

= Break It Off =

" Break It Off " is a song by Barbadian singer Rihanna from her second studio album *A Girl like Me* (2006) , and features guest vocals from Sean Paul . It was written by Donovan Bennett , Paul , K. Ford and Rihanna , while production was handled by Don Corleon . The song was released on November 13 , 2006 , as the album 's fourth and final single . " Break It Off " is a futuristic pop @-@ dancehall song , which is layered over an electro @-@ reggae beat .

Critical reception of the song was positive , with reviewers praising the collaboration between Rihanna and Paul and as a return to the former 's roots . " Break It Off " made chart appearances on the singles charts of the United States and Belgium . It peaked at number nine on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart and number six on the Mainstream Top 40 chart . In the Flanders region of Belgium , it peaked at number 10 . Rihanna performed the song at Radio One Big Weekend in 2007 and it was included on the set list of her *Good Girl Gone Bad Tour* (2007 ? 09) , and was subsequently included on the accompanying DVD release , entitled *Good Girl Gone Bad Live* .

= = Background and release = =

" Break It Off " was recorded at 2 Hard Studios in Kingston , Jamaica . It was written by Donovan Bennett , Sean Paul Henriques (better known as Sean Paul) , K. Ford and Rihanna , who is credited as Robyn Fenty . Production of the song was handled by Don Corleon . It was engineered by Jeremy Harding and Bennett , who also mixed the song . All instrumentation was provided by Bennett . Paul explained how he and Rihanna met in a 2011 interview with *Rap @-@ Up* . During her visit to Jamaica , Rihanna was taken on a tour around the island by Paul , where he took her to some of the beaches and experienced the nightlife . He continued to explain that they spent a few days together and that he took her to the Bob Marley Museum , which was something she had " always wanted to do . " Reminiscing on " Break It Off " and Rihanna , Paul stated that working with the singer and creating the song was " his most memorable collaboration . "

" Break It Off " was released as the fourth and final single from Rihanna 's second studio album , *A Girl like Me* (2006) . It was released to US Contemporary hit radio station playlists on November 13 , 2006 , by Def Jam Recordings . It was also made available to download digitally via iTunes in various countries around the world on February 27 , 2007 , including Australia , Austria , Belgium and Spain .

= = Composition and lyrics = =

" Break It Off " is a futuristic " pop @-@ dancehall " song , which is layered over an electro @-@ reggae beat . It received a comparison by Ruth Jamieson for *The Guardian* to Rihanna 's debut single " *Pon de Replay* " from her first studio album , *Music of the Sun* . According to Dan Charnas for *The Washington Post* , " Break It Off " showcases Rihanna 's Caribbean roots . " *We Ride* " is written in the key of D major and is set in common time with a moderate dance groove with 130 beats per minute (BPM) . Rihanna 's vocal range in the song spans one octave from the lower note of A3 to the higher note of A4 . The song includes piano keys and guitar strings as part of its instrumental composition .

= = Critical reception = =

" Break It Off " garnered a positive response from music critics . David Jeffries for *AllMusic* was complimentary of " Break It Off " , writing that it is " totally juiced " and that she provides good competition for Paul . Kelefa Sanneh for *The New York Times* praised the song , and described it as Rihanna 's " triumphant return to her old formula . " Quentin B. Huff for *PopMatters* lauded Sean Paul for his contribution to the song while praising Rihanna 's hook , writing that " [Rihanna 's] hook is so infectious that hers is the voice you ultimately remember . That 's another dancehall @-@ flavored song and another winner . " Bill Lamb for *About.com* called " Break It Off " , along with "

Kisses Don 't Lie " , " candidates for widespread pop radio airplay " .

= = Chart performance = =

" Break It Off " debuted at number 40 on the US Pop Songs chart in the issue dated November 18 , 2006 . The following week , it ascended to number 35 , and again to number 32 in its third week on the chart . " Break It Off " climbed into the top 30 at number 28 in its fourth week on December 9 , 2006 , and to number 25 in its fifth week . On December 23 , 2006 , the song climbed again to number 21 , and reached its 2006 peak of number 16 on December 30 , 2006 . In the first chart issue of Billboard in January 2007 , " Break It Off " charted at number 14 . It broke into the top 10 on February 3 , 2007 , and ascended to number seven the following week . " Break It Off " peaked at number six on February 24 , 2007 . The song remained on the Pop Songs chart for a total of 22 weeks . On December 9 , 2006 , " Break It Off " debuted on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart at number 95 . The song climbed to number 52 on March 3 , 2007 , and surged 42 chart positions to number 10 the following week . In its fourteenth week on the chart , the song peaked at number nine , and was awarded with the Digital Gainer honor . On March 24 , 2007 , the song debuted and peaked at number 10 in the Flanders region of Belgium .

= = Live performances = =

Rihanna performed the song as part of a set list at Radio One Big Weekend in 2007 . The set consisted of " Pon de Replay " , " Break It Off " , " SOS " , " Breakin ' Dishes " , " Unfaithful " , " Shut Up and Drive " and " Umbrella " . " Break It Off " was also included on the set list of Rihanna 's Good Girl Gone Bad Tour (2007 ? 09) , and was later included on the DVD release , entitled Good Girl Gone Bad Live .

= = Formats and track listing = =

Digital download

" Break It Off " ? 3 : 33

= = Credits and personnel = =

Recording

Recorded at 2 Hard Studios , Kingston , Jamaica .

Personnel

Songwriting ? Donovan Bennett , Sean Paul Henriques , K. Ford , Robyn Fenty

Production ? Don Corleon

Engineer ? Jeremy Harding and Donovan Bennett

Mixing ? Donovan Bennett

Instruments ? Donovan Bennett

Credits adapted from the liner notes of A Girl Like Me , Def Jam Recordings , SRP Records .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Radio adds and release history = =