

Wichita Blues-Robert Johnson

Wichita Blues - Robert Johnson

Recorded by Bob Dylan during the Freewheelin' sessions

Tabbed by Eyolf strem, from the version played in Cynthia Gooding's apartment, Feb/Mar 1962

Tuning: E-A-c#-e-a-e'. Capo 4rd fret (sounding key: C#major).

This is the basic lick that dominates the song. It is played between most of the text lines. The variations are ample, especially in the last part of the lick, where an extra beat is often inserted (see the variants below).

```

      :   .   .   .   :   .   .   .   :   .   .   .   :
-----5-5-3-3-0-0-|-0-0-|-----|-----0-----|-----
-----0-0-0-0-5-5-|-3-3-0-0-|-----|-----0-----|-----
-----|-----|-0-0-5-5-2-2-|-----|-----0-----|-----
-----|-----|-0-0-1-1-0-0-|-----|-----0-----|-----
-0-----|-----|-3-3-|-0-----|-3---|-0---
-0-----|-----|-0-----|-3---|-0---

```

There are two possible ways of playing the second beat of the second measure. Either as written (000500), which is what Dylan plays, or with all the strings open (000000). That would ensure a smoother transition to the next shape (x01200).

The last chord in the second line of the tab (x02100) sound like a mistake. It only occurs at the very beginning of the song, so it's likely that he misplaced the fingers, playing the more common shape instead of the "correct" x01200).

Chords:

- A 000000
- D 201200 or x01200
- A7 003300

[intro:]

```

      :   .   .   .   :   .   .   .   :   .   .   .   :   .   .   .   :
-----5---3---0---|-0---0---0---0---|-----|-----0---0---0---|-----
-----0---0---5---|-3---0---0---0---|-----|-----0---0---0---|-----
-----0---0---0---|-0---5---2---0---|-----|-----0---2---2---|-----
-----|-----|-1-----|-----|-----0---1---1---|-----
-0-----|-----|-3-----|-0-----|-3---|-0-----
-0-----|-----|-0-----|-3---|-0-----

```

```

      :   .   .   .   :   .   .   .   :   .   .   .   :   .   .   .   :
-----0---0---|-----|-----0---0---|-----0---0---|-----
-----0---0---|-----|-----0---3---3---|-3---0---|-----
-----2---2---|-----0---0---|-0---3---3---|-3---1---|-----
-----1---1---|-----0---0---|-0---0---0---|-0---2---|-----
-0---0---0---|-0---3---3---|-0---0---0---|-0---0---|-----
-0---0---0---|-0---3---3---|-0---0---0---|-0---0---|-----

```

```

      :   .   .   .   :   .   .   .   :   .   .   .   .   :
-----0---0---|-----5---3---|-----0-0-|-----
-----0---0---|-----5---|-3-----|-----0-0-|-----
-----2---2---|-----|-3-5-3-0-|-0-0-|-----
-0---1---1---|-----|-1-0-|-0-0-|-----
-0---0---0---|-0-----|-----3-----|-----
-0---0---0---|-0-----|-----3-----|-----

```

```

      :   .   .   .   :   .   .   .   :   .   .   .   :   .   .   .   :
-----0-0-|-----0---0---|-----0---0---|-----0---0---|-----
-----0-0-|-----0---0---|-----0---0---|-----0---0---|-----
-----0-0-|-----0---0---|-----0---0---|-----0---0---|-----
-0-----|-----0---0---|-----0---0---|-----0---0---|-----
-0-----3---|-0-----3---|-0-----3---|-0-----0---|-----
-0-----3---|-0-----3---|-0-----3---|-0-----0---|-----

```

And

```

      :   .   .   .   :   .   .   .   :   .   .   .   :   .   .   .   :
-----0---0---|-----0---0---|-----0---0---|-----0---0---|-----
-----0---0---|-----0---0---|-----0---0---|-----0---0---|-----
-----0---0---|-----0---0---|-2---2---|-2---2---|-----
-----0---0---|-----0---0---|-0---1---1---|-1---1---|-----
-0-----3---|-0-----3---|-0---0---|-0-----|-----
-0-----3---|-0-----3---|-0-----2---|-2-----|-----

```

when I left Wichita the weather was winding

·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
5	3							0	
		5							0
			3						0
				5	2				0
						1	0		0
									0
									0
									0
									0

A D A [lick]
 And when I left Wichita the weather was blowin' free
 D A [lick]
 And when I left Wichita the wind was blowing free
 A7 D A [lick]
 Well, my poppa said, "Son, Watch out, you might catch that old T.B"
 A7 D A
 When I landed in West Memphis, Lord, I never had a dime.
 D A
 When I landed in West Memphis, Lord, I never had a dime.
 A7 D A
 Operator said, "Son, you ain't no friend of mine."

Operator, operator Let a poor boy ride.
 Operator, operator, oh Let a poor boy ride.
 Can't you see my standing here, how tears are running down my eyes.

A	D				A	D	A
>	>	>					
·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

ride Operator

[...] let me ride your train
 [...] let me ride your train
 Lord, I'm standing in the weather, Lord, clouds look like it will rain.

Going down to Louisiana where that green river runs
 Going down to Louisiana where that green river runs
 Lord, I just went out, my ramblin' is just begun.

And when I left Wichita the weather was blowin' free
 And when I left Wichita the wind was blowing free
 Well, my poppa said, "Son, Watch out, you might catch that old T.B"

·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·	·
5	5	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	5	5				
						0	0	5	5
						0	0	5	2
						0	0	1	1
						0	0	0	0
						0	0		3
						0	0		3