



JoniMitchell.com Transcription for Guitar

# Big Yellow Taxi

Author: Harlan Thompson and  
Howard Wright

DADF#AD, 'Joni' Tuning: x75435, Capo 2

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Originally sent by Harlan Thompson  
Corrections/additions by Howard Wright

Howard's notes:

This song is played in the key of E. You can tune up to open E (EBEG#BE) and not use a capo if you like, but that means you are tuning strings \*up\* from concert pitch which is likely to put them under extra strain. If you're using light strings, this might be OK.

The safer option, and the thing to do if you're worried about breaking strings when tuning up to the open E tuning, is to tune to open D (DADF#AD) then put a capo on at the 2nd fret to bring you up to the key of E.

All chord shapes given at the end.

Intro :  
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A A6 A A6 A B B6 B B6 B

E Aadd2/E E7sus4 Aadd2/E E Aadd2/E E Aadd2/E  
E Aadd2/E E7sus4 Aadd2/E E Aadd2/E E

Verse :  
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A A6 A E Aadd2/E E7sus4 Aadd2/E  
They paved paradise and put up a parking lot

E Aadd2/E E

A A6 B B6  
With a pink hotel, a boutique and a swingin'

E Aadd2/E E7sus4 Aadd2/E E Aadd2/E E  
hot spot

CHORUS:

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E5 Emaj7  
Don't it always seem to go

Aadd2/E E  
That you don't know what you've got till it's gone

A A6 B B6 E  
They paved paradise and put up a parking lot

E Aadd2/E E7sus4 Aadd2/E E  
(Shoo bop bop bop bop)

E Aadd2/E E7sus4 Aadd2/E E  
Shoo bop bop bop bop)

(Same chords for the following verses/choruses)

They took all the trees, put 'em in a tree museum  
And they charged the people a dollar and a half just to see 'em  
CHORUS

Hey farmer farmer, put away that D.D.T. now  
Give me spots on my apples but leave me the birds and the bees  
please  
CHORUS

Late last night I heard the screen door slam  
And a big yellow taxi took away my old man  
CHORUS TWICE (with only one shooo bop... at each end)

A A6 B B6 E  
They paved paradise, put up a parking lot

E Aadd2/E E7sus4 Aadd2/E E  
(Shoo bop bop bop bop)

A A6 B B6 E  
They paved paradise, put up a parking lot

E Aadd2/E E7sus4 Aadd2/E E Aadd2/E E

Chord Shapes :

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	E	A	B	Aadd2/E	E7sus4	A6	B6	E5	Emaj7
E---	0---	5---	7---	0-----	0-----	5---	7---	0---	0-----
B---	0---	5---	7---	0-----	0-----	5---	7---	0---	0-----
G#--	0---	5---	7---	1-----	1-----	5---	7---	3---	3-----
E---	0---	5---	7---	0-----	0-----	5---	7---	0---	0-----
B---	0---	5---	7---	2-----	3-----	7---	9---	5---	4-----
E---	0---	5---	7---	0-----	0-----	5---	7---	0---	0-----

Harlan's comments:

On the first two lines of the chorus and frequently on the verse, it is better to somewhat muffle the chords so that the rhythm can be heard but the actual notes barely heard. Also, the song can be played in regular tuning with the same chords, but I think it sounds much better this way (and this is what J.M. actually does).