

= Stop ( Spice Girls song ) =

" Stop " is a song by the British pop group Spice Girls . It was written by the group members with Paul Wilson and Andy Watkins ? the songwriters and production duo known as Absolute ? at the same time as the group was filming scenes for their movie Spice World . " Stop " was produced by Wilson and Watkins for the group 's second album Spiceworld , which was released in November 1997 .

" Stop " is an dance @-@ pop song with influences of Motown 's blue @-@ eyed soul , and features instrumentation from a guitar and a brass . The music video , directed by James Brown and filmed in Ireland , features the group in a traditional 1950s working class street and showed them playing with young girls in various children 's games . The song received mostly positive reviews from music critics , with many of them complimenting the Motown influences and production . " Stop " was performed by the group in a number of live appearances in Europe and North America including their three tours .

Released as the album 's third single in March 1998 , it peaked at number two on the UK Singles Chart behind " It 's Like That " by Run @-@ D.M.C. vs Jason Nevins , ending the Spice Girls ' streak of consecutive number @-@ one singles in the on the chart at six . It was moderately successful internationally , peaking inside the top twenty on the majority of the charts that it entered . In the United States , " Stop " peaked at number sixteen on the Billboard Hot 100 becoming the group 's sixth consecutive top twenty on the chart . It was the group 's last single that was released before Geri Halliwell 's departure in May 1998 though it was not the last single to include her vocals .

= = Background and writing = =

In June 1997 , the group began filming scenes for their movie Spice World . At the same time , Virgin Records started the first marketing meetings for the Spiceworld album 's promotional campaign , which was set to be released in November . No songs had been written for the album at this point , so the group had to do all the song @-@ writing and recording at the same time as they were filming the movie . Between takes , and at the end of each filming day , the group usually went straight into a mobile recording studio set up in a Winnebago , which followed them between film sets . The schedule was physically arduous with logistical difficulties ; Melanie Brown commented in her autobiography : " doing the two full @-@ time jobs at the same time took its toll and within a couple on weeks , exhaustion set in . " The concept of " Stop " was mainly penned by Geri Halliwell . She came up with the first lines of the song and recorded them into a dictaphone ; the next day she played the tape to Paul Wilson and Andy Watkins ? the songwriters and production duo known as Absolute . The duo then worked with the melody and began playing with it . Halliwell commented on her autobiography :

I wanted something with a Motown feel . Mel C [ hisholm ] eventually finished off the chorus and we had the basis for a song called " Stop " . Later , when we had more time , the other girls came in and we helped write the verses and bridges .

= = Composition = =

" Stop " is an uptempo dance @-@ pop song with influences of Motown 's blue @-@ eyed soul , and is reminiscent of classic singles by The Supremes or Martha and the Vandellas . It is written in the key of C major , with a time signature set on common time , and moves at a fast tempo of 132 beats per minute . Lyrically , the song calls for a slowing down on the courtship process , and it is particularly addressed to appeal to the young female audience , as the female to female bonds are not threatened .

It is constructed in a verse @-@ pre @-@ chorus @-@ chorus form , with a bridge before the third and fourth chorus . It starts with an instrumental introduction , and uses a chord progression of C ? B ? ? Am7 ? G , that is also used during the verses and the chorus . In the first verse , Halliwell , Chisholm , Bunton , and Beckham sing each one line . The chords change to Dm11 ? Dm9 ? Dm11

? Dm9 ? Dm7 ? Em7 ? F major7 ? G during the pre @-@ chorus , followed by the chorus . The same pattern occurs leading to the second chorus , the first part of the second verse consists on the repeated use of the words do and ba da , then Bunton and Chisholm sing the rest of the verse . The group then sing the bridge , and end the song repeating the chorus twice . The song uses the verse melody of When You Were Mine ( Prince song ) with slightly altered phrasing .

= = Release = =

" Stop " was released in the United Kingdom on 9 March 1998 , in two single versions . The first one , a standard CD single , included the track and live versions of " Something Kinda Funny " , " Mama " , and " Love Thing " , taken from the set of concerts the group did in Istanbul in October 1997 . The second version , also released in a standard CD single , contained the track , along with the David Morales remix , the Stretch & Vern 's Rock & Roll Mix of the song , and a cover version of McFadden & Whitehead 's " Ain 't No Stoppin ' Us Now " , performed along with American singer Luther Vandross .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

" Stop " was generally well received by music critics . For Sylvia Patterson of the NME , the song is an " obscenely catchy Motown swinger " , she added that it is " the proper pop genius destined to be number one until Japan falls into the sea " . Rolling Stone magazine 's David Wild called it " a retro , Supremes @-@ lite confection that 's as undeniable as it is unoriginal . " David Browne of Entertainment Weekly characterised it as a " delicious re @-@ creation of Motown @-@ era bop packed with skipping @-@ down @-@ the @-@ street good vibrations " . Larry Flick of Billboard magazine said that it has " a bouncy , Supremes @-@ like retro vibe " , and called its hook " irresistible " . Flick also praised the David Morales remix of the song , calling it " a vibrant , time @-@ sensitive disco ditty " , while Howard Scripps from The Press of Atlantic City called it " an obvious girl @-@ group ditty " , and added that it " is another potential hit " . Conversely , in a review of Spiceworld , Andy Gill of The Independent , called the album a " perky but charmless parade of pop pastiches " , and described " Stop " as a " pseudo @-@ Motown stomp " .

Stephen Thomas Erlewine from Allmusic , commented that the song " consolidates and expands the group 's style [ ... ] [ adding ] stomping , neo @-@ Motown blue @-@ eyed soul in the vein of Culture Club " . Erlewine complimented " Stop " in a review of the group 's compilation album , saying that it " is as awesome a slice of obligatory British Tamla / Motown as you 'll get " . Stewart Mason , also from Allmusic compared it to Bananarama 's classic singles , and called it as " a glorious piece of utterly disposable but wonderful disposable pop " . Sputnikmusic 's Amanda Murray also complimented the track , saying that it a " is a thoroughly enjoyable upbeat song , completely carefree and lively " . Music Week described it as an " upbeat , trumpet @-@ led homage to old @-@ school R & B. Very Motown @-@ influenced . [ ... ] an addictive dreamy summer sing @-@ a @-@ long " . The Virginian @-@ Pilot said that the horns on the song are " classic soul with a 90s tweak " . Music critic Roger Catlin of The Buffalo News described it as " a jaunty Motown beat [ ... ] [ with ] a progirl message " . In a review of the group 's Greatest Hits album , Digital Spy 's Nick Levine said that " Stop " still sounds " like the best song that Motown never produced " .

= = = Chart performance = = =

" Stop " was released in the United Kingdom in March 1998 . It entered and peaked at number two on the UK Singles Chart , being kept off the top spot by Jason Nevins ' remix of Run ? D.M.C. ' s 1983 hit " It 's Like That " . It ended the streak of the Spice Girls ' consecutive number @-@ ones on the chart at six ( from " Wannabe " to " Too Much " ) . " Stop " stayed three weeks inside the top ten

, eight weeks inside the top forty , and eighteen weeks in total , earning a silver certification by the British Phonographic Industry ( BPI ) in March 1998 .

" Stop " was moderately successful in the rest of Europe . It reached the sixth position on the Eurochart Hot 100 , peaked inside the top ten in Finland , Ireland , the Netherlands , Sweden , and Wallonia , and inside the top twenty in Austria , Flanders , France , Italy , and Switzerland . The song was more successful in Oceania . In New Zealand , it debuted on 12 April 1998 at number thirteen , peaked at number nine , and stayed twelve weeks on the chart . In Australia , it debuted on the ARIA Singles Chart at number eleven , peaking at number five in its fifth week . It remained twenty @-@ one weeks on the chart , and was certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association ( ARIA ) .

In April 1998 , " Stop " debuted on the Canadian RPM singles chart at number ninety @-@ nine , reaching a peak of number three in its ninth week . In the US , " Stop " debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 on 20 June 1998 , at number thirty @-@ six . It peaked at number sixteen two weeks later , becoming the group 's sixth consecutive top twenty on the chart . " Stop " peaked at eleven on the Hot 100 Singles Sales chart , but received little support from radio stations , and barely entered the Hot 100 Airplay , peaking at number seventy . The song reached number three on the Hot Dance Singles Sales chart , but only had moderate success on other formats , peaking at fourteen on the Hot Dance Club Play chart , and at thirty @-@ seven on the Mainstream Top 40 .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Stop " was shot on 27 January 1998 in Ireland , and was directed by James Brown . About the concept , Melanie Brown commented : " There wasn 't a storyboard for this video ? it was more trial and error . It wasn 't planned down to the last detail and was quite a free @-@ for @-@ all . It 's like everything we do ? complete chaos ! [ ... ] And we all want to get our bit in , so the director has to be able to encompass us all , plus put his ideas on top of it , and make it all flow .

The opening segment , reminiscent of a traditional British 1950s working class street of terraced houses , was filmed at Carnew Street in Dublin , and features scenes of each member of the group knocking on different doors . Then during the first chorus , the group performs a hand @-@ action dance , that was also used during their live performances . The second half of the video , set in the small town of Rathdrum , County Wicklow. showed the group interacting with young girls in various activities , such as running around the streets dancing , skipping rope , playing hopscotch , cat 's cradle and pat @-@ a @-@ cake , hula hooping , and participating in competitions of various kinds . The locals are depicted as working @-@ class people who attend the local fair or have a drink in the pub . At the end of the video , the group performs at a stage in the local hall in front of an audience of young and old people .

= = Live performances = =

The song was performed many times on television , in both the UK and the US , including An Audience with ... , Top of the Pops , The Tonight Show with Jay Leno , and the Late Show with David Letterman . For their " Stop " performance at the 1998 BRIT Awards , the group adopted a Supremes @-@ like look , and appeared on the stage in a 1960 @-@ style car . The group performed " Stop " without Halliwell in Modena , Italy ; for the annually hosted Pavarotti and Friends charity concert in June 1998 .

In October 1997 , the group performed it as the ninth song of their first live concert at the Abdi İpekçi Arena in Istanbul , Turkey . The performance was broadcast on Showtime in a pay @-@ per @-@ view event titled Spice Girls In Concert Wild ! . However , the VHS and DVD release of the concert , Girl Power ! Live in Istanbul , does not include the " Stop " performance . In November 2007 , the group performed together for the first time in nearly a decade at the 2007 Victoria 's Secret Fashion Show , held in Los Angeles , California . The group dressed in military @-@ themed outfits performed " Stop " miming to a backing track , in front of giant glittering lights that spelled out " Spice " in the background . A taped performance of the group lyp @-@ synching the song , while

dressed in blue sailor outfits , aired on 17 November 2007 for the Children in Need 2007 marathon . On 8 November 2010 , Brown performed " Stop " with the second series ' contestants of the Australian edition of The X Factor .

The group have performed the song on their three tours , the Spiceworld Tour , the Christmas In Spiceworld Tour , and the Return of the Spice Girls . It remained in the group 's live set after Halliwell 's departure at the end of the European leg of the Spiceworld Tour , her parts were taken by Brown . The performance at the tour 's final concert can be found on the video : Spice Girls Live at Wembley Stadium , filmed in London , on 20 September 1998 . For the Return of the Spice Girls Tour , it was performed as the second song from the show 's opening segment . The group dressed in tight bronze and copper coloured outfits made by Italian fashion designer Roberto Cavalli .

= = Formats and track listings = =

These are the formats and track listings of major single releases of " Stop " :

= = Credits and personnel = =

Published by Windswept Pacific Music Ltd / 19 Music / BMG Music Publishing Ltd .

= = Charts and certifications = =