



# Night In The City

Author: Howard Wright

DADF#AD, 'Joni' Tuning: x75435, Capo 5

This transcription is the author's own work and represents their interpretation of the song. You may only use this file for private study, scholarship, or research. Copyrighted material on this website is used in accordance with 'Fair Use'

---

You need to use a capo at the 5th fret, bringing the guitar tuning up to the key of G (tune the open strings to the open D tuning above \*before\* adding the capo).

NB: All fret numbers in the tablature and chord shapes are relative to the capo at the 5th fret.

I've used a few clues from a video performance of Joni playing this song to fill in some chord shapes that I wasn't sure about. This transcription is for the CD version of the song though (the version from the video is slightly different).

## Strumming pattern

-----

There is quite a busy strumming pattern for this song, using triplet patterns. Each bar has 4 strong beats, each of which is broken up into three triplets. Try counting:

```
*           *           *           *
1 2 3  2 2 3  3 2 3  4 2 3
```

(the asterisks mark the four strong beats).

The basic strumming pattern is written below, where an "x" indicates a strum, and "X" indicates an accented (strong) strum:

```
X   x  X x x  X   x  X x x
1 2 3  2 2 3  3 2 3  4 2 3
```

```
^           ^
|           |
|           |
```

The two arrows mark where down-strokes are used on the bottom strings. All the other strums are on the middle and upper strings, using alternate down- and up-strokes.

An example of the strumming pattern is given below for the intro.

INTRO:

-----

```

D-----0-----4---0-----
A-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
F#-----0-----1-----0-3-----1-----
D-----0---0-----0-----4-----4-----2-----
A-----0---2-----0-----
D---0-----0-----

```

Strumming pattern starts:

```

D-----0-0-0-----0-0-0-----0-0-0-----0-0-0-----
A-----0-0-0-0-----0-0-0-0-----0-0-0-0-----0-0-0-0-----
F#-----6-6-6-6-----5-5-5-5-----6-6-6-6-----3-3-3-3--
D-----7-7-7-7-----6-6-6-6-----7-7-7-7-----4-4-4-4--
A-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
D-----0-----0-----0-----0-----

```

```

          *      *      *      *      *      *      *      *
Count: 1 2 3 2 2 3 3 2 3 4 2 3 | 1 2 3 2 2 3 3 2 3 4 2 3
      d  d u d u d  d u d u  d  d u d u d  d u d u

```

(d and u indicate down and up-strokes)  
Use this strumming pattern throughout most of the song.

VERSE 1:

-----

Note: Joni uses a hammer-on from the open strings whenever she plays the 022100 chord ("Moon's up...", "Taking the town" etc).

```

007600 006500 007600 004300
Light  up      light up

```

```

007600      006500      004300
Light up your lazy blue eyes

```

```

022100 020100 040300 000000
Moon's up, night's up

```

022100                    x02100            (x02102)

Taking the town by surprise

007600 006500 007600 004300

Night time,            night time

007600            006500 004300

Day left an hour      ago

022100 020100 040300 000000

City light time

022100                    x04304 x02102 x02100

Must you get ready so slow?            There are

000000            020100            040300 020100 000000

places to come from and pla - ces      to go

D---0---0--0-0-0---0--0--0--0--0-0---0-0---0--0-0-0-----  
A---0---0--0-0-0---0--0--0--0--0-0---0-0---0--0-0-0-----  
F#--3---3--3-3-3---0--1--0--3--0-1---0-0---0--0-0-0-----  
D---4---4--4-4-4---0--2--0--4--0-2---0-0---0--0-0-0-----  
A---4---4--4-4-4---0--2--0--4--0-2---0-0---0--0-0-0-----  
D---0---0--0-0-0---0--0--0--0--0-0---0-0---0--0-0-0-----

CHORUS:

-----

For some of the 002100 chords I think that Joni sometimes adds a note on the top string at the 2nd fret. In particular, after the x04304 chord, I think Joni often moves this chord down 2 frets to x02102 before playing x02100, but the x02102 chord is played only very briefly.

It's hard to make it out from the CD, but for the last line ("... time") I think she plays both 002100 and 002102.

040300            004304            002100            000000

Night in the city looks pretty to me

040300            004304            x02100

Night in the city looks fine

040300 004304 002100 000000  
Music comes spilling out into the street

040300 004304 002100  
Colors go flashing in time

VERSE 2:

-----

Take off, take off  
Take off your stay at home shoes  
Break off, shake off  
Chase off those stay at home blues  
Stairway, stairway  
Down to the crowds in the street  
They go their way  
Looking for faces to greet  
But we run on laughing  
With no one to meet

CHORUS:

-----

Night in the city looks pretty to me  
Night in the city looks fine  
Music comes spilling out into the street  
Colors go waltzing in time

OUTTRO:

-----

D-----0--0-0-----0--0---0--0-0-----0-----  
A-----0--0-0-0--0-----0--0-0-----0-----  
F#----6--6-6-6--5-----6--6-6-6--3-----  
D-----7--7-7-7--6-----7--7-7-7--4-----  
A--0-----0--0--0--0-----0--0--0--0-----  
D--0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----