

Stagger Lee (Traditional)

Strumming Pattern: DD, UU, DU

Tempo: about 150 BPM with a shuffle feel

Chords Used:

D

A D A D F#

OR

D

A D A D F#

G

G B D G B G

A

E A E A C# E

Spoken/Chorded Intro:

D G
The night was clear and the moon was yellow
A D
and the leaves came tumbling down...

(begin song and tempo)

(D) G
I was standin' on the corner, when I heard my bull dog bark
A D
He was barkin' at the two men, who were gamblin' in the dark.

(D) G
Stagger Lee and Billy, two men who gambled late
A D
Stagger Lee threw a seven, Billy swore that he threw an eight

(D) G
Stagger Lee told Billy, "I can't let you go with that!
A D
You have won all my money, and my brand new Stetson hat!"

(D) G
Stagger Lee went home, and he got his .44
A D
said, "I'm goin' to the bar, just to pay that debt I owe."

(D) G
Stagger Lee went to the bar room, and he stood across the bar room doors
A D
Said, "Now, nobody move!" then he pulled his .44.

(D) G
"Stagger Lee!" cried Billy, "Ohh, please don't take my life.
A D
I've got three little children, and a very sickly wife!"

(D) G
Well, Stagger Lee shot Billy, oh, he shot that poor boy so bad
A D
that the bullet came through Billy, and it broke the bartender's glass.

(D)
Stagger Lee! OH.....

G
Go go go, Stagger Lee
A D
Stagger Lee, oh, Stagger Lee.

(It seems very abrupt, and it is, but there is a ton of 'other' stuff in the original song that just doesn't fit in our realm of playing here.)