

Hey Hey What Can I Do

Music and lyrics by Jimmy Page, Robert Plant,
John Paul Jones, and John Bonham



Led Zeppelin's "Hey Hey What Can I Do" never appeared on any of Zeppelin's classic LPs from the late '60s and early '70s, only turning up as a B-side to the 1970 single "Immigrant Song." Despite its initial rarity, the song became popular and subsequently found its way onto many Led Zeppelin compilations and box sets.

If you want to match the pitch of the recording, tune your guitar down a little more than one half step. Playing the song at standard pitch will sound fine, too (as long as the vocal part is still within your range). In the arrangement below, I've generally locked onto the most prominent guitar part—the six-string acoustic that kicks off the tune—but have included the signature riffs and licks that pop up throughout the tune in other parts. While an orchestra of acoustic instruments fills out the arrangement, the version here will work fine as a solo accompaniment to the vocal.

Play the intro riff by barring across the second fret with your index finger. This leaves your middle and ring fingers free to grab the third- and fourth-fret embellishments (which would be nearly impossible if you fretted the notes of that A chord without a barre). As you play through the song, fret this A chord the same way, since similar licks pop up nearly every time it's played. On the most prominent of these licks

(measure 8), guitarist Jimmy Page overdubs another guitar to make the line pop out of the mix. You can give it a similar emphasis by digging in harder for extra volume.

Throughout the verses and choruses, Page embellishes the D chord by lifting his fingers off the first and third strings on the upstrokes, creating a rhythmic riff that's much easier to pull off than it looks on paper. Just lift your index and middle fingers off the strings on the upstrokes and slap them back down on every downstroke and don't worry too much about which strings you're strumming.

As the song reaches its climax, Page occasionally plays a blistering rhythmic pattern that jumps between D and C chords (measures 22–23). The tricky part isn't the quick chord changes—it's strumming those ridiculous 32nd-note strums without breaking your rhythm. If you have trouble, slow the song down to a manageable pace, then gradually speed it up until you can strum this manic pattern at performance tempo. Page mixes things up on repetitions of the final section, alternating variations of the D–C riff with more of the catchy D-chord embellishments he plays throughout the tune. —ANDREW DUBROCK

Tune down one half step Intro

Chords: A, G, D

play three times

Verse

Chords: A, E, G, D

1. Wan-na tell you 'bout the girl I love _____
2–3. See additional lyrics.

My she looks so fine _____

A E G D

Now she's the on-ly one that I've been dream-ing of — May-be some day she will be all mine —

A E G D

I wan-na tell her that I love her so — I thrill with her ev-er-y touch —

A E/G# F#m D

I need to tell her she's the on - ly one I real - ly love

Chorus

A G D

I got a wo - man, wan - na ball all day —

A G D

14 I got a wo - man and she won't be true, no

A G D

16 I got a wo - man, stay drunk all the time

A G D

18 I said I got a lit - tle wo - man and she won't be true *play three times*

A G D

20 Hey hey what can I do

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A G D (C) (D) (C) (D) (C) (A) *play six times simile and fade*

Oh no what can I say

1. A E G D
Wanna tell you 'bout the girl I love

My she looks so fine

A E G D
Now she's the only one that I've been dreaming of

Maybe some day she will be all mine

A E G D
I wanna tell her that I love her so

I thrill with her every touch

A E/G# F#m D
I need to tell her she's the only one I really love

Chorus

A G D
I got a woman, wanna ball all day

A G D
I got a woman and she won't be true, no

A G D
I got a woman, stay drunk all the time

A G D
I said I got a little woman and she won't be true

2. A E G D
On Sunday morning when we go down to church

See the men folk standing in line

A E G D
Don't say they come to pray to the Lord

Not when my little girl looks so fine

A E G D
And in the evening when the sun is sinking low

And everybody's with the one they love

A E/G# F#m D
I walk the town, keep searching all around

Lookin' for my street-corner girl

Repeat Chorus

3. A E G D
Out in the bars with the men who play guitars

Singin' and drinkin' and rememberin' the time

A E G D
My little lover does a midnight shift

She fool around all of the time

A E G D
I guess there's just one thing a-left for me to do

Gonna pack my bags and move on my way

A E/G# F#m D
'Cause I got a worried mind sharing what I thought was mine

Gonna leave her with the guitars playin'

Repeat Chorus

A G D
Hey, hey, what can I do

A G D
Oh, no, what can I say

*(play last two lines six times
and fade with ad-lib vocal)*