

I'LL HAVE TO SAY I LOVE YOU IN A SONG (Jim Croce)

Written by Jim Croce in the key of A in 4/4 time
Released on the album: [I Got A Name](#) (1973)
Released as a single in 1974
Fingerstyle version for single acoustic guitar
I'll Have To Say I Love You In A Song on [Wikipedia](#) | [Studio](#)

thumb: x	Hammer on: h	Bend up:)	Play or don't: []
index: a	Pull off: p	Bend down: (Break: p
dirty: b	Slide up: /	Grab but don't pick: !	
ring: c	Slide down: \	Staccato: :	
pinky: d	Arpeggio: ~~~	Mute: m	

The song starts with an open [Amaj7](#) chord on the 1st fret followed by a C#m chord on the 4th fret
I decided to ease things up a bit with an open [Amaj7](#) chord on the 5th fret

INTRO (Amaj7 - C#m - Bm - Dm - E7)

||:

Keep your pinky and ring on the b- and g-strings in the red marked parts

Amaj

```
e-----[0]-----[0]-----| picking pattern:
b-----5b-----5b-----| x - a - b[c] - x - a - b[c] - x - a
g-----6d-----6d-----6d-----|
D-----6c-----6c-----|
A---0-----0-----|
E-----|
```

C#m **Bm**

```
e-----5a-----4a-----|-----2a-----2a-----| picking pattern:
b-----5b-----5b-----\-----3b-----3b-----/-----| x - a - bc - x - a - bc - x - a ( 2x )
g-----6d-----6d-----6d-----\-----4d-----4d-----4d-----/-----|
D-----6c-----6c-----\-----4c-----4c-----/-----|
A---4a-----4a-----|---2a-----2a-----|
E-----|-----|
<----- full barrés ----->
```

Dm

```
... Well I ...
e-----5a-----0-----| picking pattern:
b-----6b-----0-----| x - a - bc - a ( 2x )
g-----7d-----7d-----7d-----\-----|
D---!-----\-----|
A---5a-----| !: grab 7c and keep it pressed
E-----0-----|
< full barré >
```

The E7 chord on the upper frets can be played in different ways: 07c6b7d5a0 / 07c6b7d00 / 07c07d00
Play whatever you like but stay with your pinky on the g-string

:||

1ST VERSE (Amaj7 - C#m - Bm7 - E)

||:

```
... know it's kinda ...
... gotta say can't ...
e-----[0]-----[0]-----| picking pattern:
b-----5b-----5b-----| x - a - b[c] - x - a - b[c] - x - a
g-----6d-----6d-----6d-----|
D-----6c-----6c-----|
A---0-----0-----|
E-----|
```

... late ... I hope I didn't ...
... wait ... I know you'd under- ...

```
e-----5a-----4a-----|-----2a-----2a-----| picking pattern:
b-----5b-----5b-----\-----3b-----3b-----| x - a - bc - x - a - bc - x - a ( 2x )
g-----6d-----6d-----6d-----\-----2a-----2a-----2a-----|
D-----6c-----6c-----\-----4c-----4c-----|
A---4a-----4a-----|---2a-----2a-----|
E-----|-----|
<----- half barrés ----->
```

1... wake you ... but what I ...

```
e-----0-----| picking pattern:
b-----4b-----4b-----| x - a - b - xc - a - b - x - a
g-----4a-----4a-----4a-----|
D-----!-----6c-----|
A-----!-----| !: grab 4a & 6c
E---0-----0-----|
<----- half barré ----->
```

2... stand ...

```
e-----0-----| picking pattern:
b-----0-----0-----| x - a - b - xc - a - b - x - a
g-----1a-----1a-----1a-----|
D-----!-----2c-----|
A-----!-----2b-----| !: grab 2b & 2c
E---0-----|
```

alternative patterns

```

e-----0-----| picking pattern:
b-----0-----0-----| x - a - bc - a
g----1a----1a---!2d-----1a-----| xbc - a - xbc - a
D----!-----2c-----2c---/---|
A----!-----| !: grab 2b & 2c and keep 1a pressed
E---0-----2b-----0-----|
          <----- Hint ----->

```

```

-----| picking pattern:
---0-----0-----| x - a - bc - a
---!2d---/---4d---/---| xbc - a - xbc - a
-----2c-----2a-----|
-----| !: keep 1a pressed
---2b-----0-----|

```

:||

CHORUS (D - Adim - Db7 - F#m - D - A - E - D - A)

... Every time I tried to tell you the ...

```

e-----2b-----|-----2d-----/---| picking pattern:
b-----3c-----3c-----|-----1a-----1a-----| x - a - b - xc - b - a - x - a ( 2x )
g----1a-----1a-----2c---|-----2c-----2c-----2c---/---|
D---0-----0-----0-----|---1a-----0-----0-----/---|
A-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----|
E-----|-----|

```

... words just came out wrong ... so I'll ...

```

e-----4d-----|-----2a-----2b-----| picking pattern:
b-----0-----0-----|-----2a-----2a-----2c-----| x - a - b - xc - b - a - x - a
g----4c-----4c-----4c---|-----2a-----2a-----1a-----1a---| x - a - bc - a - x - a - bc - a
D-----3a-----|-----2b-----|
A---4b-----4b-----|-----|
E-----|---2a-----|
          <full barré>

```

... have to say I love you in a ...

```

e-----0-----0-----|-----0-----0-----| picking pattern:
b-----2b-----2b-----|-----0-----0-----| x - a - bc - x - a - bc - x - a ( 2x )
g----2a-----2a-----2a---|-----1a-----1a-----1a---|
D----!-----2a-----|-----2c-----|
A---0-----0-----|---!-----| !: grab 2a & 2b
E-----|---0-----0-----|

```

... song ... Yeah, I ...

```

e-----0h2bp0-----|-----0-----| picking pattern:
b-----3c-----3c-----|-----5b-----5b-----| x - a - b - c - b - a
g----2a-----2a---/---4a---|---4ah6c-----6c-----4a-----4a---| xa - b - a - x - a - bc - a
D---0-----|-----|
A-----|---0-----|
E-----|-----0-----|
          ¼          ¼
          <----- Hint ----->

```

2ND VERSE (same tab as 1st verse)

... know it's kinda
... strange ... every time I'm ...
... near you ... I just ...
... run out of things to ...
... say ... I know you'd under- ...
... stand ...

CHORUS (same tab as above)

INTERLUDE (same tab as 1st verse)

CHORUS (same tab as above)

... Every time the time was right all the ...
... words just came out wrong ... so I'll ...
... have to say I love you in a ...
... song ... Yeah, I ...

3RD VERSE (same tab as 1st verse)

... know it's kinda
... late ... hope I didn't ,,,
,,, wake you ... but there's ...
... something I just gotta ...
... say ... know you'd under- ...
... stand ...

CHORUS (same tab as above)

... Every time I tried to tell you the ...
... words just came out wrong ... so I'll ...
... have to say I love you in a ...
... song ...

OUTRO (same tab as Intro but finish with an open Dm and E7 chord: 0002b3d1a / 02b01a3d0)

```
e-----1a-----0-----| picking pattern:  
b-----3d-----3d-----| x - a - bc - a (2x)  
g-----2b-----2b-----1a-----1a---|  
D---0-----!-----|  
A-----| !: press 2b  
E-----0-----|
```

Finish the song with an open Amaj7 chord (002b1a2c0)