

= I 'm Goin ' Down =

" I 'm Goin ' Down " is a song written and performed by American singer Bruce Springsteen that was released as the sixth single from his album Born in the U.S.A. in August 1985 . The song is one of several of the album 's tracks that he recorded with the E Street Band in May 1982 at the Power Station music studio . The release of these full @-@ band tracks was put into question when Springsteen used solo material for his September 1982 LP , Nebraska , and considered doing the same for his next album , which would become Born in the U.S.A. He later decided to use several of the May 1982 recordings on Born in the U.S.A. " I 'm Goin ' Down " beat out contender " Pink Cadillac " for a spot on the album .

" I 'm Goin ' Down " , which features a prominent drum performance and possesses an energetic feel , deals with the frustration of diminishing sexual activity in romantic relationships . As a single , it reached No. 9 in the United States and the top 40 in Sweden , Canada , and Italy . The song , which has received positive appraisal from critics , has not been performed often by Springsteen since his Born in the U.S.A. Tour ; between 2009 and 2014 , he played it at less than 12 percent of his concerts whose set lists his official website has published . Cover versions of " I 'm Goin ' Down " include renditions by Frank Black and the Catholics , Free Energy , Vampire Weekend , Dessa , and Trampled by Turtles .

= = Background and recording = =

In October 1980 , Springsteen released his fifth album , The River . For his next album , which would become Nebraska , he initially recorded a demo cassette by himself of over a dozen songs on January 3 , 1982 . In April 1982 , he began recording sessions at the Power Station studio in New York City with the E Street Band ? whose line @-@ up then consisted of Roy Bittan , Clarence Clemons , Danny Federici , Garry Tallent , Steve Van Zandt , and Max Weinberg ? with production by Springsteen , Van Zandt , Jon Landau , and Chuck Plotkin .

At first , Springsteen attempted full @-@ band versions of Nebraska songs at these sessions , including " Atlantic City " , " Nebraska " , and " Mansion on the Hill " . However , he and his co @-@ producers were unsatisfied with the group renditions of the demo songs . To buy time to decide on a solution , by May the band had begun recording other material , including " I 'm Goin ' Down " , " Born in the U.S.A. " , " Glory Days " , " Downbound Train " , " Darlington County " , " Working on the Highway " , and " I 'm on Fire " . " I 'm Goin ' Down " was recorded on May 12 . Eventually , Springsteen decided to release the January demos as the Nebraska album , which came out in September 1982 , such that " I 'm Goin ' Down " and other band tracks from May were temporarily shelved .

In 1983 , he did more songs with the E Street Band , but was considering instead recording his next album solo , like Nebraska . By the following year , Landau and Plotkin had convinced Springsteen to release band tracks , including several from May 1982 and a number of subsequently recorded songs . At one point , Springsteen was not going to include " I 'm Goin ' Down " on Born in The U.S.A. , but later added it in place of " Pink Cadillac " , which he used as the B @-@ side of the " Dancing in the Dark " single .

= = Music and lyrics = =

" I 'm Goin ' Down " features an energetic rhythm , propelled by a heavy drumbeat by Weinberg , and contains a saxophone solo by Clemons . The music has a basic chord progression of A ? E ? F # m ? D. In concerts in 1984 , Springsteen introduced the song by describing the diminishing intimacy and sexual activity that can occur over the course of a romantic relationship : " [First] you 're making love to ' em all the time , three or four times a day . Then you come back a little bit later , and , uh @-@ oh ... it 's like ' Are you gonna make love to me tonight , or are we gonna wait for the full moon again ' , y 'know ? " The song 's lyrics include lines such as " I 'm sick and tired of you setting me up / Setting me up just to knock @-@ a knock @-@ a knock @-@ a me down " and "

You used to love to drive me wild / But lately girl you get your kicks from just driving me down " . The lyrics later turn into a stream of gibberish syllables .

= = Release and reception = =

The Born in the U.S.A. album was released on June 4 , 1984 , and " I 'm Goin ' Down " , the album 's sixth single , came out in August 1985 . The 7 " single version includes B @-@ side " Janey , Don 't You Lose Heart " while the 12 " Maxi has this and " Held Up Without a Gun " . In the United States , " I 'm Goin ' Down " entered the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart on September 7 , and peaked at No. 9 on October 26 . It was one of a record @-@ tying seven top 10 singles to be released from Born in the U.S.A. It also reached No. 13 in Sweden , No. 23 in Canada , No. 29 in Italy , and No. 61 in Germany . No music video was made for the song . The track was additionally released on 12 " Singles Collection in 1985 , and The Album Collection Vol . 1 1973 ? 1984 in 2014 .

" I 'm Goin ' Down " has generally been well received by critics . Debbie Miller of Rolling Stone describes the song as " wonderfully exuberant " and " hilarious " . For Billboard 's Caryn Rose , it is " a prime exemplar of the kind of good @-@ time party song that Springsteen and E Street do best , sliding easily through the verses with a ... bouncing rhythm ... and a fun , jumping end " . Writer Chuck Klosterman , who is not a fan of Born in the U.S.A. , nonetheless rates " I 'm Goin ' Down " as one of two decent tracks on the album . A 2014 Rolling Stone article ranks " I 'm Goin ' Down " as the 52nd best Bruce Springsteen song ever . In the book Counting Down Bruce Springsteen : His 100 Finest Songs , writer Jim Beviglia puts " I 'm Goin ' Down " as the 131st best Springsteen track , calling it " a fun but relatively minor " work . Critic Bruce Pollock lists it and several other Born in the U.S.A. tracks in Rock Song Index : The 7500 Most Important Songs for the Rock and Roll Era . In Uncut magazine 's 2015 Ultimate Collector 's Edition : Springsteen , " I 'm Goin ' Down " is rated four stars out of five .

= = Live performances = =

Springsteen has played " I 'm Goin ' Down " infrequently since the end of the Born in the U.S.A. Tour . For Springsteen 's tours since 2009 , most of his set lists are available on his official website , brucespringsteen.net. Of the concert dates whose set lists the website has published , Springsteen performed " I 'm Goin ' Down " 13 times out of 85 concerts on his Working on a Dream Tour in 2009 , 14 times out of 138 concerts on his Wrecking Ball World Tour in 2012 ? 2013 , and three times out of 34 concerts on his High Hopes Tour in 2014 ? for a total of 30 times out of 257 concerts . At some of these 30 shows , Springsteen played the entire Born in the U.S.A. album .

= = Cover versions = =

Various musicians have covered " I 'm Goin ' Down " . In 1998 , Frank Black and the Catholics included a version on their " Dog Gone " single , and in 2015 on The Complete Recordings . In 2010 , Free Energy performed the song live in Atlanta , and released a version of the song as a single ; the same year , Vampire Weekend performed the song in Vancouver and Seattle , as well as including a recording of the song on their iTunes Session ; their version also appeared on the TV soundtrack Girls , Vol . 2 : All Adventurous Women Do ... in 2014 . Rancid frontman Tim Armstrong put out a cover in 2012 as part of his Tim Timebomb and Friends collection , and included it on his album Special Lunacy . Dessa released a version on her 2013 album Parts of Speech , and the following year , Trampled by Turtles did likewise on Dead Man 's Town : A Tribute to Born in the U.S.A.

= = Formats and track listing = =

7 " and 12 " singles

" I 'm Goin ' Down " ? 3 : 29

" Janey , Don 't You Lose Heart " ? 3 : 23

" Held Up Without a Gun " ? 1 : 15 (in only 12 " single)

= = Charts = =