



HEAR IT ONLINE!

guitarworld.com/lessons

SELF HELP

Going solo with Amy Winehouse's "Rehab"



FOR THIS MONTH'S installment of Unplugging, I worked up a solo guitar accompaniment to Amy Winehouse's retro-flavored hit, "Rehab" (*Back to Black*, 2006).

My objective here, as always when condensing a recording performed by a full rhythm section, is to convey the essential musical elements of the song in an easy-to-play, stand-alone part. To this end, I located several live, stripped-down performances of "Rehab" on youtube.com, on which Winehouse was accompanied by only her touring guitarist. I more or less copied the guitarist's approach as seen in these videos.

FIGURE 1 illustrates the chorus section of "Rehab," which begins the song and is reprised after each verse. To help you feel and convey the groove better, "thump" the strings with your pick hand on each 16th-note rest as indicated. Doing so will help create a snare drum-like backbeat while it helps to silence the previous chord. Firmly tapping your foot on each eighth-note upbeat—1 ee and uh, 2 ee and uh, 3 ee and uh, 4 ee and uh—will reinforce the pick-hand thumps and complete the backbeat feel by providing additional, appropriately timed thumps behind the palm-muted single notes played during beats two and four of just about every bar.

The groove abruptly changes for the song's bridge-like first verse, the first four bars of which are played with a quaint rumba feel (FIGURE 2). Most of the notes in these bars are to be played *staccato* (short and detached), as indicated by the tiny dots over the tab numbers; this is accomplished by momentarily relaxing the fretting hand's pressure against the strings immediately after picking them.

The key component of the rumba feel is the downstroke pick sweep across the bottom four or five notes of each chord as indicated. These "swept" notes should ring together, however briefly.

The chorus-verse cycle repeats for the remainder of the song. Note that the third chorus is abbreviated,

with just the first bar of FIGURE 1 played four times, followed by the third verse.

If you would like to end the song in the same way as on the studio recording, play FIGURE 1, leaving

out the last three C7 chord strums. FIGURE 3 shows the live ending of the song, which may be substituted for the final bar of FIGURE 1 and concludes with a stock "cha cha cha" punctuation. *

Senior music editor JIMMY BROWN is a veteran sideman, solo performer and private guitar teacher in the NY-NJ-PA area. A "formally trained ear player," Jimmy leads dual lives, writing and editing lessons and transcriptions by day and playing for wedding cake and tips by night.

"Rehab" (arranged for solo guitar accompaniment)

Chord diagrams for C7, G7, F7, Em, Am, F, and Ab.

FIGURE 1 chorus

C7 (play 4 times) G7 (repeat prev. chord)

FIGURE 2 verse

Em Am F Ab G7 F7

FIGURE 2 verse

Em Am F Ab G7 F7

FIGURE 3 ending

C7

FIGURE 3 ending

C7

REHAB. Words and Music by Amy Winehouse. © 2006 EMI MUSIC PUBLISHING LTD. All Rights in the U.S. and Canada Controlled and Administered by EMI BLACKWOOD MUSIC INC. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Used by Permission. Reprinted by Permission of Hal Leonard Corporation.

The

For 30 years world leader mass effects rhythm machines studios and unmistakable pedals come sound of too

For more in each pedals to visit www

1

EN I IMPACT

E