

WHEN THE LEVEE BREAKS LED ZEPPELIN

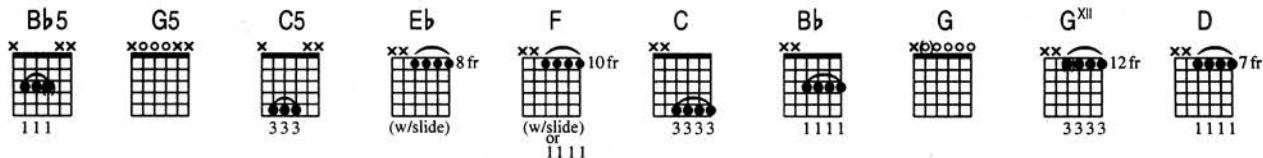
WORDS AND MUSIC BY Jimmy Page, Robert Plant, John Paul Jones, John Bonham and Memphis Minnie TRANSCRIBED BY Jeff Perrin

All guitars are in open G tuning, transposed down one whole step (low to high: C F C F A C) due to a reduction of the tape speed in the mastering process.

Bass tuning (low to high): D G C F.

All notes and chords sound one whole step lower than written (key of F).

() = optional note



A Intro (0:00)

(0:07)

Bb5 G5

Bb5 G5

Bb5 G5

C5

Bb5 G5

Bb5 G5

Bb5 G5

C5

end Rhy. Fig. 1

1 (drums) 2

mf

* Gtrs. are tuned down one whole step to emulate lower pitch produced by slow tape speed.

Bass substitutes Bass Fig. 1 second time

Bass Fig. 1

mf

2 (0:20, 3:05)

Bb5 G5

Bb5 G5

Bb5 G5

Bb5 G5

Bb5 G5

C5

(play 3 times)
end Rhy. Fig. 2

5 Rhy. Fig. 2

(play repeats simile)

Bass Fig. 2

(play 3 times)
end Bass Fig. 2

7 Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 C5 Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 C5 (play 3 times)

(play 3 times)

As heard on Led Zeppelin's Atlantic recording *Led Zeppelin IV*

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WHEN THE LEVEE BREAKS **LED ZEPPELIN**

B (1:08, 3:51)
 Eb w/slide F C Bb C G C Bb C G

10 Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 C5

(doubled simile)

Bass Fig. 3 Bass Fig. 4

13 Eb w/slide F C Bb C G C Bb C G 1. If it

end Bass Fig. 4

C Verses (1:25, 4:08)

(1.) keeps on rainin' levee's going to break moan If it
 Mean old levee taught me to weep and moan
 2. Cryin' won't help you prayin' won't do you no good moan yeah
 All last night I sat on the levee and moaned
 Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 C5

16 Gtr. 1

Bass plays Bass Fig. 2 three times simile (see meas. 5)

keeps on rainin' levee's going to break When the
 Mean old levee taught me to weep and moan It's
 Cryin' won't help you prayin' won't do you no good the
 All last night I sat on the levee and moaned

18 (repeat previous two measures) 2

levee breaks I'll have no place to stay oh well oh well oh well ooh
 got what it takes to make a mountain man leave his home a whoo-hoo
 levee breaks mama you got to move Thinkin' 'bout my baby and my happy home oh
 Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 C5

20 2

Bass plays Bass Fig. 1 first time (see meas. 4)
 Bass plays Bass Fig. 3 second time (see meas. 10)

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D (2:12, 4:44)

23 E^b w/slide F C B^b C G C B^b C G

Bass plays Bass Fig. 4 simile (see meas. 11)

(2nd time) To Coda $\oplus$
(skip ahead to meas. 39)

25 E^b w/slide F C B^b C G C B^b C G

E Bridge (2:26)

27 G G^{XII} D G C D F G^{XII} (w/slide) Riff A G G^{XII} D G C D F G^{XII} end Riff A

Gtr. 2 (elec. w/dist.)

f

Gtr. 1 Rhy. Fig. 3 end Rhy. Fig. 3

Bass

make you feel bad when you're tryin' to find your way home you don't know which way to go If you're

D G C D F G

Gtr. 2 plays Riff A twice (see meas. 29)

Gtr. 1 plays Rhy. Fig. 3 three times (see meas. 29)

31 Bass

going down South they got no work to do if you're goin' on to Chicago

D G C D F G

33 Bass Fig. 5 end Bass Fig. 5

Ahh ahh ahh hey hey hey

D G C D F G

35 Gtr. 2

Bass plays Bass Fig. 5 simile (see meas. 33)

* played slightly "ahead" of beat.

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D.S.  al Coda 
(go back to meas. 5)

37

G Gtr. 2 G^{XII} D G C D F G^{XII}

Gtr. 1

Bass

 Coda

[F] Bridge (5:08)

G^{XII} D G C D F G^{XII}

Gtr. 2 plays Riff A twice (see meas. 29)

39 Gtr. 1

Bass

41 Rhy. Fig. 4 D C D F G^{XII} end Rhy. Fig. 4

(5:21)

Ahh D ahh C ahh D F G

Gtr. 1 plays Rhy. Fig. 4 four times (see meas. 41)

43 Gtr. 2

Bass plays Bass Fig. 5 four times simile (see meas. 33)

* played slightly "ahead" of beat.

WHEN THE LEVEE BREAKS **LED ZEPPELIN**

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Ahh D C C D F G D Oh

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C D F G

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G **Outro** (5:47)

Goin' to Chicago

B♭5 G5 B♭5 G5 B♭5 G5 B♭5 G5 C5

Gr. 1 plays Rhy. Fig. 2

51 Bass

	down	now	Sorry	but I	can't	take		you		Goin'	down		Goin'
	Bb5	G5		Goin'	down			Goin'	down	now	Goin'	down	I'm
	Bb5	G5			Bb5	G5			Bb5	G5		Bb5	G5
	Gtr. 1 plays Rhy. Fig. 2 (see meas. 51)												
53	Bass Fig. 6												
	end Bass Fig. 6												

down I'm goin' down I'm goin' down Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 C5 Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 C5

Gr. 1 plays Rhy. Fig. 2 (see meas. 5) *(backwards str.)* *Gr. 3 plays Fill 1* *Gr. 1 plays Rhy. Fig. 1 five times (see meas. 3)*

[illegible][illegible]

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61 **down** **Goin'** **down** **now** **Goin'** **down** **I'm goin'** **down** **now** **I'm goin'**
Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 C5 Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 C5
Bass

The first system of musical notation for 'The Rose Tree' consists of a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style. It begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, then a quarter note B-flat4, and a quarter note G4. This is followed by a half note F4, then a half note E4, and a half note D4. The melody continues with a quarter note C4, then a quarter note B-flat3, and a quarter note A3. The system ends with a double bar line.

63 **down** **Goin'** **down** **now** **I'm goin'** **down** **Goin'** **down** **down**
 B♭5 G5 B♭5 G5 B♭5 G5 C5 B♭5 G5 B♭5 G5 B♭5 G5 C5

down down down now ooh when ooh when
Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 C5 Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 Bb5 G5 C5

65 Gtr. 2

12 10 12 12

mp

Bass

The first system of the exercise is written on a bass staff. It consists of two measures. The first measure contains a triplet of eighth notes (G2, F2, E2) followed by a quarter note (D2), a quarter note (C2), and a quarter note (B1). The second measure contains a quarter note (A1), a quarter note (G1), a quarter note (F1), and a quarter note (E1). The notes are written on the first four lines of the staff.

Free Time				
Bb5 G5	Bb5 G5	Bb5 G5	C5	G5 Bb5

67 Gtr. 2

mf

(fret noise) (dist. off)

Gr. 3

[illegible]

Bass

Fill 1 (6:19)
Gr. 3 (elec. w/dist.)

w/slide * (play 10 times simile)

TAB **4/4**

mp