

Guitar Team – Breakdown By Jack Johnson

In this lesson we will be learning to play Breakdown by the acoustic folk guitarist Jack Johnson. This song was originally played on ukulele and has been arranged for guitar for this lesson. You can check out the song at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4O7ufx9D_s.

In the pdf provided you will find a blueprint for the entire song arranged for strumming chords. As this lesson is not being done face to face I have left the more intricate parts for when we meet again in person.

Important: You will notice that I have not used tab in the pdf file, this is because depending on your current skill level I want you to play the notes in different ways.

Level 1. Root Notes

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Intro/Verse: C, Em, Am, G
 Chorus: C, C/B, Am, G
 Interlude: C, G, F

Level 2. Simple Chords

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Intro/Verse: C, Em, Am, G
 Chorus: C, C/B, Am, G
 Interlude: C, G, F

Level 3. Open Chords

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Intro/Verse: C, Em, Am, G
 Chorus: C, C/B, Am, G
 Interlude: G, C, F

Take this opportunity to become familiar with reading this blueprint and really get to know the structure of the song.

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Questions you should know how to answer while listening to the recording and playing:

How does the rhythm change from the intro to the verse?

How many times do I play the chord progression in the verse?

How many times do I play the chord progression in the chorus?

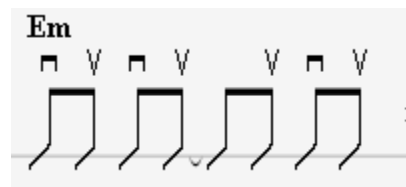
At what point does the chorus play twice?

What changes in the interlude?

You should practice the song regularly enough to be confident of the answers. For the next 2 weeks I want you to follow along and commit the structure to memory, the technical aspects of playing I can help you with when classes return.

There are two main strum patterns I want to help you with here.

Strum Pattern 1



See that symbol in between the 4th and 5th strum?

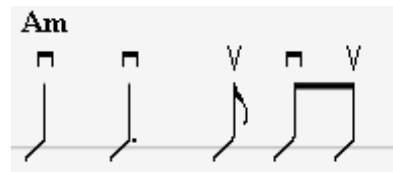
The 4th note is held so you do not play the 5th.

The strum pattern should be

down up down up (hold) up down up

D U D U (D) U D U

Strum Pattern 2



The strum pattern should be down down up down up

D D U D U

It fits very closely to the first pattern as you strum on beats 1 & 2 and then U D U the same as the last strum pattern.