# i fought the law chords

**i fought the law chords** are a fundamental aspect for musicians and guitarists seeking to master this iconic rock and roll song. Originally written by Sonny Curtis of The Crickets, "I Fought the Law" gained widespread popularity through covers by artists such as The Bobby Fuller Four and The Clash. This article explores the essential chords, variations, and playing techniques necessary to perform this classic tune with confidence and accuracy. Understanding the chord progression and rhythm patterns is crucial for capturing the song's distinctive energy and style. Additionally, the article delves into the historical context and different interpretations that have influenced how the song is played today. Whether for beginners or advanced players, mastering the i fought the law chords opens the door to performing a timeless piece of rock history. The following sections provide a detailed breakdown of chord structures, strumming patterns, and tips for seamless transitions, ensuring an immersive learning experience.

- Understanding the Basic Chords of I Fought the Law
- Chord Progression and Structure
- Strumming Patterns and Rhythm
- Advanced Techniques and Variations
- Historical Context and Popular Covers

# Understanding the Basic Chords of I Fought the Law

The foundation of playing i fought the law chords lies in mastering a few basic chords that are repeated throughout the song. The song primarily revolves around three major chords, which are common in many rock and roll and punk songs. These chords are typically played in the open position, making the song accessible to guitarists of various skill levels. Knowing these chords not only facilitates playing the song but also helps in understanding its musical structure and how the melody interacts with harmony.

### **Main Chords Required**

The core chords used in i fought the law chords include:

- **G major** A bright and resonant chord that sets the tonal foundation.
- C major Adds a melodic contrast and helps create the song's catchy progression.
- **D major** Provides a sense of resolution and movement within the chord sequence.

These chords are played in a steady rhythm that drives the song's energetic feel. Proficiency in transitioning smoothly between G, C, and D chords is essential for an authentic rendition of the song.

#### **Additional Chords and Variations**

While the basic chords suffice for a standard version, some players incorporate variations such as G7 or Dsus4 to add texture and interest. These chord embellishments can enhance the song's dynamic quality and offer a more nuanced performance.

## **Chord Progression and Structure**

The i fought the law chords follow a straightforward and repetitive progression that contributes to the song's memorable hook. Understanding the sequence and timing of chord changes is vital for maintaining the flow and energy throughout the performance.

#### **Typical Progression Pattern**

The most common chord progression for the song is:

- 1. G major
- 2. C major
- 3. D major
- 4. C major

This four-chord loop repeats during the verses and chorus, creating a driving rhythm that supports the vocal melody. Each chord is typically strummed for one measure, with transitions occurring on the downbeat to maintain momentum.

#### **Timing and Measures**

The song is generally played in 4/4 time, with a moderate tempo that allows for clear articulation of chords and lyrics. The steady beat emphasizes the rebellious theme of the song, reinforcing its classic rock vibe.

# **Strumming Patterns and Rhythm**

Strumming is a critical component of playing i fought the law chords effectively. The rhythm pattern adds character and energy, making the song instantly recognizable. A consistent strumming technique also supports smooth chord transitions and prevents the performance from sounding rushed or uneven.

#### **Basic Strumming Pattern**

A commonly used strumming pattern for the song is:

• Down, Down-Up, Up-Down-Up

This pattern balances rhythm and syncopation, providing a driving pulse that complements the song's rebellious lyrics and melody. Practicing this pattern slowly at first helps internalize the rhythm before playing at full tempo.

#### Tips for Effective Strumming

To achieve the best sound:

- Use a pick with moderate stiffness to produce a clear and bright tone.
- Maintain a relaxed wrist motion to ensure fluid strumming.
- Emphasize the downbeats slightly to reinforce the song's rhythmic structure.
- Practice muting techniques to control chord ringing and add dynamic contrast.

# **Advanced Techniques and Variations**

For guitarists looking to expand beyond the basic i fought the law chords, there are several advanced techniques and variations that can enhance the performance. These include incorporating palm muting, hammer-ons, pull-offs, and slight chord embellishments to add texture and complexity.

#### **Palm Muting**

Palm muting involves lightly resting the side of the picking hand on the strings near the bridge to dampen the sound. This technique creates a percussive effect that adds rhythmic interest and is often used during verses to build tension.

#### **Chord Embellishments**

Adding hammer-ons or pull-offs within chord shapes can create melodic interest. For example, hammering on from an open string to a fretted note within the G chord adds subtle flair without altering the chord's fundamental sound.

#### **Dynamic Changes**

Varying strumming intensity and incorporating pauses can help replicate the emotional shifts found in different versions of the song. These nuances make the performance more engaging and authentic.

# **Historical Context and Popular Covers**

The song "I Fought the Law" has a rich history that influences how the chords are interpreted and played. Originally penned by Sonny Curtis and performed by The Crickets, it gained mainstream attention through The Bobby Fuller Four's 1966 version. Later, The Clash's punk rendition in 1979 introduced a faster tempo and more aggressive playing style, inspiring countless musicians to adopt their own approaches.

#### The Bobby Fuller Four Version

This version popularized the song with a polished rock and roll sound. The i fought the law chords are played cleanly with a moderate tempo, emphasizing melody and harmony. It remains a staple for guitarists learning classic rock chords and progressions.

#### The Clash Version

The Clash's cover introduced a raw, punk rock energy to i fought the law chords. The tempo is faster, with more aggressive strumming and palm muting techniques. This version appeals to players interested in punk and alternative rock styles.

### **Impact on Guitar Playing**

The simplicity and effectiveness of the i fought the law chords have made the song a popular choice for beginners and seasoned players alike. It serves as a practical exercise in chord transitions, rhythm control, and stylistic expression, making it an enduring piece in the guitar repertoire.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### What are the basic chords for 'I Fought the Law'?

The basic chords for 'I Fought the Law' are typically A, D, and E.

#### Which key is 'I Fought the Law' commonly played in?

'I Fought the Law' is commonly played in the key of A major.

# Are there any chord variations or embellishments in 'I Fought the Law'?

Yes, guitarists often add hammer-ons, pull-offs, or use power chords to add energy to the A, D, and E chords.

#### How do you play the intro chords of 'I Fought the Law'?

The intro usually involves a simple riff based around the A chord, often played with a rhythmic downstroke pattern.

#### Can beginners easily learn the chords for 'I Fought the Law'?

Yes, the song uses basic open chords (A, D, E) making it suitable for beginners to learn.

# Is there a capo needed to play 'I Fought the Law' in the original key?

No, a capo is generally not needed since the song is played in A major using open chords.

# How do the chords progress throughout the verses of 'I Fought the Law'?

The verses typically follow a simple progression of A to D to E chords repeatedly.

## Are power chords used in 'I Fought the Law'?

Yes, many rock versions of 'I Fought the Law' use power chords based on A, D, and E to create a heavier sound.

#### Where can I find accurate chord charts for 'I Fought the Law'?

Accurate chord charts can be found on guitar tab websites like Ultimate Guitar, Songsterr, or in official songbooks.

### **Additional Resources**

- 1. Mastering Guitar Chords: From Basics to Advanced Techniques
  This comprehensive guide covers a wide range of guitar chords, including those used in classic songs like "I Fought the Law." Perfect for beginners and intermediate players, the book breaks down chord shapes, transitions, and strumming patterns to help you play confidently. It includes practice exercises and tips to improve finger strength and agility.
- 2. The History of Rock & Roll Guitar: Chords and Riffs
  Explore the evolution of rock guitar through iconic chords and riffs, including the legendary
  progressions found in "I Fought the Law." This book delves into the styles of famous guitarists and the
  techniques that defined rock music. It's an ideal read for those interested in both music history and

practical playing skills.

- 3. Chord Progressions for Popular Songs: Learn and Play
  Designed for guitarists who want to play popular hits, this book features chord charts and
  progressions from well-known songs, including "I Fought the Law." Each chapter breaks down songs
  by difficulty and style, making it easy to follow along and practice. The book also offers suggestions
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- 4. Play Like a Legend: Guitar Chords of The Clash and The Bobby Fuller Four
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- 6. The Art of Songwriting: Chords and Structure in Classic Hits
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- 8. Electric Guitar Chords and Effects: Creating the Classic Sound
  Learn how to play chords like those in "I Fought the Law" with the electric guitar, including how to use effects pedals to enhance your tone. This book covers chord shapes, amplification, and effects settings to recreate iconic sounds. It's perfect for guitarists looking to refine their electric playing style.
- 9. 50 Classic Rock Songs: Chord Sheets and Play-Along Tracks
  This songbook features chord sheets for 50 classic rock songs, including "I Fought the Law," with easy-to-follow formatting. Each song includes full chords and optional play-along tracks to aid practice. Ideal for players who want to build a versatile classic rock repertoire.

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i fought the law chords: 3-Chord Songs for Baritone Ukulele (G-C-D) Hal Leonard Corp., 2016-05-01 (Ukulele). With just three chords, you can play 50 songs on your baritone uke! Songs include: Bad Moon Rising \* Blowin' in the Wind \* Blue Suede Shoes \* Cecilia \* Chasing Cars \* Cold, Cold Heart \* Folsom Prison Blues \* Free Fallin' \* The Gambler \* King of the Road \* Leaving on a Jet Plane \* Old Time Rock & Roll \* Seven Bridges Road \* Time for Me to Fly \* Twist and Shout \* You Are My Sunshine \* and more.

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metal, this book has something for every kind of bassist out there---no matter what your style and preference is. This book breaks down the styles of iconic players and includes authentic-sounding examples. Learn the technique, theory, and song forms needed to be a great bassist, and take the stage in your own rock band. A CD demonstrating the examples in the book is included. Features: Examples in a wide variety of styles including classic rock, metal, punk, blues, reggae, ska, and funk \* Basic chord progressions used in thousands of songs \* Essential techniques including fingerstyle, pick, slap & pop, tapping, and double-stops \* Important rock rhythms and odd time signatures \* Lots of scales, triads, arpeggios, and modes, including exotic scales for a modern sound.

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**i fought the law chords:** All Over the Map Michael Corcoran, 2017-05-15 A lavishly illustrated collection of forty-two profiles of Texas music pioneers, most underrated or overlooked, All Over the Map: True Heroes of Texas Music covers the musical landscape of a most musical state. The first

edition was published in 2005 to wide acclaim. This second edition includes updated information, a bonus section of six behind-the-scenes heroes, and fifteen new portraits of Lefty Frizzell, Janis Joplin, and others, spanning such diverse styles as blues, country, hip-hop, conjunto, gospel, rock, and jazz. D.J. Stout and Pentagram designed the reborn edition, with photographer Scott Newton providing portraits. Michael Corcoran has been writing about Texas music for more than thirty years, for the Dallas Morning News and Austin American Statesman, as well as in such publications as Texas Monthly and Spin. These pieces are based on his personal interviews with their subjects as well as in-depth research. Expertly written with flair, the book is a musical waltz across Texas.

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Fought - definition of fought by The Free Dictionary Define fought. fought synonyms, fought pronunciation, fought translation, English dictionary definition of fought. v. Past tense and past participle of fight. American Heritage® Dictionary of

**Faught vs Fought - Which is Correct? - Two Minute English** The correct word is fought, which is the past tense of "fight." "Faught" is not a recognized word in English. For example, if you say, "I fought hard in the competition," it

**Faught vs. Fought — Which is Correct Spelling? - Ask Difference** "Faught" is incorrect, while "Fought" is the correct spelling, denoting the past tense of the verb "fight," which means to engage in combat or struggle

**Fought or Faught - Which is Correct? - IELTS Lounge** In conclusion, the correct spelling is "fought," and "faught" is not a recognized word in the English language. Understanding and correctly using irregular verbs like "fight" is crucial

**fought - Dictionary of English** to take part or contend in or as if in battle or in single combat: [ $\sim$  + object] The armies fought each other. [no object] They fought in World War II. [ $\sim$  + with + object] The army fought with the

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