

# House of the Rising Sun by The Animals

## Chords needed

```

E ---0---0---2---1---0---  ---0---
B ---1---1---3---1---0---  ---1---
G ---2---0---2---2---1---  ---2---
D ---2---2---0---3---2---  ---3---
A ---0---3-----2-----  -----
E -----0-----  -----
      Am   C   D   F   E       F
  
```

If the F gives you a hard time,  
 <== use this 3-finger version  
 (leave high-E string open).

## Song structure

Here's the chord progressions used for the entire song. Don't feel overwhelmed – most of this is one single pattern (Am-C-D-F) that is used in the intro and twice in the verse. The only other chords you need to remember is an E-major, which is very similar shape-wise to an A-minor. Use these chords for each verse in the song. Once you know this structure, you can decide to either strum along, use fingerpicking, or use arpeggios like The Animals do.

```

INTRO  Am   C   D   F
        Am   E   Am  E

VERSE "There is a house in New Orleans..."
        Am   C   D   F

        "They call the rising sun..."
        Am   C   E   E

        "It's been the ruin of many..."
        Am   C   D   F

        "And God, I know I'm one"
        Am   E   Am  E
  
```

## How to play the arpeggios

Here's a simple way to approach the arpeggio sound you hear in The Animals version of the song. Quite simply, during the first 3 beats of each 6-beat measure, play the lowest 3 notes of the chords you're on with downstrums. For the final 3 notes, play the highest three strings (starting with the thinnest) using upstrums. Here's the tab for the first 4 chords – use this same style for all other chords.

v = downstrum      ^ = upstrum

```

E -----0-----  -----0-----  -----2-----  -----1-----
B -----1-----  -----1-----  -----3---3-----  -----1---1-----
G -----2---2---  -----0---0---  -----2-----2---  -----2-----2---
D -----2-----  -----2-----  -----0-----  -----3-----  etc
A ---0-----  ---3-----  -----  -----
E -----  -----  -----  -----
      v v v ^ ^ ^          v v v ^ ^ ^          v v v ^ ^ ^          v v v ^ ^ ^
      Am                   C                   D                   F
  
```

To truly capture the sound of The Animals version, you'll need to start with this approach – but use a smooth downstrum "rake" of the strings between the 2nd and 3rd beats of the measure, after you start with the low bass note. Head's up, this can be tricky! Start with what's above, take it slow, and slowly work on the "rake" technique while keeping in time. See my video lesson for reference and a demonstration.

**Lyrics w/ chords**

## INTRO

Am C D F      Am E Am E

## VERSE

Am C D F Am C E  
 There is a house in New Orleans... they call the Rising Sun  
 Am C D F Am E Am E  
 And it's been the ruin of many a poor boy... and God I know I'm one

[ play intro x1 between each verse ]  
 [ use same chord progression for each verse ]

My mother was a tailor... she sewed my new bluejeans  
 My father was a gambling man... down in New Orleans

Now the only thing a gambler needs... is a suitcase and trunk  
 And the only time he's satisfied... is when he's on, a drunk

Oh mother tell your children... not to do what I have done  
 Spend your lives in sin and misery... in the House of the Rising Sun

Well, I got one foot on the platform... the other foot on the train  
 I'm going back to New Orleans... to wear that ball and chain

Well, there is a house in New Orleans... they call the Rising Sun  
 And it's been the ruin of many a poor boy... and God I know I'm one

**Strum patterns**

At its simplest, you want to accent the "1" and "4" beats within a 6 beat measure. Start with downstrums only. From there, you can add in additional downstrums or upstrums as desired – just keep these accents. Maintain 6 counts per measure.

SIMPLE STRUM	1	2	3	4	5	6
	D			D		
MEDIUM STRUM	1	2	3	4	5	6
	D	d	d	D	d	d
	>			>		
FULL STRUM	1	2	3	4	5	6
	D	d	u	d	u	D
	>			>		
					d	u
					d	u