



JoniMitchell.com Transcription for Guitar

I Had A King

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EBEEBE, 'Joni' Tuning: x75075, Capo 5

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Tuning:

From low to high: EBEEBE capo at 5th fret
in "Joni" notation: E 75075

(with capo in place, strings sound AEAAEA)

The unison tuning of the two middle strings is one of the interesting features of this song, providing some of the close intervals in the first few chords, and by doubling the 5th fret note in the first chord of the chorus, giving this note a distinctive emphasis.

Because of this unison tuning, many of the chords could be fretted slightly differently whilst still giving exactly the same notes (e.g. 070700 or 077000, where the open/fretted notes on the 3rd and 4th strings are swapped). From the picking pattern for the later parts of the verse it seems that the chord shapes here mostly use fretted notes on the 3rd string and use the 4th open string, as this gives a much more natural picking pattern.

The chord shape at the 8th fret (088000) is the exception (using fretted notes on the 4th string), and although it's not always easy to hear, in later verses the picking pattern makes more sense using the 088000 shape, rather than 080800.

The studio recording has two guitar tracks throughout most of the song (the intro has just one guitar). After the intro, the two guitars play pretty much the same guitar part, although there are small differences in tone and picking pattern that help to create the rich guitar sound.

I've transcribed the guitars mostly as a single guitar part. In a few sections, where there are more notable differences between the left and right guitars, I've added comments or additional tablature. In some cases, where notes from the second guitar part can be incorporated into the main part, I've notated these in the tablature using square brackets [], so you can choose to include these or ignore them as you prefer.

Tablature notes in round brackets () indicate notes that are not clearly struck, so are optional.

The picking patterns used in the verse and chorus sections are almost the same throughout the song, though the descending section in the verse is slightly different the first time ("He's swept with a broom of contempt") compared to later verses, so I've written this out in

full on the 2nd verse to show the differences.

Chord shapes

All chord shapes used in the song are shown below.

AEAAEA	AEAAEA	AEAAEA	AEAAEA
055400	033200	000200	088000
Aadd4	Am9	Asus2	Fmaj7/A

AEAAEA	AEAAEA	AEAAEA	AEAAEA
x70700	x00700	x50500	x00500
A5/B	A5/E	Asus4	Asus4/E

AEAAEA	AEAAEA	AEAAEA	AEAAEA
x30300	x00300	x20200	x00200
Am/G	Am/E	F#m7add4	Asus2/E

(only the first verse uses the change to the one finger variant of the same chords in the two rows above)

AEAAEA	AEAAEA	AEAAEA	AEAAEA
005500	x00005	x00004	x00400
Asus4	Asus4	A	A

Intro

```

A-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
E-----0---0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
A-----4-----4-----4-----4-----2-----2-----2-----2-----
A---5-----5-----5-----3-----3-----3-----3-----
E-----5-----5-----0---3-----3-----3-----0-----
A---0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----

```

Verse 1

I had a king in a te - ne - ment cast - le

```

A-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
E-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
A-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----4-----
A-----5-----5-----5-----5-----5-----5-----5-----5-----
E-----5-----5-----0---3-----3-----3-----0-----
A---0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----

```

lately he's taken to painting the pastel walls

```

A-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
E-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
A-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----
A-----3-----3-----3-----3-----3-----3-----3-----3-----
E-----3-----3-----0---3-----3-----3-----0-----
A---0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----

```

brown.

He's taken the

```

A-----0-----0-----
E-----0-----0-----
A-----2-----2-----2-----2-----2-----0-----
A-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
E-----0-----0-----
A--0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----

```

cur - tains down

```

A-----0-----0-----
E-----0-----0-----
A--0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
A--8-----8-----8-----8-----0-----
E--8-----8-----
A-----0-----

```

Note: the left channel guitar plays a variation of the line above, as shown below:

```

A-----
E-----
A--0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
A--8-----8-----8-----8-----8-----
E--8-----8-----8-----8----- (8) -----
A-----0-----

```

He's swept with the broom of contempt and the rooms have an

```

A-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
E--0-----0-----0-----0-----
A-----7-----7----- (5) -----5-----5-----
A--0-----0-----0-----0-----
E--7-----0-----5-----0-----
A-----

```

empty ring

```

A-----0-----0-----0-----
E--0-----0-----0-----0-----
A-- (3) -----3-----3-----2-----2-----
A--0-----0-----0----- [0] -----0-----
E--3-----0-----2----- [0] -----
A-----

```

(notes in square brackets [] above show notes from the left-channel guitar that follow a slightly different picking pattern)

He's cleaned with the tears of an actor who fears for the

A-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
E---0-----0-----0-----0-----
A-----7-----7----- (5) -----5-----5-----
A-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
E---7-----0-----5-----0-----
A-----

laughter's sting

A-----0-----0---
E---0-----0-----
A-- (3) ---3-----3-----
A-----0-----0-----
E---3-----0-----
A-----

A-----0-----0-----0-----
E---0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
A-----2-----2-----2-----0-----
A-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
E---2-----2-----2-----0-----
A-----

Chorus

I can't go back there anymore

A-----0-----5-----4-----0-----
E-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
A--5-----5-----5-----0-----0-----4-----
A--5-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
E--0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
A-- (0) --0----- (0) -----

You know my keys won't fit the door

A-----0-----5-----4-----0-----
E-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
A--5-----5-----5-----0-----0-----4-----
A--5-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
E--0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
A-- (0) --0----- (0) -----

You know my thoughts don't fit the man,

A-----0-----5-----4-----0-----
E-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
A--5-----5-----5-----0-----0-----4-----
A--5-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
E--0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
A--0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----

they never can

```

A-----0-----
E-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
A-----2-----2-----2-----2-----
A-----3-----3-----3-----3-----
E--3-----3-----3-----0-----
A-----

```

they never can

```

A-----0-----
E-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
A-----4-----4-----4-----4-----
A-----5-----5-----5-----5-----
E-----5-----5-----5-----0-----
A--0-----

```

Verse 2

(Picking patterns as before, except where noted)

I had a king dressed in drip-dry and paisley
 Lately he's taken to saying I'm crazy and blind
 He lives in another time

Ladies in gingham still blush while he sings them of

```

A-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0--
E--0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
A-----7-----7----- (5) -----5-----5-----
A--0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
E--7-----0-----5-----0-----0-----
A-----

```

wars and wine

```

A-----0-----
E--0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0--
A-- (3) -----3-----3-----2----- [2] --2-----
A--0-----0-----0-----0-----0----- [0] ----- [0] --
E--3-----3-----3-----2----- [2] ----- [0] -----
A-----

```

(notes in square brackets [] above are from the left-channel guitar)

But I in my leather and lace I can never be -

A-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
E----0-----0-----0-----0-----
A-----7-----7----- (5) -----5-----5-----
A-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
E----7-----0-----5-----0-----
A-----

- come that kind

A-----
E----0-----0-----0-----
A---- (3) ----3-----3-----
A-----0-----0-----0-----
E----3-----3-----3-----
A-----

A-----0-----0-----0-----
E--0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
A-----2-----2-----2-----0-----
A-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
E--2-----2-----2-----0-----
A-----

Chorus

I can't go back there anymore
You know my keys won't fit the door
You know my thoughts don't fit the man
They never can, they never can

Verse 3

I had a king in a salt-rusted carriage
Who carried me off to his country for marriage too soon
Beware of the power of moons
There's no one to blame
No there's no one to name as a traitor here
The king's on the road
And the queen's in the grove till the end of the year

Chorus

I can't go back there anymore
You know my keys won't fit the door
You know my thoughts don't fit the man

they never can

A-----0-----
E-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
A-----2-----2-----2-----2-----
A-----3-----3-----3-----3-----
E--3-----3-----3-----0-----
A-----

they never can

A-----0-----
E-----0-----0-----0-----
A-----4-----4-----4-----4-----
A-----5-----5-----5-----
E-----5-----5-----5-----0-----
A--0-----

they never can

A-----0-----
E-----0-----0-----0-----
A-----2-----2-----2-----2-----
A-----3-----3-----3-----
E-----3-----3-----3-----0-----
A--0-----

they never can

A-----0-----
E-----0-----0-----0-----
A-----4-----4-----4-----4-----
A-----5-----5-----5-----
E-----5-----5-----5-----
A--0-----

(rall.)

A-----
E-----0-----0-----0-----0-----
A-----4-----4-----4-----4-----
A-----5-----5-----5-----5-----
E--5-----5-----5-----5-----
A-----

A-----0-----
E-----0-----0-----0-----
A-----4-----4-----2-----
A-----5-----5-----0-----0-----
E--5-----5-----0-----0-----
A-----0-----