

# The Needle and the Damage Done – Neil Young

Tuning: Standard

Strumming Pattern: There's really no way to "strum" this song, but if you are having trouble, as always just strum each chord once or twice as you change to help you with the movement. The thumb plays the low melody, the 1st finger plays the mid-melody, and the 2nd finger plays the high melody notes. The biggest thing to keep in mind is that the C – Cadd9 is quick. Also pay attention to the fact that REALLY the "Cadd9" is just a C. You can look at the notes used and understand why. However, I wanted to differentiate between the two because adding the higher note "G" does sound a bit different. The G – Gm – Bb is a bit tricky to play, but after a few times it should be ok. I HIGHLY recommend using a G barre chord so that you can play the Gm to Bb easier. The "open" Gm is offered below, but to me it is even harder to play that way.

Chords Used:

Diagram illustrating the chords used in the song, showing fingerings and note positions on a guitar fretboard.

**D**

**D**

**C**

**Cadd9**

**G**

**Gm**

**Gm**

**Bb**

**F**

**Esus4**

**E**

← recommended or →

Intro: D – C – Cadd9 | G – Gm – Bb | C – F – Esus4 – E

D C - Cadd9  
I caught you knocking at my cellar door  
G Gm Bb  
I love you, baby, can I have some more?  
C F Esus4 - E  
Ooh, ooh, the damage done.

D C - Cadd9  
I hit the city and I lost my band  
G Gm Bb  
I watched the needle take another man  
C F Esus4 - E  
Gone, gone, the damage done.

D – C – Cadd9 | G – Gm – Bb | C – F – Esus4 - E

D C - Cadd9  
I sing the song because I love the man  
G Gm Bb  
I know that some of you don't understand  
C F Esus4 - E  
Milk-blood to keep from running out.

D C - Cadd9  
I've seen the needle and the damage done  
G Gm Bb  
A little part of it in everyone  
C F Esus4 - E  
But every junkie's like a setting sun.

D – C – Cadd9 | G – Gm – Bb – D