

## Songs for the Quarantine #25: Jump, Van Halen

Good morning, Roll Over Easy, and welcome to the twenty-fifth Songs for the Quarantine. I'm @suldrew. Every week while we are under shelter-in-place, we'll bring you a song that's perfect for taking your mind off social distancing, that you can listen to while you walk in the park, or work from home, or draw 1980s rock logos in Bic ballpoint on the outside of your notebooks as you sit there, bored, on video chat.

This week, let's honor the great Eddie Van Halen, who [sadly passed away](#) on Tuesday at the age of only 65. The great Dutch-born guitarist, who "put the smile back in rock guitar", invented whole new ways to rock the studio, the stage, and the factory with his guitar and keyboard, bringing a new generation of hard rock to the forefront in the era of disco, and creating what we now call hair metal.

When thinking of how to remember Eddie, I was wondering if I should play a deeper cut like Dance The Night Away, or Hot for Teacher, or Eruption. But who can turn down that synth hook? So let's play their first and only Number 1 hit - [Jump](#), from 1984.

Not long ago, this would have been the theme of a bike oriented piece. Those bright red electric bikes were all over town, tempting you to hop on. Might as well Jump! But now that Uber has sent them all to the recyclers, let's focus instead on the music. The story goes that Eddie recorded the whole thing late one night with engineer Donn Landee, synth, guitar and all. David Lee Roth added the vocals, Michael Anthony the bass, and a hit was made.

When you listen to the synth and guitar solos in Jump, remember also the huge [innovations](#) made by Eddie Van Halen. He invented two-handed tapping on the fretboard (in his solo Eruption), and held [five](#) US Patents for guitars, pickups, and attachments. His [first](#), a device to help a standing musician play a guitar flat with both hands, is designed, and I quote: "to permit total freedom of the player's hands to play the instrument in a completely new way, thus allowing the player to create new techniques and sounds previously unknown to any player." Eddie Van Halen certainly did that, on 11 studio albums and in appearances on other major hits, notably Michael Jackson's Beat It. And in the 2010s he introduced his [own line of guitars](#), EVH Gear, naming the first after his son Wolfgang.

In a pandemic, "You got to roll with the punches and get to what's real." It's true, isn't it? If you've got your back against the record machine, or more likely the record machine is in your pocket, take that leap forward to the next big thing, like Eddie did on guitar and synth, as a musician and an inventor. Might as well. Go ahead!