Paperback Writer – The Beatles
C5: x355xx (and/or just a C, which is either x32010 or x35553) G: 355433 (or open G, which is 320033) G7: 353433 (or open G7, which is 320001)
Alternate Version includes:
Em7: 020100 (or 022030)
Strumming Pattern: I play this like: DD, UU, DU Tempo: My version is 165 bpm straight. The original is about 156 bpm.
Notes: As you'll hear in the video, I took a different approach to this song. The main reason is because I don't have the luxury of multiple vocals. However, this is a version you can play all on your own. The Em7 I make mention of at the beginning is NOT in my version. However, if you want to play it exactly as the song sounds vocally, I've included it at the bottom as an "alternate" version.
C5 G Paperbackpaperback writer!
G7 Dear Sir or Madam, will you read my book? It took me years to write, will you take a look It's based on a novel by a man named Lear, and I need a job so I wanna be a C5 G paperback writerpaperback writer!
G7 It's a dirty story of a dirty man, and his clinging wife doesn't understand His son is working for the Daily Mail, it's a steady job but he wants to be a C5 G paperback writerpaperback writer! C5 G Paperbackpaperback writer!
G7 It's a thousand pages, give or take a few. I'll be writing more in a week or two I can make it longer if you like the style, I can change it 'round and I want to be a C5 G paperback writerpaperback writer! C5 G Paperbackpaperback writer!
G7 If you really like it you can have the rights. It could make a million for you overnight If you must return it you can send it here, but I need a break and I want to be a C5 G paperback writerpaperback writer! (repeat this and end on G)

Alternate Version (with the Em7 chord to end the vocal intro)

Ok – in the live versions there are some "chords" being played, but keep in mind that technically there aren't any "real" chords during the voices intro. The intro and chorus part don't have any chords in the strict sense. But there must have been some initially as one can hear in the live versions. There the Beatles play the chords suggested below in order to have some orientation for the singers.

I know that's confusing to explain, but basically what I mean is that the band "needs" something to work with during the voices intro. So, what would happen live is a hint of notation that keeps everything together. This is the overall result of what is played while the voicings sing the intro. The reason I didn't include this in the song is it's not very friendly for a one-man band. However, if you want to try to decipher exactly how to do this, feel free. I just don't find that it works all that well. Another option would be to literally just sing a capella, but again – you'd need multiple voices to do so because each person singing bleeds into another person singing.

C G5 Am Em7 Paperback writer, writer, writer

(you would then go into the main theme as shown from above, which starts in G)