

Hey Joe

(Jimi Hendrix)

[Intro]

Hey Joe

Where you going with that gun in your hand?

Hey Joe

I said where you going with that gun in your hand?

[Verse 1]

I'm going down to shoot my old lady
You know, I caught her messing around
with another man
I'm going down to shoot my old lady
You know, I caught her messing around
with another man
And that ain't too cool

[Verse 2]

Hey Joe

I heard you shot your woman down
Shot her down, now

Hey Joe

I heard you shot your old lady down
You shot her down to the ground

[Verse 3]

Yes I did, I shot her

You know, I caught her messing around,
messing around town

Yes I did, I shot her

You know, I caught my old lady messing
around town

And I gave her the gun

I shot her!

[Guitar Solo/Bridge]

Hey Joe, alright

Shoot her one more time, baby

[Verse 4]

Hey Joe, said now

Where you going to run to now?

Where you going to run to?

Hey Joe, I said

Where you going to run to now?

Where you, where you going to go?

Well, dig it

[Verse 5]

I'm going way down south

Way down to Mexico way

Alright

I'm going way down south

Way down where I can be free

There's no one going to find me

[Verse 6]

There's no hangman going to

He ain't gonna put a rope around me

You better believe it right now

I got to go now

[Outro]

Hey Joe

You better run on down

Goodbye everybody, ow!

Hey Joe, uh

Run on down

"Hey Joe" is an American popular song from the 1960s that has become a rock standard and has been performed in many musical styles by hundreds of different artists. "Hey Joe" tells the story of a man who is on the run and planning to head to Mexico after shooting his unfaithful wife. The song was registered for copyright in the U.S. in 1962 by Billy Roberts. However, diverse credits and claims have led to confusion about the song's authorship. The earliest known commercial recording of the song is the late-1965 single by the Los Angeles garage band The Leaves; the band then re-recorded the track and released it in 1966 as a follow-up single which became a hit. The best-known version is The Jimi Hendrix Experience's 1966 recording.

Released in December 1966, Hendrix's version became a hit in the United Kingdom, entering the Top 10 of the UK Singles Chart in January 1967 and peaking at #6. The single was released in the United States on May 1, 1967 with the B-side "51st Anniversary" but failed to chart. "Hey Joe", as recorded by The Jimi Hendrix Experience, with backing vocals by the Breakaways, remains the best-known version of the song and is listed as No. 201 on Rolling Stone magazine's The 500 Greatest Songs of All Time. In 2009 it was named the 22nd greatest hard rock song of all time by VH1. "Hey Joe" was the last song Hendrix performed at the Woodstock festival in 1969 and as such, it was also the final song of the whole festival. The song was performed after the crowd, comprising the 80,000 who had not yet left the festival, cheered for an encore.