

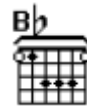


MABELLENE

MABELLENE was Berry's first Chess record and first hit. Berry presented it to Leonard Chess as IDA RED, his variant of a hillbilly tune, with a rockabilly beat. Chess suggested a "bigger beat" and (according to pianist Johnny Johnson) chose the name MABELLENE from a popular hair cream (prior to recording Berry had been a hairstylist).

Notice the distorted guitar sound; Berry was playing a fat hollow-body Gibson ES-350T. Later records featured a clearer sound with reverb added. The country-style backup — root in the bass/chord — fifth in the bass/chord — is also atypical. The opening guitar riff is based on the barred triad pattern mentioned in the *Introduction*.

Words and Music by Chuck Berry,
Russ Fratto and Alan Freed



Brightly

B \flat 7

Musical notation for the introduction, featuring a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats and a common time signature. The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes. Below the treble staff is a bass staff with a treble clef, showing a bass line with a triplet of eighth notes (3, 5, 3) and subsequent chords. A guitar chord diagram for B \flat 7 is positioned above the right side of the staff.



Chorus

B \flat 7

Musical notation for the chorus, including a treble clef staff with lyrics and a bass staff. The lyrics are: "Ma - bel - lene, — why can't_ cha be true? —". The notation includes a repeat sign and a note to "(Repeat previous measure.)". A guitar chord diagram for B \flat 7 is positioned above the first measure of the chorus.

Oh, Ma - bel - lene, why can't cha be

true? You done start - ed in do - in' the things

you used to do. 1. As
3. The

(2.) I was mo - ti - vat - in' o - ver the hill, I
Cad - lac pulled up to the 'hun - dred and four, the
mo - tor cooled down, the heat went down, and

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saw Ma - bel - lene in a Coupe de Ville; — a
 Ford got hot and heard would - n't do high - no way mo'. — It
 that's when I heard that that do high - no way sound. — The

Cad - il - lac a - rol - lin' on a o - pen road. —
 done got cloud - y and like a start - ed to rain. I
 Cad - il - lac set - tin' like a start - ed to lead, — a

Noth - in'd out - run my for the V - eight Ford. — The
 toot - ed my and - horn ten, a half a mile a - head. — The
 hun - dred and ten, a half a mile a - head. — The

Cad - il - lac do - in' a - bout nine - ty five, — an' we's
 rain - wa - ter blow - in' all un - der my hood, I
 Cad - il - lac look - in' like it's set - tin' still — and I

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Chorus

bump - er to bump - er, rol - lin' side to side. — } Ma - bel -
 knew that was do - in' my the mo - tor good. — }
 caught Ma - bel - lene at the top of the hill.

lene, why can't cha be true? —

Oh, Ma - bel - lene, why can't cha be

true? — You done start - ed back do - in' the thi

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To Coda

Bb

1.

you used to do. The

This system contains the first vocal line with lyrics "you used to do." and "The". It includes a guitar staff with a Bb chord diagram and a bass staff. The music is in Bb major and 4/4 time. The first ending is marked with a double bar line and a first ending bracket.



Guitar Solo

Bb

2.

This system is a guitar solo. It features a guitar staff with a Bb chord diagram and a bass staff. The solo is marked with a double bar line and a second ending bracket. The notation includes various guitar techniques such as bends and slurs.



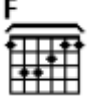
Eb

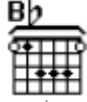
This system continues the guitar solo. It features a guitar staff with an Eb chord diagram and a bass staff. The notation includes various guitar techniques such as bends and slurs.




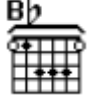
Bb


This system continues the guitar solo. It features a guitar staff with a Bb chord diagram and a bass staff. The notation includes various guitar techniques such as bends and slurs.

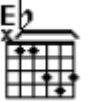
F  F


B \flat  B \flat




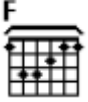
B \flat  B \flat




E \flat  E \flat

B \flat  B \flat

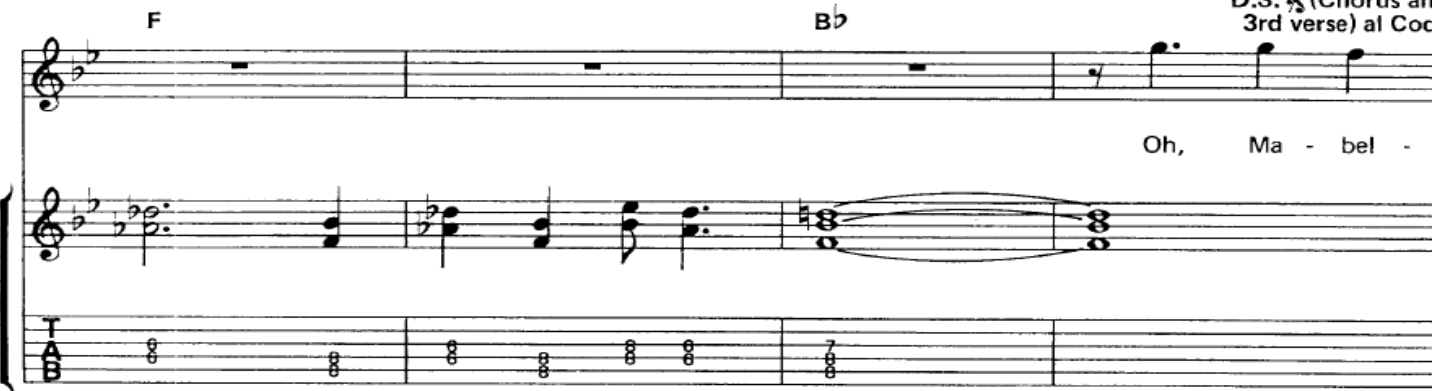


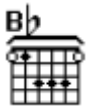
F  F

B \flat  B \flat

D.S. $\frac{3}{4}$ (Chorus an 3rd verse) al Coc

Oh, Ma - bel -





⊕ CODA

B \flat

Repeat and fade



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