

La Grange by ZZ Top

Tempo: 162 bpm

Strumming Pattern: DUDU (shuffle feel with mutes)

Riffs Used:

Main Riff 1

Musical notation for Main Riff 1. The notation is presented on a staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. The riff consists of two measures. The first measure is marked with a chord of A5 and contains a sequence of eighth notes: A2, A2, G2, A2, A2, G2, A2, A2. The second measure is marked with chords G and C and contains a sequence of eighth notes: G2, A2, G2, A2, G2, A2, G2, A2. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with six lines. The first measure of the tablature shows fret numbers 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2 for the strings from the 6th to the 1st. The second measure shows fret numbers 2, 0, 5, 0, 5, 0 for the strings from the 6th to the 1st.

This is just your basic blues shuffle in A. At the end of this part you'll see the G – C shuffle, which leads into main riff 2.

Main Riff 2

Musical notation for Main Riff 2. The notation is presented on a staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. The riff consists of two measures. The first measure is marked with a chord of A5 and contains a sequence of eighth notes: A2, A2, G2, A2, A2, G2, A2, A2. The second measure is marked with chords G and C and contains a sequence of eighth notes: G2, A2, G2, A2, G2, A2, G2, A2. Below the staff is a guitar tablature with six lines. The first measure of the tablature shows fret numbers 5, 2, 2, 2, 2, 0 for the strings from the 6th to the 1st. An arrow labeled '1 4' points to the 5th fret on the 6th string. The second measure shows fret numbers 2, 0, 0, 5, 0, 0 for the strings from the 6th to the 1st.

By adding a simple $\frac{1}{4}$ (quarter) bend to the fifth fret on the G string we add a neat emphasis to the note. We then simply end this part of the main riff 2 with the same overall thing played in the second measure of main riff 1. For both of these "main riffs" use your 1st finger to barre the second frets of the appropriate strings, and use your 4th finger to strike the fifth fret notes when necessary.

Solo Rhythm

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth notes with a triplet feel. Below the staff is a guitar fretboard diagram with six strings. The first five frets have an 'X' on the low E string, indicating a barre. The notes on the other strings are indicated by numbers 1 through 4, corresponding to the first four fingers.

This part is repeated over and over as the backing rhythm part during the solo. Use your 1st finger again to barre the fifth fret notes. Your 4th finger should play the eighth fret notes on the Low E string. When you get to the 6 – 8 on the A string, use your 2nd finger to play the sixth fret and your 4th finger to play the eighth fret. That will keep your fingers aligned perfectly, AND it will create the mute on the A string prior to the 6 – 8 run.

Breakdown (Part 1)

This part is a bit tricky at first. You won't be playing a shuffle here. Instead you are just playing standard eighth notes with a triplet feel until we reach the fourth measure of the breakdown (part 2).

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth notes with a triplet feel. Below the staff is a guitar fretboard diagram with six strings. The first three frets have an 'E' on the D string and the first three frets have a '4' on the High E string, indicating fingerings for the notes.

I would use my 2nd finger for the notes on the D string and my 3rd finger for the notes on the High E string. Once you play through this one time you'll see it's much easier that way. The same applies for the third measure in the breakdown (part 2) section below.

Breakdown (Part 2)

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth notes with a triplet feel. Below the staff is a guitar fretboard diagram with six strings. The first three frets have an 'E' on the D string and the first three frets have a '3' on the High E string, indicating fingerings for the notes. The fourth measure shows a triplet of notes on the D string (0, 0, 3) and a note on the High E string (4). The fifth measure shows a note on the D string (2) and a note on the High E string (1). The sixth measure shows a note on the D string (0) and a note on the High E string (1). The diagram is labeled 'al.' at the bottom.

The last measure of the breakdown comes in strangely, but after you've played it once it will become second nature. You can use either your 2nd finger or 3rd finger to play the slide from 3 – 4 on the A string. I prefer using the 2nd finger but this is up to you. Simply use your 1st finger on the second fret of the G string to get back into the theme of the song after this.

How To Get Started:

The song starts with the main theme riff, and to be honest rarely strays from it. This is good news for us because we just get a little extra practice until we get to the lyrics. This isn't really a "lyrics" song as you'll be able to see. It's more of a jam song. Realize that you can take liberty in jamming this out as long as you want. I am just giving you a basic template to work with.

Intro: Play the main theme over and over until you get the groove.

G - C A5
Rumor spreadin' 'round...
 G - C A5
in that Texas town...
 G - C A5 G - C A5
'bout that shack outside La Grange.
 G - C A5
and you know what I'm talkin' about.

 G - C A5
Just let me know....
 G - C A5
if you wanna go
G - C A5 G - C A5
to that home out on the range.
 G - C A5
They gotta lotta nice girls.

(Repeat main theme over and over using lyrics below, and then back to main theme verse)

Have mercy. A haw, haw, haw, haw, a haw. A haw, haw, haw.

 G - C A5
Well, I hear it's fine...
 G - C A5
if you got the time.
 G - C A5 G - C A5
and the ten to get yourself in.....a hmm, hmm.

G - C A5

And I hear it's tight....

G - C A5 G - C

most ev'ry night,

A5 G - C A5

but now I might be mistaken....ahmm, hmm, hmm, hmm.

(Solo Part – play rhythm part tab shown previously on fifth fret with walk to 6 – 8 on A string)

(Breakdown twice)

(Back to main theme a few times and end on A5, which is the first measure of the main theme)