



Have you ever struck it lucky? Maybe you played darts and hit the bulls eye on the first shot and then never got that close again. Maybe you never got that close again because you chose to stop playing darts. Then again, maybe darts lost popularity and you never had the opportunity to play again. Many musicians have had a similar experience with writing songs and their fleetingly successful song is referred to as a "One Hit Wonder".

One Hit Wonders are typically artists who produce a hit song that either makes the **Billboard** lists, or gets played frequently on MTV, VH1, or the radio. After awhile, even though the song may leave the charts, it is still remembered, even if its singer is not. We may wait with anticipation for the next big hit by this artist, but for a variety of reasons, it simply doesn't come. Sometimes the band breaks up and other times, they just can't seem to produce anything that gains as much interest. Occasionally a style may simply lose its popularity, leaving behind those unwilling to change with the times. Disco music is one such example. This craze lasted about ten years and produced many One Hit Wonders. But as its popularity faded quickly, it left a host of One Hit Wonders drifting back into obscurity before they could replicate their success.

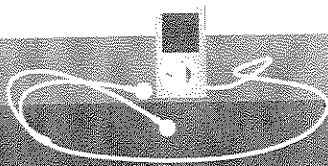
Just because a group is a One Hit Wonder in one country doesn't mean that it is one in other countries. For example, the German singer Nena had a hit in the US called *99 Red Balloons (99 Luftballoons)*. Although the US And UK charts do not recognize any further hits, she remained a popular artist in German-speaking countries.

There are songs that are doomed to be One Hit Wonders just because they were novelty songs. The team of Jerry Buckner and Gary Garcia recorded the *Pac Man Fever* song. It was popular during the 1980s when the Pac Man video game came out. Other novelty songs included *Disco Duck*, *The Monster Mash*, *Electric Slide* and the *Macarena*.

Although lists of the most notable One Hit Wonders in history differ, often varying from country to country, most of them are easily recognizable in their own right and some are still well known today.

Fast Facts

Time Span:
Influences:
Primary Instruments:
Major Artists:



Fun Fact

The first music video ever played on the popular, long-running television show MTV was a One Hit Wonder. *Video Killed the Radio Star* by a group called The Buggles was already a couple of years old when it received this honour in 1981. Although the band received minor success with three subsequent songs, they were never able to replicate the success of this #1 hit.

