

## Freddie Hubbard – Breaking Point (2004)

Written by bluesever

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1 *Breaking Point* 10:15 2 *Far Away* 10:55 3 *Blue Frenzy* 6:22 4 *Blue Frenzy 45 take* 3:15 5 *D Minor Mint* 6:22 6 *Mirrors* 6:04 7 *Mirrors 45 take* 3:19 [play](#) Personnel: Joe Chambers - Drums Freddie Hubbard - Horn, Trumpet Eddie Khan - Bass Ronnie Mathews - Piano James Spaulding - Flute, Reeds (Multiple), Sax (Alto), Saxophone

Breaking Point was the debut of Freddie Hubbard's first working group after leaving the Jazz Messengers. The quintet is highlighted by the searing alto sax and rich flute of James Spaulding and powerful, musical drumming of Joe Chambers, who also composed "Mirrors". The music stretches the limits of hard bop with innovative, cutting edge compositions and solos. Added to the original album are two alternate takes, originally issued on a 45 single. ---Editorial Reviews

After a brief absence in the Blue Note catalog, it is wonderful to see Freddie Hubbard's "Breaking Point" reissued via the RVG series. Though I have to confess, it would have been nicer so see rarer OOP titles like "Here to Stay" or "Blue Spirits" back in print instead. In fact, "Breaking Point" is the studio album Freddie made in between those two aforementioned titles. This May 7, 1964 session features Hub on trumpet, James Spaulding on alto sax and flute, Ronnie Matthews on piano, Eddie Kahn on bass and Joe Chambers on drums. The four Hubbard original compositions show the trumpeter moving away from his straightforward Messenger grooves to more of an avant-garde/free form style. With that being said, the album's wildest track is the Chambers-penned "Mirrors." The drummer (BTW, making his Blue Note debut here) was an amazing writer and IMO should have been given his own Blue Note session as a leader, though many will argue the second-half of Bobby Hutcherson's "Components" is basically just that. Finally, the disc's two alternate takes are shorter versions of "Blue Frenzy" and "Mirrors," which were paired for 45 single release back in the day. While not Freddie

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Hubbard's finest session, "Breaking Point" is certainly worth braking for. --- Michael B. Richman (Portland, Maine USA)

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