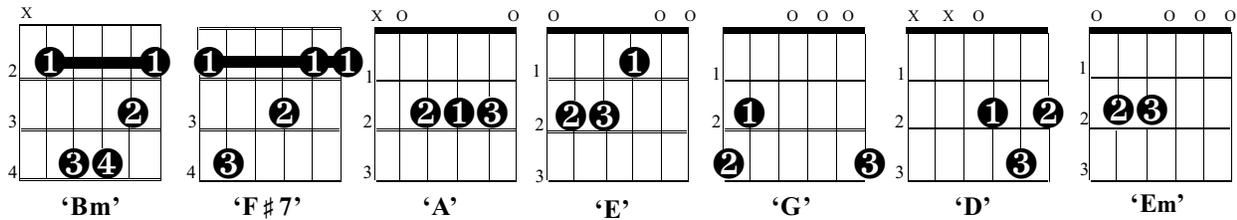


Eagles - 'Hotel California' (Strum-along version)

Words and Music by *Don Henley, Glen Frey, and Don Felder* Transcribed by *Kevin Paluzzi*

Key of 'B' Minor



Verses 1-2

Bm F#7 A E
 On a dark desert highway - cool wind in my hair Warm smell of colitas... Rising up through the air
 G D Em
 Up ahead in the distance - I saw a shimmering light My head grew weary and my eyes grew dim..
 F#7 (end Verse 1) Bm F#7
 I had to stop for the night There she stood in the doorway - I heard the mission bell
 A E G
 And I was saying to myself this could be heaven or this could be hell Then she lit up a candle
 D Em F#7
 and she showed me the way There were voice in the corridor thought I heard them say...

Chorus

G D F#7 Bm
 Welcome to the Hotel California... Such a lovely place (such a lovely place) such a lovely face
 G D Em F#7
 Plenty of room at the Hotel California Any time of year (anytime of year) you can find it here

Additional Lyrics

Her mind is Tiffany-twisted, she got the Mercedes Benz
 She got a lot pretty, pretty boys that she calls friends
 How they danced in the courtyard- sweet summer sweat.
 Some dance to remember. Some dance to forget.
 So I called up the Captain, 'Please bring me my wine'.
 He said, 'We haven't had that spirit here since 1969'
 And still those voices are calling from far away.
 Wake you up in the middle of the night
 just to hear them say:
 'Welcome to the Hotel California.
 Such lovely place (Such a lovely place)
 Such a lovely face.
 They're living it up at the Hotel California.
 What a nice surprise (What a nice surprise)

Mirrors on the ceiling,
 The pink champagne on ice. And she said:
 'We are all just prisoners here, of own device'
 And in the master's chambers,
 They gathered for their feast.
 They stab it with their steely knives,
 But they just can't kill the beast.
 Last thing I remember,
 I was running for the door.
 I had to find the passage back
 To the place I was before.
 'Relax', said the night man,
 'We are programmed to receive,
 You can check out any time you like,
 but you can never leave!'

'Hotel California' - Performance Notes

This lesson for '*Hotel California*' is designed for beginners and for singers who wish to accompany themselves with a basic 'strum-along' performance. Several guitars are used on the original recording, including a capoed twelve-string acoustic guitar, a six-string acoustic, and various electrics. For this unaccompanied arrangement, a steel-string acoustic strummed with a pick will work best. The following sections provide a step-by-step approach.

The Strum Pattern

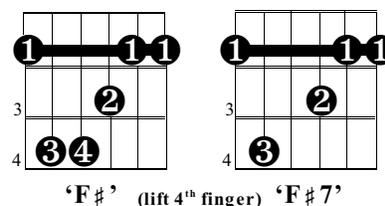
This strum pattern will be applied to each chord, and can be described either using strokes or with a count:

'down - down-up-down - down-up-up-down - down-up-down'
 1 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 1 - 2 - 3

Barre Chords

This strum-along version features two *barre chord shapes*: 'Bm' and 'F#7'. The 'F#7' chord shape is similar to an 'F#' (*major*) chord, with the exception of the fourth 'pinky' finger being lifted off the fourth string. When playing arpeggios, the tone of a seventh chord sounds more 'off-center' when compared to a major chord by simply altering just one note.

Examples



Arranging Sections

Four Chords at a Time Memorize *one section* or *four-chord sequence* at a time (*shown right*). For the initial 'Bm-F#7' chord change, keep the first finger aligned along the second fret to barre both chords. The second section of the Verse ('G-D-Em-F#7') ends with a challenging 'Em-F#7' chord change. Once each section is memorized, practice combining them in order to play the complete eight-chord verse.

Chorus Memorize one section or four-chord sequence at a time to complete the eight-chord progression.

Verse Section

Bm - F#7 - A - E
G - D - Em - F#7

Chorus Section

G - D - F#7 - Bm
G - D - Em - F#7

'Syncing' Chords with Lyrics

Try to combine vocals with strumming by '*syncing-up*' lyrics along with the strum pattern and chord changes. For this step, it isn't necessary to actually sing at proper pitch, but instead to simply 'talk' through the lyrics and to 'land' each chord change to its corresponding lyric. This can be done at any pace as the objective isn't speed but in establishing a steady tempo.

Three 'Sing-Along' Steps

1. Memorize Chord Progression
2. 'Sync-up' Chords with Lyrics
3. Focus on Vocal Melody

Arrangement Notes

Starting off with a strum pattern that remains consistent for each chord works best for a one-person performance. Once the complete arrangement is memorized, variations can be made to the strum pattern. With all of the guitars and various fingerstyle and strumming techniques used on the original recording, the actual *arrangement* of '*Hotel California*' is a relatively basic, simply alternating between Verse & Chorus sections. On the original recording, the song ends with a guitar solo '*fade-out*'. A suggested ending when playing live is to simply strum a 'Bm' chord at any point after a verse or chorus.