

Beach Boys - “Surfin’ USA”

Credited to Chuck Berry and Brian Wilson, released by Capitol Records in March 1963. Reached #3 on the Billboard’s Pop chart and Cash Box charts.

Form: Simple Verse form (ABAB)

Time Signature: 4/4

Instrumentation: Lead Vocals, Backup Vocals, Guitar, Bass, Drums, Organ

0.00	Instrumental Intro		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 bar Rock & Roll inspired electric guitar intro • The high reverb and medium fast tempo (about 150-160) add to the happy, carefree vibe
0.04	Verse 1	“If everybody had...”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead vocals start • Backup Vocals going “ooo” • Pickup with vocals then instruments start on the third bar • 16 bar verses (instruments switching with the kickdrum) • Starts out simple and softer, muted, • Kickdrum on every quarter note
0.23	Chorus	“You’d catch...”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One bar of drums and organ solo going into the chorus to add to the build up • Opens up without the muted guitar and bass • Heavily swung jazz style bass • Background vocals throughout are “inside, outside, U.S.A.” • 16 bar chorus followed by the hook
0.50	Verse 2	“We’ll all be...”	Same as Verse 1
1.13	Chorus	“Haggerties ...”	Same as Chorus
1.37	Instrumental Break		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organ solo first 8 bars • Guitar solo for next four bars
2.05	Outro	“Everybody’s gone...”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hook is repeated four times • Instead of the full verse again the last four bars are looped and fade out, with the instruments fading first so that the final words that linger on are surfing USA, the title of the piece • The song was not heavily produced, adding to the central point of the beachy California song