

"Give a Little Bit" Goo Goo Dolls



By Jordan Baker

The dreaded cover song. When a contemporary group offers their take on a well-known piece of music history, two groups of critics, with their opinions solidified often before even hearing the song, often arise: those who feel it strays too far off base, falling short of doing the original version justice, and the exact opposite—people who find it too spot-on, and lacking the unique vibe of the band covering it. By choosing the right song and taking the right approach, though, it's possible to bring people into that

middle ground with nary a complaint. With the performance of the Supertramp classic "Give a Little Bit" on their *Live in Buffalo* album, the Goo Goo Dolls show that not only can the proper blend of elements be achieved, but the result can be good enough to include as your encore in place of a selection from your own slew of hits.

STRUM IT

While guitarist Johnny Rzeznik doesn't stray far from the original chord shapes, he tunes down a whole step (low to high: D-G-C-F-A-D), changing the

sounding key from D to C. The majority of the song will require you to keep your right hand in constant motion, moving downward on every eighth note and upward on the 16th notes between. Once you get the hang of it and lock in with the tempo, it's just a matter of moving the pick toward or away from the face of the guitar to get the right accents and, in certain spots, to bypass the strings. Think of a downstroke with no following upstroke as a small oval, moving your hand out very slightly to miss the strings on the way up, in preparation for the next downstroke, and vice versa for an upstroke with no downstroke preceding. These two movements, along with accents created by digging into the strings with varying force, could be considered the basic building blocks of acoustic rhythm guitar playing.

Another technique explored extensively by a wide range of players—from John Petrucci to Jimmy Page to Leo Kottke—is the shifting of chord shapes or entire melodic motifs diatonically (within a given key) while letting additional open strings ring. The folksy chords tagged onto the end of

each verse move a diatonic 6th interval shape around on the 4th and 2nd strings, as the 5th, 3rd and 1st strings ring out. Notice that the shapes in **Fig. 1** all consist of notes from the key of D major (D-E-F#-G-A-B-C#).

TONES & TEXTURES

The appearance of distorted six-string and clean 12-string electric guitars shows Rzeznik's penchant for placing a wide variety of timbres into songs, and their parts fill space throughout the verses much like the piano appearing further into the Supertramp version. In the F#m-Bm interlude section, the

wailing sax lines from the original are left out in favor of a grungier arrangement, played on a baritone guitar (low to high: A-D-G-C-E-A) an octave below the electric riff. If you dare tune that low, **Fig. 2** shows the riff. The parts arranged for Gtr. 5 that show up later in the transcription

would also be suitable here. The chorus chord progression is another example of moving a shape over a sustained open string, and those familiar with both versions of the song may notice a slight rearrangement on the Goo Goo Dolls' part. Instead of providing vehicle for an extended jam, as on the original, the D-G/D-A/D progression is used here in an eight-bar chunk inserted before the third verse and appears once more as Rzeznik brings things to a close. **B**



Fig. 1

Tune down 1 step:
(low to high) D-G-C-F-A-D

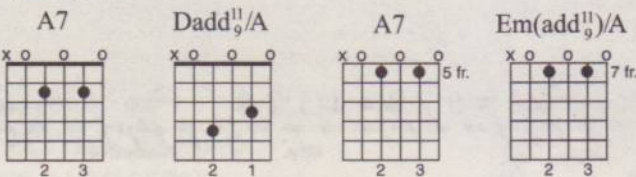
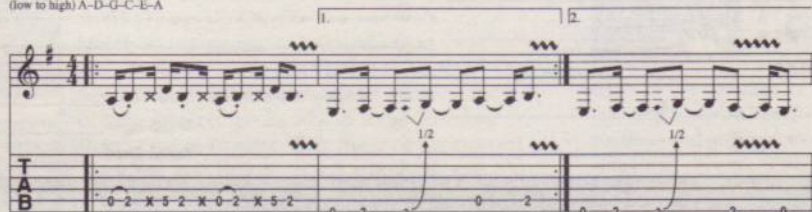


Fig. 2

Tune down 3½ steps:
(low to high) A-D-G-C-E-A



TONE ZONE

GUITARS 2-5: Solidbody
PICKUP/POSITION: Single-coil/Bridge and Middle
GAIN: 7 (Gtr. 2), 3 (Gtr. 3), 5 (Gtrs. 4 & 5)
EQ: Bass/Mid/Treble: 6/5/7



GIVE A LITTLE BIT

As Recorded by Goo Goo Dolls

(From the Warner Bros. Recording LIVE IN BUFFALO)

Transcribed by Jordan Baker

Words and Music by Rick Davies
and Roger Hodgson

Lyrics

Verse 1

I'll give a little bit, give a little bit of your love to me.
I'll give a little bit, I'll give a little bit of my love to you.
See the man with the lonely eyes,
I'll take his hand, you'll be surprised.

Verse 2

So give a little bit, I'll give a little bit of my life for you.
So give a little bit, give a little bit of your time to me.
Now's the time that we need to share,
So send a smile, we're on our way back home.
Yeah, yeah, you gotta feel it.

Bridge 1

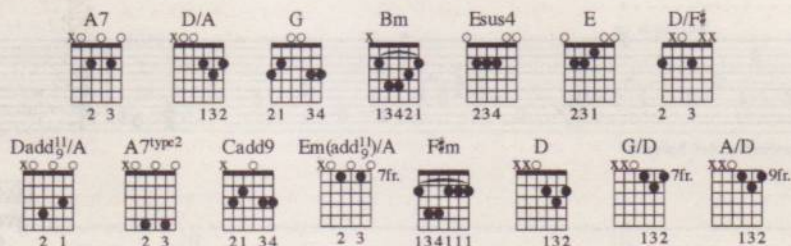
Don't you need to feel at home?
(Don't you need, don't you need,
Don't you need to feel at home?)
Ooh, you gotta feel it.
Yeah, I'm comin' home too.
Ooh, you gotta sing.
Come a long way tonight.

Verse 3

So give a little bit, give a little bit of your love to me.
So give a little bit, I'll give a little bit of my life for you.
Now's the time that we need to share,
So send a smile, we're on our way back home.

Bridge 2

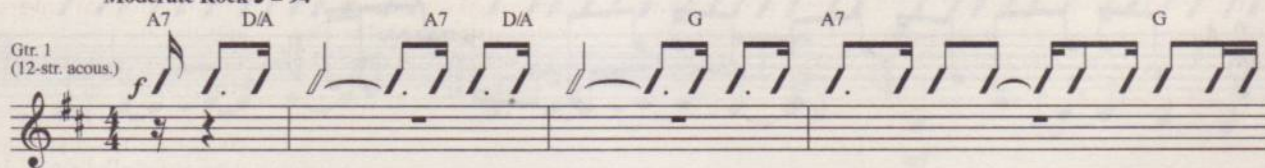
(Don't you need, don't you need,
Don't you need to feel at home?)
Yeah, come along too.
Yeah, you gotta feel it.
'Cause I need to feel at home.
Ooh, come along too, such a long ride.
Come a long way, sing it tonight.



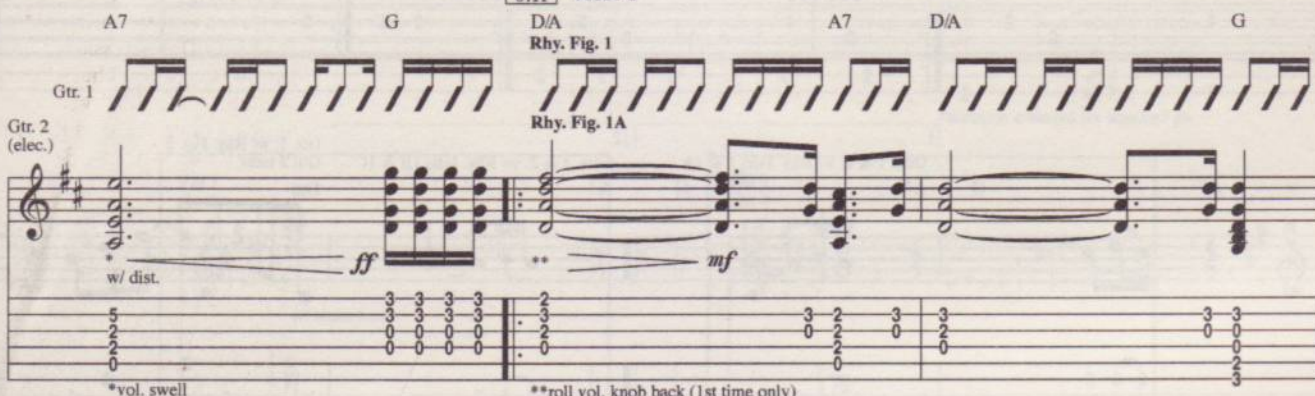
Tune down 1 step:
(low to high) D-G-C-F-A-D

Intro

Moderate Rock ♩ = 94



Verse 1



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Give a Little Bit

1. 2.

A7 G A7 G A7 G

End Rhy. Fig. 1 Rhy. Fill 1 End Rhy. Fill 1 Rhy. Fill 1B End Rhy. Fill 1B

End Rhy. Fig. 1A Rhy. Fill 1A End Rhy. Fill 1A Rhy. Fill 1C End Rhy. Fill 1C

ff

Gtr. 2 tacet

Bm Rhy. Fig. 2

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 3 (12-str. elec.)

Esus4 E D/F# G

Rhy. Fill 2

End Rhy. Fig. 2

End Rhy. Fill 2

mf
w/ clean tone

0:44

Verse 2

Gtrs. 1 & 2: w/ Rhy. Figs. 1 & 1A

D/A A7 D/A G

Dadd¹¹/A A7 Dadd¹¹/A A7type2

1. 2.

A7 G A7 G A7 G

Gtrs. 1 & 2: w/ Rhy. Fills 1 & 1A Gtrs. 1 & 2: w/ Rhy. Fills 1B & 1C

Gtr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fig. 2

Gtr. 2 tacet

Bm

Give a Little Bit

Esus4 E D/F# G

Cadd9 G
Gtr. 1 Rhy. Fill 3 End Rhy. Fill 3

1:25 Breakdown

Gtr. 2: w/ Fill 1
1st time, Gtr. 3 tacet

A7 Rhy. Fig. 3 Dadd¹¹/A A7type2 Em(add¹¹)/A End Rhy. Fig. 3 F#m

*doubled 8vb by baritone gtr.

*baritone arranged for standard gtr.

Fill 1
Gtr. 2

w/ clean tone

Fill 2
Gtr. 2

Give a Little Bit

Gtr. 4: w/ Rhy. Fill 3
Gtr. 2 tacet

Gtr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fig. 3
Gtr. 3: w/ Riff A
1st time, Gtr. 4 tacet

Cadd9 G A7 Dadd¹¹₉/A A7 Em(add¹¹₉)/A

1:53 Bridge 1

1st time, Gtrs. 3 & 5 tacet

D Rhy. Fig. 4 G/D A/D G/D D End Rhy. Fig. 4

Gtrs. 1 & 2 *w/ dist. play 3 times

*Gtr. 2

Cadd9 Rhy. Fig. 5 G End Rhy. Fig. 5

Gtr. 1 Rhy. Fig. 5A End Rhy. Fig. 5A

Gtr. 2 Riff B **

Gtr. 5 divisi

**Gtr. 5 indicated to right of slash in tab

Gtrs. 2 & 5 tacet A7 Dadd¹¹₉/A A7 type2 Em(add¹¹₉)/A A7

Gtr. 3 Gtr. 2 Gtr. 3 divisi

2:18 Verse 3

Gtr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fig. 1
Gtr. 3: tacet

Gtr. 2

D/A A7 D/A G

Gtr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fill 1

A7 G A7 G

Gtr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fig. 1

D/A A7 D/A G A7 G

Gtr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fill 1B

A7

Gtr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fig. 2

Gtr. 2: tacet

Bm

Gtr. 3

Esus4

E

D/F#

G

A7

Gtr. 1

Give a Little Bit

2:49 Bridge 2

Gtrs. 1 & 2: w/ Rhy. Fig. 4 (4 times)
Gtr. 3 tacet

Gtrs. 1 & 2: w/ Rhy. Figs. 5 & 5A
Gtr. 5: w/ Riff B
Cadd9

Gtr. 4 tacet
G

A/D G/D D

7 Gtr. 4

A7

G

D/A

A7

D

G/D

A/D

G/D

D

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

Rhy. Fill 4

D/A

End Rhy. Fill 4

Gtr. 5

Gtr. 2: w/ Rhy. Fill 4
Gtr. 5 tacet

G/D

A/D

G/D

D

Gtr. 1