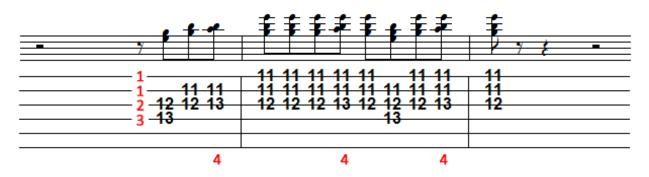
Quick Notes on "Surfin' USA" by The Beach Boys Tempo: 160 bpm

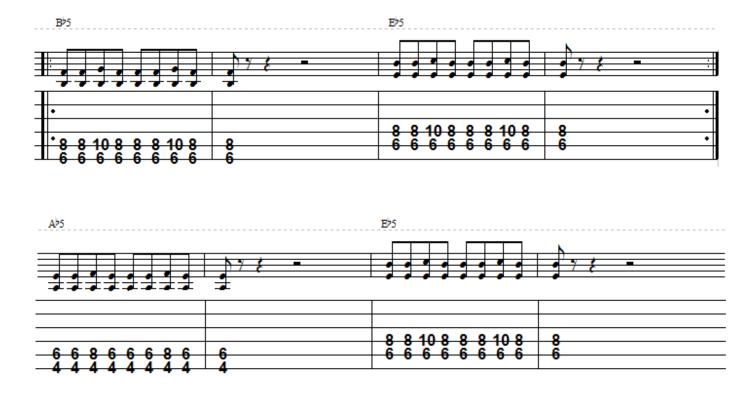
There are aspects of this song that make it rather easy – and then there are some seriously hard aspects of it. Before you begin your study of this song, I HIGHLY recommend practicing everything at a MUCH slower tempo. I am providing you with a series of slower tempo click tracks AND the full backing track to help you along. I am pretty darn sure that the hardest part of this song is the walking verse theme.

First, here's the intro with the associated (recommended) fingerings:

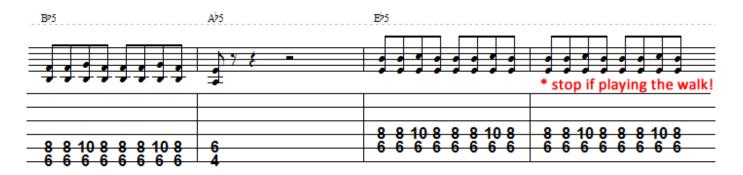


While this might be a bit challenging, the idea here is pretty simple. It's the basic arrangement of an E style Eb (D#) barre chord. I include the note values in this installment because those are pretty important as you practice – and I don't usually say that. The formation stays the same, with your 4th finger catching those 13th fret notes. The video will help you there.

When you begin the shuffle, fingerings shouldn't be an issue. It's your standard formation there, so I'll just include the tab. I WILL make a quick point about a spot in the shuffle that you might need to understand.

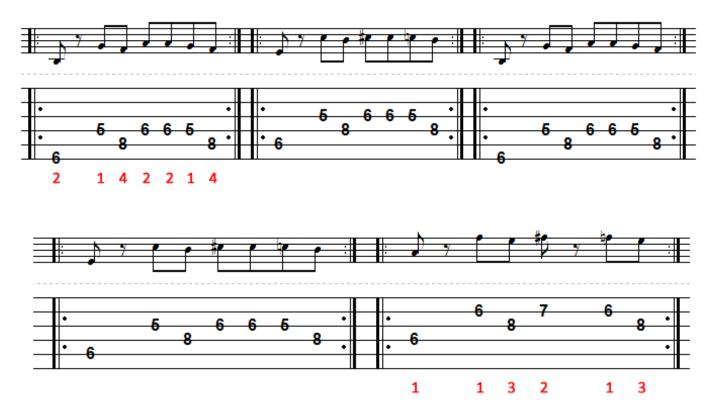


So far so good, right? Well, check out the next tab:



IF you plan on playing the walking verse theme part, I recommend stopping after one "shuffle" of Eb5. There are actually 2 guitars in this song, so that's why. The "lead" guitar stops after the first eight 8th note shuffle run above. This gives you enough time (barely – it's flippin' fast) to get into position for the dreaded verse theme.

Here is how I would play it (I condensed this to avoid a billion lines of tab, but you got the PDF if you have issues with repeat signs. The fingersing are absolutely the same throughout until the last part of the verse theme, but don't let that fool you – it's still pretty tough.



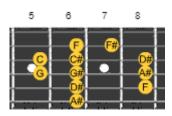
It's ALL about those note values here. Up until you reach the final measure it's organized in a way where you pluck the first "6" and then rest. You then play through in standard eighth note fashion. In other words, you're still playing "eight" 8th notes. At the end, you STILL play "eight" 8th notes, but there's a rest both after the first "6" and after you strike the "7" - so the last two notes in the final measure don't run together from the "7" as they did in the previous 6-6-5-8 run.

I know, right? It's pretty tough.

Now, I mentioned in the video that I would show you a way to practice this using a different approach. What I am about to show you is NOT intended to replace the walking verse theme - but it involves using a capo to get familiar with the actual pattern taking place.

If you put a capo on the fifth fret, you can then use IT as your anchor point. However, don't use your 1st finger AT ALL. Cut it off. Ok don't cut it off. But don't use it. Instead, use the same fingerings as previously provided. When you get to a "5" in the tab, the capo will take care of that for you, so you would technically play it as an "open" string.

Disclaimer: this MIGHT be harder to you, so if it is, don't dwell on it. Some people have no issues getting their fingers to cooperate while others do. I don't do so well thinking in terms of scale patterns, but I am providing you a basic fretboard diagram below that will show you what's going on.



The result here is Eb (D#) Bebop Minor (which is a fancy name meaning some 'out-of-the-box' standard scale notes)

Other than what is provided here, it's just a matter of getting acquainted with the progression as a whole and filling in any blanks you might want to incorporate into the backing track that is provided.

For the backing track, you'll want to come in right after the 7th beat. So, that means "on the 8" if you count like I do. (My fellow drumming community would hate me for it, but that's how I think)

You'll be right on if the last thing you play in the intro is ON the "1" beat. The backing track will make it obvious. From there on, it's up to you :)

If I have any final words here, it would be to start at a MUCH slower tempo. Since the song is at 160 bpm, I would almost consider practicing it at half-speed first (80 bpm) and then at about 120 bpm. Those are the ones I will supply you with.