

Bryan Adams Rock Score.

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Notation and Tablature Explained

Open C chord



Scale of E major



Bent Notes:

The note fretted is always shown first. Variations in pitch achieved by string bending are enclosed within this symbol $\overset{\curvearrowright}{\text{—}}$. If you aren't sure how far to bend the string, playing the notes indicated without bending gives a guide to the pitches to aim for. The following examples cover the most common string bending techniques:



Example 1:
Play the D, bend up one tone (two half-steps) to E.



Example 4:
Pre-bend: fret the D, bend up one tone to E, then pick.



Example 2:
Play the D, bend up one tone to E then release bend to sound D. Only the first note is picked.



Example 5:
Play the A and D together, then bend the B-string up one tone to sound B.



Example 3:
Fast bend: Play the D, then bend up one tone to E as quickly as possible.



Example 6:
Play the D and F# together, then bend the G-string up one tone to E, and the B-string up 1/2 tone to G.

Additional guitaristic techniques have been notated as follows:



Tremolo Bar:
Alter pitch using tremolo bar. Where possible, the pitch to aim for is shown.
a) Play the G; use the bar to drop the pitch to E.
b) Play the open G; use the bar to 'divebomb', i.e. drop the pitch as far as possible.



Hammer on and Pull off:
Play first note, sound next note by 'hammering on', the next by 'pulling off'. Only the first note is picked.



Mutes:
a) **Right hand mute:**
Mute strings by resting the right hand on the strings just above the bridge.
b) **Left hand mute:**
Damp the strings by releasing left hand pressure just after the notes sound.
c) **Unpitched mute:**
Damp the strings with the left hand to produce a percussive sound.



Glissando:
a) Play first note, sound next note by sliding up string. Only the first note is picked.
b) As above, but pick second note.

a) ⊕ b) ⊖

Slide Guitar:
a) Play using slide.
b) Play without slide.

Vibrato:
Apply vibrato, by 'shaking' note or with tremolo bar. As vibrato is so much a matter of personal taste and technique, it is indicated only where essential.

Natural Harmonics:
Touch the string over the fret marked, and pick to produce a bell-like tone. The small notes show the resultant pitch, where necessary.

Tapping:
Sound notes indicated by tapping – hammering-on with the picking hand at the indicated fret.

Pinch Harmonics:
Fret the note as usual, but 'pinch' or 'squeeze' the string with the picking hand to produce a harmonic overtone. Small notes show the resultant pitch.

Pick Scratch:
Scrape the pick down the strings – this works best on the wound strings.

Quarter-tones:
A downwards arrow means the written pitch is lowered by a quarter-tone; an upwards arrow raises the written pitch by a quarter-tone.

Repeated Chords:
To make rhythm guitar parts easier to read the tablature numbers may be omitted when a chord is repeated. The example shows a C major chord played naturally, r/h muted, l/h muted and as an unpitched mute respectively.

Special Tunings:

Non-standard tunings are shown as 'tuning boxes'. Each box represents one guitar string, the leftmost box corresponding to the lowest pitched string. The symbol '*' in a box means the pitch of the corresponding string is not altered. A note within a box means the string must be re-tuned as stated. For tablature readers, numbers appear in the boxes. The numbers represent the number of half-steps the string must be tuned up or down. The tablature relates to an instrument tuned as stated.

Tune the low E (6th) string down one tone (two half-steps) to D.

Chord naming:

The following chord naming convention has been used. Note that chord symbols show the overall harmony, sometimes simplified, and are not intended to indicate a suitable accompaniment. Altered 5ths are shown as 'dim5' or 'aug5', whilst alterations to added notes are indicated by '#' or 'b'.

C Cm C5 Csus4 Csus₂ Cdim5 C^{aug5} C6 Cm6 Cmaj7 C7 C7^{aug5} C7^{dim5} Cm7 Cm7^{dim5} Cdim Cmaj9 C9 Cm9 C7⁹ C7⁹ Cadd9 C/Bb

Where there is no appropriate chord symbol, for example when the music consists of a repeated figure (or riff) the tonal base is indicated in parenthesis:

[E]