

La Grange by ZZ Top

Tempo: 162 bpm

Strumming Pattern: DUDU (shuffle feel with mutes)

## Riffs Used:

### Main Riff 1

Diagram of Main Riff 1. The notation is presented on a standard five-line staff and a six-string guitar fretboard. The staff shows a sequence of notes: a four-measure run of eighth notes (A, A, G, A) followed by a two-measure run of eighth notes (G, A). The fretboard diagram below shows the corresponding fret numbers: the first five measures use the 2nd fret (labeled '2'), and the final two measures use the 5th fret (labeled '5'). Above the staff, the chord progression is indicated as A5 for the first five measures, and G and C for the final two measures.

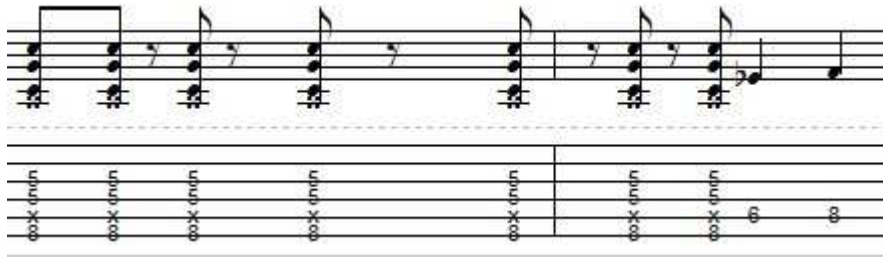
This is just your basic blues shuffle in A. At the end of this part you'll see the G – C shuffle, which leads into main riff 2.

### Main Riff 2

Diagram of Main Riff 2. The notation is presented on a standard five-line staff and a six-string guitar fretboard. The staff shows a sequence of notes: a four-measure run of eighth notes (A, A, G, A) followed by a two-measure run of eighth notes (G, A). The fretboard diagram below shows the corresponding fret numbers: the first five measures use the 2nd fret (labeled '2'), and the final two measures use the 5th fret (labeled '5'). Above the staff, the chord progression is indicated as A5 for the first five measures, and G and C for the final two measures. A bend symbol (a curved arrow) is shown above the first measure of the final two-measure phrase, indicating a quarter bend on the G string.

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 1<sup>st</sup> finger to barre the second frets of the appropriate strings, and use your 4<sup>th</sup> finger to strike the fifth fret notes when necessary.

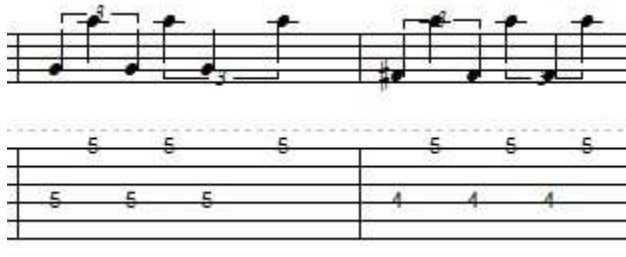
## Solo Rhythm



This part is repeated over and over as the backing rhythm part during the solo. Use your 1<sup>st</sup> finger again to barre the fifth fret notes. Your 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> finger to play the sixth fret and your 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

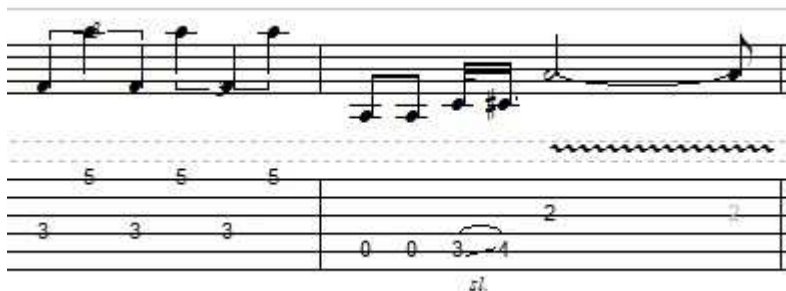
## Breakdown (Part 1)

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).



I would use my 2<sup>nd</sup> finger for the notes on the D string and my 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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 2<sup>nd</sup> finger or 3<sup>rd</sup> finger to play the slide from 3 – 4 on the A string. I prefer using the 2<sup>nd</sup> finger but this is up to you. Simply use your 1<sup>st</sup> 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)