

Love 2 the 9's

Prince

"**Love 2 the 9's**" by **Prince**, from the 1992 album [*Love Symbol Album*], is a multifaceted track that showcases Prince's diverse musical influences and knack for genre-blending. The song is structured in a way that moves between different musical sections, each with its own unique character, making the track dynamic and constantly evolving. Here's an overview of its structure:

1. Intro:

- The song begins with a slow, melodic introduction that feels tender and emotional. Prince uses his falsetto vocals here, setting a romantic and vulnerable tone.
- The instrumental backing is soft, almost ballad-like, creating a smooth, R&B-inspired atmosphere.
- Musically short hits, funky groove, ...

2. Verse 1:

- The first verse builds upon the gentle introduction with smooth, laid-back vocals.
- Lyrically, it focuses on romance, intimacy, and devotion, with Prince promising to do everything for his lover.
- The instrumentation remains light, but the rhythm starts to become more pronounced, incorporating elements of soul and pop.

3. Pre-Chorus:

- The pre-chorus is much more vibrant and uptempo compared to the verses, marked by stronger instrumentation and more energetic vocals.
- There's a funky groove that kicks in, giving the song a lively, danceable feel, reflecting Prince's love of funk and dance music.
- Musically longer sounds : brass pads, vocals + backing vocals more present

4. Chorus:

- After the high-energy pre-chorus, the chorus returns to the smoother R&B sound of the first verse.

5. Verse 2

- Musically same as verse 1

6. Pre-Chorus:

- Synths added in high register

7. Chorus:

- After the high-energy pre-chorus, the chorus returns to the smoother R&B sound of the first verse.

8. Breakdown / Rap Section A:

- About halfway through the song, there is a notable breakdown where the tempo shifts, and a brief rap section by Prince is introduced.
- Beat and bass are more intensive
- Scratching added
- Guitar hits more frequent
- Percussion added
- At the end brass melody added

9. Bridge A:

- After the rap, the song transitions into a bridge where spoken word by man and woman is added
- Combination of funky hits by brass from the verse and bass/drum groove of the breakdown

10. Bridge B – Shout:

- A shout is started
- A brass line takes it over

11. Breakdown / Rap Section B:

- Prince takes over with a new rap
- In the beginning the bass is out
- When the bass kicks in (with scratching) new energy takes up

12. Final Chorus:

- The final chorus repeats with more energy, combining the previous elements of funk, pop, and R&B.
- Prince's vocals soar, and the arrangement becomes fuller with layered instruments and backing vocals.

13. Outro A:

- The song closes with an extended, funk-driven outro where Prince continues to sing and ad-lib over the groove.
- Long brass notes take over

14. Outro B:

- The energy fades out smoothly, leaving the listener with a sense of closure after the song's multi-part journey.
- Prince, brass and a fingerknip finish the song

Key Elements:

- **Genre-blending:** Prince blends funk, R&B, pop, and even rap in this track, making it a reflection of his eclectic musical style.

- **Dynamic shifts:** The song is filled with shifts in tempo, mood, and instrumentation, from the tender verses to the energetic chorus and rap break.
- **Layered production:** The rich production is notable, featuring complex vocal harmonies, instrumental layering, and shifting rhythms throughout.

Overall, "Love 2 the 9's" showcases Prince's talent for crafting songs that are both complex and accessible, blending romance with funk and innovation in a way that feels seamless and engaging.