

Make Me a Pallet On Your Floor

Words and music by Mississippi John Hurt



Mississippi John Hurt originally recorded "Make Me a Pallet on Your Floor" in December 1928 under the title "Ain't No Tellin'." The exact origins of the melody are unknown, but it was probably a fairly well-known tune when Hurt recorded it. Like most everything he recorded, Hurt made the song his own with lyrics that differ considerably from other versions and an aggressive fingerpicking accompaniment, which in this case conveys a sense of motion that suits the traveling theme of the song.

Those with a keen ear will immediately recognize the C-E7-F chord sequence from Elizabeth Cotten's "Freight Train" and other folk songs such as "Railroad Bill." "Make Me a Pallet" has been recorded by dozens of musicians, including Hoyt Axton, Jerry Garcia, and Doc Watson, whose version of the song is the closest, lyrically, to the one Hurt recorded in the early 1960s. This version is from Hurt's first studio album for Vanguard, *Today!* (which may be the finest record he ever made), and uses several classic John Hurt licks. The trickiest move is getting the melody lick in the second measure of the E7 chord (bar 10) to flow in rhythm. Hurt was fond of hammer-ons and he used variations of this lick in many of his tunes, including "Slidin' Delta" and "Avalon, My Home Town."

—"LOST JIM" OHLSCMIDT

Swing (♩ = ♩♩) Instrumental

♩ = 190 C7 F C F

The score is written for guitar and bass. The guitar part is in treble clef, and the bass part is in bass clef. The key signature is one flat (Bb). The tempo is marked as Swing (♩ = ♩♩) and the metronome setting is 190. The chords are C7, F, C, and F. The score includes fingerings for both hands and a key signature change to 2/4 time at the end.

C G6 C G C

Chorus: Make me

Chorus/Verse

F **C** **F**

17 down pal - let on your floor Make me down

Verses 1-4. See additional lyrics.

C **E7** **F**

22 Make me a pal - let down soft and low

C **G6** **C** **C7**

28 Make me a pal - let on your floor

Chorus

F **C**
Make me down, pallet on your floor

F **C**
Make me down

E7 **F**
Make me a pallet down soft and low

C **G** **C**
Make me a pallet on your floor

WE'RE AS OBSESSED WITH THE SOUND OF YOUR GUITAR AS YOU ARE

Mitch Malloy
www.mitchmalloy.com

"Over the years I have tried every pickup/preamp combination on the market, twice. Then I found K&K. Now for the first time my guitar actually sounds, responds and feels like an acoustic guitar through a P.A. After a recent show in Nashville I got a compliment from a Grammy winning studio engineer, 'Your guitar sounds amazing, it's the only acoustic I've ever heard live that sounds like there is a condenser mic in front of it.' I couldn't have said it better myself. The search is over..."

Mitch uses K&K's new **PowerMiz Pure System**, featuring the best-selling **Pure Brideplate Pickup**, **FanTaStick Undersaddle Pickup**, and the **PowerMiz 2-Channel Preamp**.

Call us for a catalog and free sound sample CD.

K&K SOUND

1-800-867-6863 | www.kksound.com