

Quick Notes: "Start Me Up" by The Rolling Stones

Tempo: 124 bpm (official)

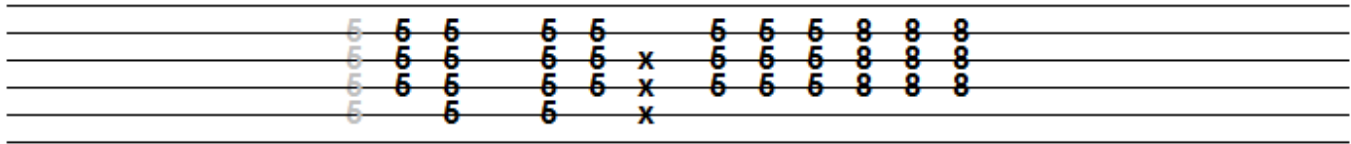
Note: The tempo that you will be playing along with is actually a LIVE version. Something neat that folks might not know about The Rolling Stones is that they record their performances through separate tracks for them to listen back and evaluate what they played (or didn't play) for future reference. This is, in part, due to how Keith likes to improvise on stage. He claimed that he couldn't remember what he played, so that's a great solution! This backing track includes drums, vocals, bass, and even a little feedback from the drum mics. If nothing else it's neat to hear all that stuff. It's in open G (D, G, **D, G, B**, D) but if you're careful you can avoid having to detune as all the real action takes place on the standard tuned strings anyway (**D, G, B**) – I wouldn't though. Open G is FUN.

Here's the main intro and overall verse theme:

Remember that your 1st finger is your anchor point, with your 2nd finger covering any of the B string notes and your 3rd finger covering any D string notes. The chorus can be played like this:

This is repeated a few times, and then you can play this:

After that, you end the main chorus theme with the tab below:



You can actually simplify the chorus as well, completely bypassing any of the 4/5 and 8/7 slides, if you want. Or, you can stick to just ONE of the changes. It works either way. Gotta love The Stones.

A few more points:

The main rhythm should be DOWN strummed first, then UP strummed. Finish that up with a down strum. That will give you that direct and rather raw overdriving point of the riff. Stacatto the heck out of it and it'll sound much more like Keith.

The full PDF I am giving you IS a bit different. It's based off the studio version, but what I've prepared in the tabs above will (1) get you through the song and (2) simplify the multiple guitar overlay aspect of the studio version. This is based on how I've always played it through watching Keith (not listening) and I think it's the better way of playing this. It's designed around 1 overall guitar and makes use of the combined elements of the studio version. That's NOT to take away from Ron Wood. He never gets enough credit. Any actual "lead" you hear in this song or see on the PDF is Wood. It's just not really riffy or necessary to get the overall song down.