

Pancho's Lament - Tom Waits

Strumming Pattern: D, DU, DU

Runs:

For the most part there are only three 'real' runs in this song. What I mean by a run is a movement from one series of notes to another so that they are complimentary to the upcoming chord.

In this song, the first run is the G to B7. It goes like this:

G Major	B7
-----3-----	-----x---
-----3-----	-----0---
-----0-----	-----2---
-----0-----	-----1---
-----2-----	0--1--2--2---
-----3-----	-----3-----

The next run is from G5 to E. It goes like this:

G5	E
-----x-----	-----0---
-----x-----	-----0---
-----x-----	-----1---
-----5-----	-----2---
-----5-----	-----2---
-----3-----	3--2--1--0--0---

The last run is from C5 to D5. It goes like this:

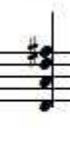
C5	D5
-----x-----	-----x---
-----x-----	-----x---
-----5-----	-----7---
-----5-----	-----7---
-----3-----	2--3--4--5---
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Note: The D* to G at the end of a few verses is just a 0-2 on the Low E string and doesn't actually 'connect' to the G chord at the end. The G chord just moves back into the first part of each new phrase.

The rest of the runs are really just open notes that are found within the chords. Waits has always played both piano and guitar very loosely, so just keep in mind that as long as you form the correct chords and pick out the notes found within the chords (almost always trying to strike the lower open string notes when possible) you can create this 'walky' feel to the song. I've placed an asterisk on the chord that moves INTO a bass run. In other words, on the G to B7 I have asterisked the G because right before you go into the next chord (both B7 and E) you will play the run BEFORE you get to the chord. Keep in mind that Tom Waits is VERY anti-structure. He's said it multiple times in interviews. I have played along with this song a hundred times and even though there might be a FEW spots where he walks or runs in a given part, the chords are at least on. Notice that at times in the verses the G does move into D at the beginning. An example would be the opening lines of Verse 2. He really just plays around the whole time, which is why this song might sound so challenging. The little subtle aspects he brings in are amazing.

Chords Used:

It is important to note that I added a "5" to many of these chords. This tells you it is a power chord position and should be played as I noted it so that you can perform the runs. You'll see how much more logical it is when you begin playing it. Unless otherwise noted, a "G" is just a G. A "D" is just a D, and so on. Because there are so many chord variations I am placing them on a tab staff instead.

G	D	B7	C5	D5	G5	E	A7	C	Em7	Am7
										
3	2	x				0	0	0	0	0
3	3	0				0	2	1	0	1
0	2	2	5	7		1	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	5	7	5	2	2	2	0	2
2	2	2	3	5	5	2	0	3	2	0
3		0	x	x	3	0		x	0	x

Verse 1:

G D G (G)* B7
 Well the stairs sound so lonely without you
 C5
 And I ain't made my bed in a week
 (C5)* D5 G5 (G5)* E
 Coffee stains on the paper I'm writing
 A7 D (D)* G
 And I'm too choked up inside to speak

Verse 2:

(G) (G)* B7
 And Yes, I know that our differences pulled us apart
 C5
 Never spoke a word heart to heart
 (C5)* D5 G5 (G5)* E
 And I'm glad.....that you're gone
 A7 D G D
 But I wish to the lord that you'd come home

Chorus:

(D)* G D G (G)* B7
 And I'm glad that you're gone
 C5
 Got the feeling so strong
 (C5) D5 G5 (G5)* E
 And I'm glad.....that you're gone
 A7 D G D ←-hold (D)*
 But I wish to the lord that you'd come home

Verse 3:

Well my guitar still plays your favorite song
though the strings have been outta tune for some time
Every time I strum a chord, I.....pray out to the lord
That you'd quit your honkey-tonkin' sing my song

Chorus:

And I'm glad that you're gone
Got the feeling so strong
Yes I'm glad.....that you're gone
But I wish to the lord that you'd come home

Verse 4:

So I'll throw another log onto the fire
And I'll admit I'm a lousy liar
As the coals die down and flicker, I hear that guitar picker
Play the song we used to sing so long ago

Chorus:

And I'm glad that you're gone
Got the feeling so strong
Yes I'm glad.....that you're gone
But I wish to the lord that you'd come home

And I'm glaaaaaad damn glad you're gone
Got the feeling so strong
Yes I'm glad.....that you're gone
But I wish to the lord that you'd come h o m e