

Easy

Although all of the compositions in this volume are originals, this one is particularly original in that I did not use any known song as my template. However, this kind of chord progression would not be too hard to find in any collection of old time western and country-rock tunes.

Relaxed Cow-trot
in straight eighths

Five Card Stud

by George Arvola
(in 1994)

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a common time signature (C). It contains a melody of eighth notes. The bottom staff is also in treble clef with a common time signature, featuring a bass line of eighth notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: C in the first measure, G7 in the second, and C in the third. The piece concludes with a final chord of C.

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff continues the melody from the first system. The bottom staff continues the bass line. Chord symbols are C, G7, and C. The system ends with a final chord of C.

The third system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff continues the melody. The bottom staff continues the bass line. Chord symbols are F, C, and C7. The system ends with a final chord of C7.

The fourth system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff continues the melody. The bottom staff continues the bass line. Chord symbols are F, F7, D, D9, and G. The system ends with a final chord of G.

The image shows two systems of musical notation for guitar. Each system consists of a melody line on a treble clef staff and a rhythm line on a bass clef staff. The first system has four measures with chords C, G7, and C. The second system has four measures with chords C, F, G7, and C. The rhythm line uses various note values and rests to create a 'two to a bar' feel.

A very relaxed two to a bar feel with 8 stroke rhythm variations. Notice that the up beat stroke in the rhythm part is sometimes shown as one of the inside strings of the chord. It does not have to be absolutely accurate. The idea is to create a slightly different texture in the rhythm sound. What the heck is a cow-trot? The tempo should be about 96 to 108 quarter notes per minute. The melody can be played with some slurs and some notes could be articulated by "bending to pitch" from a tone or semitone below the given note.

Here is a possible rhythmic variation that places a slightly more complex bass line into the mix. Rock type rhythms often have some element of syncopation in the bass line. The dotted quarter followed by an eighth is probably the most common one.

The image shows a short musical example with a melody line and a bass line. The bass line features a syncopated rhythm with a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note. The melody line has some slurs and accents.

At a relaxed tempo, this picking formula seems to work quite well even when there is a series of quick down strokes.