Maggie May

Words and music by Rod Stewart and Martin Quittenton



The song that put Rod Stewart on the map was, ironically, the B-side to his single "Reason to Believe." "Maggie May" became a huge hit and launched Stewart to pop superstardom after a respectable earlier career as a singer and collaborator with Ray Davies, Mick Fleetwood, Peter Green, Jeff Beck, and the Faces (with ex-Beck Group bassist and future Rolling

Stones guitarist Ron Wood).

"Maggie May" features a complex assortment of electric and acoustic guitars and two mandolins. In this version, the mandolins have been arranged for guitar (they're heard prominently in the outro), and some of the two-guitar parts (such as in the intro) have been collapsed into a single guitar part. Note the use of the open high-E string in the intro. It may be the highest string played, but not the highest note, as the second and third strings are fretted up the neck, creating a jangly 12-string sound. The guitar solos are played on electric, but they work very well on acoustic, even with the amount of string bending that's required.

You can play the rhythm part using openstring chords and a basic 4/4 strum, mixing eighth notes and quarter notes, and occasionally sounding the single-string root of the chord. There's no strict accompaniment pattern, but if you listen to a few bars of the verses on the recording, you'll get an idea of the approach.

-JON CHAPPELL





