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She didn't know song

Keep up to date with the latest daily buzz with the BuzzFeed Daily newsletter! Keep up to date with the latest daily buzz with the BuzzFeed Daily newsletter! From a pop musical point of view, the 1990s was one of the most eclectic, and the best songs of the decade still sound fresh today. New acts like Nirvana changed the way people listened to rock music, while established stars like Madonna had the biggest hits of their careers. Boy bands and divas dominated the pop and dance scandals, while east and west coast rappers gave hip-hop a fresh sense of urgency. Who were some of the biggest acts of the 1990s? Mariah Carey had more number one hits than anyone in that decade. Other artists who dominated the charts were Janet Jackson, Boyz II Men, Whitney Houston and TLC. At the beginning of the 90s, Seattle birthed the grunge movement, which fused punk and hard rock, producing influential bands like Pearl Jam and Soundgarden. As the decade progressed, grunge was absorbed into the larger, radio-friendly alternative rock genre, then gave way to aggro-rock and nu-metal bands like Limp Bizkit and Linkin Park at the end of the decade. Fatboy Slim and the Chemical Brothers rejuvenated electronics, Shania Twain and Garth Brooks spurred a resurgence in the popularity of country music, and Jay-Z and Tupac Shakur brought new life to hip-hop. Find out if your favorite song from the 1990s made the cut in this list of 100 hits from the decade. Nirvana - Smells Like Teen Spirit. Courteous DGC Records The emergence of Nirvana's Smells Like Teen Spirit as a top-10 pop hit remains one of the most dramatic events in 1990s pop music. Kurt Cobain's sardonic ode to teenage angst, set to a pop melody that was knocked down by drums and guitars bathed in fuzzed-up distortion, rattled the pop music establishment. It was all accompanied by a video clip that presented a memorable and inexorably dark rendition of the classic high school pep rally. Grunge had arrived. Watch Video Los Del Rio - Macarena. Courtesy RCA Today, most people consider Macarena to be ridiculously overplayed, a quirky relic for wedding reception dancing only. The truth is that it was one of the most instantly entertaining and catchy hits of the decade. Watch Video Boyz II Men - End of the Road. Courteous Motown While their rapidly growing group of adoring fans waited for a second album, Boyz II Men recorded this ballad for the soundtrack to the Eddie Murphy film Boomerang. The four-part crooning and beautiful plea fading are irresistible. Along with Whitney Houston's I Will Always Love You, this became the second hit of 1992 to place on the all-time top-10 list of pop hits. Watch Elton John - Candle In the Wind 1997 video. Courteous A&M Summer 1997 came to a tragic end when Princess Diana was killed in a horrific car accident. The world's attention was riveted at her funeral, and Elton John reworked his song Candle in the Wind for the occasion. It quickly became his best-selling single Worldwide. Watch Video Tag Team - Whoomp! (There It Is). Courtesy Life Records Although no one is likely to claim that Whoomp! (There It Is) is art, it is perhaps the most popular party single of the past 25 years. The incessant singing of Whoomp! (There It Is) was also heard for many years as part of the soundtrack for breaks in all kinds of sporting events. This is hip-hop at its most mindless fun. Watch Whitney Houston Video - I Will Always Love You. Courteous Arista The original version of I Will Always Love You was written and recorded by Dolly Parton. Whitney Houston's version was recorded on the soundtrack of the film The Bodyguard, in which she starred alongside Kevin Costner. With this song, one of the finest voices of music meets one of the most stunning ballads ever written, and it made history, becoming the greatest pop hit of all time. Watch Video Coolio - Gangsta's Paradise. Courteous Tommy Boy Prior to 1995, Coolio was best known for lighter, more humorous hip-hop, which was an alternative to West Coast gangsta rap. Immersive and atmospheric, Gangsta's Paradise was such a shift in focus that Coolio's record label decided to abandon it from his solo album and instead put it on the soundtrack of the film Dangerous Minds. When released as a single, Gangsta's Paradise became one of the biggest hits of the year, spreading its social commentary on ghetto life from coast to coast. Watch Video Sinead O'Connor - Nothing Compares 2 U. Courteous Chrysalis It's hard to remember the image of Sinead O'Connor now prior to the controversial television appearances that nearly brought down her career, but few pop artists have put together more powerful, heartbreaking performances than this. The song itself, written by Prince, is excellent, but Sinead's emotional, gutsy performance made it a classic. Painful loss meets stunning vocal beauty with a perfectly understated instrumental arrangement. Watch Video R.E.M. - Losing My Religion. Courtesy Warner Bros. With the grunge revolution lurking just over the horizon, R.E.M., pioneers of alt-rock, burst into the mainstream with this song. Sparking dozens of conversations about its meaning, Losing My Religion is, in the most basic sense, a wonderful folk-influenced pop tune about feeling crazy. Watch Video Alanis Morissette - You Oughta Know. Courtesy Maverick Alanis Morissette's debut sent shockwaves through the music industry. No pop singer had ever exposed the anger and pain of a bad relationship. You Oughta Know clearly touched a nerve and led the audience to the complex, intricate songwork of the phenomenally successful Jagged Little Pill album. Watch Video Jay-Z - Hard Knock Life. Courteous Roc-a-Fella Jay-Z consolidated his status as the best of the East Coast rappers with this single that transforms a show-stopping song from the Broadway musical Annie into a gripping hip-hop opus. It was evidence of how far hip-hop artists could push the boundaries of the genre. Watch Video Courtesy Columbia This song from the Titanic soundtrack was definitely one of the most overplayed ballads of the 1990s. Give it a fresh listen, though, and you'll realize how beautiful the song is—and Celine Dion is undoubtedly one of the best voices in the business. Watch Video Courtesy Def Jam LL Cool J established himself as a top hard-edged rapper while still a teenager. By the end of the 1980s, though, he was accused of selling to pop audiences. Mama Said Knock You Out is his response to the criticism. It's a rock-hard, aggressive rap classic that brought both rap and pop audiences together and cemented LL's status as one of the top artists of all time. Watch Video Backstreet Boys - I Want It That Way. Courteous Jive Records I Want It That Way is just one of the great ballads in the history of pop music. It gave the Backstreet Boys the perfect opportunity to make their polished voices shine, and it became one of their biggest hits. Watch Video TLC - No Scrubs. Courtesy LaFace The R&B trio TLC electrified the pop music world with their phenomenal album Crazysexycool, released in 1994. Then it was five years of waiting for the next episode. Fortunately, Fan Mail was almost as good as its predecessor. No Scrubs, the leadoff single, is pitch-and-picture-perfect late 90s R&B. Watch Video Beck - Loser. Courtesies DGC If a major pop hit from 1994 could be described as coming from left field, it would be Beck's Loser. It's a bit like welding a killer self-deprecating chorus to Dylan's Subterranean Homesick Blues. Over the next few years, Beck would prove Loser was just a drop in the deep well of his creativity. Watch Video Fugees - Killing Me Softly. Courtesy Ruff House On their second album, The Score, the Fugees showed that hip-hop could be about much more than gangsters. Lauryn Hill's beautiful voice was the heart of this hit remake of Roberta Flack's Killing Me Softly With His Song. Watch Video Ricky Martin - Livin' La Vida Loca. Thanks to Columbia Ricky Martin began his career as a singer with the legendary boy band Menudo. In 1999 he was a household name among the Latin music public. When Livin' La Vida Loca fell, the English-speaking world discovered what they were missing. It is irresistibly sexy and almost impossible to listen to without moving the body. Watch Mariah Carey Video - Vision Of Love. Courtesy Columbia This number 1 hit was the world's first introduction to the voice of Mariah Carey. Echoes of Whitney Houston's influence are obvious, but the sheer power and swooping highs are all Mariah's own. This debut is still considered one of her best recordings. Watch Video Santana with Rob Thomas - Smooth. Courtesies Arista Records Who had thought that legendary Latin guitarist Carlos Santana one of the greatest all time? Add to that, who would have thought his his would the singer for post-grunge band Matchbox 20? But it happened, and Smooth earned the subsequent sale and acclaim. In 2005, Rob Thomas proved his performance on Smooth was no fluke by putting out the stellar solo album... Something to Be. Watch Video Courtesy Mercury The pairing of Mellencamp and NdegeOcello on this irresistible pop song is a match made in rock and roll heaven. Together they took a Van Morrison chestnut and turned it into something transcendent. Put these up and try not to dance. Watch Video Courtesy Geffen's Lisa Loeb quickly rose to stardom on the heels of her hit Stay from the soundtrack to the movie Reality Bites. Do You Sleep? is the first hit from her debut solo album, Tails. Watch Video Courtesy Columbia For the centerpiece of his 1993 album, Billy Joel compiled this stream of gospel-influenced recording. It spent three weeks at the top of the pop singles chart and is one of the most uplifting hits of Joel's career. Watch Video Courtesy Atlantic Sugar Ray's feel-good vibe is one of the sheer delights of 90s pop music. This story about a friend who has a halo hanging out the corner of her four-poster bed is instantly recognizable and unforgettable. Watch Video Courtesy Capitol Records Although they are best known for a long string of rock hits dating back to the 1970s, this ballad, written by Robert John Mutt Lange, was one of the group's biggest pop hits. The theme of the record - a long night of lovemaking with a hitchhiker - was initially controversial, but at its core it's a fun fantasy straight out of a novel. Watch Video Courtesy Capitol The upbeat feel of Blind Melon's biggest hit, No Rain, contrasts with the band's tragic history. Singer Shannon Hoon battled drug addiction through much of the early 1990s and died at the end of 1995 at the age of 28. Although many people remember the video for its sweet dancing begirl, the melody itself is much darker, outlining the efforts of bassist Brad Smith to deal with his girlfriend's battle with clinical depression. Watch Video Courtesy EMI EMF rode the British invasion wave that broke on Us shores in the wake of the popularity of the Manchester dance scene. Unbelievable mixed heady rhythms, sweet high vocals from singer James Atkin, and rousing cries to storm to the top of the pop charts. Watch Video Courtesy Arista By the time the 1990s came to an end, it had been eight years since Whitney Houston released a studio album. Music industry legend Clive Davis convinced her to record a new set of songs, and the resulting album, My Love Is Your Love, includes some of her best work. It's Not Right, But It's Okay is a hard-hitting anthem for women on the way out of relationships that sounds great on the radio and on the Watch Video Courtesy Epic Ben Folds and company brought the issue of abortion to the pop charts—from a male point of view. A particularly fascinating fascinating is that it seems the male narrator of this melancholic song is selfish and a bit of a jerk. Lyrically, this is one of the most unique hit songs of the 90s. Watch Video Courtesy Chrysalis Arrested Development ended their banner year by being awarded the Grammy for Best New Artist of 1992. The spiritual quest detailed in Tennessee was a big part of the band's success. The uplifting, intelligent lyrics and positive tone seemed to usher in a new direction for rap, but it turns out that the gangsta takeover, just a year away, would win. Watch Video Courtesy Columbia The humorous approach of presidents of the United States of America stands out amid the onslaught of Seattle bands hiding the wave of the grunge revolution. Lump straddles the line between punk and bubblegum pop, and the result is one of the most insanely catchy songs of the decade. Watch Video Courtesy Reprise Records For many, the mileage varied on the barenaked ladies' breakthrough hit. The sheer kinetic energy certainly boosted pop radio playlists, debuting at Number 3 before finally spending, appropriately enough, a week at Number 1. While a bit of his cheeky, complacent humor can go a long way, few songs embody 90s pop as One Week. Watch Video Courtesy Columbia The success of Ricky Martin in early 1999 opened the door for other Latin artists to enter the pop music mainstream. One of the most talented is Marc Anthony. I Need to Know was the perfect vehicle to land his beautiful voice on the radio airwaves. Watch Video Courtesy Virgin Jamaican-born Orville Burrell had a huge hit with Boomastic, one of the first dancehall-a sub-genre of reggae songs to break through in the US pop charts. Shaggy, who takes his stage name from a Scooby Doo character, exhibits oodles of personal charm alongside the funky grooves. Watch Video Courtesy Creation Records The Gallagher brothers Liam and Noel-and their band, Oasis, helped usher in a new period of glory for British guitar pop, at least in the UK. This is one of their few breakthrough American hits. It is beautiful and irresistible in its singing. Watch Video Courtesy A&M We still don't know exactly what this hit song is about, but it's definitely catchy. The ultimate hook in the text is the line Tell me all your thoughts on God / Cause I'd really like to meet her, and it has something to do with asking questions, like children often do. Watch Video Courtesy Warner Bros. R.E.M.'s album Automatic for the People is one of the best artistic performances of 90s pop music, and Man on the Moon is one of the album's most memorable and beautiful songs. It is both a moving tribute to comedian Andy Kaufman and a thoughtful meditation on the power of popular culture. Watch Video Tim Mosenfelder/Getty Images If you don't know history, this song might seem a little treacy, and it's certainly no match for some other Eric Clapton classics. But given that this soft ballad was in response to the death of Clapton's young son, Conor, it is one of the greatest songs of sorrow and comfort ever written. It was part of the soundtrack to the film Rush, and Clapton's Unplugged album featured the even more popular acoustic rendition. Watch Video Alanis Morissette - Uninvited. Courtesy Maverick This is one of Alanis Morissette's most memorable and lyrically uncluttered songs. The Gothic, ominous musical textures fit well with her vocal intensity. Watch Tim Roney's Video/Getty Images Even after years of hype surrounding this all-girl group and its members, Wannabe is an exciting listening experience. The group's girl power swept the UK in 1996 and then conquered America the following year. Watch Video Cranberries - Linger. Courtesy Island Records Although later hits would more dramatically demonstrate the vocal acrobatics of the group's lead singer, Dolores O'Riordan, Linger has an almost ethereal beauty that indeed remains long of the song ends. It was the debut of one of the most notable voices of the mid-1990s. Watch Video No Doubt - Don't Speak. Courtesy Interscope This heartbreaking song about the end of a long love affair is somewhat of a stylistic anomaly given the rest of No Doubt's ska- and punk-influenced work. However, it served to make the lead singer of the group, Gwen Stefani, a bona fide star. Irresistible pop hooks of the song kept it on the map most of the year. Watch Video Edwin Collins - A Girl Like You. Courteously Setanta This Scottish performer put together one of the catchiest and most unique sounding hits on 90s radio, sounding just like a more pop-oriented Iggy Pop. Unfortunately, Collins failed to replicate this success. Watch Video Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch - Good Vibrations. Courtesy Interscope Good Vibrations introduced the world to Mark Wahlberg (aka Marky Mark), the younger brother of Donnie Wahlberg, a member of New Kids on the Block. Mark Wahlberg had a history of abrasions with the law as a teenager, but his ready-for-video buffed body and good looks, combined with energetic dance beats and Loleatta Holloway's diva-like vocals, made for a smash pop hit. Mark Wahlberg never repeated this musical success, but he has moved on to become a respected film actor. Watch Video R. Kelly - Bump n' Grind. Courteous Jive Records This song shows exactly why we fell in love with the music of R. Kelly, if not the man. The a cappella angst in Kelly's voice in the opening of the song is brilliant, and it becomes an incredibly sexy song. Bump 'N Grind connects the vocal stylings of early 90s new jack swing with the romance of classic R&B. Watch Video Js3 - Cantaloop (Flip Fantasia). Courtesy Blue Note US3 created a unique sound by placing contemporary rap rhymes on top of samples of the jazz from the Blue Note record label. Cantaloop (Flip Fantasia) is built on a Herbie Hancock monster from Cantaloop Island. The merger not always Well, but this time it is, and the overall effect is eminently fascinating. Watch Video Jesus Jones - Doubt. Courtesy SBK The band Jesus Jones rode the same wave from the UK to the American shores that carried EMF. Right Here Right Now is less hectic than EMF's Unbelievable, but it easily settled into the pop mainstream and quickly rose to the top of the pop singles chart. Watch Video Will Smith - Gettin' Jiggy White It. Sony Will Smith's first solo effort resulted in this catchy and cool single. His brand of clean, good-humoured, party hip-hop caught on. Like Mark Wahlberg, he went on to enjoy much more success as an actor, but this remains one of the more charming pop musical relics of the 1990s. Watch Video Madonna - Secret. Courtesy Warner Bros. Secret is one of the least flamboyant of Madonna's 1990s hits, but it remains one of her most satisfying. It features a mid-tempo beat and some of the most warm and inviting vocals the singer has ever recorded. Watch Video Quad City DJs - C'mon Ride It (The Train). Courteous Quadrasonic The producers behind the irresistible catchy Whoomp! (There It Is) came with another irresistible party hit. C'mon 'N Ride It (The Train) inspired a new wave of soundalike hits and is eternally welcome on any party soundtrack. Watch Video Bell Biv DeVoe - Poison. Courteous MCA In the aftermath of the disintegration of New Edition, three of the group's members, Ricky Bell, Michael Bivins, and Ronnie DeVoe, proved that Bobby Brown was not the only breakout talent in the group. The hard-edged funky R&B from Poison was at the forefront of the development of new jack swing as one of the freshest sounds in R&B in a decade. Watch Video Faith No More - Epic. Courtesy Reprise Records This top-10 hit from San Francisco's Faith No More was both heavy and absurd. A set of inscrutable lyrics meets a punk/funk/rap beat and the result is one of the most exciting auditory experiences of any decade. Watch Martin Page Video - In the House of Stone and Light. Thanks to Mercury This effortless mainstream pop nugget followed Page's success as a songwriter of hits like Starship's We Built This City and Heart's These Dreams. In the House of Stone and Light is not artistically

innovative, but it almost perfectly encapsulates the mainstream of pop circa 1995. Page faded from the airwaves not long after this one hit. Watch Tracy Chapman Video - New Beginning. Courteous Elektra Most pop fans thought Tracy Chapman would be relegated to the annals of one-hit wonderdom based on the success of Fast Car from her first album. Then she appeared again with this deeply bluesy crowd pleaser, proving that there is still room for innovation and surprise within the genre. Watch Video House of Pain - Jump Around. Courtesy XL Recordings ninety (see Faith No More) it seemed that the marriage of edgy rock and hip hop could actually become a thing. Jump Around is proof that the union could either be contagious or annoying, depending on one's tolerance for the incessant siren that accompanies the pounding beats. Unfortunately, House of Pain has never recaptured this moment of greatness. Watch Video Digital Underground - Sex Packets. Courtesy Tommy Boy Some might dismiss this song as just a novelty hit, but it deserves closer listening. As hip-hop moved further into the mainstream, this Oakland-based group distinguished itself by supporting gooly raps with hot Parliament-Funkadelic-inspired funk. Rarely has a pop classic made sex sound so fun and funny. Watch Video Michael Jackson - Black or White. Courtesy Epic Records This is perhaps the last great Michael Jackson single. It features Guns 'n Roses guitarist Slash ushering in an uplifting message about racial unity. As was the norm for Michael Jackson releases at the time, the song was accompanied by a big-budget video. This was directed by John Landis and featured actors Macaulay Culkin, George Wendt, and Peggy Lipton. Watch Video DJ Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince - Summertime. Courteous Jive Records D.J. Jazzy Jeff and Will Smith (aka the Fresh Prince) took a big step forward in the maturity of their sound with the 1991 album Homebase. Summertime, their biggest hit, is the centerpiece of the album. Its laid-back grooves settled in as the 1991 summer song. Watch Video Sarah McLachlan - Adia. Sarah McLachlan's courteous arista voice is almost alien in its beauty. This single came out as the all-female Lilith Fair concert tour, hosted by McLachlan, was just kicking into gear. It remains one of the anthems of that period, when women in rock performed on the airwaves and on stage. Watch Video Janet Jackson - Escapade. Courtesy A&M Records Taken from Janet Jackson's hit-filled concept album Rhythm Nation: 1814, Escapade at first seems like a simple, light piece of pop fluff. After listening to it several times, however, his escapist charm sinks in. This was one of the most joyous hits of 1990, an atmosphere further enhanced by the accompanying video. Watch Video Wreckz -N-Effect - Rump Shaker. Courtesies MCA Everything I want to do... zoom zoom... At this point, hip-hop began to walk the fine line between pop radio acceptability and unacceptably explicit sexual content. Rump Shaker is innocent by today's standards, but it pushed boundaries in its time. Watch video collective soul - The world I know. Courtesies Atlantic So I walk up on high / And I step to the edge / To see my world below. Rock band Collective Soul pulled out all the ends musically, including soaring strings, to support this beautiful ballad. An excellent music video added more resonance to this powerful song. Watch video Melissa Etheridge - Come to my window. Courteous Island Though style is often considered excessively serious, Etheridge can also be heartbreaking. Come to My Window evokes a powerful image of romantic fear and tension, accompanied by the artist's simple guitar playing and rasping vocals. Watch Video Wallflowers - Bringing Down the Horse. Courtesy Interscope This band, led by Bob Dylan's son Jakob, spent over a year on the pop singles chart with this quiet masterpiece. Jakob Dylan's vocals have a seductive world-weariness that sometimes rings a dead bell for Tom Petty's voice. Watch Video Stereo MCs - Connected. Courtesy Island Stereo MCs became one of the most successful of British hip-hop acts. Connected is powered by a catchy but downbeat atmospheric brand of hip-hop. Watch Video Amy Grant - Baby Baby. Courteous A&M Amy Grant was one of the most successful of Christian pop singers in the 1980s, but it wasn't until 1991 that she enjoyed a major crossover into the pop mainstream. Baby Baby is a wonderful celebration of the love between life partners. Watch Video Different Artists - ESPN Presents Jock Jam Vol. 1. Courtesies Tommy Boy This medley will not win any prizes for art, but welding together some of the most popular songs used at sporting events and was almost inescapable in 1997. Kicking off with the immortal Are you ready to rumble... This pop culture artifact is sure to pump your blood with fragments from such tracks as Whoop! There it is. It Takes Two, YMCA, and Pump Up the Jam. Watch Video TLC - Waterfalls. Hofty LaFace Slinky, gently insistent backing horns and combining guitar with smooth, languid vocals to create an instant R&B classic. In addition to its audio appeal, Waterfalls is a disturbing commentary on street violence and its impact on the lives of young black men. Watch Video Seal - Kiss From a Rose. Courtesy Warner Bros. This was another single saved from oblivion by recording it on a movie soundtrack. A Kiss From a Rose was featured as the love theme in the movie Batman Forever. Seal's perfectly balanced, acrobatic, romantic vocals make this otherwise simply pleasant song a work of art. Watch Deborah Cox - Nobody's Supposed To Be Here. Hofferij Arista This song, a beautiful R&B ballad with a club mix, was one of the top dance hits of the decade. Record industry execs referred Deborah Cox to the next Whitney Houston. That didn't quite work, but she did contribute to this timeless smash. Watch Video Counting Crows - Mr. Jones. Hofferij Geffen The voice of Counting Crows lead singer, Adam Duritz, is a wonderful instrument. Mr. Jones introduced music fans to the singer's amazing ability to tell a story in the context of a song. Try to sing along, and after you've finished gasping for breath, you'll realize how phenomenal this achievement is. Watch Video Dr. Dre - Nothin' But a G Thang. Courteous Death Row This single and the album where it came from, Dr. Dre's Chronic, took hip-hop a whole new way, a would eventually be known as gangsta rap. Nuthin' But a 'G' Thang features Dre's protégé Snoop Doggy Dogg, who would soon become a star. Fat Fat funky beats, laidback rap vocals, words that reflect the violence of street life, and pop hooks combined for a hugely successful new sound. Watch Video Backstreet Boys - Everybody (Backstreet's Back). Courteous Jive Records With the current backlash against boy bands, too few remember that these male vocal groups have recorded some great pop songs. This is the masterpiece that helped the Backstreet Boys win the hearts of millions. Watch Video C and C Music Factory - Going to Make You Sweat. Courtesy Columbia Inspired by the powerful beats of house music, hit after hit crossed from the dance chart to the pop top-10 in 1990-but it took producers Robert Clivilles and David Cole (aka C&C Music Factory) to climb all the way to No. 1. Going to Make You Sweat featured the powerful vocals of Martha Wash and a rap from Freedom Williams, along with state-of-the-art house rhythms to form one of the most exciting songs of the year. Watch Bruce Springsteen Video - Streets Of Philadelphia. Courtesy Columbia Jonathan Demme's Philadelphia was the first big-budget, mainstream film to deal directly with the AIDS epidemic, and Streets of Philadelphia is the perfect theme for it. With this, Springsteen creates an atmosphere of darkness and solitude that still maintains a sense of dignity. The song won a well-deserved Academy Award for Best Song from a Motion Picture. Watch Video Dave Matthews Band - Crash Into Me. Courteous RCA Although the lyrics invite ambiguous interpretation, for many this is one of the most unabashedly erotic songs of the decade. Listen and enjoy Matthews' intimate vocals on intricately arranged bluegrass-tinted pop. Watch Video MC Hammer - You Can't Touch This. Courtesy Warner Bros. Mc Hammer's importance to the history of pop music was his ability to prove beyond a doubt that rap could be as effortlessly entertaining as any other musical genre. You Can't Touch This is little more than Hammer's simple rap on top of Rick James' Super Freak, but the image of Hammer editing the crowd into his oversized parachute pants is one of the most memorable pop cultural moments of 1990. Watch Video Ini Kamozé - Here Comes the Hotstepper. Courtesy Columbia Selected to play a key role on the soundtrack for Robert Altman's exploration of the fashion world in the film Pret-a-Porter, Here Comes the Hotstepper brought dancehall into the mainstream, and introduced the world to Jamaican slang for a man fleeing the law. It remains one of the catchiest songs of the mid-90s. Watch Laurny Hill Video - Doo Wop (That Thing). Courteous Columbia After the too early break-up of the Fugees, the music world waited impatiently for Laurny Hill's first solo attempt. The wait was worth it. The Miseducation of Laurny Hill is one of the top albums of the decade, and Doo Wop (That Thing) is a melodic dissection of sexual politics from the point of view of both sexes. Watch Video Puff Puff and Faith Evans feat. 112 - I'll Be Missing You. Courtesy Bad Boy Entertainment Rap star Notorious B.I.G. (Biggie Smalls) was tragically shot in March 1997. His recording partner Puff Daddy, now alternately known as Sean Combs, P Diddy or simply Diddy, put together this moving memorial with Smalls' widow Faith Evans and the vocal group 112. It memorably samples the police classic Every Breath You Take and became a favorite memorial track of the late 90s. Watch Video Gloria Estefan - Coming Out of the Dark. Courtesy Epic In March 1990, Gloria Estefan, her husband and her son were all injured when a truck hit their tour bus. Gloria suffered a fractured vertebra and couldn't tour for a year. The accident and the long recovery inspired this beautiful hit ballad. Coming out of the Dark is now considered one of the top inspirational pop hits of all time. Watch Shawn Colvin Video - A Few Minor Repairs. Courtesy Columbia Sunny, the protagonist of this folkie song, comes home with some things to settle. Parts of this song can send shivers down your spine, while Colvin's voice gently lulls you back into the story. Watch Video Smashing Pumpkins - 1979. Courtesy Virgin In the context of Melon Collie and the Infinite Sadness, an expansive double album devoted to depression, 1979 sounds almost perky. It's gentle sense of nostalgic reverie surely jibed with the mood of the decade of inner contemplation. Watch Video Red Hot Chili Peppers - Under the Bridge. Courtesy Warner Bros. It's ironic that a soft ballad became the breakthrough hit for a band best known for mixing classic uptempo funk with alternative rock. The song stemmed from singer Anthony Kiedis' struggle to overcome heroin addiction. After the addiction destroyed some of his personal relationships, Kiedis reflected on his relationship with the city of Los Angeles itself. Under the Bridge made it all the way to Number 2 on the pop singles chart. Watch Video Hanson - MmmBop. Courtesy Mercury Records The Hanson brothers brought back bubblegum pop in all its glory. MMBop is catchy, sugary sweet, and irresistible. Just don't try to sing along. Watch Video Blackstreet - No Diggity. Courteous Interscope This is the highlight of the work created by producer, songwriter, and performer Teddy Riley, leader of the group Blackstreet. He is one of the best R&B masters of the nineties and an important architect of new jack swing. No Diggity is that genre completely refined. Watch Video U2 - Mysterious Ways. Courtesy Island After their dramatic success with The Joshua Tree and an epic concert tour of the US, U2 has completely reinvented their musical style on the album Achtung Baby. Glorious pretensions gave way to some of the sexiest funky rock of the decade. Mysterious Ways includes curvy guitar work by The Edge and singing by Bono driving home one of U2's most uninhibited pop rock songs. Watch Video Soul Asylum - Runaway Train. Courtesy Soul Asylum shot to the top of the ranks of alt-rock bands with this folkist classic. The video for Runaway Train was accompanied by advertisements about missing children, who have a powerful public service. Many alt-rock fans abandoned Soul Asylum as being sold out to the mainstream, but pop fans pushed Runaway Train to Number 5 on the charts, and it became a well-deserved classic. Watch Video Deee-Lite - Groove Is In the Heart. Hoffe Elektra In a dance-grazing pop environment, this trio came into play with a classic that still sounds half retro, half-contemporary and completely groovy. Groove Is in the Heart glides effortlessly across genres from hip-hop to house and funk. Featuring musicians, including Bootsy Collins, Fred Wesley, Maceo Parker and A Tribe Called Quest's Q-Tip, enhance the party atmosphere. This was the song of the summer of 1990. Watch Video 4 Non Blondes - What's Up. Courteous Interscope What's Up? appeared seemingly out of nowhere, becoming a neo-folkie hit first on modern rock radio stations and then on the pop charts. Although it is only No. The group never duplicated the success of this song, but lead singer Linda Perry went on to become a successful songwriter and producer, crafting hits for everyone from Pink to Courtney Love. Watch Video Madonna - Vogue. Courtesy Warner Bros. It wasn't really part of an album project, but was added to the soundtrack album by Dick Tracy. Vogue was also considerably late in the spotlight of the underground world of voguing, but it is perhaps the most perfect dance song Madonna has ever recorded. The critically acclaimed David Fincher video closes a wonderful pop-dance package. Watch Mariah Carey - Fantasy Video. Courtesy Columbia Using Tom Tom Club's instrumental track of Genius of Love as a backdrop to Mariah Carey's effortlessly soaring vocals was a genius act. This romantic gem remains the best single recording of Carey's phenomenal career. Watch Video Cher - Believe. Courtesy Warner Bros. No one really doubted whether Cher would eventually make another musical comeback, but this time it became the biggest hit of her entire career. Believe is a perfect piece of dance-pop, and it took the whole world by storm. More dance hits followed in his wake, along with a farewell concert tour that lasted more than three years. Cher is definitely someone who believes in life after love. Watch Video Proclaimers - I'm Going to Be (500 Miles). Courtesy Chrysalis I'm Going to Be (500 Miles) was originally released in 1988, but after being included in the Benny and Joon movie soundtrack, the energetic pop-rock tune became a 90s hit and is now a classic. The Proclaimers consist of Scottish duo Craig and Charlie Reid, who created an energetic, infectious pop rock brand with influences from their Scottish background. Watch Video Boyz II Men - Motownphilly. Courteous Motown This remains one of the best autobiographical songs ever Singer. Motownphilly details the group's discovery by Michael Bivins, of New Edition and Bell Biv DeVoe fame, and their first taste of stardom. The a cappella break is just stunning. Watch Video Sheryl Crow - All I want to Do. Courtesies A&M With the words This is not a disco. It's not a country club either. This is L.A., the world was introduced to the neo-folkie, irresistible doll of Sheryl Crow. All I want to Do unfolds like a mini-movie thanks to Crow's artful vocals, whose lyrics paint a luminous picture of the adventures of Sheryl and Billy until the sun rises over Santa Monica Boulevard. Watch Video Madonna - Ray Of Light. Thanks to Warner Bros. Madonna explored the pop potential of electronica with her first completely new studio album in four years. In collaboration with collaborator William Orbit, the result is fresh, new and invigorating. Ray of Light is aptly named because it is a luminous, very danceable and artful piece of techno. Watch Video Smash Mouth - Fush Yu Mang. Courtesy Interscope The ska-punk-bound Smash Mouth burst into the spotlight with this catchy record of 60s psychedelic soul. Unfortunately, the band never quite returned to the glory of this single, but it's one of the biggest tracks of the decade. Watch Video Everything But the Girl - Missing. Courtesies Atlantic Ocean Like the deserts miss the rain ... Remixed in countless ways over the years, there has never been a more powerful expression of emotional and sexual desire in pop music than that at the core of Missing. In a year marked by wistfulness and desire in pop songs, this is the peak. Watch Britney Spears Video... baby one more time. Courtesy Jive Records She first received national notice as a member of The New Mickey Mouse Club on Disney's cable network, but it was as a pop singer that Britney Spears became the most watched celebrity in the world. Her first single ... Baby One More Time is a brilliant piece of pop music. It's catchy and sexy, and it sports a slightly controversial video that people are still talking about today. Watch video

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