

Quick Notes: "Paint It Black" by Rolling Stones

Tempo: 142 bpm

To eliminate ANY confusion, there are a few things that will help you here.

- The only chords that are really in the song are Em, B, D, G, and A. The PDF of the full score will not reflect these for a reason. The reason is due to the capo relativity. So...
 - when you see a Dm in the PDF, it's the shape of the Dm chord, but the actual tone produced is Em.
 - when you see a C in the PDF, it's the shape of the C chord, but the actual tone produced is D.
 - when you see an F in the PDF, it's the shape of an F chord, but the actual tone produced is G.
 - when you see an A in the PDF, it's the shape of an A chord, but the actual tone produced is B.

What this means, in a nutshell, is this:

Ron Wood played the song in standard tuning without a capo. So, the main progression during the verse for HIM is just Em – B.

The bridge is the only other part of the song. During that, he played this progression:

Em – D – G – D – Em | Em – D – G – D – A – B

Keith Richards played the song in standard tuning WITH a capo on the second fret. So, the main progression during the verse for HIM would be Dm – A. However, Richards, for our purpose in playing the song, is playing the guitar "as a sitar" instead. So, he's playing that super famous little riff.

During the bridge, Richards would be playing the progression of:

Dm – C – F – C – Dm | Dm – C – F – C – G – A

Look above at Ron's part and you can see the relation.

The capo makes things a bit confusing, but if you play Keith's part, you're really just playing the first little intro part (the flamenco thing) and then the sitar part during the verse.

When you reach the bridge, you will probably want to omit the FIRST Dm chord as it's a pain to get to from the sitar part. However, the rest of the bridge progression is all pretty self-explanatory.

Ron's part is quite literally rhythmic and has already been plotted from above. You can play Ron's part either in (mostly) open chord format or you can use barre chords. I've given you the options below:

Em = 022000 | x79987
B = x2444x | 799877
D = xx0232 | x5777x
G = 320033 | 355433
A = x02220 | 577655

If you want to strum out Keith's part, the bridge is the only place where anything is truly strummed. However, the verse, if you don't play the sitar part, is just Dm – A. Here are the chords as Keith would play them with respect to the capo. (If the chord is shown from Wood's part I didn't duplicate it.)

Dm = xx0231
 C = x32010
 F = 133211

Now to the tab!

The above is the “intro 1” part, which is really one of those kinds of guitar parts where there's only one way to finger them. The same applies to the main verse theme:

This repeats during the verse. There's no real WRONG way to finger this, but I suspect you'll spend a bit of time playing this along with the backing track and realize that one or two fingers will work. Just remember to get that 5/3 legato slide (the first one) down pretty stinkin' fast or everything gets a bit “off” in your playing.

The main reason I did such an extensive lesson series on this is because the song itself is MUCH more of a “play and learn” song. It's hard to type out how this song works, so hopefully the videos (although rather long) give you some assistance in getting through it. It's a pretty simple song, and nothing really needs to be labeled, but I would highly suggest to work on Ron's part if you get troubled with the overall arrangement. Again – if you play Keith's sitar part and then try to play the Dm at the beginning of the bridge, it might be hard. It was for me. Instead, just either strike that open D note or sneak through that Dm entirely and start on either the C (shape) or the F (shape) and it'll be just fine.