



JoniMitchell.com Transcription for Guitar

California

Author: Howard Wright

EAC#G#BE, 'Joni' Tuning: E54735

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'

For this song, Joni plays the dulcimer and James Taylor plays the acoustic guitar. What I've done here is to write out an arrangement of Joni's dulcimer part for guitar, using an alternative tuning. This arrangement is very similar to the actual dulcimer part, but I've filled out the chords a little in some places, while sticking to the original harmony as much as possible.

The dulcimer part has a little figure (written out in tablature) for the intro, and most of the rest is written out just with chord shapes.

I've also written out the chords and a little tablature for the James Taylor acoustic part. This uses standard tuning, with a capo at the 2nd fret. Note that all chords and tablature for the acoustic guitar part write the fret numbers relative to the capo.

(The dulcimer part arranged for guitar here doesn't need a capo.)

The original acoustic part adds a few `noodles' on top of the basic chords (mostly sus4 and sus2 type of things). I've tried to include a few of these, but I haven't tried to TAB note for note what is played.

All names of chord shapes are written as they sound, i.e. for the acoustic part, when you play a D chord shape (xx0232) with the capo at the 2nd fret, it sounds like an E chord, so I've written the chord here as E.

OK?

To play the dulcimer part, tune to: E A C# G# B E (no capo used)

This means:

Low E string as it is
A string as it is
D string down to C#
G up to G#
B as it is
E as it is

h - hammer on

p - pull off

/ - slide

INTRO:

Dulcimer:

A B E A/B

E-----2-----0--0--
 B---4h5p4-0---0--2---2-2---2---2-----0---4---4---0---0-0---0-0-----2--2--
 G#-----0---1---1-1---1-----0-----3---3---0---0-0---0-0-----1--1--
 C#-----3---3-3---3-----3---3-3---3-3-----2-2--2--
 A-----0---0-0---0-----0-----0--0-0---0-0-----
 E-----0---0-0---0-----

VERSE 1:

E
Sitting in a park in Paris France

A E/G# F#7
Reading the news and it sure looks bad

F#7
They won't give peace a chance

F#m/B B7 E
That was just a dream some of us had

E A
Still a lot of lands to see

E/G# F#7
But I wouldn't want to stay here

F#7 F#m/B B7
It's too old and cold and settled in its ways here

CHORUS:

A Asus4 A
Ah but California

E C#7 C#7/G# C#7
California I'm coming home

A
I'm gonna see the folks I dig

E/G# B Bsus2
I'll even kiss a sunset pig

B E
California I'm coming home

Guitar fill:

E Amaj7 E Esus4 E B/A
E--0h2p0-----2---2--0-----2---3---2-----
B--3-----3---3--3---3---3-----3---3---3-----3--3---
G-----2---4---4--4-----2---2---2---2-----4--4---
D-----0---0---0---0-----5--5---
A-----0--0--0---
E-----3--3-----

VERSE 2:

E
I met a redneck on a Grecian isle

A F#7
Who did the goat dance very well

F#7
He gave me back my smile

F#m/B B7
But he kept my camera to sell

E
Oh the rogue, the red red rogue

A
He cooked good omelettes and stews

F#
And I might have stayed on with him there

B7
But my heart cried out for you

CHORUS:

A Asus4 A
California

E C#7 C#7/G# C#7
Oh California I'm coming home

A
Oh make me feel good rock and roll band

VERSE 3:

(For the standard tuning acoustic, use the A, F#7 and B shapes which are higher up the neck - I've marked them below with a '*')

E A*
So I bought me a ticket I caught a plane to Spain

F#7*
Went to a party down a red dirt road

There were lots of pretty people there

B* A* E
Reading Rolling Stone reading Vogue

E A*
They said how long can you hang around

A* F#7*
I said a week maybe two

B*
Just until my skin turns brown

A*
And then I'm going home

CHORUS:

A Asus4 A
To California

E
California

C#7 C#7/G#
I'm coming home

C#7 A
Oh will you take me as I am

E/G#
Strung out on another man

B E
California I'm coming home

EADGBE xx0232	EADGBE 3x0003	EADGBE 020100	EADGBE x02020	EADGBE 3x0013	EADGBE xx5433
------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------

E	A	F#7	B7	Asus4	A*
---	---	-----	----	-------	----

EADGBE x21202	EADGBE x02220	EADGBE 2x023x	EADGBE x02230	EADGBE x02200	EADGBE 2x0230
------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------

C#7	B	E/G#	Bsus4	Bsus2	Esus2/G#
-----	---	------	-------	-------	----------

EADGBE x32010	EADGBE x02030	EADGBE x0543x	EADGBE x0200x	EADGBE 2x120x	EADGBE xx2434
------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------

D	B7sus4	A/B	F#m/B	C#7/G#	F#7*
---	--------	-----	-------	--------	------

EADGBE
xx7655

B*

Alternative tuning chords (Guitar version of dulcimer part)

I haven't tabbed all the chords, but these are the basic ones.

E A C# G# B E	E A C# G# B E	E A C# G# B E	E A C# G# B E
0 2 3 0 0 0	x x 3 3 5 4	x 0 3 1 2 0	x 0 3 5 5 5

E

E

A

A

E A C# G# B E	E A C# G# B E	E A C# G# B E	E A C# G# B E
2 4 3 2 2 2	x 2 2 1 0 2	x x 0 3 2 1	x 0 3 1 3 0

F#7

B7

C#7

Asus4

E A C# G# B E	E A C# G# B E
4 x 3 0 0 0	x 2 x 1 2 0

E/G#

A/B