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Hot 100's Hottest Weeks, Aug. '66: Beatles, Beach Boys & Birth of the Song of Summer

Since the first [Hot 100](#), dated August 4, 1958, every week's chart has featured a few great, maybe even historic, music moments. It's just that some weeks have far more such moments than others.

Our assignment: Shine the spotlight on those weeks. So far we've made [stops in 1983](#) and [1999](#), and now we travel back to this week in 1966 for a pivotal point in pop music: the final days of AM radio owning rock 'n roll.

As more contemporary recording acts opted to make larger statements on albums rather than rely on singles, FM stations began to embrace a format less restrictive than top 40, allowing for the play of songs not yet or never released as singles. Several of those albums, such as the Beach Boys' *Pet Sounds* and the Beatles' *Revolver*, are represented with songs on this particular week's Hot 100. But the chart is also rich with R&B from labels other than Motown, transitional songs for artists previously stuck in one genre, the rise of experimental rock and, arguably for the first time in Hot 100 history, a bounty of summer-themed songs paving the way for our annual "song of summer" obsession.

As we've done in past "Hottest Weeks," we'll stop at each standout song, with occasional comments from either the artists or a legendary radio personality who played those songs at the time.

If you're ready, travel back with us to when the raging war in Vietnam was just becoming unpopular, a Ford Mustang would set you back \$2,500, and spy-based dramas -- including *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.*, a hit movie this summer, and *I Spy*, starring the not-so-popular-anymore Bill Cosby -- dominated primetime TV.

25. "Over Under Sideways Down" - The Yardbirds (peak: 13)

"The song was really about all the decadence going on at that particular time, but also probably represented our lifestyle as a band right then," Yardbirds drummer Jim McCarty says. "Culturally, so many barriers were being broken down."

"Over Under," featuring the "Hey!" chant that united a generation, was the last of five top 20 hits in the U.S. for the band whose revolving-door list of lead guitarists reads like a rock hall of fame all by itself -- Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck and Jimmy Page -- and who, with McCarty, kick off a tour of the U.S. this fall.

Beck did the honors on "Over Under," which ranked No. 23 on *Rolling Stone's* 100 Greatest Guitar Songs of All Time. "We played with Slash a few years ago. Apparently it was his favorite guitar riff," McCarty says.