

# Quick Notes on “Jack and Diane” - John Mellencamp

Tempo: 104 bpm

Recommended practice tempo: 70 – 80 bpm

A few VERY important things about this song:

1. It's all about rather specific rhythm. If you follow the tab you'll be fine, but I'll give you a few pointers as well as the fingerings you might want to use.
2. If you want to get that “swell” (those open D string notes) down JUST right, do what I did in the demo video. Go back and watch closely and KEEP a steady eighth note rhythm going on that string, but just dampen it a bit. While the swell uses 16<sup>th</sup> notes, it'll help you count the eighth rest at the very beginning. You might not need to do that if you can time it, but I can time it and still do it anyway. The best way to get that 16<sup>th</sup> note D string feel is to alternate pick (DUDU for the first one) and DUDUDU for the second one.

Here's the intro with the fingerings I recommend:

A  
E/A  
A E/A D/A

5 5 6 7 0  
4 6 4 6 0  
5 4 6 4 0  
0 0 0 0

1 2 3  
1 2 3  
1 2 3  
1 2 3

The intro part above is played three times, then you move into the verse.

The Verse:

5 7 4 4 4 4 2 2 4 4 5 4 x x 5 7 4 4 4 4 x x 2 4 5 5 5 5 x x  
5 5 5 5 5 5 3 3 5 5 5 5 x x 5 5 5 5 5 5 x x 3 5 5 5 5 5 x x  
6 6 4 4 4 4 2 2 4 4 4 4 x x 6 6 4 4 4 4 x x 2 4 6 6 6 6 x x

1 4 1  
1 1 2 1  
2 2 1  
3 2 1  
1 4 1  
1 1 2 1  
2 2 1  
1 1 2

Be sure you notice the shapes. It's not THAT bad, but it's not all that easy either. If you can keep the “D” shape in mind, you'll find it a bit easier.

The interlude:

The image shows a musical score for an interlude. At the top is a staff of music with notes and rests. Below the staff is a guitar chord diagram with six strings. The diagram is divided into four measures. The first measure has a *tr.* (trill) marking above it. The second measure has a *sl.* (slide) marking above it. The third measure has a *sl.* (slide) marking above it. The fourth measure has a *sl.* (slide) marking above it. Below the diagram are three columns of red fingering numbers for strings 1, 2, and 3. The first column has  $\begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 & 1 & 3 \end{matrix}$ . The second column has  $\begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 & 1 & 3 \end{matrix}$ . The third column has  $\begin{matrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{matrix}$ .

The hardest part about the interlude, at least to me, is that first 3/2/4 part (from high to low) because it just doesn't feel natural to me. That's strange, as it's really just a D Major chord shape. However, I DO recommend making sure you apply the D string notes as shown. You'll want to fake it, but those bass notes (making these chords split chords) are actually rather important to get in the progression.

I DID include a 70 and 80 bpm straight beat in the zip download because this one – even though it's a small concept, packs a pretty big punch!