#### **EASY AND FUN CAMPFIRE SONGS**

Everyone loves to play songs and below is a list of easy and fun popular song suggestions. These songs and are easy to play with just one guitar, a few chords, and some easy strumming patterns. They sound great to strum on the front porch, jamming with your friends, or strumming around the campfire.

So many popular songs are built from the same handful of open position chords like A, Am, C, D, Dm, E, F, and G. A basic knowledge of just nine or ten open position chords and a few easy strum patterns will get you playing thousands and thousands of tunes. Then add a bar chord or two and you can play probably 90% of all the songs ever recorded.

For this campfire song list think in the midset of single acoustic guitar and simple stripped down songs, and you want to put your own spin on these. If the recorded version starts off arpeggiated and you don't want to play it that way, try a strumming version with easy  $8^{th}$  note strum patterns like d/d/u/u/d/u or d/u/d/u/u/d/u.

Continue to use songs as vehicles to help propel your playing to the next level. Use a song as a vehicle to practice your chord changes, work on your strumming, and to work on your rhythm and timing.

Also, remember to keep pushing yourself on guitar by continually challenging yourself with harder chord changes, harder rhythms, and more challenging songs. Keep pushing yourself on your guitar and keep tackling challenging goals as that is how you will get your playing to the Next Level!

Enjoy the below song list and feel free to email me any questions, Best of luck....and, as always......rock on!

David Taub

www.nextlevelguitar.com
thenextlevelguitar@yahoo.com

## ALL OPEN CHORD SONG VERSIONS

- **-Pearl Jam "Last Kiss"** Originally performed by Wayne Cochran and covered by Pearl Jam this teen tradgedy song can be nailed for solo acoustic guitar with four basic open chords and a simple eighth note strum pattern, super easy and fun! Get your friends going with the wah-ho-oo-oh-oo-oh part at the end!
- -Green Day "Good Riddance, (Time of your Life)" you can play a strumming version of this song with just four basic open chords and a simple eighth note strum pattern have fun with it!
- **-The Beatles "Hey Jude"** this is a very easy song to play with just 6 basic open chords and a repeated verse and chorus sections. You can even try a version with just four downstrokes on each chord at first and then add more complex strum patterns once you get rolling with it have fun!
- **-The Beatles "Let It Be"** originally recorded in the key of C but if you change the key from C to G, then you can play a version of this classic with just four easy open chords and you wont need that dreaded "F" chord.
- **-The Beatles** "**Eleanor Rigby**" believe it or not you can do a stripped down solo acoustic version of this song with just four open chords.
- **-Guns & Roses** "Patience" can you whistle? Originally recorded in Eb tuning, all strings down a half step, but you can play it in standard tuning. Basically five open position chords and an easy strum pattern will get you strumming a version of this song. There is an "F" chord at the very end in the outro but you can leave that very end out if you are not ready to tackle that chord as yet. Enjoy and have fun!

- **-The Eagles "Take It Easy"** written by Jackson Browne and Glenn Frey and originally recorded by The Eagles. Basically you can play a killer strumming solo acoustic version with just five or six open position chords. It's a lot of fun to play as many Eagles songs transcribe very well to solo acoustic guitar try a few.
- **-Jimmy Buffet** "Margaritaville" this classic fun song can be strummed acoustically with just five open position chords and a simple eighth note feel strum pattern. Super fun to play and everyone knows all the words. This song is about a drink that Buffet discovered in Austin, Texas.
- **-Oasis** "Wonderwall" five open position chords and some easy fingerings will nail down an acoustic version of this popular tune. Original recorded version played with a capo at the 2nd fret but you can set the capo anywhere to match your vocal range.
- **-Poison** "Every Rose Has Its Thorn" this 80s power ballad is super easy song to play with basically four open position chords that will get you strumming an acoustic solo version of this tune.
- -America "Horse With No Name" originally recorded by the band America. One of the easiest songs to play once you get the feel of the rhythm pattern. Same two open chords repeat through the entire song.
- **-Foo Fighters** "**Times Like These**" four chords and four chord embellishments will get you playing a version of this fun tune on solo acoustic guitar. Listen carefully to the rhythm to dial in the feel.
- **-Don McLean** "American Pie" eight open position chords will have you strumming this epic tune written about the 1959 plane crash that killed Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and the Big Bopper, (the day the music died). The song tells the story about so many events from the 60s and 70s check out the lyrics.
- **-Bob Dylan "Knocking On Heavens Door"** originally written by Bob Dylan and covered by tons of other artists a version of this tune can be nailed down with four open position chords repeated through the entire tune!
- -Bob Seager "Turn The Page" basically five open position chords and a slow strum will get you this one.
- -Matchbox 20 "Push" another song that sounds great stripped down for solo acoustic guitar. Just four basic open position chords and a few embellishments will get you playing a version of this one rock it out!
- **-Neil Young** "**Heart of Gold**" four open position chords and easy strumming will nail down a version of this classic tune. Original version by Young features backup vocals by James Taylor and Linda Ronstadt.
- **-John Denver "Take Me Home Country Roads"** basically five open position chords will get you strumming a version of this classic tune.
- **-James Blunt "You're Beautiful"** this mega pop hit can be played with basically five open position chords. Original version played with a capo at the 8<sup>th</sup> fret but you can set the capo anywhere to match your vocal range.
- **-Joan Osborne** "One of Us" Origianlly written by Eric Bazilian of The Hooters and recorded by Joan Osborne. Fun song to play that can be had with just four open position chords. Joan's recorded version played with a capo at the 2nd fret but you can set the capo anywhere to match your vocal range.
- **-Outkast** "**Hey Ya"-** four open position chords throughout the entire song can nail down an acoustic interpretation of this tune. If you want to listen and be inspired by an acoustic version of this smash hit song that will send chills down your spine listen to the version by Obadiah Parker, (Mat Weddle), on YouTube amazing! Shows you how you can strip down songs and make them your own and play them in an acoustic solo or campfire fashion take notes from Mat as his rendition is amazing.

- **-Simon & Garfunkel "Mrs. Robinson"** written by Paul Simon. Six open poistion chords will get you playing a version of this classic tune.
- **-Bruce Springsteen** "**Atlantic City**" many Springsteen songs translate well to solo acoustic guitar. The man can write great songs with great lyrics, this one can be played with just four open position chords. Break up the strum patterns as the chords change fast in this one enjoy!
- **-The Cranberries** "**Zombie**" you can do a solo acosutic version of this tune with just four open position chords. Basically its just the same four chords repeated through the entire song fun to play!
- **-Skid Row** "I Remember You" sounds great on acoustic and six open position chords will have you playing a fun solo acoustic version of this 80s power ballad. However, good luck singing it as this song is crazy high vocally so try dropping it down an octave or in a different key if you dare to sing along.
- -Alice in Chains "Nutshell" leave out the lead guitar and jam this killer tune using just four open position chords. Listen carefully to nail down the rhythm and have fun with it!
- -Ani DiFranco "Letter To A John" four open position chords repeat through entire song. Original version in Drop D tuning, (just drop low E string one whole step to D), and played with a capo at the 2<sup>nd</sup> fret.
- **-Howie Day** "Collide" Easy song to play with just four open position chords and some bouncing on the low root notes while strumming. The song was originally recorded with a capo at the 4<sup>th</sup> fret but you can capo up anywhere to match your vocal range.
- **-Third Eye Blind** "**How's It Gonna Be**" Basically four open position chords will get you strumming a version of this tune about lost love. There is a strong melodic lick that runs through the song that you can experiment with it once you get down the main rhythms. The song was originally recorded with a capo at the 3rd fret but you can capo up anywhere to match your vocal range.
- **-Tom Petty "Mary Jane's Last Dance"** basically five open position chords and you will be strumming a version of this classic tune. There is some trademark rhythmic chucking and hammering-on to chords but you can play a basic version at first then embellish as you go along!
- **-The Black Crowes "She Talks To Angels"** Song originally recorded in Open E Tuning, E B E G# B E. And you need that tuning to get the tone of this tune. Fairly easy to play with just a few open chords once you get the rhythms down a fun one to challenge yourself with.

# "F" CHORD NEEDED - all others open chords

- -Counting Crows "Mr. Jones" this is a fun one to perform a version of on solo acoustic guitar. This was the bands first radio smash hit. Four open position chords plus the "F" chord will nail this one fun, FUN!
- **-Pink Floyd** "Mother" many Floyd tunes sound killer when stripped down and arranged for solo acoustic guitar. This one is fairly easy once you feel out the varied time signature rhythms and vocals. Basically three open position chords and the "F" chord will get you playing a version of this tune about being raised by an overprotectant parent.
- **-Johnny Cash** "Hurt" originally written by Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails and was covered by Johnny Cash. Was one of Johnny Cash's last hit releases before his death. Four open position chords and the "F" chord will nail a version of this one.

- **-The Animals "House Of The Rising Sun"** classic tune that is easy to strum and play with just four basic open position chords plus the "F" chord. Original version arpegiates the chords but strumming this one is easy.
- -Cat Stevens "Wild World" Basically six open position chords and the F chord will nail a version of this tune. Fun to play and you can add in some other chord embellishments if you like once you get the tune down.
- **-"What AWonderful World"** first recorded by Louis Armstrong. With six easy open position chords and one bar chord you can nail a super fun acoustic strumming version of this classic tune.
- **-Train "Drops of Jupiter (Tell Me)"** this song is a lot of fun to play and basically five open position chords and the "F" chord will get you strumming a solo acoustic version of this popular tune.
- -Alice in Chains "Down in a Hole" so many AIC tunes translate well to acoustic guitar strumming versions. Here five basic open chords and the "F" chord will do the job on this dark minor key tune have fun!
- -Audioslave "I Am The Highway" five basic open position chords and the "F" chord will get you through an acoustic version of this tune. Many Chris Cornell, Soundgarden, and Audioslave songs translate well to solo acoustic pieces. Check out some of his other tunes and how he can translate and strip down a killer full band song to a beautiful acoustic solo piece– great stuff!
- -The Beatles "You've Got To Hide Your Love Away" Five open position chords, the "F" chord, and a little chord embellishing will get you a version of this tune in a solo acoustic format enjoy!
- **-The Red Hot Chili Peppers "Californication"** four open position chords played with one lick in between and the "F" chord will get you playing a version of this tune about the dark side of Hollywood.
- Roberta Flack "Killing Me Softly With His Song" composed by Charles Fox this was a number one smash hit performed by Roberta Flack and covered by many including the hip-hop band the Fugees. Basically seven open position chords and the "F" chord will nail down a solo acoustic version of this song.
- **-Soul Asylum "Runaway Train"** who can forget the music video with the pictures of missing kids shown throughout the song. Fun song to play solo acoustically and four open position chords and the "F" chord will get you rocking a version of this popular tune.
- **-Five For Fighting "Superman (Its Not Easy)"** Basically five open chords and the "F" chord can get your playing this pretty song on solo acoustic guitar. Mainly piano arranged for guitar.
- -Creedence Clearwater Revival, CCR "Have You Ever Seen The Rain" basically six open position chords, a few embellishments, and the "F" chord will have you playing this classic tune. Add in a few licks once you have the main parts nailed down.
- **-The Shins "New Slang"** three open chords and the "F" chord will get you strumming an acoustic version of this fun song that was featured on the soundtrack of the movie "Garden State". Quick changes make this a fun one to work on your chord changing skills.
- -Coldplay "Fix You" Basically six open position chords and the "F" chord will get you this pretty tune. Original version played with a capo at the 3rd fret, but you can capo it up at a fret that best matches your vocal range. Many Coldplay songs translate well to solo acoustic tunes try a few.

### ONE BAR CHORD NEEDED SONG VERSIONS

- **-Jason Mraz** "Im Yours" basically almost the whole song is just a repeated four chord progression with one bar chord needed. Just a few other chords needed for the vocal ad-lib part. Original version played with a capo at the  $2^{nd}$  fret, but you can capo it up at a fret that best matches your vocal range.
- -Coldplay "Yellow" Basically three open position chords which get embellished, and one bar chord will get you this tune. Original version played with a capo at the 2nd fret, but you can capo it up at a fret that best matches your vocal range. Many Coldplay songs translate well to solo acoustic tunes.
- -Green Day "Boulevard Of Broken Dreams" This is a fun song to play and its basically seven open position chords and one bar chord can get you playing this tune on solo acosutic guitar. Enjoy and rock it out!
- **-Nirvana** "**Polly**" four open position chords and one bar chord will get your strumming a solo acoustic Nirvana inspired version of this fun tune. Add some chucking for a cool rhythmic feel.
- **-The Eagles "Peaceful Easy Feeling"** recorded by The Eagles and written by Jack Tempchin. Basically four open chords and one bar chord will get you strumming a version of this tune. Work out the quick change slowly between the 7<sup>th</sup> chord and bar chord, and it will come with time.
- **-The Eagles "Lyin' Eyes"** basically six open position chords and one bar chord will get you strumming this tune. It's a lot of fun to play as many Eagles songs transcribe very well to solo acoustic strumming guitar.
- **-Peter Gabriel** "In your Eyes" Basically four open chords and one bar chord will get you playing a version of this tune. If you want to be inspired by a cool solo version check out Jeffrey Gaines on YouTube amazing! Shows you how you can strip down songs, make them your own, and play them in an acoustic solo fashion.
- **-Bob Dylan "Tangled Up In Blue"** many Dylan classics are fun and easy to play. This one can be nailed with just five open chords and one bar chord. The trick is getting that fast rhythm smooth you can do it!
- **-Pink Floyd** "**Brian Damage**" many Floyd tunes sound killer when stripped down and arranged for solo guitar. Eight open chords and one bar chord will get you playing a version of this tune about mental instability.
- **-Bob Seager "Against The Wind"** this one needs just five open position chords and one bar chord. Break up your strum patterns into parts for the faster changes but overall an easy and fun one to nail down.
- **-Lisa Loeb** "Stay, (I Missed You)" this was the debut hit single from Loeb which went on to be a number one hit. She was the first artist to ever have achieved a number one single in the United States while not signed to a recording contract. Four open chords and one bar chord can get you playing a version of this tune. Original version played with a capo at the 6th fret, but you can capo it up at a fret that best matches your vocal range.
- **-4 Non Blondes** "What's Up?" two open position chords and one bar chord is all you need to strum a cool version of this tune. A hit at any party as everyone knows and loves this tune!
- **-Radiohead** "**High & Dry**" basicaly three open position chords and one bar chord will get you strumming a solo acoustic version of this tune fun to play, enjoy!
- **-REM** "Man On The Moon" basically six open position chords and one bar chord will get you strumming a version of this tribute tune to Andy Kaufman. You just cant help but sing the incredibly catchy chorus.

- **-Tracy Chapman** "Baby Can I Hold You" basically seven open position chords and one bar chord will get you playing a version of this slow ballad fun song to jam.
- **-Jefferson Airplane** "White Rabbit" a fun solo acoustic version of this classic tune can be played with just five open positionchords and one bar chord. Get creative and have fun with it!
- -Dishwalla "Counting Blue Cars" four open chords and a bar chord will have you jamming a version.

### TWO OR MORE BAR CHORDS NEEDED SONG VERSIONS

- **-The Eagles "Hotel California"** five open chords and two bar chords will get you playing a strumming version of this mamouth hit tune. I bet you know the lyrics to some of this song, even if you think you don't I bet you do! The Eagles stated this song is their interpretation of the high life in Los Angeles, California.
- **-Nirvana "The Man Who Sold The World"** originally written by David Bowie and covered by many artists. Three open position chords and two bar chords will get you playing a solo acoustic Nirvana inspired version of this song. You can add the signature intro lick later once you nail down the rhythms.
- **-Nirvana** "**About A Girl**" This song appeared on Nirvana's debut album, Bleach. Five open position chords and three bar chords, (or power 5<sup>th</sup> chords), will get you strumming a version of this fun tune.
- **-Linkin Park** "**Numb**" this song sounds great played solo acoustic and you only need four open position chords and two bar chords to pull off a version, enjoy and get creative with it!
- -Coldplay "The Scientist" Basically six open position chords and two bars chord nails this tune. Original version played with a capo at the 3rd fret, but you can capo it up at a fret that best matches your vocal range. Many Coldplay songs translate well to solo acoustic tunes. Try a few and arrange the piano for guitar.
- -Natalie Imbruglia "Torn" originally written by Ednaswap and covered many times. It's killer tune to play solo acoustic. Just three basic open position chords and two bar chords will nail this one down Imbruglia style. Pay attention to the strumming to nail down the rhythmic feel of the tune.
- **-Alanis Morrisette** "**Head over Feet**" Basically five open position chords, two bar chords and the "F" chord with get you home on this tune. The main part of the song is just a simple four chord change.
- -Cake "I Will Survive" this disco anthem was originally recorded by Gloria Gaynor. You can do a great solo acoustic version like the band Cake covered with just five open position chords and two bar chords fun!
- **-Corey Hart "Never Surrender"** this 80s power ballad originally recorded by Canadian musician Corey Hart sounds great when played on solo acoustic guitar. Basically three open position chords and two bar chords will get you to nail down a version of this tune.
- -Gavin Rossdale "Love Remains The Same" basically four open position chords and two bar chords will get you strumming a version of this pretty tune.
- **-Pink** "Who Knew" three basic open position chords and two bar chords will get you playing a solo acoustic version of this pop hit.
- **-Journey "Don't Stop Believin"** this anthem rock power ballad can be played solo acoustic with just two open position chords and three bar chords. Its fun to play acoustically and you can even add those trademark bass notes between the chords once you get the changes down have fun!