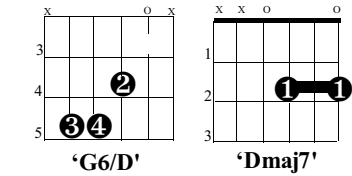


# America - ‘Ventura Highway’ (1)

Words and Music by **Dewey Bunnell** Transcribed by **Kevin Paluzzi**

**Key of ‘D’ Major** (Arranged for two guitars)



## Intro/Verse 1

1 G6/D Dmaj7

2 5 7 5 5 7 5 5 7 5

3 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 5

4 6 6 7 6 6 7 6 6 7

5

6 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 2 2 3 3 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 2 2 3 3 2 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 2 2 3 3

G6/D Dmaj7 G6/D

1 5 7 5 5 7 5 5 7 5

2 7 5 7 5 7 5 7 5 5 7

3 7 6 6 7 6 6 6 7 7

4

5

6 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 2 2 3 3 2 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 2 2 3 3 3 3 1 3 Chewing on a piece of grass...

Dmaj7 G6/D Dmaj7

1 5 7 5 3 5 5 7 5

2 7 5 7 5 5 7 7 5 7 5

3 6 6 7 7 6 6 7

4

5

6 road... 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 2 2 3 3 3 1 3 1 3 Tell me - How long you gonna stay here Joe

G6/D Dmaj7 G6/D

1 5 7 5 5 7 5 5 7 5

2 7 7 5 7 5 5 7

3 6 6 7 6 6 7 7

4

5

6 Some people say - this town don't look good in snow You don't care - I know

Dmaj7 (to Chorus) G6/D Dmaj7

1 14 12 9 7 5 2 14 10 8 7 3 3 4

2 15 14 10 8 7 3 3 4

3

4

5

6 2 1 1 1 1 1 2 3 3 2 2 3 2 3 Ventura Highway...

## 'Ventura Highway' - Performance Notes (1)

Several guitars are used on the original recording of '*Ventura Highway*', including six and twelve-string acoustics. This lesson is designed for performances by one or two guitarists. The following sections will focus on the essential lead and rhythm guitar parts played throughout the Intro and Verse sections.

### Rhythm Guitar

The two-chord '*G6/D-Dmaj7*' progression is the primary rhythm guitar part that is repeated throughout the Intro, Verse, and Chorus sections. Guitarist Dewey Bunnell uses the thumb to mute the bottom string for both chord shapes.

### Strum Pattern

The key to the rhythm is to set a percussive 'choppy' feel with the right strumming hand. Initially, skip the muting ('x') in between chords and focus solely on the bass note/chord rhythm ('*bass-chop... chop-chop*'). The very last 'chop' is occasionally muted on the recording. Keep time by emphasizing the bass note for each chord. The arrows below the tab represent up and down strokes.

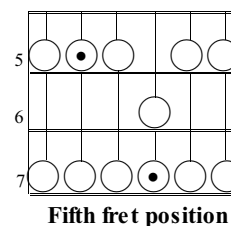
	G6/D	Dmaj7
1		2 -xxx 2 2    2 -xxx 2 x
2	0 -xxx 0 0    0 -xxx 0 x	2 -xxx 2 2    2 -xxx 2 x
3	4 -xxx 4 4    4 -xxx 4 x	2 -xxx 2 2    2 -xxx 2 x
4	5 -xxx 5 5    5 -xxx 5 x	0                    0
5	5                    5	
6		

↓ ↓ ↓↑↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓↑↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓↑↓ ↓ ↓

### Lead Guitar - 1

On the original recording, two guitars play a repeated riff with slight variations throughout the Intro and Verse sections. The more-dominant sounding guitar part is shown in the tab, and can be played on either a twelve or six-string acoustic. Just prior to the Chorus (0:43) a doublestop riff is shown that works well for performances with just one lead guitarist. Aside from the opening riff, the entire sequence of riffs is repeated during the second half of the song. All riffs are based from the 'D' Major scale.

### 'D' Major Scale



### Lead Guitar - 2

Below are riffs played by a second guitarist that simultaneously follow Lead Guitar-1. These riffs are also based from the 'D' Major scale played along the seventh fret position.

#### Riff #1 (0:00)

#### Riff #2 (0:04)

#### Riff #3 (0:15)

#### Riff #4 (0:22)

1	7 8 7	7 8 7	7 8 7	7 8 7
2				
3	7 6 7 6    7	7 6 7 6    7	7 6 7 6    7 6 7	7 6 7 6    7 6 7 9
4	9 7 9 9	9 7 9 7	9 7 9 9	9 7 9 9
5				
6				

1 2 1 2 1 2 1 3 1 3 1 3    1 2 1 2 1 2 1 3 1 3 1 3    1 2 1 2 1 2 1 3 1 3 1 2    1 2 1 2 1 2 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 2 3 1

G6/D	Dmaj7	G6/D
Ventura Highway in the sunshine		Where the days are longer, the nights are stronger...
Dmaj7	G6/D	
than moonshine	You're gonna go, I...	

Dmaj7-Em7...										F#m11				(to Bridge)				
1	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0		
2	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0		
3	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	2	2	2	2	2
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	4	4	4	4
5													4	4	4	4	4	4
6																		

(I) know-ou-wo ou-wo-ou wo-ou-wo ou-wo-ou wo... 'Cause the...

[illegible]

G6/D		Dmaj7		G6/D	
1	5 7 5		5 7 5		5 7 5
2	7 5 7 5	7	7 5 7 5	7	7 5 7 5
3	6 6 7	6	6 6 7	7	6 6 7
4					
5					
6					
In the air...		Do d-do-do		Do d-do-do	
Dmaj7		(to Verse)	G6/D	Dmaj7	
1	5 7 5				
2	7 5 7 5	7	5 7		
3	6	6 6 7	7		
4					
5					
6					
Do d-do-do		Do d-do-do	Do d-do Wishin' on a falling star...		

## 'Ventura Highway' - Performance Notes (2)

### Chorus (0:47)

The entire band 'kicks-in' (*three guitars, bass, drums*), providing a backing rhythm that cannot be replicated by just one or two guitars. With other guitars, the 'choppy' acoustic rhythm played throughout the Intro and Verse can continue throughout the Chorus, otherwise a more 'sustained' strumming rhythm may be required to fill in the gaps.

The final 'Dmaj7' section features a repeated staccato-like 'Dmaj7-Em7' chord change where the first finger simply lifts off the 'Dmaj7' chord to play 'Em7' during the '*know-ou-wo....*' section.

The Chorus ends with a unique 'F#m11' chord, which provides a dramatic 'lead-in' prior to the Bridge with a steady downstroke rhythm. Note the emphasis on strumming the higher strings on various beats.

### Arrangement

**Intro**  
**Verse 1**  
**Chorus**  
**Bridge**  
**Alt Verse**  
**Verse 2**  
**Chorus**  
**Bridge**  
**Alt Verse**  
**(fade)**

### Chorus - Guitar 3

On the original recording, three acoustic guitars are played together for the Chorus. Two guitars follow the 'G/D-Dmaj7' progression, while an arpeggiated melody is played on the third guitar track shown below. For both chords, simply slide an open 'D' chord shape (*with the middle finger lifted off the top string*) up and down one fret. Count each measure as: '1-2-3 1-2-3-4 1-2'

	Em7	Dmaj9
1	0	0
2	8	7
3	7	6
4		
5		
6		

↓ ↑ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↑

### Bridge (1:09)

Note the change in rhythm at the end of the Bridge, using all downstrokes to 'rev-up' or lead-in to the Alternate Verse section.

### Alt Verse (1:29)

The Alternate Verse section essentially reverses the Chorus progression to 'Dmaj7-G/D'.

### Lyrics

Chewin' on a piece of grass Walking down the road  
 Tell me, how long you gonna stay here, Joe?  
 Some people say this town don't look good in snow  
 You don't care, I know  
 Ventura Highway in the sunshine  
 Where the days are longer  
 The nights are stronger than moonshine  
 You're gonna go I know  
 'Cause the free wind is blowin' through your hair  
 And the days surround your daylight there  
 Seasons crying no despair  
 Alligator lizards in the air, in the air

Wishin' on a falling star Waitin' for the early train  
 Sorry boy, but I've been hit by purple rain  
 Aw, come on Joe, you can always change your name  
 Thanks a lot, son, just the same  
 Ventura Highway in the sunshine  
 Where the days are longer  
 The nights are stronger than moonshine  
 You're gonna go I know  
 'Cause the free wind is blowin' through your hair  
 And the days surround your daylight there  
 Seasons crying no despair  
 Alligator lizards in the air, in the air