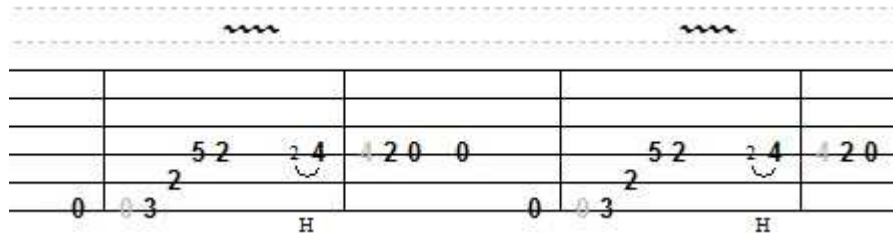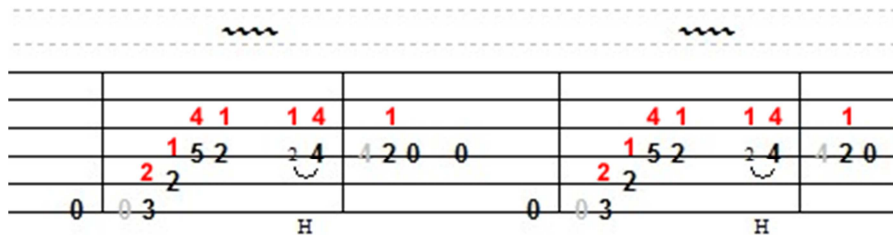Beat It – Michael Jackson

Tempo: 132 bpm

Tuning: ALL FLATS! Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, Bb, Eb (if you don't the pitch is even HARDER to sing with.)
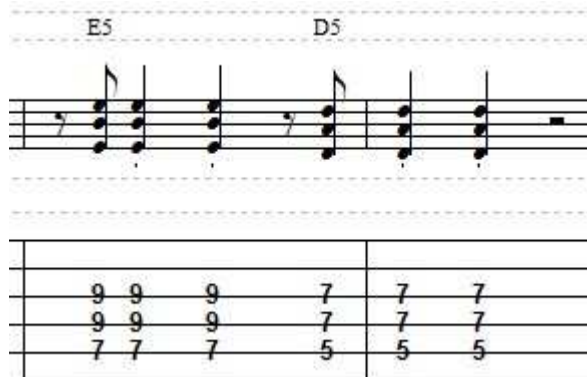
Intro Riff:

This riff looks tougher than it really is. Check out the fingerings:

The fingerings are in red. I am muting only to keep the timing. I am muting "XX" each time before going through the riff again. This riff is also played (in the case of this version) during the chorus. This song goes from major in the verse to minor in the chorus. It's VERY difficult to sing this song. Even Michael claimed it was the hardest song for him to sing.

Strumming:

For the overall verse progression it's a little tricky. Here we need an 8th rest to start. The easiest way to do this is to mimic the rest by lightly tapping the strings for the first beat, like this:

The pattern would basically be: X/rest, DD, D, X/rest, DD, D (this repeats)

For the chorus play this pattern: D, DU, DDDD (repeat)

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Chords Used:

E5 : x799xx
D5 : x577xx
C5 : x355xx
Em : 022000
D  : xx0232


E5                                  D5
They told him, "Don't you ever come around here.
        E5
Don't wanna see your face,
                D5
You better disappear."
      C5                              D5
The fires in their eyes and their words are really clear
   E5
So beat it
      D5
Just beat it.
E5
You better run
           D5
You better do what you can,
      E5
Don't wanna see no blood
             D5
Don't be a macho man
     C5
You wanna be tough
        D5
Better do what you can
      E5
So beat it
          D5
But you wanna be bad!

Chorus:

        Em
Just beat it (Beat it)
 D
Beat it (Beat it)
Em                    D
No one wants to be defeated
 Em                      D
Show em' how funky and strong is your fight
Em                     D
It doesn't matter who's wrong or right
       Em
Just beat it
       D
Just beat it
        Em
Just beat it
       D
Just beat it

E5
They're out to get you
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        D5
Better leave while you can
        E5
Don't wanna be a boy
            D5
You wanna be a man
    C5
You wanna stay alive
        D5
Better do what you can
    E5
So beat it
        D5
Just beat it
E5                              D5
You have to show them that you're really not scared
        E5
You're playin' with your life
                D5
This ain't no truth or dare
        C5                              D5
They'll kick you, then they'll beat you, then they'll tell you it's fair
    E5
So beat it
        D5
But you wanna be bad

Chorus:

    Em
Just beat it (Beat it)
 D
Beat it (Beat it)
Em              D
No one wants to be defeated
 Em                 D
Show em' how funky and strong is your fight
Em              D
It doesn't matter who's wrong or right, just…
D
Beat it (Beat it)
Em              D
No one wants to be defeated
```

Alternate ending: E5 – D5 (x2) C5 – D5 **THEN** E5 – D5 (x3) C5 – D5 – E5 (end on E5)

(end the song differently because the original you just can't end correctly.)