

Cinnamon Girl – Neil Young

Tuning: DADGBD (double drop d)

Tempo: 104 bpm

Strumming Pattern: The “strumming” here isn’t really a strumming pattern at all. Instead you are just loosely picking out the notes found in the chords. There is no “wrong” way to do this. I chose to barely strike them because this time I am using distortion. To be honest there is no “good” way for this to sound without some sort of distortion. At least that is my opinion.

Riff 1:

Musical notation for Riff 1. The top staff shows a sequence of chords: D7, G7, D7, G7, D7, G7, D7, G7, D7, G7. The bottom staff shows the fretting: 3 2 0 3 5 5.

The part above is played three times before ending “Riff 1.” The ending of riff 1 is below:

Musical notation for the ending of Riff 1. The top staff shows a sequence of chords: D7, G7, D7, G7, D7, G7, D7, G7, D7, G7. The bottom staff shows the fretting: 3 2 0 3 3 2.

You’ll see that it is mostly the same thing, but to end this riff you simply don’t play the fifth fret note on the Low E (tuned to D). Instead, just let it ride out until you reach the verse.

Riff 2:

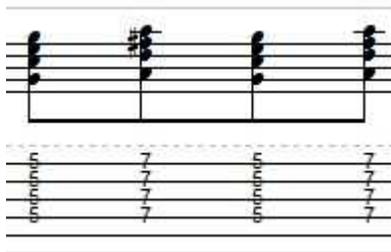
Musical notation for Riff 2. The top staff shows a sequence of chords: D7, G7, D7, G7, D7, G7, D7, G7, D7, G7. The bottom staff shows the fretting: 3 2 0 3 5 5.

with a....cinnamon girl.

While this is a little confusing at first, I added the lyrics to give you an idea of how to play it. In the case of both riff 1 and riff 2 the note values are correct. The open notes in riff 2 are played during the “with a...” and then the third fret notes are played during the first part of “cinna...” while the fifth frets end the word with “...mon.” After that, you play the open part again and immediately go into the ending part of Riff 1 with the seventh fret notes as you did before. Then just continue the same “feel” of the first riff in the second riff with the walk from 3-2-0 on the A string, followed by the walk of 3 – 5 on the Low E string (tuned to D). After you do that, go back to riff 1 and play it once through, but it would be “part 2” of riff 1. In other words, don’t play the fifth fret notes because you’ll be going back to another verse.

Riff 3:

This is actually very easy. You basically end the song with this, and there’s nothing hard about it at all:

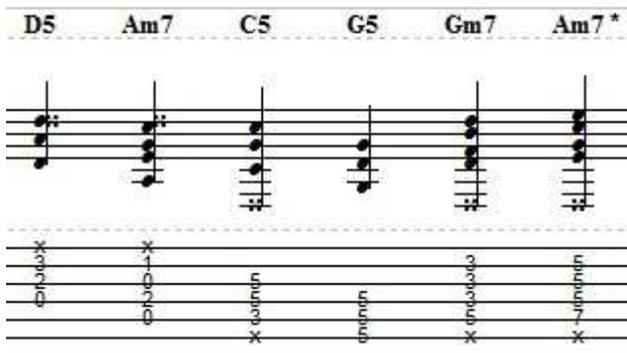


It’s just the same thing as the beginning of riff 1 but you end on the seventh fret notes. You can let it ring or just stop it completely.

Chords Used:

Important! Keep in mind that the song is tuned to D-A-D-G-B-D so some of the notes used are not the same as our standard tuning!

Here is the tablature for the chords that are used in the verse. Don’t pay attention to the note values here. This is just a guide to the chords.



D5: I labeled it that because the high E string is tuned to D, so you DO NOT finger it as a D Major chord.

Am7: You don’t use the Low E string (tuned to D) so there is no change in this chord. Just try not to strike the high E string (tuned to D). This is the “open” Am7.

C5: This IS a “genuine” (x355xx) C5 so there’s nothing special here.

G5: This is *NOT* a “genuine” (355xxx) G5 because the Low E string is tuned to D. In other words, we can’t play our standard G5 in this tuning. Instead, we play it like this: 555xxx

The reason: We have tuned the Low E (and high E) to “double drop D” so basically the notes all shift.

Since our original order with a **standard E string** are:

Fret	zero	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Note	E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A	A#/Bb	B	C....

We must realize that now the notes are moved to a HIGHER space on the fretboard, like this:

Fret	zero	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Note	D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A	A#/Bb

Follow me here? The G root note is now on the fifth fret instead of the third fret. Since the A string and D string never changed in terms of tuning, we alter our fingers to reflect the NEW note area on the E string (tuned to D) instead.

One last word: There is a Gm7 and an Am7 at the very end during the weird bridge part. You’ll see the chords above, and if you simply don’t play the Low E string (tuned to D) you use the same formation as the standard Gm7 and Am7. Notice that I placed an asterisk on the Am7 that is the barred version. This is only played at the end.

Intro: Riff 1

D5 Am7
I wanna live with a cinnamon girl...
C5 G5
I could be happy, the rest of my life...
 (Riff 2) (Riff 1 – second part)
with a cinnamon girl.
D5 Am7
A dreamer of pictures, I run in the night...
C5 G5
You see us together, chasing the moonlight...
 (Riff 2) (Riff 1 – second part)
my cinnamon girl.
D5 Am7
Ten silver saxes, a bass with a bow...

C5 G5
The drummer relaxes and waits between shows...

(Riff 2) (Riff 1 – second part)
for his cinnamon girl.

D5 Am7
A dreamer of pictures, I run in the night...

C5 G5
You see us together, chasing the moonlight...
(Riff 2) (Riff 1 – first part – but only ONCE)
my cinnamon girl.

C5
Ma send me money now, I'm gonna make it somehow

Gm7 Am7*
I need another chance, you see your baby loves to dance, yeah...yeah...yeah.

(Riff 1 x3 then Riff 3 to end)