## Melissa

Words and music by Gregg Allman and Steve Alaimo

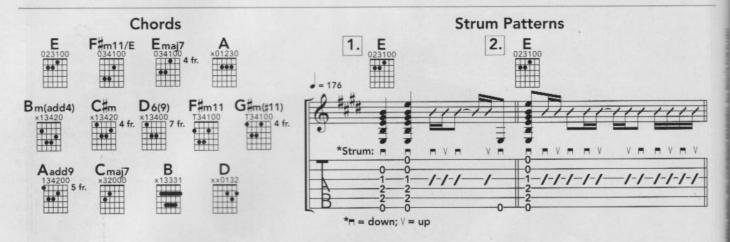


The Allman Brothers released *Eat A Peach* in 1972, shortly after Duane Allman's tragic death in a motorcycle accident. Gregg Allman's mournful vocals on the third track, "Melissa," hint at the pain he was going through after losing his brother, and some of what he felt may be reflected within the veiled lyrics of the song.

Try strumming the first pattern below at the beginning of the song. Allman picks up the pace as the song builds momentum, often playing busier strumming patterns,

like the second one shown. Try both of these patterns, and come up with your own variations to keep the song fresh. On the Bridge, Allman barres the Com chord, and you can do the same, if you like. If you like the open-E string sound that Allman plays on the Com chord in the verses, keep using that one. If you're missing the bass part over those openstring chords in the first half of each verse, try substituting the chords from the fourth line of each verse—the Form 11 and Gom (\$11) chords—for extra bass movement.

-ANDREW DUBROCK



E F#m11/E Emaj7 F#m11/E

Crossroads seem to come and go

E F⁵m11/E
The gypsy flies from coast to coast

A Bm(add4) Cfm D6(9) Knowing many, loving none

E F4m11 G4m(#11) Aadd9 Bearing sorrow, having fun

Cmaj7 B But back home he'll always run

E F#m11/E Emaj7 F#m11/E To sweet Melissa

E F#m11/E Emaj7 F#m11/E

2. Freight train, each car looks the same, all the same

E F#m11/E And no one knows the gypsy's name

A Bm(add4) C#m D6(9)
And no one hears his lonely sigh

E Fim11 Gim(#11) Aadd9
There are no blankets where he lies

Cmaj7 B
And only in the deepest dreams the gypsy flies

E F#m11/E Emaj7 F#m11/E With sweet Melissa Bridge

Again the morning's come, again he's on the run

A B . Sunbeams shining through his hair, appearing not to have a care

C#m A
Well, pick up your gear and, gypsy, roll on

B Roll on

E F#m11/E Emaj7 F#m11/E

3. Crossroads, will you ever let him go

E F#m11/E
Or will you hide the dead man's ghost

A Bm(add4) C#m D6(9)
Or will he lie beneath the plains

E F#m11 G#m(#11) Aadd9
Or will his spirit fall away

Cmaj7 B
But I know that he won't stay

E F#m11/E

Without Melissa

Cmaj7 B Yes I know that he won't stay

E F#m11/E Emaj7 F#m11/E Without Melissa