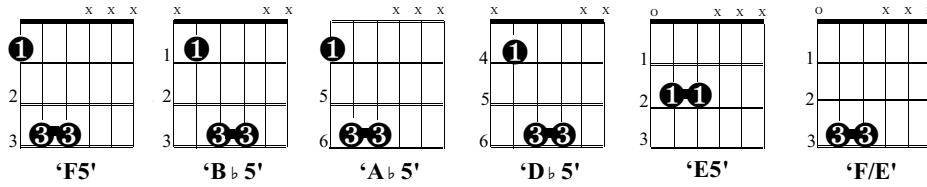


Nirvana - 'Smells Like Teen Spirit' (1)

Words and music by **Kurt Cobain, Dave Grohl, and Krist Novelsac** Transcribed by **Kevin Paluzzi**

Key of 'F' Minor



Intro/Chorus (0:00, 1:06, 2:53, 4:05)

	F5	Bb5	Ab5	Db5	F5	Bb5	Ab5	Db5
1								
2								
3	x x x x	3 3 0	x x x x	6 6 0	x x x x	3 3 0	x x x x	6 6 0
4	3 3 3	x x x x	3 3 0	6 6 6	x x x x	6 6 0	3 3 3	x x x x
5	3 3 3	x x x x	1 1 0	6 6 6	x x x x	4 4 0	3 3 3	x x x x
6	1 1 1		4 4 4		1 1 1		4 4 4	
	↓ ↓ ↓	↓ ↓ ↓	↓ ↓ ↓	↓ ↓ ↓	↓ ↓ ↓	↓ ↓ ↓	↓ ↓ ↓	↓ ↓ ↓

Verse (0:25, 1:39 - play line 3x/progression 6x)

* top two strings represent guitar, while bottom two strings represent the bass line.

	F5	Bb5	Ab5	Db5	F5	Bb5	Ab5	Db5
1		1				1		
2	1				1			
3								
4								
5		1 1 1 1		4 4 4 4		1 1 1 1		4 4 4 4
6	1 1 1 1		4 4 4 4		1 1 1 1		4 4 4 4	

Pre-Chorus (0:49, 2:03, 3:49 - play line 2x/progression 4x)

* top two strings represent guitar, while bottom two strings represent the bass line.

	F5	Bb5	Ab5	Db5	F5	Bb5	Ab5	Db5
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3								
4								
5		1 1 1 1		4 4 4 4		1 1 1 1		4 4 4 4
6	1 1 1 1		4 4 4 4		1 1 1 1		4 4 4 4	

Bridge (1:30, 2:44)

	F5	E5	F5	F#5	F5	F/E	F5	Bb5	Ab5	F5	E5	F5	F#5	F5	F/E	F5	Bb5	Ab5
1																		
2			0									0						
3			3 ⁴									3 ⁴						
4	3	2	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	8	8	6	6	3	2	3	4	4
5	3	2	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	8	8	6	6	3	2	3	4	4
6	1	0	1	2	2	1	0	1	1	6	6	4	4	1	0	1	1	6

‘Smells Like Teen Spirit’ - Performance Notes (1)

Combining elements of punk and rock, ‘*Smells Like Teen Spirit*’ introduced an alternate raw or heavy sound that became the prototype for the ‘grunge’ movement which dominated rock music throughout the nineties. The following lesson provides a step by step approach to all essential guitar parts.

Intro/Chorus (0:00, 1:06, 2:53, 4:05)

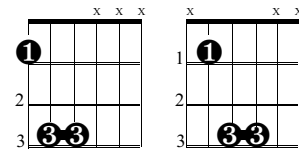
The initial ‘F5-B♭5’ chord change is simply shifting the ‘F5’ power chord shape over one string to play ‘B♭5.’ The same goes for the ‘A♭5-D♭5’ chord change played three frets higher.

Even though the *muting* (‘x’) sections are essential to playing the rhythm, the first step is to practice the chord changes a few times before adding the muting.

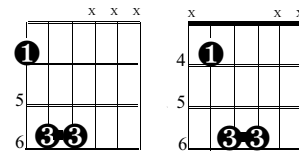
Down and up strokes (↓ ↑) are shown below the Tab. The muting between chord changes can either be three fast (↓↑↓) or four faster (↓↑↑↑) strokes.

The Intro is played twice before the distortion or overdrive effect is added (*via foot pedal*).

Chord Shapes



‘F5’ Shift → ‘B♭5’



‘A♭5’ Shift → ‘D♭5’

Verses (0:25, 1:39)

In section 1, the lead guitar riff is played on the third and fourth beats of the first measure. Simply flatten the first finger across the top two strings to play each riff. The bass line is represented on the bottom two strings and can be played by a bassist or second guitarist. For both the Verse and Pre-Chorus sections, the bass line is played in ‘fours’, with 16 beats per section.

Pre-Chorus (0:49, 2:03, 3:49)

The two-note riff from the Verse is played with increased tempo on every first and third beat, creating a tension that builds or ‘leads-in’ to the Chorus section.

Chorus (1:05, 4:05)

This section is the same as the Intro, and is played eight times before going to the Bridge.

Bridge (1:30, 2:44)

The ‘F5-E5-F5-F♯5’ progression is simply shifting a power chord shape on the bottom three strings. Flattening the first finger to fret ‘E5’ is an alternative that may work better for some guitarists.

Use both the second and third fingers to bend the third string for the *unison bend* with the open second string. Count the first section: ‘1-1-2-3-4.... bend’.

In Section 2, the ‘F5-F/E’ change is simply lifting the first finger off the sixth string from the ‘F5’ chord and strumming the open sixth string with the fretted fifth and fourth strings (*third fret*). Some tabs suggest to play an ‘E5’ instead, but simply lifting the first finger will make the changes and timing easier. Section 2 is played very fast.

To keep up with the tempo, leaving out the last ‘F5’ chord and counting the section ‘1-2-3- 1... 2...’ (*instead of ‘1-2-3-4 1-2-3-4’*) could be an alternative.

Basic Arrangement

