Funky Drummer
James Brown

Clyde Stubblefield's Drum Break

Clyde Stubblefield's drum break, on the James Brown track: "Funky Drummer", is one of the most sampled recordings in music. This "break beat" has been used by artists such as: Public Enemy, Prince, RUN DMC, Salt-N-Pepa, DJ Jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince, De La Soul, LL CoolJ, George Michael, Fatboy Slim, Sinead O'Connor, Fine Young Cannibals, Dr. Dre, Labrinth, Nicki Minaj and Queen... To name a few. "Funky Drummer" was recorded in 1969 in Cincinnati, Ohio, and originally released as a two-part 45 rpm single in 1970.

In interviews Clyde said that he wasn't angry that he never received any royalties for the use of his drum break in other songs. He stated to Modern Drummer magazine that he wasn't thinking about money at the time, just about playing music, travelling the world and having a good time. He was proud of his work and the recognition that he'd received from people all over the world.

One artist who did reward Clyde, for use of his drum break, was Prince. He donated $80,000 towards Clyde's medical bills when he was diagnosed with cancer in the early 2000s.