



"LIVIN' ON A PRAYER" Bon Jovi

As heard on *Slippery When Wet* (MERCURY)

Words and Music by Jon Bon Jovi, Richie Sambora and Desmond Child • Transcribed by Jeff Perrin

Chord diagrams for the following chords:

- C5**: 144
- D5**: 144 (5 fr)
- E5**: 11
- Em**: 231 (8 fr)
- Esus2**: 231 (7 fr)
- Esus4**: 234 (9 fr)
- C**: 321 (8 fr)
- D**: 321 (10 fr)
- E5^{VII}**: 14 (7 fr)
- G5**: 14
- Eb5**: 14 (6 fr)
- F5**: 14
- Bb5**: 14

A Intro (0:00)

Moderately ♩ = 122 (0:14)

N.C.(Esus2)

Gtr. 1 (elec. w/dist. and talk box effect)

Intro musical notation for Gtr. 1 and Bass.

Gtr. 1: Tablature showing a sequence of notes on the 5th string (5, 3, 2, 1) with a talk box effect.

Bass: Bass line starting with a synth effect, playing a figure-eight pattern (0-7-7-5, 0-0-7-5) and repeating it.

(3rd time) Once upon a time

not so long ago

Musical notation for the first verse, including Gtr. 1, Bass, and Gtr. 2 parts.

Gtr. 1: Riff A (all downstrokes) with a P.M. (pick mute) effect. Chords C5, D5, E5 are indicated above the staff.

Gtr. 2: Synth arrangement for electric guitar with light distortion, playing the second and third times.

Bass: Plays Bass Fig. 1 three times (see meas. 1).

B Verses (0:46, 1:52)

- Tommy used to work on the docks
- Tommy's got his six-string in hock

Now Union's been on strike He's down on his luck It's
 he's holding in what he used to make it talk so tough

Em Gtr. 1 substitutes Riff A 16 times on 2nd verse (see meas. 5)

Gtr. 2 Rhy. Fig. 1

* P.M. **

Musical notation for the verses, including Gtr. 1, Bass, and Gtr. 2 parts.

Gtr. 1: Rhythmic figure 1 with pick mute (P.M.) and repeat (**).

Bass: Plays Bass Fig. 1 (see meas. 1). Instruction: *Play each chord as detached (staccato) as possible. **repeat previous chord.

tough Hmm so it's tough tough

C D Em

Gtr. 3 plays *Fill 1* on 2nd verse (see below)

13

Gtr. 1 P.M. P.M. P.M.

end Rhy. Fig. 1

Gina works the diner all day Working for her man she brings home her pay for
Gina dreams of runnin' away When she cries in the night Tommy whispers "Baby it's okay
Em Esus2 Em Esus4

Gtr. 2 repeats Rhy. Fig. 1 (see meas. 9)

17

Gtr. 1 P.M. P.M.

Bass plays Bass Fig. 1 (see meas. 1)

love Hmm for love She says we gotta
someday We've gotta

C5 D5 N.C.(E5)

21

Gtr. 1 P.M. P.M. P.M.

1st and 2nd Pre-choruses (1:17, 2:23)

hold on to what we've got it doesn't make a difference if we make it or not We

C5 D5 E5^{VII} C5 D5 E5^{VII}

(talk box off)

25

Gtr. 1 P.M. P.M. P.M. (repeat previous two measures) 2

Fill 1 (2:00)

Gtr. 3 (elec. w/dist. and talk box effect)

C5 D5 N.C.(E5)

3/4

full

w/bar

"LIVIN' ON A PRAYER"

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got each other and that's a lot For love we'll give it a shot
 C5 D5 E5^{VII} C5 D5

29 **2** (w/talk box)

D Chorus (1:33, 2:39)

Oh we're halfway there Oh livin' on a prayer
 E5 C5 D5 G5 C5 D5

(talk box off)
 Rhy. Fig. 2

33 P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M.

Bass Fig. 2

Take my hand we'll make it I swear Oh livin' on a prayer
 E5 C5 D5 G5 C5 D5

end Rhy. Fig. 2

37 P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M.

end Bass Fig. 2

* substitute notes in parenthesis second time.

1. go back to verse **B** 2. Livin' on a prayer

N.C.(E5)
 (w/talk box)

N.C.(C5)

Gtr. 1
 vibrato w/bar

41 P.M. P.M. P.M. N.H.

pitch: D A G D

Gtr. 3 (talk box off)

E Guitar Solo (2:59)

E5 C5 D5 G5 C5
 Gtr. 1 plays Rhy. Fig. 2 (see meas. 33)

45 Gtr. 3 P.H. full

pitch: C#

*Mute strings with fret-hand fingers and pick-hand palm while "raking" them with a downstroke strum.

Bass plays Bass Fig. 2 simile (see meas. 33)

D5 E5 C5 D5

48 (15) - (15) (15) (15) P.H. 1/2 12 14

pitch: F#

Hoo We gotta

let ring into next meas.

full

51 Gtr. 3 15 15-12-13-(13)-12-12 15 15 15-(15) 14/16 15-17-15-17 15-17-17

full

Gtr. 1 P.M.

Bass 5 5 2 3 (3) 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 2

F 3rd Pre-chorus (3:16)

ready or not You live for the fight when that's all that you've got

hold on E5 VII D5 C5 D5

54 Gtr. 1 P.M. ...

Bass 3 3 3 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 7 7 5 3 3 3 3 3 3 5 5 5 5 5

G Outro Chorus (3:24)

Whoa we're halfway there Whoa livin' on a prayer

G5 Eb5 F5 Bb5 Eb5 F5

Rhy. Fig. 3 end Rhy. Fig. 3

58 P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M.

Bass 3 0 1 1 (1) 0 1 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 0 2 3 3 0 1 (1) 0 1 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 0 1 0

Take my hand and we'll make it I swear Whoa livin' on a prayer

G5 Eb5 F5 Bb5 Eb5 F5

Gtr. 1 repeats Rhy. Fig. 3 (see meas. 58)

62 Bass 3 0 1 1 (1) 0 1 2 3 3 3 3 5 5 5 2 2 3 3 0 1 (1) 0 1 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 1 3 1 0