

Come As You Are

Words and music by Kurt Cobain



Eric Clapton may have jump-started the MTV *Unplugged* trend in 1992, but the movement truly became a phenomenon when the poster boys of grunge—Nirvana—proved that they could trade in the walls of distortion that made them famous for the wooden tones of acoustic instruments and still sound great in the process. One of the highlights of Nirvana's *Unplugged* performance was the band's stripped-down version of "Come As You Are," which is transcribed here.

The riff in measures 1–4 continues through the verse until you reach measure 22, where you can rest your picking hand by strumming the new F#m–A progression. If your hand gets tired playing the riff—or if you have trouble playing it while

singing—you can strum the F#m–E progression during the verses.

On *Unplugged in New York*, Nirvana's touring guitarist Pat Smear adds extra thickness to the chords by playing open strings on the F#m chords. If you'd like to emulate his part, fret the low F# note on the sixth string with your thumb, leave your third and fourth fingers on the fifth and fourth strings, respectively, and grab the second fret of the third string with your index finger. You'll see this version of the chord at the very end of the piece (measure 50), but you can substitute it for any F#m chord you see.

Smear also takes advantage of the open B and E strings to fill out his solo in measures 41–44. Notice how a simple embellishment of Kurt Cobain's vocal melody works fine as a solo idea. Cobain was known to take this approach himself, most notably on Nirvana's breakthrough hit "Smells Like Teen Spirit."

—ANDREW DUBROCK

Chords:

F#m 134111	E 023100	A x01230	B x13331	D xx0132	F#m11 134200
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Tune down one half step: E♭ A♭ D♭ G♭ B♭ E♭



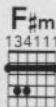

Intro

♩ = 120

The Intro consists of a single melodic line on a treble clef staff and a bass line on a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The tempo is marked as 120 beats per minute. The guitar part is shown with fret numbers (0, 1, 2) and includes chord diagrams for F#m and E.

Verse

The Verse consists of two lines of musical notation. The first line includes the lyrics: "1. Come as you are as you were as I want you to be As a friend". The second line includes the lyrics: "as a friend as an old en e-my Take your time hur-ry up". The guitar part is shown with fret numbers (0, 1, 2) and includes chord diagrams for F#m and E. A note indicates "2. See additional lyrics." for the second line.

choice is yours don't be late Take a rest as a friend

15







as a known en e - my Mem - o - ry

19












mem - o - ry mem - o - ry

24

Bridge

When I swear that I don't have a gun no I don't have a gun

29

To Coda







No I don't have a gun

34

Guitar Solo








D.S. al Coda

39