

Life By The Drop by Stevie Ray Vaughan

Tempo: 98 bpm

Strumming Pattern: D, DD, D (shuffle feel with mutes OR just DUDU with mutes)

Intro Riff:

♩ = 98 (♩♩ - ♩♩)
N.C.

Gtrs I, II

0 3 0 1 2 0 0 1 0 3 0 3 | 0 2 2 0 1 0 3 0 3 0 3 0

H H H H P

This is the intro riff, and isn't too difficult to play in terms of SRV licks. It appears as though SRV really just opens the intro of this song up with a standard C Major chord formation. Of course, he adds a few things here and there, but the formation is still there. To keep this song flowing nicely, pay close attention to the hammer from zero to one in both measures. After that zero to one hammer, he then struck the open D string. The movement from one to zero are sixteenth notes. Here are both parts that I am talking about pulled from the tab:

0 1 2 0 0 1 0 3 0 3 | 0 2 2 0 1 0 3 0 3 0 3 0

H AND H P

You see those sixteenth notes hiding? They will keep you together. Once you have played the two measures for the intro, you simply finish with two more measures of the A5 shuffle, as explained below.

Progression Concept:

The overall theme is a blues shuffle, so the progression is this:

- Verse – A, E, F#m, D
- Chorus – F#m, D, E (x2) then F#m, D7, E, A

The "A" Shuffle:

A5 A6 A5 A6

2 2 4 4 2 2 4 4
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

A standard A blues shuffle with nothing necessarily special. To add some SRV flavor you can add this in on the overall A shuffle. You'll hear where to add it as you practice the riff.

2
3 0
p

To be more technical I would recommend this if you want to add that little ditty in:

A5 A6 A5

2 2 4 4 2 2 2
0 0 0 0 0 0 3 0
p

The "E" Shuffle:

E5 E6 E5 E6

2 2 4 0 2 2 4 4
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

This is basically the same thing as the A shuffle, but this time it utilizes the E approach.

The "F#m" Shuffle:

F#m

2 2 2 2 0
2 2 2 2 0
4 4 4 4 0
2 2 4 2 4 0

This isn't really a shuffle at all, but I wanted to stay consistent. Here SRV plays a standard F#m (at least in the loosest of terms) and allows open notes to ring at the end before moving into the D shuffle.

The "D" Shuffle:

D5 D6 D5 D6

2 2 4 0 2 2 4 4
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

As you guessed it, there's nothing too special here. It's just a D shuffle in the same formation as the A and E shuffle. Easy huh?!

Intro:

Play into theme above, and then play the A shuffle TWICE before going into the verse below. Feel free to add the little ditty if you would like to make it more like the SRV original.

Quick Reference

♩ = 98 (♩ ♩ ♩)

N.C.

Gtrs I, II

0 3 0 1 2 0 0 1 0 3 0 3 | 0 2 2 0 1 0 3 0 3 0 3 0

H H H H P

A5 E5
Hello there, my old friend
F#m D5
Not so long ago, it was 'til the end
A5 E5
We played outside, in the pourin' rain
F#m D5
On our way up the road, we started over again

Chorus

F#m D5 E5
Livin' the dreams, of you on top
F#m D5 E5
My mind is achin', and Lord it won't stop
F#m D7 E5 A5
That's how it's happened, livin' life by the drop

A5 E5
Up and down that road, in our worn out shoes
F#m D5
Talkin' 'bout good things, and singin' the blues
A5 E5
You went your way, and I stayed behind
F#m D5
We both knew, it was just a matter of time

(Repeat Chorus)

A5 E5
No waste of time, we're allowed today
F#m D5
Churnin' up the past, there's no easier way
A5 E5
Times been between us, a means to an end
F#m (hold) D7 (hold)
God, it's good to be here, walkin' together my friend

F#m D-0-2-2h4-2--2h4p2-0

Livin' the dream!

F#m D-0-2-2h4-2--2h4p2-0

My mind stopped achin'!

F#m D7 E5 A5

That's how it's happened, livin' life by the drop

F#m D7 E5 A5

That's how it's happened, livin' life by the drop

F#m (hold) D7 (hold) E (hold) A (hold)

That's how it's happened, livin' life by the drop.