

# The Joker

Words and Music by Steve Miller, Eddie Curtis, and Ahmet Ertegun, from *The Joker*



Released in 1973, *The Joker* signaled Steve Miller's shift from bluesman to pop star, and no other song from that year embodied the party mentality better than the album's title track.

Miller tuned his guitar down a whole step for "The Joker" and played in the key of G. (Since you're tuned down a whole step, these G shapes will actually sound in the key of F.)

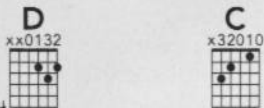
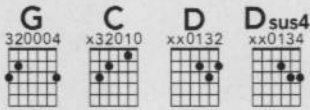
Try adding hammer-on and pull-off fills to your strum patterns, as Miller did (shown below in the strumming pattern). Beneath the verses, Miller lays down

the rhythm with the tasty riff shown below, which employs these same hammer-on and pull-off techniques. On the choruses, another guitar adds strummed chords to thicken the sound. If you have two guitarists, one can strap a capō on the third fret and play E, A, and B chord shapes, as Miller did on the recording.

Tune down a whole step:

D G C F A D

Chords



## Strum Pattern

## Riff

## Chorus

1. G C D C  
Some people call me the space cowboy
- G C D C  
Some call me the gangster of love
- G C D C  
Some people call me Maurice
- G C D C G  
'Cause I speak of the pompitous of love
2. C D C  
People talk about me, baby
- G C D C  
Say I'm doing you wrong, doing you wrong
- G C D C  
Well, don't you worry, baby, don't worry
- G C D C  
'Cause I'm right here, right here, right here, right here at home

- G C G C  
'Cause I'm a picker, I'm a grinner, I'm a lover, and I'm a sinner
- G C D C  
I play my music in the sun
- G C G C  
I'm a joker, I'm a smoker, I'm a midnight toker
- G C D Dsus4  
I get my loving on the run

3. G C D C  
You're the cutest thing that I ever did see
- G C D C  
I really love your peaches, want to shake your tree
- G C D C  
Lovey dovey, lovey dovey, lovey dovey all the time
- G C D C  
Ooh—ee, baby, I'll sure show you a good time

Repeat Chorus

Repeat Verses 2 and 3, fade out