

# Song of the Weekend

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From the Lee Jackson Audio Community Discussion Group

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ljackaudiodiscgroup>)

Entry: 20210130 – I Have a Shotgun

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This week's "Song of the Weekend" is I Have a Shotgun, from my second album, "Derivations."

I Have a Shotgun started out as a joke. It was inspired by a feature on a radio show in Lincoln, England, airing at the time on Siren Radio, called "The Cyber Den." The presenter, Jake "The Voice" Parr and his co-hosts, Connor and Hyperion, were doing a segment called "Bad Voice Acting in Video Games." According to Jake, they were picking on the Japanese version of Resident Evil when they ran across a recording of an actor saying the line, "I've got a shotgun," in a cheezy tone and for no apparent reason. The three of them cracked up for several minutes, with Jake replaying the sound bite several times, each time triggering a new round of laughter.

I was a regular "chat contributor" to the show, getting up at around 4:30 a.m. Central Time to listen and interact live via Facebook Messenger. Jake and I are also friends, with him playing my music on the show and me writing songs for him (e.g., the Theme Song to "The Cyber Den"). So, after hearing the hilarity caused by this one line, I decided I'd try and get Jake, Connor, and Hyperion to engage in a little comedic song featuring it.

I wrote a piece that was about 38 seconds long. It started with a 4-count drum solo intro, then launched into a "question & answer" section where a medium-tempo honky-tonk rock band would play for one measure, then drop down to just the drums and bass for the next measure, then lather, rinse, repeat until the end of the song with a modulation thrown in for effect. During the "drop down" sections, I intended for all three of the radio crew to record themselves singing, "I Have a Shotgun!" (Yes, I got the words wrong. That lasted through the end of the composition and recording process.) Alas, I could never get them to sing along with the finished recording, so the joke died on the vine. That is, until the "Derivations" album came along.

I dug out I Have a Shotgun and decided to make it a full-blown instrumental work. I kept the first part, redoing it so that it would make up a 16-measure phrase with some grungy guitar riffs for embellishment. I then repeated the phrase, this time filling the blank "answer" sections with a solo guitar that sounds like it is "singing" the words, "I Have a Shotgun." At the end of that phrase, I built in a 2-bar "chicken scratch" bridge, with every instrument playing practically the same rhythmic phrase.

The next phrase used the same bass and rhythm parts as the first and second phrases, but featured a layered honky-tonk piano sound for the pseudo-improvised melody. This also goes on for 16 bars, but ends on a 17<sup>th</sup> bar with nothing but an octaved low root note.

The drummer plays a four-beat count-off on the bass drum, with a flam on the snare on beat four of the 17<sup>th</sup> bar. This leads into two measures of eighth notes in the drums (bass drum and toms) and rhythm guitar that build strongly into the next phrase – a combination of the guitar “singing” the “I Have a Shotgun” line and the honky-tonk piano line, going on at the same time for 16 bars. This ends with the “chicken scratch” bridge used earlier.

The final phrase is the same as the one above, with one vital difference: someone fires off a shotgun blast at the beginning of the phrase. The shotgun blast repeats every 4 bars as the song fades out to silence.

There is the combination story and musical analysis of I Have a Shotgun. Please allow me to direct you to its page on YouTube. Thank you for reading, and thank you for voting for your “Song of the Weekend!”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZrgB9OF\\_iQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZrgB9OF_iQ)