

how do you want it lyrics

how do you want it lyrics are a popular search query for fans and music enthusiasts alike who are interested in understanding the meaning, context, and composition of this iconic song. This phrase often refers to the song "How Do You Want It" by 2Pac featuring K-Ci & JoJo, a classic track that blends smooth R&B vibes with raw hip-hop lyricism. The lyrics have been analyzed for their storytelling, emotional depth, and cultural impact since the song's release. This article provides a comprehensive exploration of the song's lyrics, including their significance, background, and interpretation. Additionally, it covers the song's place in music history, how it has influenced other artists, and the lyrical themes conveyed throughout. The following sections will delve into the origins of the song, a detailed breakdown of the lyrics, and the broader impact of "How Do You Want It" in the realm of hip-hop and R&B music.

- Background and Origin of "How Do You Want It"
- Detailed Analysis of How Do You Want It Lyrics
- Themes and Messages in the Song
- Cultural and Musical Impact
- Notable Performances and Covers

Background and Origin of "How Do You Want It"

"How Do You Want It" is a track by the legendary rapper 2Pac, featuring the soulful duo K-Ci & JoJo. Released in 1996 as part of 2Pac's album "All Eyez on Me," the song quickly became one of his most memorable hits. It reflects the West Coast hip-hop style of the mid-1990s, combining smooth melodies with explicit, candid lyrics. The collaboration between 2Pac and K-Ci & JoJo brought together rap and R&B in a way that showcased the versatility of both genres.

Production and Release

The song was produced by Daz Dillinger and featured on 2Pac's fourth studio album. It was released as a single and gained significant radio airplay, contributing to the album's massive commercial success. The production incorporates funky basslines, rhythmic drum patterns, and melodic hooks that complement 2Pac's distinctive vocal delivery.

Artists Involved

2Pac, known for his poetic storytelling and social commentary, collaborated with K-Ci & JoJo, who provided smooth, melodic choruses and harmonies. This combination created a dynamic contrast between rap verses and R&B vocals, enhancing the song's appeal to a broad audience.

Detailed Analysis of How Do You Want It Lyrics

The lyrics of "How Do You Want It" are explicit and direct, reflecting themes of desire, relationships, and lifestyle. The song's verses are delivered with 2Pac's characteristic intensity, while the chorus by K-Ci & JoJo adds an element of sensuality and smoothness. The phrase "how do you want it" acts as a recurring line, emphasizing choice and preference in intimate relationships.

Verse Breakdown

Each verse in the song highlights different aspects of 2Pac's persona, including his confidence, street credibility, and charisma. The lyrics also contain references to the party culture, nightlife, and interactions with women. The candid nature of the verses provides insight into the attitudes prevalent in the mid-90s hip-hop scene.

Chorus and Hook

The chorus serves as a catchy and memorable hook that contrasts with the verses' raw delivery. K-Ci & JoJo's soulful vocals provide a melodic counterpoint, inviting listeners to engage with the song's central question. The hook's repetition reinforces the theme of offering and choice, which resonates throughout the song.

Themes and Messages in the Song

"How Do You Want It" explores several themes common in 1990s hip-hop and R&B music. The lyrics address themes of desire, power dynamics in relationships, and the celebration of success and lifestyle. It also touches on themes of sexual freedom and personal choice, which were often expressed boldly in the genre during this era.

Exploration of Desire and Relationships

The song openly discusses romantic and sexual attraction, emphasizing the theme of preference and consent. The repeated question "how do you want it" symbolizes the negotiation and communication inherent in intimate relationships, portraying a confident yet respectful approach.

Expression of Lifestyle and Success

Beyond romance, the lyrics also celebrate a lavish lifestyle, including parties, luxury, and social status. This reflects 2Pac's persona as an influential figure who embodied both the struggles and triumphs of his environment. The song presents a balance between vulnerability and bravado.

Cultural and Musical Impact

"How Do You Want It" holds a significant place in the history of hip-hop and R&B music. Its fusion of rap and soulful melodies influenced numerous artists and helped shape the direction of genre blending in popular music. The song contributed to 2Pac's legacy as one of the most important figures in rap history.

Influence on Hip-Hop and R&B

The combination of 2Pac's rap verses with K-Ci & JoJo's R&B vocals set a standard for collaborations between the two genres. This approach has been emulated by many artists seeking to create crossover hits that appeal to diverse audiences. The song's production style and lyrical content also inspired future musicians to explore similar themes.

Legacy in Popular Culture

Over the years, "How Do You Want It" has been referenced, sampled, and covered in various media and by other artists. Its impact extends beyond music, influencing fashion, language, and the portrayal of relationships in hip-hop culture. The song remains a staple on classic rap and R&B playlists.

Notable Performances and Covers

Throughout its history, "How Do You Want It" has been performed live by 2Pac and has inspired numerous covers and remixes. These renditions showcase the song's versatility and enduring appeal across different musical styles and audiences.

Live Performances

2Pac's live performances of the song were known for their energy and charisma, often featuring K-Ci & JoJo or other vocalists to reproduce the signature chorus. These performances helped cement the song's status as a fan favorite and a highlight of 2Pac's concerts.

Cover Versions and Remixes

Several artists and DJs have created their own versions of "How Do You Want It," ranging from hip-hop remixes to R&B reinterpretations. These covers pay homage to the original while introducing new elements that keep the song relevant for modern audiences.

- Original version by 2Pac featuring K-Ci & JoJo
- Various remixes by notable DJs
- Live adaptations in concerts and music festivals
- Tribute performances by contemporary artists

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the meaning behind the lyrics of 'How Do You Want It' by 2Pac?

'How Do You Want It' by 2Pac explores themes of desire, relationships, and personal expression, highlighting 2Pac's charismatic and confident persona. The lyrics often reflect the complexities of love and attraction.

Who wrote the lyrics for 'How Do You Want It'?

The lyrics for 'How Do You Want It' were primarily written by Tupac Shakur (2Pac), with contributions from other collaborators including producers and featured artists.

Are there any notable collaborations featured in 'How Do You Want It' lyrics?

Yes, 'How Do You Want It' features a collaboration between 2Pac and singer K-Ci Hailey from Jodeci, adding an R&B flavor to the hip-hop track.

What genre does the song 'How Do You Want It' belong to based on its lyrics and style?

'How Do You Want It' is a hip-hop/rap song with influences of R&B, as indicated by its lyrical content and musical style, blending smooth vocals with rap verses.

Where can I find the official lyrics for 'How Do You Want It'?

Official lyrics for 'How Do You Want It' can be found on music streaming platforms like Spotify and Apple Music, as well as lyric websites such as Genius and AZLyrics.

How do the lyrics of 'How Do You Want It' reflect 2Pac's artistic style?

The lyrics of 'How Do You Want It' showcase 2Pac's bold, unapologetic, and charismatic style, combining themes of romance, assertiveness, and street life, which are signature elements of his artistry.

Additional Resources

1. *Decoding Desire: The Language of Love in Song Lyrics*

This book explores how popular song lyrics express themes of love, longing, and desire. It analyzes famous tracks, including "How Do You Want It," to understand the emotional and cultural impact of romantic expression in music. Readers gain insight into the poetic devices and storytelling techniques used by lyricists to captivate audiences.

2. *The Evolution of Hip-Hop Romance: From the Streets to the Charts*

Focusing on hip-hop's portrayal of relationships, this book traces the genre's journey from raw street narratives to mainstream love anthems. It highlights artists like Tupac Shakur, whose "How Do You Want It" blends sensuality with social commentary. The text offers an understanding of how hip-hop shapes and reflects changing attitudes toward romance.

3. *Lyrics and Identity: Understanding Self-Expression Through Music*

This volume examines how song lyrics serve as a medium for personal and cultural identity. Using "How Do You Want It" as a case study, the book discusses how artists communicate their desires, struggles, and aspirations. It emphasizes the role of music in shaping listeners' perceptions of themselves and others.

4. *Sexuality and Sensuality in Contemporary Music*

Delving into the portrayal of sexuality in modern songs, this book addresses themes of intimacy, empowerment, and vulnerability. It discusses tracks like "How Do You Want It" to illustrate how artists negotiate boundaries of expression and censorship. The book also considers the impact of these lyrics on societal norms and youth culture.

5. *Behind the Mic: The Art of Writing Provocative Lyrics*

This practical guide offers insights into crafting impactful and provocative lyrics, drawing examples from iconic songs such as "How Do You Want It." It explores rhyme schemes, rhythm, and thematic development that engage listeners emotionally and intellectually. Songwriters and music enthusiasts will find valuable techniques to enhance their lyrical creativity.

6. *Love, Power, and Poetry in 90s Hip-Hop*

Exploring the dynamic intersection of love and power in 1990s hip-hop, this book reveals how artists articulated complex relationships through their music. It pays special attention to the explicit and nuanced lyrics of "How Do You Want It," highlighting the era's bold approach to romance and gender roles. The book contextualizes these themes within the broader social and political

landscape.

7. The Cultural Impact of Tupac Shakur's Lyrics

This comprehensive study focuses on Tupac Shakur's influential body of work, with a spotlight on "How Do You Want It." It examines how his lyrics blend personal vulnerability with social critique, resonating across diverse audiences. Readers learn about Tupac's legacy in shaping music, culture, and conversations about love and identity.

8. Music and Intimacy: Exploring Emotional Connections Through Song

This book investigates how songs foster emotional intimacy between artists and listeners. Using "How Do You Want It" as an example, it explores the ways music communicates desire and vulnerability. The text also discusses the psychological effects of intimate lyrics and their role in human connection.

9. From Lyrics to Life: How Music Reflects and Shapes Relationships

Analyzing the reciprocal relationship between music and personal experience, this book looks at how songs like "How Do You Want It" mirror and influence listeners' romantic lives. It combines lyrical analysis with interviews and case studies to reveal music's power in shaping relationship ideals and behaviors. The book is ideal for those interested in the social psychology of music.

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