

(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay

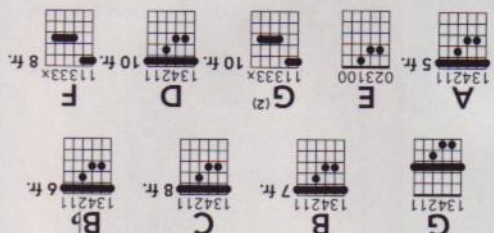
Words and music by Steve Cropper and Otis Redding



After lighting up the 1967 Monterey International Pop Festival, Otis Redding headed up to San Francisco to play the Fillmore and rented a houseboat in Sausalito, just north of the Golden Gate Bridge. It was on this houseboat that he penned the first verse of "(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay," his most popular single. Sadly, he didn't get to experience the success of this song; Redding died in a plane crash near Madison, Wisconsin, just three days after recording the track.

The quick chord change after the second and fourth lines of each verse is shown below. Simply slide that barred C chord down, fret by fret, until you reach the fifth-fret A chord. The general strum pattern follows this same rhythm, although you should try to play alternate down- and upstrokes whenever you're not playing this quick chord change. Downstrokes work better for the quick chord changes, but they don't groove as well as alternate-strumming pattern over static chords. On the second verse, you can follow the horn line up by reversing that quick chord change and moving from G up through A and B^b to B on the first and third lines.

—ANDREW DUBROCK



Chords



Strumming pattern/quick chord change in verse

1. Sittin' in the morning sun
G B

C B^b A

I'll be sittin' when the evening comes

G B

Watching the ships roll in

C B^b A

Then I watch them roll away again, yeah

Chorus

G B

I'm sittin' on the dock of the bay

G E

Watching the tide roll away

G

Ooh, I'm just sittin' on the dock of the bay

G E

Wasting time

G B

I left my home in Georgia

C B^b A

Headed for the 'Frisco bay

G B

Cause I've had nothing to live for

C B^b A

And look like nothing's gonna come my way

Repeat Chorus

Bridge

G(2) D C

Look like nothing's gonna change

G(2) D C

Everything still remains the same

G(2) D C

I can't do what ten people tell me to do

F D

So I guess I'll remain the same, yes

G B

Sittin' here resting my bones

C B^b A

And this loneliness won't leave me alone

G B

It's two thousand miles I roamed

C B^b A

Just to make this dock my home

Repeat Chorus

Whistling: G E G E

E G E G