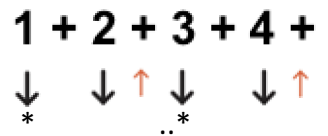




# SONG STRUCTURE: FOLSOM PRISON BLUES

Folsom Prison Blues is a country style song even though the title would make you think it was a blues song. There are 24 bars for each section which are in strophic form so once you learn this pattern you just need to repeat it throughout the entire song, even the solo part. There is no definitive chorus or hook so each section is listed as a verse. The intro just contains 4 bars of A.

Each bar consists of the same strumming pattern which is often referred to as either the 'Railroad Tracks' rhythm or the 'Boom-Chicka' strum and is used a lot in country and blue grass music and is played at speed. Dynamics are involved to get the desired sound, where you soften the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> down strum by just hitting the top two strings of the ukulele as illustrated by the \* as illustrated.



<p><b>A</b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>1.</p>	<p><b>A</b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>2.</p>	<p><b>A</b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>3.</p>	<p><b>A</b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>4.</p>
<p><b>A</b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>5.</p>	<p><b>A</b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>6.</p>	<p><b>A7</b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>7.</p>	<p><b>A7</b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>8.</p>
<p><b>D<sub>(open)</sub></b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>9.</p>	<p><b>D<sub>(open)</sub></b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>10.</p>	<p><b>D<sub>(open)</sub></b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>11.</p>	<p><b>D<sub>(open)</sub></b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>12.</p>
<p><b>A</b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>13.</p>	<p><b>A</b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>14.</p>	<p><b>A</b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>15.</p>	<p><b>A</b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>16.</p>
<p><b>E7</b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>17.</p>	<p><b>E7</b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>18.</p>	<p><b>E7</b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>19.</p>	<p><b>E7</b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>20.</p>
<p><b>A</b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>21.</p>	<p><b>A</b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>22.</p>	<p><b>A</b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>23.</p>	<p><b>A</b></p> <p><b>1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +</b>          ↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑          * ..*</p> <p>24.</p>



# FOLSOM PRISON BLUES

[Johnny Cash, 1968]

KEY: A Major

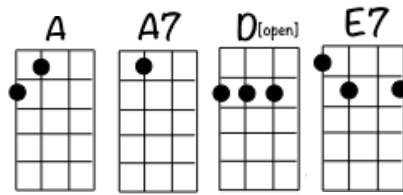
TIME: 4/4

TEMPO: 180BPM

RHYTHM: Train Track

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

↓ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓ ↑



INT. [A] [A] [A] [A]

v1. [A] I hear the train a coming it's rolling round the bend  
And I ain't seen the sunshine since [A7] I don't know when  
I'm [D] stuck at Folsom Prison and time keeps dragging [A] on  
But that [E7] train keeps rolling  
On down to San An-[A]-tone

v2. When [A] I was just a baby my mama told me Son  
Always be a good boy don't [A7] ever play with guns  
But I [D] shot a man in Reno just to watch him [A] die  
When I [E7] hear that whistle blowing  
I hang my head and [A] cry

SOLO: [Same length as verse] [A] // // // // [A7] // [D] // // // [A] // // // [E7] // // // [A] // // //

v3. I [A] bet there's rich folks eating in a fancy dining car  
They're probably drinking coffee and [A7] smoking big cigars  
But [D] I know I had it coming I know I can't be [A] free  
But those [E7] people keep a moving  
And that's what tortures [A] me

v4. Well if they [A] freed me from this prison  
If that railroad train was mine  
I bet I'd move on over a little [A7] farther down the line  
[D] Far from Folsom Prison that's where I want to [A] stay  
And I'd [E7] let that lonesome whistle blow my blues a-[A]-way  
[E7↓] [A↓]