

# Boots of Spanish Leather

Words and music by Bob Dylan, arranged by Martin Simpson



"Boots of Spanish Leather" first appeared on Bob Dylan's classic 1964 release, *The Times They Are A-Changin'*. Martin Simpson released his solo live arrangement of the song on his 1999 *Bootleg USA* release. A studio version is included on the compilation album *A Nod to Bob (An Artists' Tribute to Bob Dylan on His 60th Birthday)*.

Simpson adds his signature to the song using a distinctive fingerstyle arrangement in C G C G C D tuning, played with a capo on the

fourth fret. Simpson plays the instrumental section twice before singing the first verse, but in the transcription below, the verse is written out over this instrumental. With so many verses, instrumentals, and guitar solos combined into three pages, all of the D.S. and Coda instructions can start to get confusing! It might help to think of the song starting with the instrumental (played twice), then verses 1-4 followed by an instrumental passage; then verses 5-6 followed by a guitar solo, finishing with verses 7-10 followed by a guitar solo (repeated). The only deviation is verse 10, which is essentially a drawing out of the original ninth verse—you'll find the elongated section in the Coda. —ANDREW DuBROCK

Tuning: C G C G C D, Capo IV

Verse/Instrumental

Am11 Gadd4 C G7sus4

1. Well I'm sail - in' a-way my own true love  
2-9. See additional lyrics.

C G7sus4 C Gadd4 C Am(add9)

6 sail - in' a-way in the morn - ing Is there some-thing I can send you

↑ = frail with right-hand middle finger.

F To Coda C Am(add9) Gadd4 F play nine times

12 from a-cross the sea From the place that I'll be land - ing 2. No there's

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**Guitar Solo**

Am(add9) G C G7add4 C G

18

C G/B F/A C Am(add9) Gadd4

25

**D.S. al Coda**  
(with three repeats)  
**\*Fine**

F

32

**Coda**

C G7sus4 Am(add9)

(back) to me Span-ish boots

34

\* Play first two notes only in final measure.

Gadd4 C Am(add9)

of Span-ish leath-er

37

F C Am(add9) Gadd4 F **D.S.S. al Fine (with repeat)**

42



# MARTIN SIMPSON

1. **Am11** **Gadd4 C G7sus4**  
Well I'm sailin' away my own true love  
**C G7sus4 C Gadd4**  
Sailin' away in the morning  
**C Am(add9) F C Am(add9)**  
Is there something I can send you from across the sea  
**Gadd4 F**  
From the place that I'll be landing?
2. **Am11** **Gadd4 C G7sus4**  
No, there's nothin' you can send me, my own true love  
**C G7sus4 C Gadd4**  
There's nothin' I'm wishin' to be ownin'  
**C Am(add9) F C Am(add9)**  
You just carry yourself back to me unspoiled  
**Gadd4 F**  
From across that lonesome ocean
3. **Am11** **Gadd4 C G7sus4**  
But I just thought you might want something fine  
**C G7sus4 C Gadd4**  
Made of silver or of golden  
**C Am(add9) F C**  
Either from the mountains of Madrid  
**Am(add9) Gadd4 F**  
Or from the coast of Barcelona
4. **Am11** **Gadd4 C G7sus4**  
But if I had the stars from the darkest night  
**C G7sus4 C**  
Or the diamonds from the deepest ocean  
**Gadd4 C Am(add9) F C**  
I would forsake them all for your sweet kiss  
**Am(add9) Gadd4 F**  
For that's all I'm wishin' to be ownin'
5. **Am11** **Gadd4 C G7sus4**  
But I might be gone such a long, long time  
**C G7sus4 C**  
It's only this I am askin'  
**Gadd4 C Am(add9) F C**  
Is there something I can send you to remember me by  
**Am(add9) Gadd4 F**  
To make your time more easy passin'  
  
*Guitar Solo*
6. **Am11** **Gadd4 C G7sus4**  
Well, how can, how can you ask me again  
**C G7sus4 C Gadd4**  
You know it only brings me sorrow  
**C Am(add9) F C**  
For the same thing I would want today  
**Am(add9) Gadd4 F**  
I would want again tomorrow
7. **Am11** **Gadd4 C G7sus4**  
Now I got a letter on a lonesome day  
**C G7sus4 C**  
And it was from her ship sailin'  
**Gadd4 C Am(add9) F C**  
It said "I don't know when I will be comin' back again  
**Am(add9) Gadd4 F**  
Depends on how I'm feelin'"
8. **Am11** **Gadd4 C G7sus4**  
So, if you, my love, must think that way  
**C G7sus4 C**  
Then I'm sure your mind is roamin'  
**Gadd4 C Am(add9) F C**  
And I am sure your thoughts they are not with me  
**Am(add9) Gadd4 F**  
But with the country to where you are goin'
9. **Am11** **Gadd4 C G7sus4**  
So take heed, take heed of the western wind  
**C G7sus4 C Gadd4**  
Take heed of the stormy weather  
**C Am(add9) F C**  
And yes, there is something you can send back to me  
**Am(add9) Gadd4 F**  
Spanish boots of Spanish leather
10. **Am11** **Gadd4 C G7sus4**  
(instrumental)  
**C G7sus4 C Gadd4**  
(instrumental)  
**C Am(add9) F C G7sus4**  
And yes, there is something you can send back to me  
**Am(add9) Gadd4 C**  
Spanish boots.....of Spanish leather  
**Am(add9) F C Am(add9) Gadd4 F**  
  
*(Guitar Solo)*