

L.A. Freeway by Guy Clark

playsongnotes.com

(capo 2nd fret)

INTRO

G C G D7 (repeat, w/ fingerpicking riff)

VERSE

G C
...Pack up all your dishes... make note of all good wishes
G D7
...Say goodbye to the landlord for me... that son 'a bitch has always bored m
G C
...Throw out them LA papers... and that moldy box of vanilla wafers
G D7
...Adios to all this concrete... gonna get me some dirt road back street

PRE-CHORUS

G D7

CHORUS

C D
If I can just get off of this LA freeway
G C
Without getting killed or caught
G
I'd be..... down that road in a cloud of smoke
D
For some land that I ain't bought bought bought

And it's... here's to you old skinny Dennis... only one I think I will miss
I can hear that old bass singing... sweet and low like a gift you're bringin'

Play it for me just one more time now... got to give it all we can now
I believe everything your saying... just keep on, keep on playing

[chorus]

And you put the pink card in the mailbox... leave the key in the old front door lock
They will find it likely as not... I'm sure there's something we have forgot

Oh Susanna, don't you cry, babe... love's a gift that's surely handmade
We've got something to believe in... don't you think it's time we're leavin'

[chorus x2]

Pack up all your dishes, make note of all good wishes
Say goodbye to the landlord for me, that son a' bitch has always bored me

[repeat instrumental verse as desired, end]

Intro & verse riff

Here's an approximation of the main riff heard in the intro of this song, as well as the verse sections. This is pretty tricky! If this is stumping you, I recommend seeing my video lesson for reference.

E	----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- -----	-----3-----3-----3-----3-----2-0-0-
B	-----3-----3-----1-0-----	-----1-----1-----1-----1-----1-----1-----
G	-----0-----0-----0-----0-----2-----0-----0-----	----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- -----
D	----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- -----	----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- -----
A	----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- -----	-----3-----3-----3-----3-----3-----3-----3-----3-----
E	-----3-----3-----3-----3-----3-----3-----3-----3-----	----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- -----
	G	C
	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

E	- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- -----	-----0-----
B	- -----3-----3-----1-0-----	-----1-0-1-0-----3-----1-----0-----
G	- -----0-----0-----0-----0-----2-----0-----0-----	-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----
D	- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- -----	----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- -----
A	- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- -----	----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- -----
E	- -----3-----3-----3-----3-----3-----3-----3-----3-----	-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----
	G	D7/F#
	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +	1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

Chords shapes used in the riff

The trickiest part of this song, if you want to play it like Guy Clark does, is mastering the fingerpicking riff you hear in the intro and verse sections.

While the whole song uses G, C, and D – if you want to fingerpick like Guy Clark, I recommend using the chord voicings (finger positions) shown here. These will allow you to play the notes used in the riff – particularly the melodic notes that are peppered in on top of the main chord shapes.

Once you have these chord shapes mastered, then proceed to the tab below. For a breakdown of how to practice this (starting at zero), I strongly recommend the video lesson I made at playsongnotes.com. It shows you how to learn this riff one step at a time.

Good luck!

E	-----	
B	---3---	<-- left pinky finger
G	---0---	
D	---0---	
A	---2---	<-- left middle finger
E	---3---	<-- left ring finger
	G	

E	---3---	<-- left pinky finger
B	---1---	<-- left index finger
G	---0---	
D	---2---	<-- left middle finger
A	---3---	<-- left ring finger
E	-----	
	C	

E	-----	
B	---1---	<-- left index finger
G	---2---	<-- left ring finger
D	---0---	
A	---0---	
E	---2---	<-- left middle finger
	D7/F#	