

Razorlight – Who Needs Love: Indie Rock

Indie Rock – *Independent Rock* – from 1980s by musicians who wanted to record independently from the major record labels. This gave them more control over musical content. Indie is therefore an *umbrella term* which covers a *diverse* range of music: Many bands were *guitar-based* and bands, such as *Stone Roses* influenced later *Britpop* in the 1990s

Razorlight – an Indie Anglo-Swedish band formed in 2002. ‘*Who needs love*’ featured on their (confusingly named) album ‘*Razorlight*’ of 2006.

It has a standard verse-chorus structure:

Intro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a <i>limited harmonic palette</i>: • Establishes an A to F# Minor (ie I to VI), alternating one chord per bar. Played as simple quaver <i>triads</i>, mid-range on the piano. • A clear and simple drum pattern in used throughout. 																					
Verse 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same chords as the intro in the same harmonic rhythm. It then introduces chords IV & V (that is, D & E). • Melody of the song is confined to the notes between E-C# (a major 6th) • The same music is used twice in the complete verse, the extra line of lyrics calling for 2 extra bars. <p>The harmonic pattern is therefore:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Bars 1-2</td> <td>Line 1 Lyrics</td> <td>A/F#m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bars 3-4</td> <td>Line 2 Lyrics</td> <td>A/F#m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bars 5-8</td> <td>Line 3 Lyrics</td> <td>D/E/A/F#m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bars 9-10</td> <td>Line 4 Lyrics</td> <td>A/F#m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bars 11-12</td> <td>Line 5 Lyrics</td> <td>A/F#m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bars 13-16</td> <td>Line 6 Lyrics</td> <td>D/E/A/F#m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bars 17-18</td> <td>Line 7 Lyrics</td> <td>A/F#m</td> </tr> </table>	Bars 1-2	Line 1 Lyrics	A/F#m	Bars 3-4	Line 2 Lyrics	A/F#m	Bars 5-8	Line 3 Lyrics	D/E/A/F#m	Bars 9-10	Line 4 Lyrics	A/F#m	Bars 11-12	Line 5 Lyrics	A/F#m	Bars 13-16	Line 6 Lyrics	D/E/A/F#m	Bars 17-18	Line 7 Lyrics	A/F#m
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Chorus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the same pattern as the bars 1-8 of the verse. • Contrast is achieved through the rhythmic variety created by the lyrics (fewer syllables) & the simpler melody that this generates. 																					
Verse 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bass guitar added. • It plays <i>inversions of the triads</i>. This makes the music move forward towards the chorus. 																					
Chorus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conventional roots are now played in the bass. 																					
Instrumental (based on the verse)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Played by lead guitar, following the basic chord pattern of the verse for 8 bars. 																					
Verse 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begins with same lyrics as the first + vocal backing track. • Change in the lyrics brings some variety in the setting of, ‘<i>But I just can’t give up without a fight, not I</i>’. The music is more <i>syncopated</i> here, as though the draw attention to the sentiment. This is performed unaccompanied. 																					
Outro																						

Describe the similarities and differences between this song and the Beatles, ‘Love me do’. Include comments on; structure, chord progressions, style, subject, likely audience.