

Wheels

Words and music by Chris Hillman and Gram Parsons



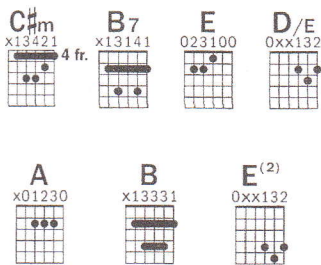
"WHEELS" APPEARED ON the Flying Burrito Brothers' 1969 debut, *The Gilded Palace of Sin*. Over the years, Dwight Yoakam, Pete Yorn, Emmylou Harris, Steve Earle, and many others have recorded their own versions.

The original recording of "Wheels" (featuring Gram Parsons and Chris Hillman on guitars and vocals) is a lush affair, with many guitars layered on top of each other, but the most prominent rhythm guitar plays out of E position with a capo on the third fret. This part doesn't enter until the first verse, so we've included the chords played by the electric guitar during the intro so you can play the song from the beginning. During the verses, the acoustic part often quickly moves through a D chord while the bass plays a pedal E note underneath. The D/E chord shape shown below allows you to sound like the recording by giving you the composite of the bass and guitar parts together. To play this shape, damp the fourth and fifth strings with your little finger (or fret the top three strings

with your middle, ring, and little fingers and damp the strings with your index finger). If you find this difficult, try the alternate strum pattern, where you play the bass note and let it ring throughout the measure while you strum the top three strings of the chord. At the end of the verse and during the instrumental, the guitar slides that D shape up two frets to form a second version of the E chord, and you can strum this E variation the same way as you do the D/E shape. When Hillman and Herb Pedersen perform the song live, they often play the song in G position without a capo.

—ANDREW DuBROCK

Chords, Capo III



Strum Pattern

Alternate Strum Pattern

for D/E and E⁽²⁾ chords

Intro

C#m B7 E B7

E D/E A E

1. We've all got wheels to take ourselves away

C#m B A

We've got telephones to say what we can't say

E D/E A E

We've all got higher and higher every day

A E B E⁽²⁾

Come on, wheels, take this boy away

Bridge

C#m B E C#m B A

We're not afraid to ride, we're not afraid to die

E A E

So come on, wheels, take me home today

A E B E

Come on, wheels, take this boy away

Instrumental

C#m B E⁽²⁾ C#m B A

E D/E A E⁽²⁾ D/E A

E B E

E D/E A E

2. Now when I feel my time is almost up

C#m B A

And destiny is in my right hand

E D/E A E

I'll turn to him who made my faith so strong

A E B E⁽²⁾

Come on, wheels, make this boy a man

Repeat Bridge

A E B E

Come on, wheels, take this boy away