GENERAL

tom petty fallin guitar tab

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Introduction

Tom Petty's music has been a staple of guitar enthusiasts for decades, and one of his lesser known tracks, "Fallin'," offers a perfect blend of classic rock feel and approachable guitar work. Whether you're a beginner looking for a simple riff or an intermediate player aiming to expand your repertoire, the **tom petty fallin guitar tab** provides a clear roadmap to mastering the song. In this guide we'll walk through every section of the track, explain the underlying chord progressions, and give you practical tips for practicing the tab effectively.

About Tom Petty and "Fallin'"

Tom Petty, the frontman of the Heartbreakers, was renowned for his knack of crafting memorable hooks and straightforward yet powerful guitar lines. "Fallin'," recorded in the early 1990s, showcases the raw energy that defined much of Petty's work. Though it never reached the same chart heights as "Free Fallin'" or "American Girl," the song remains a favorite among fans who appreciate its driving rhythm and sing along chorus.

What makes "Fallin'" an ideal learning target is its uncomplicated structure: a repeating verse chorus pattern, a short bridge, and a guitar solo that stays true to the song's melodic spirit. The **tom petty fallin guitar tab** is written in standard tuning (E A D G B E), so you won't need to learn any new tunings or complex fingerings.

Why "Fallin'" Is a Great Guitar Exercise

- Repetition of Core Riffs: The main riff is repeated throughout the track, giving you ample opportunity to lock in the rhythm and timing.
- Chord Familiarity: The song uses common open chords (G, D, Em, C, and A), making it accessible to players who are comfortable with the basic chord shapes.
- Dynamic Range: The track moves from a steady groove to a soaring solo, allowing you to practice both rhythm and lead techniques.
- Song Structure: The verse chorus bridge format is a textbook example of rock song architecture, ideal for studying songwriting patterns.

Understanding the Song Structure

Before diving into the tab, it helps to map out the overall structure. Below is a simplified outline of "Fallin'":

1. Intro (Riff) – 8 bars
2. Verse 1 – 8 bars
3. Chorus – 8 bars
4. Verse 2 – 8 bars
5. Chorus – 8 bars
6. Bridge – 4 bars
7. Solo – 12 bars
8. Chorus (final) – 8 bars
9. Outro – 4 bars (same as intro)

Each section follows a consistent chord progression, which is why the **tom petty fallin guitar tab**feels cohesive and easy to memorize.

The Main Riff and Intro

The opening riff sets the tone for the entire track. It's a simple power chord progression that repeats every 4 bars:

Chord Pattern: G – D – Em – C – D – G – D – G

Below is the tab for the intro riff, played at a moderate tempo (around 100 BPM). The tab uses standard notation for each string and shows where to place your fingers.

Intro Riff Tab

e|----------|
B|----------|
G|----------|
D|--5--5--5--5--5--5--5--5--5--5--|
A|--5--5--5--5--5--5--5--5--5--5--|
E|--3--3--3--3--3--3--3--3--3--3--|

Repeat this pattern for the intro and for the verse sections. The rhythm is a straight eighth note feel, so keep your strumming hand steady and let the down stroke drive the groove.

Chords Used in the Song

Below are the chord diagrams for the primary chords. All chords are played as open positions, which keeps the song approachable for players of all levels.

Chord Diagrams

- G Major – 320003
- D Major – xx0232
- Em – 022000
- C Major – x32010
- A Major – x02220

When you practice the chords, focus on clean transitions. A quick finger picking exercise before each section can help you maintain a tight sound.

Full Guitar Tab for Verses and Chorus

The verse and chorus sections share the same chord progression, but the strumming pattern changes slightly to emphasize the lyrical phrasing. Below is a more detailed tab that includes the strumming pattern and vocal cues.

Verse/Chorus Tab

e|----------|
B|----------|
G|----------|
D|--5--5--5--5--5--5--5--5--5--5--|
A|--5--5--5--5--5--5--5--5--5--5--|
E|--3--3--3--3--3--3--3--3--3--3--|

G D Em C

Strumming Pattern (down stroke emphasis on the first beat of each chord):

1. Down (G) – up (G) – down (G) – up (G)
2. Down (D) – up (D) – down (D) – up (D)
3. Down (Em) – up (Em) – down (Em) – up (Em)
4. Down (C) – up (C) – down (C) – up (C)

When you hit the chorus, increase the volume slightly and let the chord ring out. The vocal line is: “We’re falling, we’re falling, we’re falling down.”

Guitar Solo Section

The solo in “Fallin’” is a concise, melodic phrase that stays within the key of G major. It’s a great practice piece for developing bending and vibrato.

Solo Tab

```
e|-------------------------------------------------|
B|-------------------------------------------------|
G|--7b9r7--5--7--5--7--5--7--5--7--5--7--5--7--5--7--|
D|-----------------------------------------------5---|
A|-----------------------------------------------5---|
E|-----------------------------------------------3---|
```

Explanation:

- 7b9r7 – Bend the 7th fret on the G string up a whole step (to the 9th), then release back to the 7th.
- The pattern repeats with a slight variation on the 5th and 7th frets.
- Use a light touch on the bends to keep the tone smooth.

Practice the solo slowly at first, focusing on intonation. Once you’re comfortable, play along with the track to lock in the timing.

Tips for Practicing the Tab

Mastering the **tom petty fallin guitar tab**requires a systematic approach. Below are proven strategies to help you progress efficiently.

1. Break It Down

Instead of tackling the entire song at once, isolate each section: intro, verse, chorus, solo, and bridge. Practice each part until you can play it smoothly before moving on.

2. Use a Metronome

Set the metronome to 100 BPM for the main sections and gradually increase the tempo as you gain confidence. This ensures your timing remains accurate.

3. Focus on Rhythm

Rock songs hinge on a solid rhythm. Keep your strumming hand steady and practice the down stroke emphasis that drives the track.

4. Record Yourself

Listening back allows you to catch mistakes you might miss in real time. Pay attention to timing, chord transitions, and overall dynamics.

5. Layer the Solo

Once you can play the solo at a moderate speed, try layering it over the chord progression. This will help you understand how the lead fits into the harmonic context.

Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

Even seasoned players can fall into common pitfalls when learning “Fallin’.” Here are a few to watch out for.

1. Skipping the Bends

Many players overlook the subtle bends in the solo. Practice bending slowly and use a tuner to ensure accurate pitch.

2. Over Strumming

Because the song is rhythm heavy, it’s tempting to strum too hard. Keep the strumming hand relaxed and let the dynamics come from the chord changes.

3. Ignoring the Bridge

The bridge offers a slight change in feel. Make sure you switch to the correct chords (A – D – G – C) and adjust your strumming pattern accordingly

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