

Penny Lane – The Beatles

Tempo: the official tempo is about 115 bpm*

*I'm not playing this song with a beat track because I want you to clearly hear/see the mutes I applied during each break. These are important. I used myself as a metronome, so hopefully it's easier than trying to count the actual beats.

Capo – Fret 2 (if you want to play along)

Strumming Patterns

The overall verse theme is: D, DU (over and over) until otherwise noted with “8th notes...” which is just all downstrokes. This first happens with the Am as an example.

The chorus concept is: D, DU, UDU (over and over) – and what makes this a little tricky is the vocals. It's hard to hit that movement from E7 to G as one vocalist, but I did my best. This IS technically a key change, so it may take a little practice. Once you reach the SECOND C Major in the chorus start strumming all 8th notes and it will bring you back around to the verse rather easily.

Chords Used:

A: x02220
F#m: 244222
Bm: x24432
E7: 020100
Am: x02210
F: 133211
G: 320033
C: x32010

Basic Notes: During the breaks you'll see a countdown, which is my attempt to keep you in line with the overall progression.

A F#m Bm E7

In Penny Lane there is a barber showing photographs

A F#m Am (8th notes through to E7)

of ev'ry head he's had the pleasure to know

(Am) F E7 (E7)

And all the people that come and go stop and say hello.

A F#m Bm E7

On the corner is a banker with a motor car.

A F#m Am (8th notes through to E7)

The little children laugh at him behind his back.....

(Am) F E7 (E7)

And the banker never wears a "mac" in the pouring rain, very strange.

Chorus:

G Bm C
Penny Lane is in my ears and in my eyes.
G Bm C E7
Wet beneath the blue suburban skies. I sit and meanwhile.....

A F#m Bm E7
In Penny Lane there is a fireman with an hourglass.....
A F#m Am (8th notes through to E7)
And in his pocket is a portrait of the Queen....
(Am) F E7 (E7)
He likes to keep his fire engine clean, it's a clean machine.

(Play basic theme here of A – F#m – Bm – E7 | A – F#m – Am (hold as in verse) – F – E7)

Chorus:

G Bm C
Penny Lane is in my ears and in my eyes.
G Bm C E7
.....full of fish and finger pies in summer meanwhile.

A F#m Bm E7
Behind the shelter in the middle of the roundabout
A F#m Am (8th notes through to E7)
The pretty nurse is selling poppies from a tray...
(Am) F E7 (E7)
And though she feels as if she's in a play, she is anyway!
A F#m Bm E7
In Penny Lane the barber shaves another customer.
A F#m Am (8th notes through to E7)
We see the banker sitting, waiting for a trend....
F E7 (E7)
And then the fireman rushes in from the pouring rain, very strange!

Chorus:

G Bm C
Penny Lane is in my ears and in my eyes.
G Bm C E7 A
Wet beneath the blue suburban skies. I sit and meanwhile...Penny Lane!