

Soul Man

(Sam & Dave)

Comin' to you on a dust road
Good lovin', I got a truck load
And when you get it, you got something
So don't worry, cause I'm coming

I'm a soul man, I'm a soul man
I'm a soul man, I'm a soul man, I've got it all

Got what I got the hard way
And I'll make it better each and every day
So honey, don't you fret
Cause you ain't seen nothing yet

I'm a soul man, I'm a soul man, play it Steve
I'm a soul man, I'm a soul man

I was brought up on a side street, listen now
I learned how to love before I could eat
I was educated from good stock
When I start lovin', oh, I can't stop

I'm a soul man, I'm a soul man
I'm a soul man, I'm a soul man

Well, grab the rope and I'll pull you in
Give you hope and be your only boyfriend
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah

I'm talkin' about a soul man
I'm a soul man, and you're a soul man
I'm a soul man, oh no, soul man
I'm a soul man, and you're a soul man
And you're a soul man...

"Soul Man" is a 1967 song written and composed by Isaac Hayes and David Porter, first successful as a number 2 hit single by Atlantic Records soul duo Sam & Dave, which consisted of Samuel "Sam" Moore and David "Dave" Prater.

Co-author Isaac Hayes found the inspiration for "Soul Man" in the turmoil of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. In July 1967, watching a television newscast of the aftermath of the 12th Street riot in Detroit, Michigan, Hayes noted that black residents had marked buildings that had not been destroyed during the riots – mostly African-American owned and operated institutions – with the word "soul". Relating this occurrence to the biblical story of the Passover, Hayes and songwriting partner David Porter came up with the idea, in Hayes's words, of "a story about one's struggle to rise above his present conditions. It's almost a tune [where it's] kind of like boasting, 'I'm a soul man.' It's a pride thing."

Issued on the Atlantic-distributed Stax label for which Hayes and Porter worked, Sam and Dave's "Soul Man" was the most successful Stax single to date upon its release. The single peaked at number one on the Billboard Hot Black Singles chart, number two on the Billboard Hot 100 in the United States during the autumn of 1967, and number two in Canada. "Soul Man" was awarded the 1968 Grammy Award for Best Rhythm & Blues Group Performance, Vocal or Instrumental.

The exclamation "Play it, Steve" heard in the song refers to guitarist Steve Cropper of Booker T. & the M.G.'s, the house band who provided the instrumentation for this and many other Sam and Dave singles. Cropper provided guitar for both the original Sam and Dave recording as well as the live and studio covers by the Blues Brothers.