Space Oddity

Words and music by David Bowie, from Space Oddity

Though many people remember “Space Oddity” from the 1972 album of the same name, Bowie first released the album in 1969 as Man of Words/Man of Wisdom. “Space Oddity” was written for a 30-minute promotional clip highlighting Bowie as a songwriter, and the BBC used the track as a theme song in its coverage of the US moon landing in 1969.

Try the strum pattern below, and find variations that work well for you as you progress through the song. Bowie occasionally adds chord embellishments, and sometimes adds a low E bass note underneath his chords (especially the C) to thicken the sound. Fret the Fmaj7 chord with your thumb on the sixth string, leaving your index, middle, and ring fingers free to fret the remaining notes while the open first string rings through.

Bridge
Fmaj7 Em7 Fmaj7 Em7
For here am I sitting in a tin can, far above the world

B♭ Am G F
Planet Earth is blue and there’s nothing I can do

C² F G² A² C² F G² A² Fmaj7 Em7 A C D/E E

Chorus
C E7
Though I’m past one hundred thousand miles

F
I’m feeling very still

Fm C F
And I think my spaceship knows which way to go

Fm C F
Tell my wife I love her very much, she knows

G² Gdim
Ground control to Major Tom

Am Am/G
Your circuit’s dead, there’s something wrong

D C
Can you hear me Major Tom, can you hear me Major Tom?

G
Can you hear me Major Tom?

Bridge
Fmaj7 Em7 Fmaj7 Em7
Can you... here am I floating round my tin can, far above the world

B♭ Am G F
Planet Earth is blue and there’s nothing I can do

C² F G² A² C² F G² A² Fmaj7 Em7 A C D/E E

Chords

Strum Pattern

Bridge
Fmaj7 Em7 Fmaj7 Em7
For here am I sitting in a tin can, far above the world

B♭ Am G F
Planet Earth is blue and there’s nothing I can do

C² F G² A² C² F G² A² Fmaj7 Em7 A C D/E E

Chorus
C E7
Though I’m past one hundred thousand miles

F
I’m feeling very still

Fm C F
And I think my spaceship knows which way to go

Fm C F
Tell my wife I love her very much, she knows

G² Gdim
Ground control to Major Tom

Am Am/G
Your circuit’s dead, there’s something wrong

D C
Can you hear me Major Tom, can you hear me Major Tom?

G
Can you hear me Major Tom?

Bridge
Fmaj7 Em7 Fmaj7 Em7
Can you... here am I floating round my tin can, far above the world

B♭ Am G F
Planet Earth is blue and there’s nothing I can do

C² F G² A² C² F G² A² Fmaj7 Em7 A C D/E E

ACOUSTIC GUITAR February 2007