

American Pie

INTRO (hold each chord):

G ½ **D/F#** ½ **Em**
 A long long time ago
Am **C**
 I can still remember
Em **D** **D(fc)**
 How that music used to make me smile
G ½ **D/F#** ½ **Em**
 And I knew that if I had one chance
Am **C**
 I could make those people dance
Em **C** **D(fc)** **D(fc)**
 And maybe they'd be happy for awhile

Em **Am**
 But February made me shiver
Em **Am**
 With every paper I'd deliver
C ½ **G** ½ **Am**
 Bad news on the doorstep
C **D**
 I couldn't take one more step

G ½ **D/F#** ½ **Em**
 I can't remember if I cried
Am **D**
 When I read about his widowed bride
G ½ **D/F#** ½ **Em**
 Something touched me deep inside
C **D7** **G** **G**
 The day the music died

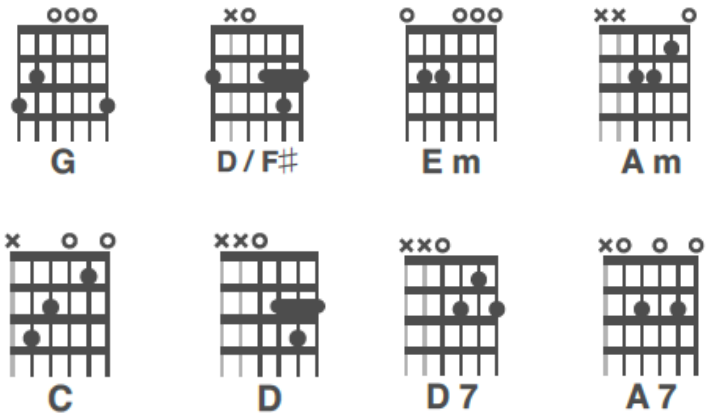
So

CHORUS:

G ½ **C** ½ **G** ½ **D** ½
 Bye, bye Miss American Pie
G ½ **C** ½ **G** ½ **D** ½
 Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry
G ½ **C** ½ **G** ½ **D** ½
 And them good ole boys were drinking whiskey and rye
Em (hold) **A7 (hold)**
 Singin' this'll be the day that I die
Em (hold) **D7**
 This'll be the day that I die

Hold Each Chord:

1 2 3 4 or 1 2 3 4
 1/2 1/2 1 1 1 1 1 1



Chorus Strum Pattern:

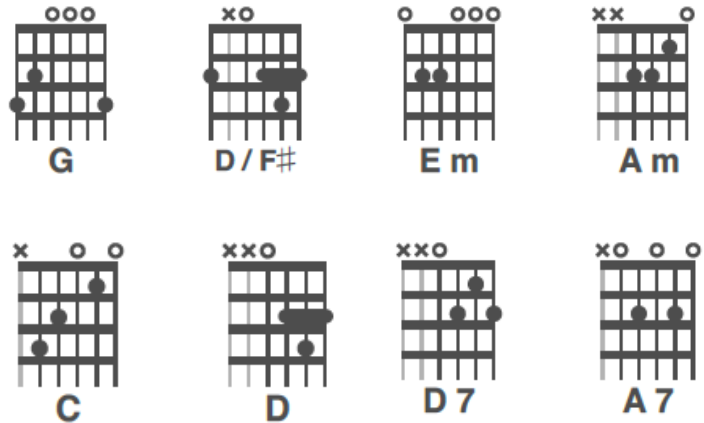
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
 D D U D D U

VERSE 1 (Folk Strum):

G **Am**
 Did you write the book of love
C **Am**
 And do you have faith in God above
Em **D** **D**
 If the Bible tells you so?
G(dd) **D/F#(dd)** **Em**
 Do you believe in rock and roll?
A7 **C**
 Can music save your mortal soul?
Em **A7** **D** **D**
 And can you teach me how to dance real slow?
Em (hold) **D (hold)**
 Well, I know that you're in love with him
Em (hold) **D (hold)**
 'Cause I saw you dancin' in the gym
C 1/2 **G 1/2** **D**
 You both kicked off your shoes
C(dd) **G(dd)** **D7**
 Man, I dig those rhythm and blues

Folk Strum Pattern:

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
 D D U U D U



G (dd) **D/F#(dd)** **Em**
 I was a lonely teenage broncin' buck
Am **C**
 With a pink carnation and a pickup truck
G(dd) **D/F#(dd)** **Em**
 But I knew I was out of luck
C **D7**
 The day the music died
G 1/2 **C 1/2** **G 1/2** **D 1/2**
 I started singin'

Chorus Strum Pattern:

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
 D D U D D U

CHORUS:

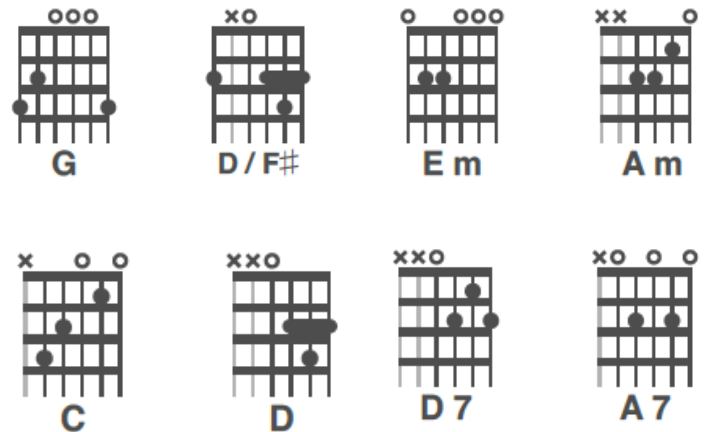
G 1/2 **C 1/2** **G 1/2** **D 1/2**
 Bye, bye Miss American Pie
G 1/2 **C 1/2** **G 1/2** **D**
 Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry
G 1/2 **C 1/2** **G 1/2** **D 1/2**
 And them good ole boys were drinking whiskey and rye
Em (hold) **A7 (hold)**
 Singin' this'll be the day that I die
Em (hold) **D7**
 This'll be the day that I die

VERSE 2 (Folk Strum):

G **Am**
 Now, for ten years we've been on our own
C **Am** **Em**
 And moss grows fat on a rolling stone
D **D**
 But, that's not how it used to be
G (dd) **D/F#(dd)** **Em**
 When the jester sang for the king and queen
A7 **C**
 In a coat he borrowed from James Dean
Em **A7** **D** **D**
 And a voice that came from you and me
Em (hold) **D (hold)**
 Oh and while the king was looking down
Em (hold) **D (hold)**
 The jester stole his thorny crown
C ½ **G ½** **D**
 The courtroom was adjourned
C **D7**
 No verdict was returned
G(dd) **D/F#(dd)** **Em**
 And while Lenin read a book on Marx
Am **C**
 The quartet practiced in the park
G(dd) **D/F#(dd)** **Em**
 And we sang dirges in the dark
C **D7**
 The day the music died
G ½ **C ½** **G ½** **D ½**
 We were singin'

Folk Strum Pattern:

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
 D D U U D U



Chorus Strum Pattern:

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
 D D U D D U

CHORUS:

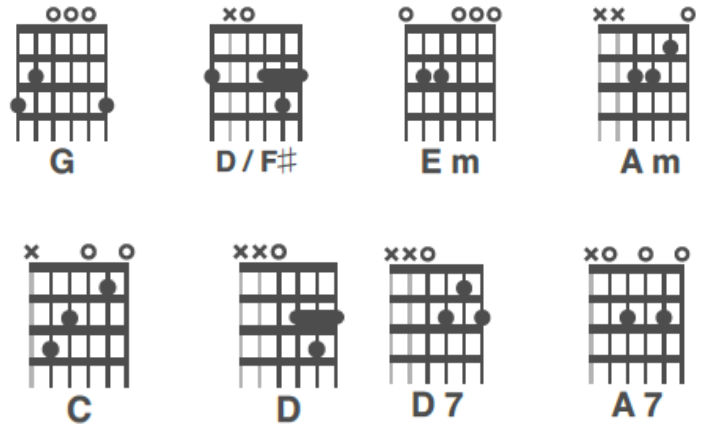
G ½ **C ½** **G ½** **D ½**
 Bye, bye Miss American Pie
G ½ **C ½** **G ½** **D**
 Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry
G ½ **C ½** **G ½** **D ½**
 And them good ole boys were drinking whiskey and rye
Em (hold) **A7 (hold)**
 Singin' this'll be the day that I die
Em (hold) **D7**
 This'll be the day that I die

VERSE 3 (Folk Strum):

G **Am**
 Helter skelter in a summer swelter
C **Am**
 The birds flew off with a fallout shelter
Em **D** **D**
 Eight miles high and falling fast
G(dd) **D/F#(dd)** **Em**
 It landed foul out on the grass
A7 **C**
 The players tried for a forward pass
Em **A7** **D** **D**
 With the jester on the sidelines in a cast
Em (hold) **D (hold)**
 Now the half-time air was sweet perfume
Em (hold) **D (hold)**
 While the sergeants played a marching tune
C 1/2 **G 1/2** **D**
 We all got up to dance
C **D7**
 Oh, but we never got the chance
G(dd) **D/F#(dd)** **Em**
 'Cause the players tried to take the field
Am **C**
 The marching band refused to yield
G(dd) **D/F#(dd)** **Em**
 Do you recall what was revealed
C **D7**
 The day the music died?
G 1/2 **C 1/2** **G 1/2** **D 1/2**
 We started singin'

Folk Strum Pattern:

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
 D D U U D U



CHORUS:

G 1/2 **C 1/2** **G 1/2** **D 1/2**
 Bye, bye Miss American Pie
G 1/2 **C 1/2** **G 1/2** **D**
 Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry
G 1/2 **C 1/2** **G 1/2** **D 1/2**
 And them good ole boys were drinking whiskey and rye
Em (hold) **A7 (hold)**
 Singin' this'll be the day that I die
Em (hold) **D7**
 This'll be the day that I die

Chorus Strum Pattern:

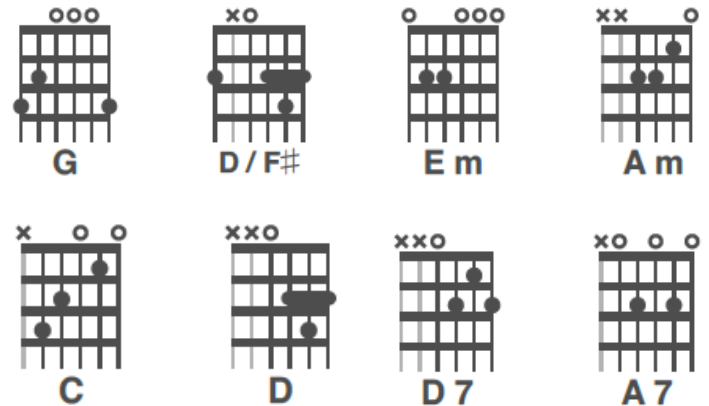
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
 D D U D D U

VERSE 4 (Folk Strum):

G **Am**
 Oh, and there we were all in one place
C **Am**
 A generation lost in space
Em **D** **D**
 With no time left to start again
G **Em**
 So come on Jack be nimble, Jack be quick
A7 **C**
 Jack Flash sat on a candlestick
Em **A7** **D** **D**
 'Cause the fire is the devil's only friend
Em (hold) **D (hold)**
 Oh and as I watched him on the stage
Em (hold) **D (hold)**
 My hands were clenched in fists of rage
C 1/2 **G 1/2** **D**
 No angel born in Hell
C **D7**
 Could break that Satan's spell
G(dd) **D/F#(dd)** **Em**
 And as the flames climbed high into the night
Am **C**
 To light the sacrificial rite
G(dd) **D/F#(dd)** **Em**
 I saw Satan laughing with delight
C **D7**
 The day the music died
G 1/2 **C 1/2** **G 1/2** **D 1/2**
 He was singin'

Folk Strum Pattern:

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
 D D U U D U



Chorus Strum Pattern:

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
 D D U D D U

CHORUS:

G 1/2 **C 1/2** **G 1/2** **D 1/2**
 Bye, bye Miss American Pie
G 1/2 **C 1/2** **G 1/2** **D**
 Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry
G 1/2 **C 1/2** **G 1/2** **D 1/2**
 And them good ole boys were drinking whiskey and rye
Em (hold) **A7 (hold)**
 Singin' this'll be the day that I die
Em (hold) **D7**
 This'll be the day that I die

VERSE 5 (hold each chord):

G ½ D ½ Em
 I met a girl who sang the blues
Am C
 And I asked her for some happy news
Em D D
 But she just smiled and turned away
G ½ D ½ A7

I went down to the sacred store
Am C
 Where I'd heard the music years before
Em A7

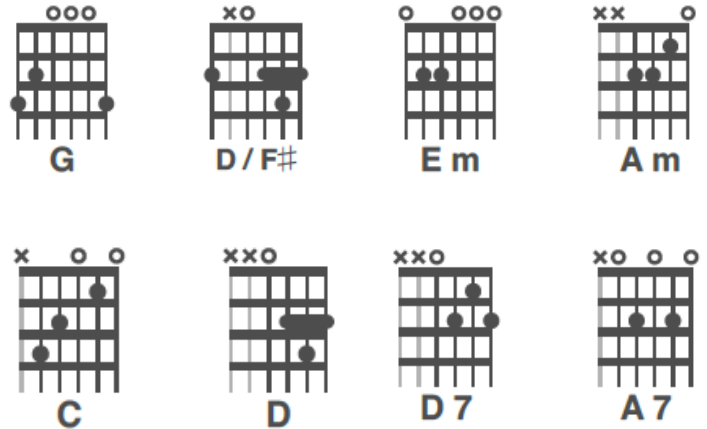
But the man there said the music wouldn't play
Em Am
 And in the streets the children screamed
Em Am

The lovers cried, and the poets dreamed
C ½ G ½ Am
 But not a word was spoken
C D7

The church bells all were broken
G ½ D/F# ½ Em
 And the three men I admire most
A7 C

The Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost
G ½ D/F# ½ Em
 They caught the last train for the coast
C D7

The day the music died
G ½ C ½ G ½ D ½
 And they were singin'



CHORUS (lightly):

G ½ C ½ G ½ D ½
 Bye, bye Miss American Pie
G ½ C ½ G ½ D
 Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry
G ½ C ½ G ½ D ½
 And them good ole boys were drinking whiskey and rye
Em (hold) A7 (hold)
 Singin' this'll be the day that I die
Em (hold) D7 (hold)
 This'll be the day that I die

Chorus Strum Pattern:

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
 D D U D D U

They were singing

G 1/2 C 1/2 G 1/2 D 1/2

Bye, bye Miss American Pie

G 1/2 C 1/2 G 1/2 D 1/2

Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry

G 1/2 C 1/2 G 1/2 D 1/2

And them good ole boys were drinking whiskey and rye

C 1/2 D 1/2 G 1/2 (hold) C 1/2 (hold) G (hold)

Singin' this'll be the day that I die

Chorus Strum Pattern:

1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&
D		D	U	D		D	U