

## Blue Suede Shoes

(Elvis Presley)

[Verse 1]

Do anything that you want to do, but  
uh-uh

Honey, lay off of my shoes

Don't you step on my blue suede  
shoes

Well you can do anything but lay off  
of my blue suede shoes

[Chorus]

Well, it's one for the money

Two for the show

Three to get ready

Now go, cat, go

But don't you step on my blue suede  
shoes

Well, you can do anything but lay off  
of my blue suede shoes

[Verse 2]

Well, you can knock me down

Step in my face

Slander my name

All over the place

Do anything that you want to do, but  
uh-uh

Honey, lay off of my shoes

Don't you step on my blue suede  
shoes

You can do anything but lay off of  
my blue suede shoes

[Bridge]

You can burn my house

Steal my car

Drink my liquor

From an old fruit jar

[Verse 3]

Do anything that you want to do, but  
uh-uh

Honey, lay off of my shoes

Don't you step on my blue suede  
shoes

You can do anything but lay off of  
my blue suede shoes

[Chorus]

Well, it's one for the money

Two for the show

Three to get ready

Now go, cat, go

But don't you step on my blue suede  
shoes

Well, you can do anything but lay off  
of my blue suede shoes

Well it's

Blue-Blue Blue suede shoes

Blue-Blue Blue suede shoes-Yeah

Blue-Blue Blue suede shoes-Baby

Blue-Blue Blue suede shoes

You can do anything but lay off of  
my blue suede shoes

"Blue Suede Shoes" is a rock-and-roll standard written and first recorded by Carl Perkins in 1955. It is considered one of the first rockabilly (rock-and-roll) records, incorporating elements of blues, country and pop music of the time. Perkins' original version of the song was on the Cashbox Best Selling Singles list for 16 weeks and spent two weeks in the number two position. Elvis Presley performed his version of the song three different times on national television. It was also recorded by Buddy Holly and Eddie Cochran, among many others.

Johnny Cash planted the seed for the song in the fall of 1955, while Perkins, Cash, Elvis Presley and other Louisiana Hayride acts toured throughout the South. Cash told Perkins of a black airman, C. V. White, whom he had met when serving in the military in Germany, who had referred to his military regulation airmen's shoes as "blue suede shoes". Cash suggested that Perkins write a song about the shoes. Perkins replied, "I don't know anything about shoes. How can I write a song about shoes?" Perkins' recording of "Blue Suede Shoes" was released in early 1956, as Sun 234.

Perkins never attained the stardom of Presley, who, according to Perkins, "had everything. He had the looks, the moves, the manager, and the talent. And he didn't look like Mr. Ed, like a lot of us did, Elvis was hitting them with sideburns, flashy clothes, and no ring on the finger. I had three kids." After Presley hit the chart with his version of "Blue Suede Shoes," Perkins became known more for his songwriting than for his performing.

By mid-April, more than one million copies of "Shoes" had been sold, earning Perkins a gold record. "Blue Suede Shoes" was the first million-selling country song to cross over to both the rhythm and blues and the pop charts.

Recording cover versions of songs was a common practice during the 1940s and 1950s, and "Blue Suede Shoes" was one of the first songs RCA Victor wanted its newly contracted artist, Elvis Presley, to record. "Heartbreak Hotel" and "Shoes" rose on the charts at roughly the same time. RCA Victor, with its superior distribution and radio contacts, knew it could probably steal a hit record from Phillips and Perkins. Presley, who knew both Perkins and Phillips from his days at Sun Records, gave in to pressure from RCA, but he requested that the company hold back his version from release as a single. Presley's version features two guitar solos by Scotty Moore, with Bill Black on bass and D.J. Fontana on drums.

"Blue Suede Shoes" was the first song on the groundbreaking album Elvis Presley, which was released in March. RCA Victor released two other records with "Blue Suede Shoes" the same month: an extended play with four songs (RCA Victor EPA 747) and a double extended play with eight songs (RCA Victor EPB 1254).

In 1999, Presley's version was certified as a gold record by the RIAA.