

# What's Between the Lines



## Mötley Crüe "Kickstart My Heart"

By Dale Turner

Formed in 1981, the masters of trash and thrash known as Mötley Crüe—Vince Neil (vocals), Nikki Sixx (bass), Tommy Lee (drums), and Mick Mars (guitar)—rose from the gutter of Hollywood's Sunset Strip in 1983 with their second full-length effort, *Shout at the Devil* (Elektra). As the Crüe's career blossomed, their partying reached disturbing heights, culminating in a collective rehab stint in 1988. In September of the following year, Mötley Crüe released what would become their most commercially successful recording effort, *Dr. Feelgood* (Elektra)—the first album the band recorded while all its members were clean and sober. Overrun with hits like "Dr. Feelgood" (#6), "Without You" (#8), and the killer guitar anthem, "Kickstart My Heart" (#27), *Dr. Feelgood* stayed at #1 on *Billboard* for two weeks and sold millions. To celebrate more than two decades of the band's debauchery, let's take a closer look at "Kickstart My Heart"—a classic Crüe cut issued during the glam-rock heyday.

### THE TUNING

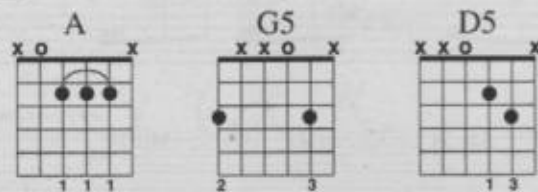
Virtually every Mötley Crüe tune ever recorded features guitarist Mick Mars tuning all six strings of his Kramer axe down a whole step

(low to high: D-G-C-F-A-D). Legend has it, Mars was inspired to use this tuning approach after witnessing Van Halen in 1981, the year of Crüe's formation.

### THE INTRO

Mick Mars kicks off "Kickstart My Heart" with a few seconds of whammy bar wackiness, intended to simulate the acceleration—with gear changes and everything—of a muscle car. With your tremolo bar fully depressed, flick the 4th string with your left hand and gradually raise the bar. After the 4th string returns to its proper pitch, repeat the process on the 5th and 6th strings, respectively. Once the band enters, three power chords—A5, G5, G#5 [Fig. 1]—provide the musical foundation for this intro, interspersed with plenty of "A" (6th string, 5th fret) palm mutes. This passage sets up another riff revolving around A5, this time in open position [Fig. 2A] to facilitate the 5th string pull-offs. Meanwhile, a fully fretted D chord

Fig. 3



is also thrown into the mix, often including a little pinky embellishment to spice up the proceedings with Dsus4 [Fig. 2B].

### THE FIRST AND SECOND VERSES

This song's opening power chord sequence (A5-G5-G#5) also factors into the forthcoming verse sections, albeit appearing in mostly two-note derivatives, offset by the occasional C5 chord (see Rhy. Fig. 2). In addition, Mars incorporates Fig. 2B's D-Dsus4 moves into this portion of his riffing.

### INTERLUDE/THIRD VERSE

After the second chorus, an extended palm-muted drone of an "F" (1st string, 1st fret) sets up an interlude section, in which Mars switches to a clean tone, kicks in a delay effect, and uses his pick-hand fingers to pluck out A, G5, and D5 shapes [Fig. 3]. This passage (Rhy. Fig. 4) also functions as the backdrop for the mel-lower third verse. For the curious, an open-position version of Mars' familiar Dsus4-D change is also

used to punctuate each of the aforementioned sections.

### THE GUITAR SOLO/OUTRO

After kicking in a talk-box effect during the third chorus, Mars unloads an assortment of raunchy blues phrases from the 5th position. A minor pentatonic scale [Fig. 4]. Then he whips a dramatic pedal tone lick, alternating between fretted notes and the open E string—all within the A natural minor scale (A-B-C-D-E-F-G). After Mars uses his pentatonic prowess to put the cap on this solo, he continues to raunch up a storm with feedback and tremolo bar effects, blazing behind Vince Neil's vocal shrieks throughout the remainder of the song. **B**



### TONE ZONE

**GUITAR:** Whammy Bar-Equipped Solidbody  
**PICKUP/POSITION:** Humbucker/Bridge  
**GAIN:** 8  
**EQ:** Bass/Mid/Treble 10/9/10  
**EFFECTS:** Delay, Talk Box

Fig. 1

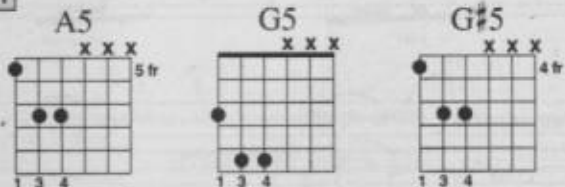


Fig. 2A

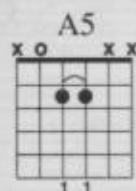


Fig. 2B

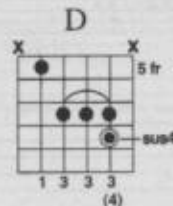
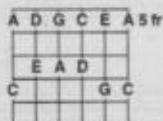


Fig. 4

### A Minor Pentatonic



# KICKSTART MY HEART

As Recorded by Mötley Crüe  
(From the Elektra Recording DR. FEELGOOD)

Transcribed by Adam Perlmutter

Written by Nikki Sixx

Tune down 1 step:  
(low high) D-G-C-F-A-D

## Intro Free Time

Gtr. 2 (dist.) N.C. G5 G#5

T  
A  
B

Gtr. 1 (dist.)  
*f* grad. release w/bar slack

T  
A  
B

\*let note ring & vib. w/ bar (next 4 meas.)

## Fast Rock ♩ = 180

2nd time, Gtr. 1 tacet

Gtr. 2 A5 G5 G#5 A5 G5 G#5

P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M.

A5 G5 D Dsus4 D Dsus4 D A5

P.M. P.M.

0 0 3 0 3 0 2 0 3 0 4 5 7 5 5 5 5 5 5 7 7 3 0 0 0 0 1/4

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# Kickstart My Heart

Rhy. Fig. 1

G5

D

Dsus4 D

N.C.

A5

End Rhy. Fig. 1

P.M. P.M. - †

G5

D

G5

G#5

I. Yeah. \_\_\_\_\_ When

Verse

A5

G5

G#5

1 I get dive high, I get from an high on speed. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Sky - na - ked from an aer - o - plane, \_\_\_\_\_ or a

Rhy. Fig. 2

P.M.

A5

G5

G#5

C5

G5

Top fuel fun - ny car's a drug for me. \_\_\_\_\_ My heart, \_\_\_\_\_ my heart.  
 la - dy with a bod - y from out - er space. \_\_\_\_\_ My heart, \_\_\_\_\_ my heart.

P.M.

# Kickstart My Heart

2nd time: Gtr. 1: w/Fill 1

Dsus4 D G5 G45

Kick - start my heart. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Kick - start my heart. \_\_\_\_\_

Say  
 End Rhy. Fig. 2

P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M.

Gtr. 2: w/Rhy. Fig. 2

Al - ways got the cops com - in' af - ter me. \_\_\_\_\_  
 I got trou - ble, trou - ble in my eyes. \_\_\_\_\_

Cus - tom built bike do - in' one o - o there. My heart. \_\_\_\_\_  
 I'm just look - in' for an - oth - er good time. My heart. \_\_\_\_\_

my heart. \_\_\_\_\_  
 my heart. \_\_\_\_\_

Kick - start my heart. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Kick - start my heart. \_\_\_\_\_

Dsus4 D Dsus4 D G5 G45

**Fill 1**  
 Gtr. 1

8va

17 17 19 17 20 17 20 (20)

19 19 17 15

w/bar

17 (17)(17)(17) (17)(17) (17)



# Kickstart My Heart

## Pre-Chorus

A5 A7 G5 G#5 A5 C5/A

Oo, are you read - y, girls? — Oo, are you

Gtr. 2

w/ bar

## Chorus

N.C. A5 G5 D

read - y now? Whoa, — yeah, — Kick -

Rhy. Fig. 3

w/ bar

Dsus4 D Dsus4 D A5 G5

start my heart, give it a start. — Whoa, — yeah, —

P.M. P.M. — — — — —

1/4

D Dsus4 D N.C. A5

ba — by. — Whoa, —

P.M. P.M. — — — — —

# Kickstart My Heart

G5 D Dsus4 D

yeah — Kick - start my heart, hope it

P.M. P.M. -----|

Dsus4 D A5 G5 F5

nev - er stops — Whoa, — yeah, —

End Rhy. Fig. 3

P.M. ---| 1/4

1. N.C. A5

ba - by, — yeah, —

P.M. -----| P.M. -----|

## Interlude

A5 G5 G#5

Git. 2: w/ Rhy. Fig. 2 (1st 2 meas.) (3 times)

6

P.M. -----|

# Kickstart My Heart

2.

ba by

P.M.

E5 A

Gtr. 2

Gtr. 1

w/ clean tone, delay & fingers

## Interlude

Gtr. 2 tacet

A

Rhy. Fig. 4

G5

D5

A

Gtr. 1

# Kickstart My Heart

G5 Dsus4 D A

3. When we

End Rhy. Fig. 4

Verse

Gtr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fig. 4

A G5 D5

start - ed this band, all we need - ed,

need - ed, ah, was a laugh. Years

G5 Gtr. 1: w/Rhy. Fill 1 Dsus4 D

gone by, I'd say we've kicked some ass.

N.C. A5 Gtr. 1 tacet G5 D

When I'm en - raged, or hit the stage, a -

Gtr. 2

Rhy. Fill 1

Gtr. 1



# Kickstart My Heart

A5

- dren - a - lin rush - ing through - my veins. - And I'd say we're

G5 D5 A5

still kick - in' ass. Said, oo,

G5 D5

ah. Kick - start my heart, I hope it

A5 G5

nev - er stops. - And to think - we did

# Kickstart My Heart

all of this — to rock. — Whoa, —

D5 N.C. A5

PS.

## Chorus

Gtr. 2: w/ Rhy. Fig. 3

yeah. — Kick —

Dsus4 D Dsus4 D A5

start my heart, give it a start. — Whoa, —

G5 D5

yeah, — b - b - b - b - b - b, - ba -

by. — Whoa, — yeah. —

Dsus4 D N.C. A5 G5

Gtr. 1

w/ dist., talk box & pick delay off  
w/bar

(7) (7) 5 7 7 5

-2

Kick - start my heart, hope it nev - er stops. — Whoa, —

D Dsus4 D Dsus4 D A5

1/2 1/2

(5) 7 1 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 5

# Kickstart My Heart

G5 D Dsus4 D N.C. A5

yeah, ha - by.

Gtr. 1

(5) 7 7 5 7 5 7 7 5 5 5 7 7 5 7 7 5 7 7 5 7 7

Gtr. 2

P.M. P.M. - - - |

(0) 3 0 3 0 3 2 0 3 0 4 5 7 5 5 5 7 0 2 3 4 0 3 0

## Guitar Solo

A5 G5 D Dsus4 D Dsus4 D A5

5 0 7 0 8 0 7 0 0 0 10 0 0 0 10 0 12 0 10 0 0 0 10 0 7 0 0 7 7 5 7

P.M. P.M. - - - - - |

(0) 3 0 3 0 3 2 0 3 0 4 5 7 5 5 5 5 5 7 7 3

## Gtr. 2: w/ Rhy. Fig. 1

G5 D Dsus4 D N.C. A5

Whoa. -

Gtr. 1

(5) 4 7 5 5 5 7 7 5 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 0

# Kickstart My Heart

## Chorus

Gtr. 2: w/ Rhy. Fig. 3

G5 D Dsus4 D

yeah. — Kick - start my heart, I hope it

Gtr. 1

Dsus4 D A5 G5 D

nev - er stops. — Whoa, — yeah, —

Dsus4 D N.C. A5 G5

ba - by. — Whoa, — yeah —

D Dsus4 D Dsus4 D A5

Kick - start my heart, give it a start. — Whoa, —

w/bar



# Kickstart My Heart

G5 D5 G5 G#5

yeah. O. K., boys, let's rock the house.

Gtr. 1

Gtr. 2

w/bar (0)

## Outro

Gtr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fig. 2 (1st 3 meas.)

A5 G5 G#5 A5

Gtr. 1

8va -1/2 -1/2 -1/2 -1/2 -1/2 -1/2 -1/2 -1/2 -1/2 -1/2 -1/2 -1/2 -1/2 -1/2

fdbk. w/bar -1/2 -1/2 -1/2 -1/2 -1/2 -1/2 -1/2 -1/2 -1/2 -1/2 -1/2 -1/2 -1/2

(0) (0) (0) (0) (0) (0) (0) (0) (0) (0) (0) (0) (0) (0)

G5 G#5 A5 G5 G#5 A5 G5 G#5 A5

Gtr. 1

8va -1/2 -1/2 -1/2

loco

fdbk. w/bar -1/2 -1/2 -1/2 (0)

rit.

Gtr. 2

P.M. -1/2

rit. P.S.

# Kickstart My Heart

## Free Time

(5) | 5 5 0 7 5 0 7 5 | 0 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 9 0 0 0 0

P.S.

X

\*tremolo pick chord (next 2 meas.)

Gtr. 1

0 0 0 0 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 1 1/2 (7) 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 0 5 0 5 0 10 0 10 0 10

Gtr. 1

B5

10 0 10 1 (10) 0 0 10 0 10 0 5 0 | (7) 5 7 5 7 5 7 1 1/2 (7) 5 7 5 7 7

Gtr. 2

W-W-W-W-W-W-W-W-W-W

# Kickstart My Heart

**C5**

8va

1 2

20

1 1/2

**D5**

8va

loco

**A5**

w/bar

## Joe Satriani "Ice N..."

By Dale Turner

During the October 1980s, Satriani released his first solo album, *Surfing with the Alien*, which became the first instrumental album to enter *Billboard's* Top 100. Beck's *There is No Love in the Heart of the Rocker* was a diverse effort, Satriani's infectious guitar work on "Boogie" and "Surfing with the Alien," ear-catching "Always With Me You," and solo guitar like "Midnight." Satriani's recording captures a diverse range of non-musicians' opinions—a true testament to his appeal! *Surfing with the Alien* quickly went platinum and has been regarded