

# HINTS & TIPS

## 21st Century Breakdown

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**Green Day** is an American punk rock band, and this song is the title song from their 8th studio album, and their biggest selling record to date. Their sound is similar to the first wave of punk bands that came on the music scene in the 1970s, and often they stick to the formula of fast and catchy three chord songs.

- The intro and verse both feature syncopation: the note on the second half of the second beat ("2 and") is tied over onto beat three. It is important not to rush these figures.
- Be careful not to let open D and A strings ring on over other notes – left- or right-hand damping may be used to stop them. Alternatively, these notes can also be found at the fifth fret on the A and E strings respectively.

## Always Waiting

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**Michael Kiwanuka** is a young British soul musician, who won the BBC Sound Of 2012 award. His 'Always Waiting' is a modern soul song that sounds like a classic. It should be played gently, with a relaxed feel.

- There are many open string notes here, which should not be allowed to ring on and obscure the rest of the line.
- The main challenge at this slow tempo is not to rush, playing all notes in time, and maintaining even volume.

## Be-Bop-A-Lula

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**Gene Vincent** (born Vincent Eugene Craddock) was one of the very first Rock & Roll artists, and, released in 1956, 'Be-Bop-A-Lula' was his biggest hit. This song is a classic example of the *Rockabilly* style, which is a fusion of rock and roll and country (hillbilly) music.

- This song should be played in second position: first finger at the second fret, second finger at the third, and so on.
- The notes A and D natural are written as open strings, but you may also wish to try playing them at the fifth fret of the E and A strings respectively, using the fourth finger.

## Proud Mary

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'Proud Mary' was **Creedence Clearwater Revival's** first big hit, and introduced the world to their mix of Southern Creole music (American folk roots music from Louisiana area), Rhythm & Blues and Rockabilly. In 1970, Ike & Tina Turner covered the song, and has since become one of Turner's signature tunes.

- The intro features syncopation (notes played on the offbeat). These should not be excessively accented, the placement on the offbeat gives a natural accenting effect anyway.
- The verse figure consistently features a rest on beat 4; most of these notes are open strings, so left hand muting should be used to stop them ringing over the rests.

## Rock N Roll Queen

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Indie rock band **The Subways** burst onto the UK scene in 2005, and 'Rock N Roll Queen' became an instant party anthem and is a rock festival favourite.

- This may be played using either a pick or fingers.
- Aim for an even quaver pulse throughout with just a slight accent on each beat.
- Take care not to let open strings ring on over other notes – if this becomes an issue you may wish to find the A and D as fretted notes instead (at the fifth fret).

## Rockaway Beach

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**The Ramones** were one of America's leading punk rock bands bringing with them the fashion of leather jackets, ripped jeans and loads of attitude. Their musical style was a reaction to the heavily produced rock & pop bands of the 50s and 60s, so they created a very raw sound and short snappy songs.

- Aim for an even quaver pulse here, using alternate picking motion (down-strokes on the beat, upstrokes on the offbeat throughout the song).
- Do as little accenting as possible, except for in the chorus where the first two notes of each bar may be accented slightly to emphasise the change of rhythm.

Demo [2]  
BT [3]

# 21ST CENTURY BREAKDOWN

Words and Music by Billie Joe Armstrong, Frank E. Wright III and Michael Pritchard

♩ = 120 **Rock** 2 bars count-in

### Intro

D A D A

*f*

TAB: 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

5 D A G D A G

Ooh...

TAB: 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 3 3 3 3 0 0 0 0 3 3 3 3

### Verse

9 D A G D A G

Born into Nix-on, I was raised in hell, a welfare child where the team-sters dwelled.

TAB: 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 3 3 3 3 0 0 0 0 3 3 3 3

13 D A G D A G

The last one born and the first one to run, my town was blind from re-fin-er-y sun.

TAB: 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 3 3 3 3 0 0 0 0 3 2 3 0



# ROCK N ROLL QUEEN

Words by Billy Lunn  
Music by The Subways

♩ = 144 Indie Rock 2 bars count-in

**Intro**

**Verse**

A<sup>5</sup>

Guitar cue cont. sim.

You are the sun, you are the only one.

7

*f* My heart is blue, my heart is blue for you.

**Chorus**

11

D C A<sup>5</sup>

Be my, be my, be my lit - tle rock

14

D C

'n' roll queen, be my, be my,

17

A<sup>5</sup>

be my lit - tle rock 'n' roll queen.