a digital download in the United Kingdom and Ireland on 19 December 2008 . The following day , it was made available as a CD single , which consists of three remixes of the track and a cover version of Keane 's song " Spiralling " .

= = Composition and lyrics = =

" No Can Do " is an uptempo pop song with influences of R & B and soul . It features prominent bass instrumentation provided by the keyboard , guitar , trombone , trumpet , saxophone and brass . " No Can Do " is based around a sample of Sweet Charles Sherrell 's " Yes It 's You " , as written and produced by Nugetre and Hal Ritson , respectively . The song is largely inspired by Motown music and is reminiscent of songs performed by The Jackson 5 , namely their 1969 song " I Want You Back " . Adrian Thrills of the Daily Mail described it as " a bubbly Jackson Five pastiche " . The Motown influences are most evident within the song 's beat . The record 's influences also derive from the music of girl groups from the 1960s . According to the digital sheet music published at Sheet Music Direct , " No Can Do " was composed in the key of G major using common time , with a tempo of 96 beats per minute .

Matthew Chisling of AllMusic noted that the song " [ builds ] on the recurring themes of enticing

harmonies and vocal showcasing which are seen as the most dominant traits that the girls are showing off this time around ". The lyrics of " No Can Do " address the riddance of a boyfriend , following the group 's " trademark super @-@ energised big goodbye songs " . Buchanan stated during an interview with BBC 's Sarah Jane Griffiths that the lyrics are " about your partner treating you really bad and you saying , ' Not any more . Or No Can Do ' " .

= = Response = =

= = = Critical reception = = =

Critical reception for " No Can Do " was mixed . David Balls of Digital Spy gave the song a two out of five star rating , and wrote , " in comparison to the majority of the group 's singles , it 's a half @-@ hearted , bland and middle of the road offering that lacks the excitement of Sugababes at their best " . He did , however , call the song an improvement from the group 's previous single " Girls " . A writer from Orange criticised the song 's incorporation of multiple genres as " less than the sum of its parts " . The reviewer was also unfavourable of the sampling of " Yes It 's You " , which was noted as " giving the ladies ' warblings a strange air of karaoke with the wrong lyrics " as a result of its resemblance to " I Want You Back " . The writer concluded the review by stating that " things are just a little lacklustre ; the trio 's vocals are still strong , but missing the sass that made them famous " .

Entertainment.ie 's Lauren Murphy regarded " No Can Do " and album track " Side Chick " as " feeble uptempo tracks that sound like they 've been plucked at random from a pop factory conveyor belt " . A writer from the Daily Record commented that " as much as [ ' No Can Do ' ] is mainstream and poppy , it 's hardly their most remarkable offering " . Popjustice considered the song to be " above average " but not the best track from the album , while Fraser McAlphine of the BBC Chart Blog wrote that it " won 't be the all @-@ conquering pop superbeast that it could be " . A positive response came from AllMusic writer Matthew Chisling , who considered the song to be a " show @-@ stopping [ number ] " and stated that it " work [ s ] as shimmering displays of subtle strength " . Virgin Media 's Johnny Dee praised inclusion of the Motown beat , which according to him makes the song " feel retro and modern simultaneously .

= = = Commercial performance = = =

" No Can Do " entered the UK Singles Chart on 13 December 2008 at number 170 , based on digital downloads from Catfights and Spotlights . Upon its release as a single , the song peaked at number 23 in the issue dated 10 January 2009 with 12 @, @ 890 copies sold . Subsequently , " No Can Do " became the group 's lowest @-@ charting single since 2006 's " Follow Me Home " and their third @-@ lowest charting single overall . The song is also one of their lowest @-@ selling singles to date . " No Can Do " brought the Sugababes ' total single sales in the UK to three million . The single also peaked at number eleven on the Danish airplay chart , number 53 on the Slovakian airplay chart , and number 67 on Billboard 's European Hot 100 Singles chart .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " No Can Do " was directed by Marco Puig , who previously directed videos for recording artists such as Robbie Williams and Madonna . The video was filmed in November 2008 , and was released onto the iTunes Store later that month . On YouTube , it was released on 2 December 2008 . The video 's inspiration stemmed from a piece of art created by the sculptor Allen Jones in the 1960s , involving the use of female mannequins as everyday pieces of furniture . Shortly before its release , pictures of the group 's members with men in tight underpants surfaced online ; according to Alison Maloney of The Sun , this " [ left ] little to the imagination " . The Sugababes wore glamorous gowns and had large hair and long eyelashes for the video , which

features twenty muscly men who are used as pieces of furniture .

The video opens with a scene of group member Amelle Berrabah , who is spread out on the floor and surrounded by multiple men . Berrabah , Buchanan and other group member Heidi Range join together and walk on a bridge , which is constructed by the men 's bodies . Later , Buchanan straddles onto two men who pretend to be a motorbike . Berrabah and Range then drive a car made from the men 's bodies . During the milk bar scene , the trio are surrounded by men who are used as tables and lamps . Another scene shows Berrabah and Range in a car constructed by the men . At the end of the video , Range uses a microphone to yell at the men who are standing in a line . Balls described the video as " a little racier than we 'd expect from Keisha and Co " , but acknowledged that " it 's nice to see the girls letting their hair down for a change " . He compared it to the music video for Kylie Minogue 's 2003 single " Slow " . VV Brown , the co @-@ writer of " No Can Do " , stated that she did not expect the video to be racy : " Being very honest , I didn 't see in that way . I saw the song as more fun and cheeky , rather than sassy and glossy like that . "

= = Live performances and impact = =

The Sugababes performed " No Can Do " on 14 November 2008 for Children in Need . The trio performed the song later that month to promote the release of the New Xbox Experience , as part of a set list that included their singles " Push the Button " and " About You Now " . They performed " No Can Do " on 18 July 2009 at Ponty ? s Big Weekend , which was held at Ynysangharad Park in Pontypridd , Wales , and dedicated the performance to Michael Jackson who died a month earlier . Buchanan named " No Can Do " one of her favourite songs from the Sugababes ' career , stating : " I love ' No Can Do ' because it 's such a different sound for us . I really like the whole old @-@ school , laid @-@ back sound and it 's got a kind of Jackson 5 feel to it which I love . "

= = Formats and track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits are adapted from the liner notes of Catfights and Spotlights .

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =