

The Worst Band in the World (1975)

Words and music by 10cc

It's one thing to know it but another to admit
We're the worst band in the world
But we don't give a...

If Garbo played guitar with Valentino on the drums¹
Then we'd be nothing more than a bunch of dharma bums²
So tune up, tune up

Well we've never done a days work in our life
And our records sell in zillions

It irrigates my heart with greed
To know that you adore me
Up yours, up mine
But up everybody's that takes time--
But we're working on it
Working on it (Ooh)

We've never seen the van-- leave it to the roadies--
Never met the roadies-- leave them in the van
All because of circumstances way beyond control
We became the darlings of this thing called rock and roll, ooh

Here I am a record on a jukebox
A little piece of plastic with a hole, ooh
Play me
Buy me and you play me then my plastic turns to gold

Here we are together on your hi fi
A little piece of plastic with a hole, oh
Fade me, fade me, fade me, fade me...



the English band 10cc in 1974

¹ Greta Garbo (1905-1990) and Rudolph Valentino (1895-1926) were both huge stars of the silent film era.

² American novelist and poet Jack Kerouac's 1958 *The Dharma Bums* is about a man (Ray Smith, alter-ego for Kerouac) who tires of his "city life" of jazz clubs, poetry readings, and drunken parties-- dropping out of society under the tutelage of the Zen Buddhist teachings of poet and essayist Gary Snyder (portrayed as Japhy Ryder in the novel). Zen Buddhism itself (ignoring whether *The Dharma Bums* portrays it accurately-- it does not) is associated with a monastic tradition of exploring contradiction and paradox as a way of achieving enlightenment. In Buddhism, the Sanskrit word *Dharma* (Pali: *Dhamma*) has multiple meanings, but here refers to the teaching of the Buddha as an exposition of the Natural Law applied to the problem of human suffering.