

# Tennessee Jed

Word and music by Jerry Garcia and Robert Hunter



"Tennessee Jed" first appeared on the Grateful Dead's live *Europe '72* recording, with Jerry Garcia playing the signature descending lick and Bob Weir holding down the rhythm on electric guitar. On *Electric Dirt*, Levon Helm adds an organic feel by using acoustic instruments and a funky, light touch on the drums.

While a bevy of guitars, horns, and keyboards surrounds Helm's gritty vocals, the transcription below generally follows the rhythm guitar in the center of the mix. The rhythm and slide guitars, keyboards, and even the horns

play portions of Garcia's original guitar lick (which appears first in measures 8–11 in this transcription, and repeats after the first, second, and last lines in most verses). The toughest part of this recurring lick happens in measure 10, where the sliding double-stop—which requires your ring finger on the lower note—makes it difficult to get that ring finger down to the third-fret, fifth-string C note on the "and" of beat 2. Try moving the ring finger before you reach its target note; the top note of the double-stop is the most important one to hear, so as long as that rings, you won't miss the lower note while you're reaching for the C. And you can simply strum through C and G chords here instead of playing this lick. —ANDREW DUBROCK

## Intro

C D<sub>m</sub> C D<sub>m</sub> C F C G F G C

## Verse

C G C F

1. Cold i-ron shack-les and a ball and chain — A - listen to the whistle of the  
2-6. See additional lyrics.

G C G C C<sub>7</sub> E<sub>b</sub>dim/C Ddim/C

13 eve-ning train — You know — you bound to — a-wind up

\* Composite arrangement, these three measures.



1.

C7 F G C G C

19 dead If you don't head back to Ten - nes-see Jed

2. A

2.

**Chorus**

G C B $\flat$  F G C F C

320004 x32010 x1333x 134211 320004 x32010 134211 x32010

24 nes - see Jed Ten-nes-see a - Ten - nes-see There ain't no place I'd

To Coda 2  $\oplus$

G F C Dm C Dm C F C G F

320004 134211 xx201x xx213x xx111x xx342x 6 fr. xx321x 8 fr. xxx211 8 fr. xxx341 10 fr. x1333x 134211 134211

30 rather be A - ba - by won't you car - ry me A - back to Ten-nes-see

To Coda 1  $\oplus$

G C G C

37

D.S. (first time, with repeats)  
D.S. al Coda 1 (second time, with repeats)

G C

43

1/4 1/4 1/2

$\oplus$  Coda 1

E $\flat$

48



# LEVON HELM

50

B $\flat$  E $\flat$  B $\flat$  F B $\flat$

D.S.S. al Coda 2

56

F F G B $\flat$  F G C

## Coda 2

64

F<sup>sus2</sup> C Dm C Dm C F C G

(see) — ba - by won't you car - ry me — A - back to — Ten - nes-see

71

C G C

- C G C  
Cold iron shackles and a ball and chain

F G C G C  
A-listen to the whistle on the evening train

C7 E $\flat$ dim/C Ddim/C C7  
You know you bound to wind up dead

F G C G C  
If you don't head back to Tennessee, Jed
- C G C  
A rich man step on my poor head

F G C G C  
A-when you get back you better butter my bread

C7 E $\flat$ dim/C Ddim/C C7  
Well, you know that it's just like I said

F G C B $\flat$  F G C  
You better hurry on back to Tennessee, Jed

Chorus

F C G F  
Tennessee, Tennessee, there ain't no place I'd rather be

C Dm C Dm C F C G F G C  
Baby won't you carry me back to Tennessee?

C G C G C



3. **C** **G C**  
 Drank all day and rock all night

**F** **G C G C**  
 The law come to get you if you don't walk right

**C7** **E<sup>dim</sup>/C** **Ddim/C** **C7**  
 Got a letter this morning, baby, you know what it read

**F** **G C G C**  
 You better hurry on back to Tennessee, Jed

4. **C** **G C**  
 I dropped four flights and I cracked my spine

**F** **G C G C**  
 A-honey come quick, bring the iodine

**C7** **E<sup>dim</sup>/C** **Ddim/C** **C7**  
 Gonna catch a few winks, baby, up under the bed

**F** **G C B<sup>b</sup> F G C**  
 And then a-head on back to Tennessee, Jed

Repeat Chorus

5. **C** **G C**  
 I run into old Charlie Fog

**F** **G C G C**  
 But he blackened my eye and he kicked my dog

**C7** **E<sup>dim</sup>/C** **Ddim/C** **C7**  
 My dog turned to me and he said

**F** **G C G C**  
 "A-let's head on back to Tennessee, Jed"

6. **C** **G C**  
 I woke up next morning, I was feeling mean

**F** **G C G C**  
 I went down to play on the slot machine

**C7** **E<sup>dim</sup>/C** **Ddim/C** **C7**  
 The wheels they turned around and the letters read

**F** **G C B<sup>b</sup> F G C**  
 "You better hurry on back to Tennessee, Jed"

Repeat Chorus, two times

**C** **G** **Fsus2**  
 ...back to Tennessee?

**C Dm C** **Dm C** **F C** **G** **C**  
 Baby won't you carry me back to Tennessee?  
**C** **G C**

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